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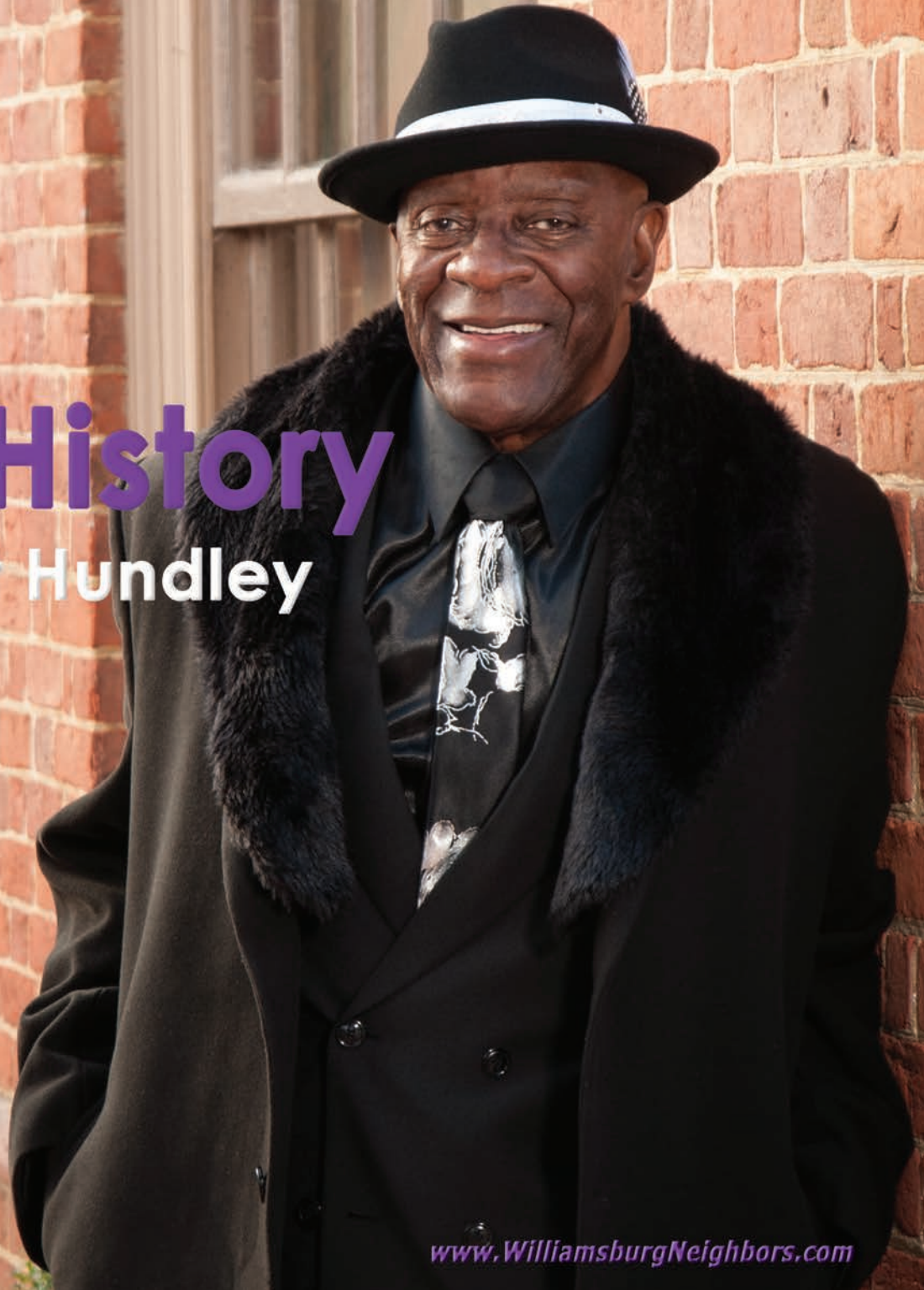
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Our History

Merritt Hundley



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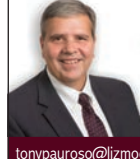


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Meredith Collins, Publisher

What better way to start off the New Year than to take a look back at our history? I guess it's only natural to reminisce about our own lives as we move into a new year. The folks we've interviewed for this issue are just a little different in that regard. They make looking back a part of their daily lives. The care and attention to detail they put into preserving history is astonishing. Whether researching the lives of historical figures or meticulously following the craft of long gone artisans, they capture and share some of the most intriguing aspects of our heritage.

One might think it is a given that we could find people like that here in the Historic Triangle. After all, this area is known for its history. Look closely at these stories. You will meet some neighbors who learned and honed their unique skills all over the world and chose to settle in Williamsburg and bring their knowledge and talents to bear right here among us. It is a remarkable gift to all of the neighbors in Williamsburg: past, present, and future. NDN

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CORRECTION: In the story entitled *Mom's Christmas Stocking* in the December issue, we inadvertently identified Maura Kearley Santoni's mother by the name of Mary Jane. Her mother's name was Mary Jean. We regret the error and any confusion it may have caused.

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A Blessed Life

By Caroline Johnson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Merritt (M.D.) Hundley was born and raised in Williamsburg. With a life full of music, adventure and exceptional fashion sense, he's someone who lives life to the fullest. At first glance, his bold outfits that match from head to toe are captivating. With suits in colors like green, purple, yellow and more, M.D. has always loved clothes. "I will wear any color under the sun," M.D. says.

Born in 1947 as an only child, he looks back on his life with nothing but fond memories. "I never wanted for anything," M.D. says. "I've always had everything I need." Though he had no siblings, he grew up surrounded by cousins. There were so many cousins that he lost track of the number!

With his mother being one of fifteen children, his big family surrounded him with love as he grew up in an area called East Williamsburg. At the time, schools and many public buildings were still segregated. He attended Bruton Heights, the only black school in the area, and remembers it like it was yesterday.

One thing that made Bruton Heights so

special was the principal who called it home, D.J. Montague. "He knew every child in that school by name," M.D. says. "That's how good it was." The school was separated by small buildings, and he remembers playing baseball and participating in as many community activities as he could. He would spend time playing on the baseball diamond near Magruder school or taking part in special events like homecoming.

"Homecoming was the event of the year," M.D. says. "Our whole town shut down and it was the place to be." He remembers dressing up in a tux and celebrating with a football game and dance afterward. "My life was so nice and pleasant but the school is what made it that." During his time in high school, he played in the band and remembers marching at William & Mary's homecoming one year. "I'll never forget that."

It was this entry into music that introduced him to what he says was his main love when growing up. His friends urged him to sign up with them in a local school talent show, but he

wasn't sure he was capable. "I put it [the song] on the record player until I got it," he says. "I skipped school for a day, and I played it all day long until I had it down pat."

The talent show took place at a Masonic Lodge on South Henry Street. They got there when the venue wasn't yet full, sang their song and enjoyed the show. Later in the night, they got asked to sing it again, this time to a much fuller audience. "When I sang it, I just remember hearing this explosion of people hollering," M.D. says. He realized that maybe he did have what it took after all. The next day at school, he walked into the auditorium to cheers and a standing ovation. "I turned around and walked right out," M.D. says. "I didn't like attention!"

During this same time in high school, M.D. was introduced to barbering. While he didn't know what he wanted to do after high school, he had used a comb and razor blade to cut others' hair before. He decided to learn how to do it properly and enrolled in a barbering school on Jefferson Avenue, the only one in the area for blacks. "My teacher was the best you had

ever seen. I loved barbering so much that I didn't even mind not doing anything else."

He continued barbering after graduation and remembers a call from his cousin one day, letting him know that he had gotten drafted into the Army. Little did he know, M.D. would get drafted soon after in 1967. Luckily for M.D., he got drafted at the same time as many of his other classmates from school. "I never got lonely," he says. He went to Fort Benning, Georgia, for his training before being deployed to Germany, where he ended up an auto parts clerk. "I was in the service for one year, 11 months, 22 days and 17 hours," M.D. says with a laugh.

When he came back to Williamsburg after his deployment, he found himself reacquainted with his love of music. He joined a band called Soul Creators, even playing with local legend Bruce Hornsby before he became famous. The band played all over the East Coast in places like New Jersey, Rhode Island and all the areas surrounding Williamsburg. M.D. relocated to Washington, DC with some of his bandmates in hopes of getting recognized. While a few bandmates ended up moving back to Williamsburg, M.D. stayed and worked for the

federal government for the Smithsonian Institute before working at Fort Meyers. Around 1971, he saw a house for sale in Williamsburg and moved back. He's been here ever since.

After moving back to Williamsburg, he was at a grocery store when he was introduced to his wife. The two got married in 1975. Though he was no longer creating music with the Soul Creators, M.D. wasn't ready to say goodbye to music. In his spare time, he would take part in competing in local lip-syncing shows, called "Imitate the Stars." He won a few of them and realized this may just be his next "something." He decided to put a show together, calling his band The Great Pretenders.

Still to this day, The Great Pretenders go around and perform for nursing homes or at special events, fulfilling his love of entertaining others. "We dress the part and put on a show," M.D. says. "From the Temptations to Motown hits, we've done it all!" At 72, M.D. has been lip-syncing for over 30 years, with no plans of stopping anytime soon.

A family man, M.D. has one daughter, three grandsons and seven great-grandchildren with one on the way. "My grandchildren are my heart," M.D. says. "They make life fun."

No matter how old his grandsons and great-grandchildren get, he'll never stop hugging them, following the example his mother set for him. Though their energy is unmatched, M.D. relishes in the time he can spend with each one of them.

Since he has lived in Williamsburg for the majority of his life, M.D. has had a front-row seat to the many changes in our town. "I remember when most of it was nothing but woods," he says. He remembers when the first grocery store, The Colonial Store, was built. He remembers coming back from his time in the service overseas to find Williamsburg had eased into desegregation. Though Williamsburg has grown and changed over the years, he still loves it all the same. "Once you drink the water here, you're never moving," M.D. says with a smile. "Williamsburg is such a nice place to live. I tell everyone this."

Merritt M.D. Hundley retired in 1979 and continues to perform with The Great Pretenders, spending time with his family and living life in a way that is authentic to his signature style. "I feel like I'm the most blessed man to walk this earth," M.D. says. "When you look at me, you're looking at a miracle." NDN

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Living in the Then and Now

By Narielle Living



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

What is the best way to live in two very different worlds simultaneously? That's a question Robert Weathers, an actor who specializes in the historical interpretation of George Wythe at Colonial Williamsburg, is able to answer quite easily these days.

Originally from south Atlanta, Georgia, Robert graduated from Valdosta State University in 2007. His focus at that time was on theater work. "I began as a contract actor, so I worked for a comedy gunfight show for

a while through West Texas productions, and right before I came to this job, I was playing Barnaby Boomble the Bumbling Villain in Philadelphia family theaters touring production of Babes in Toyland."

In 2007, Robert decided to audition at the Southeastern Theater Conference, SETC, in Charlotte, North Carolina. "It's what is sometimes referred to as a cattle call audition because they herd you in front of a bunch of people," he says. "You have either 60 seconds if

you only perform a monologue, or 90 seconds if you have a monologue and singing. I had 90 seconds." After the auditions, he waited to see if he got called back by any of the companies. He did. Four people from Colonial Williamsburg wanted to speak with him.

"Colonial Williamsburg (CW) at that time, as I understood it, was trying to do the opposite of what they had done before," he says. "As opposed to taking people who understood the history and making them actors, they were

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trying to reach into the acting community because they had the resources here to make them better historians.”

He was offered a contract position, and Robert began working with CW on January 7, 2008. “I began with a six-month contract. And after six months, I was given another contract.” Soon the six-month contracts were put aside in favor of an offer to become a permanent employee. “I’ve been working here as a character interpreter, or what we refer to as an actor interpreter, until earlier this year in March.” At that point, he applied for and was offered a nation builder position, which is a job portraying one historic figure: George Wythe.

In order to prepare for this role, Robert spent almost four months in uninterrupted study to learn Mr. Wythe’s biography and to start to delve into 18th century law. “And to start beating up on my classics,” he says with a smile. “I told people it’s no big deal. I’ve got four and a half months to learn 35 years of the law classics.”

Over the years, Robert has portrayed a

number of different people. “I have 20 or so characters that I’ve portrayed over the years, the most famous being Henry Knox, the commander of the American artillery during the revolution.” He has also played the roles of John Murray, Fourth Earl of Dunmore all the way down to John Burgess who is interpreted as the barkeep of the Raleigh tavern. Stepping into the role of George Wythe was a significant departure from what he had done previously.

“When I came into the role of Mr. Wythe, it’s a different world for me because I am George Wythe all the time.”

As Robert immersed himself in the character of Mr. Wythe and learned all he could, he realized there were things he would never know. “Some people have a lot of personal papers to go from, some people don’t have a lot of personal papers to go from, and some people have almost nothing for their characters,” he says. One of George Wythe’s biographers, Alonzo Dill, states, “To do a biography of George Wythe is to do a biography of what everybody else thought about him.”

However, Robert has been working in the colonial environment for 12 years and has enough ancillary 18th century knowledge to be able to answer a number of questions. “Sometimes people will ask you a question that you may have never thought of, like, what’s your favorite drink. The answer to that, by the way, is coffee, he really likes coffee. He takes it every morning with an egg and toast.”

Often, tourists will not quite know what to say to Robert or how to interact. “It manifests sometimes in the form of middle and high schoolers saying things like ‘Good day, Governor.’ What they’re saying is, I want to interact with you but I’m not sure how, and here is something that I know. I try to take that as an opportunity to accept what they’re offering me and gently steer them in a more appropriate direction. I think people are sometimes not sure that they can say good morning to you.”

In theater, sometimes an actor can become so immersed in becoming the character that the reality of that world can superimpose itself

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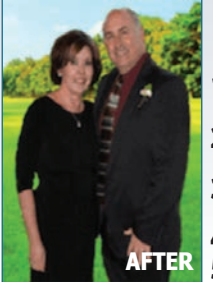
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on the real world. For Robert, he often has to be reminded to return to the 21st century.

