

# AU NATUREL

SCHATZI'S DESIGN GALLERY & DAY SPA, LLC

## SAFETY FIRST

### Salon and Personal Updates

Fall is a favored time of the year for me. I love to see the foliage change into a kaleidoscope of colors across the Earth tapestry; hear the noticeable decline of the cicada bugs no longer trumpeting their existence, like the auditory backdrop of a Stephen King film; feel the winds of time blowing cooler and more refreshing overtures of love; taste the warm and comforting flavors of a Harvest Moon; and smell the fragrance of flannel sheets on a welcoming bed after a long rewarding day of service.

It's been a minute, FOR REAL!! This October month makes it one year. I call it my COVID-break. Why the delay? I just wasn't feeling it. I don't have a better explanation than that. It somehow doesn't feel like it's been so long since I last penned this newsletter. A lot has happened, but then, not really. Life goes on. I've been working from home since late March. The photos are of me in my at-home office. It's rather makeshift. We have an

office upstairs in the salon, but I totally don't want to leave home if I don't have to. I've been commuting between Raleigh and RTP-Chapel Hill-Durham since 2002 (minus only a three-year stint in Raleigh), so you can believe me when I say that I ain't mad about working remotely. Now that my primary UNC office contact is a chic based in Idaho, they're REALLY going to have a hard time getting me to make that trek back to Chapel Hill every



## NATURAL INSPIRATION

I want to give a shout-out to Denise Rice. In some ways, this issue and the revival of this platform is dedicated to her. She came into the salon Sept. 26<sup>th</sup> for service by another stylist. While she was waiting for her color to set, I was washing utensils from one service and was prepping my station for the next. I asked her a few questions about her locks and how she heard about us. She responded that she used to come to our salon years ago for the natural hair meet-up group meetings. I remembered and we reminisced. She then told me how she used to read my newsletters regularly and that I had done so much to help her on her natural hair journey. She finished by saying, "I'm just glad that you are still in business and still doing well." She blessed my soul that day, and I don't think I took the time to tell her. Because I honestly didn't realize how much at the time. Sometimes when you're doing what you feel you've been called to do, you just move full steam ahead and hope that someone (anyone) is benefitting. You often NEVER SEE or HEAR of the impact of a labor of love. And it's all the more difficult to know when you give your services away. So, it's easy to talk yourself into believing that your absence is not a big deal as there are so many Internet resources now available. And then, you hear a testimony and are inspired anew. Thanks Denise! We are honored to be of service to you.

morning. Office space nationally is about to get a beating!

I've been operating the salon on a heightened Coronavirus prevention protocol. Okay, you deserve in on the laugh. When I first went back into the salon, I was PROTECTION ON STEROIDS!! (See photo to the right.) I look like a cross between Darth Vader and a Storm Trooper! I had to scale back though. Why? I couldn't breathe!! 😞😞🤧 I figured asphyxiation has GOT to be more deadly than the virus. Six to eight hours in a salon dressed like this requires NO comorbidity to put

you at risk. It will crush you ALL BY ITSELF! So, I just do the mask and require clients to do the same. There's more to it than that. But God has protected us thus far. *(My eldest son was not so lucky. He got the virus from his housemate back in June, but he came through like a champ! Thank God! These are the perils of home ownership. I know he doesn't clean like me, but he'll figure it out.)* Business was slow at first. But now that people see how rigid our standards are, they're gradually returning to the fold with a few additions. Okay, can I be real! I'm not tryin' to go out over no hundred

hairstyle! That's what's up! We trust clients to be honest about their health and follow our protocols. They trust us to do the same. We've gotten a few recent referrals ALL BECAUSE of our COVID protocol. So if you want more information about having a minimal risk salon service, check out the article below!



## SCHATZI'S COVID PROTOCOL

As was the case for all salons across the country, we closed back in late March and stayed closed for approximately two months as the US grappled with how to obtain a better understanding of this virus. Because we are a small business that intends to stay open, we have taken the severity of the virus seriously FROM DAY ONE. Presently the following guidance is in place for all of our stylists and clients:

