

September 2021

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors<sup>®</sup>

VOL. 15, ISSUE 9

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home

## The Arts in Williamsburg

Eve Monk



[WilliamsburgNeighbors.com](http://WilliamsburgNeighbors.com)

Murawski Photography

An OCCASION  
for the ARTS



TURN TO PAGE 25





# A Community That Feels Like Family

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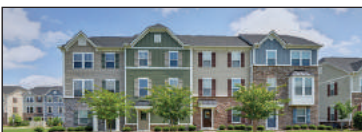
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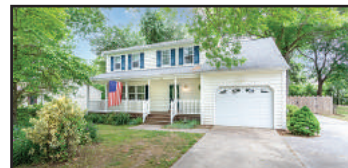
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*Meredith Collins, Publisher*

An Occasion for the Arts is back! After a judicious year off during the height of the pandemic, DoG street will once again be jam packed with arts and crafts, demonstrations and refreshments on October 2nd and 3rd. (See a full spread on the event starting on page 25!). This year will bring more than An Occasion for the Arts. It will be an opportunity to spread our wings and reconnect with a lot of artists and neighbors - safely, and with appropriate precautions - in what always promises to be gorgeous fall weather in beautiful downtown Williamsburg.

It is ironic that the very same pandemic that disrupted the event last year also apparently generated a bumper crop of new and reinvigorated talented local artists. Several of those we interviewed in this issue talk of how the conditions of 2020 pushed them into "taking the plunge" and devoting themselves full time, or nearly fulltime, to following their artistic passions. What a great silver lining to a difficult year, and one we can all enjoy at this year's festival. Let's celebrate our local artists, their outstanding creativity, and, of course, our wonderful neighbors. NDN

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FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

by Mason Murawski

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Murawski Photography

# Finding Peace through Writing

By Lillian Stevens

On an ordinary evening in October 1938, Eve Sarneski's life changed forever. Although it would be years later before she understood the full extent of it, the confusion and horror she felt on that night, and over the course of the next decade, remain with her to this day.

"Writing healed me," Eve says. "For many years, I had nightmares about the war but I am finally able to talk about it now."

Her book, *23 Years, Childhood, War, Escape* was published in 2018. As its title suggests, the memoir chronicles the author's first 23 years which were spent in Germany. The book is dedicated to the memory of those men, women and children who lost their lives to the atrocities of Nazi rule and war, and to those who endured and survived it.

Hitler-induced World War II evokes images of the Holocaust and the millions of Jews who were persecuted and murdered, but little is known about the ordinary German families of that time.

Eve comes from such a family.

The youngest of four sisters, she was born to parents who were teachers by profession.

"We lived 125 miles east of Berlin and 250 miles west of Warsaw," she says. "We lived in a little town called Neu Bentschen, just a little over one mile from the Polish border."

On that fall evening in October, as she and her family were relaxing at home, suddenly they heard a sound which Eve describes as "Klomp! Klomp! Klomp!"

That night marked the beginning of the forc-

ible expulsion of over 12,000 Polish Jews from their homes. As Eve and her family stepped outside to investigate the source of the noises they were hearing, they were horrified to see people being led like cattle from the railroad station toward the Polish border.

"Some of the slower and weaker ones were beaten by German SS and even left by the roadside."

It was an unspeakable time in Poland and all over Europe. It was also a confusing time to be German and ten years old. Even so, Eve describes her young childhood years as idyllic.

"It was the most wonderful childhood anyone could hope to have," she says. "My parents were very loving but firm. We respected and obeyed our parents, and we loved them so



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much.”

Childhood activities included swimming in the summer and ice skating in winter. Vacations were spent visiting relatives at her father’s home, which was located in a Polish town on the German border. By 1939, the first contingent of German soldiers arrived in Eve’s hometown.

“They were coming into town in anticipation of the blitzkrieg,” she says. “Hitler and his blitzkrieg through Poland didn’t impact our wider community, but it did affect my family personally.”

Eve had a 17-year-old cousin who was drafted by the Polish army because he lived in Poland. “He was killed by German gunfire,” she says. “But his older brother who lived in Germany was drafted by the German army, only to be killed by Polish gunfire.”

Still, as war was erupting across Europe, Eve managed to remain happy and insulated in her home community with its own school and Lutheran church.

Over the next few years, however, tensions continued to mount.

U.S. air raids on Germany began in 1943, and Eve was sent to live with her aunt in Pyritz. Her older sisters were already studying at different universities, so she was to attend a new school located just two miles from her grandparents’ farm.

One day, she went to school only to be drafted to dig tank trenches.

“I was 16 years old,” she says.

After the Battle of Stalingrad, German troops were on retreat, so the German government determined that tank trenches would be effective in stopping Russian soldiers from advancing into German territory. They were wrong.

“It was kind of rough. We were housed in a one-room school that had only indoor facilities, cold water, and one wash basin. There were 15 of us girls, and we slept on loose straw. Every morning, we were marched to the trench where we would dig with spades all day long.”

Families were in the dark as to the location of their children. They knew that to question or oppose government directives could possibly land them in a concentration camp. Meanwhile, the youngsters were digging trenches that measured eight feet deep and 12 feet wide. Once that assignment was completed, the children were allowed back to school.

It wasn’t long before Eve was drafted again, this time to go to a tele-type school. “I actually enjoyed that school,” she says. “We had plush accommodations in a beautiful bungalow on the Baltic Sea. I learned the Morse alphabet, how to send and receive code, and transcribe. It was a challenge and I liked it. They sent us home for Christmas and told us we’d be drafted to work in the field in January.”

That never happened, and the bittersweet holiday she spent at home would be the last spent with her family in their Neu Bentschen home.

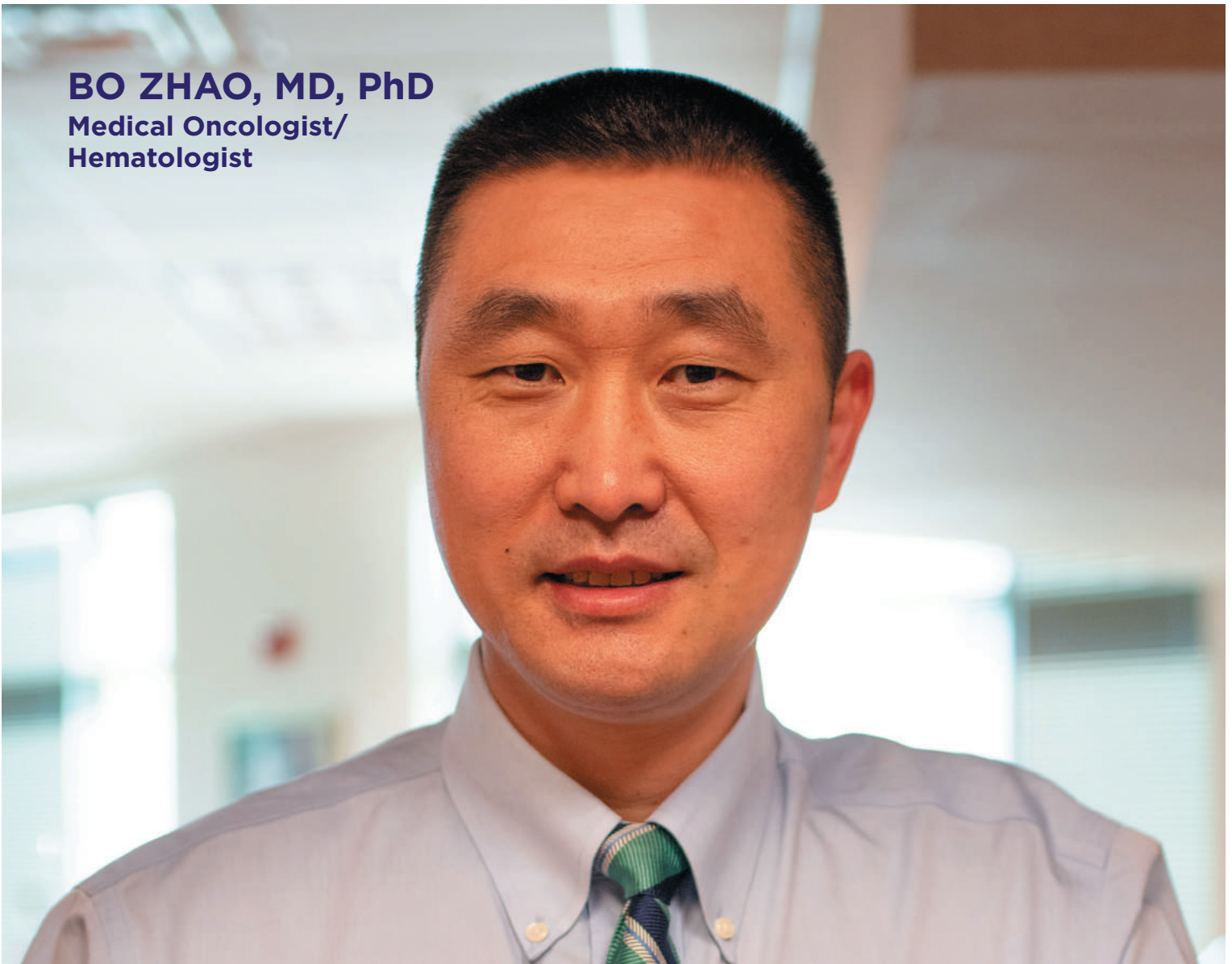
The Russian soldiers arrived on the 9th of May 1945, VE day. For Eve, that invasion marked the beginning of her worst times personally, as the Russians took over East Germany. In her book, she describes the abuse she experienced and witnessed.

“We lived in constant fear after the Russians came,” she says. “From May until November we lived in fear as we watched them invade homes, taking anything or anyone they wanted.”

After her beloved childhood home had been ransacked, Eve was deployed to live and work with friends of the family. “I was to cook and



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clean,” she says. “While they never lifted a finger.”

By this time, her father was blind and both parents were refugees. The loss of home and the separations from family deepened the indignities inflicted as a result of the war.

In November 1945, she was reunited with her family. After going hungry with only the clothes on her back, this reunion and the promise of returning to school offered new hope. The Russians, however, were still in control.

Eve’s journey was about to take a sharp turn. “My older sister knew a lot of people,” she says. “In 1947, they helped us plan our illegal escape out of the Russian Zone.”

They managed to escape from East Germany to the American Zone, specifically Frankfurt, where another sister attended university. Shortly thereafter, Eve was hired by the American Dependent School in Frankfurt, where she taught third and fourth grade German.

“I spent three wonderful years at the school there,” she says.

Eventually her parents were able to join her

in Frankfurt, and by 1949 she and her sister were interested in emigrating from Germany to the United States, a process that would take two years. By this time, she had met Joseph Monk, a member of the US Air Force, assigned to the Berlin Air Lift, who would later become her husband.

Eve pauses as she remembers her journey across the Atlantic to the United States where she wound up in New York harbor seeing the Statue of Liberty for the first time.

“Only an immigrant can know what I felt at that moment,” she says. “I had arrived.”

Ultimately, like her parents, she pursued teaching as a profession. She also embraced her life as a military spouse and mother. When their second daughter enrolled at William & Mary, the family decided to move to Williamsburg.

Eve enjoyed a career teaching French and German at York High school. After retiring, she continued to teach French and German with special programs at W&M, and volunteering her time to local schools and organizations.

Eve and Joe have lived in the same house

for 42 years. Later this year, they will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary. The couple’s four children are grown and all live within an easy four hour drive of Williamsburg, much to Eve’s delight.

“Williamsburg is a lovely town and a very friendly community,” she says. “We’ve been very happy here.”

At 93, Eve remains as busy as ever. Swimming keeps her fit and trim, and writing has been cathartic. She enjoys the friendships she’s made with other local authors through the Williamsburg Writers’ Group. During the pandemic, she took Zoom classes through William & Mary’s Osher program and looks forward to taking classes in person this fall.

In hindsight, Eve credits a strong foundation of love and faith for helping her through a very hard chapter in her life. She’s also grateful to the granddaughter who suggested that she write about it.

For others who have endured or who are enduring great hardship, Eve has a message. “You have all of the strength you need. It’s all there inside you. You just have to have faith.” NDN



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# SUZANNE DENION



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## Footsteps from the Past

By Susan Williamson

Among the familiar landscape and buildings of Colonial Williamsburg painted on the canvas stand the hazy outlines of figures from the past, those who came before us and imprinted upon our history. Such is the art of Suzanne Denion, whose mixed media illustrations are

completed using acrylics, collage drawing elements and layered transparent glazes.

Suzanne had always dabbled in art, but it wasn't until she visited her father in Italy that she knew she wanted to become a career artist. In her early twenties, she was married and

had a young son. Her husband was serving in the military in Korea, and at that point she thought she was late in finding a career. She came home and looked at her options. Within a few weeks, she was enrolled as a fine arts major at the University of Central Michigan.



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Her husband, Jerry, also a fan of the arts, was very supportive, saying one of the things he loved about her was her devotion to and appreciation of art. After completing her bachelor's degree, she went on to study for a master's degree as well.

Suzanne and Jerry have moved many times in connection with his career, and Suzanne has held several art-related jobs in addition to pursuing her painting career. She is a lover of both art and history and studied both in relation to every area they lived. The couple spent a few years in Norway, Sweden and Canada and each locale has influenced Suzanne's art.

Before beginning a painting, Suzanne spends a lot of time researching the history of the building or area or scene she wishes to paint. Then she spends several weeks of long hours sketching, then painting the scene. At that point, she says, "I take it to the house and put it somewhere where I will suddenly see it as I come around a corner." Over time, she notes her reaction and often takes the painting back to her studio, a spacious loft above her hus-

band's garage and workshop, to make changes. She altered one painting a year after she had finished it, never being quite satisfied with it.

Suzanne's studio is full of her paintings and objects which inspire her. While her Colonial Williamsburg paintings and prints are prominent, there is also a painting of a woman from a soup kitchen in St. Louis and a Christmas scene from Oslo. "Oslo is so beautiful," she says. "You can drive a short distance and be in the countryside." She has a collection of cigar boxes because she loves old-world graphic design. She frequently uses one of her boxes as a gift container. Her tables are covered with tablecloths on which she has painted symbols of Americana. Folk art and signage are another source of inspiration. She also loves Celtic design.

