

December 2010

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Food & Feasts

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The "New"
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HEALTH
Michael Barder
Get Ready For the
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Williamsburg has long been a tourist destination for the holidays, but as locals we know that there are literally hundreds of ways to enjoy the holidays that those passing through would never have time to experience. In fact, there are so many planned holiday events in our community that we've partnered with the Chamber & Tourism Alliance to create a print and online guide to everything there is to see and do!



Meredith Collins, Publisher

In this issue, we've interviewed some of the folks who are behind the scenes of some of the interesting and exciting holiday happenings and we've provided you with snippets of additional information and relevant online links to find out even more.

However, the most important website address for you to remember and refer to is: www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com. You'll find the tip of the iceberg in event listings in this issue beginning on page 29, but if you want to really wrap your arms around everything that's available to elevate your holiday spirit, go to www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com. With both of these tools you'll be in great shape to show your visiting friends and family a really good time in a most wonderful place - Williamsburg! NDN

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A Celebration of Food

CINDY DANIEL EXPLORES THE FOODS AND RECIPES OF 17TH AND 18TH CENTURY VIRGINIA

By Alison Johnson

Not many people can say they've made jerky from deer meat, roasted a turkey over an open fire, baked bread inside corn husks or – here's one to remember – boiled a calf's tongue in water, stuffed it with bread crumbs and onions and happily eaten it.

For Cindy Daniel, a decidedly non-squeamish history buff, it's all part of a job that she fell in love with not long out of college. Now Assistant Interpretative Site Manager for the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Cindy, 41, also has shaped stone into tools, tanned bear

hides, fired artillery weapons, worked with metals in the blacksmith shop and helped cultivate crops during her years working at Jamestown Settlement and the Yorktown Victory Center. Her ideal assignment, however, is teaching visitors about 17th- and 18th-century foods and recipes.

"Food is one of the easiest ways for our visitors to make that emotional connection to people who lived here 400 years ago," Cindy says. "Everybody likes food, after all; it's important to everyone. And there is so much symbolism

and ritual that goes along with it. It is a great gateway to get a glimpse into someone's real life. Plus, it's just fun."

One of Cindy's favorite special events is the annual "Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia," which runs Nov. 25-27 at the Yorktown Victory Center and Jamestown Settlement, and is free to residents of Williamsburg, James City County and York County. The program showcases typical fare eaten during the American Revolution, when soldiers figured out ways to turn meager rations of dried beans, salted meat

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and hard bread into nourishing soups and stews.

At Jamestown Settlement, interpreters prepare foods eaten by the first English colonists and native Powhatan Indians, such as venison, turkey and ham roasted over open fires and stews made by combining corn, beans and squash in clay pots and iron kettles over hot coals. Powhatan Indians cooked "husk bread" by mixing cornmeal and water into a stiff batter, spooning it into corn husks, tying the husks off with a grass cord or string and dropping them in boiling water. The Indians preserved meats by smoking, while the English used salt curing and pickling. One of Cindy's favorite treats: venison jerky.

"It's fantastic," she says. "We're unfortunately not allowed to feed the public, although we're happy to share recipes. But the people who work there, we love sampling! But then we also have to do a lot of dishes."

While the Thanksgiving feast of today is connected more to 19th-century rituals, there are influences from Colonial American history and earlier, Cindy says. Every agricultural society has had some kind of harvest celebration in the fall, when people sat down together to celebrate the crops they'd grown. Jamestown settlers, like the families they'd left in England, likely combined meats with nuts, fruits and sweet seasonings that modern-day Americans think of as "Christmas cookie spices," such as cinnamon, nutmeg and ginger. Turkey with cranberry sauce is one of the few fruit-and-meat holdovers from these early traditions. Stuffing and puddings (today's pies) made from pumpkins and sweet potatoes also date back to Colonial times.

Every year, Foods & Feasts draws families who have come many times before but still discover something new each time. "You can always tell when the people and events suddenly become real to visitors, when it makes sense," she says. "It's a great feeling. And think about it: visitors come specifically to talk with you about the thing you love. Seriously, who doesn't want that job?"

Cindy probably could never have guessed her career path as a child. She grew up in Bedford, Va., the only child of a contractor father and a mother who worked as a nurse. Her mother, Cindy recalls with a laugh, wasn't much into history museums and hated to cook. But her parents, especially her mother, did like to travel. "Bedford was a small town, and she was careful that I was well aware the world was a lot bigger," Cindy says.

Cindy had caught the history bug by the time she began studies at the University of Virginia. There, her main focus was English medieval history. "So, 1607 is actually a bit modern for me!" she jokes.

