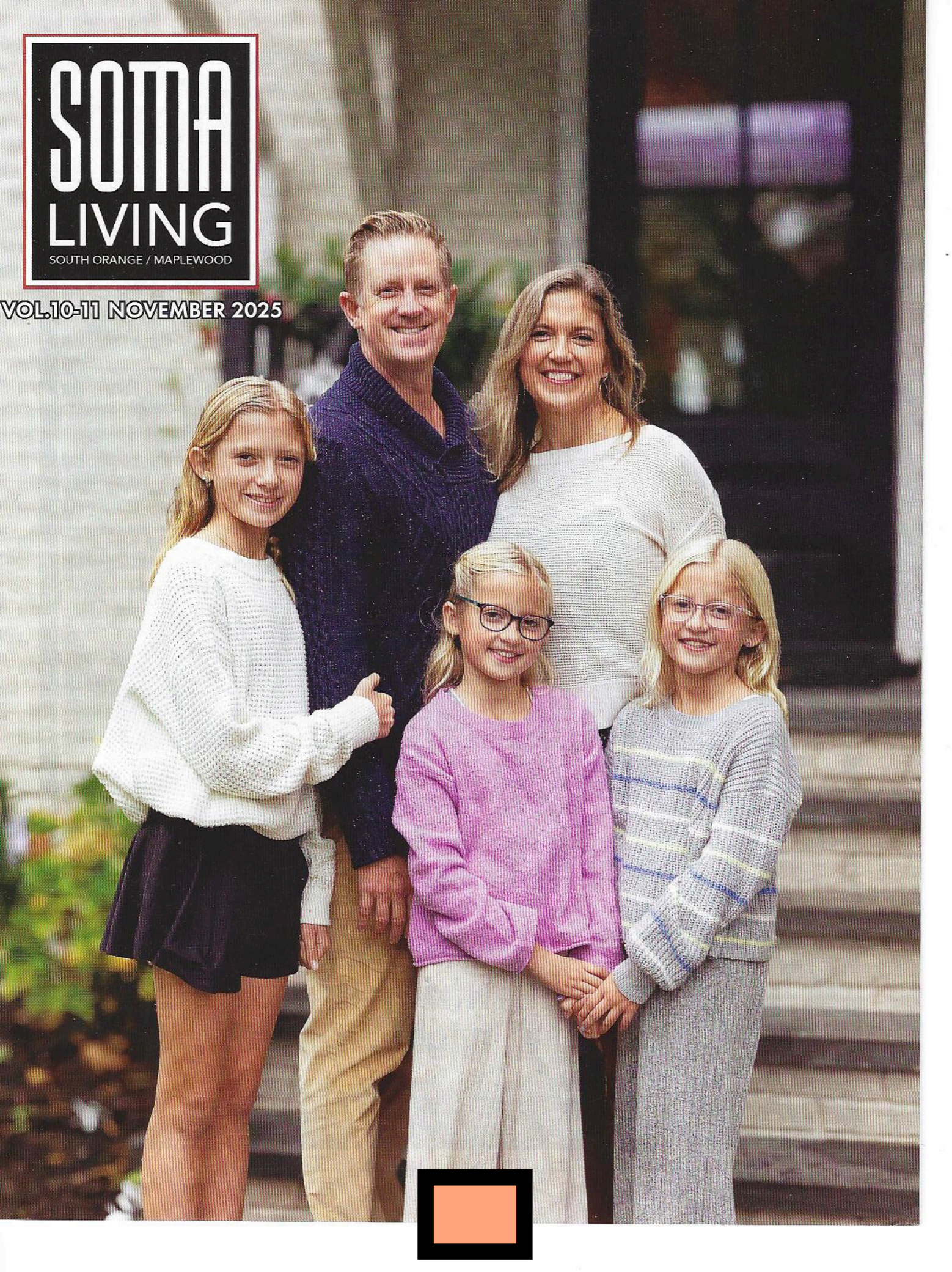


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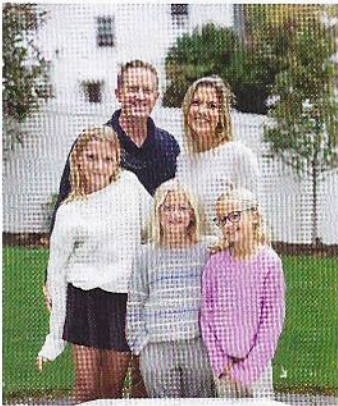