Currently, Suzanne is working on a series of paintings of Colonial Williamsburg entitled "Footsteps of the Past." Her paintings are mixed media, but primarily acrylic, with elements of collage and layered transparent glazes. These pictures of historical sites include faint

outlines of ethereal people dressed in the clothing of the day. "These are not ghosts," she says, "but imaginings or spirits of the people that would have populated the various locations." Sometimes she uses an element of a painting on a decorative object like a piece of slate, or she may incorporate an element of a previous painting into a new artwork. Through the years she has exhibited throughout the United States, in Ottawa, Canada; Oslo, Norway; and Stockholm, Sweden.

When their children were young, Suzanne says, "We would play a game wherever we lived about going back in time and trying to imagine who and what we would see as we turned a corner." This was her way of teaching her family about the culture and history of the city and country in which they were living. Her current collection of artwork displays that theme.

Suzanne sells her prints from a booth in the Williamsburg Antique Mall. In addition, her website, [www.denionart.com](http://www.denionart.com), highlights her work.

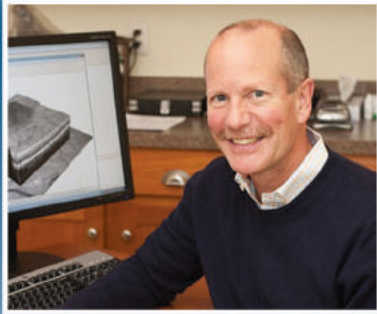
Suzanne grew up near Mt. Pleasant, Michi-

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**BEFORE** Chris Hunter

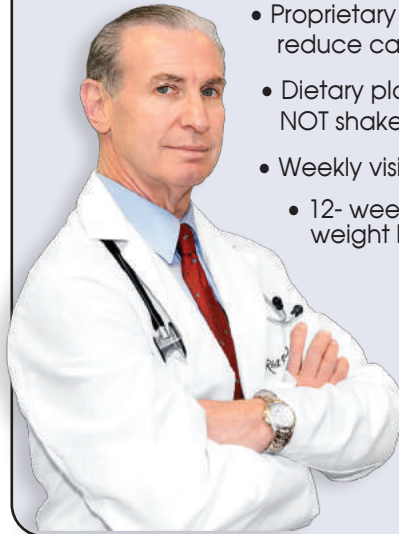


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gan. She has fond memories of her father's cabin at Tawas, Michigan. On a trip to visit her grandfather, she met her future husband, Jerry, in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, his home town.

They married and she stayed in Michigan while he served in Korea. After college, they moved many times, and shortly before Jerry's retirement they were living in Reston, Virginia. Their four grown, or almost grown, children were living in Virginia and the couple's love of history and desire to live in a quieter place near family brought them to their home on seven wooded acres outside of Williamsburg. Jerry had lived in Williamsburg in the late fifties when his father was the assistant food service manager for Colonial Williamsburg and as a family of history lovers, they had visited many times.

Two of their four children, Jessica and Maureen, teach at James Blair Middle School. Jennifer lives in Mechanicsville and worked in non-profit advancement prior to the pandemic. Their son, Ed, works for NCIS and recently returned from the Philippines. He is now

stationed at the Pentagon. His homecoming prompted one of the family's favorite activities: themed family parties for the season or a family birthday or other occasion. With three of their children married and seven grandchildren, a large group is involved. Often these occasions include a hayride around their property with themed decorations along the way. Food and games also reflect each party's theme.

In addition to enjoying working on their property in the woods, which Suzanne describes as a "labor of love," they enjoy traveling. Their excursions usually involve visits to art galleries and museums. They have recently purchased a motor home, and Suzanne is trying to decide which of her art supplies to take with her, to be housed in two antique suitcases. Reading is another hobby and of course historical research related to her paintings.

Suzanne's most recent project involves structuring a digital art class. "It will be sort of an art tour guide with ideas for how someone can become a participant." The process will be straightforward and fun. "Phone cameras can

be used for photography projects, and there are many ways to get involved in simple steps." At the moment, she is teaching her daughter Jennifer, who is in turn working beside her five-year-old son. "I encouraged her to have a portfolio rather than a sketchbook, because a sketchbook can be discouraging. You can slip things in and out of your portfolio."

Teaching has been a part of her career ever since she was in college. She taught in the fine arts department at Central Michigan University while attending graduate school for her master's degree. Later, she was involved in course development and art instruction. She says the digital class feels like the right place for her now and it would allow for travel.

Suzanne Denion's creative spirit is obvious in everything she does, be it her art or her family celebrations. And she makes history come alive in her paintings. She appreciates the Colonial Williamsburg interpreters who bring history to life through role playing, but her contribution is on the canvas, a combination of her research and her talent. NDN

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# CAROLINE GARRETT HARDY



Murawski Photography

## ART & TRAVEL By Ashley Smith

Caroline Garrett Hardy's art has been inspired by a lifetime of travel. A Virginia native, her artistic journey truly began after she graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting and Printmaking. As a graduation gift, her parents sent her to visit her sister in California. Once there, she fell in love with the area and decided to move to San Francisco, a decision her parents fully supported. "They told me,

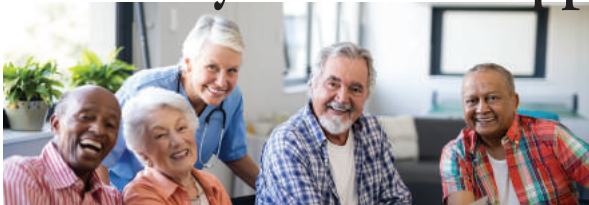
'Your grandmother always wanted to go there, so maybe this is your destiny.' So, they packed all my belongings into one box and sent them to me on a Greyhound bus."

Immediately, Caroline knew she wanted to study further and enrolled in Academy of Art University to study illustration, an art form she had always wanted to explore. "I had studied printmaking at VCU because I was interested in learning to make books," she explains. While

at the Academy, she met her first husband, and when he transferred to London, she accompanied him. She found work illustrating elementary textbooks and pursued personal projects. Though the marriage did not last, Caroline found opportunities to teach at Camberwell College of Arts and Crafts. In fact, she loved it so much that she continued to teach there every summer for approximately 18 years.

Upon her return to the United States, she

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was accepted to the Cranbook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where she earned a Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking. She continued to teach at Camberwell, but also pursued a second master's degree, this time in Book Arts at Ohio State University.

While at Ohio State, Caroline's professor asked her, "Why haven't you illustrated books here in the United States?" He saw great potential in her work and mentored her for the next two years. Her most memorable piece from that time, a book titled "In-Whan and the Peachtree," would indirectly lead her to other side of the world and a new form of art. Caroline had written and illustrated the book but when visiting artist Naoko Matsubara, well-known for her wood block printing, offered to illustrate the work Caroline agreed. She learned a great deal from Naoko about art, but also about Japanese culture and how Japanese society approaches art. The seeds for Caroline's future endeavors had been planted.

After graduation, Caroline accepted a position at the Savannah College of Art and Design. Though the program was new, the ad-

ministration had big dreams and within a few years, they had established campuses in Atlanta, France, and Hong Kong. Caroline enjoyed being a part of the small, tight-knit community there, but she missed California, and when the Academy of Art called, she accepted the offer to teach there.

After a couple of years at the Academy, she traveled to Santa Fe, where she lived for three years, exploring a beautiful part of the country she had yet to experience. In the meantime, her parents had moved to Charlottesville, Virginia, and as their health declined, Caroline made the decision to return home. She stayed with her sister in Richmond until finding a position at Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk, North Carolina. There, she taught drawing and introduction to art history as part of their new communication arts program.

During this time, her dad passed away. Though she missed California, she had reconnected with her family and wanted to remain close to them. She took a position with Christopher Newport University (CNU) and moved to Suffolk. She found Suffolk to be a charming

town and loved her time teaching and working with colleagues at CNU.

It was her brother who encouraged her to move to Williamsburg, and she has never regretted it. She met Trotter Hardy, a graphic design artist and professor of law at William & Mary. They have been married for 10 years now, supporting one another in their artistic pursuits and traveling the world together.

The pace of life in Williamsburg has allowed her to become a full-time artist. Though she has always created art, most of her time was spent teaching. Now, she has devoted herself to the business of her art, and that professional commitment is what drives and inspires her.

Travel remains integral to her work. "Travel feeds my imagination, my understanding of history, and ethnicity, of people and what their vision of art is and how art functions in different societies." Her current work is inspired by the confluence of a childhood fascination with dress up, a rich understanding of Japanese culture, and inspiration from paper artist Isabelle de Borchgrave.

As fate would have it, Caroline and Trotter

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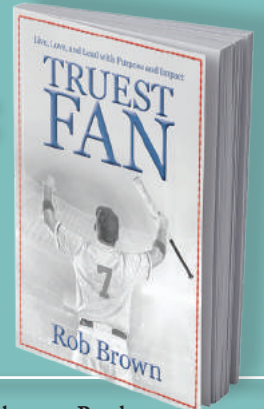
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became docents at the Muscarelle Museum of Art during an exhibit titled, “53 Stations of the Tokaido Road.” Caroline reveals, “It was then that we decided we had to go to Japan.”

Their first trip took them to Tokyo, Kyoto, and smaller villages along the coast of southern Japan. Caroline was enthralled with the delicate details of the most mundane objects in Japanese culture. She created rubbings of everything she could, including manhole covers decorated with cartoon characters and cherry blossoms. She appreciated the serious care given to every aspect of Japanese life and that art permeates every moment, from cooking to architecture. She collected paper and ideas and returned home with a renewed desire to craft her kimonos in a way that intertwined artistry, history, culture, and beauty.

Each of Caroline’s kimonos tells a unique story. She uses paper from all over the world, rubbings from her travels, patterns and different techniques to create a truly beautiful garment. She has displayed them at numerous exhibits across the country. Her work has been shown at the Norfolk Botanical Gardens; the

KORE Gallery in Louisville, Kentucky; and Sweet Briar College, to name a few. Her next joint exhibition will be in December 2021, while her next solo exhibition will be at Mary Baldwin University in Spring 2022.

As a way to share her kimonos with a wider audience, Caroline has created an abecedar. “An abecedar is an old poetic form that uses each letter of the alphabet, similar to a children’s alphabet book.” As part of the Abecedar Kimono book, Caroline uses the English alphabet to feature one kimono. Caroline assigned friends, family and colleagues a letter and asked each one of them to provide three words that started with that letter. Caroline spent time researching each word and connecting them through etymology, history, poetry and literature to craft a kimono that reflects each contribution. She has published one and is currently working on her second.

In addition, Caroline has published an illustrated version of Leonardo da Vinci’s Bestiary. Using photographs taken by her husband, Trotter Hardy, she created collages to illustrate each beast in da Vinci’s work.

The pandemic has slowed their travel plans, but the Hardys are ready to return to Japan as soon as they can.

Though Caroline is content to work in her studio, she does need to take a break now and then. To stay active, she teaches yoga at Body Balance. She balances yoga with Crossfit workouts at Crossfit 1607 in New Town. “Crossfit is my time for getting excess energy out and meeting wonderful new people.”

Caroline expresses gratitude for her husband’s unwavering support. “He’s the most supportive person I’ve ever lived with.” As she looks to the future, despite its uncertainty, Caroline is focused on creating art that reflects life, even now.

One of her favorite quotes from Willa Cather explains. “Many people seem to think that art is a luxury to be imported and tacked on to life. Art springs out of the very stuff that life is made of. Art must spring out of the fullness and the richness of life.”

It is this view of the art and life that will keep Caroline Garrett Hardy inspired to continue elevating the ordinary into the exquisite. NDN

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# A Passion *for* Pastels

By Brandy Centolanza



Murawski Photography

Judy Leasure, director of the art education programs at Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center, has spent the last year thinking outside of the box so that the art center could continue providing classes and programs throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center, which is also known as The Blue Building, has a small classroom where it offers a variety of monthly art classes including water coloring, oil painting, and pine-needle basket making. Like most organizations, Williamsburg Con-

temporary Art Center had to pivot during the pandemic and offer programs virtually. The center only recently reopened to the public in July.

“We really tried to keep the art program going as best we could,” Judy says. “We offered classes over Zoom in watercolor and acrylics, as well as some basic lecture classes on composition and the color wheel. I also recorded small art exercises for our Facebook page showing people how to draw. It worked out very well.”

Some classes have resumed in-person in-

struction at the art center, while others remain virtual. The art center also offers hybrid classes when possible.

“We continue to be creative in how we present our classes,” Judy says. “We are also always looking for additional teachers. I would love to fill our classroom up all the time.”

Teaching is in Judy’s blood. A native of Newark, Delaware, Judy received her undergraduate degree in music education from the University of Delaware. She met her husband, Charles, in college, where he also studied music. Judy had

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been a voice major while Charles had been an oboe major.

After graduating, Judy worked for eight years teaching K-12 general and choral music on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Then, she and Charles moved to Brazil to teach at an American school there. They were in Brazil for two years.

“My husband decided he wanted to do something different, and Brazil was the something different,” Judy recalls.

On school vacations, the couple visited Lima and Machu Picchu in Peru, as well as Chile, Bolivia and Argentina. In addition, they took a cruise to Tierra del Fuego, the southern tip of South America, and also saw The Falkland Islands.

“It was a wonderful experience living in a different culture and having the opportunity to travel all over South America,” Judy says.

After returning to the United States, Judy and her husband then spent roughly 20 years teaching and living throughout Pennsylvania. The winters are long in that part of the country, though, and a hobby can really help deal with the cold and the isolation that can sometimes

happen. To get through these long winters, Judy turned to creating art. She experimented with a variety of media, including watercolors, acrylics, oils, and colored pencils before discovering pastels.

“One January, I started doing these painting exercises, and by the end of the month I knew pastels was the medium I really loved,” she says. “Painting with pastels is a very organic experience. There is nothing between you and your work. You aren’t using a brush, a sponge or any tool, so you are more connected to the work.” Judy started JAL Studios, where she creates pastel paintings of various subjects, including portraits of people and pets as well as still-life objects. She works for commissions in addition to offering art instruction.

Judy and Charles have been residents of Williamsburg since 2016. The pair, who honeymooned in Williamsburg and have visited the area on and off for more than 50 years, decided to settle here upon retirement.

“Williamsburg is just a place that has always called us back,” she says. “We love the weather, the history and the culture.”