In fact, Jamestown Settlement wasn't even on her radar until one day in 1994, when a few of Cindy's friends were volunteering there and invited her to go along. Cindy immediately fell in love with the place and became a regular volunteer on weekends. Over time, she evolved into a part-time employee and then a full-time staff member. She has worked as an interpreter all over the settlement, from the Powhatan Indian village to the colonist fort to the ship replicas. She now does training, program development and special event coordination and oversees the daily operations of the outdoor living history sites.

Unlike at some living history museums, Jamestown Settlement in-

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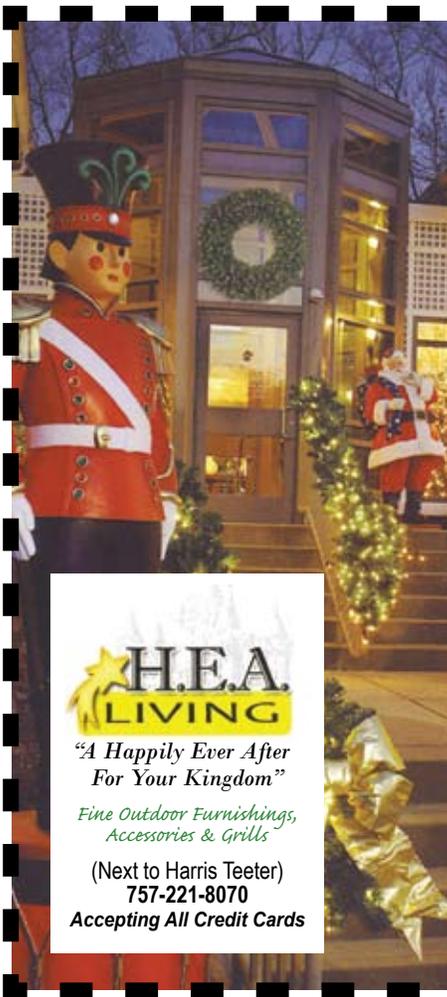
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terpreters don't play specific characters but speak as themselves. "Our mission is to teach," Cindy explains, "and we've found that it's easier for us to relate what we're doing to the younger kids if we can make some temporal comparisons. We can say, 'How is this different or the same to the way we do things today?'"

Sometimes, the lessons are surprising for both kids and adults. For example, the Powhatan Indians didn't introduce corn to the English at Jamestown; they were already familiar with it in Europe. However, it was used primarily as food for animals there. "So it had to be fairly disheartening for the settlers when Capt. John Smith went out to trade for food and came back with all that corn," Cindy says. "It's almost like he met them with a bushel full of dog food. Sure, you can eat it, but you don't want to."

Another interesting nugget: the men at Jamestown fort did the cooking. When women did begin to live at the military outpost, they mainly did the laundry and sewing in the early years, Cindy reports.

In her free time, Cindy, who is single, likes to read and travel – England is a favorite spot – and, not surprisingly, she loves to cook at home. She has a cookbook collection that fills two bookshelves, including pre-17th- and 18th-century volumes, and she has duplicated some old recipes. The venison pie she made in stew form, with deer meat, red wine vinegar, cloves and fennel, was a hit.

Not that all old recipes are a success. Once at Jamestown Settlement, staffers tried a ravioli-like recipe from a mid-17th century cookbook that included a doughy pastry stuffed with cooked dried peas and cheese, boiled in water and then strewn with sugar. "Oh, they were awful," Cindy says. "We couldn't even get the chickens to eat that."

Throughout the holiday season, Cindy is looking forward to showcasing popular – and better-tasting – dishes such as mincemeat tarts, custards and fruit pies. She's planning to stick with her dream job for many seasons to come. "I started working here for free," she says, "and I just never left." NDN

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FOOD & FEASTS OF COLONIAL VIRGINIA AT JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT

When: November 25 - 27

Where: Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center

Colonial Virginia foodways are featured during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. At Jamestown Settlement, learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At the Yorktown Victory Center, learn about typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen.

Long before microwaves, electric stoves and refrigerators, food was prepared in clay pots and iron kettles over hot coals and preserved by smoking, salt curing and pickling. This Thanksgiving holiday, explore foodways of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia ...

Continue reading at: <http://historyisfun.org/foods-and-feasts.htm>



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

SCOTT GASPARICH

A “Bright Light” for Christmas Town

By Erin Zagursky

While ghosts, rats and ravens still dotted the Busch Gardens landscape in October, a transformation was quietly underway behind the scenes that would soon turn the park from the dark and spooky Howl-O-Scream to the

brilliantly lit and festive Christmas Town.

Though a huge team of people is responsible for the park's transformation, Scott Gasparich, Vice President of Entertainment for Busch Gardens Williamsburg, is key to the planning

and execution of the holiday event. Consider him one of the brightest lights on the Christmas Town team.

