

Get Comfy In Your Own Skin

Venus DeMarco is comfortable with everything skin and passes her vast experience on to her clients.

Story and Photo by Darline Turner-Lee



Venus DeMarco has created an intimate setting where she is able to devote her complete attention and expertise to her clients' skin care needs.

I TOOK ME A COUPLE OF LAPS around the complex at 4101 Medical Parkway to find Venus DeMarco's Clinical Skin Care. After circling the building a couple of times, I finally found Suite 113. The small cadre of offices is rather unassuming and unlike most other salons or spas, Venus DeMarco's Clinical Skin Care has no flashy sign or other external accoutrement to draw attention to it. The door is identical to all the others in the complex, austere and nondescript. Venus DeMarco's Clinical Skin Care is a little gem hidden away amongst a plethora of medical offices.

The office itself is unlike most other skin care salons. It's small - *very small* - three rooms to be exact. The front room is a waiting area, product display area and consultation room all rolled into one. There is a desk with two chairs for consultations, products displayed on one wall, two easy chairs, a coffee table and magazines in the waiting area and a few art pieces on the walls. The treatment room is fully equipped with everything an aesthetician needs to care for skin and is

organized for maximum client comfort. The clean white walls and soft, textured bed linens offer a relaxing atmosphere within the treatment room's small confines. A small and neat changing room completes the office.

“I like to look at the root of the problem and ask, ‘why did the problem occur in the first place?’ What are other aggravating factors such as stress, lifestyle and diet? What can the client do to make it better?”

Venus DeMarco is all smiles as I come through the door and she quickly welcomes me in.

“This is my place,” says DeMarco extending her arms in presentation. And she's quick to tell me that she's neither a salon nor a spa and that all she does is skin. “I'm here for people who want quality skin care.”

DeMarco's relaxed confidence is evident yet not haughty. She's really an engaging person and her passion for skin care and her business instantly

drew me in. She speaks freely, laughs genuinely and is a joy to be around. Venus DeMarco (yes that is her real name!) is truly a lady who is comfortable in her own skin.

“I'm living the best life,” says DeMarco, who plainly admits that if she has her way, she'll always remain solo - free of employees and or partnerships. “I love working alone. I set the hours that I want to work, Tuesday through Friday, and I give myself the downtime that I need to rest and play. I've learned that it's much better to have a few steady clients than to have a bunch that I can't easily manage. I've done that and I don't want to live that life again.”

There has been a lot that DeMarco has done. After living in four different states in four very different climates, DeMarco proudly proclaims that she really knows the physiology of skin. She's been in the skin care industry for 30 years, long before being an aesthetician was something one could aspire to be.

“In those early days you had to be really good,” says DeMarco. “There was a lot of resistance from physicians and you really had to prove yourself and your skills.”

DeMarco has taken many advanced classes in skin care. Early on, she worked as a freelance make up artist for body builders and used this relationship as an entrance to educate them about the importance of good skin care and healthy nutrition. She also has advance training in acne management. DeMarco used to teach other aestheticians acne care.

I finally posed the “big question”, why should a person consider seeing her as opposed to seeing a dermatologist? DeMarco had this response, “Most people see a dermatologist because there is a problem. A dermatologist will look at their skin, diagnose the problem, give them a medication and send them on their way. I like to look at the root of the problem and ask, why did the problem occur in the first place? What are other aggravating

