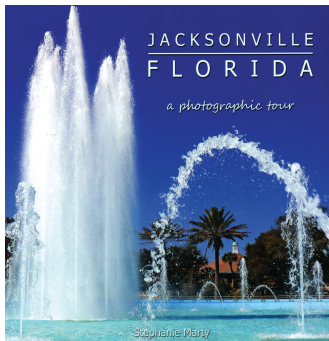


Bookmark!

Reviews by Betsy Dailo



For the Grown-Ups



JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA a photographic tour

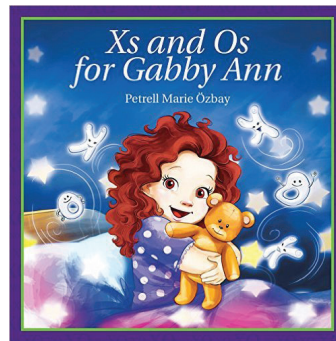
By Stephanie Marty

Jacksonville residents new and old will love Stephanie Marty's delightful take on the city. Her photography book, *JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA a photographic tour*, takes readers on a journey through the city from a truly unique perspective.

The photos are taken from the perspective of a tourist wandering around town. However, the photos are not the typical beach shots. Inside the book, readers will find photos of the Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens that will have them looking at the animals in a new way. Photos such as the ones from the Mayo Clinic and Jacksonville International Airport give readers a chance to really see the beauty in architecture that is usually masked by the hustle and bustle of daily life.

Macro photography, different angles and a broad range of subjects make this book one for the coffee table. From the shores at Mayport to downtown Jacksonville's skyscrapers, Stephanie captures even the smallest of details that are what make the First Coast so special. Stephanie's photos can also be found on page 42 as this issue's featured Artist Next Door.

For the Children



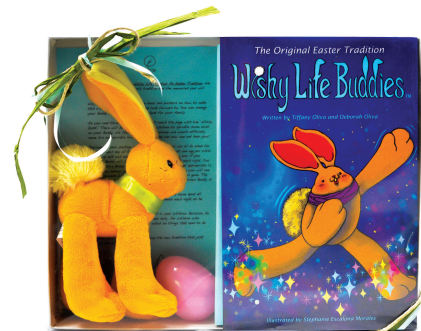
Xs and Os for Gabby Ann

By Petrell Marie Özbay

Being part of a military family is not easy. Deployments are hard on not only the soldier, but also the family. Petrell's book, *Xs and Os for Gabby Ann*, gives children whose parent is deployed or away from home for any reason a story that will lift their spirits.

It's time for bed for Gabby Ann and her favorite part of getting settled is the good-night kisses. After asking for one more from her mother, Gabby begins to question when the kisses from her deployed father will get to her. Thus begins a journey of Xs and Os traveling through different terrains and meeting many different animals, including a monkey and a turtle, to get to Gabby Ann before she falls asleep.

Children of military parents and even children whose family members travel for work will find comfort in this book. It's a good reminder that even though they are not with them at the moment, their parents are always thinking of them.



Wishy Life Buddies: The Original Easter Tradition

By Tiffany Oliva and Deborah Oliva

Much like the Elf on a Shelf that many families use during Christmas time, *Wishy Life Buddies* encourages children to be well-behaved during the Easter season. With the book comes a buddy that children name and sprinkle with Wishy Dust to help him come to life.

Each night, the buddy hides and waits for the children to find him so he can look over them for the rest of the day. Based on their actions throughout the day, children are rewarded with notes, candy or whatever item the parent chooses. This tradition continues through the week leading up to Easter.

For parents, this book gives them a good transition into Easter time. Children learn the importance of respect and good deeds using a reward system. The cute illustrations, meaningful messages and story make this book a must-have for Easter.