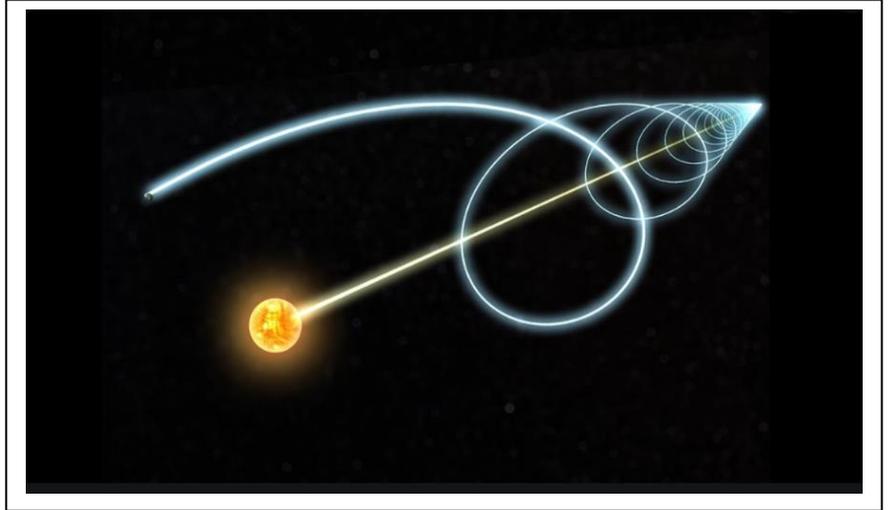
- Stylists will have a mask; and clients must wear a mask at all times to receive a service. Stylists may also wear gloves.
- Stylists in our salon are sharing our calendars so as not to overlap in the salon to minimize contact.
- All clients will be serviced in a room separate from others when there is overlap. If a service is being conducted downstairs, the next client will be serviced upstairs. When clients are serviced on the same floor, the door between rooms will be closed to minimize contact with others.
- The shampoo room is the only space where there **may** be temporary overlap, as utensils are cleaned and a hair dryer is found in this room. But, the six feet of social distancing guidance will be maintained at all times between clients and other stylists while in this room.
- The lobby and consult rooms are closed so there is only stylist and client in the salon space.
- We ask that you please take your temperature reading the morning before the appointment and share it via text with your stylist. Stylists will do the same and will forward it prior to the appointment. (A forehead thermometer is located in the salon and will be used upon arrival in cases where the client/stylist temperature check was not performed and shared ahead of time.)
- We have a strict before and after sanitation regimen in place. So, please be patient if you are asked to wait briefly between services.

Here at Schatzi's, our salon has always been appointment only, and we know our clients intimately. So, we will look out for each other. That means that we will share any information about potential exposure to COVID or if we are experiencing symptoms as soon as this information is available. We are minimizing contact in every way, as we intend for our stylists and clients to be and remain healthy.

## MUSINGS ON LIFE

### 2020 Vision

There's certainly been a lot to think about of late. When George Floyd hit the news, I was out for about 2 weeks...physically present but spiritually GONE!! Every person with Black skin, that they're not ashamed of, went through some type of psychological reckoning when this Event occurred. It changed our nation individually and collectively. I don't want to rehash what has already been analyzed, debated and judged (in the court of public opinion anyway). What I've been drawn to reflect upon of late instead is the repetitive cycle of life and the human condition. Humanity appears to be stuck in a perpetual circular rut that spirals towards progression but not without repeating the pitfalls of the past. It's a vertigo-laden experience for the captive soul transfixed on the centrifugal timeline of humanity. But from a God perspective (the Center)—the ultimate Centripetal force to which we are bound, **where** are we bound? Is the repetitive nature of our human existence a problem, or is it the very essence of life in a yin-yang cosmos? I imagine the answer depends on which perspective you take, centrifugal or centripetal. Ultimately, God knowledge trumps all else. And the universe tells us that this cycle is our truth.



So in essence, we know the answer. But, the truth of it pains all the same. Why is it painful? That is what I want to understand.

#### **The Cycle of History**

I ask the question because I have become fascinated with "history" in ways that I was not before. Maybe it was going to Egypt and awakening to the mysteries of the past which lay buried in the sands of time. Maybe it was growing up in a military household and realizing how a cultural lens can blind one to the pathway of empathy and brotherly love. Or maybe it's simply trying to understand why history repeats itself o'er and o'er again. Of late, I've been devouring Netflix War documentaries as well as Asian historical dramas. A Chinese mini-series called [\*Qin Empire: Alliance\*](#), based on historical events of the pre-Qin dynasty dating back to 300 BC, taught

me more about politics, diplomacy and military strategy than any book that I've ever read. (*The Qin Dynasty is best known for the Terra Cotta warriors who guard the tomb of the First Emperor of China, built on a truncated pyramid.*) I had to read through 50+ hours of subtitles which often had to be rewound for context, but it was worth the history lesson in my opinion. I can say that I even understand American foreign policy BETTER after watching this series. And in some ways, I can forgive some of the atrocities of the past, understanding the primary cause to be hubris and fear—the two-headed dragon which lies at the foundation of the seven deadly sins and of all wars.

Yet, I am confounded by the myriad of ways in which the greatest evils of human existence persist even today, though eyes are blind to see and hands are

powerless act. The Trail of Tears was one of the worst periods of mass out-migration of Native Peoples from the lands of their ancestors that the Americas have ever known. Yet, how is the out migration of peoples from El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras so different? Watching the [Untold Story of the United States](#) has shown me precisely when the expansion of capitalism and free enterprise (i.e. globalization) eclipsed imperialism as the tool of global domination. How is the terror and intimidation of the tribal wars from the past different from the covert operations, the drone attacks and the gang wars of the present? What minerals lie beneath the ground in these replicas of paradise? And who is acquiring the newly vacated land in these "hot zones"? American private enterprise is simply expanding into new territory with the help of the US government, much like Queen Isabella I commissioning Columbus to explore the new world to expand Spanish interests. It's a very old tactic with a new twist. The end result is the same: Business interests get large tracts of land practically for free and "free" enterprise expands. Fifty years from now, I think I can predict what these countries' demographics will look like. If you're willing to get your hands dirty, I know where you can go to stake a claim and forge your

family's fortune. But if you are the recipients of terrorism and abuse, how will you prevail? Purely in the afterlife? That is indeed a sad thought to the soul who has no guarantee of anything but the present!