MEET THE SPEAR FAMILY

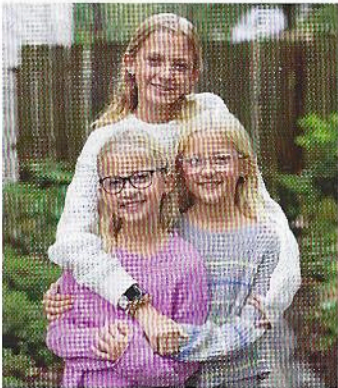
Photography by
Jamie Meier



The Spear family story is one of serendipitous meetings, calculated moves, and a commitment to community and adventure. Nicki and Ryan's adventure began at Penn State University, where they crossed paths as students. Nicki explains, "Years later, we were both living in New York City and kept running into each other but never dated. The last run in was at a Penn State bar when they were in the Orange Bowl in 2006. We recognized each other and enjoyed an exciting game together. He asked me out for our first date to take place later that week. And here we are, almost twenty years later."



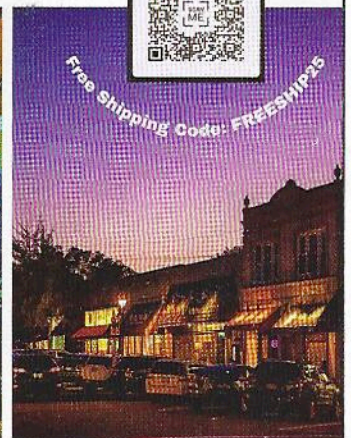
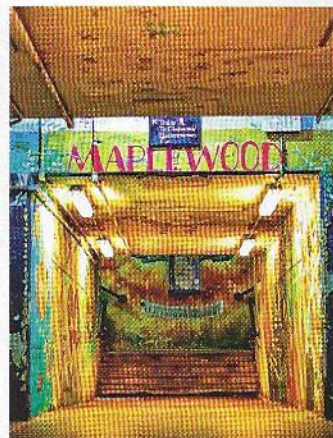
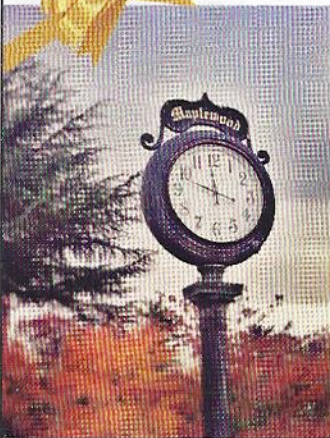
After marrying in Philadelphia, the couple settled together in Manhattan, where Nicki built her career in media advertising sales and Ryan thrived in hospitality, managing high-profile restaurants for Marriott and The Ritz-Carlton. Their life dreams included career aspirations and having a family. Ryan shares, "We moved to Park Slope, Brooklyn when we learned of our first pregnancy. The intention was to stay there for #2, but when we found out we were having twins, we needed more space! We had visited friends and attended Maplewoodstock, which first attracted us to the area." This pivotal decision brought them to a welcoming cul-de-sac in South Orange, where their three daughters, Kaelyn (12), and twins Mya, and Paige (8.5) could flourish.



Kaelyn, the eldest, is a dynamic sixth grader with a passion for athletics and the arts. Nicki reflects, "She juggles travel soccer, two basketball teams, and school, all while nurturing her creative side through drawing and performing arts." Kaelyn's schedule is a testament to her energy and enthusiasm. She recently joined the school's ski club, adding another layer to her active lifestyle.

Mya and Paige are in third grade and bring their own unique spark to the family dynamic. Nicki elaborates, "They are identical twins, but have their own personalities and interests. They're very loyal to each other and very close, and it's great that they have independent friends and activities. We agreed to separate them at school to help foster their singular identities." The girls shine in dance and performing arts, participating in jazz, tap, and Kids on Broadway at CAPAS. They also enjoy recreational soccer and basketball, drawn as much

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