

Ludington Daily News

ROOM REDO



JEFF KIESSEL | DAILY NEWS PHOTOS

Erica and Val Gorzynski talk about some of the design changes they would like to see to their living room and dining room at their home located at 417 N. Lewis St. in Ludington. The Gorzynskis are one of the three finalists in the annual Ludington Daily News Room Redo. The Room Redo design team will feature Cottage Works owners Dann and Julie Van Dyke and Niki Breazeale, co-proprietor of Birch Michigan & Pentwater Candle Company, along with Susan Pohl, Laura Sanders and Liza McCluskey.



The Room Redo team talks with Denise Barron-Kraus about the plan to design Jim Ricklef's living room at 820 Lavinia St. in Ludington. Ricklef's home is a finalist for this year's Room Redo.



Hanne and Jim Kelley talk with the design team about what they would like to see in a living room design at their home located at 692 E. Concord St. in Pentwater. The couple's home was selected as a finalist for the Room Redo makeover. The design team spent time at each of the three finalists' homes and will decide soon which home will be chosen as the 2021 Room Redo design winner.



The 2021 Room Redo design team includes, from left, Susan Pohl, Laura Sanders, Niki Breazeale, Liza McCloskey and Julie Van Dyke.

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DANN & JULIE VAN DYKE

Dann and Julie Van Dyke are owners of Cottage Works, which they started in April 2009.

After being cottage-owners/weekenders in Mason County for five years, and living full-time on the same lake for the past 10 years, they've learned a lot about lake living that they like to share with their clients.

As a graduate of Grand Valley State University and a mechanical engineer, and having worked in the technical field for 17 years as a designer, project engineer, project manager, customer support manager and engineering manager, Dann has the skills and background needed to tend to your every detail and make sure that your project requests are handled timely and professionally.

Dann also has his Builders License and has many years of building experience.

Julie has more than 25 years of experience in the corporate world and a master's degree in business administration.

She manages the retail shop, purchasing, bookkeeping and human resources, as well as all customer intake calls and scheduling for all aspects of the business.

NIKI BREAZEALE

Niki Breazeale has spent a lifetime curating amazing treasures and making spaces comfortably beautiful. Niki is also the coproprietor of Birch Michigan & Pentwater Candle Company. Birch Michigan & Pentwater Candle Company is a one-stop-shop for home decor, hand-poured candles and specialty gifts, as well



Julie and Dann Van Dyke own Cottage Works and have been leading the design team for the annual Ludington Daily News Room Redo for the past five.

as offering interior design services.

Whether you love all things vintage, or prefer a more polished contemporary look, Niki's shop has got you covered, from furniture, to accessories, to artwork, to rugs, to lighting and more.

The business is located at 119

S Hancock St. in Pentwater.

SUSAN POHL

Sue brings to Cottage Works more than 10 years of experience in interior home design.

Prior to her relocation to Ludington, Sue worked as a design

studio specialist with Pottery Barn and has brought her visual expertise to the cottage décor store.

She was recognized as one of the top-selling design consultants at Pottery Barn in Geneva, Illinois, by effectively delivering space plans, furniture selections

and home accessories to her clientele.

Specialties include staging, home accessory finishing touches and blending new and existing furniture pieces and décor.

LIZA MCCLOSKEY

Liza McCloskey has been with Cottage Works for a year as the full-time retail associate.

She is newer to the Ludington area but a Traverse City native and all around Michigan girl.

Before moving to Ludington she was out west living the life of adventure and thrill for almost three years.

She decided to make her way home because she has too much love for the four seasons and fresh water.

Liza not only has a passion for the outdoors, but she also loves to decorate and try new DIY projects to add to a home design.

In her free time she spends quality time with her loving family and new daughter.

Liza hopes to bring spunk and craftiness to the 2021 room redo.

LAURA SANDERS

Laura Sanders is a Grand Rapids native who decided to make Ludington her home in 2016.

Laura joined the Cottage Works Team in 2017, helping manage the retail store and interior design portion of the business.

Laura has had a passion for home decorating and interior design her whole life.

Laura and her husband, Corey, were recently married last fall and live in Hamlin Township.

Laura enjoys the outdoors, a good happy hour, and living by the lake.

This is Laura's first year serving on the LDN Room Redo Team.

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Room Redo 2020 was able to provide Connexion Point with a gathering space that will help the organization continue to make a difference in the community.

Connexion Point one year later

Last year's winner of the Ludington Daily News Room Redo contest was Connexion Point at 309 N. Rowe St. in Ludington.

Connexion Point was looking for some work to be completed to its basement for a gathering space, and the Room Redo designers of the felt it was the right project at the right time.

The basement is a 18-foot by 18-foot area that the board of the nonprofit organization planned to use for weekly or biweekly spiritual meetings for men and women in recovery wrote Connexion Point Board Member Beth Kirby in her application.

Following the several week-long make-over a year ago, the basement was transformed into a gathering space.

"I am speechless right now," Dr. Michelle Kuster said after the unveiling. "It is so warm and welcoming. I can't wait for everybody to see it. This will be a perfect gathering space for us."

Beth Kirby was equally thrilled with the space.

"I was completely floored by the transformation of it," Kirby said. "It was dark and dirty before. It was a basement that was just used for storage, and now it is perfect for the gatherings."



Jason Muralt of ProMaster scrubs the basement floor before it was painted. The basement floor had some areas of grease and dirt that needed to be cleaned before Van Dyke could put down the final coat of paint.



Niki Breazeale and Liza McCloskey, foreground, move a chair into place as Sue Von Pohl places a coat rack and bench at the bottom of the stairs leading down into the space.