“It does happen quite a bit. For example, I almost never say ‘up and down stairs’ anymore. I always say, ‘above and below stairs.’ And sometimes in the grocery store, if I pass somebody, I’ll say ‘beg your pardon, good day sir,’ or something like that. I think it’s almost impossible to immerse yourself in the way that we do and live in the 18th century for 40 hours plus a week and not have that bleed over to some degree.”

Robert acknowledges that it’s nice to have the Colonial Williamsburg team to turn to when he has a question, especially when he was learning about George Wythe and the law. Because there are people at CW who have studied the law for decades, Robert has been able to go to them as resources. “So, when I have the privilege of portraying someone of such incredible importance as George Wythe, I can ask if I’m interpreting things correctly.”

Robert was drawn to performing when he was very young. “On Sundays, after church, sometimes we would go to a restaurant called

The Joyful Noise, and I would get up in front of a crowd at about four years old. My little brother, Nathan, would come up with me, and we would sing. I have been performing in some respects since then.”

When faced with portraying George Wythe, Robert had to decide what age to portray Mr. Wythe. He didn’t want him to be too young, as it would be difficult to talk about his later accomplishments.

“He is a very good example of how one person can change the world, and he really did. I sometimes tell people, when I’m out of character, that he is the most important person that you’ve never heard of. Not only was he the tutor of Thomas Jefferson but he was the tutor of many important young men of prominence in the revolutionary timeframe. His judicial career is lengthy and important. I think it’s important to talk about him as an educator. I think it’s important to talk about him as a signer of the Declaration of Independence, as a representative of Virginia, but I think it’s also really important to at least allude to the fact that he is a judge, and a really

important judge in Virginia’s early history. So I have more or less settled on 1782. He’s 56 years old.”

First person interpretation, according to Robert, can greatly affect our overall view of history. “What we do is we pull people off of statues, and we pull them up from grave-stones, and we make them somebody who is standing before you. When we make people demigods, or we forget them to the grave, they can sometimes either become monsters or gods.”

It is clear that working with the facts of yesterday has greatly affected how Robert Weathers lives in the present. He has carefully studied and interpreted the events of the past, and he has been tasked with presenting the choices people had and how decisions were made.

“Every day, the choices we make will affect other people in some facet. The moral and the lesson I think that people should take away from talking to somebody who lives the 18th century is that they didn’t have an easy choice to make necessarily, but they had to make some kind of decision.” NDN

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Protecting the Past

By Paige Brotherton

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ways to keep visitors engaged as they explore the beginnings of the nation. Thanks to workers like Luke Pecoraro, the knowledge available is expanding every year.

Luke's love of history can be traced all the way back to his years in high school. Aside from history courses he greatly enjoyed, Luke found exciting opportunities outside the classroom as well. Growing up in a small town outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he had access to the Carnegie Institute of Natural History.

"It was one of my favorite places to go as a kid," Luke says. "They had archeological collections. I found the museum environment fascinating."

As a senior, he learned from the institute's curator himself, a bond that would ultimately direct him back to Williamsburg later in life. Although the Tidewater region is certainly rich with history, Luke's hometown has deep roots of its own. "Growing up in that part of western Pennsylvania, you have a great sense for the Native American history and then the French and Indian War, and George Washington," Luke says. "There were always Revolutionary War reenactors out and about, so it was the material,

the living history, and the documents that all got me interested."

Luke took his interests to the college level, earning a bachelor's in history from Virginia Commonwealth University while working on the Jamestown Rediscovery Archeology Project with full-time archeologists. The balancing act between the two outlets in which he studied his field was time consuming and led to an unconventional experience as a student, but Luke feels that the opportunity was crucial to his learning journey. He took several classes in Caribbean and African history that enhanced his understanding of the work he does today.

"Having that kind of background knowledge gave me a better sense of how connected we are to the Caribbean, which is easily glossed over in the United States." He would later take advantage of a particularly influential professor's study abroad program in Barbados, an experience that widened his perspective on the relationship between the British West Indies and America even further.

When it came to choosing a graduate school, there were very few that had the specialized department of archeology that Luke was looking

for. He received his masters and doctorate degrees from Boston University. "I knew what I wanted to do with it," Luke says. "I knew that I wanted to be heavily focused on archeological theory and the material culture research that would help me not only in field work but also if I went on to work in museums, which I did."

His experience with the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation has not been Luke's only adventure working with museums. In 2011, he moved to Alexandria with his family to serve as the Director of Archeology at Mount Vernon, George Washington's former home. Luke focused on protecting the estate, ensuring that modern infrastructure was unobtrusive, and guarding the underground resources that added to the natural beauty of the grounds for the millions of yearly visitors to enjoy. Although Luke held this position at Mount Vernon for eight years, the skills he acquired in college guided him through all sorts of roles, from cultural resource management for the Jamestown River Institute for Archeology to a member of the team on the Jamestown Rediscovery Project preparing for the 2007 commemoration and presidential visit. It wasn't until an old men-

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that Luke found his way home.

As Director of Curatorial Services of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Luke has filled a role that combines the painting of the bigger picture with the attention to detail necessary to make history as accessible and accurate as possible. A large part of his job is managing the acquisitions for both museums.

“We try to look at the stories we’re attempting to tell in different galleries or think about the stories that we want to tell and then move forward in that direction,” Luke explains. “We’ve got a very gifted and highly talented staff that can help guide this.” The aim of the artifacts acquired is to help each visitor understand the past, and Luke and his team take great care in their selections. Similarly, each placard of information is vetted by the team to ensure that the context of these artifacts is correctly described.

“It’s really nice to work in the 17th and 18th century. It’s a period of history that’s really quite interesting to me, but not to be stuck in just 1624,” Luke says, mentioning how helpful it can be to study a time period rather than just a snapshot in time. “There’s much more

freedom and flexibility to develop new exhibits within the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation perspective. That’s what drew me to take the job.” With such a broad focus, there are different paths to explore. Far from lacking in ideas, Luke feels that the most challenging part is knowing where to prioritize with so many promising opportunities. “There are a lot of different directions,” Luke says, thinking of future projects that would interest the audience. “I think we could go on to make it more of an international space than it is.”

Not only has Luke seen people from all over the country come to enjoy the exhibitions, but he has also been able to travel himself. He has a great appreciation for the outdoors and enjoys touring national parks for a breath of fresh air. But of course, even in his travels, he carries his love of museums wherever he and his family go.

“We do make a lot of trips to museums,” he admits. “The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts is one of our favorite places.” Luke doesn’t need to travel far to relax, however. “I like being outdoors, and Williamsburg is a great place for that,” he says. “It’s nice to be back on the Chesapeake Bay.”

Many natural parts of Williamsburg remain as beautiful as they ever were, another indicator of how connected our community is to those who came before us. As Luke’s work proves, it’s important to continue exploring. He hopes visitors of his exhibits take away more than the simple facts and figures of colonial life.

“It’s the idea of cultural awareness and that there were multiple factors,” Luke says. “All the historical trajectories of events that took place at Jamestown and Yorktown, which is something that we should be hyper-aware of today in a modern society.” He hopes that the museums can lead to a better understanding of history as told through artifacts and the materialistic culture of times long ago.

“We go out and see living history and this stuff in action. It’s a dynamic landscape that has the spirit of the places.”

So, the next time someone at the supermarket looks like they’ve stepped out of another century, let it be a reminder of how close we are in Williamsburg to our history. With neighbors like Luke Pecoraro continually uncovering and protecting our past, our future as a community is sure to be bright. NDN

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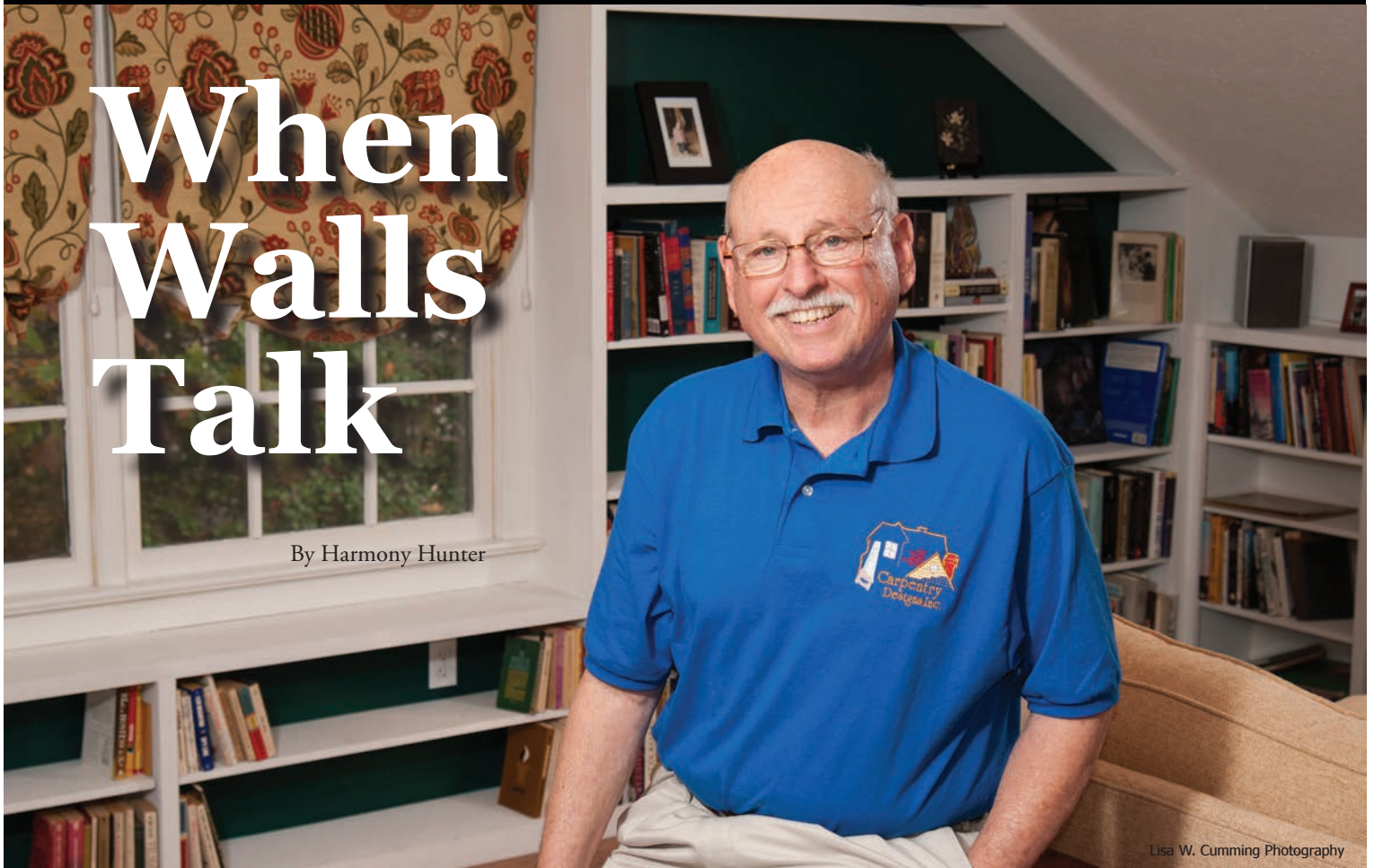
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When Walls Talk

By Harmony Hunter



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Time and termites are two of historic homes' worst enemies, and David Lustig has faced them both. As a building consultant who specializes in renovations of old houses, he has seen all the layers of complication that can shroud the full glory of grand old structures.

David didn't set out to renovate antique homes; in fact, he resisted his first offer of work in the field. Decades ago, David was a kindergarten teacher, incidentally remodeling the old Victorian home he was living in at the

time. A neighbor noticed David's handiwork and asked him for a quote on some jobs that needed doing in his own home. Although David demurred at first, circumstances conspired to bring him into the trade. His teaching contract was tenuous, and a contractor's license was easily obtained. David's new career was knocking.

Over the years since, David has made a specialty of restoring historic homes, developing a deep knowledge of the instincts and habits

of 18th, 19th, and early 20th century builders and homeowners. Of his expertise, he says, "I just learned by doing and reading books." He's still elbow deep in renovation today as he refits his 33-year-old Williamsburg home, though he admits that carpentry, plumbing and wiring are a bit simpler when the work doesn't have to match a historic precedent.

Renovations are more than a matter of hammer and nails when homes are from another era. Even mansions that were built to repre-

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sent the family seat for centuries begin to show their weaknesses after a century. Designated in 1971 as a National Historic Landmark, the Tupper-Barnett House is a fine old circa 1832 Federal-Style estate whose renovation David has been deeply enmeshed in. Its airy, four-sided porch and covered walkway enwrap the stately antebellum home's exterior. The porch's high ceilings are punctuated with fluted Doric columns around its perimeter. Such grandeur lavished on the home's exterior served as a potent suggestion of the luxuries within.

Yet while the feet of the mighty trod the boards on the porch above, a slow-moving coup was staged below. Termites gnawed at the wood and rot insinuated itself in the crevices. By the time David had a look, all the pickets and railings had to be replaced. Identical parts were custom-milled at a nearby shop, and the home's white paint was matched with microscopic precision.

Finally, the home presented its first face to the world once again: grand and gracious, imposing and proud. It was a wink of time travel to stand at the base of the porch steps and see light strike the house in the same way it had more than 100 years ago. The only catch was

the cost. "Because it's a historic home, you can't just put vinyl siding up. Everything has to be done exactly as it would have been in the past. The porch restoration alone, all around the house, was about \$300,000," David says.

If a porch alone can cost \$300,000 to repair, a question begs: why do it? "It has to be for love. The person has to be a true lover of old houses," David says in answer. "Financially, it makes no sense. The attraction is, you see the workmanship on a house that's 200 years old, or even one that's 100 years old, and you think about the beautiful work they've done, the beautiful treatment that you can't afford to do anymore. And it's all done by hand, with hand tools."

Antique structures reveal a technological timeline if you know what to look for. Jobs that are done today with mechanized assistance and laser-guided accuracy were managed with different methods in centuries past. "One of the things that I give as an example is the framing. If you look at the framing on a 200-year-old house, you'll find Roman numerals on the framing pieces at the end. Roman numeral VI, and then there's another piece that joins it, and that has to have a Roman numeral VI,

too. And that's because the lumber was milled off site. This was a way to put it together. So, the people that were putting it together would know: VI goes with VI and VIII goes with VIII. The joinery is absolutely amazing."

