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Meredith Collins, Publisher

Is it September already?!? That means summer's almost over, school's starting, and colder weather is almost upon us! I could get stuck on wondering where 2019 has gone, but instead I think I will delight in the fact that it is September and that means the season of Art is once again upon us.

In case you haven't noticed, our little town is always humming with creative activity in all forms: theater, architecture, music, painting, sculpture, dance, acting, and more. But in September our enthusiasm for the arts really bursts at the seams when local talent of all types go all out to share their creations with us and artists from across the country converge here to participate in our celebration of the arts. It is unique, it is exciting, it is free, and it is a blast.

The people we talked to for this issue are only a very small fraction of our local artist community, many of whom are gearing up for An Occasion for the Arts. Do yourself a favor and reserve October 5th and 6th with "AOFTA" in big red marker on your calendar then come out and meet a lot of your neighbors at their boldest, brightest, and most beautiful best!

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CORRECTION

In the August issue of *Next Door Neighbors*, we made an error in the story on Laura Hill titled *Coming to the Table*. We were incorrect on the timing of the organization's special weekend to commemorate the arrival of the first Africans in Virginia and engage those attending in conversations about racial reconciliation. As a result, we did not publish the dates of this three day event, August 16 - 18, and our story reported the event as though it had already occurred. In addition, the changes we made in some of the paragraphs about *Coming to the Table* did not give our readers a clear description of this non-profit group and their goals. We regret the lack of clarity and any inconvenience this may have caused our readers, Ms. Hill, and those involved with *Coming to the Table*.



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Framing a Life

By Wheston Chancellor Grove

Real estate agent Olyvia Salyer is an art enthusiast who finds fulfillment through community enhancement. As a child, her father's job in the military brought her to Williamsburg. Olyvia grew up in the area and stayed in town to attend college at William & Mary. In 2012, having earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology with a minor in sociology, Olyvia felt the time had come to venture out from her childhood roots. She moved to New York and soon found herself immersed in the marketing

industry.

She coordinated numerous musical and art events, as well as festivals. She worked for international companies and discovered the amount of detail and prep work necessary for planning large-scale events. After the ceaseless flow of city life, not to mention the high cost of living, Olyvia determined six years was enough time in the big city. In July 2018, Olyvia returned to Williamsburg.

"I've always loved the area, but I was con-

cerned to come back, being in my thirties. The college and high school experience is very different from living here as a professional." Olyvia wondered if there'd be enough social outlets and whether she'd be able to build friendships. "I've happily found that it has been easy. I am outgoing. I feel welcomed back into the community." Olyvia extols the numerous activities available to locals. "There is a strong younger population in town now, and it's growing. There are so many things to do. I don't get



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bored here on a Friday night, even coming from New York City! I think that's a big compliment to Williamsburg.”

In returning to Williamsburg, Olyvia wanted to ensure she could keep her philanthropic side alive. She reached out to Leo Charette, Executive Director for An Occasion for the Arts (AOFTA). Initially, Olyvia came on as a volunteer. Given her experience with event planning, she was invited to be a board member and now serves as its treasurer. “I've always had a deep passion for people and understanding [them]. My passion for art stems from this because art is self-expression.”

Olyvia enjoys painting and also loves to build and create things. She's experimented with an assortment of mediums from woodworking and jewelry to photography. “I'm always struck by really wonderful photography.” Eventually, she would love to get into real estate investment. Buying homes, renovating and keep them historically accurate, then flipping them for resale excites Olyvia. She's all about bringing restoration to the community. Her passion for artwork and building a strong community are enmeshed. “My eye for artwork is related to how I market and stage my homes as a realtor.”

An Occasion for the Arts takes place the first weekend in October. This year marks the 51st Anniversary of the nonprofit's founding. Committee members assess applicant submissions, looking for diversity in mediums to ensure balance and variety. “We want to involve the local artists but be open to traveling artists as well. Leo does a wonderful job of maintaining that balance. There are a lot of talented people and having to choose between the artwork is not easy.”

Not only has Olyvia transitioned geographically, professionally she embarked upon a new career. Passionate about real estate and renovating homes, Olyvia acquired her license in August 2018 and is now an agent with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Towne Realty. “I tend to be a quick learner, and I'm incredibly motivated.” As a rookie, she is more than on par with nationwide selling averages. Olyvia credits her initial success to her familiarity with the area as well as her pivotal mentors, colleague Taryn DeRose, and Berkshire Hathaway broker, Amerika Davis. “These women have both helped me to catapult my career. Real estate is an entrepreneurial field for sure. My marketing background has given me a leg up.”

To understand her career shift, one must go back to Olyvia's childhood. Her mother, Kathryn, is a Class A contractor and designer who operates her own business, Kathryn Salyer Design and Renovation. Olyvia says, “Working as a team with my mom was a goal. I learned a lot from her.” She laughs that some people compare them to the HGTV series. “It's not like that. It's HGTV teamwork but real life. That's what we are.” However, mother and daughter are independent in their professions. There is no nepotism. Olyvia realizes how fortunate she is to have learned from her mother when it comes to informing potential buyers about looking beyond certain aesthetic elements within a home. She encourages clients to see the potential in a property and to envision making the home their own.

Another benefit to being back in Williamsburg is Olyvia's proximity to family. “I consider myself very family-oriented.” Olyvia has two younger brothers. Garrett, 26, is a paramedic and firefighter for James City County. Griffin, 22, is about to enter the Business Analytics pro-

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gram at the W&M School of Business. “I don’t see myself moving away. I have friends in Chesapeake and Richmond. Williamsburg is perfectly in the middle. I love the people. So, I think I’ll stay,” she says with a smile.

Olyvia is candid about her reasons for not pursuing a career in psychology. “I went into psychology because I love learning who people are and understanding them.” She never wanted to be a clinical psychologist. “I didn’t see myself going into a master’s program. Psychology was informative, a learning experience providing tools to use through my other career.” When it comes to marketing, understanding who your buyers are is the keystone of success. “This skill has aided me because real estate is truly about relationships. Building, maintaining and ensuring that your clients are happy.”

As a real estate agent, Olyvia enjoys highlighting Williamsburg’s unique charm. When asked how she feels about all the new developments going on around town, she says, “I am okay with the building that’s shooting up, but I want the colonial sector to remain preserved. It’s good there is new construction bringing an

influx of younger demographics. I don’t think we’ve reached the tipping point yet. I’m a look forward kind of person.”

When it came to teaming-up with a real estate firm, Olyvia admits there were many great choices. It was a difficult decision. She interviewed with multiple firms. “I would recommend to anyone who is new to the real estate business that you really need a broker who can guide you. I can’t tell you how amazing Amerika Davis is, any issue, any problem, she’s there to help.”

Olyvia also participates in pro bono events. She was part of a fundraising group that visited the Virgin Islands. Having been decimated by hurricanes in 2017, Olyvia was “floored by how bad it still is.” A little like Williamsburg, the islands are “a tourist area, dependent on people coming to visit. When all the houses are destroyed, no one can stay.” Olyvia helped raise donations for the restoration of the island’s university. By far, it proved the most interesting trip within the past year. The desolate feeling as she looked across the “muddy” terrain stayed with her.

Three of Olyvia’s favorite artists include Andy Warhol, Jackson Pollock and Dale Chihuly. “Why I love modern art so much is that it evokes a feeling. It’s similar to homes. When you walk into a house you have to ask yourself, how do I feel?” Presentation is critical, both in art and real estate. “It’s about the aesthetics. What attracts people to a different choice is very much influenced by presentation and colors.” A house symbolizes a canvas. Architecture, much like paintings, “tells a story or provides commentary about current [trends] and sometimes these are the most arresting pieces.” Setting up a house, making it inviting, capturing its essence, is a labor of creativity. When framing a piece of artwork, it is important that one neither embellish nor oversimplify. A frame can make or break the artwork. It’s the same with a house. With proper staging, a tough sale can be shown in a totally different light. Olyvia Salyer prides herself on “recognizing those opportunities and being able to capitalize on them to do a good job.” Life is, after all, a work of art. Choosing the best frame makes for a world of difference. NDN

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Giving It All He's Got

By Linda Landreth Phelps



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

At 71, Cabot Wade still has a brain that refuses to rest. A new scrap of tune or song lyrics can wake him in the middle of the night to scribble them down. Ideas come just as fast and furious as they did when he was 50 years younger.

“Music will not let me go,” Cabot says. “It drives me, not the other way around. Although the style of song writing I do is probably passé; it’s crafted. So much of what we hear these days

is like fast food, quickly consumed and unmemorable. Would you consider a Big Mac crafted?” Cabot listens to and is inspired by the genius of The Beatles and singer-songwriter Paul Simon. “There’s a piece of the artist in that kind of music. You have to be vulnerable, whether you’re writing a song or painting a canvas, in order to touch others. I still write love songs, though I suspect I might look a little foolish to some audiences when I sing them at my age.”

From the earliest of his halcyon years, when his hair was, as he says, “brown and down” instead of short and silver, Cabot was doggedly pursuing his beloved music as a full-time career. After graduating from his Nashville high school in 1966, he toured internationally for four years with the group Up with People while meeting and falling in love with what would be the first of his three ex-wives, Glenn Close. “It was an exciting, exhilarating time.” He was writing

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songs and seeing them performed by the group immediately. One of his songs was featured on two different television programs.

The group brought them eventually to Williamsburg in 1970, where he worked his way through William & Mary as a music major with a minor in physics. "It was a miracle that I was accepted with my 'B' average, but not her. Glennie had her mind set on Randolph Macon, but I talked her into going to Williamsburg, where I'd wanted to live since I was 12."

Cabot worked his way through school by gigging locally and touring with his band in the summer. Liquor by the drink was a new thing in town in 1971, and every place that Cabot approached looking for a place to play said yes to him. Soon there were two-hour waits to get in to hear the band, which was then made up of Cabot, Dick Smith, currently an IT at Computer Concepts, on guitar, David Coppinger, who now owns Taproot, on bass, and Dale Wolcott, their drummer, who builds beautiful houses these days. The pay was amazing, Cabot recalls. "We were each pulling down \$125 a week in 1971, which translates to \$1,000 in today's economy. It got better from there." They were young, energetic and having the time of their lives.

In 1982, John Tracy, their bass player from Up with People joined the band. "I remember playing Busch Gardens in the Italy section for seven shows on a Friday. Then we'd slide over to The Whaling Company for another five hours. Between the two, we'd be onstage, or getting ready to be, from noon until 1:30 the next morning. It was wonderful, and we were good at it," he says with a big grin.

"My divorce from Glennie wasn't amicable at the time," Cabot says, "but eventually we both got what we wanted. She has an incredible career, and I have children and grandchildren with my second wife." The two keep in regular, if not frequent, contact these days. Cabot's third and last marriage ended on more friendly terms. "We both realized we were too set in our ways to function as a couple." After nine years together in Roanoke, Cabot moved back to Williamsburg in 2017 to be close to his family here and resume his relationship with his bandmates.

Music styles came and went over the years, and the band managed to adapt what they did and keep their popularity for a long run. Eventually change caught up and passed them, and the Taylor Swifts of this era now rule the air. "With my last album, 2017's 'Time Well Wasted', I was seriously considering selling it on vi-

nyl with a record player included as part of the package." According to Cabot, however, there will always be an audience for the classics.

Music isn't the only thing that is constantly on Cabot's mind. As evidenced by his W&M minor in physics, a significant part of his brain is always working on his next invention. Cabot was recently competing for a \$50,000 grant to develop his idea for a solar powered drone that could deliver crucial medical equipment to areas isolated by natural disasters. "After Hurricane Maria, Puerto Rico's infrastructure was destroyed. Roads were impassable, and there was no power for months in most areas," he says. "How many patients who weren't evacuated beforehand are dying because, after all this time, they still can't get regular dialysis?" His plan was for a 30-foot drone to access the most remote area with a payload of supplies using solar energy to run the machines. A secondary drone would be equipped to conduct live video interviews with a doctor. Carnegie-Mellon University is mentoring Cabot through the developmental phase, he says, because they're excited to see a real-world need met.

"I had five months to get everything organized for the contest, and I was frantically trying to overcome my technical deficiency with



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the computer. I pulled the team together, and after several all-nighters I had entered all the information online and was ready to hit submit when suddenly the contest closed. I missed the deadline by 30 seconds. I was like, 'Shoot me now!'"

That won't be Cabot's last chance at seeing an invention come to life, though. He's full of ideas for improving the world. Cabot's theory is that we are much too dependent on the grid. "It's an addiction, and we pay for it. We need better ways to utilize solar power."

For 25 years, Cabot lived the dream as a full-time professional musician. As his career slowed, he supplemented his income with business ventures such as The American Theater in Phoebus, as well as being the choir director at James Blair Middle School and giving private guitar lessons. "I no longer do that because the new generation is looking for someone to teach them the new music."

Cabot and his long-time duo partner, Dick Smith, play as Smith & Wade most Saturday nights from 6p.m. to 10p.m. at the Williamsburg Lodge bar, Sweet Tea & Barley. It's a fun gig with a core group of local fans supplemented by the usual tourists. They can also be heard as part of the larger Smith-Wade Band appearing

regularly at Two Drummers Smokehouse in Tono. That group includes Cabot and Dick plus John Tracy, as well as Cabot's son, Jon Wade, 36, on drums. It gratifies Cabot to see that the appreciation of the audience is still there.

"Why do we do it? Not for the money, because there isn't much. We do it because that's who we are. We get up there and give it all we've got." Smith & Wade are far from a sleepy act, and the typical crowd is of an age that remembers how the oldies should sound. "We have a sixties medley that goes for 15 minutes, which takes a lot of energy," he says. Some recent health issues have had an effect, but Cabot is hanging tough as the years march on. If Sir Paul McCartney is still performing for enthusiastic crowds at 75, then so can he. "When I can't play like it's supposed to be done, I just won't do it anymore," he declares. "I refuse to play apologetically." After all is said and sung, the music still drives him and will not let him go. "But if I had to kick the bucket today," he says firmly, "I would say I had a great ride!"