Tony Kuster adds a hand-rail to the stairs leading to the gathering space. Kuster put in a lot of time helping in the redo, including installing new basement windows.



Michelle Kuster and Beth Kirby get a look at the Ludington Daily News Room Redo for the first time at the reveal last year. Both were delighted at the transformation of the Boon House basement, from a space that was cold, dark and dirty to an area that is warm and inviting. The basement walls, floor and ceiling beams were cleaned and painted, taking the bulk of the work. Tony Kuster installed new basement windows, door the handrails.



Connexion Point board members Jackie Steckel and Dr. Michelle Kuster take a closer look at everything during the unveiling of the gathering space at Connexion Point's Boon House.



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Ludington Daily News Room Redo design team members Niki Breazeale, Liza McCloskey and Laura Sanders talks with Erica and Val Gorzynski during the initial walk-through of the finalists for this year's Room Redo make over.

Gorzynski

It is all about the family

Erica Gorzynski submitted her home at 417 N. Lewis St. in Ludington for the annual Ludington Daily News Room Redo. Gorzynski said she and her husband, Val, have been remodeling their home for the past few years.

The couple have refinished wood floors in their living room and are looking for some help from the design team. Currently, their living room and dining room areas are a blank canvas for the design team to help with.

Erica said the couple has lots of items that can be incorporated into the design, including a sofa table and accessories recently purchased from Cottage Works.

"We have a brand new chandelier, and the recessed lighting was installed within the last year," she said in her application.

She continued with the recent upgrades to the home which include painted walls painted, new trim and the windows are newer. There are seven windows that let in a ton of natural light, and the room is very spacious and has tons of potential.

The kitchen is brand new with natural maple cabinets, grey floor tile, black stainless appliances and a grey/white glass and marble backslash. The couple would like to tie everything together.

Right now the room is very bare and blank, and the couple sought some artistic assistance to make the house feel like a home



Erica Gorzynski shows Susan Pohl and Laura Sanders some of the items the couple currently own that could be used in the living room area.

Laura Sanders takes notes as Erica Gorzynski talks about what she is looking for in a possible living and dining room design with the Room Redo team.



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Ludington Daily News Room Redo designer Laura Sanders, Niki Breazeale, Liza McCloskey and Susan Pohl listen as Denise Berron-Kraus presents what she would like to see in the living room space during the first consultation.

Team members discuss some of the possibilities with moving the bar to a location within the living room.



Ricklef

Creating a space to gather

Denise Berron-Kraus, with the permission of home owner Jim Ricklef, submitted an application to the annual Ludington Daily News Room Redo contest.

Ricklef's home is located at 820 Livinia St. in Ludington and is a finalist in the annual Ludington Daily News Room Redo contest.

Barron-Kraus said she would act as his partner if the room is selected, meaning she will help Ricklef with tasks assigned by the

redesign team.

She said since it was built, this family room has been a gathering place for friends. With the social restrictions from COVID-19, it has become THE gathering place for a group of empty nesters.

Between travel restrictions and vulnerable health of family members, they are unable to visit our children and parents.

The room has not been updated in its 20 years, according to Barron-Kraus.

It needs color and less thematic decorations. The only important item is the picture of Jim's sailboat above the gas fireplace.

There is a marked lack of seating thus some people stand.

The bar is not affixed to the wall and it, along with the stools, may be moved. The fish tank is empty so removing it and the two chairs frees up more room.



The design team takes notes during the initial consultation with Denise Barron-Krause,

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Hanne Kelley talks with the Room Redo design team about her living room and what she would like to see happen in the long and narrow open space that the family is dealing with.



The clock was purchased by the Gorzynskis and could be used in the living room space if the Room Redo team thinks it will fit onto the design.

Denise Berron-Kraus talks about the painting above the fire place. Home owner Jim Ricklef is an avid sailor and designed the space with a nautical theme.



Hanne Kelley shows off one of the family's lamps that is currently being use in the family's living room.



Niki Breazeale talks with Denise Berron-Kraus and Jim Ricklef about their design expectations.

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Laura Sanders and Liza McCloskey take measurements at Erica Gorzynski's home during the initial meeting.



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Liza McCloskey and Niki Breazeale are reflected in a mirror in the Gorzynski home located at 417 N. Lewis St. in Ludington.



Jim Ricklef shares a laugh with the design team at his Lavinia Street home.



One of the things the Gorzynskis were looking for in their design was a place for more family photos



Jim Ricklef is an avid sailor and has several paintings, photos and models of sailboats in his living room.



Niki Breazeale takes a measurement in the home of Jim Ricklef during the initial meet-and-greet.

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The fireplace the Kelleys just had built for their living room has become the focal point of the room.

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Home owner Jim Kelley talks with design team member Susan Pohl.

The Kelleys

Home sweet home in Pentwater

Rick and Hanne Kelley of 692 E Concord St. in Pentwater submitted an application to the Ludington Daily News Room Redo because the couple has been trying for years to find the best arrangement for their living room. The room is roughly at 11-foot-by-25-foot area and includes an open floor plan. It is a great room that is long and narrow and difficult to furnish, according to Hanne.

Hanne said for 11 years the house in Pentwater was the Kelley's U.S. home base as the couple lived and worked in Italy.

The home also served as a summer rental and a gathering place for extended family, and as a result, the Kelleys kept all the fur-

nishing as simple and flexible as possible.

Hanne said for the past four years they have lived full-time, year-round at the home. The couple then moved their belongings into the space, most of which is housed in the living room.

The couple recently built a fireplace in the living room, and that has changed the focal point of the room and created furnishing the space even more difficult.

The Kelleys sought the help of the Room Redo design team and their space was selected as one of the Room Redo finalists.

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