Older houses also can show us the ways that style trends move in cycles. The present fashion for random-width hardwood floors would have been a shameful shortcut best covered with a carpet in the past. "I can tell the difference in social status on a house with a quick look, if the flooring is original. Now, today, random-width flooring is very popular. But if you look at a house that's built in the 18th century, early 19th century, for affluent people, every board in the floor is the same width. If it's all the same size, there's much more waste. It's much more costly," David says.

Another side of history is framed within old houses, and it's the story of the hands that built them. Carpenters, craftsmen and journeymen all leave their mark; sometimes literally. David has found cabinetmakers' dated signatures in pencil on the wall behind their handiwork from the late 19th century and early 20th century pantries. It's a habit David has adopted, himself, as a nod to the old tradition.



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Less artistic are the leavings of the day laborers, who would swig a glass pint of milk with their lunch and then nail the bottle up in the wall rather than carry it back out to the trash at the end of the day. "Going way back in D.C., I would tell the customers that in the walls throughout the house we're going to find at least four or five pint milk bottles, because apparently the workmen would have milk with their lunch and put the bottles in the wall."

Occasionally, whimsical detail lies hidden in plain sight. "Sometimes the newel post, which is the post that the bannisters attach to, have a big knob on top with a finial. Very often, you can pull, and that will pop up and show a little hidey-hole." Some researchers theorize that these secret voids formed by the mechanical lathe that shaved and shaped the posts of the late 19th century stair could be used to hide jewelry, deeds or even good luck charms. Though if the practice was very well known, it's uncertain how closely the bannister would have been able to guard its secrets.

Each decade leaves physical evidence of the mundane tasks of daily life, too. Bathroom medicine cabinets of the early 1920s often were fitted with a repository for used razor blades.

This small collection box rested between the studs in the wall behind the medicine cabinet behind a wooden slat. These caches of old blades often will surprise workers in the demolition phase of a renovation.

David Lustig's passion for old homes burns bright. He says, "Every day can bring different challenges, because there are always, always unexpected things. At a house I did called Burnt Chimneys, the plan was to turn one of the upstairs bedrooms into a huge master bath. I pointed to a wall and I said, 'I bet, behind this wall there's a remnant of a fireplace, because there's the outline of a hearth.' We took a sledgehammer and banged out part of the wall, and sure enough, there was a fireplace." This happy surprise ended with a master bath that featured a soaking tub and a working, wood-burning fireplace.

David and his wife, Susan, take great pleasure in living in Williamsburg, a town where historic homes take up downtown blocks. Touring and studying old homes from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries reinforces his belief that every old home tells a story of the tools, the workmen, and the wars and struggles happening in each epoch. NDN

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A Walking History

By Susan Williamson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

From her earliest memories of grade school, Trish Thomas has always loved history. “I was the strange child who read every biography,” she says. She grew up in Virginia Beach and embraced the history of the area. She followed her passion by majoring in history and cultural anthropology at Old Dominion University.

She met her husband, David, also a history buff, in a yoga class. While Trish worked at a variety of jobs including working for Barnes & Noble, she enjoyed working in museums and historic sites the most. As their children, Emily and Ben, grew up the family participated in Revolutionary War re-enactments as a hobby. Later, Ben also became a Civil War re-enactor. Once, Trish saw him standing asleep on a Civil War battlefield. “That was very authentic,” she says. “Conditions were so harsh that soldiers often slept standing up.” Ben, now 26, works as an electrician.

Emily played fiddles and the hammered dulcimer. She is now 28 and works as a costume designer, a skill she learned from Trish. “We took ballet from the same instructor. A Russian ballet costumer taught me how to make cos-

tumes, and I shared with my daughter,” Trish says. “Emily makes mostly anime costumes.”

For ten years, Trish worked at historic houses in Virginia Beach. An older woman at one of the houses encouraged her to learn to “dress” flax, the process by which one readies flax for the spinner, so that the art would continue. The steps involved are to ret it, break it, skutch it and hackle it.

“In the 18th century, a young girl would be expected to pull ten pounds of flax per day which would make enough linen for a man’s shirt. Linen was a poor man’s fabric; the rich wore wool and cotton. The flax is planted at the first of March. When the seed pods turn down, or after 100 days for really fine linen, the stalks are pulled. The retting process, which separates out the fiber, takes up to a week.”

Trish processes her flax in a horse trough and changes the water every 48 hours. The flax is then dried before breaking it, skutching it and finally combing it with a hackle. By the end of July, the hair-like fiber is ready for the spinning wheel. Trish has tried spinning linen in and says it requires moist fingers. Once spun, the linen

yarn is ready for the loom.

In today’s world flax is either grown for seed or fiber, but usually not both, since the stalk is very woody by the time the seed is fully formed. Commercial flax is harvested by machine. Nebraska is one of the leading producers. The plant blooms briefly before forming seed pods and Trish speaks of the beauty of a flax field in bloom with its blue flowers.

Trish often demonstrated the dressing process at historic houses. An audience of older Romanian women at Polar Forest remembered dressing flax in their youth. As a result, Trish was interviewed for a Romanian magazine, although she has never seen the article.

Trish worked at the Old Coast Guard Station in Virginia Beach, First Landing State Park and the Chrysler Museum and often gave presentations at small museums.

In 2011, Trish and David moved to Williamsburg and decided to start their own historic tour company, Williamsburg Walking Tours, which opened in 2012. Trish says, “I wanted to portray history accurately, and tell stories about the good and the bad.” They were also ready to

work for themselves.

They currently offer three tours: Walkabout History, which covers 1699 through the restoration of Williamsburg; Civil War Tours; and African American History in Williamsburg, 1619 through Reconstruction. The Williamsburg Walkabout tour becomes Williamsburg Door-to-Door Christmas for the month of December. The one and a half hour tours are available 12 months a year. As Trish shares her stories, she admits that the tours sometimes go overtime. Her enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge bubbles out as she speaks.

Among Trish's favorite clients are the students from the Virginia Department for the Blind and Visually Impaired School in Richmond. Local Lion's Club member Jack Trotter, along with other local Lions come to assist this tour each year. "Many of the students are just learning to use their sticks and the terrain mix of grass, pavement and cobblestones can be overwhelming," Trish says. Trish and David were honored to be invited to graduation ceremonies at the school.

Their company also takes PowerPoint presentations of their tours on the road and frequently present customized programs to family

reunions of families with history connected to the area. "Often, elderly members are not able to walk very far, so we bring the tour to them," Trish says. "We research connections to their family or to a particular state or location."

Trish and David added the Civil War tour after she read the book, *Defend This Old Town* by Carol Kenttenburg Dobbs. "During the Civil War, Williamsburg was full of amazing single women. Their everyday stories are both funny and tragic." Williamsburg was a closed city and considered a safe place, but food was scarce and many of the formerly prominent families became insolvent.

Trish says, "A visitor in 1870 noted that many houses had been torn down for kindling, firewood and bricks. Those who left their homes lost them. Union soldiers took what they wanted."

Today, Trish notes, Colonial Williamsburg continues to evolve from its beginnings. "One of the things I like is that Colonial Williamsburg will change things as new historical records are unearthed." She says some people like to take a tour before buying a ticket to Colonial Williamsburg, while others tour after visiting the historic buildings, summarizing the impor-

ance of what they have seen.

Trish says Williamsburg before Rockefeller was a pleasant 20th century town, as can be seen in the Harvard Archives film, shot in 1930. In 2014, a Colonial Williamsburg photographer videoed the same route. The two films can be seen side-by-side in the video, *Williamsburg Then and Now* which is available on YouTube. Local reaction to the restoration was mixed and Rockefeller was, after all, a Yankee. But as some local women were quoted, "Yes, but he's our Yankee."

By using stories such as this, Trish and David augment the mission of Colonial Williamsburg and the sharing of subsequent history. Trish is a lifelong learner and continues to research local history through letters, papers and journals, always looking for more stories. She is fascinated with the people of the area and stories of how they lived and she is equally interested in the people who join the tours. "My favorite part," she says, "is that by the end of the tour, I have always learned something new."

For Trish Thomas, lifelong learning about history is a passion. Today, she and David use their knowledge and enthusiasm to make history come alive for others. NDN



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AMBASSADOR JIM BULLINGTON



A Life of Global Adventures

By Dawn Brotherton

Jim Bullington sees himself as a redneck diplomat. Born in Chattanooga, Tennessee and raised in northern Alabama, Jim was the first in his family to attend college. He rose to great heights within the State Department, eventually serving as ambassador to Burundi.

While at Auburn University in Georgia, Jim was the editor for the college newspaper. This was in the early sixties, at the time of the Freedom Riders incidents. Jim didn't hide his feelings. He wrote an editorial that was featured on the front page of the paper denouncing the mobs who attacked the Freedom Riders and the Alabama political leaders who tolerated the

violence. He called for integration of the university.

The response? The Ku Klux Klan burned a cross on the lawn of the fraternity house where he lived. Jim received menacing phone calls, and the governor threatened to cut off funding to the university unless that radical editor was contained.

Jim's high school ambition was to go to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, but he contracted polio, which left him unable to pass the physical. Instead, he turned to the Foreign Service. Foreign Service Officers spend most of their time abroad, many in war zones and other

dangerous places. Jim knew selection was very competitive and attributes his actions as the Auburn newspaper editor to have put him over the top in the process.

"Foreign Service has a tradition. Until the first part of the twentieth century, almost all diplomats were the sons, not the daughters, at that time, of wealthy east coast semi aristocrats," Jim says. He found that established the foreign service culture. "In fact, all of my classmates were graduates of Ivy League or prestigious universities. I did feel out of place like a redneck, which I was, from their point of view, I guess. But I finally realized that even then the

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State Department was trying to diversify its recruitment base, and I was the token redneck.”

His first overseas assignment was in 1965 to a small U.S. consulate in Hue Vietnam, where he quickly developed feelings for a consulate translator, Tuy-Cam. By fall of 1967, they were engaged. At this point, they were working in separate cities but made plans to meet at Tuy-Cam’s parents’ home in Hue to celebrate the Tet holiday in January 1968.

After a nice dinner, Jim made his way back to the guest house of a French friend who ran the nearby power plant. He awoke in the middle of the night to the sound of incoming artillery and mortars. The Tet Offensive had begun, and Jim was right in the middle of it. Jim and his friend realized it wasn’t safe for either of them to have an American on premises. They had to find a place to hide him.

“For the next nine days, I was in Father Cressonier’s house. I was disguised as a French priest behind the North Vietnamese lines. I was taught French by the State Department, so I spoke pretty fluent French. But for a Tennessee hillbilly raised in the Church of Christ, that in itself was quite an experience: becoming a French priest in Vietnam,” Jim says.

Eventually, the Marines came through, clearing from house to house, and Jim was able to signal them. “The Marines put me on a door that they had liberated in the wreckage of a house. They used it as a stretcher, wrapped me in a blanket, and carried me out as if I were a wounded Marine because we didn’t want the neighbors to know that the priest had been harboring an American.”

It was a strenuous few days as Jim was taken back to his headquarters and debriefed. He was very concerned about Tuy-Cam and her family and was in a hurry to be reunited. As soon as he could, he hitched a ride on an Army helicopter from Danang back to Hue. It was a Val-

entine’s Day treat to find Tuy-Cam waiting on the helipad, trying to catch a ride to find Jim in Danang. They were married a month later, on March 16 at the consulate in Danang instead of the Vietnamese ceremony they had planned in Hue.

After finishing his tour in Vietnam, Jim was sent to Harvard to get his master’s degree. “I was not made to feel welcome on that campus coming right out of Vietnam. That was the height of the antiwar movement.”

As he rose in the Foreign Service ranks, he was sought out as a Vietnamese expert. He also spent time in Thailand as a political officer, then moved on to Burma. After completing Army War College, he switched continents, working in Chad and Benin in Africa. His least favorite assignment was a few months in New York City when he was sent to the U.S. mission to the United Nations to work on the American delegation to the General Assembly.

“This hillbilly didn’t much like New York,” Jim admits.

For Jim, the Foreign Service was a great career, and he is very proud of all the officers who are serving the nation then and now. He wouldn’t change a thing, especially because he and Tuy-Cam just celebrated their fifty-first wedding anniversary.

After Jim retired from the Foreign Service, he couldn’t sit still. His first job after retirement was as the director of International Affairs in Dallas, Texas. Although he loved that job, he was recruited to start a Center for Global Business at Old Dominion University. He gave it a shot, but it didn’t suit him. He was more comfortable doing the work than talking about it.

Off he went to Niger as the Peace Corps Director. He loved getting to know the 430 volunteers who rotated through Niger during his six years. “It was a very satisfying job, leading those American volunteers in the Peace Corps.

It was sort of a coda to my career from war in Vietnam to the Peace Corps in Niger; that was satisfying,” Jim says.

Eventually Jim and Tuy-Cam made their way back to Virginia and settled in Williamsburg. Their older daughter Kim is a professor at Old Dominion University. Their younger daughter, Eva, who as a teenager, claimed her undying hatred for the Foreign Service and having to move all the time, and said she would never make her kids do that, married a man who was formerly Peace Corps in Africa and then became a Foreign Service Officer.

Jim still wasn’t ready to settle in one place. Getting restless, Jim accepted the role of special envoy to Senegal from the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations to support an initiative to end a 30-year secessionist insurgency in the southern part of the country. A few months after arriving, a de facto ceasefire was put in place and negotiations between the government and the rebels still continue.

Jim wasn’t all work, though. During his travels, he was very active with the ham radio and had collected many QSL cards from various countries. A QSL card is written confirmation of two-way radio communication between two amateur radio stations and is a source of pride that demonstrates a radio’s ability to receive distant signals.

He had operated the ham radio in Thailand, Niger, Burundi and other places. “So, I was kind of famous ham,” Jim says. He wrote an article about his ham career in QST, which is the journal for the National Association for Amateur Radio.