When asked for words of wisdom as he looks back on his life, Cabot Wade ponders for a long time. Finally, he looks up and says with a wistful smile and a catch in his voice, "It was all worth it." NDN

Next Door Neighbors

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SUSAN WILLIAMSON



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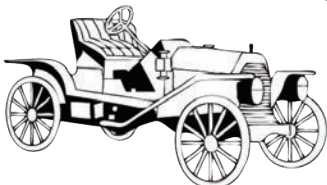
LOVING OUR Literary Environment

By Ashley Smith

Susan Williamson didn't start out as an author. The professional horsewoman began her writing career as a child when her poem about newborn foals was chosen for recitation at the spring concert. It seems her writing career was fated to be intertwined with horses. After a stint on her high school newspaper, Susan briefly considered a major in Journalism but instead her love of horses led her to pursue a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture from the Uni-

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versity of Kentucky, and eventually, a Master's in Science from the University of California, Davis.

As an adult, Susan worked as a cooperative extension agent where she was able to craft curriculum for the Consumer Education program. It was well-written and later, Pennsylvania picked it up for use across the state. Writing was never far away, however. She found herself working for a small newspaper, reporting on city council meetings, civic events, elections, and other local happenings. She served as the editor for over three years, which meant authoring every article, crafting layout, as well as procuring and designing advertisements. It was a challenging, and often exhausting, job.

"After all that labor, we approached the owner about purchasing an ownership stake in the paper. His answer was no, so we moved on," she says without a hint of resentment. Susan and her husband, Wallace, ran a paint and wallpaper store for a while. She worked as manager of a food co-op, and she even ran a Community Education program under the superintendent

of schools. Despite the many jobs Susan has held, she has always worked with horses. She even met her husband at a horse show. They raised their family in the heart of horse country, Kentucky. Afterwards, they moved to North Carolina for another opportunity to work with horses.

For the seven years that she and Wallace lived in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, they operated a ten-acre horse farm that trained, bred and boarded American Saddlebred horses. They also gave lessons. In North Carolina, Susan won several writing contests, and it was here that she wrote and published her first novel. *Turkmen Captives*, originally published in 2015, tells the story of a widowed military wife who learns her husband may not have been just another casualty of war. It features a rare horse breed, the Akhal-Teke. Akhal-Teke horses are found mainly in Turkmenistan and Russia and are known for their speed, endurance, intelligence and the unique metallic sheen of their coat. In 2018, *Turkmen Captives* was republished as *Desert Tail* by Blue Fortune Enterprises, LLC.

"I placed the setting in Afghanistan so that I could write about these beautiful horses," she says. "I also have a soft spot for Gold Star families."

Indeed, the horses inspire Susan. She is a horsewoman first, author second. Each of her novels feature horses and people who love them.

Yet she is not the first to be inspired by animals when writing mysteries. Susan cites Rita Mae Brown as a heavy influence on her writing, especially the Sister Jane Foxhunting series. She has loved mysteries almost as long as she has loved horses. As a young girl she started with Nancy Drew, but other writers she admires include Marica Muller and her Sharon McCone mysteries, Sue Grafton's Alphabet Murder series, and surprisingly, Clive Cussler.

"Clive Cussler's dialogue got better as he continued to write. Dialogue is difficult to write; reading his has helped me to improve mine as well," Susan says. She even rather enjoys J.K. Rowling's later mysteries, which are published under the pseudonym, Robert Galbraith.

"I always plan the crime first; it helps to

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generate excitement immediately,” she says. “I work backwards from there. I already know the crime for my next novel.” Although her ability to craft dialogue has improved, she wants to continue to grow as a writer. “I want to become better at humor and character development. And I’m not as literary as I’d like to be.”

Though she has a book coming out this year, Susan is already at work on a sequel to her cozy mystery, *Dead on the Trail*. She admits that it can be hard to focus on one story when she already has ideas for the next one she wants to write. “There are so many stories to be told,” she says with a sigh.

It was difficult to leave North Carolina and the horse farm, but the move to her townhome in Williamsburg has not diminished her enthusiasm or even her opportunities to work with horses.

Susan is passionate about horses and the amazing effect they can have on young people, especially those with autism or ADHD. She has often seen children with difficulties blossom when working with a horse. “They have to learn focus in order to have control of their

horse,” she says. She believes that horses help to change lives. She even wrote a nonfiction e-book on how to choose a horse. *How to Buy Your First Horse* explains the intricacies of purchasing a horse. “I wrote it originally as a how-to article because so many parents buy a horse for their child to ride, and it isn’t a good fit.” They often purchase horses that are too big, too wild, or too ill for a rider, especially a young rider. Susan still loves to teach others about horses and how to properly care for them.

She has just returned from Lexington, Kentucky where she was able to spend time at the American Saddlebred Museum. She and her husband regularly attend the Junior League Horse Show and the World Horse Championship in Louisville, Kentucky. Once a year, she and Wallace travel to North Carolina to help on the horse farm they left just two short years ago. She recently attended the Virginia Horse Festival in Doswell last May, and she currently helps at a farm in Hopewell, Virginia, where eventually her teaching skills will be in use once more. At a plantation in Westover, she gives riding lessons. She also travels around the country to

events that celebrate horses, especially American Saddlebreds.

Williamsburg has provided plenty of opportunities for Susan to work with horses, enjoy her grandchildren and especially to write. She has found the people here to be welcoming and kind and is impressed with the number of serious writers there are in the area. The city’s rich arts scene has been encouraging and fruitful for Susan’s work.

Susan Williamson loves the literary environment of Williamsburg and in the short time she’s been here, she has enriched it by involving herself as much as she can. In addition to her mystery novels, Susan is a board member for the Chesapeake Bay Writers Club, a member of the Virginia Writers Guild, and she serves on the Williamsburg Book Festival Committee. She may be familiar as a regular contributor to this magazine. Her novels include the aforementioned *Desert Tail* and its sequel, *Tangled Tail*, and the cozy mystery, *Dead on the Trail*. Her writing can also be found in Taking Flight: Winston-Salem Writers Contest Winners and New South. NDN

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CAROLEE VITALETTI



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Living Life in Color

By Caroline Johnson

For Carolee Vitaletti, life is better in color. That's no secret to all of those who pass her gallery shop in Busch Gardens. Nestled in a beautiful log cabin in the "New France" section of the park, it's hard to miss her space. After years in the park selling outdoors and being featured in the Festhaus, the move to a building of her own was a dream come true. "It was like the law of attraction," Carolee says. "I started believing it was going to happen, and

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Laura Kinsman, Owner

it did.” This attitude and her love for color have played large roles in the opportunities she has had in Williamsburg and beyond. As she works each day to fill the world of others with more warmth, happiness and wonder, it’s no surprise that so many people stop each day to marvel at her work.

Art has been a part of Carolee’s life since as early as she can remember. “I remember when I was in eighth grade, I submitted a piece of art for a contest, and I won,” Carolee says. “It triggered something in me.” As she got older, she began to explore different avenues of art, shadowing graphic designers while always painting on the side. She decided to work in graphic design, finding herself drawn to the detail and creativity that went into the work. After working professionally in graphic design for 14 years, she took time off while her children were young. When her family moved to North Carolina, she pursued new art projects. She painted murals in houses and businesses, including a large Albert Einstein she painted at her son’s school. When her family relocated to Williamsburg, she took a different route. She returned to school and obtained her teaching license, teaching locally for two years.

However, no matter what she did, art continued to be forefront in her mind. After a cruise to the Caribbean in 2012, she began to expand her style of painting. She found herself standing in the turquoise water, feeling the joy of the island life around her. “My senses were awakened to a new art style that was both impressionistic and realistic,” Carolee says. “It’s a style all my own filled with layers of color and texture.” This art style can be seen in each of her paintings. Filled with color and in her style, she paints a little of everything. From llamas to sloths and sea life to farm life, her art covers every aspect of the animal kingdom and more. She adds her passions into her artwork as well, working frequently with Heritage Humane Society for fundraisers. She has hung 18 pieces featuring dogs and cats in their building. “When people see the color in my paintings, they look at the animal longer. They begin to appreciate it.”

While her passion for animals is evident through her work, her artwork also includes sunsets, sailboats, American flags and even some local Williamsburg buildings. “I paint what I love,” she says. “Come to find out, people love it, too.” Carolee began researching how to get a publisher so she could put her art out into the world. While bringing paintings to a printer in Richmond to have prints made, she ended up making a connection to a publisher. The next day, she had a contract with World Art Group in place. “I had the right art at the right time and in the right place,” Carolee says. While her artwork currently sells to buyers around the world, Williamsburg, and specifically Busch Gardens, will always be where it all began.

Carolee got her start in Busch Gardens by selling at the outdoor merchant space. She knew right away that it would be the right place for her. “It was a perfect match, with the colors, the happiness and the fun that both Busch Gardens and my paintings are known for.” Going outside of her comfort zone, Carolee was invited to paint in the Festhaus in 2013 as others walked by and watched. Her crowd grew bigger as a storm approached the area, drawing people into the space. As she painted a 30” x 30” eagle, she found reds and purples beginning to flow out across the canvas. “I heard a man behind me say that if he was a King, he would hire me as his private personal artist,” she says. “I



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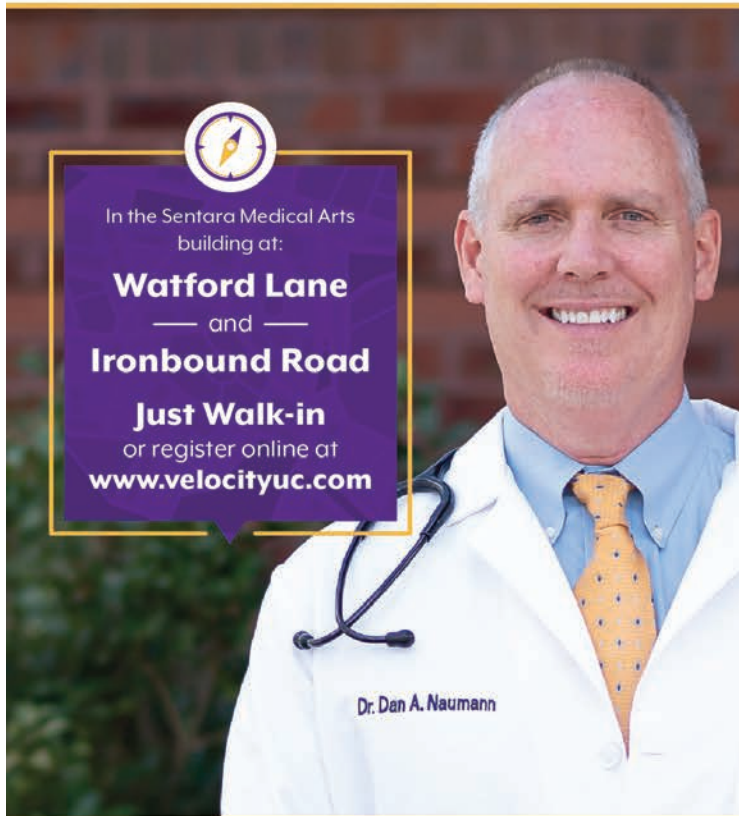
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thought wow, I must be doing a good job.”

After five years and countless festivals at the park, she was moved into a new spot in the Festhaus. “They even let me put nails in the wall. That was huge.” This put an even bigger spotlight on Carolee’s art, and she soon found herself with repeat visitors who would stop by on their visits. In 2018, when she was offered the space in New France, she knew the best was yet to come. With gallery lighting, pinewood from ceiling to floor and a perfect painting nook within the windows, she found her home away from home. Always stopping to put her paintbrush down when someone comes in the door, Carolee has created an atmosphere where everyone feels welcome. With a coloring table for kids to have fun as their parents explore, she gets inspired by learning the stories of the visitors in her shop.

For Carolee, watching people experience her art for the first time is like nothing else. “It’s huge as an artist to witness peoples’ emotions before they know I’m the artist,” she says. “That’s what keeps me going.” As Carolee expands her collection, she prides herself on creating pieces that appeal to all ages and all situations. “Painting the way I do makes people look at my art longer. They notice all the brush or palette knife strokes.” One other aspect of her shop that people can’t miss is the giant wooden bear out front. Formerly a dark brown bear, Carolee knew she wanted to make her mark. After approval, she painted it, staying true to her style. “My bear has become famous,” Carolee says. “People are always stopping to take pictures with it!”

Now selling her art worldwide, creating her brand is of the utmost importance. “People know it’s my art when they see it,” she says. “That’s not an easy thing to do... to paint every piece to follow in suit.” With her originals becoming increasingly popular, Carolee finds herself with repeat customers who keep adding to their collections. The support that has surrounded Carolee throughout her journey is one that cannot be forgotten. Her biggest support system starts at home with her husband, Tom, and their children, Tommy and Taylor. Busch Gardens has had an immense part to play in her success as well, particularly Kevin Lemke and Caroline Clemmons. While she works as often as she can in her space when the park is open, Carolee is thankful for the help from Craig Hill, who is there if she ever needs to take time off.

For Carolee, Williamsburg has been the perfect setting for her to chase this dream. “I can’t say enough about Williamsburg,” Carolee says. Aromas Coffeehouse has ever-rotating artwork by Carolee adorning the walls. After licensing her art to become a puzzle, she remembers the moment she spotted it in Barnes and Noble in Williamsburg. In her spare time, which she admits there’s not much of, she enjoys playing tennis, walking in Colonial Williamsburg, enjoying outdoor concerts and spending time in local stores.

While Carolee Vitaletti has devoted her time, energy and attention to following her dream, she’s not close to being done yet. “I realize that painting is a passion, but that this passion has become my purpose,” she says. Currently in talks with Busch Gardens in Tampa and always on the lookout for opportunities to license her art, she has lofty goals set for herself. “I’ve built myself this amazing job... but it didn’t happen overnight. There was no luck involved. I had a vision, and I kept at it.” 

Carolee’s art can be viewed at <http://caroleevitalettiart.com/>.