There are quite a few lights at Christmas Town to compete with. This year, organizers

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Many of us are motivated for different reasons for giving to our favorite charities, especially during the holiday season. In our practice, we have found that many parents and grandparents use charitable giving to teach their children and grandchildren the importance of helping their communities or favorite charity respond to unmet needs. Yes, they understand and welcome the tax benefits (income, gift and estate taxes) of their charitable gifts, but for many parents and grandparents, it is more about shaping the legacy they leave behind than just how many dollars they will leave to their heirs. When you choose charitable giving, the lessons can be especially powerful to impressionable minds. The best way to “teach” others what is important to you is through example.

Charitable giving falls into several categories. They include outright gifts, gifts of a part of (or an interest in) property and charitable gifts in trust. These methods can be used during one’s lifetime or at one’s death. Each has separate income, gift and estate tax benefits. So, you should always check with your tax advisor before making the gift. Let’s look at the various alternatives you have for charitable giving.

1. **Outright Gift** is an immediate transfer from you to a charity. This can include cash, securities, tangible personal property (works of art, antiques, and books); intangible personal property (patents, contracts, promissory notes, royalties); and, real estate (residence, farm, vacation home, commercial building, and land).

2. **Gift of Residence or Farm** with a retained lifetime right to use the property. This can be a primary or secondary home or a farm from which you retain its use or income and, at death, the property automatically passes to the charity.

3. **Gift of Undivided Interest in Property.** An example of this type of gift would be the conveyance of a one-quarter (¼) undivided interest in a parcel of land.

4. **Life income gifts** allow you to give to a charity but receive a regular income for life. Life income gifts include gift annuities, Charitable Remainder Trusts and pooled income funds. A variation of this type of gift is a Charitable Lead Trust. With this method, you transfer property (example, real estate, securities, bonds and the like) to a trust, and the charity receives the income from the trust each year for a specified period (example, 10 years). At the end of the period, the property returns to you or another family member.

5. **Leaving a bequest in a Will or Revocable Living Trust** is the easiest and most common way for you to make a charitable gift. Bequests work particularly well for those who are unable to make large, outright gifts but would like to benefit the charity at death.

6. **Life Insurance and Retirement Plans.** As you develop your charitable giving legacy, do not forget the use of life insurance and retirement plans (example IRAs) as testamentary gifts to your charity. Significant amounts of wealth can be left a charity through life insurance proceeds and retirement benefits with huge income and estate tax savings.

As you can see, there are many ways to benefit your favorite charities during life and/or death. The method by which you contribute will determine the tax benefits. Every person’s situation is unique. If you wish to learn more about Charitable Legacy Planning, sign up for one of our educational workshops held in the boardroom of our law office. Go to www.ferrisandassociates.com for dates and times

will hang two million lights throughout the park, including one million alone in the Italy area, which is open this year for the first time.

The lighting design strategy, Scott explains, was to create a color palette for each area or “country” of the park that would correspond with the look, character and feel of each of the countries.

“That really adds to the richness and critical mass that the guest is feeling,” he says. “They may not think about it but as they move into the next section then that awe and wonder is already kind of built in because of what we’ve done to the lighting color palette.”

For instance, the designers implemented a “no LED” rule for England because they wanted the light there to feel warm and welcoming.

“However, in France, which could be more contemporary feeling when you think of Paris and the ‘city of lights’ and those things, the blues and pinks and the cool LED lights fits perfectly, so there’s a lot of thought that goes into the color palettes,” says Scott.

If looking at the millions of lights isn’t enough for some guests, the park also offers a new skyride attraction this year, which will not only let guests see the park lit up from the air, but, using lighted cabins, will also allow them to be part of the show.

All of the park’s lights have been custom-designed for Busch Gardens, with custom colors and alternating patterns.

“So you can’t run up to Lowe’s and get lights that you would find here at Busch Gardens,” Scott says.

That preponderance of lights as well as a mix of new products, shows, music and food are all meant to provide something for each guest, leading them to think, ‘Now, this is Christmas’.

“I don’t think we ever want guests to leave and say, ‘Boy, I wish they had done this,’” says Scott. “Whether Santa or a snowman, anything that conjures up Christmas or Christmas traditions, we’re going to celebrate that here at Busch Gardens.”

A native of Michigan and graduate of the University of Michigan’s theater program, Scott grew up near Frankenmuth, Michigan, home of the world’s largest Christmas store, Bronner’s Christmas Wonderland. In college, he worked on displays for the store, working closely with Wally Bronner, the store’s founder and namesake.

“I was really influenced by seeing that and being exposed to that and decorating for them and really learning the tricks of the trade,” says Scott.

After college, Scott travelled around the country, doing stage and production management for numerous theater and some opera companies. He first worked at Busch Gardens Williamsburg in 1997 as a stage manager for a show at the Royal Palace Theater. For a few years after that, he continued to travel throughout the country while returning to the Williamsburg theme park each summer. Scott then went to Busch Gardens’ corporate offices where he became the corporate manager of special events and later the corporate director of show production. He returned to Busch Gardens Williamsburg in 2008, just in time for the park to announce its plans for the first Christmas Town the next year.