Jim and Tuy-Cam limit their travel now and are happy to enjoy all Williamsburg has to offer. But Jim Bullington loves sharing his story. His book, *Global Adventures on Less-Traveled Roads*, outlines more of his exploits from his redneck roots to his career as a U.S. Ambassador. NDN

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A HEART OF LIGHT

By Narielle Living

Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see; it is what gives life its deepest significance.

- Roy T. Bennett, "The Light in the Heart"

Sometimes our personal history becomes a gift to the world. For Reverend Edward Hopkins, the turns his life took led him to a

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place where he could be a light in a world that sometimes grows dark.

Raised in Roanoke, Virginia, Reverend Hopkins grew up in a traditional household. "We were the quintessential family," he says. "I had a brother who was 21 months older than me, two parents, a perfect family. Everything was just like it was supposed to be." During the 70s, after high school, he attended William & Mary. "My brother was at W&M in front of me, and he graduated."

During this time, as the social and cultural turmoil in America took place, Reverend Hopkins' own personal conflict began. "I started having headaches all through college, grinding things that would make me sick. It was difficult because after every test and every exam I would get these headaches and I knew that I had to study, especially at exam time, but every exam I had a headache." The longer the headaches went on, the worse they got. It reached a point where it was unbearable. "It was the most miserable period in my life and frightening because I didn't know what was going on. I had all kinds of tests done, all kinds of brain scans done, I was diagnosed

with all kinds of different things and nothing helped. No medicine ever touched the pain."

The headaches became progressively worse. "I just wanted to die." During his senior year, he experienced a headache but this time he passed out. He woke up at Riverside Hospital. "I woke up, didn't know where I was, had no idea," he says. Finally, a doctor came to his room to tell him the news. "He said 'Mr. Hopkins, you have a ventricle in your head that is three times bigger than what it should be. If you have an episode like you did last night, it will kill you. Do you have any questions?'"

Most people would have taken this as bad news, but Reverend Hopkins was thrilled. Finally, he had an answer as to why he was so sick. "There were times I thought I was going crazy, and now I had a reason." And he also had a solution, but the risk was high. He was going to need surgery to put a shunt in his head. With this surgery, he had a 50/50 chance of survival.

The first surgery was done in December 1977. "They came in and shaved off all my hair. My mom was in the room, and she

watched me go down the hallway, away from her, pushed on a gurney. I was thinking to myself 50/50. I started thinking I don't know how to do this, I never paid attention, I don't know what I'm doing. So, I started going through all the scriptures that I ever memorized for Sunday school class, everything I could possibly think of, singing songs. Then I heard, 'Don't worry about this, whether you live or die, I've got you.' That's exactly what I heard." At that point he knew God was with him, and it would be okay, no matter the outcome.

Unfortunately, he got worse, and the shunt needed to be revised in March 1978. After that surgery, he fell into a coma, and his parents were told he was not going to survive. "The doctor told my mom I had brain damage and was not going to live. He said if I did then I'd be a vegetable, never be able to walk, talk or move my hands. The doctor said let him go. My mom said, 'I can't.'"

His mother was not going to give up on him. Their family had been dismantled by tragedy, but they were not ready to let go of another son. In one year, everything had changed. His brother, who had graduated from W&M, had



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been killed in a car wreck. "Then I was in a hospital and was supposed to die. Everything changed in one year, everything."

When he finally woke up, his parents were, naturally, excited. "But I couldn't say anything, I just lay in bed. I could blink yes or no." After being transferred to the hospital in Roanoke, he began to pray. "I asked the Lord, please, I can't do this. If you please give me my voice, let me move my fingers, let me walk, I'll serve you the rest of my life."

After much intensive therapy, it happened. He was able to walk, talk and move. He was no longer confined within a non-working body. He returned to W&M and graduated. Late, but alive. And because of his surgery and his recovery, his life was forever changed.

Originally, Reverend Hopkins was a fine arts major. "I wanted to do graphic design." After graduation, he moved to Charleston, South Carolina with the woman he would eventually marry. "I did whatever I could," he says. He drove a truck for a long time, and then his future wife gently reminded him he had been called to do something. Having grown up Methodist, that was what he was drawn to.

After applying and being accepted at Duke, he began seminary in 1980. "Seminary was wonderful. Difficult, but it was everything I wanted to do with the rest of my life."

Reverend Hopkins had worn braces on his hands for almost a year. "This was to get my fingers open because my hands had collapsed," he says. "I credit the braces with being able to move my fingers." Today, he still has the brace he wore as a reminder of the struggle he endured. In addition, while he was healing, his parents had bought him a guitar. "My parents bought me a guitar hoping that it would get my fingers opened up," he says. He eventually became very proficient. "Now I play guitar at nursing homes every week. It makes people laugh, smile, cry; we sing old songs they know. It's an amazing thing, and I get to do this."

Today, Reverend Hopkins is also chaplain for the Charlottesville police department. In that type of work, he has encountered the many ways the job can take its toll on people. But he is steadfast in his determination to reach through the pain and show people that they can, indeed, come out the other side, that they can be whole again.

He reminds people that all of what he does happened because of his medical challenges. But it was those challenges that brought him to where he is today. "I have served in churches ever since," he says and gestures to his collar. "This is what I do every day and all day."

Reverend Hopkins is the first to admit that his experience is his own, and everybody's will be different. "All I can do is tell people what I saw. It doesn't mean it's like that for everyone, but I had a promise: I won't leave you or abandon you or forsake you, I'll be with you no matter what. I live to sing. I preach with this voice that they said I would never have. I've made my living for 37 years with my voice, and I play guitar with fingers that wouldn't work, and I'm a long distance bicycle rider with legs that they said I wouldn't use."

As Reverend Edward Hopkins looks back on his past, present and future, he reflects upon not just the miracle of his health but the miracle of life that we experience daily. "I'm not better than anybody, I'm not smarter than anybody, but I have seen some things and I have a story to tell. There's a God that longs for you; you have no clue." NDN



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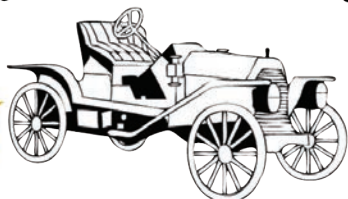
Living in Another Century

By Ashley Smith

Nestled in a curve of South Henry Street lies a hidden treasure of Williamsburg. Newport House, an exquisite 18th century home, designed by period architect, Peter Harrison, serves as a two-bedroom bed and breakfast. The stately yellow exterior gives way to a charming, Old World entryway. History lives here and reveals itself in every detail of the house. "It's an exact reproduction of a home

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built by Peter Harrison in Newport, Rhode Island,” John Millar, the owner and steward of the property, says. “If George Washington were to visit today, he’d feel at home, except for electricity, bathrooms and WiFi. I’m not sure what he’d think of the WiFi.”

Newport House is not well known in tourist circles; mainly as a result of its nonexistent advertising budget. “We usually fill up after the larger hospitality sites are full since we only have two bedrooms,” John says. Yet, those who choose Newport House will find more than just an architectural gem.

Born in New York City in 1945, John was raised in both Massachusetts and Britain while his father, a Lieutenant Commander in the British Royal Navy, worked for Ceylon, in charge of British military air transport for India. At the young age of 14, John was fascinated by the beautiful buildings that surrounded him. Believing them to be designed by Christopher Wren, he researched and discovered that they may have been designed by Elisabeth Lady Wilbraham. Later, he researched Peter Harrison, another architect for whom he has great admiration.

After receiving his B.A. in Latin from Harvard College in 1966, John was living and teaching architectural history in Newport, Rhode Island when he had a brilliant idea. The American bicentennial was approaching, and he was dismayed that there were no ships from the Revolutionary War era left nor did replicas exist. At just 23 years of age, he proposed that a ship be built. “Everyone thought it was a great idea,” he says smiling. “They said, ‘Great! Go build it!’. But I had no money. So, I went to the bank where they keep the money. At first, they laughed.” Then after a second round of laughter, they agreed to help him finance one ship. So the 1756 24-gun British frigate *Rose* was built just in time for the Bicentennial. “The *Rose* was an important choice because that is the same ship that the British sent to Rhode Island to block the rum trade. In fact, our American Navy was founded just to get rid of her.”

John operated the *Rose* for a decade, and in the meantime, founded a nonprofit organization, Seaport ’76, to raise money to build more 18th century ships, including the *Providence*, a 12-gun continental Navy sloop that served as the first American Navy ship. *Rose*, after a career as a museum and a sail training ship, went on to star in *Master & Commander* with Russell Crowe and *Pirates of the Caribbean IV*. She is now on display at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. Many of John’s ships have gone on to have film credits, including *Providence* in *Pirates of the Caribbean II, III, V* and the *Lady Washington* had a starring role in *Star Trek: Generations* and the first *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie.

During the summers, *Rose* would sail to Boston every week while she was training sailors. On Fridays, while in port, the ship would host concerts. It was here that John met his wife, Cathy. “We dated in the rigging. It was the only place to steal a kiss alone,” John recalls fondly.

While raising money to build these tall ships, John also founded the Bicentennial Council of the Thirteen Original States in order to help raise money for other bicentennial projects. As a result of his efforts, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund acknowledged his contributions as the most significant achievement of the bicentennial. The successor organization, the USA 250th Council of the Thirteen Original States, was founded by John in 2011 to continue this work.

John has been instrumental in the founding of Tall Ships America, the organization responsible for coordinating and managing Tall Ships events and sail trainings across North America.

After obtaining his M.A. in History from William & Mary, John and

his wife decided to stay in Williamsburg. "They had much lower taxes," John says cheerfully. "My wife looked at me and said, 'Well, how are you gonna make money?' That's when we decided to build Newport House."

John and Cathy, who is an RN, quickly settled into life in Williamsburg. John sang folk music for the Taverns of Colonial Williamsburg in the evenings, and although that program is no longer offered, he continues to teach and perform colonial dances. He has even written colonial dances, including Corelli's Maggot and more recently, Men of Worth. As an adjunct professor at W&M, he taught history and architectural history and often travels to speak on history in America and Britain.

John is also a prolific author. He has been published since he was at Harvard. After his first several books did not provide him with the promised royalties, despite being sold out, he established Thirteen Colonies Press, his own publishing company, in 1985. He has published 12 volumes on various historical topics, including tall ships, Revolutionary War history, colonial dances, architectural histories and even a book on the founding of Australia.

He has several works that are almost ready for publication, but he'd like to submit those to a more established publisher. He is most ready to publish *Founded by Pirates: the College of William & Mary* though he has approximately seven more books to publish.

Despite this impressive resume, John is not quite finished. His passion is still the 18th century tall ships. He has founded the nonprofit, Colonial Navy Inc., to raise money to build ten full-sized tall ship replicas for historic adventure sail-training, re-enactments and films. Since the Rose departed for her film career, there have been no historic North American full-rigged ships that offer sail training year-round. It is the mission of Colonial Navy, Inc and John to correct this imbalance. They have chosen ten ships from the 17th and 18th centuries that fit the size requirements to maintain financial stability including eight Continental Navy ships as well as the Bachelors Delight, whose treasure helped to found W&M, and the Rhode Island Colonial Navy brig, Tartar. It is the foundation's goal to complete the first ship by 2026, in time for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States Navy.

With a deadline less than five years away, the need is urgent. Yet John has continued to pursue this dream with abandon. He has located a shipyard in North Carolina that can produce each ship for the astonishing price of only one million dollars apiece. To put that into perspective, the cost is normally between six and seven million per ship. "Using a cold mold, epoxy construction, we can build these ships to last. If we built them the way they were originally constructed, they would be thrown away after 15 years. Eighteenth century ships were tossed out the way we toss away our cars today."

The purpose of the ships would be sail-training, and eventually, John envisions that they could offer scholarships for at-risk youth and establish a program on the West Coast using clipper ships. The program would be under the supervision of the US Coast Guard and has already been endorsed by the Naval Historical Foundation in Washington, D.C. "I've already had calls from a chaplain in the Marine Corps. He thinks our program would service our veterans and service members with PTSD and I agree with him."

John Millar has devoted his life to teaching, restoring and researching the 18th century. As his wife says, "John lives in the 18th century." The rest of us are indeed fortunate that John allows us to visit his world so often. NDN

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The History of a Village

By Erin Fryer

To many, Toano is just a quiet town on the outskirts of Williamsburg, but to Fred Boelt it is a place of rich history that deserves to be preserved and celebrated.

Born and raised in Williamsburg, Fred grew up on Scotland Street, just a stone's throw from the William & Mary campus. His grandparents owned a tourist home that he helped to run, and he grew up in the house next door. During the time that Fred was growing up, the restoration was happening in Colonial Williamsburg, so he had a front-row seat to watch history come alive while entertaining the guests who came to see it for themselves.

Growing up in such a historic area made Fred the history buff he is today. "My grandfather had a definite interest in history, and this was before television, so for entertainment I would go over to his house and listen to stories," he says. "Thankfully, my memory has worked and so I've retained a lot of that history and have been able to pass that along to a lot of other family members."

After graduating from James Blair High School in 1958, Fred moved away to attend

North Carolina State University. Later, he returned home and helped to run his family's 13-bedroom tourist home. Soon after, what was then a Holiday Inn on Richmond Road needed a night auditor, so Fred decided to fill that position to earn some income while he continued to search for a full-time job. That position turned into a restaurant manager position, and then a separate manager position at a sister hotel down the street. Fred ultimately spent 40 years in the hospitality industry, with his longest stint as manager of the Heritage Inn on Richmond Road, which is now a timeshare.

While most of his family lived in Williamsburg, Fred also had some family in Cumberland County who lived on a big farm, and he spent a lot of time there when he was growing up. "I've always had an affinity for animals and growing things," he says. "Spending time on that farm really planted a seed for me and I dreamed of owning my own farm one day."

After marrying his wife and having a daughter, Fred felt the pull to settle down in the country. He was familiar with Toano and knew many families in the area, so when an old

farmhouse came up for sale on Forge Road, he jumped on it.

Built in 1884, Fred's home is a masterwork of history and preservation. When he first purchased it, he only had enough money for the down payment, but the home was in desperate need of renovations. He began renovations in 1977 and finished the bulk of them in 1980.