Soon after their relocation to Williamsburg,

Judy turned an extra bedroom in her house into an art studio and quickly became involved with local art organizations, including the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center. In addition to being the art education director, Judy also currently serves on the center’s Board of Directors as secretary. She is also a part of the MidAtlantic Pastel Society in Richmond and is a juried associate member of the Pastel Society of America. Judy’s artwork is frequently exhibited at Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center as well as the Fredericksburg Center for the Creative Arts. Judy also been featured on a national level in shows at the Degas Pastel Society in Louisiana, the Pastel Society of Northern Florida and the Adirondack Pastel Society in New York.

“It’s always exciting to have pieces accepted into any juried show,” Judy says.

Since taking up pastel painting, Judy estimates that she has painted hundreds of pieces, mostly on miniature canvasses. One of her favorite projects is a pastel painting of her dog, Wills, a Bedlington Terrier, that she painted in 2014.

“He was sitting on one of our living room chairs, so I took a picture of him and painted

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him from that,” Judy says.

Currently, Judy is working on a series of still-life paintings of pears, one of which received an award of merit in the Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center’s 2021 Annual Members’ Show. Next up is a series of paintings of eggs.

Judy also teaches virtual art classes from her home studio multiple times a week and is working with a mentor as she continues to hone her craft. Earlier this year, she was introduced to another artist, Laura Pollak, a Fine Artist from North Carolina, who taught a workshop through the MidAtlantic Pastel Society. Since then, Laura has been guiding Judy through her growth as an artist.

“These aren’t painting lessons, but more about spending time with that person who will push you along,” Judy says. “Her style is very different than mine. She is an abstract painter. Working with her pushes me to think differently about what I am doing, and approach things totally fearlessly. Having someone critiquing you on a regular basis is a good thing. It helps you grow. I think every artist needs that.”

Despite being retired, Judy and Charles are both busier than ever. Charles is still involved

with music and volunteers frequently with the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes and Drums while, in addition to pastel painting, Judy has taken up playing classical guitar.

“I’ve always loved the classical guitar,” she says. “I’ve been taking lessons for three years now. It is by far the most difficult thing I’ve ever done, but I am thoroughly enjoying it. I love living in Williamsburg because there are so many opportunities. You can be involved in anything that you want to be involved in and be as active as you want to be.”

Judy has always valued the arts and appreciates how much the Williamsburg community supports the arts.

“The arts in general, whether it is visual art, music art, or theater art, enrich your life,” she says. “It is much different than watching TV. There is something more personal about the art you see in a gallery, the music you hear at a concert, or going to live theater.”

Judy hopes to continue to impact others personally through her work as a pastel painter. “I am always working toward improving and finding my artistic voice at any given time,” she says. NDN

## Next Door Neighbors

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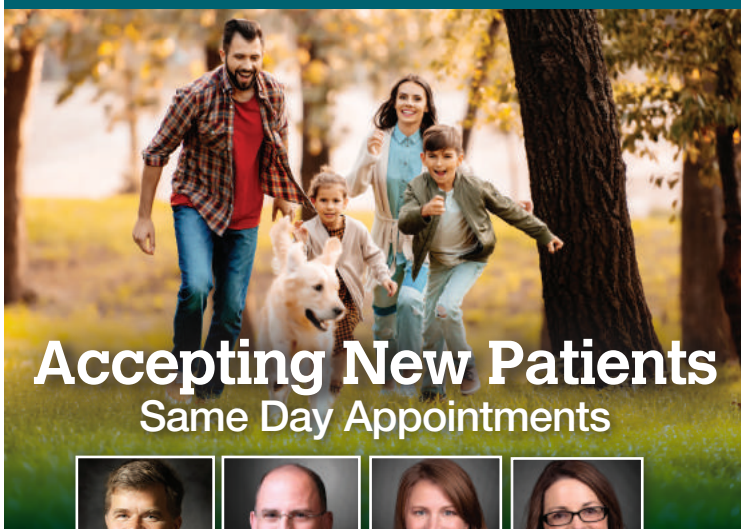
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# DANIELLE McROY



Murawski Photography

# Boho Blyss

By Narielle Living

Sometimes a person's first career may not be the career they were meant to have and is not truly their life's calling. But sometimes a meaningful career can blossom right in the midst of a pandemic.

Danielle McRoy had worked hard to put herself through nursing school. But when she became a single mother to daughter Paisley, her priorities shifted. She needed to be able to prioritize her time so she was available for her



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child. “By the end of nursing school, I actually had landed another job that worked really well with my schedule for her for preschool, and I got caught up in that. I have never even utilized my nursing degree.”

Working nine to five meant she was able to be present for drop-off and pick-up at the schools, as well as participate in the myriad of activities that accompany any child’s life. “That’s always been what’s important,” she says.

She had always had an interest in the arts, but the bills had to be paid, so she did what she had to for herself and her daughter. “I’ve always been painting or crocheting,” she says. “At one time I did make jewelry just for myself. I’ve always been interested in the arts.”

When the pandemic arrived in early 2020, Danielle was working for a timeshare company. She was given the option to take a voluntary layoff, and, like many parents, it seemed like her only choice at the time. “I needed to be home with my daughter being out of school.” The school day only stretched so far, though, and daughter Paisley needed to be involved in more activities. “There’s only so many puzzles and movies we could do,” she says with a laugh. But Paisley loves art and has always been interested in drawing, so Danielle looked for something they could do together. “I ordered a kit to make some faux leather jewelry.”

That kit was the beginning of an entirely new direction for her life.

“We started and played around with it, and friends and family were giving me great feedback on it.” After selling a few pairs of earrings, Danielle began to slowly build her inventory and continued to create more jewelry to sell. “I found that I enjoyed genuine leathers, the better quality.” As the months went on, jewelry sales continued and her new business, Boho Blyss, began to thrive. “I think I’ve really just found myself,” she says. “I think this is where I’ve been meant to be this whole time. I know that people have said they want to get back to their daily routine and being home drives them crazy, but I actually really enjoyed having this time to focus on ourselves and have quality time to find our joys and passions again.” Danielle says that she feels this has been a wonderful opportunity for her and enabled her to have the time to fully work on creative projects and do them right.

Danielle’s daughter, Paisley has been an integral part of this creative journey. “Her name is Paisley Blyss, and she’s the namesake of Boho Blyss.” The logo that Danielle created is a simple, clean representation of her work. “The ‘boho’ is just a general description of the jewelry style, the bohemian style with the macramé and the different leather styles I create. It’s a very popular style right now, and I thought the word really flowed with Blyss. I was playing around with what could go well with Paisley, but I’ve seen so many things paired with the name Paisley now. That name wasn’t popular when I named her eight years ago,” she says with a laugh.

Danielle creates a variety of items for her business, and while she continues to work with leather products, she also uses other materials such as cork leather. “I started out just with simple teardrop dangle earrings, and I have really expanded for the smaller jewelry. It has actually been really popular with the mask situation. I’ve also recently started making coin purses and key chains and rings, all sorts of things. As I get more business and I can put it back into my business, I have more ideas. And I do macramé as well.”

The jewelry muse can be funny, and sometimes, a project will muscle



its way forward and demand to be put in front of the others.

"I'll have orders come in and I know that I need to make more of this kind, but once I get a vision, I'll put one thing aside and start on another project I think that's just an artist's mind. It's almost like art ADD." While she works, Danielle says that she gets into the artist's zone where she just lets the creativity take over in the moment. Paisley gets involved in fun ways, too. "She'll give me two leathers, and she'll say, 'okay, Mom, 15 minutes to make a pair of earrings.' She'll do these little challenges for me, and it gets me thinking outside of the box about things I wouldn't normally pair together. I've actually been successful in creating some of her challenges."

According to Danielle, Paisley is at a fun age where she enjoys working on a multitude of projects. "A lot of the time she'll do these challenges with me but sometimes she's just like, Mom, can I paint, while you do that? She's got her own rubber band bracelets, so she's always finding some sort of activity even if it's not directly with me."

One of the places people can find Danielle and her jewelry is at Second Sundays in Williamsburg. Both mother and daughter have enjoyed working at this outdoor venue, and Danielle thinks it will continue to be a fun, interesting outlet for her work.

Danielle was born and raised in Williamsburg and still has a lot of family in the area. "Almost everyone, from my grandma, my mom, my aunts and uncles, are all here still in Williamsburg," she says. "My sister's husband is military, and my brother is in Richmond, but they're all fairly close. We get to see each other often, so that's great."

Having family close by can be nice, but having family who acts as personal cheerleaders adds purpose and love. "They are some of my biggest supporters," she says. "Between wearing my jewelry or telling friends and extended family about it, they've helped grow my business. They've been amazing."

Danielle's plans for her future include bringing Boho Blyss to the next level. "I would love for this to be my full-time job. I've invested so much in it, thus far, and I'm trying to work hard to take it to that next level. I've already been approached to do a few vendor shows for the holiday season, and I'm working on my website right now."

Despite Covid interrupting her work life, Danielle has not yet had to return to the regular office job. The pandemic and resulting necessary homeschooling meant many parents had to make a shift in their lives. "I had to make those decisions for whether we were going to be virtual or in-person early, when we didn't know what COVID was going to do, so I opted for her to be virtual to be safe," she says. "That put me at home with her." There weren't any options for childcare that Danielle felt comfortable with, so they muddled through the difficult times together. "Some weeks are easier than others." But as her business steadily grew and her booth at Second Sundays gained popularity, this eased the transition of staying at home. "I just hope and pray that by the time that she's back in school in the fall [my business] can continue. I think the holiday season should be a good one."

Another one of the advantages of staying at home during the pandemic is that they were able to get a dog. "We have our COVID puppy," she says. "He is just a year old, and we have had to be at home to train him." With a new puppy, a blossoming daughter and a thriving jewelry business, Danielle McRoy has found fulfillment and purpose in life. NDN

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Williamsburg Drug Co. This is a functional medicine practice with Dr. Jaime Reid, PharmD, FAAMM. Dr. Reid has recently completed a fellowship in functional medicine from the American Academy of Anti-Aging (A4M) and has a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Maryland.

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jreid@williamsburgdrug.com



Dr. Jaime Reid, PharmD, FAAMM



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www.williamsburgdrug.com

# TY HARKINS



Murawski Photography

## Becoming an Artist

By Cathy Sliwoski

Ty Harkins works as an aquatics coordinator and swim instructor at the R.F. Wilkinson Family YMCA in Williamsburg. When the Y had to close from March to May 2020 because of the pandemic, the 27-year-old used the time in lockdown wisely. Ty jumped into the deep end and became an artist. Paying homage to the style of Bob Ross, he creates oil paintings depicting tranquil rivers, captivating mountains and lush forests.

"I didn't know if I was going to be good at oil painting, but now I'm feeling okay about it," Ty

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ajayponton@gmail.com



says. "When I was drawing, I straight up hated my work. Now I love everything I do. There is never a point when I'm painting that my brain isn't actively engaged. It doesn't get boring."

Anyone who watches a Bob Ross video from his series "The Joy of Painting" is calmed by his voice and slowly gains confidence to believe there is an artist within all of us. Because Ty is similarly shy and introverted, he was drawn to the Bob Ross technique and the wisdom imparted that goes beyond art.

"As soon as I picked up Bob Ross, the first thing he said was, 'You can do anything you want to do.' You can apply that anywhere," Ty says. "That's not painting specific. That's a mindset."

The "wet-on-wet" technique Ty follows is an economical way to begin painting. The method uses a small color palette of about eight primary colors, black or white canvases, a sturdy easel and larger paint brushes found at a hardware store. There is no tracing a scene on the canvas beforehand, nor is a photograph necessary for reference. Since no layer can dry completely before another layer of paint is applied, the

paintings can be completed in a short amount of time.

"Once you start a painting, you're on the clock," Ty says. "I might spend 30 minutes on a smaller, 10-inch by 10-inch, painting. Some people say that the Bob Ross style is too easy. It can get as complicated as I want it to. Or I can give myself a time limit and make it a simple scene. A less is more approach."

Ty is the youngest of four sons. Both of his parents were in the Navy and now reside in Virginia Beach. He changed duty stations with his family a few times and visited relatives in various parts of the country in his younger years. Sometimes the different landscapes he's seen make their way into his paintings in unexpected ways.

"I love sky boxes, the way any sort of color is picked up in the sky," Ty says. "And interesting cloud effects. People might comment that a sky reminds them of clouds in a certain place after a storm or something. That isn't what I was intending, but it just comes out that way."

He's sold about 60 paintings so far, mostly online through Etsy, Reddit and Instagram;

some have even been commissioned. He's also been fortunate to participate in this year's Second Sundays, a street fair of artists, crafters, live music and food vendors that sets up along Boundary Street and some side streets in downtown Williamsburg. Ty brings some of his finished paintings to sell but also works on paintings there so potential customers can watch his creative process. The name of his business, Certified Human, is often a conversation starter. "The name amuses me," Ty says.

Second Sundays has been an affordable way for Ty to get his name and his products in front of the community. "They have been so accommodating and extremely welcoming to me. It's a great event for the vendors as well as the community. I've been telling lots of people about it. I'm really surprised that a lot of locals I meet at the Y didn't know about it."

Ty says his parents have been supportive of his latest endeavor. "They want to make sure I'm moving in a direction," Ty says. He's given them some paintings and they've purchased a couple. His dad, Roy Harkins, assists him in the business side of things, like devising a spreadsheet

## Colonial Center for Hearing Welcomes Dr. Lexi Hutchison

Born and raised in Santa Rosa, CA, Dr. Lexi studied at University of Colorado, Boulder (Bachelor of Arts Degrees in Psychology and Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences, Magna Cum Laude) and University of Texas, Austin (Audiology Doctorate, Summa Cum Laude). Dr. Lexi is passionate about delivering patient-centered care and life changing hearing aid solutions to the Williamsburg community.



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to keep track of his inventory, which Ty admits is not his favorite part of the business. He finds it difficult to “put a price” on his creations.

“I’m learning how to handle my own personal thoughts and feelings about what a painting is worth,” Ty says.

When father and son are in his booth together at Second Sundays, Roy is clearly proud of what Ty has accomplished in just a few months of painting. Roy is content to chat with passersby and be the business manager, although sometimes people assume Roy is the artist. He assures them the artistic talent skipped his generation.

“Ty’s grandfather was a talented photographer, but not me. When Ty starts selling paintings worth thousands, maybe I’ll take a commission then,” Roy says with a smile.

In his apartment studio, Ty often records himself during the painting process, as it gives him a “timestamp” of his journey as a painter.

“I can easily see where I started and where I am now. The biggest revelation to me is that I’ve learned that I have patience. Every step is part of the process, whether it’s mixing the col-

ors or experimenting with how much pressure on the paintbrush. I take a bunch of missteps into success with that. It’s all practice.”