Though Scott said that the first Christmas Town was a big success, he and the others who put it together immediately began working on the



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event's second season. They spent the entire year working on it, debating every detail to ensure that the mix was just right.

"When I think about this year and the homework that we've done over the past year, I think we've got a good plan in place," says Scott. "I really think we'll exceed the guests' expectations. We always want to do that. We always want to engage guests beyond their expectations."

Because Christmas Town involves so much installation work, much of the infrastructure for it went up months ahead of time, and, in fact, many of the lights remained in place from last year throughout the summer.

"We chose locations that are kind of out of sight when the leaves are on the trees so that guests aren't really impacted throughout the summer," he says, adding that they probably didn't even notice a lot of the things that went up throughout the summer and fall in preparation for Christmas.

"Actually, some of the Halloween installation actually supports Christmas although it might not look that way," he says. "There are some grid systems and things that go into the trees. For example, the ghosts down in Scotland are on the same grid that the stars go on."

Once Howl-O-Scream closed at the end of October, it took only two days to take everything from that event down. But getting Christmas Town ready to go was an every-day-of-the-week job.

"It is quite the transformation, and I have to credit the tremendous team we have that puts this together," says Scott. "It's no small task to wrap millions of lights on trees. It's daunting. Sometimes it's in the middle of the night, it's all night long, it's in the snow, the job still has to get done, and so when you think of our little magical elves, they really are magical and completely dedicated."

Though Scott is now no doubt already busy planning next year's event, he is very grateful for the work that all of the bright lights on the Christmas Town team did to make this year happen.

"I know the guests are, too," he says. "They may not always be thinking about how this all happened, but if you just sit for a moment and look at what it is, it's pretty amazing." NDN

CHRISTMAS TOWN AT WILLIAMSBURG'S BUSCH GARDENS

Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration creates the anticipation of the season and fills visitors' senses with all things Christmas. Beginning Nov. 26, visitors will experience all-new attractions, shows and shopping filled with the holiday spirit. From more than a million twinkling lights, the smell of fresh-baked Christmas cookies and one-of-a-kind gift ideas to an enormous light-animated Christmas tree, Christmas Town will have park-goers saying, "Now this is Christmas." Christmas Town adds a unique holiday tradition to Virginia.

For more information visit: www.christmastown.com

CAPTAIN DEBBIE BOWERS

She's
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for...

Angels

By Linda Landreth Phelps



Becoming an Angel is simple - just ask Captain Debbie Bowers. As an officer of the Salvation Army for the last 31 years, Capt. Bowers has served the needs of her community and shared the joy of the Christmas season through the annual Angel Tree project. Through this program, anyone can be an Angel - at least for a day.

Those who need assistance from public and private agencies are more numerous than ever this year. Even the fortunate ones who have jobs are finding it harder to make ends meet. People's circumstances can change, and sometimes a little help is needed despite the best laid plans.

"Last year an elderly couple approached a volunteer at a Thanksgiving food distribution,"

Capt. Bowers says. "The woman told how she and her husband had been frugal all their lives, worked hard for the government, and thought they had plenty of money when they retired, but then they had to pay for treatment for a

rare cancer that their insurance didn't cover. 'We would not have much of a Thanksgiving without that distribution,' she told the volunteer."

As the Christmas season approaches, a commitment to help provide their community a more meaningful holiday means the Williamsburg Salvation Army headquarters depends heavily upon 20,000 volunteer hours. In addition to their other outreach ministries, The Angel Tree project is especially time consuming

and complex.

The program kicks off in September with the applications from people who'd like to take part in the Angel Tree. Children under 14 are the main recipients, but the Salvation Army in-

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"They have to fill out a card stating, for instance, what size clothing Johnny wears, his shoe size and preference, and saying he would really like a fire truck," Capt. Bowers says. That angel-shaped card and others are displayed on Christmas trees in places like The Williamsburg Outlet Mall, department stores, and churches. People can choose a card, shop for that person, and return to place the bags of unwrapped gifts, card attached, under the Angel Tree.

"I always make sure the gifts are new and are the right size and gender and that the toys are age-appropriate," Capt. Bowers says. "I'll be checking to see if any toys are on the government's recall list, too."

Little Johnny's parents are directly involved, too; they do the wrapping at home so they can see the items and have a part in the Christmas spirit. If the Salvation Army's goals are met, Johnny and those like him get a box filled with

clothes: shoes, socks, underwear, a coat, and at least one outfit. "We also try to see that each child gets two new toys, a stocking, and a bear," Capt. Bowers says.