Since retiring from the hospitality industry, Fred's primary focus has been on farming and history. Fred conserves rare breeds of sheep and poultry, and he also raises chickens, guinea hens and peacocks.

His love for history and Toano has led Fred to various service roles, including the James City County Historical Commission, Friends of Forge Road and Toano (FORT), and as treasurer of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church and historian for the Toano Historical Society. He has also contributed to several publications and newsletters documenting the history of Toano.

According to their website, the Toano Historical Society is a non-profit organization founded to inspire a new sense of community spirit, promote interest in the town's history,

and preserve Toano's small-town character, which are all things that Fred feels deeply passionate about.

"I think it is crucial that we preserve the rural character of Forge Road and the Village of Toano," says Fred. "We have fought hard to retain the rural lands in the area, especially on Forge Road. A lot of residents feel the same way so we have worked to oppose things that could compromise the character of the town."

Through his involvement with the Toano Historical Society, Fred has had the pleasure of being involved in the revitalization efforts that are happening in downtown Toano. "A lot is happening and it is all very exciting," he says. "Jack and Jeff Wray, the brothers who are from Toano and leading the effort, have so many great plans to bring new business opportunities for residents to enjoy while restoring Main Street to its former glory."

Established in the late 19th century, Toano was once known as "Burnt Ordinary." Fred says there used to be an old tavern, or ordinary, where the farmer's market sits today on the corner of Route 60 and Forge Road that burned down, giving the town its name. The name Toano came many years later when rail-

road workers noticed they were moving uphill while traveling from Providence Forge to Burnt Ordinary, so they renamed it "Toano," which is Native American for "high ground."

The revitalization project is meant to breathe new life into Toano, with plans that include restaurants, apartments, retail, a coffee shop, bakery, and more. "Toano finally has the possibility of being preserved thanks to the vision of Jack and Jeff Wray," Fred says. "They grew up here, and even though they have left, they have never lost their love for Toano. They have big plans, and we do not know yet what all will happen, but a lot of thought has gone into trying to figure out how to make these new ideas happen to turn Toano back into the bustling town it was more than 100 years ago."

The Village of Toano currently features three turn-of-the-century buildings that Fred says are in really good shape, so they will serve as the core of the redevelopment on that side of the road. On the other side of the road, what is now vacant land will be the home of Toano Station, a multi-use complex that could feature retail and apartments. In December, the Society held the first annual Christmas tree lighting in an effort to give the people of Toano a chance

to come together and celebrate the season.

In addition to Fred's involvement with the Toano Historical Society, he is also involved with an organization called Friends of Forge Road and Toano (FORT). Having lived on Forge for more than 40 years, the road means a lot to him. "Forge Road really has all of the qualifications to be a scenic byway, except for the distance. Forge Road is less than 10 miles long, but if we had the distance, we would certainly fit the profile. It's such a beautiful stretch of rural land with farms, stables, animals, and many 18th and 19th century homes."

Through his work with FORT, Fred and his neighbors strive to preserve the character of their beloved road and prevent it from being overly developed. "My hope is that Forge Road will always remain somewhat the way it is today."

For Fred Boelt, his favorite part about living in the area is its history and having family close by. "I'm not anxious to leave my home, my farm or Toano anytime soon," Fred says. "My daughter lives in North Carolina and my son and his family are in Seattle. You never know, maybe they will come back some day and keep the family farm going." NDN



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MARK JACOBOWSKI



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Preserving and Documenting History

By Narielle Living

Mark Jacobowski is a busy man. He works as a consultant, is a public speaker, has been involved with the fire department through the years, travels often and is a member of the James City County Historic Commission.

Originally from the Baltimore/Annapolis area, Mark has lived in Virginia since 1988. In addition to his home in Williamsburg, he also has a home in Charlottesville. “I am the most blessed human being that you probably have ever met,” he says in reference to his life.

When Mark was in elementary school, they took a class trip to Colonial Williamsburg. “I’ve got a very vivid memory of being on that bus and thinking that I was going to California, because as a little kid it took forever.” When they returned from the overnight trip, the students were asked to write a report about it. “I think my mother still has this,” he says. “In my book report, I wrote that one day I would like to be living in Williamsburg.”

Prior to moving to Virginia, Mark worked for the government in Atlanta. When he came to Virginia, he originally lived on the south-

side but worked in the Williamsburg area. After spending hours on Interstate 64, he began to rethink his location. “I was doing a lot of work in Kingsmill at the time for Anheuser Busch,” he says. As Memorial Day weekend approached, one of his contacts at the resort invited him to stay for the holiday weekend. “He said just bring a bag and stay in the condo at the end of the row on the ninth hole right off the golf course.” For Mark, that stay cemented his decision to come to Kingsmill. “I was absolutely done. Two weeks later I had a contract on a house, and I [have] lived there ever since.”

Currently, Mark is on the architecture review board, or what is called EPB, for Kingsmill, as well as the James City County board of zoning appeals. Both of these boards deal with structures and use. He is also on the Historical Commission for James City County, which is responsible for documenting, commemorating, and preserving the historic legacy of James City County.

Mark approaches each board role with zeal and vigor; clearly, he loves the work he does outside of work.

Years ago, when Mark came to Virginia, he went on a trip with a group of friends to Washington, D.C. On this trip, the group had separated. “A bunch of the people decided they were going to go off to visit museums and do whatever. So, I went with a couple of the guys to the Aerospace Museum at the Smithsonian, and a couple of other people went to Arlington National Cemetery.” That day, Mark received a phone call from one of his friends who had gone exploring. She asked if he was related to Robert E. Lee or Martha Washington. “I said, I don’t think so, why? She said, ‘There is a painting of you, and it is a painting of you. We all walked into the drawing room in the Lee house, and it’s you.’” She added that there was another painting next to it of a woman named Elizabeth Calvert.

Although there had been some talk in his family about being related to the Calverts, Mark had no idea who his ancestors were. His family had never been interested in history. “Genealogy was not a thing back then,” he says. “You knew where you came from, you knew who your grandmother and grandfather were, and that was

it.”

The next day, as he was driving home, he decided to stop and see for himself. “It’s a little misty rain outside, and I’m coming around 495 and there’s the exit sign that says Arlington National Cemetery.” He made his way through the gate, and they sent him to the house he needed to see. “I walk up the sidewalk and there’s a lady with her National Park Service uniform and her big hat. Her name was Heather.” When Heather saw Mark approaching, she said, “You’re the one.” She had been working the previous day when Mark’s friends saw the look-alike painting. “She said,

‘Oh my God, they were absolutely correct.’”

When Heather took Mark to see the painting, he stood before an image that looked eerily like him. “I got cold chills.” Heather’s co-worker came out to meet them and ushered Mark into his office where they sat in front of the computer. “I gave him my name and my mother’s name and my father’s name and their ages and my grandmother and grandfather on both sides.” Within moments, Mark was shown his family history, and he was stunned.

That day, Mark learned that he was related to a number of historic figures, including Thomas Custis and Elizabeth Calvert. In addition, his ancestry traced all the way back to 1619 on the Eastern Shore. “I was there for four hours. It was dark and the place was closed.”

Over time, Mark did more research to dig into his roots. “Over at CW, a good friend of mine wrote a book called *Williamsburg Before and After: The Rebirth of Virginia’s Colonial Capital*.” From his friend, he learned about the first land grant approved by the King of England to a colonist Colonel John Custis, a relative of Mark’s. This land grant was approved in 1714, on the same day as Mark’s birthday.

He also learned about the scandals of the day, which mainly included Catholics marrying Anglicans. In addition, he learned he was connected to George Washington through marriage.

Another scandal occurred when the younger John Custis married his wife Frances. According to the story Mark read, John Custis loved Williamsburg. He hated Arlington, because he hated Frances. One day he told the servants to hook up the carriage so he could take his wife for a carriage ride. The women in the house took care of the elaborate trussing of Frances, and out she went into the carriage with John. Once she was in, he started trotting off down the road toward the Chesapeake Bay. As he broke the corner, she said, “Where are you taking me?” John started whipping the horses, aiming them into the water, and answered, “We’re going to hell Frances, to hell.” As legend would have it, her response was,

“Drive on, John, drive on.”

Currently, Mark’s work with the Historic Commission has him doing a couple of things. One of them is to do a review of some buildings in Kingsmill that are still standing. “Back when Anheuser Busch bought the property, people thought that these things were like Civil War era. Well, they’re not.” Mark obtained information from the historic building survey and has done a complete deed search on the Kingsmill Plantation to current day. He learned that Peyton Randolph owned the Kingsmill Plantation as a summer home. When riding horseback, having a summer home within a day’s ride was desirable.

Mark has documented all of the Kingsmill Plantation information carefully. He has drawings of the buildings and photos of the inside of the buildings, including a photo of the remains of an unidentified animal.

Mark Jacobowski has had a life filled with history, and some of it has been a complete surprise to him. He says he is blessed, but he is also a person who works hard for others and spends his time doing what is right for the preservation of all of our history. NDN

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Education for A Better Future

By Alison Johnson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Carrie C. Stedman is well aware of the stereotypes about people who pursue a General Education Diploma, or GED, rather than a traditional high school diploma. She is passionate about busting all of those myths. The students she works with as a GED Teacher for Williamsburg-James City County Public Schools are often brilliant, hard-working or misunderstood.

While some, for whatever reason, simply haven't thrived in regular classrooms. Many also face daunting life challenges such as homelessness, poverty and food insecurity, caring for an ill family member, domestic violence, pregnancy and motherhood or fatherhood, or a mental health disorder or severe social anxiety.

Yet they still haven't given up on school.

"These kids are absolutely amazing," says Carrie, in her third year of the position. "They have so much on their plates, but they are choosing education. I am so grateful that they have this alternate path, because I do not believe that all children learn the same or should be in the same environment. Some kids just can't sit in a classroom for seven hours a day."

GED students are in class for two hours daily at Lafayette High School, either in the morning or afternoon. They also must have a job or a volunteer position, or be actively trying to get a job. About 90 percent do have a job.

Beyond that juggling, the GED itself is not

easy, Carrie adds. "It requires high-level thinking skills. Sometimes, I feel like this path is actually harder than the more traditional one. These kids have to grow up a lot faster."

Carrie, 41, works with teenagers as young as 16, if they're deemed emotionally mature enough for an alternative degree path that can take as little as eight weeks to complete. While students can be up to age 21 if they have an identified disability and qualify for special education services, most are between 17 and 19.

Some students have already dropped out of high school, although administrators try to reach kids in jeopardy before that point. Others have been suspended or expelled, or they've fallen too far behind on credits to have a chance of graduating on time.

Carrie and her co-worker, Ben Swenson, teach all GED subjects, although Carrie focuses on English and science while Ben has more of a history and math background. The duo also helps students with resume-writing, job interview skills and financial literacy. Each day, the students get an email with individualized academic and vocational goals.

The GED program preaches habits that promote independence and success, drawing from the popular books *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and *The 7 Habits of Happy Kids*. Examples are forming a plan with end goals and

working before playing.

"I'd say the hardest habit to form is just doing things that are hard," Carrie says. "Like they don't want to perfect an essay; they want to be done with it quickly. We want them to understand that's how they will get good results. If they put in that time, things will get easier."

Carrie's biggest challenge, though, is counteracting all the negative experiences and messages that many of her students have absorbed in school, life or both. Unfortunately, they often believe they aren't smart enough to go on to college or a rewarding career.

"They've lived this whole life for at least 16 years before they come to us," she says. "Sometimes they think they have to settle for what they know, what they've lived. We have to be their cheerleaders. They need to know and feel that we believe in them."

To help students picture a positive future, the school system has a partnership with Thomas Nelson Community College that allows them to take pre-college orientation classes or earn technical certificates, getting them familiar with TNCC staff and buildings. Those who receive high GED scores also may qualify for college credits or placement test exemptions.

Whenever a student passes the GED, Carrie and Ben celebrate loudly outside the Lafayette building: Ben blows a bugle, while Carrie

screams, “graduate!” The program also holds a graduation ceremony each June, complete with school administrators, School Board members, student speakers, and caps and gowns.

Last year’s ceremony had about 25 kids on stage; the year before that was closer to 40. “It’s so intimate and so powerful,” Carrie says. “It’s always one of the most rewarding parts of our whole year.”

Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Carrie began thinking about a career in education as she acted the part of a teacher in many a childhood game. She and her older sister, now a pediatric nurse, moved to Virginia in 1990 due to her father’s career in sales. Carrie was in fifth grade. She went on to graduate from Walsingham Academy and majored in English at James Madison University.

Carrie’s first job took her to Seoul, South Korea, where she taught English to elementary school students for about six months. “When I first called about the job, for some reason I thought it was in California,” she says with a laugh. “I didn’t speak a word of Korean. I did a whole lot of miming, singing and dancing to make points and hold their attention. It was a great adventure.”

While Carrie loved her time in Korea, life there changed drastically after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York City.

“All of the military bases went on lockdown, and there were warnings for us to lay low,” she relates. “It was very isolating and nerve-wracking, and I knew I had to come home.”

Back in the United States, Carrie earned a K-6 teaching license at Christopher Newport University and taught for a semester at Greenwood Elementary School in Newport News. Drawn to special education students, she completed a Master in Education from William & Mary and began working with older kids.

Carrie taught special education students for 10 years at James Blair Middle and Lafayette High schools. She took some time off along the way as she and her husband, Marc, a retired police officer who is now an independent government contractor, had three children: daughters Taylor, now 12, and Hailey, 9; and son Bryce, 5.

After Bryce was born, Carrie transitioned to more part-time hours. She served as a long-term substitute in the high school GED program, her first introduction to that work, and later spent two years as a GED teacher at East-

ern State Hospital before rejoining the W-JCC team.

Outside of work, Carrie enjoys camping, exercising and crafting. She’s also a big fan of karaoke, admitting that she daydreams about a career as a professional singer and dancer. In South Korea, home to many karaoke bars, she jokes that she and her distinctive red hair were stars.