Ty’s first creative pursuit was music. As a percussionist, he has lent his talents to a variety of musical styles, including playing in marching band and orchestra in high school and forming bands with his friends. One of his early music teachers encouraged him to tutor some youngsters and he really enjoyed it. Because of this positive experience, he wanted to major in music education in college. That plan changed, however, when he learned that earning a degree would require learning several different instruments as well as vocal performance. Occasionally, Ty still plays drums with a couple of friends at local open mic nights. His early live music performances helped him work through some of his shyness and prepared him to create his paintings in front of an audience.

“I’d say it’s much easier to do anything live now because of the pressures of the early band gigs and constant performances with marching band/concert band,” Ty says. “It’s definitely something I overcame.”

His creative outlets often feed off of each other. Ty likes music in the background when he paints. “People might be surprised to know that I listen to metal when I paint,” Ty says. The contrast between the music he creates to and the serene image on the canvas is stark. There is also an “otherworldly” effect in some of his scenes. For example, all viewers would agree a painting depicts a forest, but something about it gives one the feeling that the forest might exist only in a Grimm’s fairy tale or in a fantasy novel.

When it comes to completely changing careers or embarking on a new hobby, many people become paralyzed by fear and make excuses. But to overcome that, Ty Harkins believes you must take the plunge.

“People will say they don’t have the time to do something, or that they can’t find the time,” Ty says. “The truth is you have to set aside the time to make it happen if it’s something you really want to do. It’s like one of my good friends told me, ‘You could be the Kobe Bryant of whatever it is you choose to do, but how will you ever know if you never try it?’” NDN



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# An OCCASION for the ARTS



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Sue Donaldson and her husband, John,  
at the 2018 An Occasion for the Arts

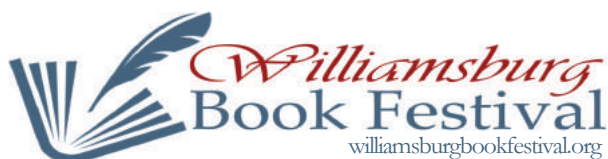
Dear Friends and Supporters,

The last year has made us all more appreciative of life's pleasures, great and small. How many birthdays, graduations, weddings and other celebrations did we miss? At AOFTA, we exist to put on Williamsburg's premier art and music festival. We featured our visual and performing artists in a virtual format in 2020, but it wasn't the same as seeing you all strolling on DoG St! While everyone gets excited to leave their homes we are thrilled to be back in our "home" of over 50 years, Merchants Square!

The community lost the opportunity to attend An Occasion for the Arts, but it also lost a champion of the arts. Sue Donaldson, a board member for over 40 years, passed this Spring. Sue was an avid supporter of the arts in Williamsburg. Her institutional knowledge cannot be replaced and we all mourn that we won't see her at the headquarters tent this year. There is no way to adequately recognize the many contributions Sue made to AOFTA, but we are making a small effort by naming our headquarters tent the "Sue Donaldson Information Tent". If you have a chance, please stop by the tent to say hello and share a memory.

We hope to see you all during the weekend and look forward to making new cherished memories with you at this year's An Occasion for the Arts.

Nancy Wigley, President  
An Occasion for the Arts



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2ND**  
**THE STRYKER CENTER**

10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Meet the Authors & Publishers!

*Novels / Poetry / Inspiration / History  
Fantasy / Memoir / Books for Children*

**11:00: Make your Bookclub Even Better!**

Experts offer sage advice

**12:00 Poets Laureate on Stage**

**2:00 So you Want to Write a Novel?**

Dr. Michael Krentz of the Muse tells you what it takes

**1:00-3:00 Meet Headliner Stephanie Storey**

Writers' Room Producer/Art Historian/Author

**3:00 Stephanie Storey: Creation of Art in Fiction**

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## YOUTH ART

Come celebrate the creativity and artistic talent of our young artists at An Occasion for the Arts. This curated exhibit showcases the art of public and private elementary to high school students living in Williamsburg/James City and Upper York County.

All ages will be displaying a range of 2 dimensional works in Drawing, Painting, Photography, and Mixed Media. New this year, the High School students will be including 3 dimensional works in Ceramics, Metal, Sculpture and Wood.

The Youth Art tent will be located on Prince George Street across from Blue Talon.

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Interact with art at AOFTA

Prince George Street at the corner of Boundary

An Occasion for the Arts is very excited to announce that we are continuing our collaboration with **Steve Prince**, Director of Engagement & Distinguished Artist In Residence, Muscarelle Museum of Art. Steve engages the greater community with an interactive art project at the Festival that highlights how the individual is part of the whole, and how creativity can be a shared experience that can lead to an inclusive community.

NEW for the 2021 Festival is an awareness of how difficult the last 17 months have been and how can AOFTA help the community heal. To that end we have partnered with the **McLeod Tyler Wellness Center at William & Mary**. The synergy created can only benefit the Williamsburg community as we highlight how the arts can bring about a positive and engaging experience through discussion and workshops at the Festival centering on the theme of Art for Wellbeing.

We welcome back the **Williamsburg Contemporary Art Center** to the Community Interactive Art area to engage the creative spirit.



VISIT [AOFTA.ORG](http://AOFTA.ORG) TO PLAN YOUR FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE



Sammy Lee

### Saturday, October 2nd

#### Joe's Day Off

10:30 - 11:30

#### William the Conjurer

11:45 - 12:15

#### Sammy Lee

12:30 - 1:45

#### Higher Ground Jazz Band

2:15 - 3:15

#### Billy Joe and Co.

3:30 - 4:45

### Sunday, October 3rd

#### Colonial Williamsburg

#### Fifes & Drums

10:00

#### Runaway String Band

10:30 - 11:15

#### Flute Frenzy

11:30 - 12:00

#### Crazy X Acoustic

12:15 - 1:45

#### Virginia Regional Ballet

2:00 - 2:30

#### Poisoned Dwarf

2:45 - 4:00



Poisoned Dwarf

## ON THE COURTYARD STAGE



# FESTIVAL MAP



## An OCCASION for the ARTS

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**P** P-2 LOT

Artists' Booths Green G01 to G68  
Duke of Gloucester St



**P** P-4 LOT (2 hour)



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Booth 054  
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oil paintings



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Seascapes  
Still Lifes

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Duke of Gloucester Street  
Booths O-24 & O-25

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**AMOS AMIT**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Los Angeles, CA  
[batikbyamit.com](http://batikbyamit.com)  
Booth #O45

**JOEL ANDERSON**  
Photography  
Lykens, PA  
[joelandersonphoto.com](http://joelandersonphoto.com)  
Booth #O50

**PATRICK ANDREWS**  
Metal  
Goldvein, VA  
[psacustomcreations.com](http://psacustomcreations.com)  
Booth #G67-68

**ANTHONY ARKUS**  
Metal  
Galeton, PA  
Booth #G19

**LISA ARKUS**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Galeton, PA  
Booth #G20

**SKEETER ASCHINGER**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Pompano Beach, FL  
Booth #O23

**C.W. BANFIELD**  
Photography  
Howell, MI  
[thewildernessgallery.com](http://thewildernessgallery.com)  
Booth #G31-32

**PAM BARTL**  
Fiber  
Chambersburg, PA  
[jesamiehandwovens.com](http://jesamiehandwovens.com)  
Booth #G56

**WILL BELLUCCI**  
Wood  
Williamsburg, VA  
[www.woodsofwisdom.biz](http://www.woodsofwisdom.biz)  
Booth #G35

**JASON BENKENDORF**  
Wood  
Hopewell, VA  
[redeemedwoodturning.com](http://redeemedwoodturning.com)  
Booth #O07

**KENDRA BENNETT**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Daphne, AL  
[facebook.com/kendrabennettfinearts](http://facebook.com/kendrabennettfinearts)  
Booth #O58

**HALLIE BERTLING**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Greenville, SC  
[haltheegal.art](http://haltheegal.art)  
Booth #G25

**MARVIN BOWER**  
Fiber  
Boonsboro, MD  
[tannerscreekleather.com](http://tannerscreekleather.com)  
Booth #O40

**PAUL BRAUN**  
Sculpture  
St. Augustine, FL  
[paulbraunstudios.com](http://paulbraunstudios.com)  
Booth #O05

**JERRY BREM**  
Painting  
Beaufort, SC  
[jabrem.com](http://jabrem.com)  
Booth #O28

**MARK BROWN**  
Photography  
Carlisle, PA  
Booth #O02

**DAVE BRUNER**  
Graphics and Printmaking  
Virginia Beach, VA  
[davebruner.com](http://davebruner.com)  
Booth #O04

**JENNIFER CAUFFMAN**  
Fiber  
Kennett Square, PA  
[Gloryfibersdesign.com](http://Gloryfibersdesign.com)  
Booth #B17

**TOM CHAVANNE**  
Jewelry  
Oaklyn, NJ  
[chavannesjewelry.com](http://chavannesjewelry.com)  
Booth #G37

**CHARLENE CLARK**  
Painting  
Baltimore, MD  
[wcharleneclarkstudio.com](http://wcharleneclarkstudio.com)  
Booth #O35

**MARY-ANNE AND BILL COLLINS**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Raleigh, NC  
Booth #O51

**ANDY COSTINE**  
Wood  
Tryon, NC  
[costineandy.simdif.com](http://costineandy.simdif.com)  
Booth #G53

**JOHN CRUTCHFIELD**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Richmond, VA  
[metallcartgraphics.com](http://metallcartgraphics.com)  
Booth #G63

**CAROLYN CURRIE**  
Painting  
New Milford, CT  
[carolyncurrieartist.com](http://carolyncurrieartist.com)  
Booth #B16

**PETER CZUK**  
Wood  
Gobles, MI  
[czukstudio.com](http://czukstudio.com)  
Booth #O15

**KRISTEN DAHMS**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Hampton, VA  
[kristendahms.com](http://kristendahms.com)  
Booth #O42

**RUTH ODILE DAVIS**  
Painting  
Harwich, MA  
[odilefineart.com](http://odilefineart.com)  
Booth #G30

**JD DAVISON**  
Jewelry  
Upper Arlington, OH  
[labpartnersjewelry.com](http://labpartnersjewelry.com)  
Booth #O26

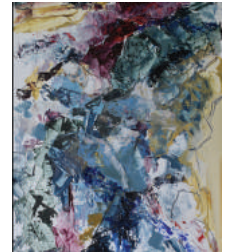
**LAURA DENARDO**  
Photography  
Baltimore, MD  
[lauradenardo.com](http://lauradenardo.com)  
Booth #G64

**LAUREN DESERRES**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Pittsboro, NC  
[laurendeserres.com](http://laurendeserres.com)  
Booth #O54

**JEFFREY DIENER**  
Photography  
Chesapeake, VA  
[jeffreydienerphotography.com](http://jeffreydienerphotography.com)  
Booth #G04

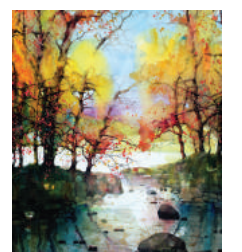
**BRUCE EASLEY**  
Drawing and Pastels  
Seaford, VA  
[facebook.com/enfieldstudiosva](http://facebook.com/enfieldstudiosva)  
Booth #G61

**LAURA EDWARDS** ★  
Painting  
Irvington, VA  
[lauraedwardsartist.com](http://lauraedwardsartist.com)  
Booth #G36



**RYAN EURE**  
Jewelry  
Williamsburg, VA  
[ryaneuredesigns.com](http://ryaneuredesigns.com)  
Booth #G03

**ZL FENG** ★  
Painting  
Radford, VA  
[zlfeng.com](http://zlfeng.com)  
Booth #O12



**AMY FLYNN**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Raleigh, NC  
[fobots.bigcartel.com](http://fobots.bigcartel.com)  
Booth #G49

**LILLIAN FORZIAT**  
Painting  
Garden City, NY  
[lillianforziat.com](http://lillianforziat.com)  
Booth #O24-25

**WAYNE GAO**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Rowland Heights, CA  
Booth #O47

**JULIA GILMORE**  
Painting  
Jefferson, NH  
[juliagilmore.com](http://juliagilmore.com)  
Booth #B05

**ALEC GORDON**  
Wood  
Madison, VA  
[Phineasrose.com](http://Phineasrose.com)  
Booth #G60

**NINIKA GORDON**  
Jewelry  
Madison, VA  
[Phineasrose.com](http://Phineasrose.com)  
Booth #G59

**LINDA GOURLEY**  
Graphics and Printmaking  
Dry Fork, VA  
[lindagourley.com](http://lindagourley.com)  
Booth #O59

**AVERY GROVES**  
Jewelry  
Charlottesville, VA  
Booth #G24

**CHRIS GUG**  
Photography  
Fort Lauderdale, FL  
[GugUnderwater.com](http://GugUnderwater.com)  
Booth #G13-14

**JOHN GUNTHER**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Abingdon, VA  
[GuntherWeavings.com](http://GuntherWeavings.com)  
Booth #O16

**RUCHI GUPTA**  
Ceramics  
Glen Allen, VA  
[BirdsatNoon.com](http://BirdsatNoon.com)  
Booth #G21

**DAVID GWALTNEY**  
Digital  
Virginia Beach, VA  
[dgwaltneyart.com](http://dgwaltneyart.com)  
Booth #O10

**TATE HAMILTON**  
Painting  
Denver, CO  
[tatehamiltonfineart.com](http://tatehamiltonfineart.com)  
Booth #O37

ORANGE SECTION  
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# 2021 ARTISTS GALLERY

**LYNN HARRISBERGER**  
Jewelry  
Virginia Beach,VA  
[lynnharrisberger.com](http://lynnharrisberger.com)  
Booth #O13

**MATTHEW HATALA** ★  
Wood  
Danielsville,GA  
Booth #B06



**BONNIE HEDDEN**  
Jewelry  
Wellsboro,PA  
[bonnieheddendesigns.com](http://bonnieheddendesigns.com)  
Booth #O09

**CAROL HEISLER-LAWSON**  
Fiber  
East Norriton,PA  
[carolheisler-lawson.com](http://carolheisler-lawson.com)  
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**ERIC HEITMANN**  
Painting  
Hopewell Jct,NY  
[HeitmannArt.com](http://HeitmannArt.com)  
Booth #O31

**KIERSTEN HEITMANN**  
Fiber  
Naples,FL  
Booth #O30

**ANDI HELFANT-FRYE**  
2-D Mixed Media  
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[andihelfantfrye.com](http://andihelfantfrye.com)  
Booth #G46

