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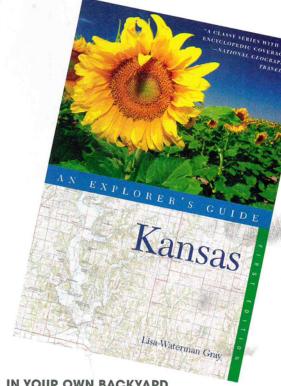


## indulgence



## NATURAL BEAUTY

Self-taught silversmith Robyn Nichols is known for her attention to detail and fine silver and gold craftsmanship. Her unique and exquisite handiwork has caught the curating eyes of those at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, which acquired her sterling silver Thatch Palm Bowl (similar pieces start at \$5,000) for display until May 12, 2012. The bowl is part of an exhibit titled "Acts of Nature: Contemporary Decorative Arts." Nichols' innovative perspective and vision allows her to create masterpieces drawing from the beauty of nature. Each of her one-of-a-kind pieces incorporates the graceful beauty of nature with precious metals. This piece and many others can be purchased through Nichols at robynnichols.com. -Ainsley Chapman



## IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Sorry, Kansas City, Missouri; the Kansas side is stealing some spotlight. Lisa Waterman Gray's book, "Kansas: An Explorer's Guide" (\$21.95) paints the heart of America in a beautiful light, including sites from the city's "Urban Enclave" to the "Wide-Open Spaces" of Northwest Kansas.

Gray will make Kansans swell with pride with her guide to inform out-of-state travelers (and in-state explorers) of attractions Kansas has to offer, from large state fairs to cozy eateries. According to Gray, the point of the book is simple: "It's supposed to say, 'Hey! This is right in your own backyard or right off the interstate. Take two hours and check out a hidden gem," she says.

With tips about where to shop, what to see, where to lodge and what to eat, this fascinating read gives an in-depth tour and history lesson through every city in the state and is now available at thestorytellerkc.net. -Abigail Dennis