YURI ADAMS



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

A LOVER OF *Art*

By Brandy Centolanza

Yuri Adams has been a lover of art for many years, and Williamsburg's An Occasion for the Arts (AOFTA) festival has long been one of her favorite local celebrations. Her admiration and appreciation for artisans of all kinds is what initially led Yuri to become involved with AOFTA. This year will mark year two of being a part of the popular fall event for her. She takes great pride in serving on the board of AOFTA, which, for more than 50 years, has honored art and music the first weekend of



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October.

"I've always thought it was an awesome weekend full of art," Yuri says. "It was always something fun for me to attend when I was a student at William & Mary. My husband and I enjoyed walking around last year. The quality of the art and the variety of the art is just incredible."

For nearly two years, Yuri has served as recording secretary for AOFTA's board, which meets monthly throughout the year to plan the festival. Hundreds of artists from across the nation participate in AOFTA, showcasing their work in more than a dozen categories.

"The number of artists has grown each year as the show has grown," Yuri says. "This year, we had more than 350 applicants, and 155 have been accepted and invited to be a part of the show for 2019."

This year's festival will be held over two days on October 5 and 6. There will be a new event on Saturday evening called "ROCK! The Occasion," a rock painting party. From 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., festival goers will have the opportunity to paint kindness rocks. The event will also include food, beer and wine available

for purchase as well as musical entertainment from the local band Billy Joe Trio.

"I think it's really cool how we have artists coming from all over the country," Yuri says. "It's not something we normally see in Williamsburg. AOFTA is a huge asset to the community. This year marks our 51st show, and we have people on the board who have been involved since day one."

Yuri is coming up on a decade of calling Williamsburg home. She decided to stay put after graduating from W&M back in 2009. After graduation, Yuri worked for a bit at Avalon Center and then a local engineering firm before joining local government as an economic development specialist for the City of Williamsburg two years ago. In her current role, she assists existing city business owners with retention and expansion, connecting them with the resources they need to succeed.

Yuri also enjoys talking up the city and its businesses at conferences across the country. In March, Yuri had the opportunity to attend a conference of the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) in National Harbor, Md.

"It was a lot of fun and very interesting," she says. "Talking about Williamsburg and all of our great assets was a new experience for me."

Yuri also works closely with members of the city's Economic Development Authority (EDA), whose focus includes continuing to make downtown Williamsburg a vibrant and attractive place to be for locals and tourists alike. A job in which she helps restaurant owners and retailers learn and grow suits Yuri well.

"I am the daughter of a small business owner, and I grew up hearing about the struggles my dad had trying to get help, so helping others with their businesses is quite an honor for me," Yuri says.

Yuri's father is the owner of a Japanese restaurant, Sushi Matsumoto, in Lexington, Virginia. Yuri started working at the restaurant at the age of 11.

"I bussed tables and did the dishes until I was old enough to start serving," she says. "My dad is the hardest working, most dedicated person I've ever known. Growing up in that lifestyle, the daughter of a restaurateur,

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taught me first-hand what it's really like being the owner of a small business. I know that for the people I work with here in Williamsburg on a daily basis, their business is their whole life. They don't leave work in the store or the restaurant, it comes home with them and goes to the grocery store with them and it's with them every day, all the time."

That is why Yuri is always available to help city business owners in any way she can, no matter what time of day or night it is. Yuri thrives on not only offering assistance to small business owners, but to young professionals in general as well.

For years, Yuri has been actively involved with Williamsburg's young professional support and networking organizations. Two groups merged in the spring of March 2019 to form ASPIRE Young Professionals of the Greater Williamsburg Business Council through The Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance. Yuri is the chair of the board of ASPIRE, which offers various programs to young professionals aged 21 to 39. These include leadership training; educational workshops and professional development;

networking and social events; community engagement and volunteer opportunities; and behind-the-scenes tours of local businesses.

"The behind-the-scenes tours have been a huge hit," she says. "Last year, we did tours at the Anheuser-Busch brewery and Busch Gardens Howl-O-Scream, and the tours were followed up by talks on leadership and career development from leaders of both of those organizations. This year, our first behind-the-scenes tour was at Copper Fox Distillery, and our event was the first to take place in their new speakeasy space. I love connecting young professionals to the business owners who work so hard to make our community a special place to live and work. I'm so proud of the work ASPIRE is doing."

In recent years, Yuri says she's felt a shift in the culture in Williamsburg with the community being more welcoming and inviting to younger adults. Businesses such as Amber Ox Public House and Precarious Beer Hall downtown and Virginia Beer Company on Second Street as well as Silver Hand Meadery and Copper Fox Distillery have added to that new vibe.

"It's been an exciting thing to be a part of," Yuri says. "Personally and professionally, it's just a fun time for me to be in Williamsburg."

Yuri's husband, Brad, is a brewer at Virginia Beer Company. The pair met through mutual friends and eloped in 2018. Yuri and Brad recently bought a house and love spending time with their dog, Quinn.

"Brad and I love taking Quinn for walks downtown along Duke of Gloucester Street," she says. "When we lived closer to town, we'd walk the mile from our house, pick up an ice cream cone from Kilwins, and then walk down to the Capitol Building and back. We also enjoy going to the Hounds Tale for happy hour, and Old City Barbeque. We have a bucket list of restaurants we want to try all over town. Williamsburg has so much to offer."

With a new husband, a new house, a dog and a job she loves, Yuri Adams is certainly one busy lady.

"The arts and helping young people are two things I'm really passionate about," she says. "I love working for the city and engaging with our community. I think Williamsburg is such a special place." NDN

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TIM ANDREWS



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

The Best Art Comes From the Heart

By Alison Johnson

Before he built a remarkable career as a journalist and broadcaster, one that took him from the PBS Newshour to inside the Oval Office, Timothy Andrews was an artist.

An avid painter and drawer as a young child, Tim's favorite elementary school class was "Biological Illustration," or sketching lifelike pictures of plants, bugs and marine life. He studied art and architecture in college and traveled

across Europe as a student photographer.

A little over a year ago, Tim became an artist again.

After an encouraging visit to the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center, or WCAC, he dove into both nature photography and metal sculpturing. Tim's brightly colored photos, often of florals or landscapes, and his architecturally arranged metal constructions are a

combination of realism and abstract impressionism, using unusual angles and a mix of wit and whimsy.

"The thing I love most about art is its ability to energize and inspire you and connect you with other places, other experiences and other people," Tim says. "I'm a creative person by nature, and the feeling I get is a feeling of freedom and a feeling of happiness. Art nourishes

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my soul and my spirit.”

According to Tim, everyone who views or buys his pieces should experience the same emotions. “The most important thing about my art is fun. I have to enjoy myself when I’m creating art and, most of all, my art has to make people smile.”

Tim also serves as director of marketing and is on the Board of Directors for the WCAC, a 60-year-old gallery near the College of William & Mary where he has displayed his work. The Center occupies a bright blue building between Richmond Road and Lafayette Street, welcoming anyone who loves art for its exhibits, classes and receptions.

Recently, Tim helped the WCAC design a new logo featuring its uniquely colored building, and he is heading up a multi-level marketing campaign to raise awareness of its shift from a fairly quiet, staid and exclusive spot to a more down-to-earth and lively operation.

“We make art accessible for people of all backgrounds, interests, ages and abilities,” Tim says. “And we do so in a setting that is warm, relaxing and creative. We are a fresh, fun, diverse, vibrant, large, open and welcoming gal-

lery.”

In addition, Tim, 55, is president of Andrews Creative Worldwide, an advertising and public relations consulting company that he has owned for 15 years, which specializes in work with museums, nonprofits and educational institutions. At home, meanwhile, he is the full-time caretaker for his 91-year-old mother-in-law, Dorothy Ellis, an accomplished artist herself.

Born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, Tim grew up in a small seaside village on Cape Cod, Massachusetts where ferry boats depart for Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket Island. He majored in English and minored in economics and architecture at the University of New Hampshire, while also studying writing and literature at Cambridge University in England and art and global economics at the American Institute for Foreign Study in Florence, Italy.

Tim’s first journalism job was in Washington, DC, as an intern for the PBS Newshour. Although he made just \$10 a week and never was able to save any money, he forged connections that opened many other doors.

For four years, Tim worked for Voice of

America as an international radio broadcaster, mostly as a news writer and sportscaster. “My shows were heard from the Caribbean to the Philippines, and I would occasionally get marriage proposals in the mail from women looking to come to the U.S.,” he says.

Next up was a position as a network news producer for Mutual Broadcasting, Westwood One and the NBC Radio Network, where staffers covered historic milestones such as space shuttle launches and presidential elections. Tim crossed paths with celebrities from Hank Aaron to Reba McEntire to high-level government officials, including President Bill Clinton.

In fact, one of Tim’s most memorable days came when he produced a 1994 taped address from the Oval Office, which would air on NBC, CBS and ABC. Halfway through, Clinton began to ad-lib and made an incorrect statement about a piece of legislation on Capitol Hill. Tim had to interrupt and correct him, which led to a withering glare and then a major tongue-thrashing.

“In a room full of dignitaries and high-ranking officials, President Clinton started cussing

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at me like a sailor,” Tim recalls. “He used virtually every bad word imaginable, and even a few that weren’t imaginable. I didn’t know whether to cry, laugh or run, but it sure reminded me that Presidents are real people too, at least some of the time.”

Additionally, Tim helped create the StandardNews Network, a national radio network and wire service, where he served as Assistant Managing Editor.

In 1997, Tim and his wife of 25 years, Sandy, relocated from Northern Virginia to Williamsburg to raise a family in a quieter town with excellent schools. Tim worked as Director of Public Relations for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation for eight years. He and Sandy, head of the Williamsburg Montessori School, have two grown sons, four cats and four dogs.

“It’s an odd mix around our house,” Tim says. “We have one husky, two cocker spaniels and one chihuahua who, of course, tries to rule the roost.” Besides art, his other hobbies include downhill skiing, mountain biking and scuba diving.

About 18 months ago, Sandy’s mother,

Dorothy or “Dot,” joined the household as she began to struggle with dementia. As her caregiver, Tim first walked into WCAC in 2018 as he was searching for a local gallery to showcase Dot’s work.

“They took one look at Dot’s painting and prints and immediately invited both of us to join the gallery,” he says. “I mentioned that I was a photographer, as well as a wannabe sculptor, and the staff quickly asked me to bring in some photographs to show. The rest is history as far as my art goes.”

Tim typically spends 10 to 20 hours a week working on his art, whether at his home or during volunteer shifts at the WCAC. At the gallery, he often creates his sculptures at a table set up in the middle of the exhibit room, allowing visitors to watch an artist in action.

The sculptures, typically 20-by-30-inches, take anywhere from four hours to a week to complete. Tim searches hardware stores for metal pieces with interesting shapes, often finding them in the plumbing or home construction sections.

As for photography, a few of his favorite spots are Colonial Williamsburg, the Williams-

burg Winery and the gardens at Freedom Park, the latter at the intersection of Longhill and Centerville roads.

Tim embraces the rainbow of colors in nature and looks to present objects in fresh ways. “I try to create work that offers people different views of things they may have seen a thousand times,” he says. “A flower perhaps, viewed from an unusual, unexpected angle, or pieces of metal arranged in ways that encourage them to view their world through a different lens.”

The biggest challenge is not thinking too much. “The more I ruminate on a photograph, or a sculpture, and the more I try to force the creativity, the less successful I am in the end. One important lesson I have learned is that the best art comes from the heart, not the head.”

Thrilled to be immersed in art again, Tim Andrews hopes more people will discover the sense of community and joy he has found at the WCAC.

“Whether you are an artist, someone who simply enjoys art, or someone who just wants to get to know some really fun people, the Center is the place for you,” he says. “It changed my life.” NDN

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MATT WEBSTER



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Preservation of a Community

By Dawn Brotherton

Director of the Grainger Department of Architectural Preservation and Research is a long title, but that's because Matt Webster has a big job for Colonial Williamsburg.

Matt and his staff work closely with maintenance, conservation, the analytical lab, and other departments to protect the buildings and maintain accuracy of the historic area. They work with everything from structural repairs and reconstruction, down to paint colors and wallpaper design. "We're always learning.

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There's always new ways to look at things and new research that can be done," Matt says.

He was excited when he began working for Colonial Williamsburg ten years ago. "For people in my field, this is a really important place, not only because of the work resources, but just the knowledge base and the professionals that are here."

Growing up on a farm in West Virginia, he was constantly around construction and building. His father was an engineer, and he had one uncle who was an electrician and another who was a pipe fitter. This instilled his love for taking things apart and putting them back together. In the world of reconstruction for Colonial Williamsburg, he gets to put those skills to good use.

When he was young, Matt spent hours excavating on the family farm, searching for dinosaur bones. While he loves history, he feels the research and discovery are the best parts. "Everything that you see is a series of steps, and I love figuring out what those steps were and how it impacted the final product. If you're reconstructing the same way that they did in eighteenth century, you run inevitably into the same

problems they had. All of a sudden, you discover why they did it this way," he says.

Recently, Colonial Williamsburg restored a late 19th century coffeehouse that had been torn down. When the house that had been built on the site was moved, the archaeologists discovered over 200 pieces of the coffeehouse. Climbing under the house that had been relocated, Colonial Williamsburg staff discovered the builders had reused the floor joists from the coffeehouse for the newer building. Instead of pulling out all the nails, the builders flipped the floor upside down.

"All of the nails for the flooring were there. We knew not only how long all those nails were and what type they were, we knew that they were face nailed. We could tell how wide each floorboard was because we had all the nails spacing on them," Matt says. The experts could even tell which boards were closest to the openings based on water damage or paint transferred from when the walls were painted.

More digging showed the builders also reused the bricks from the coffeehouse chimney to build the wall around the larger house. "You could get angles of the flues for the original eigh-

teenth century chimney because of the way they were cut and the smoke lines on them. That's what we do," he says.

By learning things during reconstruction, Matt also learns how to better preserve the original structures because they understand them so much better. "That's where Williamsburg is a completely different institution. We have diversity in historic trades, maintenance, architecture, engineering, and these different groups can bring all this knowledge to bear on these projects."