**DEBORAH HILDINGER**  
3-D Mixed Media  
New Smyrna Beach,FL  
[dhildingerart.com](http://dhildingerart.com)  
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**MEGAN HORAN**  
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[megansjewelrybox.com](http://megansjewelrybox.com)  
Booth #O49

**TOM HORN** *New*  
3-D Mixed Media  
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**VICTOR AND MEGAN HUSTON-FIELD**  
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**HARRY JARMAN**  
Painting  
Kernersville,NC  
[HarryJarman.com](http://HarryJarman.com)  
Booth #O14

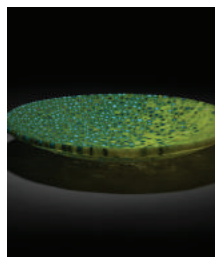
**NICARIO JIMENEZ**  
3-D Mixed Media  
Naples,FL  
[retablosnicario.com](http://retablosnicario.com)  
Booth #G52

**GOPAL KAPOOR**  
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[coastal-clayworks.com](http://coastal-clayworks.com)  
Booth #G02

**TANYA KIROUAC**  
Painting, MM2D  
McHenry,IL  
[tanyakirouac.com](http://tanyakirouac.com)  
Booth #B10

**ROBIN KITTLESON** ★  
Glass  
Geneva,IL  
[robinkittleson.com](http://robinkittleson.com)  
Booth #G10



**KIM KLABE** *New*  
2-D Mixed Media  
Rehoboth Beach,DE  
[kimklabe.com](http://kimklabe.com)  
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**GREG KNOTT**  
Photography  
Alexandria,VA  
[gregknott.com](http://gregknott.com)  
Booth #O06

**CAROL KORTE** *New*  
Jewelry  
State College,PA  
[kortejewelry.com](http://kortejewelry.com)  
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**ELIZABETH KROME** *Local*  
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**CHARLES MACSHERRY**  
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Reisterstown,MD  
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**KATHERINE MALONEY**  
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[katherinemaloney.org](http://katherinemaloney.org)  
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**LISA MARKOWITZ** *New*  
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[ispyartisanjewelry.squarespace.com](http://ispyartisanjewelry.squarespace.com)  
Booth #G55

**SUSAN MARLING** *New*  
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[susanmarling.com](http://susanmarling.com)  
Booth #G38

**LUCILE MARTIN** *New*  
Jewelry  
Reisterstown,MD  
[lucilemartin.com](http://lucilemartin.com)  
Booth #O55

**JOHN MAURER**  
Painting  
St. Petersburg,FL  
[johnmaurer-art.com](http://johnmaurer-art.com)  
Booth #O61

**CHRISTIE MAY** *New*  
Jewelry  
Palm Beach,FL  
Booth #G65

**DON MCCOY** *New*  
Jewelry  
Englewood,FL  
[donmccoyjewelry.com](http://donmccoyjewelry.com)  
Booth #O41

**LAURA MCGOWAN**  
Painting  
Onancock,VA  
[lauramcgowanfineart.com](http://lauramcgowanfineart.com)  
Booth #G07

**BRENT MCGUIRT**  
Photography  
Clinton,NC  
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Booth #G44

**RUBEN MEDINA** *New*  
Sculpture  
Cape Coral,FL  
[rubenfineart.com](http://rubenfineart.com)  
Booth #G17

**DAVID MELNICK** *New*  
Jewelry  
New York,NY  
[danadavid.com](http://danadavid.com)  
Booth #O34

**DOUGLAS MESSAMER** *New*  
Metal  
Long Creek,SC  
[dougmessamer.com](http://dougmessamer.com)  
Booth #B09

**JOAN MICHLIN**  
Jewelry  
Sarasota,FL  
[joanmichlin.com](http://joanmichlin.com)  
Booth #G28

**KIRK MILLER**  
Glass  
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[kirkmillerglass.com](http://kirkmillerglass.com)  
Booth #G26

**CATHERINE MINGA** *New, Local*  
Painting  
Williamsburg,VA  
[catherineminga.com](http://catherineminga.com)  
Booth #O08

**ERIC MOORE**  
Sculpture  
Pomaria,SC  
[ericmooredesigns.net](http://ericmooredesigns.net)  
Booth #G01

**JAMES MOSIER** *New*  
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Ballston Lake,NY  
[metalweavings.com](http://metalweavings.com)  
Booth #G16

**LISA MOTE**  
Glass  
Newborn,GA  
[lisamote.com](http://lisamote.com)  
Booth #O01

**CHARLOTTE MUNNING**  
Ceramics  
Greensboro,NC  
Booth #O11

**ANNE MURPHY** *Local*  
2-D Mixed Media  
Newport News,VA  
Booth #G51

**BRIAN MURPHY** *Local*  
Painting  
Newport News,VA  
[bmurphy.net](http://bmurphy.net)  
Booth #G18

**A. CESAR NOGUEIRA**  
Sculpture  
Ocala,FL  
[crystalfeathers.com](http://crystalfeathers.com)  
Booth #O53



# 2021 ARTISTS GALLERY



**ED OBERMEYER**  
Painting  
Virginia Beach,VA  
[edobermeyer.com](http://edobermeyer.com)  
Booth #G23

**BOBBY OLLER** *Local*  
Digital  
Williamsburg,VA  
[hboller.com](http://hboller.com)  
Booth #G22

**ENID KATE O'ROURKE**  
Fiber  
Manakin Sabot,VA  
[ashfieldcollection.blogspot.com](http://ashfieldcollection.blogspot.com)  
Booth #G27

**WILLIAM ORTMAN** *New*  
Glass  
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[williamortman.com](http://williamortman.com)  
Booth #G43

**JAMES PARKER**  
Photography  
Rochester Hills,MI  
[parkerparker.net](http://parkerparker.net)  
Booth #B23-24

**PAMELA PATRICK-WHITE**  
Painting  
Everett,PA  
[whitehistoricart.com](http://whitehistoricart.com)  
Booth #G12

**DION POLLOCK** *Local*  
3-D Mixed Media  
Williamsburg,VA  
Booth #G05

**JOHN POMPEO**  
Painting  
Phoenixville,PA  
[JohnPompeo.com](http://JohnPompeo.com)  
Booth #O48

**AMBER POOLE**  
Ceramics  
Lexington,VA  
[facebook.com/earthfireandspiritpottery](http://facebook.com/earthfireandspiritpottery)  
Booth #O43

**MARK POOLE**  
Ceramics  
Smithsburg,MD  
Booth #G57-58

**REJANE PRATELLI** *New*  
Jewelry  
Blacksburg,VA  
[anvilfireandtime.com](http://anvilfireandtime.com)  
Booth #G47

**WESLEY RASKO** *New*  
Glass  
Naples,FL  
Booth #O22

**MARCIA REIVER** *New*  
Ceramics  
Rosemont,PA  
[marciareiver.com](http://marciareiver.com)  
Booth #O36

**CRAIG RODERICK** *New*  
Photography  
Jasper,AL  
[bellafioreimages.com](http://bellafioreimages.com)  
Booth #O39

**KEVIN RODRIGUE** *New*  
Ceramics  
Spotsylvania,VA  
[rodriguezstudios.com](http://rodriguezstudios.com)  
Booth #B03

**TAMMY RUDD**  
Jewelry  
Holly Hill,SC  
Booth #O21

**DAVID SANDIDGE**  
Glass  
Clermont,FL  
[sandidgeartglass.com](http://sandidgeartglass.com)  
Booth #O17

**ASHLEY SAUDER MILLER** *New*  
2-D Mixed Media  
Harrisonburg,VA  
[ashleysaudermiller.com](http://ashleysaudermiller.com)  
Booth #G54

**JOHN SCANLAN**  
Photography  
Glenwood,IA  
[scanlan.com](http://scanlan.com)  
Booth #B07-8

**MELISSA SCHAPPELL** ★  
2-D Mixed Media  
Virginia Beach,VA  
[melissaschappell.com](http://melissaschappell.com)  
Booth #B22



**LYN SEDLAK-FORD** *New*  
Painting  
Portland,OR  
[Sedlak-Ford.com](http://Sedlak-Ford.com)  
Booth #G41-42

**PAUL SHAMPINE** *New*  
2-D Mixed Media  
Newtown,CT  
[paulshampine.com/](http://paulshampine.com/)  
Booth #O33

**JASON SHARP** *New*  
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[terroirwoodstudio.com](http://terroirwoodstudio.com)  
Booth #O29

**PHILL SINGER**  
Painting  
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[psingerart.com](http://psingerart.com)  
Booth #B11

**JOYCE SLATE**  
Jewelry  
Sarasota,FL  
[mythosjewelry.com](http://mythosjewelry.com)  
Booth #G15

**JOSHUA SOLOMON** ★  
Glass  
Norfolk,VA  
[jsolomonsolutions.com](http://jsolomonsolutions.com)  
Booth #O32



**MIKE SORGE**  
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Middlebrook,VA  
[mikesorge.com](http://mikesorge.com)  
Booth #B12

**DAVID SOUZA**  
Wood  
Gilbertsville,PA  
Booth #G45

**BRADLEY STEVENSON** *New*  
Wood  
Ashtabula,OH  
[sevenhillswoodworking.com](http://sevenhillswoodworking.com)  
Booth #G06

**DENNIS STUART**  
Painting  
New Milford,CT  
[dennisstuartartist.com](http://dennisstuartartist.com)  
Booth #B21

**NANCE STURM** *New*  
Fiber  
Snellville,GA  
Booth #G48

**MARTIN TABER**  
Jewelry  
Berkeley,CA  
Booth #G09

**CHARLIE TEFFT** ★  
Ceramics  
Summerfield,NC  
[ctpotttery.com](http://ctpotttery.com)  
Booth #O60



**JOANNE TEW**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Annapolis,MD  
[joannewoodwardtew.com](http://joannewoodwardtew.com)  
Booth #B19

**ALISON THOMAS**  
Digital  
Louisa,VA  
[SerenityScenes.com](http://SerenityScenes.com)  
Booth #O27

**KAREN TRIMBLE**  
Painting  
Baltimore,MD  
[karentrimblefineart.com](http://karentrimblefineart.com)  
Booth #G39

**RUSSELL TURNAGE** *Local*  
Ceramics  
Lanexa,VA  
Booth #G34

**TANYA TYREE** ★  
Sculpture  
Heathsville,VA  
[tanyatyree.art](http://tanyatyree.art)  
Booth #O62



**STEVE UREN** *New*  
Wood  
Grand Rapids,MI  
[steveuren.com](http://steveuren.com)  
Booth #O46

**MICHAEL VAGNER** *New*  
Jewelry  
Eugene,OR  
[nurit-and-mick-arts-inc.square.site](http://nurit-and-mick-arts-inc.square.site)  
Booth #B04

**NICKOLAI WALKO**  
2-D Mixed Media  
Richmond,VA  
[nickolaiwalko.com](http://nickolaiwalko.com)  
Booth #G62

**BRYANT WHITE**  
Painting  
Everett,PA  
[whitehistoricart.com](http://whitehistoricart.com)  
Booth #G11

**VONNIE WHITWORTH**  
Painting  
Virginia Beach,VA  
[vonniewhitworthart.net](http://vonniewhitworthart.net)  
Booth #O44

**RICHARD WILSON** *New*  
Drawing and Pastels  
Greenville,NC  
[richardwilsonart.com](http://richardwilsonart.com)  
Booth #B01-2

**DAVID WINIGRAD** *New*  
3-D Mixed Media  
Penn Valley,PA  
[whirligigcraft.com](http://whirligigcraft.com)  
Booth #B20

**KATHY WOOLDRIDGE** *Local*  
Glass  
Newport News,VA  
[wooldridgeglass.com](http://wooldridgeglass.com)  
Booth #O52

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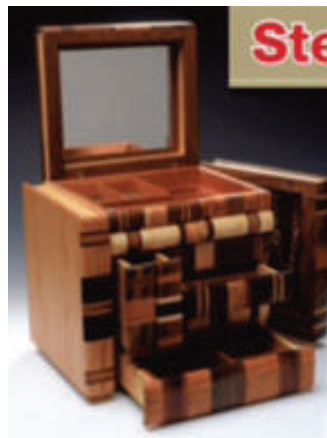


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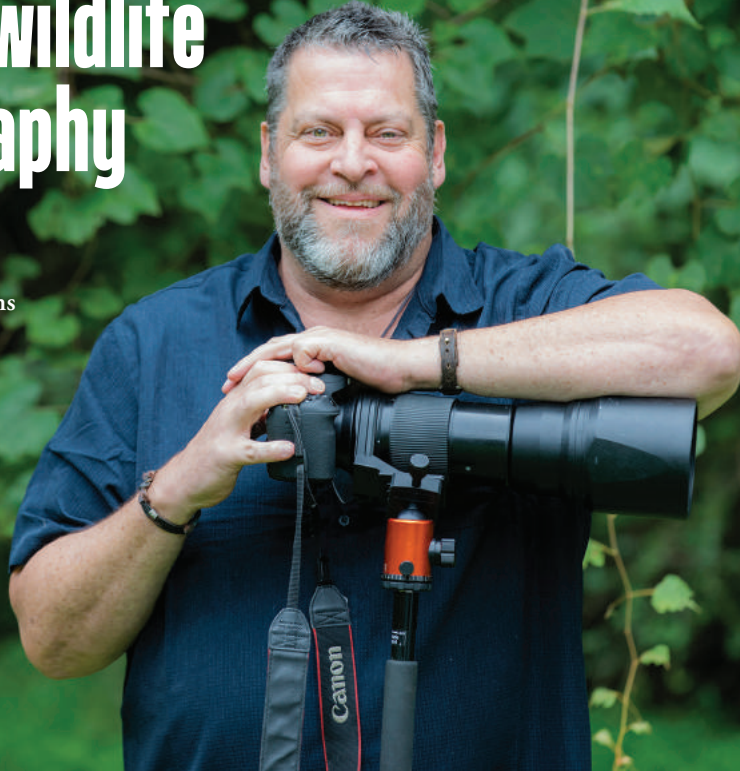




# KEVIN CAUDLE

## Immersed in nature and wildlife photography

Lillian Stevens



Murawski Photography

Kevin Caudle grew up with a love of the outdoors. “I’ve always found that being in nature provides sort of a release from the outside world,” he says.