When the organizers know beforehand that there are individuals or families in extreme need, they'll connect them with corporations or Sunday school classes looking for specific projects to adopt for the season. "There's a family who first came to us through our transitional housing program," Capt. Bowers says. "The mother is single and has four children; one of them is significantly disabled and in a wheelchair. Last year she needed a special pair of corrective shoes that Medicaid didn't cover, so a group adopted the family and was able to get those shoes and other items that were needed but were not the typical Christmas gifts."

There will be 1,500 children and seniors receiving Angel Tree gifts in the Greater Williamsburg area this year, and the entire family gets a generous food distribution at the same time. "It's an enormous undertaking, one we simply couldn't handle without our volunteers," Captain Bowers says gratefully.

Capt. Bowers has a long history of service to others. She is a third generation Salvationist who grew up as an Air Force junior. Wherever they went, her family always considered themselves to be soldiers of Christ as members of the denomination known as the Salvation Army. But when she graduated from high school in Florida, young Debbie was ready for a deeper commitment. "I wanted to serve Christ, so I attended a two year training program in Atlanta, Georgia and was commissioned as an officer of the Salvation Army."

Typically, officers receive new "marching orders" every two to five years, so Army life has taken Capt. Bowers and her two children to almost every corner of the United States. Her son, Adam, is now 29 and resides in Northern Virginia, and her daughter Alisha, 27, has a disability and lives with Capt. Bowers.

The Salvation Army takes to heart Bible verses that encourage charity and caring for those in need. Because they believe every such act is a service directly to God, people like Captain Debbie Bowers who serve "the least among us" do so with great joy and much satisfaction.



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Bowers suggests you visit an Angel Tree and go shopping for someone who needs a helping hand - yours - to make sure their Christmas is merry and bright. After all, how many chances do we get in life to be an Angel? NDN

MORE ABOUT THE SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army church was founded in 1865 by Methodist minister William Booth in the East End of London, where the very fabric of society was being destroyed by cheap, often-poisonous gin. He abandoned traditional Methodism for tent revivals and social activism. General Booth's abstinence-based movement officially reached American shores in 1880, and Booth's concept of taking religion out of the churches and into the streets was much needed: "Soup, Soap, and Salvation!" was their motto and rallying cry. The Army's lively marching bands, evangelistic fervor and practical ministry to the lowest strata of society meant they suffered persecution at first, but by the end of the decade their good works were recognized and encouraged by President Grover Cleveland and all the presidents to follow since then. The Salvation Army International's worldwide mission field has grown to 121 countries. There are over 10,000 neighborhood units in the United States alone, and in a recent year they served 32 million Americans in one capacity or another.

For more information on Williamsburg's Salvation Army visit:

www.uss.salvationarmy.org/uss/www_uss_williamsburgva.nsf

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**Nancy Eason
Invites You to
Yorktown's...**

LIGHTED BOAT PARADE!

By Brandy Centolanza

The Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade has been a holiday tradition in York County for more than a decade, and Nancy Eason has been a part of it almost from the beginning.

Nancy is the event coordinator for the parade, which is typically held the first Saturday in December as part of the “Yorktown Cele-

brates Christmas” activities.

The boat parade was started in 1997 by Doug Truston, owner of Wormley Creek Marina. That year, Nancy was associated with a Boy Scout troop who handed out hot cider to guests along the beach.

“I just thought all the boats were so gor-

geous,” Nancy recalls. “Everything was so pretty. As I watched the boats going by with their lights twinkling on the water, I was hooked.” The next year, she volunteered to help organize the parade, and became the sole event coordinator the year after that. It is a role she still enjoys.

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Planning for the parade begins roughly six months in advance. Nancy is responsible for working with the fire department to secure a permit for the beach bonfire, one of the biggest draws of the parade; rounding up Boy Scout volunteers, who still hand out the free cider; scheduling holiday entertainment, including performances by local chorale groups and the Fife & Drum Corps; setting up sponsors; preparing the program flyer; arranging for photographs of the parade; and ensuring boaters are properly registered. The first year, seven boaters participated in the parade, and now the number has climbed to almost thirty.

The most rewarding part of the job is simply watching all those assembled partaking in the festivities. Several thousand people gather along Water Street each year to enjoy the parade.

"I just love to hear all the kids squealing, and to see everyone so excited and having a good time," she says. "I love the fact that I am part of something that is just so unique to this community."

Anyone can enter the parade, and various

boats both large and small have been represented through the years: sailboats, fishing boats, cruising boats, power boats, and, some years, even kayaks. Boat enthusiasts from the Coast Guard as well as those from Hampton, Gloucester, and Williamsburg have participated.

In addition to displaying their festively decorated watercrafts, boaters also compete for a "best in show" prize. Five judges evaluate each boat based on numerous criteria, including originality and theme; color and light; spirit; and the "wow" factor. For Nancy, every boat she sees passing by has that "wow" factor.

"Each one that comes by has its own little personality," Nancy says. "Some people wave or sing Christmas carols as they come by, some boats have blinking lights or things that move. One year, there was one boat you could not see. All you saw was the outline of a Christmas Tree."