The color shifts in some historic buildings in Colonial Williamsburg are from Matt and his department applying the latest technology to recreate how things used to be. In the past, it was a common technique to scrape through layers of paint and wallpaper and try to match colors with the naked eye. "Today, we have high-powered microscopes, so we can look at every single layer down to the substrate and analyze all those materials. We know what the binders and driers and pigments are in the paint, so we can come up with an accurate eighteenth-century formula as far as what materials were used." They then use their knowledge of how these paints break



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down over time to reverse engineer them and create the right colors.

Why is this important? “Colors tells you a lot about status, who people are, and where they are in a social hierarchy. If you see a house with whitewash on it, it’s a very different social level than somebody with oil paint on their house,” Matt says. “By the 1770s, the red brown that you see around town was really out of style. It’s a cheaper paint, and the creams and grays and yellows were really on the way up, and so those are telling you kind of up-and-coming versus maybe fallen on some hard times.”

Bricks tell a whole other story. Bricks are a higher status material because it was more expensive. Researchers don’t rely on only one aspect of a structure. They pay attention to the details. The Peyton Randolph House is a wooden building, using masonry details and painted to mimic a brick color.

These buildings aren’t just telling the stories of the people who financed and lived in them, but also of the people who literally built them. The Ludwell-Paradise House is loaded with fingerprints from when the brickmakers moved the bricks while they were still wet.

“We’ve come a long way in our understanding of masonry materials and preservation techniques for masonry buildings. We have a very strong masonry preservation program that I’m really proud of,” he says.

Matt is working closely with the interpreters to help them understand the tricks and tips from the 18th century so they can better explain it to visitors. Windows are used to trick the observer into thinking a building is taller than it is. Take note when the first floor windows are larger than the second floor windows. The illusion makes the second story look farther away. Builders also create the effect by putting nine panes of glass over nine panes in the first floor windows, but six panes of glass over nine in the second story.

Matt and his wife, Rene, have introduced the love of museums to their children early. Harlan and Finley, seven-year-old twins, and Ellen, who is five, love the National Park Service Junior Ranger Program and any aquariums or science museum where they can put their hands on things. “I love watching them learn and seeing how they take it in.”

Prior to the busy family life with children, Matt was active in the Falmouth Project on the

north coast of Jamaica and still serves on the board. Falmouth used to be a thriving sugar port until emancipation occurred and the economy dropped. Because there was no strong economy to change it, the town froze in place.

“We trained young Jamaicans in preservation trades. Then they would learn and work on houses, preserving eighteenth-century structures, creating better quality of living for the residents.” He was impressed by what they were able to accomplish with few resources. “I watched these guys build a wooden sash with a sharpened screwdriver and a hammer. Their problem-solving skills are different because they look at things differently.”

Preservation is often seen just as saving old things, but it can also change a community and give people jobs.

For Matt Webster and Colonial Williamsburg, the most challenging part of preservation is the sheer volume. Colonial Williamsburg has 603 structures with diverse needs to keep them accurate, well-maintained and up to current safety standards. “We’re here to protect these places for both the current generation and future generations.” NDN

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MADLINE ANDERSON



COLOR OUTSIDE THE LINES

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

By Susan Williamson

Growing up, Madeline Anderson loved doing any kind of art, except coloring inside the lines. She was always drawing and painting. Now, at the age of 24, she still loves all kinds of art and especially loves teaching art classes at the School of Art where she has taught for the last four years.

Madeline currently instructs nine classes a week at the school, all while attending graduate school at the College of Education at William and Mary (W&M). She is taking two graduate classes over the summer and will go back to being a full-time student in the fall. She began

her college career at Thomas Nelson Community College and transferred to W&M. She is a graduate of the local university with a degree in English and hopes to eventually teach high school students. Her father told her to major in English rather than art as it would lead to more job opportunities.

“Working at the School of Art has shown me that I really enjoy teaching, and my advisors tell me that there is a need for teachers,” she says.

She credits her interest in art to her mother, who was a high school artist and is now an avid crafter. “Mom took us to museums and zoos

wherever we lived,” she says. Animals are among her favorite subjects, and she has sold a commissioned pet portrait. It was her pets that led her to her current job: three rescue cats, a high energy Border Collie, a bird and a Chinese Water Dragon. “Mom and I had gone to Pet Smart for some supplies when we noticed the School of Art. I was working at Busch Gardens at the time and was ready for a change. My mom encouraged me to ask if they had any openings. They did, and as soon as they saw my resume, they hired me.”

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Madeline describes her own art as realism, featuring landscapes and animals. "People have told me some of my art looks like a photograph," she says. She is inspired by vast spaces of nature such as the Kansas plains. So far, most of her work has been in oils, watercolors or pastels. Although she was an undergraduate English major, she took several art classes at W&M and particularly enjoyed a printmaking class.

As an artist, Madeline's biggest challenge is finding time to work on and complete all of the projects she wants to accomplish, especially with going to school full time. "At any given time, I will usually have three or more pieces in progress at varying stages of completion."

She describes her family as having lived in either rural areas or big cities. Williamsburg, with access to either, is where she wants to plant her roots. "Williamsburg is a peaceful, family-oriented community." Once she completes her degree, she will begin searching for a full-time

position in the area.

Her father is now deceased, and she lives at home with her mother and two siblings, a brother who is 21 and a 17-year-old sister who is still in high school. Between school and teaching duties, Madeline doesn't have much free time. When she is at home, she enjoys working with her hands. She built garden beds for her mom and likes to work in the garden. Other projects have included refinishing furniture and doors. She wrote fiction in high school and would like to continue that when she has more time available.

Art runs in the family. Not only does Madeline's mother work with arts and crafts, but three of Madeline's great-grandmothers were artists, two on her mom's side as well as her dad's maternal grandmother. One of her great-grandmothers traveled extensively in the southwest as well as Africa and specialized in desert landscapes including silhouette landscapes. Her father's grandmother was a Kansas farmer's wife and painted landscapes of the prairie countryside.

Madeline has plans to work in other mediums. She would like to try glassblowing and metal working as well as pottery when she has the opportunity. She hopes to paint more

custom pet portraits and also try human portraiture. Some of her work is on display at the school and some hangs in her home. Her mother claims much of Madeline's work and tells her those pieces are not for sale. She can occasionally paint alongside her adult classes when the number of students is small. Madeline's philosophy on teaching art shows why she is well-suited for her job. "Once a person learns how to draw or paint basic shapes, they can combine that with their real-world experiences to create unique art."

Madeline Anderson is good at what she does because she connects with her students. "The hardest part of teaching is when a student moves on, either because they move, graduate high school and go to college or any other reason that prevents them from coming to class. I have enjoyed all of the students and my time teaching them over the last several years. I love watching their progression and growth as artists and individuals over time."

Her quiet confidence and ready smile are sure to encourage budding artists of all ages. Working at the School of Art is the perfect preparation for a career in the classroom. Her passion for the visual arts is equaled by her passion for her students. NDN

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FRANCES I. SAXTON



An Actor's Eye

By Harmony Hunter

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

When William Shakespeare wrote “All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players,” he might well have been speaking directly into Frances Saxton’s ear.

As a working actor and theater professor at the College of William and Mary (W&M), Frances studies the people around her for inspiration and insight, and she encourages her students to do the same.

Frances came to Williamsburg via the long route, her arrival delayed several years by the initial obstacle of having been born in England. “I was attending the University of Roehampton in the United Kingdom and chose to come to Greensboro College in North Carolina for a semester abroad,” she says. “After a month

or so, I was awarded a full ride scholarship to Greensboro College if I chose, to study a BA in Drama.”

After completing her Bachelor’s Degree, Frances went on to earn her Master’s Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Arkansas Fayetteville. There she met Brian Saxton, the man who would become her husband. After graduation, the pair moved to New Jersey and later to New Hampshire.

After two fruitful years in the Northeast, the couple and their two children, now ages five and three, were tempted southward by Williamsburg’s excellent standard of living and enviably mild winters. Now the two share their talents on the teaching staff at W&M, and the

whole clan is thriving in the tidewater region. “Moving to Williamsburg was a fantastic opportunity for both my husband and me,” she says.

Frances has taught drama for a full gamut of ages. While in New Hampshire, she and a friend founded The Amherst Moxie Players for kids ages six to 17. At W&M, her students range from 18 to 21. But no matter the age, the core of Frances’ teaching method remains the same: to understand a character, you must devote yourself to understanding the people around you, especially when you don’t agree with them.

Describing one angle to her approach to teaching, Frances says, “There’s an exercise that

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I like to use in class. I put students in pairs and assign a controversial topic to debate for and against. You have to convince us you believe your argument, like you would believe an actor on stage. I never bring politics into the classroom, but some of the topics are quite shocking.” In accepting the challenge to embrace a radically different stance, Frances finds that her students are able to engage with perspectives that might be very foreign to their own.

Success lies in teasing out what makes people tick. Frances says, “Acting is finding the empathy for our fellow humans. You can’t be a successful actor without understanding human beings and without stepping into the shoes of another person. You can’t hold people at arm’s distance and decide you’re not going to listen to their opinions.”

The journey to understanding a difficult character in a play can help an acting student discover the roots of their own beliefs, whether they are cultural norms or their family’s habitual political leanings. An earnest engagement with divergent viewpoints can develop students who are more willing to hear and understand people whose beliefs are anathema to theirs.

Frances says, “You might be playing characters that hold political and social values that are not your own. You’ll have to say things that you would never say in real life. You feel real empathy with someone by saying, ‘How did they grow up? How were they raised by their parents? What experiences did they have as a child?’ Acting teaches us to step into that.”


These character studies are just one step in rendering an authentic on-stage exchange. To create a performance that rings true for audiences, Frances also instructs her students in the Meisner method. The Meisner school of acting emphasizes the emotional interactions between actors onstage that make a performance feel genuine, rather than a rote recital of dialogue. “The audience is very clever. Human beings have an innate super-sense to see if something’s not working on stage. We’ve all seen movies or plays or really bad shows because actors are not listening and responding. They’re not in the moment. They’ve pre-planned it,” Frances says.

The disciplines of empathy, perceptiveness and responsiveness come to full fruition when serving an actor’s objective. Frances says, “My method that I teach in class is basically ‘objectives.’ What do you want from the other person? How are you going to get it? What actions will you play on the other person? How do you need to make them feel?”

These social negotiations can be telling. “My acting teacher always said, ‘What is the relationship of these people? What are they wanting from each other?’ If you focus on that, you’ll get to the core of what the playwright is trying to say,” Frances says.

For Frances Saxton and those lucky enough to study under her, acting can provide a deeper emotional intelligence that can result in powerful performances as well as a richer understanding of the people in our day-to-day lives. “Everyone needs to learn from seeing different plays and seeing different perspectives,” Frances says. “I feel like you understand your life a whole lot more if you step outside of your comfort zone. You can use it throughout your whole life with your friends and your relatives... you can understand them a little better.” NDN

Learn more about Frances at www.francesaxton.com.



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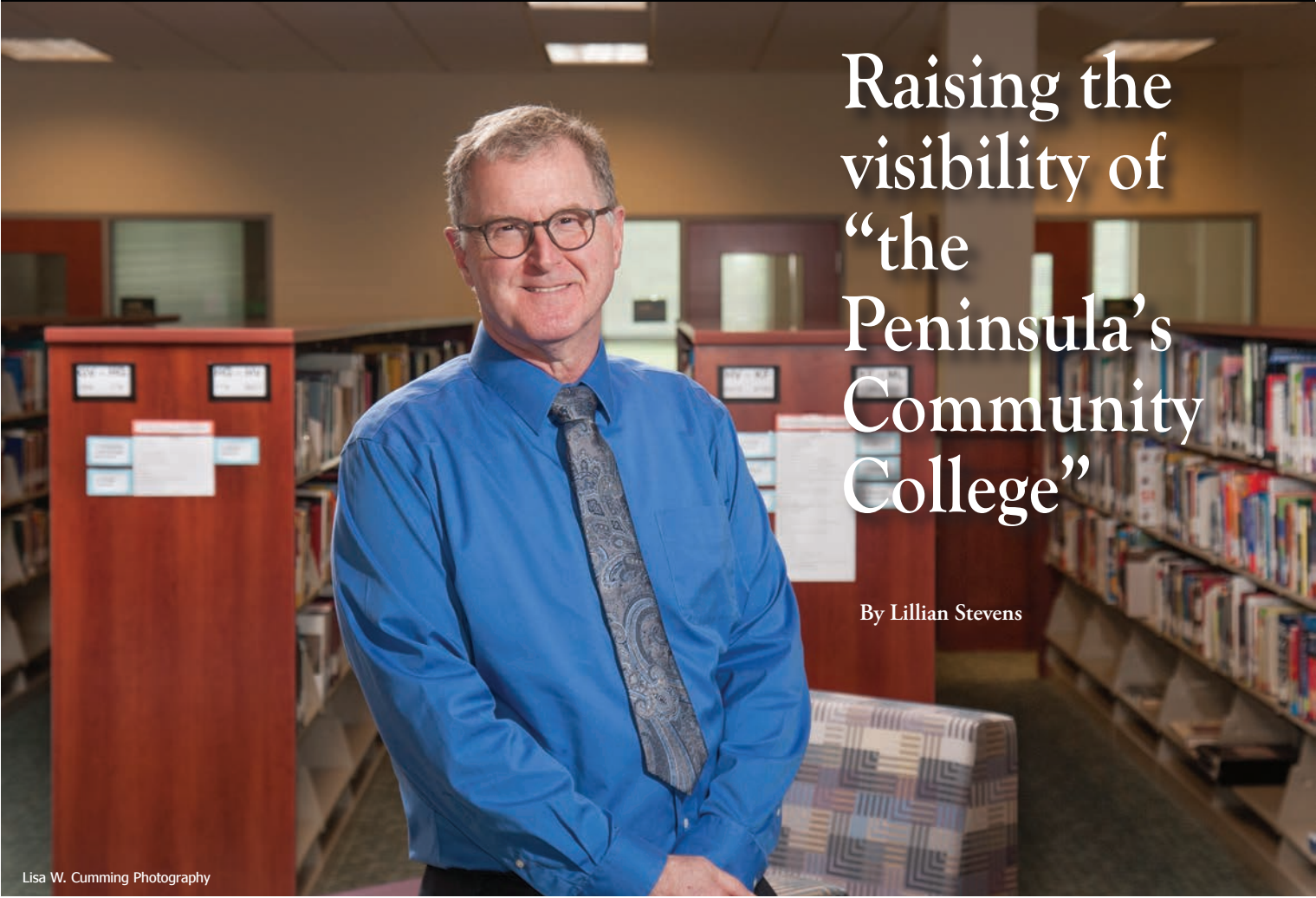
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By Lillian Stevens

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

When Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) opened its doors in 1967, there were three buildings on a single campus and an enrollment of 1,200 students. Today, there are two locations and more than 10,000 transfer and workforce students passing through the school’s doors annually.