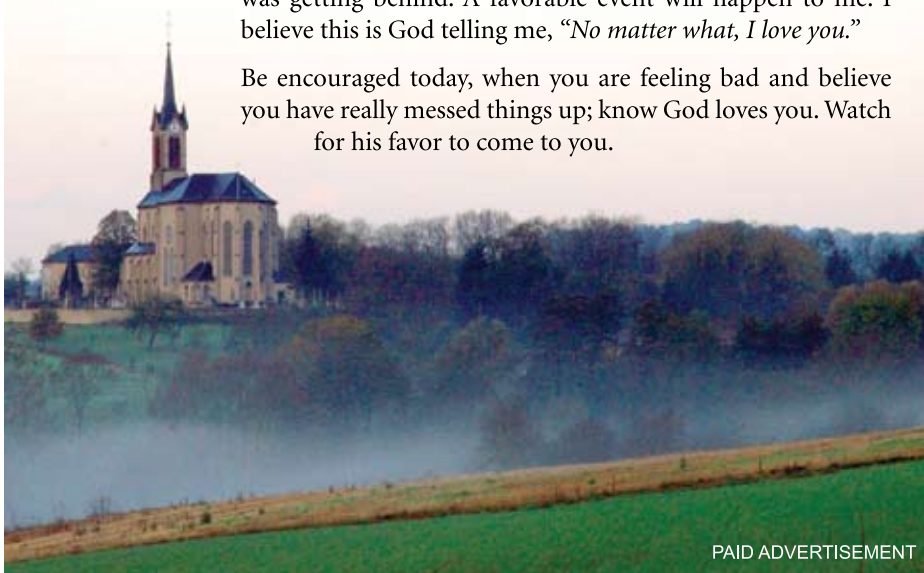
See SPAGIRL on page 84

BE ENCOURAGED TODAY

Amazing Grace, many of us have heard this old hymn. The hymn tells the story of someone who felt they were so very wretched until they were saved by God's grace. Grace means unmerited favor. It is favor that is undeserved. That is the way God loves us. No matter what we've done in our life or how many mistakes we have made, God always loves us. In his love for us, he always wants what's best for us. It doesn't mean we will not suffer the consequences of our actions or that bad things won't happen to good people, but what it does mean is that God makes ways to bless us even when we don't deserve it.

I've seen God act in my own life. When I've made a bad decision and begin to feel horrible over what I have done, God provides his grace. For no reason, a friend will send me flowers or I'll finally have a breakthrough on a project that was getting behind. A favorable event will happen to me. I believe this is God telling me, "No matter what, I love you."

Be encouraged today, when you are feeling bad and believe you have really messed things up; know God loves you. Watch for his favor to come to you.



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SANDY SOCIAL SCENE from page 21

better skill sets than men, and has long said that an all-female team could probably beat most of the teams in any of the leagues, "because their ball control is going to be better." The Austin Sports and Social Club also puts on sand volleyball leagues, where you can sign up as a team or an individual.

People of all ages play sand volleyball, and the young whippersnappers don't necessarily have the advantage. Roberts says, "The sport itself is great because you become a better player with age and experience." Brinson seconds the notion, saying "If you stay relatively fit and flexible, you can play this game until you're sixty or sixty-five years old, and play pretty well. There's relatively low injury risk."

With fitness and social benefits, not to mention beautiful scenery and a chance to soak up some vitamin D from the sun, sand volleyball is a beach classic we've found a way to bring to Austin. It's only fitting that our friendly city could create a volleyball scene that encompasses outdoor lovers, sports fanatics, bar flies and social butterflies. This summer, get your toes wiggling in the sand. ★

MORE INFO

Places to Play

Zilker Park

2400 Barton Springs Road
www.ci.austin.tx.us/zilker

Pease Park

Courts located near 18th + Lamar
Aussie's Beach Bar & Grill
306 Barton Springs Road
512.480.0952

www.aussiesbar.com

Austin Beach

20420 Lockwood Road, Manor
512.272.4280

austinbeach.com

Hanover's Draught Haus

108 East Main Street, Pflugerville
512.670.9617

www.hanoversaustin.com

League: Austin Sports & Social Club

www.austinssc.com

KIMBERLIE DYKEMAN from page 32

"LA was the best worst experience of my life." Dykeman confides. "The best part was that I worked and gained on-camera experience. I also became clear about the work behind the camera." Dykeman learned about

the technology for web-based projects and proceeded to look for a medium that worked for her. It was also during this time, that Dykeman wrote her book. For two years, Dykeman sent out inquiries to publishers and agents, to no avail. When she had her fill of LA, Dykeman returned to Austin. It was then that she found a publisher. Inspired by her experience as a new author, Dykeman discovered yet another way to help people. She teamed up with a local public relations firm and developed a project to help fledgling authors get published. Using her LA lessons, Dykeman began conducting interviews with various authors. These interviews are videotaped and sent, along with the author's book, to agents and publishing houses. "I think that people may be more interested in these books if they know more about the people behind them." Dykeman explains. As for her own book, Dykeman will be reading and signing her creation at a book release event on June 25th at BookPeople. After that, there's no telling what Dykeman may be up to. ★

MORE INFO

www.puresoapbox.com

www.kimberliedykeman.com

SPAGIRL from page 36

factors such as stress, lifestyle and diet? What can the client do to make it better? And whenever possible, I use natural approaches and really focus on long term maintenance."