Originally from Roanoke, Virginia, the mountains were Kevin’s playground as a child. Once he was grown, he embarked upon a career in the hospitality industry, which took him to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. During those years, Kevin says that his passion for photography and nature took a bit of a back seat, as most of his waking hours were devoted to a

very demanding job.

In 2015, he relocated to Williamsburg to take a position at a local hotel, a move that would dramatically change the trajectory of his life, reacquainting him with nature and her creatures.

“What I love most about this region is the flora and, of course, the animals,” Kevin says. “With so much shallow and open water here, there’s a patchwork of nature that is so interesting.”

After having spent 25 years working in a

field that rarely slows down, he was hoping to find opportunities and time in Williamsburg to focus on his love of the outdoors and wildlife photography, especially birds and raptors.

“When I take my camera out and sit on the edge of the river, it’s that shot of an eagle swooping down and carrying a fish away that thrills me,” he says. “Wildlife photography is not like the studio. An animal isn’t going to hold still, turn slightly to the left or walk over to you on request. If you’re a nature photographer, you take advantage of what you have

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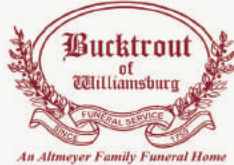
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**Kiwanis Club of Colonial Capital**

# Annual Charity Golf Tournament

**Sunday, October 3rd**

**Ford's Colony Country Club - Blackheath Course**

Begins with a shotgun start at 1:00pm with registration beginning at 11:00am. The tournament features prizes for putting and overall best net score for a foursome. Included in the \$140 entry fee (\$121 for FCCC members) are: golf and cart fees, Kiwanis logo golf balls, unlimited range balls, favors, a boxed lunch and dinner with beer after play. \$50 of the entry fee is tax deductible. A raffle is also planned and this typically features numerous valuable prizes.

This tournament is one of the signature programs for the Kiwanis Club and all net proceeds go towards helping needy children in the greater Williamsburg area. Each year, the club, through its fundraising efforts has been able to award \$60,000 to local support agencies and to award three \$1,000 scholarships for high school seniors going on to college.



For more information, to sign up a foursome, or just to donate, please contact Ford's Colony resident Pete Webster at 757 565-0950 or email to [pwebster@cox.net](mailto:pwebster@cox.net).

**Thank you and happy golfing!**

available to you.”

It wasn't until Kevin inherited his father's camera that he started to pursue photography as a hobby, even enrolling in a class.

“I was working in downtown Pittsburgh then, so it was a daily fight with traffic congestion and the fast pace of my career. Deadlines, emails, customers, staff. It was consuming me. When you're in the hospitality industry, it's a 24/7 career that leaves little time for a hobby. I've always had an artistic side, though, and I always loved to draw.”

An artistic eye isn't enough, though. A photographer interested in nature and wildlife must also possess an abundance of patience and spare time. Now, for the first time in his adult life, Kevin has both.

“I debated how much of my story to share,” he says. “But the truth is that five years ago, I had a stroke. And although I don't dwell on it, I'm sharing it here because it is a big part of my story.”

Everything in his life changed on Thanksgiving Day, 2015. As he celebrated the holiday at his brother's house in Richmond, Kevin started to have stroke symptoms. Thankfully, he was within easy access of swift medical care, which is essential to a stroke victim's prognosis.

After a one-week stay in the hospital, he returned home to find a long road stretching in front of him. Kevin has a strong and loving family, but he lives in Williamsburg alone, so his recovery was largely a solo one, with assistance from some wonderful physical therapists.

“I had to learn to walk all over again,” Kevin says. “First, with a walker, then a cane.”

After speech therapy and several years of physical therapy, Kevin has recovered from that catastrophic event, although he says he still has some balance issues.

His medical condition may have forced him into early retirement, but considering the substance and the pace of his former career, he looks at his new normal almost as a gift.

“Let's just say that having a stroke was a very abrupt way to get spare time,” he says.

Kevin now spends his days immersed in the nature that surrounds him. He lives near Jamestown, just a stone's throw from the Colonial Parkway, so sometimes he doesn't even have to leave his yard to get amazing shots. Other favorite places that make for great photography include Jamestown Island, the Chickahominy Riverfront area, the Greensprings Trail and spots along the Colonial Parkway.

“The most important thing is just being out there and patiently waiting,” he says. “As I said, wildlife comes to you, not the other way around, so it does take a lot of time and patience. Sometimes I will visit the sandy beach near the glasshouse at Jamestown and position myself near an eagle's nest. When they fire the musket for the tourists, I watch the tree line and sure enough, here comes a startled eagle.”

Sometimes, an osprey will catch a fish and, to Kevin's delight, an eagle will swoop down from the treetops and chase the osprey for its fish. Though he has always been fascinated with the raptors, Kevin has a soft spot in his heart for small birds, especially the green heron.

“I really love those little birds,” he says. “And you don't see too many of them.”

The green heron is a small, dark heron with a blue-green back, rusty-colored neck and dark cap. Usually in a crouched position, he can be found partly concealed in vegetation waiting patiently for prey. In



flight, the green heron looks like an awkward crow with broad wings, neck tucked in, and legs extending just beyond the tail.

Impressive shots of the small bird are included among Kevin's vast collection of photographs. In spring and fall, he looks forward to displaying his work at art festivals around Virginia. Locally, a particular favorite is Second Sundays, Williamsburg's nearly year-round Arts & Street Festival.

"I've had a couple instances at Second Sundays where people have been inquisitive about my work and how I got into it," he says. "I can tell they want to try more of that type of stuff themselves, so I try to share helpful hints with them."

His work also recently appeared in the July edition of Virginia Wildlife magazine.

"Who knew deer could swim? There I was trying to photograph a little kingfisher when I heard a loud splash. I'm telling you, nature always gives you something, and sometimes it's quite unexpected."

Kevin submitted his photograph of a large buck swimming in the Chickahominy River to the magazine and they published it.

Of course, background and positioning are both essential for a good shot, even the ones that take him by surprise, and lighting is paramount. "Clouds are always going to be better than bright sunlight. So, noon is not the best time to go out on a photo shoot."

Most photographers agree that the best time of day for outdoor shoots is early morning. "Morning's first light is close to perfection," Kevin says. "Plus, animals are so active that time of day. I like to be out there as early as 6:30, and I stay out there for four hours or so. If I'm lucky, I'll have four to five encounters, each of which may last 15 seconds."

He likens it to hunting but without the blood.

"Everyone goes away happy," he says with a laugh. "Especially the subject."

Unfortunately, the creatures of the land don't always know what time to emerge. Indeed, for the longest time the horned owl was on Kevin's bucket list of creatures to photograph.

"This past June was the fourth year in a row that you could set your watch by a horned owl that lands literally across the street from my house. He was landing every evening at 8:30 sharp, and in June, that gives you only a matter of minutes before you lose your light."

With the help of a makeshift "owl" blind, Kevin finally got the shot. "I walked over there at 8:30, and that bird flew right in. I knew I had about three minutes or there wouldn't be enough light. Suddenly, he flew down 15 feet away from me. He pecked at the ground once, then turned his head. That was all I needed to get my shot. After obsessing over him all that time, I finally got my shot and was back home by 8:40."

There remains one shot, however, that has eluded him thus far: the fox. He has seen two in the area but hasn't gotten "the shot" yet.

It's only a matter of time.

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# LIZ DOODY



Murawski Photography

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The tiny village of Lewiston, New York, is about 30 minutes north of Buffalo and nestled along the Niagara River. This is where Liz Doody grew up and went to school and stayed cold. "It's a different way of life," she says. "Great food, very ethnic area. And sports are huge. I'm still a Buffalo Bills fan, no matter what."

Liz attended a private Catholic school, and there was no emphasis on the arts. "I remember

my dad signed me up for a little art course, and I took it and loved it. I still remember the picture I created. The arts just were not fostered. It wasn't something you did."

After high school, Liz went to Ball State University. "I went into education, but I didn't even go into art education. I went into reading education." She taught for a number of years until her children, boys Cole and Russ, were

born, and then returned to work when they got older. "When I went back to work, someone approached me about doing sales for corporate America." The pay differential astounded her, and it was enough of an incentive to convince her to change careers.

For the next 20 years, Liz focused on corporate sales. She was highly successful, but not necessarily happy. "I made tons of money, and I

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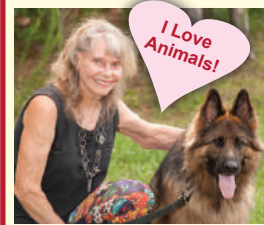


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never felt satisfied. There was no passion there.” Liz had gone through a difficult divorce and knew it was time to make a big change in her life.

She met Ralf, who sold her a timeshare and talked to her about changing jobs. This would be a big change, though, as the job was located in the Caribbean. “I went home to Ohio and told my boys I had been offered this job, but I said it was crazy. Who goes from Columbus, Ohio where I was living and moves to the Virgin Islands.” Both boys thought this was a great idea. They were leaving for school, ready to start their own journey, and they encouraged Liz to take that step. “They wanted me to do something that I wanted, because I was not happy. All I did was work. And Ralf and I became buddies, and then we became more than buddies and fell in love.” Liz and Ralf married and their journey as life partners began.

Moving from the northern United States to the Caribbean was life changing for Liz. Her perspective changed in more ways than one. “I still worked for corporate America, but I would sit on the beach and just paint and be mesmerized by the colors. They were so vibrant.”

During this time, a friend introduced her to the art of alcohol ink painting. “It really captured the vibrancy of the colors there, and I loved it. I couldn’t get my hands on alcohol ink there, but I could buy acrylic inks. I painted driftwood, I painted anything I could get my hands on.”

But sometimes reality intrudes on paradise, and when hurricane Irma hit the island, it devastated them. “It wiped out our home. We lost everything. We had no electricity, we had nothing, and we were dying of heat. You couldn’t go in the water because the storm had brought up all the mud. So, I pulled out the paints. And that’s where I started discovering that it was like my therapy, and anytime I felt anxiety, anytime I had to deal with something, I started painting.”

Liz and Ralf relocated to the Williamsburg area after that, transferred because of work. “When COVID hit, I had to work virtually.” The stress of the job meant that Liz would often make time to paint. “It became habitual. I had to do it every day.” Finally, one morning she woke up and reassessed her life. She had been through a lot, yet she still felt unfulfilled by her work. She had been successful, she had a won-

derful husband and children, but something was missing. She realized at that point that if she could be successful in corporate America, she could translate that success into whatever she chose to do on her own.

“I walked away. I started painting and painting and painting, and I started a Facebook group page, and I started an Instagram page. My husband set up my website. And people loved it and I was shocked.”

Today, her boys are fully grown and living elsewhere. “My son’s generation believes that you don’t do something unless you truly are happy doing it. And I told Cole how great that he figured out what’s taken me an entire lifetime to figure that out. I get up every day and do something that I’m excited to do. I can’t wait to wake up and start painting. He said he’s glad I figured it out because it would really stink if I had died and not discovered what I love doing. And he’s right.”

Alcohol ink painting is ethereal. The alcohol ink works that Liz creates are graceful as they flow across the canvas, reminiscent of nature, dreams and life. “Alcohol ink is something you can add to alcohol and to get a different texture,



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but I use very little of it. You might use four little dots of it and dilute it," Liz says. Once it is on the canvas, she spreads the ink by tilting the canvas. "It will form waves and shapes and shadows. If you want to get a specific shape, you can push it with air. I blow on it to get most of my shapes. Sometimes I might use a hand-held air compressor or hair blower to contain that shape and add things like metallics to get a glitter to it. Once you get the shape that you want, you might have a flower. You might have started off thinking you were going to make a flower and it ends up turning into a dragon. You just never know because it can have a mind of its own. And as you get better at it, you learn how to control it more."

Liz has painted with this ink in two different styles. In the first style, she simply uses the alcohol ink on canvas. In the second style, she adds to it. "I do a pointillism over the top of it with acrylic paint. I find that people really like the sea life pictures. I do the entire backgrounds, or some of the creatures, with the alcohol inks, and then when I need to form the shape even more precisely, I do a pointillism with acrylic paint." This technique is done with a needle.

"You take a needle, put it into the acrylic and form all the little dots all over. My new method that I'm bringing to my fine art shows is doing alcohol ink paints. I am doing kind of what you might call a flow method. I roll the paints and roll the paints and do layers upon layers, and it takes days to create but at the end you've got just the most unbelievable gorgeous shadows and layers of all these paint colors in a real abstract form."

Recently, Liz and her work can be found at Second Sundays in Williamsburg and at Yorktown Market Days. She also has plans to be at the Neptune Festival in Virginia Beach from September 24 to the 26. In addition, her art will be displayed at the On the Hill Gallery in Yorktown.

"I obviously was inspired by post-impressionism art with the pointillism," she says. Georges Seurat and Vincent van Gogh were a couple of the leaders in this field. "When I was a young girl, I loved to read about them and study them. I definitely can see where it comes out in my artwork now, but so many people have told me that Georgia O'Keeffe's work and my work are very similar with my fine art pic-

es. I loved her when I was a young girl; I can look at her pictures forever. She was probably my main inspiration."

Liz has also decided to add a new element to her art: teaching. Her courses are available online, and she is excited to work with others and guide them on their artistic journey. "The classes will be packed with different techniques and styles, on paper and canvas."

And of course, Liz is the kind of person who wants to have a positive impact on the world around her. "I give back to the world by donating my works to charities." This includes organizations such as The Chris Maloney Legacy Foundation in upstate New York and New Directions Career Center in Ohio.

Liz Doody loves her life and where she is today. She credits a large part of her success to her husband, Ralf. "He has been the main support system in getting me to chase my dream of building this into a business. He works late into nights helping me prepare for shows, as well as the creation of my online courses. Without him I could not do this." NDN

For information or to see more of Liz's work, go to [www.boboartbyld.com](http://www.boboartbyld.com).

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# MARY LEE BERGER



## *Lessons as a* Therapy Dog Handler

By Caroline Johnson

Murawski Photography

Growing up, Mary Lee Berger always had pets. While she loved each one, whether it be a dog, cat, rabbit, duck or even a chicken, she didn't quite understand just what a dog was capable of until she got Casper. After moving 50 times throughout her life Mary Lee and her husband David settled in Williamsburg just before the pandemic began. Moving here in February 2020 after living in Alexandria, Chesapeake, Hampton and even on a boat,

they're enjoying life in Williamsburg with their therapy dog, Casper.