TNCC was the first community college in the Tidewater-Hampton Roads Region. Richard Hodges, Ed.D. has served as the school’s

director of libraries and learning resources since 2012. In that role, he has seen firsthand the great impact the school has had on Hampton Roads.

Over the course of the past five decades, TNCC has offered a variety of programs to individuals who have set their sights on a bright future. In 2017, the school celebrated its 50th anniversary. As that milestone approached, Richard had an idea to compile a commemora-

tive book.

“I was co-chair of the committee that was organizing a variety of events around our 50th anniversary,” Richard says. “One day I was talking with our president, Dr. John Dever, about my idea of producing a campus history book.”

Richard was the perfect person to take on this project. Having earned his doctorate in education from William and Mary in 2016,

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his dissertation was about the creation of the Commonwealth's community college system.

He submitted his proposal to Arcadia Publishing and in 2018, "Thomas Nelson Community College" was published as part of the publisher's Campus History Series. The book sets forth the college's story through photographs of the students, staff and faculty who have truly made the school the peninsula's community college.

"This book would not have been possible without the vision of President Dever and the staff and resources within college archives," Richard says. "We were all very excited to get it done. To me, having this commemorative book published was very special. It's also fitting that President Dever wrote the foreword of the book."

It's no secret that Virginia's community colleges are flourishing. What many residents of Hampton Roads might not realize, though, is that TNCC and its sister colleges have a rich and storied past.

"In the early sixties, Albertis Harrison was the Governor of Virginia," Richard says. "He was a staunch proponent for industrialization, and his vision for a prosperous Commonwealth included an educated and properly

trained workforce."

To execute this vision, Governor Harrison reached out to Dr. Dana Hamel, who was then serving as Director of the Roanoke Technical Institute, to oversee the creation of the Virginia Technical College System, which would later become the Virginia Community College System (VCCS).

Under Governor Mills Godwin, who succeeded Albertis Harrison, legislation was passed that converted the Virginia Technical College System into the system of community colleges Virginians know today.

"Dr. Hamel was the founding director of the Virginia Technical College System and founding Chancellor of the VCCS, so he was instrumental in the creation and support of Thomas Nelson Community College as well as the state's other 22 community colleges. We were very excited and proud to have Dr. Hamel, who just turned 95 years old, join us last fall for the Gala celebrating our 50th anniversary."

It's probably a prerequisite, but librarians love to read, and Richard is no exception.

"I like to read history, and I really want to read about people more than the events," he says. "Erik Larson is one of my favorite writers. In particular, I loved *Devil in the White City*

and *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania*."

Richard's love of books translates well to his efforts as a board member with the Williamsburg Book Festival.

"I learned about the Williamsburg Book Festival simply by chance," he says. "I heard about the Festival and wondered what it was, so I looked it up, then I contacted them and offered to help."

The Williamsburg Book Festival is an annual event that brings together authors from all over the region. Attendees have an opportunity to meet the authors and learn more about them and their work. The Festival brings authors from a variety of genres, as well as speakers, illustrators, and publishers from Virginia and beyond.

Within a few weeks of making contact with the organization, Richard was invited to serve as an advisory board member. "We're a non-profit," he says. "My role is primarily that of a grants writer, namely local arts grants."

It might be more by accident than design, but the Williamsburg Book Festival is held each year at the same time as An Occasion for the Arts (AOFTA). The Festival is held in the Stryker Center, an easy walk from AOFTA.



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“Let’s say you’re an author, and you submit your book because you’d like your books to have exposure and be sold at the festival,” Richard says. “The way it works is there’s a subcommittee of the board that gets together and reads all of these books and decides who to invite to participate.”

The Festival also has panel discussions. “Last year I moderated and organized panel discussions on African American literature and Women’s literature. There was a poetry panel that was extremely well attended. We had several poets there, including a former poet laureate.”

The festival is free and open to the public. Richard is delighted to note that the event was also well-attended by Williamsburg’s younger neighbors. “We had a good number of high schoolers, which I thought was very impressive.”

Of course, like any organization, there are challenges to overcome and successes to celebrate.

“We don’t operate with a lot of funding, so that’s an ongoing challenge,” Richard says. “But it’s a wonderful nonprofit, and something we believe in. So, of course we want it to succeed.”

Over the years, Richard has been a staunch advocate of both education and the arts and has built both into the foundation of his life’s work. Music, however, was his first love.

“I play the saxophone,” he says. “My first career was as a professional musician.” Career highlights included his debut recital in New York’s Carnegie Hall and the release of a CD, “The Road Not Taken: French Saxophone Masterpieces.”

With undergraduate and graduate degrees in music, Richard taught and played professionally for over 20 years in the Princeton, New Jersey area. It was there that he met his wife, Lynn Kuderka.

“I had a very nice career in music but had always been drawn to libraries and, of course, writing.”

That passion for libraries, in fact, led him to seek a second graduate degree, a Masters in Library Science. When an academic library position opened at Bucks County Community College in eastern Pennsylvania, Richard jumped at the opportunity. He spent three years there before moving to the area in 2010 when an opportunity at Thomas Nelson opened.

Richard and his wife, Lynn, have lived in Williamsburg since 2011. “Williamsburg re-

minds us a lot of Princeton,” he says. “We love it here.”

Lynn works for the National Center for State Courts and Richard keeps busy with his work at TNCC, his hobbies and a variety of volunteer efforts. In addition to his work with the Williamsburg Book Festival, he serves on the advisory council for Literacy for Life, which is based at W&M’s School of Education. He’s also taught a course for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, formerly known as the Christopher Wren Association, at W&M.

“I met Scott Langhorst, programming director for Osher,” Richard says. “Scott was retired from the Virginia Community College System. It turns out he always wanted to offer a course on the history of the Virginia Community College System. Somehow, he got ahold of my dissertation, read it and called me.”

The two wound up co-teaching a course and found their class was filled with people from a variety of backgrounds and interests.

Richard Hodges enjoys meeting and interacting with the people in this community. “I think that the intellectual diversity is one of the things that makes Williamsburg so great. We have some of the most interesting people retire here in Williamsburg.” NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Jewelry for a Cause

By Erin Fryer

Michael Fagan has been in the jewelry industry for more than three decades, but it wasn't until this past year that he decided to take a leap of faith and start his own business.

"It was time for me to chase my dreams and show my three daughters that even if you are late in the game, you can still do anything you set your mind to."

Michael got his start in the jewelry industry in 1986 when he went to work in a jewelry store in Fredericksburg as their bookkeeper. "I was working in the back room when I was asked to lend a hand on the sales floor, and

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ended up making my first sale, a \$1,500 ruby and diamond ring.”

Michael ultimately fell in love with helping people because there is so much emotion behind jewelry purchases. “Jewelry is so much more than just a thing,” he says. “There’s a lot of feeling behind each purchase. I fell in love with the emotion as well as the scientific aspect. I find it fascinating that I can hold a gem that’s worth more than someone’s car. These gems are within the earth, and if we are lucky enough to acquire them, then we can transform them into a symbol of love and emotion.”

Michael has worked for several jewelry companies over the years and most recently ran Goodman and Son’s Jewelers. “I’ve had lots of great opportunities, and it’s been great to experience the corporate side but also the independent jeweler aspect of it as well. I felt that helped round out my experience.”

Last July, Michael had been considering opening his own business, and the next thing he knew he was signing a lease for his own store. “I knew it would be unlike any other jewelry store. I think I have hit the nail on the head, and I am constantly evolving. My goal is

to create a shopping experience for people that is unlike any other.”

Michael’s store, Williamsburg Jewelers, is located on Richmond Road across from Red Lobster and attached to Anna’s Brick Oven Pizza and Pasta. “The two restaurants seem to be good landmarks to help people find me,” he says.

A lot of people tell Michael that they have seen his sign, and it’s enough to pull them in, while others come in and say that have been referred. “That’s how I plan on making and keeping customers for life. I’m in a great location, and people come in and say it’s the perfect amount of space and that it makes them feel comfortable.”

During the past nine months, Michael’s vision has evolved as he has learned his clients’ needs and desires. “I do a tremendous jewelry repair business,” he says. “So many people bring me items for repair. The repairs range from minor jobs all the way up to people having me repair jewelry using laser welders. I do lots of restoration work on jewelry. I knew it would be a big part of the business but didn’t realize it would be as big as it is.”

One of the biggest but unexpected parts of Michael’s business that keeps him after hours a lot is his digital custom design service. “People bring me images, ideas, drawings or damaged jewelry, like a ring their grandmother left them that they want transformed into a pendant,” he says. It’s not uncommon for him to have nine or 10 custom designs going at once.

Michael also has a very successful jewelry consignment and estate jewelry program. “I have over 225 items on consignment. My guests can bring me jewelry and I will help them sell it. I have items valued at between \$20 to \$15,000 and everywhere in between. That jewelry fills up five of my showcases, which is almost half of my store.”

Michael’s favorite aspect of his jewelry business is the relationships he gets to build. “The science of gemology is fun, and the exhilaration of making a sale is good, but it’s the people that I love the most. People come in as strangers and they leave as friends. I never refer to my customers as customers, they are my guests. I dress casually and just want to make them feel comfortable, as if they were in my home. We sit and talk about their weddings, vacations,



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jobs, whatever they want to talk about, and many people come back year after year.”

It goes without saying that Michael often helps people find the right piece of jewelry for some of their biggest moments in life, like weddings and engagements. “I love being a small part in people’s special days,” he says. “Sometimes they bring in photos to show me or even invite me to the weddings.”

Michael’s store is also home to the famous work of Master Silversmith Jimmy Curtis. Dubbed the official bracelet of Williamsburg, Curtis is now making the sought-after silver “C” bracelets we all know and love for Michael’s store.

While Michael is proud of what he has accomplished in just a few short months, the aspect of his business that he is most proud of is his fundraising efforts. Michael created a system where locals donate their unwanted but gently used costume jewelry, then he sells each piece for a donation of five dollars and takes that money and donates it to a different charity each month. “Word got out and people have been bringing me gallon Ziploc bags full of costume jewelry,” he says. “People get

to take home a little treasure, and often times we will get donations of much more than five dollars.”

The proceeds Michael brings in through his fundraising efforts get donated to organizations like Habitat for Humanity Restore, the Junior Women’s Club and Blooms that Brighten. “It’s a win-win,” Michael says. “People get to take home a new treasure, and money gets donated to charity.”

Michael’s goal is to continue donating to a different cause every month and to reach a total of \$7,500 in donations in 12 months. “I plan on doing it every month until the community can’t support it or it is not a viable idea anymore,” he says. “There are so many organizations that need help. My initial plan was to make sure I donated to a different organization each month, so I am trying to spread the wealth and make sure everyone can benefit.”

Being a small business owner doesn’t come without its challenges. Michael is currently a one-man show running the store, and it is open from 10am to 6pm Monday through Saturday. He hopes to hire some part-time staff in the fall.

“My guests know it’s just me working, so they treat me very well and know I am doing my best,” he says. “The way my guests treat me makes it so that even when I put in extra hours, it doesn’t feel like a chore. They motivate me and inspire me to put work in.”

While the hours are long, Michael also tries to find pockets of time here and there to take a break from the store. “I enjoy going to concerts and escaping down to the Outer Banks, and I coach and play on a men’s softball league. I make a point that on Wednesdays I get all my work done so when I lock up I can get to the field in time. I have made lifelong friends from playing softball. I also love largemouth bass fishing.”

Michael Fagan is appreciative of the support the Williamsburg community has shown since setting out on his own.

“During the past year, I have received so many compliments and referrals, it has been phenomenal,” he says. “Through my doors walk some of the kindest people you have ever met in your life. I believe the people in this town are 100 percent what makes Williamsburg such a great place to live.” NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Overcoming Obstacles

By Narielle Living

The television series American Ninja Warrior is now in its eleventh season and has become hugely popular across the country. The show features contestants competing on a series of obstacle courses, with each course becoming increasingly more difficult. The show is so popular now that American Ninja Warrior gyms have begun sprouting up throughout the U.S. so people can train on these obstacles. Darwin Dion Ignacio, a local youth pastor, recently decided to open this type of gym.

“The show’s continually gaining momentum,” Darwin says. “It’s already a sport. Parkour is going to be a sport in the 2020 Olympics, and they’re in the talks right now to combine obstacle course racing and ninja warrior in

2024. That’s going to be an actual sport.”

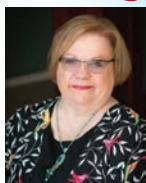
Darwin and his family moved from New York to Williamsburg in 2017. “I got hired to be a kids’ pastor at Crosswalk Church,” he says. “I was already a youth leader in New York.” Darwin feels that coming to Williamsburg was already on his parents’ retirement radar, but they needed something to encourage their move.

When he first relocated to Williamsburg, Darwin had searched for a home that had a suitable backyard space to hold his obstacle equipment. Today, he has simply opened the gym so he has a place to train. A cavernous space by necessity, Chain Breakers Warrior Academy is long and narrow and contains obstacles at all

levels for people to train on. Darwin studied a number of other locations across the country before determining what he needed to do here.