Yorktown's Lighted Boat Parade is part of a weekend-long celebration that also includes a tree lighting ceremony, a Christmas Market on Main Street, and cookies with Santa. Nancy

enjoys every minute of it.

"This job is pure joy from beginning to end," she says. "And it is so Yorktown. It is boating on the York River. It is the folks and organizations participating each year to make it beautiful. It is the spectators who come to be part of the sights and sounds of the evening, and the parents who bring their children out to add to their family's holiday traditions here on the beach in Yorktown. I just love it."

The holiday season has always been a special time for Nancy, an avid artist and gardener who enjoys accompanying her husband, Vance, on his fishing boat. Growing up in Portsmouth, her favorite holiday memories revolved around her father, Tom, heading out to the woods to cut down the tree a few days before Christmas.

"For me, it was always about the anticipation of getting that tree, and smelling that tree throughout the entire house," Nancy says. "Limbs would be nailed in to make it a full Christmas tree. My mom, Clara, my brother, Mal, and I would decorate it. Metal icicles swished when people walked by it. But the

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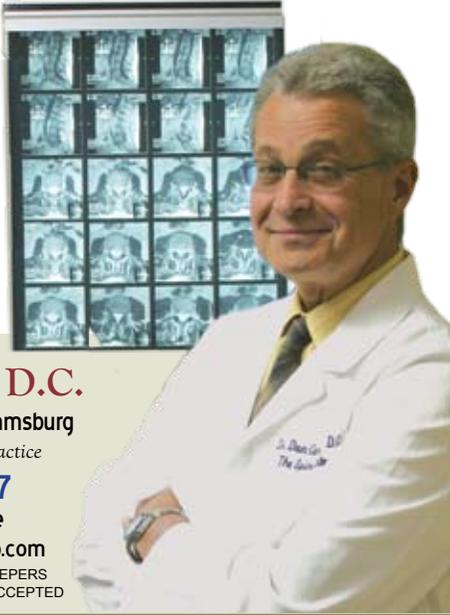
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boldest memory is of the pine fragrance in the house, and my Dad's infectious laugh as he Ho-Ho-Ho'ed after bringing the tree in."

Nancy's father also used to flank the Christmas tree with a train set. "We always had a Lionel train under the tree that my brother played with as a youngster and, after him, my sons [Thomas, Kevin, and Tyler]. This too has remained a tradition, most years, in our home. My dad gave each of my sons their own train when they got old enough, so they all grew up with a train under the tree. Thomas and Kevin are married, each with babes of their own. I imagine their trains will become a tradition in their homes as well."

Today, Nancy adorns her whole house with Christmas trees of various sizes, colors, styles, and themes.

"I just love to decorate for the holidays," she says. "I have a tree in every room, even the bathroom. I have feather trees, aluminum trees, traditional trees, and a folk art tree. It is something different in every room."

This year, Nancy is looking forward to experiencing the holidays through the eyes of her three grandchildren. "I love seeing the young ones marvel at something as simple as lights on a tree," she says. Two of her grandchildren will help with baking cookies. "They are good little helpers and it should be great fun."

Fun, too, will be having Nancy's family, her brother's family, and a cousin's family, gather together at her home for Christmas.

"Everything is just peaceful at Christmas," Nancy says. "Everything is right with the world because everyone [my family] is here." NDN

MORE ABOUT HISTORIC YORKTOWN AND THE LIGHTED BOAT PARADE

When: Saturday, December 4th

Where: Yorktown Beach, 425 Water Street, Yorktown

A magnificent parade of lights floats by as festively decorated boats compete for "Best of Show" in the Lighted Boat Parade. A roaring beach bonfire keeps you warm as you drink hot cider and listen to the festive music while you wait for the parade to begin. The Fifes and Drums of York Town will be performing. Yorktown Waterfront. Free. 757-890-3500.

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**For additional information about these and other holiday events,
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**Tax and gratuity are included. Prices, menu items, and operating schedules are subject to change.*

Colonial Williamsburg

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

SUSAN DIPPRE

A Christmas Experience Taking You Back In Time

By Rachel Sapin

When Susan Dippre came to work for Colonial Williamsburg over 30 years ago, the historic area's decorating season lasted merely two weeks. "It was from the 15th of December until New Year's," Susan remembers. Although it may be hard to imagine an unadorned Governor's Palace or Wythe House during the holiday season today, Christmas in fact came somewhat unexpectedly to the meticulously-planned historic renovation site. It wasn't until nearly a decade after the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg (which began in the late 1920s), that decorating for the holidays even became part of a visitor's Colonial experience.

"People started showing up in Williamsburg for Christmas around 1934," Susan explains. "The president of the restoration was Kenneth Chorley. He got his advisory group together and said, 'If people are going to come here for the holidays, we need to do something for them.' That was the beginning of Christmas in Williamsburg."