Mary Lee and David have been married since 1967. They have two sons, Davey and Daniel. After their children grew up, Mary Lee and David moved around and enjoyed time as empty nesters. Though originally scared of the water, Mary Lee overcame her fear as David was an avid sailboat racer and she wanted to learn to enjoy it, too. "After we were empty

nesters and no longer needed the house, it was my decision to sell the house and move to a troller boat," Mary Lee says. "It was the best five years of our marriage; a different and wonderful way of life."

In 2012, Mary Lee joined her friend, Linda, on a cruise out of Florida. While excited about the prospect of a fun vacation, Mary Lee couldn't have predicted what this cruise would introduce to her. Soon after boarding, Mary



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Lee spotted a labradoodle service dog that brought tears to her eyes. "I told my friend I was going to get a dog just like that and it would be a puppy and it would be named Casper and he would be a therapy dog," she says. "I was shocked at my own words and tears and wasn't sure where that thought had come from."

Though Mary Lee and her husband had discussed getting another pet, they wanted to be careful, as they knew a pet could potentially outlive them. Ultimately, Mary Lee spoke with the dog owner on the cruise and got the name of the breeder who bred Australian Labradoodles in Illinois. "When I returned, I surprised my husband by telling him we were getting a puppy," she says. "I placed my name on the waiting list in July 2012, and Casper was born in November and arrived at our home in January 2013."

From the beginning, Mary Lee knew Casper was special. After researching what it takes to have a therapy dog, she decided to look into getting him tested. Though he was a typical

playful puppy, he immediately knew he was there for a job. "The tester remarked that it was rare for a dog as young as Casper to pass the test," Mary Lee says.


She got Casper registered as a therapy dog, became his handler and from then on out, it was the two of them setting out weekly to bring joy to people who needed it most. Mary Lee and Casper began regularly visiting hospitals, VA hospitals, nursing homes and private homes upon request. "Before COVID, we would be out three to four times per week at certain facilities, and Casper knew that he was there to work," Mary Lee says. "We would either ask the nurses which patients could benefit from a visit or even sometimes be requested by patients' family members who spotted us on the floor."

Casper was a natural, quickly making his way into the hearts of patients, their families and the staff at the places he visited. "Casper knows when people need him," she says. "When patients or family members grab a hold of him and cry, he stays right there with

them until they stop. He never pulls away."

Mary Lee began capturing specific stories of visits that stuck out to her or were beyond her understanding. As Casper often seemed to just "know" what he was needed for, she began emailing friends the stories she observed as his handler. The short stories via email turned into his own little "fan club," with friends and family enjoying reading about Casper's adventures and gift as a therapy dog.

On top of his inspiring therapy visits, Casper has made an impact on the local community in ways beyond Mary Lee's understanding. Perhaps most notably, Casper is responsible for saving the life of a woman who fell into the water behind the Berger's house in February 2020. At midnight on a 32-degree night, Casper alerted Mary Lee and David that something was going on outside and that someone needed their help through his alert barks. Sure enough, after investigating, Mary Lee heard the woman's cry for help and called 911. Police and firefighters were able to get her to safety and save her from drowning in the



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frigid water. After this act, Casper, David and Mary Lee were invited to City Hall where they were greeted by the Mayor and Casper was recognized for his actions.

Mary Lee wanted these stories to be shared with more than just her friends. "One day it occurred to me that his story is so neat and needs to get out to people so they can understand the strength and intelligence of this dog and other dogs," she says. "I already had the book written in the notebook with all the emails I had sent. All I needed to do was find a publisher."

After seeing an advertisement for Christian Faith Publishing, Mary Lee contacted them and mailed the draft. It took about a year from start to finish, and the book was published in October 2019. The book is called *Therapy Dog Casper: A Gift*, and it can be purchased on Amazon. "What's interesting is I had designed the cover, an illustration of Casper wearing a medical mask, before COVID even happened. Casper has costumes for just about everything." The cover shows Casper in scrubs and

a medical mask, with a stethoscope around his neck.

The book features illustrations of Casper in his many outfits, whether for special holidays or getting to enjoy a special hamburger from Burger King after working a long day. Though the book is filled with stunning illustrations that can capture the hearts and eyes of children, Mary Lee wants people of all ages to know this book is truly for everyone. With the stories shared, she hopes readers will see just how significant a dog can be in making people happy.

"People need hope, and I am profoundly amazed by how much a visit or even just a picture of Casper can make someone happy," she says. "There is even a nurse at one of our regular places that has his picture taped behind her tag. Even when Casper can't be there in person, he's still helping."

Aside from time with her family and being Casper's handler, Mary Lee finds joy in her favorite creative endeavor, shell art. Mary Lee's shell art has won awards, and she has been fea-

tured in art museums and art stores for others to enjoy her work. Though she slowed down on her shell artwork once she got involved with therapy dog visits, she still creates on a commission basis.

As things continue to open up, Mary Lee and David enjoy getting out and about when they can, including visiting the antique mall frequently with Casper as he loves going in and out of the various stands. It is slowly becoming safer to resume therapy visits, and Mary Lee and Casper are thrilled to be able to get back to what they do best when it is safe to do so.

Though visits will be less frequent as Casper is now nine. The time off during COVID was extremely tough for Casper and Mary Lee, as she wasn't able to explain to him why they stopped their visits so suddenly.

Mary is excited to resume her therapy visits with Casper. "I get as much out of the experience as Casper does," she says. "What I see him do, and what he is capable of bringing to a person, is overwhelming. He has helped so many people." NDN

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# A Rescue Dog, A Camera and A Purpose

By Narielle Living



Murawski Photography

The art of photography is nuanced. Light, shadows and form all play a role in the composition of a quality photo. But the real challenge comes when the subjects squirm. Or run. Or bark. Or are simply disdainful and turn their back.

Nicole Moyer knows this well as a pet photographer.

Although she is originally from New York,

Nicole grew up in Richmond, Virginia. It was while she was in high school in Richmond that she met her husband, Andrew. "I spent all my life in Virginia. I went to college at Virginia Commonwealth University. I graduated with a degree in psychology and then went to William & Mary for grad school." Nicole and Andrew moved to Illinois for him to attend the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

After he graduated, they moved to North Carolina before returning to Virginia last December. After receiving a master's degree as an educational specialist in school psychology, Nicole went on to work as a school psychologist. "I've worked with kids from pre-K to 12. My preference is elementary." Today, she works remotely, which has been a bonus during the pandemic.

The journey to becoming a pet photographer


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began nine years ago when they adopted their dog Ellie, a small beagle mix. “She is my favorite thing ever. He was in vet school in Illinois, so we got her out of Indiana. I saw this puppy with these big ears. I just loved her. We had to go and get her and drove three hours each way because I had to have my puppy.”

Like any proud parent, many pictures were taken. Because she loved taking pictures of Ellie, Nicole got a new camera. “My dad is a hobbyist photographer, so I’ve always been around photography. I always had cameras and film and equipment.”

Nicole’s father had taught her the basics of photography, including how to develop film. “This was before digital cameras,” she says. “He taught me a lot of what I know about photography. He does a lot of architectural photography, and so we have very different genres. I’ve learned a lot of pet photography kind of on my own.” She does, however, often send her father pictures for constructive criticism. “Like how would you crop this or would you look at this composition for me.”

According to Nicole, when they first got Ellie, the puppy was sick. “She was really little, and I thought she was pretty sick. My husband says she wasn’t really sick, but to me it was traumatizing. My poor little puppy had kennel cough and she had coccidia and she had a tapeworm, and she just couldn’t stay out of the bed for the first year. After about the first year, she was so much better.”

Despite Ellie’s illness, Nicole took many pictures and trained her. “She’s really food motivated. As long as you have food, she’ll do whatever you want.”

Nicole had so much fun taking photos of Ellie that she began volunteering at the local humane society in Illinois, which is what set her on the road to pet photography. “I started taking pictures for them. It was mostly cats that they needed pictures of, but I just loved working with the animals. They are always themselves, and I found so much joy in it.” Once she began her volunteer work, other people started asking her to take photos of their pets, and from that point her business began to grow. She

realized she really enjoyed the work.

Due to the nature of this work, Nicole’s photos are always different. Some are of the pet, and some are of the pet with their human. “I specialize in working in natural light and personality-filled portraits of the of the animal, but I absolutely love to include their humans, too, if they’re willing.” Although some people are adamant about not being in the photo, many people love having a picture of themselves with their best friend.

Obviously, one of the biggest challenges in this type of work is gaining the animal’s cooperation. Anyone who has experience with cats, especially, knows how difficult it can be to convince a feline to participate in anything. “It takes a lot,” Nicole says with a laugh. “It’s really important to take time to get to know the animal.” Nicole’s goal is to feature the animal’s true self. “You see your best friend in a certain way, so I want my photographs to reflect that. I want them to reflect the true personality.” To achieve this, she takes time prior to the photo shoot to do a phone consultation with



  
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the pet owner. “We talk about what their pet likes to do, where their favorite place to go is, what their favorite toys are, things like that, so I have an idea of what their animal is like.” When the photo shoot takes place, Nicole also spends time getting to know the animal. “I give them treats and get them comfortable with the camera. And then we just have a really good time.”

Getting to know an animal does not always guarantee a successful photo shoot, though. “We have a lot of tricks. It involves a lot of weird noises, like squeaking whistles, that type of thing, and a lot of treats.”

Nicole refers to herself as a natural light photographer, which means that she uses the sun as a light source. “All of my photography is on location.” The exception to this is when she works with cats. “They are a little harder because they’re usually indoors.”

Typically, when she works with cats in a shelter setting, they put the cats on a table with blankets. “They’re contained in this area. And I have a reflector on one side and a window on the other side. We let them get comfortable, and then my husband, who’s always with me on

shoots, he would have cat toys, you know dangly things and stuff like that. He literally stands above my head or above the camera and dangles them, and I’ll make a weird noise. You just have to jump on that split second that they look at you and get it right.”

It’s extremely helpful to have an assistant as a pet photographer, and Nicole is grateful that Andrew enjoys working with her. One of the fun things she has done with her photos of Ellie is enlarging the dog’s eyes. “I can zoom into Ellie’s eyes on my pictures, and you can see me with the camera on my face and my husband hovering over me with treats.”

Nicole’s husband Andrew has told her he loves accompanying her on photo shoots because it’s a chance to do something fun with the animals. As the contract veterinarian for Heritage Humane society, it’s nice to have an opportunity to step back from the health care aspect for him. “He’s obviously working with animals when there’s something wrong, and it’s kind of joyful for him to get to go to the beach and run around with dogs. It’s a little therapeutic.”

For the most part, Nicole’s photos are of dogs

and cats. “My first love is dogs,” she says, but she is open to photographing any type of animal, except perhaps snakes. “If somebody let me take pictures with farm animals, I would be in heaven.”

Taking photos of pets is a calling for Nicole. Her goal with this endeavor is twofold: to record important images and to create art. “I want to report how important pets are to their humans. It’s important to me. I know how much I love Ellie and how much she changed our lives and how meaningful she is.”

The second aspect, creating art, is what gives her photos depth. “I’ve always loved art. I think that it’s so important to have meaningful artwork that evokes emotion that you can have on your wall and look at and smile.”

Working with rescue animals is an important part of Nicole Moyer’s focus. Today, she devotes her time to volunteering with the Heritage Humane Society and helps them with fundraising. But she is quick to mention that there are a number of animal rescue groups doing fantastic work. “Our work with the rescues is an important piece of what we do because of Ellie.” NDN



Photo courtesy of Lepp Photography

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# A History of Virginia Music

Murawski Photography

By Narielle Living

Anyone who owns a musical instrument knows and understands how easy it is to end up owning more than one. Peggy Parker, of Parker Piano Outlet, says that she and her husband, Buddy, have been selling pianos for about 50 years. “Back when we started, we were selling pianos and we would also go out to buy them. And we started finding antique music instruments. So, we started collecting them.”

“In 2013, we decided to open the museum and share this collection with the public. It’s got the history of pianos starting from the

1760s, all the way through to current pianos. We also have amusement park instruments in there, which makes it a little bit fun for younger people coming through. We have Nickelodeons and phonographs. And the thing I really like about the museum is we have added the Virginia Music Hall of Fame.”

Virginia has been the home of a number of well-known musical artists, including Bruce Hornsby, Pearl Bailey, Patsy Cline, Pharrell Williams, Ella Fitzgerald and Wayne Newton. “We have been fortunate enough to be able to

collect Pearl Bailey’s dress and Ella Fitzgerald’s dress. We even have Wayne Newton’s roadster in there.” The collection includes memorabilia and information about many musicians such as The Statler Brothers, Charlie Byrd, Kate Smith, Phil Vassar and the Carter Family.

The museum is housed in the same building as Parker Piano Outlets on Richmond Road. “We took about half of the building on the first floor, and then we finished out the second floor for the museum,” Peggy says. She notes that as the museum continues to grow, they are run-

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ning out of room. Currently, they are working on raising enough money to install an elevator. "We're raising money for an elevator right now because some of our guests can't get up the stairs."

Peggy was born and raised in the Hampton Roads area and graduated from Hampton High School. She began playing the piano as a young girl. "I started taking piano lessons when I was about 11 years old," she says. "I took lessons for years and then I started having my children, so I quit. And when they were old enough for piano lessons, I started taking lessons with them. I enjoyed playing."

Peggy says that when her husband learned to tune pianos, he began playing as well. "He has a real natural ear for the piano. I taught him some chords, and he plays beautifully by ear."

Everything started, she says, because of the piano she had as a child. "Growing up, I had a piano, and when I got married, I had to leave that piano because I had a younger brother who was taking lessons. So we saved up and bought an old upright piano." And after buying one piano, why not buy another?

Peggy still plays the piano when she can. The piano that now sits in her living room used to be owned by Jimmy Dean, who, prior to becoming best known for selling sausages, had been a country music singer. The Parkers had sold him a piano which he kept in his home, but unfortunately a house fire erupted in 2009, gutting the space. Although Jimmy Dean and his wife made it safely out of the home, it took firefighters two-and-a-half hours to get the blaze under control. Once things settled, Jimmy Dean called Peggy and her husband. Amazingly, the piano had not burned, but the continual water spray from that night had damaged the instrument. "We ordered them a new Yamaha, which was a very special piano," Peggy says. "They didn't make a lot of those baby grands, and we ordered them a new one and we brought theirs back here. We put in a new action, rebuilt it and everything, and it's beautiful. [The fire] didn't bother the finish at all, and now we enjoy that here in our house."

