

Tracy Curtis

meet your neighbor

Just Married! May 7, 2016. Tracy Curtis and Andrew Plepler (photo courtesy of George Lainis, Catch Light Studio)

If you can't laugh about it, what's the point?—Tracy Curtis

MPL Contributing Writer Kimmerly Martin Fleischli recently sat down with Myers Park's Tracy Curtis for a Q&A about what's been going on in Tracy's life.

Kimmerly Martin: Tracy, tell us what brought you to Myers Park.

Tracy Curtis: God, if you can believe that. I followed Reverend Steve Eason from Mt. Pleasant Presbyterian to Myers Park Presbyterian. We joined the church, bought a house, put both boys through the pre-school, and I met my core group of girlfriends. Fourteen years later we are all confirmation leaders. Lord help our teens.

KM: How did you become a writer?

TC: I fell backwards into it! It's funny because I spent 15 years in radio, TV and film and am a former CNN producer, but I'd never written anything. Then in 2005, I won a local "Fox News Rising" contest and was sent to LA to be a correspondent for the *American Idol* finale the year Carrie Underwood won. *The Charlotte*

Observer ran a story about it and asked me to blog from behind the scenes. After they explained to me what in the world a blog was, I became www.charlotteobserver.com's first ever blogger. That led to my second blog, *Stork-Raving Mad, 40 and Pregnant*, and eventually to me becoming the *Charlotte Observer's* resident humor columnist for the next 10 years.

KM: There have to be some upsides to being a humor columnist. Give us the highlights!

TC: I love being able to say out loud that I'm failing every day! What we do is hard—we're trying to have it all, be it all, do it all, and look good doing it. We want it all to be perfect, but life isn't perfect, and that's what I love finding the humor in—the IM-perfection in life!

KM: You're publishing books now?

TC: Well, you can't keep 500 columns sitting in a drawer—you'll never get it closed. And I wanted the columns to live on, so I started compiling them into the *Humor Me* series of gift books.



A return to the scene of the crime! The table where we had our blind date on the terrace of Vivace, where two years later we were married. (photo courtesy of George Lainis, Catch Light Studio)

Holidazed, *Trophy Mom* and *Beach Bummed* have all been published, and I'm securing a publisher for the rest of the series.

KM: Not every moment of every day can be funny. You've been through some highs and lows over the years, including a divorce from your children's father. How do you navigate co-parenting with your ex-husband?

TC: When you truly put your children first in all things, you can't help but have a good relationship. Matt and I log hours talking about our boys' academic, spiritual, social and family life, so he's my favorite person to talk to. And we have a common goal, turning our boys into fine men. We've gotten our 14-year-old up to Cro-Magnon, lumbering around looking for food, so we're getting there.

KM: You recently married Andrew Plepler, who has three children. How do you blend a family?

TC: It's a lot like bringing home your first baby—you just have to start figuring it out. The best advice I got was to meet everybody where they are. All seven of us come to this thing with all our "stuff," and we each have to do things in our own time. This article is a great example; not everyone was comfortable with printing our family wedding photo. I have to respect that. The most important thing is that the children know we love each other and all five of them, and are completely there for them. Our motto from the beginning has been that you can never have too many people loving you. That, and you can never have too much food in the house.



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KM: Where can we find you?

TC: My website, www.tracyleecurtis.com, has all the information on my upcoming book signings and events, and this year I'm excited to be part of the Southern Christmas Show. You can read my new blog, "Wit Happens!" on my website and you can buy my books at any place that sells books or on Amazon. Sign up for my Museletter, and all this info will come to YOU. And my big news is that I'm working on my first novel...stay tuned!

Kimmery Martin Fleischli is a local book reviewer and the author of an upcoming novel set in Myers Park, which will be released by Penguin Random House in 2018. Follow her at www.kimmerymartin.com.



To recommend a neighbor to be featured in Myers Park Life, please submit to Delia at clteditor@n2pub.com.

The Humor Me Series by Tracy Curtis



The Humor Me series of gift books are available any place that sells books and on Amazon.com.



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