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Flower Lady, to thank for the rest, at least in terms of the decorations. It was her research that inspired the intricate, handcrafted fruit swags that you see brightening Colonial doorways during the winter months today.

"She researched 18th-century flower-arranging and styles, where she found references to garlands and roping being used inside the houses during Colonial times," Susan explains.

The year 1935 marked the first decorations displayed in Colonial Williamsburg. They were simple and a reflection of a time when Christmas was a markedly more holy than jolly holiday; buildings were minimally adorned with green wreaths, roping and garlands.

"They got tired of doing that pretty quickly," Susan remarks, "so she [Louise Fisher] went back and found references to the artists Grinling Gibbons and Luca della Robbia." Both artists were famous for the incorporation of fruit into their mediums; della Robbia was a Florentine renaissance sculptor who was praised for his terra cotta garlands, and Grinling was a sculptor renowned for his architectural woodcarvings on English cathedrals in the early

part of the 18th century. Chorley in turn borrowed the idea of having lighted candles in the windows from Colonial Boston, thus creating a holiday tradition that both celebrated Williamsburg's 18th-century materials, and also modernized them through an elegant hybridization of decorating styles.

Today, Williamsburg's holiday season extends anywhere from six to eight weeks, depending on when it begins (the first day of Thanksgiving), until the decorations are taken down the weekend following New Year's. As all of Colonial Williamsburg's holiday decorations must be created from natural materials that were available to the region during the 18th century, procuring the amount of material that is needed to adorn the more than 80 houses in the historic area is no simple task.

"To be new and fresh every year can be a challenge," Susan notes, "but I have a very strong staff. Most of the people that work for me have been here a minimum of 10 years, and quite a few around 30 years."

Each November, it's Susan's role as Colonial Williamsburg's Landscape Supervisor to select

around half of her 20 garden staff to help with the sorting and arranging of a wintry rainbow of materials for the holiday season: from fresh juicy oranges and granny smith apples, to dried yarrow, sea holly, and Virginia long-needle pinecones. Susan's background in gardening helps her estimate how many times the decorations will need to be switched throughout the season.

"People often ask me what the best weather is for the decorations, and I tell them to think about the inside of their refrigerator," she remarks jokingly. "It's not really good for humans, but it's great for greens and fruit."

Gardening is a passion that goes way back for Susan. She worked with the land at an early age, spending much of her time as a child with her grandfather, who served as a farm manager for the Virginia Bon Air School for Girls. She has fond memories of riding around the school's property with him on a big truck, pulling vegetables right out of the ground, salting them, and eating them on the spot. "I used to think that the girls were there on vacation because we had such a good time, but later I

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found out the judge had ordered them to be there," she remembers with a laugh after she later learned that the school served as a detention center for girls.

Susan was born in Charlottesville, Virginia and spent 12 years of her childhood in Lynchburg, Virginia. She later moved to Northern Virginia as a high school freshman. After graduating from college she moved to Williamsburg, a city she had long-admired for its ability to transport visitors back in time.

"During my childhood, Williamsburg was part of growing up," she says. "The whole history of Virginia was part of your history. It seemed like a fantasy place that you could work at and be a part of the history that you had been told about your entire life."

People from around the country and also from around the world flock to Williamsburg for the holidays to experience its warm Christmas-in-the-country feel. Susan points out, however, that many visitors may not realize they are welcome to view the decorations displayed inside Colonial Williamsburg's hotels as well as within the Colonial Village. We've been working for the past few years with the hotel properties to create their Christmas displays, and they certainly are not subject to our limitations." Susan explains. "They have a different look."

Before seeing the candles light up the windows of the Governor's palace on the night of the Grand Illumination, you can stop by the Williamsburg Lodge and peruse both original and inspired folk art from the period that includes hand-carved rocking horses and other children's holiday toys, as well as original period pieces from the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum. If you're interested in partaking in some indoor leaf peeping, the Williamsburg Inn celebrates the holidays in the style of the Regency Period, and proudly displays a traditional tree in its lobby, bedecked with custom-made ornaments, and topped with Ostrich plumes and a needlework Prince of Whales crown. The Inn is also famous for its meticulous gingerbread displays that have included miniatures of the Capitol, Bruton Parish Church, and the Governor's Palace.

During the holiday season the hand-crafted holiday decorations found both inside and outside residential and business properties in the Historic Area draw decoration aficionados from around the country. One of Colonial Williamsburg's most sought-after decoration-viewing event is the Green Spring Garden Club's Annual Christmas Homes Tour, which is happening this year on December 4th. It features tours of beautiful private colonial residences such as the President's House at the College of William and Mary. "This is a very unique opportunity to go into houses that are not usually open to the public," says Susan. "We have people who come [from] out-of-town into Williamsburg for just one day so that they can take this tour."