With a variety of instruments at their disposal, Peggy and her husband have the ability to play and listen to a range of musical styles. Her favorites, she says, are country and bluegrass music. "We kind of like a variety of all types of music but our favorite, believe it or not, is country music and bluegrass."

At one time, Peggy and her husband had eight locations for Parker Piano Outlet. Unfortunately, when the recession came in 2008, the stores took a hit. "It was getting really difficult to keep everything going, so we started closing some of the stores. And we're down to just the one in Williamsburg now."

Today, Peggy and her husband spend a couple of days a week at the outlet but rely mainly on their manager to run the store. "The museum is keeping us quite busy because our tourists are really picking up." Prior to the pandemic, a number of different groups toured the museum, including schools. Despite the slowdown that occurred during the pandemic, new items are still being added to the museum. "The latest thing we purchased is an automatic playing banjo. It is coin operated, and you put either a nickel or a quarter in, and it plays automatically."

Peggy Parker loves the museum and the knowledge, enjoyment and inspiration it brings to others. "We have been very blessed with the piano stores and our people working with us and now the museum and people coming from all over to see it. It's just very exciting." NDN





# Putting A Smile on Faces

By Alison Johnson

Murawski Photography

At a Williamsburg Senior Softball League (WSSL) All-Star game earlier this summer, play-by-play announcer John W. Stout had a few breathless moments.

Not surprising, John was also playing third base and batting during the game.

“I wore a wireless mic on the field and called the entire seven innings,” John relates. “I even

got to announce myself as batter: ‘Now batting, it’s me! Yay, yay, me, you’re the best!’ If there’s anything I can do to help people have fun, I want to do it.”

John, a longtime softball player with experience as a radio DJ and sports photographer, has announced several WSSL games during the past two seasons. As a veteran in the Video

Production field, he also shoots digital photographs and shares prints with fellow players.

Emcee duties include pre-game and between-inning music, in-game commentary, jokes and player introductions, the latter complete with gentle taunting. John has used a portable speaker, a battery-powered megaphone and an iPod preloaded with fan-friendly tunes.

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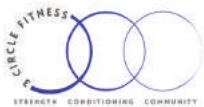
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"I'm an outgoing, high-energy guy, so I enjoy entertaining people," he says. "Winning is nice, but that's not as important to me as seeing people have a great time."

The WSSL is open to men ages 50 and older and women 40 and older. This year's season runs from April to October, with Tuesday and Thursday morning games at Quarterpath Park. The friendly atmosphere often has opponents cheering each other's top plays.

John, 56, joined the WSSL in June 2020 and serves as Treasurer on its Board of Directors. He also is a 28-year veteran of the City of Williamsburg's more competitive recreational softball league for players 18 and older, with Monday doubleheaders from May to late July.

"This year, I was on a team sponsored by the College Delly, so we went there for beers after games," he says. "I think that was a requirement."

A Hampton native, John credits his father, an internal medicine physician, and his mother, a nurse, for modeling the importance of caring about other people and trying to boost their spirits. He was the youngest of four siblings and, he insists, the least talkative of the bunch.

Still, "my friends know me as a very garrulous person," he allows. "I love talking to people. Somehow, I can remember conversations I had 20, 30 years ago."

At age nine, John began playing Little League baseball and continued in the sport through his high school years at Hampton Roads Academy (HRA). He was mainly a first baseman on the HRA team, which went 17-2 in his senior year.

While John also ran cross country and played football and basketball at HRA, baseball was always his favorite sport. Case in point, the lifelong Major League Baseball fan later had his bachelor party at Camden Yards, the ballpark of the Baltimore Orioles.

"I like the strong team environment," he explains. "It helps to be good as an individual player, of course, but you also need to be a good teammate. The best teams have plenty of people who embrace that mindset." At the University of Virginia (UVA), John majored in Rhetoric and Communications Studies and joined a campus radio station his junior year. He hosted a Thursday afternoon show with music selections and also briefly handled an overnight shift at an AM station in Charlottesville.

As a sports photographer at the UVA newspaper, John's best experience was covering 7-foot-4 basketball superstar Ralph Sampson, later the first pick of the 1983 NBA draft. "I got to sit right under the basket as a freshman and watch him," John says.

John met his future wife, Molly, during a half-semester softball elective in the Physical Education department. Neither had planned to be in the class.

"Molly mistakenly thought she needed one more credit to graduate, and I'd just been in a half-semester skiing class so I could go to Wintergreen," he says. "When I heard I also could get credit for playing softball twice a week, I was like, 'Sign me up!' It must have been fate, right?"

After dating for eight years, John and Molly married 28 years ago and raised sons Jeff, now 24, and David, 19. Jeff is an engineer in Los Angeles, and David, a theater fan, is a sophomore at the University of Mary



Washington. Molly works for a small engineering consulting company. A Williamsburg resident since 1988, John has built a three-decade career in Video Production with stints as a writer, producer, director, videographer and video editor. He now does contract work from home for Metro Productions, a company founded in Williamsburg with offices in Hampton and Richmond, focusing on business development and project management.

John started at Metro Productions right out of college and recently returned there after two years at Newport News based Ferguson Enterprises. In May 2020, his Ferguson position was eliminated in COVID-related downsizing.

That's when Molly, knowing her husband was feeling a bit lost and was terrible at sitting still, encouraged him to join the WSSL.

"She said, 'You need to get out of the house. You need more to do,'" John recalls. "I'm a task-oriented person. I like to be busy. I don't even have a Netflix account because I can't stay on the couch long enough to binge-watch anything."

The WSSL provides a unique opportunity for the area's many older and retired residents to stay active and compete in a social, supportive environment, he says. Team rosters regularly feature players in their 70s and 80s.

The league begins with informal practices and scrimmages and emphasizes injury prevention with input from a trainer from William & Mary. All WSSL players get ample playing time regardless of ability and opposing team members can substitute for absent players, so games aren't canceled.

"No players just sit on the bench and watch," John says. "The camaraderie is as important as the game. People want to win, but we really just enjoy playing and each other's company. Many of us go to lunch or have a barbecue after the games. It's been awesome."

John also enjoys morning runs with his shepherd/husky mix, Maverick, on the Colonial Parkway, as well as fishing, drinking craft beer, and attending football games and tailgates at UVA. As he puts it, "I like to do anything that brings people together to have a good time."

Last season, John was chosen for the WSSL's All-Star game but asked to announce the game instead. "Slow-pitch softball is maybe not the most exciting sport in the world to watch, so I thought I could do something to liven it up," he explains.

This season, John called a Home Run Derby, where players aim to hit softballs off a tee over a fence about 200 feet away. He also presided over the 66-and-older All-Star Game, the first of a Thursday doubleheader.

John's son David was supposed to call the later game for ages 65 and younger, where John was a participant, but he couldn't get away from his summer job. Hence, the wireless microphone clipped to John's jersey. Not surprisingly, John Stout hopes to keep playing softball and helping players and fans laugh for many years to come.

"I've made so many wonderful new connections on the field," he says. "I'm grateful to be a part of it, and that's why my main goal now is to put a smile on people's faces." NDN



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# Interpreting History & Tending Gardens

By Lillian Stevens



Murawski Photography

Sam Haskell doesn't remember a time when he wasn't cultivating a garden.

"As a child, I grew up helping my granddad who lived a mile away from our house," he says. "I would go visit him on a regular basis and help him in his garden. So you could say I got a lot of inspiration from a young age."

Sam grew up in the Bruton District of York County, about three miles east of Colonial Williamsburg. He took his childhood inspiration and turned it into a career that would

carry him into his adulthood.

As an interpreter at Jamestown Settlement, Sam spends his workdays maintaining a couple of colonial-era gardens there. With his colleagues, he brings to life the Powhatan way of life through a re-creation of Pasphegh Town, which is based on a portion of the Pasphegh community that existed near the original fort. It depicts the homes and daily tasks of the Native American people who lived there.

Sam tends two gardens, one in Pasphegh

Town and another in the re-created James Fort.

"Pasphegh was located up the James River where it intersects with the Chickahominy River," he says. "Today, Governor's Land Country Club sits on that location. In fact, on the 18th fairway, they found remnants of a native town site that was the closest native site to the English fort at Jamestown which is just a mile down the river from where we stand."

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farmed. Sam explains that these towns were bordered by Senacomica on the Potomac River to the north, the Great Dismal Swamp to the south, and stretched from the western foothills of Appalachia to the Chesapeake Bay and the Eastern Shore.

“You could say this was a superpower on the eastern seaboard. Thirty-two tribes were all part of the chiefdom lead by Paramount Chief Powhatan.”

The Powhatan grew corn, beans and squash, which accounted for about 50 percent of their sustenance. In Paspahugh Town, Sam carefully cultivates these crops and interprets for visitors to the outdoor museum.

“We also grow sunflower, pumpkin and passion fruit,” he says. “Gardening was the primary job of women and children.”

Over at the James Fort, Sam plants and oversees a thriving tobacco garden. This year, he propagated the tobacco from seed at his Toano home, then brought them in for planting.

Sam starts a lot of his crops ahead of time, transplanting them in the spring so his garden

looks authentic and lush. “When the school groups start coming, we are able to bring these gardens alive in a living classroom,” he says.

“You’ll see that the tobacco here is planted in mounds,” he says. “The women and children would have prepped these fields by gathering the nutrient-rich soil in mounds for planting the tobacco.”

Adjacent to the tobacco garden is a cluster of structures called yehakins.

“In the typical home of the time, called a yehakin, a fire would burn year round. The smoke would envelope all of the food. The baskets hanging on the wall would have been filled with dried berries, venison, smoking and aging food.”

Sam harkens back to his own childhood home and the memories of growing up in a town that was much smaller then and stoked his passion for history.

“As kids, we rode our bikes all through the historic area and around Williamsburg. We also played in wooded areas that were filled with earthworks abandoned by General John

McGruder’s forces after the Civil War Battle of Williamsburg.”

Fought on May 5, 1862, the Battle of Williamsburg was the first major engagement of the Peninsula Campaign during the American Civil War.

“When I was a child, our playground was the forested areas,” he says. “The earthworks are still there but you could pass them without realizing what they are. A lot of the battlefield sits where Doctors’ Hospital is today.”

Sam says he was in the second grade at McGruder Elementary School when he first had a taste of what his career path might someday be.

“I remember my class had a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg. When I saw a musket demo at the Gunpowder Magazine, I thought that might be a good job for me someday.”

In the meantime, at the tender age of 14, Sam got his work permit and got a job in a local restaurant instead. “Back then, it was mostly family-owned restaurants here,” he says. “I remember when there was more of a small-town charm. I grew up surrounded with that.”



Helena S. Mock, Managing Attorney

Catherine E. Sears, Associate Attorney



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# Preserve Your Assets

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Sam says he can still taste the dinners at Nick's Seafood Pavilion in Yorktown and the hot fudge sundaes after church at the Queen Anne Dairy Snack on Route 143.

"I couldn't have grown up in a better place. I love Williamsburg, and I love this area. One thing that has always been a constant, and will always be our jewel, is the Historic Triangle. I have such fond memories of visiting Jamestown Festival Park as a kid, and my grandad taking me to the Yorktown Victory Center."

Throughout his high school years, Sam worked in jobs that supported Williamsburg's tourist industry. After graduating from high school, he landed a position in the Motor House at Colonial Williamsburg running a printing press in museum support services.

"That's when I got my lucky break," he says. "That came in the form of an opportunity to do some interpreting in the Historic Area of Williamsburg. I was hired to conduct guided tours throughout the Historic Triangle. I was leading tours for high school groups coming to this area and would bring them to visit James-

town and Yorktown, all in one day."

Eventually, he migrated over to Jamestown Settlement where, for the past 11 years, he has found his calling.

"This is what I love to do and where I want to be," Sam says. "So I plan to stay here for many more years!"

The self-described people person loves engaging with residents and tourists alike.

"They say if you love what you do, you never work a day in your life. I look forward to coming here. It's a great place to work."

He admits that it helps to be an extrovert.

"I do love to talk," Sam admits. "Whether it's a kindergarten class or group of senior citizens, these visitors are coming here to learn about the rich history of this area, so I love feeling like an ambassador for this region. It's my passion. It's what keeps me going."

Sam is in his element interpreting history for the hundreds of guests that will pass through Jamestown Settlement on any given day. His enthusiasm for his work is infectious, and he truly hopes to inspire the next generation of

historical interpreters.

Even though his primary role involves gardening, Sam works throughout the year. The gardens in Paspahegh Town are usually planted in April, but in the re-created English fort, they continue to grow fall crops.

"We're harvesting well into October," he says. "Then, in the winter months, there's a lot of research and studying to prepare for the upcoming season."

Of course, the pandemic shook things up during 2020 and into 2021.

"We weren't able to provide as much of that hands-on component under Covid limitations," Sam says. "But things are coming back now that some of the restrictions have been lifted. We did see steady visitation throughout that time, though, and we were able to tell our story, but within the confines of barriers and social distancing."

The museum is open 363 days a year, and on many of those days, Sam Haskell can be found doing what he loves most, working in the garden and talking about history. NDN

## Colonial Gastroenterology Associates Welcomes

# Dr. Gurjeet Kang, DO

to our practice.

Dr. Gurjeet Kang is a fellowship trained gastroenterologist. He grew up in Queens, New York and earned his undergraduate degree from State University of New York at Stony Brook. He attended Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine where he graduated at the top of his class.

Dr. Kang then completed his internal medicine residency at Grandview Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio and worked for a year as an academic hospitalist at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. He subsequently completed his fellowship in gastroenterology from HCA Healthcare/University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine. He served as the chief GI fellow from 2020-2021.

Dr. Kang has special interests in colon cancer screening, liver disease and inflammatory bowel disease. He is published in recognized medical journals and has presented at multiple meetings at the national level.



Dr. Gurjeet Kang, DO

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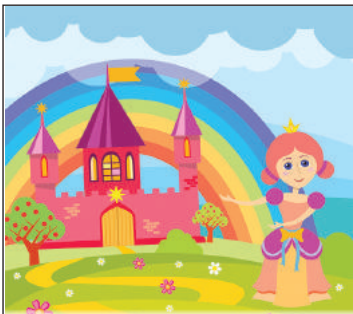
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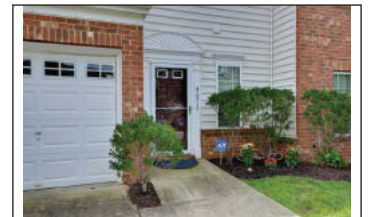
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