“During the summer, before opening this place I toured 15 to 18 Ninja Warrior gyms all over the U.S. There’s a bunch.” He got to know the other owners and learned how they put their gyms together. But as he points out, what might work in Philadelphia would not necessarily work in Williamsburg. “The owners gave me tips, but here it’s a whole different ballgame. It depends on how you build the obstacles.” Many people choose to build the obstacles from wood, which might work but would be a little shaky. “Williamsburg is a scale up from that,” he says. “So, we went up a step

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and purchased our equipment. Usually on the show the trusses are bigger. This is a four-inch frame, Usually they are 12 inches but we have limited room. Every inch of space counts here.”

Special training is required to teach this type of athleticism. “I am a certified member of UNAA which is the United Ninja Athletes Association,” he says. “They are the direct sponsors of the ones working on the Olympics. I am trained for that and I am First Aid and CPR certified.” If Darwin is not at the gym, there is always someone else who is equally trained available to work with others. “A lot of the guides, we call ourselves guides, not coaches, are trained in their specific field,” he says. That means that he has a mix of people working at the gym, including a strength coach and a former gymnast who is used to spotting people and catching them if they fall. “It’s great to have that mix of expertise and abilities because you learn from each other that way.”

One of the aspects Darwin likes most about this type of gym is that it is a complete workout that many people don’t realize they are getting. Because of the nature of the fun obstacles, it’s sometimes difficult for kids to realize that swinging around and having fun is healthy. Kids especially love playing on the warped wall, a steeply curved tall wall of varying heights that serves as an obstacle for people to try to climb or run up. “Kids always focus on the warped wall because they can’t get up it,” Darwin says with a laugh. “They don’t realize they’re working out, and that’s what parents are trying to get kids to do.”

Chain Breakers is open to people ages six and up, as long as they are healthy and able to do the activities. “We have a 64 year old in here,” he says. “There’s no age limit.” The first thing they do is ensure that participants have health insurance and sign a waiver. Next, the guides assess the participants level of fitness and coordination. They might determine that a person is not ready to try a particular obstacle and send them to a different section to work on core exercises first. “I’d say adults are more aware of the fact that they shouldn’t push themselves, but kids think they can do anything.” At that point, Darwin says it’s important to maintain a balance between not letting a kid get hurt and determining if they can do something so he usually does a sort of progression from a simpler obstacle to a more complex one. “For instance, our flying squirrel, which is our advanced obstacle, you have to swing from bar to bar. You put the kids here first,” he says, pointing to a different area, “which is further down and a smaller distance. You tell them to swing from that bar to that bar. If they get that right and get the form correct, then we can try moving up there.”

Before participants begin swinging, jumping or running, they have to do warm-ups, agility work, stretches, dead hangs, which is hanging from a bar as long as you can and many other exercises. “This helps build, then we slowly progress,” Darwin says. If a participant is not yet ready for an obstacle, they might spend extra time working on agility or coordination. “For every class there are 10 students and there are two coaches [guides].”

Darwin Dion Ignacio believes that this type of activity is great for everybody and encourages people to come out and have fun. “If you watch the show, you’ll see every different type of person, whether they are short, tall, big or small. They try it, they make the show. Step out of your comfort zone, whether it’s staying on a balance beam or swinging from a bar. I tell the kids don’t try to compare yourself to the next person just progress from what you’ve been doing and overcome that next goal. We need to stay focused on our path not other’s paths. What can you do? Whether it’s your gift of singing or your gift of encouraging others, just do it the best you can.” NDN



Corey Miller Photography

The Technical Side of the Stage

By Dawn Brotherton

Brian Saxton's job is to make worlds come alive in a limited amount of space in a functional way. He is the technical director in the Department of Theatre, Speech and Dance for the College of William and Mary. Most of his responsibilities include scenery, stage operations and stage safety.

Brian takes part in the artistic meetings where the director and designer discuss a vision for the play. "From that moment, to the moment the scenery is actually on stage, there are

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a lot of conversations about how to accomplish those things,” Brian says. “My major concerns have always been about functionality, how it’s actually going to work.”

He receives images from the architects that show what the facade and the interior should look like. His duty is to figure out how to get there. While architects consider the flow of design, Brian and his team approach the set as a machine for telling a story.

The key is collaboration. Although the designer may have an idea about the way he wants it to look, the director, lighting designer, costume designer, production manager and the producer must agree on a process that will work for all of them.

“As a technical director, I’m part of that decision making with the designer, talking about both the realities of the materials, budget, time, size of the space, and the way the space will work,” he says. Most of what Brian does involves lightweight construction. His labor in any given year will depend on the students he has and their skill level.

At times, the technical director must be the voice of reality, the person who says the vision can’t be reached with what they have or it isn’t

cost effective. “For me, it’s important to understand why the designer and director want to accomplish a certain thing. What are their goals? That helps me understand how important each element is to telling the story,” Brian says. It also gives him a chance to be part of the solution and come up with alternatives.

Brian is not only the technical director for performance, he is also an instructor for W&M. He teaches technical theater and stagecraft. Stagecraft is a requirement for all theater majors and minors and covers the basic building blocks. A hands-on class, students learn how to utilize power tools to create the scenery for a show. W&M produces two shows and a dance performances per semester, the first only four weeks after classes begin, which means they must hit the ground running.

“That’s one of the most rewarding things about my job. I get to see students come in with little knowledge, somewhere between very eager and excited to extremely hesitant and borderline scared, and I get to see all of them grow so much,” he says.

By the opening night of the show, Brian admits a sense of relief that his part is over. There is still that big moment when the students see

the set with lights on it and the actors on stage. “The students understand how the minor tasks and those small things they did work together to make one whole, and that whole is something awesome and worthy of doing.”

At the end of the 2018 season, the theater department moved out of the Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall to make room for a new, state-of-the-art theater and concert hall to be built. In the meantime, the students are meeting and creating in the Dillard Complex while the shows are presented in the Kimball Theatre, adding another dimension to the planning of the sets. Now Brian is required to build sets in sections small enough to load into a box truck so they can be transported from the scene shop to the Kimball Theatre.

Creativity is a necessity of getting the job done. In their own space, it’s common practice to bolt some items to the floor for safety reasons. One of the challenges of using the Kimball Theatre is not being able to alter it in any way, so Brian had to work around the problem. He designed an entire portable floor to sit flat across the stage and into the wings. “It’s like a big membrane across the floor. It requires no screws to attach it. Now it’s part of our pro-



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Knowing Where to Turn for Help

Pamela Parker was worried about her 17-month old granddaughter’s development. Envi had a hard time following instructions and dealing with other children. Because Pamela had heard about Child Development Resources, she knew just where to turn for help.

Pamela contacted CDR, and her granddaughter was assessed through Central Point of Entry. Envi was quickly identified as needing speech therapy and behavioral support, and she qualified to participate in the Early Head Start (EHS) program.

“Our EHS Family Advocate has been amazing,” said Parker. “She helped me manage Envi’s social skills and behavior, and I saw enormous change within just 3 ½ weeks of being enrolled. Her skill set is improving all the time and I am so grateful for CDR.”

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cess.”

Brian’s favorite scenery design was for the last show the college did in Phi Beta Kappa: Metamorphosis. The challenge for that set was creating the body of water. It was 22 feet long by six feet wide by 20 inches deep and extremely heavy.

“We really knocked it out of the park. I think because there were so many technical challenges, and although we had some hiccups here and there, it turned out well technically, but also it was a beautiful set. The performance was really good. So top to bottom, it was a good experience.”

As an instructor, Brian has a soft spot for the nontraditional college student. “Most of our students are very focused, and they know their timeline. They hit all of their deadlines and all their marks. They get through and graduate on time or early. They’re very motivated.” But he enjoys being able to help students who aren’t on a definite path and assure them it’s okay not to be like everyone else.

Brian was very nontraditional, not completing his Bachelor of Arts Theater degree from Georgia Southern until he was 25 years old, and that was after attending three different col-

leges and transferring his credits. He took time off in between and worked a variety of jobs, experiencing life.

After graduation, his first job was at Coastal Carolina University in South Carolina working in the theater program. During the summers, he worked in New York at Forestburgh Playhouse, picking up new tips and talents along the way.

He received his Master’s Degree in Fine Art from the University of Arkansas, where he met his wife Frances, also a theater major. They still catch as many shows as they can, even if they haven’t worked on them. One of Brian’s favorite shows to watch was The Producers at the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre in Missouri, where he worked during the summer while in graduate school.

“It was the worst experience I’ve ever had building a set and producing a show,” he says. But the lessons he learned from the experience shaped all of the shows he has worked since. It was the first show of the season, and the crew were all new to the theater. The hours were long, and the design was difficult. “For me, the lesson was, if you can show things on paper, you have a better chance of convincing people.

It takes more than just having the knowledge.”

After he graduated, Brian worked as the technical director for two years at the Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey which has both an indoor venue and an amphitheater. While Brian and Frances enjoyed New England, they tired of the weather and started looking farther south. When the W&M job came open, Brian and Frances decided this was a dream destination and relocated to Williamsburg with their two sons, Thomas and Luke, now five and three respectively.

In addition, Brian enjoys working as a carpenter for other shows during the summer. He works with the Virginia Repertory Theatre in Richmond, building scenery and working in their shop, giving him the chance to learn new techniques from someone else.

Theater is not simply a job for Brian. He appreciates the students who have reached out to him after graduation to let him know, even if they are no longer doing theater, the skills they learned in stagecraft were invaluable. College can be a stressful time but being a part of the creative process and part of the team can make things easier through shared experiences and a sense of accomplishment. NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Helping Others By Giving Unconditional Love

By Narielle Living

For Deborah Richardson, being in the healthcare field is a family tradition. Her grandmother worked for Eastern State Hospital, Deborah worked as an EMT, LPN and RN, her daughter is an RN and her son is a flight paramedic.

“We are at our best when we’re helping someone” is a phrase used by Deborah to describe her life’s work. Outgoing and positive, Deborah projects a sense of healing and has an aura of capability. According to her, the idea for her path in life sprang from her early childhood experiences with her brother.

As an older sister, Deborah took the responsibility of caring for her brother very seriously. He was born with a cleft palate, and Deborah

watched as the doctors and nurses provided care for him, performing numerous surgeries and trying to alleviate some of his fear. “My mom and dad would go back and forth to the hospital with him,” she says. She was greatly impacted by the experience of watching her little brother and knowing he was in pain and scared. “I didn’t want him to hurt. I didn’t want him to be afraid.” After his surgeries, Deborah would take it upon herself to ensure he stayed safe. “I would watch to make sure he didn’t fall and bust his stitches open,” she says. “He did that because he played so rough.”

While the young Deborah saw it as her obligation to make sure her little brother was safe, she also had to try to protect him from himself.

Apparently, he was quite a daredevil in the hospital. “For example, he was in his wheelchair driving too fast, so he got a ticket,” she says. “Another time he got a ticket for racing with one of his friends in a wheelchair. He’d done that before.”

Deborah always had a passion for working, and she wanted to be employed at an early age. When she was only 10 years old, she found a job working for an elderly couple who owned a farm. “I picked apples and worked in the lady’s flower bed,” she says. “I always wanted to be around the older people because they had so much knowledge and understanding.”

Her mother was a positive example who encouraged Deborah to be the best she could

be. Deborah describes her mother as having been a heavy woman. “My mom was over 300 pounds,” she says. “She drove the school bus every day and worked at transportation during the summer months.” At this time, computers and cell phones were still a distant dream. Each summer, the women who worked in transportation would sit down together and plan the new bus routes. “This was in James City County. They had a huge board, and they used pins on maps to plan the school bus route for elementary, middle and high schools. They did this ev-

ery year for years before computers.” Deborah’s admiration for her mother is evident. “She was so intelligent. I was never ashamed of my mom. People could be cruel, teasing her and calling her names, and I thought this is something I’m not going to do to anyone else.” From this experience Deborah knew she would never judge another person by their outward appearance.

Despite the judgement her mother received at the hands of others, Deborah does not think that exemplifies typical human behavior. “I believe there are more good people in the world

than there are bad. It starts at home; you have to teach it. You have to teach your children, hope and pray you’re doing the right thing and teach them unconditional love. I got that from my mom.”

After graduating high school, Deborah worked in the lab for BASF. It was then that she decided to become a volunteer EMT with the James City Rescue Squad. She volunteered with them for six years, and at that time met the man she would marry. According to Deborah, as an EMT she provided a very different type

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of care than when she worked within a hospital environment. EMTs have a pre-hospital, uncontrolled setting, where nurses have different support around them. Despite the differences, both require a great deal of physical and emotional stamina. "It really is a different ball game," she says.

After she married, Deborah began to realize her passion for healthcare and decided to pursue a nursing career. She first worked as an LPN then chose to become an RN and received her nursing degree in 1996. "At the time, I had two kids, one on each hip. They were little. It was hard, but it wasn't impossible." She went to school, continued to work to contribute to the family's support and provided childcare for her children. "That's just the way it was; I made it happen. I had so much support and help. I know people do it with little support and help but I don't know if I could have found it inside me to do it alone."

Caring for people is a serious endeavor and one that Deborah is sincere about when discussing how she provides care. "Doctors have a Hippocratic oath they have to take, but that's

just for doctors," she says. Nurses, on the other hand, take the Nightingale Pledge, which is a promise to do the work professionally, completely and to the best of their ability. This applies to all people a nurse works with, not some. "I take that seriously," she says. She goes on to say that if she were asked to care for a known criminal, that would not affect the quality of care she provided. "Yes, I would take care of the bad guy no matter what. I would go above and beyond in the same way I would with a good guy because that is who I am. It's my responsibility as a nurse and as an EMT."

Although watching her brother's health journey instilled in her a desire to be a part of healthcare, her grandmother likely played a big role in her development as a nurse as well. "My grandmother always did things for other people. She began working at Eastern State Hospital when she moved up here in 1930. At that time, she worked with the adults." In addition to working at the hospital, Deborah's grandmother raised seven children. "She canned her food and she worked. After she married grandpa, she worked some at the hospital but she re-

ally enjoyed working with the children." The children who were locked up at Eastern State at that time were labeled as disturbed. These were children who might receive a diagnosis of special needs today but back then were simply put away due to a lack of understanding. "Back then they were put in a mental asylum because they didn't understand the behavior. She said a lot of children were abused and abandoned because of that problem, and a lot of them just needed to know they were special and to be loved."

