

Up Close and Personal

By Vicki Hauser MSC



Kathryn Braund

(Yes, she really is his Mother) **Kitty**, who is 92, was born in San Francisco, CA. Because of her love of acting Kitty moved to New York when she was 18 years old. When the war broke out she joined the USO, entertaining the troops in Italy, Germany, and France. After the war, she married her first husband and gave birth to two sons (one of which is our Patrick). In the 1960's she divorced and later remarried her second husband, Buzz. Buzz's career brought him, Kitty and the boys to Great Falls.

In her middle life, Kitty began raising and training dogs. This sparked Kitty's second career, that of author. Kitty has written and published several books on dogs, which have been well received throughout the "dog" world. In fact, when the Obamas were researching a dog for their girls, they gave Kitty a call for advice about Portuguese Water Dogs. Kitty then decided she would tackle the area of fiction writing, beginning with a novel about her grandmother, Rosa. With her first novel, *Rosa and the Prince*, Kitty was off on a new adventure, which has led her through two more novels and is keeping her busy with a soon-to-come fourth.

In 2009, after Buzz's death, the family decided it was time for Kitty, 89, to move to Eagles Manor. Kitty continues to live in her apartment with her two Havenese dogs, Precious and Tawney. While Kitty may have reached her "senior years", she certainly hasn't slowed down much, keeping busy with her family, her dogs, her friends both at The Manor and around town, her writing, and, of course, her acting.



Pat Fournier

Pat, the President of The Hearing Place, has been a hearing aid practitioner since 1988. He has fit thousands of people with hearing instruments over the past 25 years, and he is sincerely inspired by his clientele. He is BC-HIS (Board Certified in Hearing Instrument Sciences) and is a member of the Acoustical Society of America. He has been President of the Montana Hearing Society for the past 6 years, and he is very active at the state level in certification issues, to protect consumers and validate practitioners. He has a wife and three children and lives in Great Falls. In his spare time, he enjoys Angels baseball games and lots of fishing the rivers around the state.



Walt Hopkins

Walt was born and raised in Montana, mostly in and around the Great Falls area. He enjoys kayaking and has paddled many of Montana's rivers. Being in the outdoors and spending time with his new wife, Suwanna, are the focal point of Walt's leisure time.

Walt was the original owner of Prescription Design Hearing Aid Center. After many successful years, one of Walt's closest friends purchased the business from Walt and Walt decided to take a sabbatical from the hearing instrument industry.

In 2010, Pat offered Walt a chance to get back in the game. With Walt's 31 years of experience "burning a hole in his pocket" and curious about the technological advances, Walt decided to take Pat up on his offer and joined the staff in November of that year.



Sue Sherman

Sue, a native Montanan, has been the Office Manager at The Hearing Place for six years. Prior to that, she worked in the service industry for over 20 years, including managing and owning her own restaurant.

Sue has two sons. Her oldest son lives in Ohio and has two children. Her youngest son lives in Denver and has one daughter. Sue loves her sons and grandchildren, but sure wishes they lived just a little closer.

Sue's favorite pass times are camping and fishing. Someday she hopes to retire and spend her summers living next to a lake in the mountains of Montana.



Vicki Hauser

Vicki joined the staff at The Hearing Place in 2010. Born and raised in Bakerfield, California, Vicki moved to Montana in 1993. Although Vicki has only been a part of the

hearing aid industry for 2 ½ years, her experience throughout the years has all been "people oriented" including time in banking, outpatient treatment and the Great Falls public school system.

Vicki spends her leisure time at home with her life partner and two dogs, one cat and one turtle. Among her other pursuits Vicki owns See It In Color, where she creates and sells painted "Faux Stained Glass".

Vicki is ready and waiting to greet you with a friendly hello at The Hearing Place.