### **The Black Experience**

As African Americans, we live with agents of terror and destruction up close and personal. It is a precarious place to be; because societally, we are perceived to be ever-subordinate to the dominant culture no matter how high we rise. A guy I know in a professional capacity who is a staunch Trump supporter recently posted a 10/2/2020 quote which illustrates the depth of what I mean by the notion of a perpetual second-class citizen:

**To pro athletes who think we are listening to you:  
If I wanted advice from someone good at chasing a ball, I'd listen to my dog.**

I thought 'comparisons to a dog.' Really? And the dog comes out more righteous? So being the instigator of self-reflection that I am, I responded:

*"But most of them are millionaire businessmen too (name of colleague). So since we're going to out the millionaire businessmen... Well. fair is fair. A businessman chasing a ball OR a*

*millionaire chasing tail. Either way, I'm down with rejecting them all. 😏 (I couldn't resist that one.)"*

He absolutely got it and failed to respond because when he sees me coming, the company he works for is getting paid! But, I'll be seeking other horizons to patronize for my major renovation initiatives. Some things should not divide. But, others absolutely do. And **I perceive a degree of jealousy/envy in that post, as well as a perception that "certain people should stay in their lane."** Well if that's the logic then in my opinion, Trump should have stayed in the real estate lane rather than to repeat his track record of failures upon the American people. All the same, he is an eligible American citizen and certainly has the right to expand outside of his horizons. These professional athletes are NOT expanding outside of their horizons however because they are speaking to and of the Black experience. Yet, they are expected to "shut up and dribble." Why are limitations ALWAYS placed on us but not others? Well, Dave Chapelle spoke to that issue a bit in his video 8:46 (around 14:50), so I won't bother to restate the point. Only to state that some are long overdue to catch-up with the present pace of history. The nostalgia for a bygone era is frankly archaic and pitiable. And while these agents of inertia seek

to keep us back, America loses the race for technological dominance. (P.S. Please don't be surprised by ANYTHING you hear Chappelle say. He's not my favorite comedian; but he IS a truth-teller.)

### **American Privilege**

But there are advantages had to be seated on a footstool in the global buffet banquet hall rather than to be outside trying to get in. It's why children on the streets of Egypt said to us: "*You African-American. You rich. Do you like my skin? It's like yours. Give me money.*" It's why a middle-aged farmer in Jamaica came off an elevator in a government building enraged that his concerns were not being addressed by the system as he was left to go home wounded. He exclaimed as the elevator doors opened: "*Why dem (they) have so much?! Why dem have so much?! Exiting the elevator and making eye contact with me: "Why SHE have so much?!*" To this day, I'm puzzled by the same question. I don't have a definitive answer. All I could think was that I was born in the US, not Jamaica. So, what he saw was my American privilege at work. It's real, even for us. Because a social hierarchy does not define where we live and die. We can struggle upwards to improve our

lot and safeguard the future of our families. Some have more cards stacked against them; but, one CAN IN FACT change the trajectory of one's family in one generation. And that makes American privilege that stuff that others fight and claw to have a morsel of. While our fellow brethren obsess about how high we climb. *Sigh.*

### **A Common Struggle**

To sit on the stage of life and be the constant recipient of abuse and misfortune is no enviable place to be. African Americans have borne our brunt of injustice. But, we do not have a patent on suffering in this world. While learning of the [untold US history and seeing the atrocities committed in Indonesia](#) to overthrow a democratically elected government to suppress communism, sanctioned in part by American officials like Lolo Soetero—Barack Obama's stepdad, I cringe at the thought of how deep the rabbit hole goes.

History wears a very ugly face. I'm compelled to ask: Why? Money, power, dominance, greed? I hear and read the stories and see time and again how pride destroys everything in its path. Men drunk with power become arrogant and reckless. It is often when

they are old and near death that they wonder what all of the fuss was about. I reflect on our demonization of "enemy countries." And I marvel at how God places [his angels even in unlikely places like nuclear weaponized submarines bound for war](#). Where were these angels when the Indonesian or Native American peoples needed them? I cannot say. But the Bible tells us that "God is no respecter of persons" (Romans 2:11). So are we to feel abandoned when change and justice feel elusive? We, as Black people, often do. But, [the passage goes on to read](#) that in the time of judgment, the heart which is found to be as "light as a feather" (*Reference: [Weighing of the heart](#)*), is most absolutely respected at the level of the individual! Our hearts (*and our souls*) matter. And so, I AM that God may manifest through me in all things. I am that I AM. We can never be victims...only agents of God's divine will. In the [battle of life, die we must. Better to die in service than to die in vain](#). Perhaps through the pain of the journey, we write the love song on our hearts that makes them weightless and brings delight to the heavenly hosts and to God. No pain no gain.