Her grandmother always made certain that the children under her care knew love, and she often bought them small gifts or paid special attention to them when they needed it most. "She would use her own money to buy them a little something, a treat, candy, or something they would like."

Deborah Richardson is warm and kind, and she is the type of person who makes friends easily. Today, she is grateful for the life she's lived. "I've learned so much and I have so much to learn," she says. "You never stop learning until the day you die." NDN



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Corey Miller Photography

SECURE IN THE NEXT GENERATION

By Narielle Living

In 1976, Dan Kammer Sr. took an early retirement but wasn't quite ready to stop working. He began running a fire extinguisher company from his garage. That business evolved and developed into Kamco, an alarm company. Today, his granddaughter, Laura Kammer Allen, has taken the reins of the family business and is now the Vice President, running it from their location off of Route 143, and she is loving every minute of it.

Laura was born and raised in Williamsburg and enjoys living in this area. The Kammer family is close-knit, and according to Laura they had a rule in their house when she was growing up: don't talk business in the house. "When my dad and pop were off work, they never discussed Kamco," she says. "He believed when the family spent time together outside of the office, we needed to focus on one another and separate the two. I believe it created a healthier dynamic, and it's something my dad and I still try to maintain today."

Laura did not begin her professional career in the family business. Instead, she worked in retail management and had not considered a career with Kamco. "It's funny, because growing up I never had a strong draw to Kamco. I was always here playing in the office as a little girl. My brother was too, but it wasn't until my father started talking about retirement and he was contemplating selling the business that I considered it."

Laura says her father was looking at selling the business because he didn't think he had any other options. With Laura working in retail management and her brother working in restaurant management, there was nobody around to take over. That was when Laura began to reconsider her career options.

"I felt protective of the company, and I felt I might have a future there. I resigned from my job at the time, and three weeks later, I started in sales here. I never looked back."

Although she was surprised by her underlying passion that she developed for the company, Laura acknowledges that it makes sense

on an emotional level. "I didn't discover my passion until I thought it could be lost. This is my family's legacy, my grandfather and my father's hard work, and I want to continue that. It's special." Laura says that she really feels like the company is in her blood. "I wish my grandfather were here to see it. I think he'd be tremendously proud to see where we are today, and I think he would be very impressed with how we've carried on into the future."

Kamco provides varying levels of services for homes and businesses, including smoke detector systems, alarm services, home theaters systems, home networks and personal alarms. They also service and monitor all of their systems rather than subcontracting the work to third parties. With the advent of new and emerging technologies, the business has expanded into so much more than it used to be. "The security industry has changed dramatically in the last 10 to 20 years," she says. "It's not just security. Now we live in a world with advanced technology, and you have to adapt to that. Everything in today's world is app driven. The buyers of

tomorrow have grown up with technology, and people want smart home and smart phone capabilities.” She notes that for people who do not want that much technology, they still offer more basic systems. “Some of our systems in the field are very simple, very straightforward. Some of our customers don’t want to mess with the technical side, they just want the fire protection.”

Laura considers the 25 Kamco employees to be an extension of her family. “The majority of our employees have been with us for decades,” she says. “Just a few months ago we celebrated an operator who has been with us for 25 years, which is incredible.” She notes that many of the employees were there when she was a young girl and they remember her playing in the office. “That’s a special gift, to have employees loyal to your vision who support your family for all those years. We’re very fortunate.”

The business has certainly seen a lot of change, from an expanding community to technological advances. Laura credits their continued growth and transition to the third generation to a strong family relationship. “I

think statistically the odds are against family businesses. I credit a lot of our success to my strong relationship with my dad. We’re very close, and he’s been incredibly helpful transitioning me into this position. I think that’s important because I think a lot of family businesses don’t have that support. He’s really just sort of put me in the role to of making executive decisions, and he’s supporting me and respecting me. You have to take the training wheels off at some point and experience it yourself. My dad and I always joke you never treat a rental car like it’s your own, you have to experience the highs and the lows and go through the ups and the downs to really find your footing.”

One of the things Laura is most proud of is the fact that her family’s business is all about saving lives and keeping people safe. When a system is installed in a home, it is monitored 24 hours a day. If, for example, the fire alarm is triggered, the authorities are then dispatched to the address. “There have been many occasions where we dispatched the fire department and it resulted in saving a family’s life, and that’s been so rewarding. That’s why we do what we do.”

Being a locally run security business is nice because Laura often sees her clients when she is shopping or out to eat.

“We’re local, so we run into our customers at the grocery store,” she says. “Clients can call in and talk to the same people who have been here for 20 years. That’s reassuring. We’re a 24/7 operation, and I think that that’s peace of mind.”

Laura notes that family business last across generations when they have engaged owners. “My dad has done a tremendous job of helping me transition into my role as an owner. He’s taken the back seat and allowed me to make decisions even when he may not agree with them.”

Laura loves Williamsburg. “This is our home; it’s been our home for three generations. We try to give back to its members. In doing that, we want to provide life safety. We’re going to keep growing and doing what we’re doing. Beyond all the technology, it is really about the people. Although that phrase has been over-used, there is no business where it rings truer than security and life safety.” NDN

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To submit your non-profit event to Hey Neighbor! send a paragraph with your information to: heyneighbor@cox.net

Hey Neighbor! PUBLIC TOUR OF VIMS DISEASE ECOLOGY LAB

August 30, 2019

During this 2-hour guided tour you will receive an overview of VIMS, a guided tour of our Visitors Center, and you will visit two of our research laboratories where you will talk with our scientists. We will visit the Disease Ecology lab and the Nunnally Ichthyology Collection. In the ichthyology collection, you'll view preserved fishes collected from the freshwaters of Virginia to the deep sea. In the Disease Ecology lab, you'll learn about VIMS' research on the parasites and diseases that affect blue crabs, lobsters, and other crustaceans. Space is limited and registration must be completed at least two days in advance. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call (804) 684-7061 for more information or to register.

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE - FALL REGISTRATION

August 31, 2019

The Williamsburg Senior Softball League completed its inaugural season mid-June. After a summer break, the fall season will begin just after Labor Day. Registration for the fall season is now underway! Don't miss out! Information and forms are available on the WSSL website: www.wsslva.org or email: wssl2019@gmail.com. Players aged 55 and older are invited to join us for practices Thursday mornings during our break."

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS NEW MEMBERS

Thru August

The Williamsburg Women's Chorus is accepting new members for their fall season 2019. The first practice will be at 10 am in the Bruton Parish House lower level. Fall season runs from August thru early December. If you are interested in joining, please contact

Beckie Davy, director, at bdavy@brutonparish.org.

Hey Neighbor!

MARITIME MONDAYS

September 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2019

Free with \$1 Museum admission. Starts at 10:30 am. Maritime Mondays are fun for both children and parents! Join us every Monday morning for engaging activities with your children as they learn how we are all connected to the world's waters with story time and a craft. This program is designed for children from 18 months to 8 years. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!

THE PEARL FISHERS OPERA EVENTS IN WILLIAMSBURG

September 4 – 6, 2019

A fully staged opera presented at the Kimball Theater in Merchants Square, Wednesday, September 4 at 7 pm. September 6 at 8 pm, September 8 at 2 pm. Tickets are available at the web site: <http://www.operainwilliamsburg.org>. Meet the Artists – on August 30, 2019, an opportunity to hear the singers who will appear in The Pearl Fishers - 7 pm at the Stryker Center, free to the public. Dinner Concert on August 29, 6 pm at Colonial Heritage Club House. Information and tickets on the web site: <http://www.operainwilliamsburg.org>

Hey Neighbor!

STRYKER CENTER HOSTS WCAC EXHIBIT

Sept. 5 – Nov. 22, 2019

The Stryker Center is hosting an exhibit by members of The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center Sept. 5 through Nov. 22. Artwork highlights the diversity of contemporary art in Williamsburg and includes 2-D and 3-D art. Most is for sale. A reception open to the general public will be held on Sunday, Sept. 29, from 3 to 4:30 p.m., and will include refreshments and live music by Louis Vangieri.

WCAC is a volunteer-operated non-profit organization, driven by its mission to enrich the community through contemporary art. The Stryker Center is at 412 N. Boundary St., next to the library.

Hey Neighbor!

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE WITH LT. GENERAL DANIEL HARVEY HILL

September 6, 13, 2019

The Mariners' Park Café / Open to the Public. Visit the Museum at 12:30 pm, to enjoy lunch in the Mariners' Park Café and stimulating Civil War discussion with renowned historian, John Quarstein. There is no charge to participate. Lunch will be available for purchase at the café! At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!

ANNUAL OVARIAN CANCER RUN/WALK

September 7, 2019

The 11th annual Ovarian Cancer Memorial Run/Walk will be held at New Quarter Park. Race day registration begins at 7:45 am, a 1-mile fun Run/Walk at 8:30 am, and a 5K Run/Walk at 9 am. The entry fee is \$30 until August 30 and \$35 thereafter. The Run/Walk is conducted in partnership with the Williamsburg Community Foundation. You can register online, become a sponsor or make a donation at our web site at www.hareandtoroiserunwalk.com. John M. O'Hare, Race Co-Director. john@hareandtoroiserun.com.

Hey Neighbor!

MARITIME CONNECTIONS LECTURE - SCHOOL'S BACK IN SESSION!

September 7, 2019

Presented by Andrea Rocchio, Science Educator. At 10:30 am and 2:30 pm. Free with \$1 Museum admission; Seating is limited. Catch up with Andrea Rocchio, Science Educator at The Mariners' Museum and Park, and learn about how the new student sci-

ence programs are connecting to our unique Museum, Park, and the greater community. Maritime Connections lectures are free with Museum admission, but seating is limited. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!

FRIENDLY HOURS

September 8, 2019

Free with \$1 admission. From 9 – 11 am. Have a family member, friend, or loved one that needs a tailored museum experience? Join us for Friendly Hours on the second Sunday of each month. Friendly Hours is an inclusive time where guests with mobility, cognitive, or physical challenges can experience the Museum in a less crowded environment with reduced sound and lighting. Space is limited, so please register in advance to let us know you are coming. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!

PENINSULA AGENCY ON GING – CAREER CLUB

September 10, 2019

From 9-10:30 am, join the Experienced Employees in Transition (40-and-Over) Career Club. This program is provided by the Peninsula Agency on Aging for speakers, workshops, networking, emotional and resource support throughout your job search! 312 Waller Mill Road, Room 801, Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor!

SPEAKER TO DESCRIBE RESTO- RATION OF USS MONITOR

September 10, 2019

Hannah Fleming from the Mariners' Museum & Park in Newport News will speak at the luncheon meeting of the Williamsburg chapter of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association. She will describe efforts underway at the museum's USS Monitor Center to restore and

conserve the USS Monitor. NARFE's Williamsburg Chapter meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at the Colonial Heritage Restaurant, 6500 Arthur Hills Drive, Williamsburg. Lunch is served at 11:30 am following a social gathering at 11. Cost for lunch, payable to the restaurant, is \$20. Luncheon meetings are held every month September through May. RSVP no later than Thursday, September 5, to Pat Gamble at narfe-williamsburg@cox.

Hey Neighbor!
TRINITY ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

September 11, 2019
Join us for the opening concert of the 9th season of the Trinity Organ Series. This Patriot Day Concert will feature works by American composers, patriotic organ music, organ/piano duets, and congregational hymns. Refreshments will follow the free concert. Time: Noon at Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road. For more information, call (757) 229-3631 or visit www.bedeva.org/concerts.

Hey Neighbor!

PENINSULA AGENCY ON AGING - JOB FAIR

September 12, 2019
From 1:30-4 pm. Job fair for job seekers 40+. Sponsored by the Peninsula Agency on Aging, AARP, and the Virginia Employment Commission. Location: Historic Triangle Messmer Community Services Center, 312 Waller Mill Rd.

Hey Neighbor!
WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA OPENS ITS 2019-2020 CONCERT SEASON

September 13, 2019
The WSO 2019-2020 season begins with the first concert of its Masterworks series, Brahms and Sibelius. As the WSO searches for its next music director, it has invited each of the five finalists for the position to conduct one of the WSO's Masterworks concerts during the 2019-20 season. This evening's music director candidate is Wesley Schulz. After the concert, the audience will be invited to meet the candidate and submit comments through an online or written survey. Each Masterworks concert will feature a guest artist. These guest artists will

each give a Masterclass or take part in an educational activity during their stay in the community. Masterworks will take place at the Williamsburg Community Chapel and will be performed on one night. In addition to its Masterworks concerts, the season will also feature a number of special concerts, including the popular Holiday Pops concerts, performances of the Nutcracker with Virginia Regional Ballet, the Cabaret & Cocktails concert, Peter and the Wolf concerts in area schools, and a Side-by-Side concert with the Williamsburg Youth Orchestras.

Hey Neighbor!
FREE CARWASH

September 14, 2019
Calvary Chapel Williamsburg will host a free car wash for the community. Let us clean your car, truck or van while you have a bite to eat... also free!! Join us 10 am - 3 pm at C&F Bank, 4780 Longhill road, corner of Longhill and Old Towne Road, across from 7-11.

Hey Neighbor!
LONGLEAF PINE BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP
September 14, 2019

Cost: \$10 for Members, and \$20 for general public. From 10 am - 1 pm. In this basket weaving workshop, you'll learn how to weave baskets from the needles of the longleaf pine, a tree once common in Virginia and long prized for its utility in shipbuilding. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!
CIVIL WAR LECTURE- SAMUEL DANA GREENE, HERO OF USS MONITOR

September 14, 2019
Presented by John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus, USS Monitor Center FREE with \$1 Museum admission. At 2:30 pm. Join John Quarstein, renowned historian and director emeritus of the USS Monitor Center, as he teaches about the intriguing maritime history of the Civil War. This long-running series explores the ships, personalities, technologies, and battles that would shape our nation for the next 150 years. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!