“I don’t know why, because there is no talent,” she says. “I really can’t sing. Same for dance. I can’t even do aerobics. Yet in my mind, I see myself breaking into song and dance in random everyday places.”

Carrie describes herself as an “introverted extrovert.” “I like to push myself to do new things, but then I need to recharge right after.” Thankfully, Carrie Stedman always has plenty of energy and passion for her students. Even after they’ve earned a GED, she encourages them to come back and visit with her and Ben, whether they are unhappy or flourishing in life.

“We’re their biggest fans,” she says. “They might say, ‘No we can’t,’ but we say, ‘Oh yes you can.’ I wish everyone could see what I see every day. These kids are absolutely an inspiration. I’ve found my dream job.” NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

MOBILE FITNESS

By Narielle Living

After living in a combination of urban locations throughout the United States, Kristin Doherty never pictured herself moving back to a small-town life in Williamsburg. But much to her surprise, she really enjoys life here.

Originally from a suburb of Houston, Texas, Kristin came to William & Mary (W&M) as an undergraduate, where she met her future husband. “We started dating in 2002,” she says. After graduating from W&M, Kristin moved to New York City to work for JP Morgan before returning to school and getting her MBA. Armed with an MBA from the Darden School



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of Business at UVA, she moved to San Francisco, California for a year. “I was out in San Francisco and worked for Del Monte foods in marketing, which I really liked. San Francisco is probably my favorite city, it’s just very expensive. I had a teeny apartment in the marina with no parking. You had to park your car and move it every other day. The washing machine was downstairs. They had mini refrigerators because there was no space. I loved that apartment.” A different kind of love brought her back to the east coast and Virginia, where her future husband was working.

“We got engaged, so I moved to Richmond,” she says. For the last eight years she has worked for McKesson, a distributor of medical supplies. “The last four years I’ve been commuting, and with two little kids. It’s really hard.”

It was time to make a change for herself and her family. “I had always worked in corporate. At McKesson, I was doing marketing and business development and negotiating, which I really liked.” Living in the Williamsburg area, though, meant that in order to give up a commute she would have to focus on a different

kind of job opportunity.

When she lived in San Francisco, Kristin had taken classes in the Bar Method. The Bar Method starts with a warm-up, upper-body exercises and push-ups, followed by a sequence of leg and seat work at the barre and core exercises on the floor. “That was about 10 years ago,” she says. But doing something in the world of fitness held an appeal for her. “That’s always been in the back of my mind because I really like fitness.” Plus, she loved the thought of owning a business. “My two grandfathers did business together. They both had their own business, and that’s how my parents met.”

Despite having entrepreneurs in the family, Kristin never had an idea she thought was viable. But with her husband’s encouragement, she began to explore what opportunities might be available to her.

“I got introduced to a franchise coach, which I never knew existed,” she says. “They’re connected to about 500 franchises; it’s almost like a broker, like a Realtor, and they are paid by the franchise if you sign up. I met with this guy in Richmond a friend had recommended because

he knew I was trying to think about long term.” The person she met with reviewed her budget and talked with her about her interests. “I’ve always had an interest in fitness, especially when I was commuting a lot.”

Kristin acknowledges that fitness is a key component of everyday health. “I got out of shape, and I had my son and needed to get back in shape,” she says. “It affects your self-esteem, your mental health, everything, so I’m really passionate about it.”

After presenting a few ideas to Kristin, her franchise broker talked with her about Gymguyz, a mobile fitness unit. “I just loved it because I loved the convenience of being in people’s homes. My mom passed away from MS, and she did one-on-one training her last couple of years because it was hard for her to go places. It made such a big difference with stability and her core and her self-esteem.”

Exercise has become an integral part of everyday life, from teenaged athletes to people trying to stay fit to anyone trying to maintain strength and balance. “I love the idea of helping people,” she says. “You’re helping people get



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healthy, reach their goals, and the neat thing is that coming to your home is great.” Being a busy mom, she understands that eliminating an average of 20 minutes to the gym and 20 minutes back is a big deal for many. “And the accountability is great, too,” she says. Knowing someone is going to show up at your door to do a workout makes it less likely that people will skip them, especially once they are scheduled and paid for.

“I have this crazy red van, and it has 365 pieces of equipment in it,” she says. The trainer drives the van to the house, and they’ll bring whatever equipment is needed for that day and they’ll plan your schedule. “They mix it up,” Kristin says. “They have so many pieces that every time it will be different and unique. It’s based on the client. A teen athlete will probably use different weights than somebody else. What’s neat is that they can customize it. They don’t need a lot of space to make it work.”

In addition to the fitness being mobile and easily accessible, Kristin loves that each program can be tailored according to special needs or age range. “You can be teenagers in sports to

people like me, a mom, to the older population like my mother-in-law. In New York, they’ve also started working with special needs kids, which I have a passion for too. It’s just cool because you can do a lot of different things versus a brick and mortar facility.”

Currently, Kristin is training for her National Academy of Sports Medicine Certification. She will go with the trainer she hired, an ex-football player, to perform assessments and meet the clients until she is fully certified. “Long term, I’d like to work with special needs or MS clients, but I’ll be the day-to-day manager.”


Family is important to Kristin. Because her mother suffered with MS, she still spends time volunteering in several capacities for the local MS Walk. “I’m on two leadership committees, the Hampton Roads Council for MS and the Williamsburg Walk leadership committee. I’ve walked for the past 10 years, in Connecticut, Richmond, Charlottesville... everywhere. Now I’m more heavily involved. We will be a sponsor at the MS walk this year and have a Gymguyz team.”

Her current focus with the MS Walks is to

bring more awareness to their existence. “On the committee, we’re trying to figure out how to get the word out more. Last year was my first year on the leadership to try to get involved.”

The MS walks are held in April, and Kristin will be one of many friendly faces at this event. “The Williamsburg one is April 25,” she says. “It’s in the morning, it’s a flat surface, it’s a one to three mile walk and is kid friendly. Last year, we had kid tents with face painting and games. Normally, they have a barbeque after.”

Kristin is happy to be in this area and loves all that it has to offer. As an added bonus, her mother-in-law lives in the same neighborhood as she and her husband. “That’s so great,” she says. “We really like it here. We have a nice group of friends, and there’s so many things to do.”

Kristin Doherty is excited to bring a new type of fitness to athletes and non-athletes alike, but she is also especially excited to be part of the Williamsburg community. “When we went to school here, I never thought we’d end up here, but we have a two-year-old and a five-year-old so it’s a very easy place to live with kids.” 



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While growing up in the outskirts of New York City, Suzanne Douglas became fascinated with the glitz and glamour involved with the city's world-renowned fashion scene. An obsession with stylish clothing, shoes and accessories led to a career in the fashion industry. These days, as a style coach and owner of the company Style Capital, Suzanne takes great pleasure in helping to dress the women and men of Williamsburg.

"New York City always had my attention, ever since I was a little girl," Suzanne says. "I've always been into fashion and the glamour and excitement of city life. I've always loved looking at all the fashion magazines and the infinite ways you can combine colors, lines and shapes to make works of art."

Though she majored in psychology at Duke University in North Carolina after graduating from high school, Suzanne was drawn back to New York City and the world of fashion. She started her career in 1977 as a fashion buyer with the Federated Department Stores in New York.

"I just loved it," she says.

Suzanne moved on to a career in advertising and spent more than two decades living in international cities including Rome, Italy and London, while working for the world-famous advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi. Yearning to return to fashion, Suzanne sought advice from a career counselor who suggested she become an image consultant.

"I had no idea what that even was," Suzanne says with a laugh.

Giving the Gift of Style

By Brandy Centolanza

That night, she did some research and was intrigued.

"Image consultants understand how to put someone together that reflects who they are personally and makes them look stylish, powerful and confident," she says. "I really missed the fashion industry and thought that it was something that I could do."

Suzanne underwent months of in-depth training in London to become a certified image consultant. The training consisted of workshops, lectures, classes and practice in various areas of fashion including body lines; body shape; facial shape; the correct fit; corporate style analysis; and color and how different colors affect the skin.

"There was a full week just on color alone," Suzanne says. "It was very intensive." Suzanne completed training and became a member of the Association of Image Consultants International (AICI). In 2007, she started the business Style Capital, where she works as a

style and personal brand expert. At the time, she was still based out of London and worked with big corporate clients such as Procter & Gamble, BT Group (British Telecom) and Duracell (Berkshire Hathaway). A year later, Suzanne relocated to Williamsburg to be closer to family.

Since starting Style Capital, Suzanne has worked with hundreds of clients between London and Williamsburg. While most clients are women, some men also contact her for services, which include either a color analysis focusing on skin, hair and eyes or a style analysis where Suzanne focuses on body lines and proportion to determine what types of clothing look best on a person.

"Every single person is different, and what works well on one person may not work on another," Suzanne says.

The process begins with a free 20-minute style conversation, where Suzanne and her client assess the client's actual needs. "Sometimes it's a matter of just too many clothes, or too few, or the client just never feels put together," Suzanne says. "I help determine if we need a style analysis, a color analysis or a complete makeover."

The next step is a three-hour consultation in the client's home, evaluating the client's wardrobe and figuring out what works and what doesn't.

"We start by determining what the person's style personality is because we all have one," she says. "What kind of image does the person want to present to the world? Then we move into

the closet and identify which pieces the person loves, which are no longer working and we edit the wardrobe.”

Possessing too many clothes is a problem for the majority of Suzanne’s clients. In most instances, women only wear 20 percent of their clothing on a regular basis.

“If you have too many clothes, it becomes hard to decide what to wear in the morning,” Suzanne says. “The fewer the clothes you have, the more the outfits you have. If you have too many clothes, you just get lost.”

Next is the fun part, organizing the closet and creating new outfits from what the client already owns.

“I’ll show them what pieces they could be wearing that will make them look fabulous,” she says. “There was one woman who was going to give away a jacket she owned because she didn’t know how to use it and I helped her come up with three different outfits with it. Usually, my clients will come out with ten new outfits.”

Suzanne takes photos of each outfit so the client can use them when getting dressed each day. She also assists with creating a shopping list of any add-ons for outfits such as shoes, bags and any other accessories.

“If you have the perfect outfit but the wrong

shoes, then you don’t have the outfit,” Suzanne says.

Her favorite part of the job is color analysis. Suzanne uses special coloring drapes to match the perfect hues to a person based on skin complexion, eye color and hair color. Most people fall under four color categories: spring, summer, autumn or winter.

“I could do color analysis all day long,” she says. “I just love it.”

Her busiest times of the year tend to be spring or fall when the weather changes and people feel as they don’t have anything to wear for the coming season. Occasionally, she will work with someone who needs attention for special events such as weddings and other important celebrations. Roughly 90 percent of Suzanne’s clients are women. She’s worked with young professional women, stay-at-home mothers, women who need assistance with casual outfitting and others who just want a complete overhaul of their appearance.

“The youngest woman I’ve worked with was a woman going off to college and the oldest woman was an 80-year-old whose family bought her a head to toe makeover,” Suzanne says. “She was twirling around for everybody when we were done. She was on cloud nine. It was so reward-

ing.”

More people are hiring style coaches thanks to social media websites such as Instagram.

“They see that celebrities have stylists, but it’s not as expensive as you think when you factor in the money you’ll be saving on clothes,” Suzanne says. “What woman doesn’t want their own stylist? We hire people to do interior design for our homes. We should do the same for ourselves.”

The end results are just as satisfying for Suzanne as they are for her clients.

“I love seeing the transformation,” Suzanne says. “They look enthusiastic, they look great, they feel great. It’s not only a visual transformation but also a transformation in their confidence.”

Suzanne has also worked with the non-profit organization Here for the Girls, offering classes and expertise to breast cancer patients during the organization’s annual spring retreat. She also writes style articles, gives presentations and sits on the committee for the annual conference of AICI. Eventually, Suzanne would like to earn the next level of certification through AICI.

“When I see someone that is very well put together, it gives me such pleasure,” Suzanne Douglas says. “It’s very aesthetic. I love looking at them. I see what I do as a gift, and I like giving to other people.” NDN



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Serving Through Dentistry

By Dawn Brotherton



Dr. Matthew Joose didn't set out to be a dentist. Some people know what they want to do from an early age but many people don't. Matt followed his interests and passions as opportunities arose and now has discovered a career he loves, working with people he cares for deeply. He enjoys making a difference in people's lives through Joose Family Orthodontics.

Matt first came to Williamsburg to attend William & Mary (W&M) as an undergraduate studying biology. Then he attended graduate school for neuroscience at Miami University in Florida. While he loved the science aspect, he felt too removed from helping people. For a short time, he returned to W&M to work in the college admissions office. He traveled around the state, trying to defuse the anxiety kids go through as they apply for college. While he found connecting with people satisfying, he still wanted a way to marry something within the science field to working directly with people.

"I didn't grow up trying to be a dentist or an orthodontist. And I didn't even go through dental school trying to be an orthodontist," Matt says. He went on a Mission of Mercy Proj-

ect to Wise, Virginia, with his neighbor who worked for the Virginia Dental Association and coordinated trips for Mission of Mercy. "That's where I glimpsed dentistry and said, this is a great way to serve people, be active, and produce things with your hands. And that was it." Matt returned to Richmond and applied to the University of Pennsylvania's dental school. Through a professional program offered by the military, the Air Force paid for his school, and Matt served five years of active duty in return. He met his wife, Alex, while in Pennsylvania, and they moved to Travis Air Force Base, California, for his initial training. For his second assignment, they went to Tucson, Arizona, so Alex could get her PhD from the University of Arizona. After Matt's tour was up, they moved to San Francisco for his orthodontics residency. When a job opened at W&M for Alex to teach public policy, the Joose family found themselves back in Williamsburg.

After working as an associate in an orthodontics practice for two years, Matt purchased it and opened Joose Family Orthodontics on Professional Drive. "The best part about orthodontics is you make a tangible difference in

people's lives. A lot of times it's with kids when they're really forming their identity, but [it's important] even for adults," Matt says. He relayed a story about an older patient who felt it was too late to go through the treatment, but she wrote him afterward to tell him she had never been happier with her smile. It made his day.