"I also work with clients and help them understand that skin care is cumulative. You have to continue your program. Think of skin care like a diet. If you stick with the program, you lose weight and maintain it. Same with skin care. If you stick with your program, you'll achieve your desired results and maintain them over time. If you stray or become lax with your program, your problems will come back much like if you stray from your diet the weight comes back."

DeMarco gave me a facial, yet before she even started she asked me, "Your skin seems dry and stressed. Are you under stress?"

Now I know that a person's face reveals a lot about them, but her dead-on assessment in the span of about 20 minutes caught me a bit off guard. So I began to talk to her a bit about what's going on with me. After a time I forgot

who was interviewing whom! When I had finished, she replied, "I'm going to give you some moisture - not oil - but moisture. And you just relax and let me take care of you for a change."

I'm always amazed when life gives me just what I need without me even asking for it (or really knowing that I need it. Venus DeMarco gave me a fabulous facial! Her total focus was to nourish my skin and replenish my soul. For an hour-and-a-half I was cleansed, steamed, rubbed and nurtured. I rested (okay, snoozed and hopefully didn't snore!) and came away refreshed. The Phytomer products she used (seawater and seaweed-based) provided much needed moisture to my face and she provided a sample moisturizer that has enabled me to begin the process of rehydrating my skin.) I'm convinced that it's this approach coupled with her years of experience that garnered DeMarco the CitySearch Award for Best Facial in 2007-2008. As for the stress - Venus is an aesthetician (not a magician) and that I'll have to manage myself!

There are so many salons and spas one can go to here in Austin for skin care. You can go for the truly high-end experience, including massages, manicures and pedicures. You can go to a dermatologist and take a very medical approach to your skin care. But if you really want to learn how your skin is reacting to the world around you and within you, what you can do to improve your skin - from stress reduction and nutrition, to what to put on your skin on a warm, windy day, and how to keep it looking healthy and younger longer, I recommend Venus DeMarco Clinical Skin Care. This hidden gem may not be the biggest salon but as I left, I thought to myself, "I'd like to be like Venus one day - comfortable in (and with) my own skin." ★

MORE INFO

Venus DeMarco Clinical Skin Care
4101 Medical Pkwy., Ste. 113
512.626.6141, By appointment
www.venusdemarco.com

BREAST CANCER from page 44

Senseneey admits that she's not the same. She gained a considerable amount of weight from the steroids she took along with chemotherapy. She tires easily and her fingertips are numb and feel like there are little beads within them. She's lost a lot of

manual dexterity, often drops things and has considerable difficulty doing her favorite thing - needlepoint. But she fights on. She developed lymphedema (swelling) in her right arm immediately after her mastectomy that resolved following treatment. However, the edema returned in January of this year and now seems permanent. She struggles with additional fluid in her body and most specifically has difficulty breathing as a result. Yet she goes on.

"I don't know how long I have, but I am alive. I have much to live for and I just celebrated my 73rd birthday."

Senseneey says that she would not have made it through this battle without the support and prayers of her family and friends.

"My daughter Charlotte was with me every step of the way. Whatever I needed she got for me. She's also a massage therapist, so every time she comes to visit, she gives me a massage. It's just wonderful."

"I also have the most wonderful friends. When they learned that I had the cancer, they all set about praying for me. I swear that I had every type of denomination calling on God on my behalf. And as a result of their prayers, I felt as though someone really was holding me in their hands through all of this. I have been blessed more than I can say."

Senseneey is very willing to share her story to make other women aware of inflammatory breast cancer. She is quick to tell women,

"Look at your breasts. If you see something funny, get a mammogram. If you have pain or feel lumps, it may be cancer and you have to get checked. Look, five years ago, I may have died from inflammatory breast cancer. But with the new treatments, for now, I'm a survivor." ★

COLLEGE CASH from page 64

some cases, the parents, can apply: grants, scholarships, employment opportunities and loans.

More Help Needed

Students and parents always want to exhaust federal loan options first, but Uncle Sam's assistance rarely is enough. In these cases, students and families can turn to private student

See WORTH on page 86

"I was under the care of another hormone doctor, but hit a wall four months into treatment. Dr. Roby's hormone protocol, unique only to him, was the missing link."

—KB, actual patient



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