



## MISSION

**BE THE STAR YOU ARE®!** is a 501 c3 charity dedicated to empowering women, families, and youth through improved literacy and increased positive media. **BE THE STAR YOU ARE®!** has no religious or political agendas or affiliations.

## MIRACLE MOMENT®

*"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome."*

Anne Bradstreet  
1612-1672, Poet

## EVENTS

### Moraga Faire



Stop by our booth on May 14 from 10am-5pm at the Rheem Shopping Center in Moraga for the annual Moraga Faire. Meet authors, buy books, fresh produce, and gifts all at a discount and enjoy the festivities of the Faire. Food, wine, a car show,

## STARSEARCHER'S EXPRESS

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<http://www.bethestaryouare.org>

It is not now, and has never been, our intention to send this free newsletter to anyone who does not want it. If you received this in error, please respond with "REMOVE" on the subject line. Forward this to anyone who you think may be interested in its contents. If this was forwarded to you, and you want to receive it monthly, reply with "SUBSCRIBE" in the subject line. Visit our web site at <http://www.bethestaryouare.org>. Thank you.



## Spring Smiles

### OUR STORY-Once Upon a Time

Being Executive Director of a non-profit was not my dream. I never intended to start a charity.

My life was full, fun, and fanciful in the 1990's boasting a happy young family, a beautiful country home, glorious gardens, and a barnyard of rescued animals. As a successful actor, coach, and interior designer,



music, dancing, and activities for kids. Get a discount coupon for our CAR WASH Fundraiser! Our teen chairpersons are Jacqueline and Vivien are working overtime to offer a great experience! [Watch their video.](#)

CAR WASH will be from 10-4pm at the STAR Gas Station, 398 Rheem Blvd., on the corner of Rheem Blvd and Moraga Rd., adjacent to the Faire. [Pre-purchase](#) a car wash coupon for only \$8.00. (\$10.00 day of the event). Thank you to our sponsors Moraga OSH and [Keigan Productions](#) for our sponsorship.

## Author Help



99% of authors earn

less than \$50,000 a year. If you want to be in the other 1%, the [Publishing Seminar](#) in New York City on May 22 is for you with four gurus coaching you to success.

If you are going to BEA in New York City this year, you may want to also participate in the [Author 101 University](#) being held on May 22 and 23 at the Skyline Hotel. Rick Frishman has an amazing line-up of pros who will help you be the author you dream of being. Limited to 100 participants gives you the chance to mingle with the movers and shakers.

## Coaching Corner

my careers fulfilled my creative urges as well as increased my bank balance. Life was beautiful.

Since I was a little girl, volunteering was a part of life. Giving back was ingrained in us and it continued into my adulthood as I worked in my children's classrooms, spearheaded events for worthy organizations, lead Girl Scouts, 4-H projects, sport activities, and lectured at church. But other people founded organizations and I definitely had zero interest in becoming one of them.

Then my beloved Dad was diagnosed with a rare incurable cancer. He was given three weeks to live and I became his champion to save his life, scouring the world for treatment in days before the internet. With excellent medical intervention and his positive attitude, our family enjoyed his earthly company for three additional years. When I asked him on his deathbed if there was anything more I could do for him, he smiled widely to exclaim, "I am dying a happy man. I married the woman I loved, we were blessed with five great children, and I worked in a profession that was my passion. I have lived my dreams."

Something clicked inside me at that moment. My epiphany screamed *pay it forward*. My Daddy was a not a college-educated man, nor was he president of any thing. He read books and did on the job training to learn what he needed as a farmer and a volunteer fire fighter. Dad was my hero, a man of his word, a pillar of strength, a person who helped everyone. Our family felt safe in his presence. And although he was dying young, he felt that he had lived a life of purpose because he had loved, been loved, and fed people through his daily work



Empowerment expert,

Cynthia Brian, is available to help you with life challenges, acting, writing, presentations, and media training. For coaching and videotaping with playback, book a session by calling 925-377-7827, emailing [cynthia@star-style.com](mailto:cynthia@star-style.com).

[Link to my website](#)

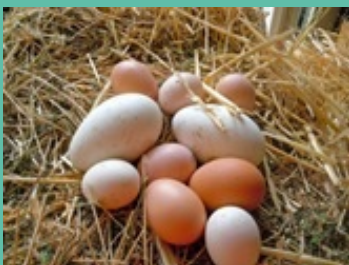
## Book Review Service for Authors



Are you an author

who needs a book review? Be the Star You Are!® is now providing a special book review service for a tax deductible contribution of \$150.00 per book. We'll read the book, write a review, and post it at various on-line sites. Email us for details. [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org).

## Egg-citing Wishes



[Be the Star You Are!](#)

® has compiled a short list. We hope you can help. Email [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org) 44 cent stamps for our Letters for Literacy Campaign (we'll take your extra stamps of any denomination)

Public Relations firm to provide pro bono services

through his daily work.

It took many starts, stops, detours, and U-turns, but by 1999 I did establish this charity, becoming a founder. Be the Star You Are!® was created from my heart to empower those who needed it most-women, families, and kids. Once upon a time, naively I thought "if I build it, they will come." I should have used my head.

It's been a struggle to keep the vision alive. Thank goodness I didn't have a crystal ball to see the many hurdles or I would never have started on this journey. Yet, now, working with the teens and young adults, witnessing the slow but steady progress to improve lives, I realize that this is the path I am meant to travel.

As I scroll through over the one hundred pages of volunteer sheets each filled with over a hundred names and positions, I am grateful for the experiences and the people who have grown with Be the Star You Are!®. We have planted pride and reaped smiles.