When he isn't at work, you can probably find Matt running in Williamsburg. "I really enjoy trail running. I would love to see a more robust trail scene in Williamsburg." Matt found a map outlining the many mountain bike trails in town and has made it a goal to run every one of them. "I got involved in this trail running club in dental school in Philadelphia and just fell in love."

Somehow Matt convinced one of his friends to run the Grand Canyon rim to rim with him. "It took us five hours to go about twenty-three miles. There was snow at the top, and it was hot at the bottom. We got to experience it all," he says. It took special organizing for the trip, having to plan for extreme temperature changes, contingencies for potential injuries, and enough food and water for the journey. "It was awesome."

But the run doesn't have to be a planned trip. "My wife thinks I'm crazy because I'll just look at a map and see trails. I don't need to mark it. I don't care if it turns into a ten-mile run," he says. One day when they were living in northern California, Matt decided he was in the mood for a run. "We lived in the hills that separate East Bay from Oakland. We were in Berkeley, and I said I'm going to run home. It's just over the hills and down. I'll figure it out; there's trails in there. I've got a good enough sense of direction that I'll make it out."

Matt and his twin brother were Army brats. His father's last duty assignment at Fort Lee brought them to Virginia, so their family settled in Richmond where Matt and Michael completed high school. Throughout their travels, their father always tried to take them to major league baseball games. "I've been to almost all the stadiums across the country," Matt says. "There are only six I haven't been to." When he was eight, he even approached his baseball hero Ryne Sandberg to collect an autographed ball at a Cubs game.

Their father was an athlete, playing baseball, basketball and football. Matt decided to take a different route and focused on soccer and cross

country in high school. In college, he was exposed to even more sports, picking up golf and playing ultimate frisbee on the club team. He enjoys mountain biking and is still a very active runner. "My dad is probably the reason why I love sports so much," Matt says. They were constantly at the park playing tennis, basketball, or soccer. It didn't matter to Matt. If it was a sport, he wanted to try it.

Matt and Alex have passed along their love of sports to their three children, Peter, Asher and Ada. Alex is European and grew up on the ski slopes. They were married in June 2008 and traveled to South America to ski on their honeymoon. The two oldest kids learned to ski when they were three years old, and they look forward to getting Ada on the slopes next year. Peter and Asher are already playing soccer, and the whole family tries out various games together.

Since Matt has returned to his college town, he hosts his fraternity brothers for an annual get together. "We do a morning of sports. We'll play dodgeball, basketball, volleyball and other different things, and then we have our fantasy football draft in the afternoon and maybe play cards or something at night," Matt says.

He also has his kids hooked on W&M

games. They try to attend as many basketball, soccer and football games as they can. Even when they can't attend, the kids still keep track of who won which game. They are definitely Tribe fans.

With all his different interests, Matt is very well-rounded. "I love just learning about new things," he says. His brother is an artist in Chicago, and Matt used to think they were opposites, with Matt concentrating on the science. But with his discovery of orthodontics, he has changed his mind.

"There's a core component that's very science. You have to understand bone biology and metabolism and all these things, but I think there's also an artistic side. If you had to build up half of a tooth from filling material, you have to be able to picture the whole thing in your head and then craft what it's going to look like. You don't have to do that, and it would still function, but there's some pride in making it look really good," Matt says. He works hard to ensure his patients are happy with their smile.

Dr. Matthew Joose has an incredible desire to serve people. "If my gift was fixing cars, I'd be fixing cars. But my gift, for whatever reason, is working on teeth." NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

An Inspection of Life

By Narielle Living

When Peter Bunai decides to do something, he starts from the very beginning, learns everything he can and builds what he needs. A kind of a Renaissance man, Peter has had varied career experience that led him to where he is today: inspecting homes to help people understand their investment.

Like many before him, Peter first came to this area because he enlisted in the Navy. When he was a teenager, a navy recruiter visited his high school. “He drew the schematic of a nuclear power plant on the board, and as he’s talking, I thought nuclear power was fascinating.”

After getting out of the Navy, Peter had a job building furniture. “From that, I wanted to do my own thing,” he says. “Build furniture and build cabinets.” Determined to make a go of it, he built furniture and cabinets for almost

a decade. At that point, he decided it was time to build a house.

“I had done a bunch of framing and carpentry,” he says. “I worked as a framer the summer after high school, and I really liked it.” Armed with a general knowledge of how houses were built, he spoke with his mother, who also wanted to build a house. “She wanted me to come out and help her.” Helping her, however, meant traveling to North Sydney, Australia. “I went out there, and she had this idea about alternative construction. The only thing I’d been exposed to was typical American construction, which was straightforward and had 2x4s, insulation and drywall.” Undaunted, his mother told him what weekend to arrive so he could take a class and learn the details of mud brick construction. He decided to humor her.

Much to his surprise, learning about this alternative form of home building changed his entire perspective. “I was really blown away,” he says. “I thought, oh my gosh, these people are building these beautiful structures out of mud brick. They’re cool in the day, warm at night and using all-natural materials. You’re making something from everything around you.” This experience caused Peter to rethink everything he thought he knew about homes, especially homes in America. “When I came back, and I wanted to build my own home, I wanted to build an alternative home.”

After giving it some thought, he opted against the mud brick construction and decided instead on a straw bale house. “We’re in a much colder climate here in Virginia than North Sydney,” he says. Starting from the beginning, he went to the local building inspec-

tor with his ideas. "I told him what I wanted to do, and he just starts shaking his head and saying we don't build like that around here." Impervious to the inspector's dismissal of his project, Peter set out to educate the man. He brought in materials on straw bale, purchased a magazine subscription to a periodical called *The Last Straw* and spoke with the inspector often.

Finally, the building inspector acquiesced, on the condition that Peter hire an architect certified in Virginia. Peter agreed.

Once the plans were finalized, it came time to actually build the house. "I really wanted to do everything myself so I literally chopped down trees, I brought in a portable saw mill, I milled all the lumber I was going to use for the house, I baled..." If it needed to be done to get the house built, Peter did it by hand himself. In the end, the environmentally sound house was built.

"That project went really well," Peter says. That was the beginning of his next career. "A friend of mine asked me to build him a house, so I built him a house. Then I ended up working with another fellow and built a bunch more houses. I designed each house, got the plans approved, I cleared the land and I did everything." Peter worked in this industry until the housing recession of 2008, when new building and real estate sales ground to a halt. At that point, he was ready for a change.

Peter joined the Newport News police department and worked with them for over eight years. "They have a thing where if you're 50 years old, you can retire by age, so I did."

After almost a decade of law enforcement, the world of houses and buildings called to him again. "I got a job with a local home inspector, and it was a perfect match." Peter quickly realized that all the work he had done in the home building industry made him a

stronger home inspector. After six months of working with someone else, he struck out on his own.

"I had a non-compete, so I actually went to Fredericksburg and started a business there, First Choice Home Inspections. For two years I worked in Fredericksburg as a home inspector while I lived here, in Williamsburg. When my non-compete ended, I started working in Williamsburg, and it's been really great."

In order to become a home inspector in Virginia, a person has to take a test and perform a certain number of home inspections. As is noted on the First Choice Home Inspections website, all of his standard residential home inspections are based on the ASHI (American Standard Home Inspection) standards of practice. However, not all home inspectors have the same approach to a house. For Peter, the more thorough the inspection the better.

"The main thing I want to focus on is educating people about the home. A lot of home inspectors give a report at the end but they're not always spending time with people telling them about the house. I inspect the outside of the house, and I take my client and we walk around and talk about everything on the outside of the house. Then I inspect the mechanical stuff, and while I'm doing that they wander around the house or whatever and then they look at the mechanical stuff and I explain everything they need to know about the mechanical stuff." With that kind of back and forth conversation, Peter is better able to educate the homeowner about their investment. "Usually by the time I'm done, people have a very clear picture of the pluses and the minuses of the home. My goal is that they leave the inspection with a good understanding of what they're getting into."

During his time as a home inspector, Peter has seen situations that could have been

avoided if the previous inspector had been more thorough. "I went to a house in Colonial Beach, and the complaint was that the floors were uneven, and they were going up and down by as much as three inches in the house." According to Peter, the homeowner told him that the previous home inspector did not go under the house. When Peter went under the house, what he saw shocked him.

"There were literally piles of bricks and blocks supporting the floor. None of the piles of bricks and blocks had a footing underneath them." Because Colonial Beach is low, rain water often stands under the homes. "It was an older home, and over time, these piles of bricks and blocks were sinking into the mud at different rates. If the last home inspector had crawled under the house, it would have been really obvious."

According to Peter, people don't have to hire a home inspector only when they are buying or selling a home. Some people just want to know about the condition of their home. "You can learn about things that will save you money down the road if you do them now."

He has recently begun flying planes. "It was a lifetime dream," he says. "I always wanted to be a pilot." Because this was something he wanted to do, about six years ago Peter decided to build his own airplane. "I started building this little one-seat wooden airplane, and I got about 80 percent complete." At that point he realized if he completed the project he would want to fly it, and he went out and got his pilot's license at the flight center in Williamsburg. "During the process of learning to fly, I had so much fun I bought an airplane."

Peter Bunai lives his life to the absolute fullest and always puts family first. "I'm married and have four children," he says. Then his face breaks into a big smile. "And one on the way. I really love my life here in Williamsburg." 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! REGAINING HOPE FOR SEPARATED AND DI- VORCED CATHOLICS

January 2020

St. Bede Catholic Church's Separated & Divorced Ministry offers an opportunity to come together for support, hope & healing. A new 12-week program will begin in January 2020. Please contact us at StBedeGroup@gmail.com for meeting times and location

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG WOMEN'S CHORUS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

January 1-16, 2020

Williamsburg Women's Chorus extends an invitation to any woman interested in singing beautiful choral music. We rehearse on Thursdays from 10 - noon at Bruton Parish House beginning on January 9 and ending in our spring concert May 12. If you are interested, please send a message to Beckie Davy at bdavy@brutonparish.org for a musical interview.

Hey Neighbor!

TRINITY ORGAN CONCERT SERIES

January 8, 2020

Celebrate the Christmas Season by traveling through music from around the world. Your tour will include Christmas carols of France, Germany, Poland, England, Puerto Rico and more! Hear arrangements of some familiar favorites as well as music from a distant land. Time: Noon at Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road. For information about this free concert, call 757-229-3631 or visit www.bedeva.org/concerts.

Hey Neighbor! ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ART SHOW AT WCAC

January 14 - February 14, 2020

The Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center is kicking off its 17th Annual High School Student Show. The show features 2-D and 3-D artwork by students from seven area schools. Also featured in the Fireside Gallery is new work by winners of the 2019 Members Show. WCAC is located at 110 Westover Ave. Hours: 11-3 Tues.-Sat.; 12-4 Sun. WCAC is closed

Dec. 21-Jan. 13. 757-229-4949.
www.VisitWCAC.org

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANTS AVAILABLE

January 15, 2020

The Williamsburg Community Foundation has grants of up to \$5,000 available from its Community Endowment to support a wide variety of programs that benefit greater Williamsburg. WCF grant investments focus on five specific areas of interest: Arts & Culture, Children & Young Adults, Environment & Conservation, Health & Community Wellness, and Senior Services. The deadline to apply is January 15, 2020, for grants to be awarded in April 2020. See grant guidelines and application at <https://williamsburgcommunityfoundation.org>. Questions? Call 757-259-1660.

Hey Neighbor! MASTERWORKS CONCERT

January 16, 2020

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra presents the fourth Masterworks concert of the season

featuring Music Director candidate, James Blachly. The musical program will include Dame Ethel Smyth's Chorale Prelude from The Prison, Samuel Barber Knoxville: Summer of 1915 with Kathryn Mueller, soprano, and Dvorak Symphony No. 8. At the Williamsburg Community Chapel. Tickets at www.williamsburgsymphony.org/concerts or available at the door.

Hey Neighbor! FITNESS OPEN HOUSE

January 18, 2020

9-11:30 a.m. at the James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road. Welcome the New Year with a new routine. Aquatic and land instructors will be available to discuss their classes, formats and typical modifications with you in a personal setting. Participate in mini classes throughout the morning. Sentara nurses will be available to administer health screenings. No registration required. All ages welcome; children must be accompanied by an adult. For information, call 757-259-4176.

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PRUNING CLINIC

January 18, 2020

From 10 - 11:30 am at Freedom Park Interpretive Center, 5537 Centerville Road, Williamsburg. The Master Gardeners Pruning Team will show you how to care and prune your trees and shrubs during their winter dormancy. Free but limited seating. Register to guarantee your spot at www.bit.ly/growjan2020. A suggestion donation of \$5 at the door will help the Garden grow and continue its mission.

Hey Neighbor!

COVENANT CHRISTIAN SCHOOL VISION TOUR

January 21, 2020

The mission of Covenant Christian School is to glorify God by creating a Christ-centered, learning community of Covenant families in which education is an atmosphere, a discipline, and a life. If you would like to see firsthand what makes Covenant Christian School different, join us at 8:15 am or 2 pm at 116 Palace Lane for our 45 minute school vision tour. To RSVP, please call 757-378-2189. Website: ccswilliamsburg.org.

Hey Neighbor!

CABARET & COCKTAILS

January 25, 2020

The Williamsburg Symphony Orchestra's popular Cabaret & Cocktails is featuring singer-songwriter, Ann Hampton Callaway. She will perform "Diva to Diva", celebrating the past century of the song and songstress including music from Judy Garland, Ella Fitzger-

ald, Carole King, Linda Ronstadt, Sarah Vaughan and more. It will take place in the Virginia Room at the Williamsburg Lodge, 8 pm. Tickets are \$45/\$65/\$85 at table rounds and can be purchased at www.williamsburgsymphony.org/concerts.

Hey Neighbor!

LATISHA'S HOUSE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GALA

January 25, 2020

Latisha's House Foundation (LHF), a long-term safe house for adult female victims of sex trafficking that offers individualized support to empower them to build a bridge from their traumatic past to a positive future, will hold its annual gala from 5:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. at Two Rivers Country Club. This year's theme, An Evening of Wine and Roses, will feature a Five Course Dinner with Wine Pairings, a Silent and Live Auction, and Dancing. For information on sponsorship and tickets, contact the LHF office at (757) 346-5344, latishashouse@gmail.com or visit the website at latishashouse.com.