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WMCI FALL 2019 COMMUNITY COURSES

September 16 – November 14, 2019

The William & Mary Confucius Institute is excited to offer two new sessions of Chinese cultural courses to the community this fall! Each session has six individual courses with eight classes, with the first session going from September 16th - October 10th, and the second session going from October 21st - November 14th. Each course is \$80 for the public, and \$40 for any W&M students, faculty, or staff. For more information, visit <https://www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute/announcements/fall-2019-community-courses.php>.

Hey Neighbor!

CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

September 17, 2019

The Chamber Music Society of Williamsburg presents the Neave Trio at 8 pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theatre, Scotland Street. For information & tickets visit -- chambermusicwilliamsburg.org.

Hey Neighbor!

PETER BUDNICKAS, FOLK SINGER & GUITARIST

September 18, 2019

The Williamsburg Music Club opens its 2019-2020 season with the multi-talented Peter Budnickas performing Fingerstyle Guitar and Vocals, as well as ukulele selections. He is currently performing with the Route 5 Ramblers. The Williamsburg Music Club presents their programs as a gift to the community. Program begins at 11 am, preceded by "Coffee & Conversation" at 10 am at Bruton Parish Hall, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg. www.williamsburgmusicclub.org.

Hey Neighbor!

THE MARINERS' GALLERY CRAWL

September 21, 2019

At 6:30 pm. Take a trip around the world without leaving Hampton Roads! The fifth annual Mariners' Gallery Crawl provides exclusive access to rare artifacts and provides the perfect date night or a fun evening out with friends. Hear intriguing stories from Museum staff about the objects from ports all over the world, enjoy lively music and spirited drinks, and nosh on delicious bites while you mingle throughout the Museum. Tickets are on sale now, with only a limited quantity available! Tickets are \$30

for Museum Members and \$40 for guests. For more information, visit MarinersMuseum.org/GalleryCrawl or call (757) 596-2222. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!

AFTER HOURS LECTURE AT VIMS – FORECASTING TIDAL FLOODING

September 26, 2019

Join us as Dr. Derik Loftis shares how the use of innovative technologies and citizen scientists is helping Hampton Roads communities predict and prepare for flood events and rising seas. All After Hours lectures take place at 7:00 pm in Watermen's Hall on the VIMS campus, 1375 Grete Road, Gloucester Point. Reservations to this free, public lecture are required due to limited space. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call (804) 684-7061 to register or to find out more information about this and future After Hours lectures. Register for the webinar at www.vims.edu/events.

Hey Neighbor!

WCAC'S FALL MEMBERS' CO-OP SHOW UNDERWAY

Through September 27, 2019

The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center's Fall Members' Co-op Show is currently underway and runs through Sept. 27. Featuring emerging and established member artists with larger bodies of work, the Fall Members' Co-op Show offers a wide range of 2D and 3D mediums and styles in the Main and Middle Galleries. Running concurrently in the Fireside Gallery is the popular annual "Camera to Brush and Beyond" exhibit, where member artists and artisans interpret photographs provided by member photographers. All artwork is for sale. Hours: Tues.-Sat. 11-3; Sun. 12-4. 110 Westover Ave., two blocks from the intersection of Lafayette St. and Richmond Rd. WCAC is closed for installation Sept. 28-Oct. 7.

Hey Neighbor!

CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE -ADMIRAL DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT

September 27, 2019

The Mariners' Park Café / Open to the Public. Visit the Museum at 12:30 pm. to enjoy lunch in the Mariners' Park Café and stimulating Civil War discussion with renowned historian, John Quarstein. There is no charge to participate. Lunch will be avail-

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able for purchase at the café! One of America's greatest naval heroes, David Glasgow Farragut was the nation's first rear admiral, vice admiral, and admiral. Farragut's dynamic leadership is evidenced in such naval victories as the Battle of New Orleans. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!
BATTLE OF THE VIRGINIA
CAPIES LECTURE

September 28, 2019
Presented by John V. Quarstein, Director Emeritus, USS Monitor Center. At 2:30 pm. FREE with \$1 Museum admission. On September 5, 1781, the fate of Lord Cornwallis's army stationed at Yorktown, Virginia, was sealed by the Battle of the Capes. A British fleet, commanded by Rear Admiral Sir Thomas Graves, failed to dislodge a larger French fleet guarding the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay that was commanded by Comte de Grasse. Graves's inability to take advantage of several tactical opportunities resulted in the isolation of Cornwallis and his eventual surrender. At The Mariners' Museum and Park, 100 Museum Drive, Newport News, VA 23606.

Hey Neighbor!
NT'L ASSOC. FOR NEAR DEATH
STUDIES LECTURE

September 28, 2019
All are invited. Hosted by the Williamsburg Chapter, lecture will be held at the Commonwealth Senior Living facility, 236 Commons Way, Williamsburg, at 11 am. A \$10 donation is appreciated but not required for admission. Hear how the transformative power of healing love exists and can be applied in everyday life. Guest speaker, Dr. Scarlett L. Heinbuch, has studied complementary, alternative, and integrative medicine for more than 25 years and is a certified Reiki Master in the Usui System of Natural Healing and in Karuna Reiki Holy Fire.

Hey Neighbor!
HOUSE TOUR

September 28, 2019
Westover Episcopal Church's Autumn Pilgrimage House Tour, Charles City, Virginia. Celebrate history from 9 am - 5 pm. There are 9 venues total. Four beautiful plantations, Sherwood Forest, Westover, Shirley and Berkeley as well as two bed and breakfast's Peace Hill and Nance-Major House,

Richmond View built 1790) River Lea (built 1972) , and Westover Episcopal Church one of the oldest churches in Virginia. Early morning 9 am, at Sherwood Forest will have a presentation of the Hounds from the Princes Anne Hunt Club. Special guest Historian Rebecca Suerdieck will interpret Mary Bucke at the church, in costume. Advanced tickets are \$40, or \$45 day of the event. Pulled Pork, hot dogs and a variety of baked goods for sale at the church.

Hey Neighbor!
A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH
October 2-4, 2019

Have you ever wondered what happens when we die? Come explore this fascinating subject from a Biblical perspective. You will gain an understanding of where the ideas that many believe came from, and experience the peace that comes from grasping Biblical truths on the subject. The series will run Wednesday-Friday nights, October 2-4, at 7 pm in the Williamsburg Regional Library Theater. If you would like to know more, contact Pastor Renee of the Williamsburg Seventh-day Adventist Church at wynndistrictpastor@gmail.com.

Hey Neighbor!
5K FOR THE ARC

October 5, 2019
The 10th Annual 5k for The Arc! will be held at Williamsburg Landing. Registration is now open. The race is currently looking for sponsors. Visit thearcgw.com for race and sponsorship details, or call Pam McGregor at (757) 229-3535.

Hey Neighbor!
FIFTH ANNUAL 2019 AUTOFEEST
FOR DREAMCATCHERS

October 5, 2019
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Williamsburg-Jamestown Airport at 100 Marclay Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Fundraiser car show benefiting Dream Catchers of Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor!
KIWANIS GOLF TOURNAMENT
October 6, 2019


The Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital will be hosting its annual charity at Ford's Colony Country Club. Shotgun start at 1pm. This tournament is the signature fundraising event for the club, and all proceeds go to help needy children in the greater Wil-



GREATER WILLIAMSBURG
HEARTSafe Alliance

HEARTSAFE HEALTH FAIR

Learn about PulsePoint, try the "hands-only CPR challenge," eat some heart-healthy food, and take part in the wide range of heart-healthy activities throughout the day.



October 12th, 2019 | 12 pm to 5 pm
Dewitt Wallace Museum Lawn
325 Francis St E, Williamsburg VA 23185

**VISIT HEARTSAFEWMBG.COM
FOR MORE INFORMATION**



The Arc Artists will showcase their work at An Occasion For The Arts, October 5th & 6th!




Williamsburg area. The cost to play is \$125 (a portion is tax deductible) and this includes golf, cart, favors, and box lunch, dinner and raffle prizes. To play or to be a tournament sponsor (closest to hole, hole in one, putting contest, tee sponsor) contact Walt Siegel at walterwilliamsiegel@gmail.com or telephone (757) 585-2421.

Hey Neighbor! **PENINSULA AGENCY ON AGING – CAREER CLUB** October 8, 2019

From 9-10:30 am, join the Experienced Employees in Transition (40-and-Over) Career Club. This program is provided by the Peninsula Agency on Aging for speakers, workshops, networking, emotional and resource support throughout your job search!. Location: 312 Waller Mill Road, Room 801, Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor! **GALA TO RAISE FUNDS FOR AVIATION SCHOLARSHIPS** October 11, 2019

At the Kingsmill Resort, Williamsburg. This event will sell out quickly! Hosted by the Williamsburg Aviation Scholarship Program, join us for a black tie evening. Keynote speaker is Christina Olds, author and daughter of legendary ace fighter pilot, Robin Olds. Ticket sales and silent/live auction proceeds enable Tidewater high school students to earn a Private Pilot License completely cost-free. Purchase event tickets or learn about this unique scholarship program at: <https://www.waspscholarship.org/fall-gala>.

Hey Neighbor! **HEARTSAFE HEALTH FAIR** October 12, 2019

This event will be held from 12 - 5 pm on the Dewitt Wallace Museum Lawn in Colonial Williamsburg. Join us for the afternoon and learn about sudden cardiac arrest and the importance of hands-only CPR and AED use. This will be a free, educational event that is fun for the whole family. Learn about PulsePoint, try the “hands-only CPR challenge”, eat some heart-healthy food, and take part in the wide range of activities throughout the day. Visit: www.heartsafewmbg.com or email us at info@heartsafewmbg.com to learn more.

Hey Neighbor! **RUN FOR THE HILLS FALL FEST** October 12, 2019

From 8 am - noon, join Here For The Girls at its annual Run for the Hills

Fall Fest. Location: Sanford B. Warner Stadium, 4725 Stadium Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Join us for a challenging combination of roads and beautiful nature trails through the Warhill Sports Complex and adjacent areas, this race welcomes runners and walkers of all ages from all over. Some participants choose to run or walk the 5K or 10K alone or with their own ‘team’ of friends. If shorter distance is more your style, join the action with a 1 mile fun-run before the 5K and 10K. Proceeds benefit Here For The Girls, Inc. improving the lives of young women affected by breast cancer. To find out more about Here For The Girls and their mission, visit us at www.hereforthegirls.org.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG MUSIC PROGRAM** October 16, 2019

The Williamsburg Music Club proudly presents the second program of its outstanding 2019-2020 season. Piano soloist, Jennifer Nicole Campbell, will present “First Encounters.” Program begins at 11 am, preceded by “Coffee & Conversation” at 10 am at Bruton Parish Hall, 331 Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg. www.williamsburgmusicclub.org.

Hey Neighbor! **HICKORY NECK 19TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL** October 19, 2019

10 am – 3 pm. Home-style cooking, BBQ, hot dogs, beats, silent auction, amazin’ grazin’ baked goods, arts and crafts show and sales, attic treasures, free kids events and hay rides. All proceeds benefit local charities. \$170,735 has been raised so far! Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, 8300 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168. Phone number (757) 566 – 0276. www.hickoryneck.org/festival.

Hey Neighbor! **FIFTH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL** October 19, 2019

From 10 am – 5 pm, celebrate the fall harvest at one of the oldest continually farmed plantations in the country. Along with craft and food vendors, guests can enjoy live bluegrass music and activities including hearth cooking, basket weaving, yarn spinning, sack races, corn hole, and antique farming equipment demonstrations. Every member of the family will find something to do, including riding on an antique tractor-drawn hayride,

scaling a straw fort, or participating in crafts and colonial games. There is no fee for the event, but a \$7 park entrance fee applies per vehicle and donations will be accepted for all activities. Location: 695 Chippokes Park Rd., Surry, VA 23883 or call (757) 294-3625.

Hey Neighbor! **VIMS – CYTOBOTS IN THE BAY: HOW TECHNOLOGY IS KEEPING VIRGINIANS SAFE** October 24, 2019

Harmful algae blooms, or HABs, occur when algae in the water grow excessively and produce toxins and other harmful effects on the environment and people. Algal species capable of producing HABs have increased in abundance in the Chesapeake Bay during the last decade, causing concern among resource managers, industry members, health officials, and the public. Dr. Juliette Smith, faculty member at VIMS, is using an autonomous, underwater instrument called an Imaging FlowCytobot in the York River to address those concerns. The cytobot can be “trained” to continuously monitor the water and identify harmful algae species in real-time, providing an early-warning system for de-

tecting HABs. Join us as Dr. Smith describes the innovative technology she is using to protect public health as well as her vision for a network of cytobots throughout the Bay. This is the final installment of the 2019 After Hours Lecture Series. All After Hours lectures take place at 7 pm in Watermen’s Hall on the VIMS campus, 1375 Great Road, Gloucester Point. Reservations to this free, public lecture are required due to limited space. Visit www.vims.edu/events or call (804) 684-7061 to register ve your seat.

Hey Neighbor!

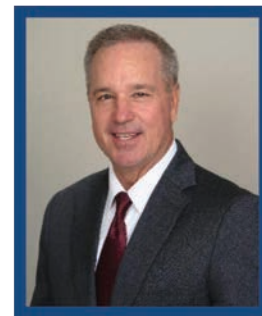
Hey Neighbor! is a service provided to non-profit organizations, civic groups and churches. It is intended to inform Next Door Neighbors readers about community events they may want to attend, volunteer for or make a donation to.

Send your listings to:
HeyNeighbor@cox.net.



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Williamsburg's IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD photo challenge

SOME ORIGINAL ART

(Portrait in color is by
Betsy Dunivin)

Find the 12 differences
between the original
photograph (top) and
the altered photograph
(bottom).

Enjoy!

Look for the answers
in the next issue of
Next Door Neighbors

AUGUST 2019
In the Neighborhood
Photo Challenge



ADVANCED



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