There comes an hour in all of our lives when we get turned upside down, meet disaster, sadness, loss, or regret face to face. This is the opportunity to step up, put a smile on our faces and make a difference. Life offers choices. We can become bitter or we can become better. Better is best.

I miss my Dad yet his mentoring taught me how to live in the moment to recreate dreams, live with passion, welcome the possibilities, and see the potential in our world.

We all have a story that begins with "once upon a time". With love, support, and integrity, we can also have a "happily ever after."

Thank you for being part of our constellation. May you enjoy a grace-filled and blessed Easter and Passover Week.

Welcome to Spring Smiles across the miles.

Companies cases of our signature Be the Star You Are!® book series

Buyers of our T-shirts and Books (\$15-\$20)

We hope you will fill our wishing well!  
Eggs-citing!

## RADIO FLYER

Type Title Here



[Starstyle-Be the Star You Are!® radio program](#) features award winning and best selling authors of new books every week. Listen live every Thursday from 3-4pm PT/6-7pm ET on [World Talk Radio/Voice America](#) at or tune in for [photos, descriptions, links, and more information](#). Free on [ITUNES](#)

For guest guidelines, contact our Guest Coordinator, Angela Siekman at [radio@bethestaryouareRadio.com](mailto:radio@bethestaryouareRadio.com).

To sponsor our program, email [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org)

*“Thank you so much! You asked great questions, and that made it a lot easier! I really enjoyed myself and I look forward to sending out the archived link when it's ready. So glad you enjoyed the book, and thanks again for inviting me to your show to talk about it.” Jael McHenry, Author, The Kitchen Daughter*

*“Cynthia, thank you so much for the great interview! I truly appreciate it. You were a lot of fun – and very complimentary. ;-)*

Cynthia Brian

Founder/Executive Director

[Cynthia@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:Cynthia@bethestaryouare.org)

[MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY](#)

## SPOTLIGHT on VOLUNTEERS



**Dr. David Loveall,  
D.C.**

A fourth generation Californian, Dr. David Loveall was raised in the Napa Valley where

both parents were public school teachers. He was a founding board member of Be the Star You Are!® charity and continues to be an invaluable advisor and member of the charity team. Dr. Loveall has been in private practice in Contra Costa County, California for over thirty years, specializing in soft tissue rehabilitation with an emphasis on the emotional and metaphysical etiologies of pain. He is an avid hiker and backpacker with significant interests in ecology, habitat restoration, and wilderness preservation.

### Dan Esbensen

As the co-founder of [Touch Technologies, Inc.](#), Dan is the inventor of record for a





*If you'd ever like to visit us at the Get Together, we'd love to have you there!" Lori Foster, Author, When You Dare*

*"Thank YOU, Cynthia, for making me feel so welcome -- your show is inspirational." Hallie Ephron, Author of Come and Find Me*

[Buy Books from your favorite authors](#)

## CONTACT US



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number of technology patents. He has been developing successful commercial software for enterprise use since 1974. Proficient in a number of programming languages, he has been programming since 1968. Dan's mother was an author of children's books, and since 2000 when he and Cynthia met on a plane to New York, Dan's advice, technological expertise, and support has been crucial to Be the Star You Are!® Residing in Arizona, Dan is devoted to helping others, and is a first class fan of Be the Star You Are!® programs. Photo with VP, Jennifer Cook, a dynamo <http://www.budbilanich.com/>woman and supporter.



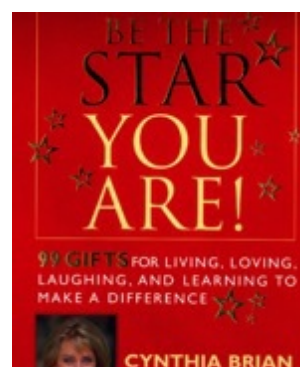
### Bud Bilanich, PHD

Known as the "Common Sense Guy", [Bud Bilanich](#) is an author, speaker, and executive coach with a mission of helping others create successful lives and careers. The grandson of

Polish immigrants, Bud became a member of the Be the Star You Are!® Board of Directors in 2009. With a PHD in Adult Education and Organizational Behavior from Harvard, he firmly believes in using common sense to achieve clarity of purpose and direction. He contributed the chapter , *The Gift of Optimism* in the [Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS](#) book and lives in Colorado.

## SPRING SPECIAL SALE

Just in time for the gift giving season of Easter, Mother's Day, Graduation, Birthdays, Father's Day, or Just Because, [Be the Star You Are!®](#) is offering a FREE T-shirt valued at \$15 with the



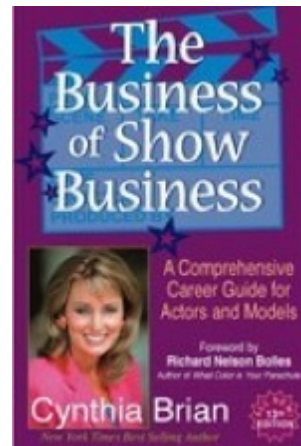
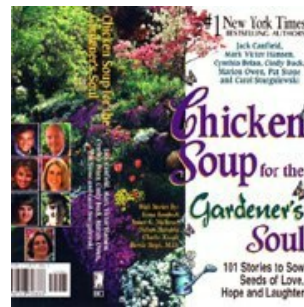
## Read, Lead, Succeed!



at \$15 with the

purchase of two

books. Choose from Be the Star You Are!®, Be the Star You Are!® for TEENS, The Business of Show Business, or Chicken Soup for the Gardener's Soul. Pay only \$45 including shipping/handling for two books and the FREE shirt. Please state your shirt size and to whom you want the book autographed. [make your purchase](#) or email [info@bethestaryouare.org](mailto:info@bethestaryouare.org)



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## Happy SPRINGTIME. Keep SMILING!

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