Hey Neighbor!

FAMILY HEALTH FAIR

January 25, 2020

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg and JCC partner to offer this FREE family friendly Health Fair from 9 am - 12 pm at the James City County Recreation Center located at 5301 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. Vendors, demos, raffles, health screenings, dance, and fitness will be featured. Activities for all ages! Website: thearcgw.org

Hey Neighbor!

MUSCARELLE MUSEUM EXTENDS EXHIBITION

Through January 26, 2020

Come see the exhibition 1619 / 2019 at the Muscarelle Museum of Art on the campus of William & Mary (603 Jamestown Road). Works of art in a variety of media and techniques, including weaving, quilting, cast iron, mosaic, painting, drawing, photography and prints are on view in the exhibition organized by the Muscarelle for the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first documented Africans in Colonial Virginia. Admission is free for the general public for this exhibition. See muscarelle.org for hours.

Hey Neighbor!

GRIEFSHARE

January 26, 2020

Walnut Hills Baptist Church, 1014 Jamestown Road, will offer a one-time GriefShare program on Loss of a Spouse at 2 pm in the church Hospitality Center. This ministry is a Biblical, Christ-centered support group for those who have lost a spouse. It includes a video seminar, small group discussion and a participant guide. There is no fee for this one-time meeting, but registration is required. Contact: Carol Mitchell at carol.mitchell@cox.net or 757-345-6294. For more information, visit whbconline.org.

Hey Neighbor!

COMMUNITY OF FAITH MISSION

January 31, 2020

Warm Up Williamsburg will be

held from 5:15 - 8 pm at the Williamsburg Community Chapel on John Tyler Highway. The local culinary community comes together to support the event by donating soups, breads, baked goods, and supplies. Elderberry Jam will donate their talents to the evening as well. A limited number of tickets will be available, \$25 ea online at COFM.info. Tickets may be available at the door- Cash/check only for \$30 ea. For questions or to volunteer contact Suzanne Jarvis: suzannejarvis@cofm.info.

Hey Neighbor!

5TH ANNUAL "AN EVENING FOR BACON STREET" GALA

February 21, 2020

Kingsmill Resort. Once Upon A Time, the community gathered for an enchanting evening of live music, a three-course meal, and live and silent auctions to celebrate those in our community who are making a difference in the fields of adolescent substance use prevention and treatment. Tickets on sale at baconstreet.org/gala

Hey Neighbor!

WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD PRESENTS SEVEN LAST WORDS

March 1, 2020

4 pm, at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Rd. The Williamsburg Choral Guild presents our winter concert, Seven Last Words, featuring Richard Burchard's large work for choir, strings, and organ of the same name. We're honored to perform this exquisite work in

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collaboration with Old Dominion University's F. Ludwig Diehn Chorale, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Klein. contact tickets@williamsburgchoralguild.org. For more information, contact www.williamsburgchoralguild.org.

Hey Neighbor! **HANDS-ON HEARTH COOKING WORKSHOP**

March 14, 2020

From 10 am-4 pm at Chippokes Plantation State Park. Sign up today for this Hands-On Workshop and learn how to cook like our ancestors did! Recreate recipes from 17th, 18th and 19th century sources and taste everything you make in class! Class Size is limited so sign up early! Ages 16+ | Register online at <http://17thvirginiacook.wixsite.com/workshops>

Hey Neighbor! **57TH ANNUAL ART ON THE SQUARE**

April 26, 2020

The 57th Annual Art on the Square will be held from 10 am – 5 pm. Art on the Square is a juried show that is dedicated to providing original, high quality, handcrafted and diverse mediums of art. It is located on Duke of Gloucester and North Boundary Street in Merchants Square. The event features more than 150 artists and is free and open to the public. Proceeds from artist booth fees are donated to visual and performing arts organizations throughout the greater Williamsburg area including Williamsburg, James City and York counties.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG CHORAL GUILD MAY CONCERT**

May 3, 2020

4 pm, Williamsburg United Methodist Church, 500 Jamestown Rd., Williamsburg. For tickets, visit tickets@williamsburgchoralguild.org. We hope you'll join the Williamsburg Choral Guild for our spring concert celebrating the art of storytelling with a program entitled Fable. You'll hear works by Eric Whitacre (Goodnight Moon), Sam Pottle (The Jabberwocky),

and Bob Chilcott (Aesop's Fables), to name a few. We will be joined by the Jamestown High School Chamber Choir, under the direction of Matthew Rapach. For more information, visit www.williamsburgchoralguild.org.

Hey Neighbor! **HOPE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER**

Ongoing

Hope is a ministry that actively serves all women and their families who are dealing with the challenges of an unplanned pregnancy. We provide material, emotion and spiritual support as our clients work for stability in their lives. Our services are free and confidential. We rely on you for donations of new or gently used maternity clothing, baby clothing up to 2T, diapers and formula. We are open Monday-Thursday 10:30 am-3 pm. Wednesdays, 6:30 pm -8:30 pm. 1315 Jamestown Road, Suite 202. 757-229-6472. Website: www.hopewilliamsburg.org

Hey Neighbor! **COLONIAL PIECEMAKERS QUILT GUILD**

Ongoing

Meets monthly (except July) on the 1st Saturday of the month at 9:30 am at King of Glory Lutheran Church, 4897 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg. Monthly speakers and classes. Guests welcome. www.colonialpiecemakers.com.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG COMMUNITY GROWERS**

Ongoing

Be a part of our healthy community food ecosystem and learn and volunteer with us! Our 10 acre teaching farm and community garden is located between Warhill High School and the stadium. We have Volunteer Work Parties monthly on Second Saturdays and weekly on Terrific Tuesdays (seasonally). Visit our website, follow us on Facebook and Instagram, find us on SignUp and MeetUp, or email growwilliamsburg@gmail.com to find out more.

Hey Neighbor! **GROVE COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Ongoing

Come grow with us! Garden plots and volunteer opportunities abound at the organic/biodynamic Grove Community Garden! Learn to grow your own food by participating in our Second Sunday Garden Days at 4:30 p.m., or stop by the garden after 4 p.m. Mon-Fri and on weekends. Adopt a garden bed and produce your own nutrient-dense food for you and your family, volunteer your time, or donate! Jordan Sturdivant, Director, 757-418-5274.

Hey Neighbor! **GROVE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH CENTER**

Ongoing

Grove Christian Outreach Center, located at 8800 Pocahontas Trail is gratefully accepting volunteer applications on a regular basis. Call 757-887-1100 to schedule an appointment to come in for a tour and to see how you can get involved. Grove Trotter Boxes are also available to local businesses and groups for ongoing food/toy/clothing drives! Contact Barb by email at barb@groveoutreach.com for more information. Also, check us out on the web at www.groveoutreach.com to find out business and client hours, and "like" us on Facebook to keep up to date on regular events!

Hey Neighbor! **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Ongoing

Please consider volunteering an afternoon per week or a Saturday morning with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program during the coming tax season. VITA provides free tax return preparation and e-filing services February 1 through April 15 for low to moderate income taxpayers who need assistance in preparing their federal and state tax returns. VITA will train you to complete tax returns for our clients. Please contact Al Cummins at 757-259-0739 or at almarlene10@cox.net if you wish to join this very worthwhile community effort.

Hey Neighbor! **VOLUNTEER WITH SENTARA WILLIAMSBURG REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER**

Ongoing

Our volunteers play a vital role in helping us provide exceptional health care. Our volunteers generously give their time to help others. The department matches individual talents and interests to the needs within the hospital as possible. New volunteers attend an orientation to familiarize themselves with the responsibilities of volunteering and any specialized training their service area requires. Contact: Debi Hardin, Volunteer Coordinator @dnhardin@sentara.com or call 757-984-7195.

Hey Neighbor! **WOMAN'S CLUB MEETING**

Ongoing

The Woman's Club of Williamsburg-GFWC is a group of women with many different talents and in-



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terests who have banded together to enrich the quality of life for citizens of our community, all while having fun and forming life-long friendships. We meet monthly for a short business meeting and to enjoy lunch and hear from an invited speaker. Email Linda (linda@womansclubofwilliamsburg.org) or Mary (mary@womansclubofwilliamsburg.org) if you'd like to join or attend a meeting. To get more information about our activities, visit us online at womanclubofwilliamsburg.org.

Hey Neighbor! **PINOCHLE OR BID WHIST CARD GAMES**

Ongoing

Senior group of card players is looking for any person(s) who would like to play either Pinochle or Bid Whist cards. We meet every Tuesday at Williamsburg's Moose lodge from 1:30 - 4 p.m. Location: 5429 Richmond Rd, call 703-944-5107 for questions.

Hey Neighbor! **JOIN MASTER GARDENERS**

Ongoing

The VCE Master Gardener Program is currently accepting applications for its 2020 Training Class! The entirely community-based volunteer program has been providing high-quality horticulture-based programs for James City County and Williamsburg for over 20 years, with guidance and leadership from Virginia Tech and the Virginia Cooperative Extension. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 9 am - 12 noon, January 7 - March 26, 2020. For application and more information, please visit us online at www.jccwmg.org or call the VCE office at 757-564-2170.

Hey Neighbor! **NEW PARKINSON'S SUPPORT GROUP**

Ongoing

Led by Dr. Lyzette E. Velazquez of Riverside Neurology and Sleep Specialists. Dr. Velazquez offers a free, well-round monthly discussion featuring, in addition to herself, experts in the field, in-

cluding physical therapists, dietitians, home health care workers, psychologists and more who will provide education information useful to anyone who interacts with the disease. Fourth Tuesday of each month, 2 pm, at Riverside Doctor's Hospital Williamsburg, 1500 Commonwealth Avenue, Conference Rooms A&B. Open to the general public. Parkinson's patients, caregivers, health care workers, interested community members.

Hey Neighbor! **THE ARC NEEDS DRIVERS!**

Ongoing

The Arc of Greater Williamsburg is seeking additional drivers to transport clients to evening activities and programs in our beautiful, handicapped accessible vehicles. Paid and volunteer positions are available! Activities are conducted 7-9 p.m. CDL license is not required. DMV and background checks will be conducted. For information please email: pam.mcgregor@thearcgw.org. Visit our website at thearcgw.org.

Hey Neighbor! **OSHER COURSES & LECTURES**

Ongoing

The Osher Institute at William & Mary concludes its 28th year of lifelong learning with nearly 178 courses, activities and one-time-lectures, ranging from the arts to American and world history to technology to contemporary issues and more. Visit www.wm.edu/osher to review courses and lecture topics and signup for a membership and register for courses. Members may register for up to eight courses and an unlimited number of activities and one-time-lectures each semester. Questions? Call 757-221-1506 or email us at osher@wm.edu. We will be happy to help, and we look forward to meeting you too.

Hey Neighbor! **THE WILLIAMSBURG ROSE AND THISTLE - EMBROIDERY**

Ongoing

This chapter of the Embroiderer's

Guild of America meets the second Tuesday of each month (except June and December) from 10 am - noon at King of Glory Lutheran Church at 4897 Longhill Road in Williamsburg (Room 313). Bring your stitching and meet other area stitchers. For information, contact Jennifer Reed at (202) 200-1369 or LNER4468@hotmail.com.

Hey Neighbor! **DONATIONS NEEDED**

Ongoing

Foundation for Rehabilitation Equipment & Endowment (F.R.E.E.) is in need of gently used shower chairs, tub transfer benches, grab bars, rollators, transport (lightweight) wheelchairs, manual wheelchairs in all adult sizes. Bariatric wheelchairs and rollators are especially needed. To donate, contact Diane Harrah, Program Assistant, F.R.E.E. Williamsburg Chapter, 757-707-4741. F.R.E.E. is a non-profit that gifts mobility related equipment to adults who are uninsured or under insured and have no other means of obtaining needed mobility related equipment and bathroom transfer aids. If you or someone you know is in need of equipment call 757-707-4741 or visit our website at www.free-foundation.org. Find us on Facebook at F.R.E.E. Foundation of Virginia.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG EAGLES**

Ongoing

The Williamsburg Eagles Aerie 4548, a nonprofit group that gives back to the local community, is located at 113 Palace Lane in Williamsburg (behind Jose Tequila's and Rocco's). A couple of fun facts about the FOE Eagles: 1904- Eagles make the first public plea for Mother's Day; 1935- Eagles played prominent role in the passing of the Social Security Act; in 1985, blooming from a strong relationship with member and entertainer Danny Thomas, the Eagles became the first organization to top \$1 million in donations to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital. Call Kevin Mallory for more information: 757-259-6868.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (WAARC)**

Ongoing

The Williamsburg Amateur Radio Club (WAARC) meets every month on the Second Tuesday at 7 pm in the Community Room of the JCC Library on Croaker Rd. Vast opportunities to enjoy amateur radio and perform public service to the community. Members meet for breakfast every Saturday. Visit us at k4rc.net. or email to info@k4rc.net for more details.

Hey Neighbor! **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED, WILLIAMSBURG FAITH IN ACTION**

Ongoing

Faith In Action relies on volunteers to help keep seniors living independently in their own homes. Volunteers transport care receivers to doctor's appointments, the grocery store, bank, pharmacy, etc. Volunteers also provide in-home services such as care giver support, visits, and light chores. Faith In Action offers a flexible schedule for its volunteers. If you have a few hours to dedicate to someone who may need to get to a doctor's appointment, or just enjoy a friendly visit, then we have the place for you. If you are interested in volunteering, call the Williamsburg Faith In Action Office at 757-258-5890.

Hey Neighbor! **JAMES CITY COMMUNITY CHURCH**

Ongoing

"A Door of Hope" No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, we're glad you're here. James City Community Church is located at 4550 Old News Rd., Williamsburg. Services: 9 am (nursery provided) and 11am (birth - 5th grade programs provided). Come join us and feel free to participate as much or as little as you feel comfortable. We also offer Celebrate Recovery every Wednesday at 7 p.m. Visit our website at www.jccchurch.com to learn more about JC3.

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Find the 12 differences
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photograph (top) and
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