Historic-area residents also get into the spirit each season by having a contest where they are judged on their ability to decorate their homes using only materials that were available to Williamsburg in the 18th century. The decorations often correspond with a building's Colonial function, and can get pretty creative.

"People that live in tavern buildings have used playing cards in their decorations in the past," Susan says to provide an example. The resi-

dents are placed in either the amateur or professional category, based on whether they receive help from an outside decorating professional. The judging occurs the Monday following the Grand Illumination, and blue ribbons are given to the best-decorated homes.

“There is a tour during the holiday season called our Christmas Decoration Walking Tour, where we make lists of the materials that are used on each blue-ribbon building,” Susan adds. “People can go visit these houses with our tour guides and hear about what kinds of apples and pinecones are on each building. There are people that come every year to look for the blue-ribbon winners. They treat the process like a scavenger hunt and have a lot of fun doing that.”

Although Susan has been with Colonial Williamsburg for a long time, she has held on to her initial sense of wonder surrounding the craft and scale of the Historic Area decorations. “When I first started working on these decorations, the whole thing was shrouded in mystery,” she explains. “I can speak from having been on the outside looking in, that it was very mysterious as to how all of this was put together.”

For individuals interested in incorporating a Colonial Williamsburg Christmas in their own homes, Susan recommends the daily decoration demonstrations that will be happening during the first two weeks of December at the Hennage Auditorium.

“Our designers show people how to make nearly everything, from swags to wreaths,” Susan explains. “When we do the demonstrations, we answer a range of questions: from how someone can do this in their house if they have a south-facing exposure [that may affect the freshness of the decoration], to how someone can replicate a specific decoration they saw in the Historic Area.”

The childlike wonder of being transported to a different time is something that Susan hopes to pass on to others who visit Williamsburg during the holiday season. “I always hope that when people come and visit us during the holidays, that they take away a feeling of really wanting to come back and experience a peaceful, holiday that just can’t be found anywhere else,” she says. “During the holidays, when the candles are lit in the evening and you can see all of the decorations in the windows, you feel like you’re traveling back through time. Colonial Williamsburg is a place where during the holidays, you can’t really walk five feet without smelling, hearing, or seeing something festive.” NDN

MORE ABOUT CHRISTMAS IN COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG

This holiday season, experience the customs of the past and make a lifetime of memories. Begin your Colonial Williamsburg Christmas tradition this year. Between Thanksgiving and the first weekend in January, choose from hundreds of new and favorite holiday dining offerings and Christmas programs. This season, experience the Historic Area’s exquisite decorations adorning homes and taverns, and carol throughout the town with the songs of the season as your guide.

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www.history.org/visit/christmas/index.cfm



A sign for the Holidays



From Grand Illumination, to Christmas Town, to First Night; throughout the holiday season there is so much to see and do right here in Williamsburg.

As our shops, restaurants and other local businesses decorate for the holidays, be sure to look for those proudly displaying this sign of membership in the Greater Williamsburg Chamber & Tourism Alliance. You’re sure to find everything on your wish list and the lists of all those you love.



For an extensive list of holiday events and details, visit www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com.

'Tis the Season for Parties!

By Lillian Stevens



Lynann Stensland, Owner of Red Carpet Events, cannot think of a place she would rather live or work, especially this time of year. With the holidays bearing down, the entertainment season will be heating up in the Colonial capital as people gather to embrace old traditions and celebrate new ones.

“Williamsburg offers the perfect backdrop and the holidays present great opportunities for creativity when planning a gathering,” Lynann says.

Her company, Red Carpet Events, coordinates events of all sizes and persuasions. Whether a lavish wedding or a small dinner

party, Lynann is proud to be a preferred event planner for many top venues and vendors in the area.

“Once I’m given a theme or a set of colors, that’s when the wheels start turning. But the

best part of this business is that I get to be a part of a very happy time for the people who have hired us to arrange their wedding or other special occasion. I take great pride in really going that extra mile in terms of customer service, making sure clients have everything they need,” she says.

A willingness to go the extra mile, coupled with a talent for designing and executing events, has raised the visibility of Red Carpet Events locally. For the past two years, the company has placed in the *Virginia Gazette’s* Best of Williamsburg competition, taking first place for “Best Event Planner” in 2009.

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“There are many event planners out there, but I think that what sets us apart is that our clients are comfortable knowing that every detail will be taken care of. We will plan, develop, and oversee every facet of an event – which translates to less stress for customers on their big day,” Lynann says.

Event planning professionals like Lynann also know certain tricks of the trade. For instance, when pondering a wedding date, a prospective bride might consider that the Christmas holiday is considered off-season, so it is often possible to negotiate better deals with some venues because the demand isn't as great. What's more, the decorations are already beautifully done and require little outside help.

“True, a bride almost has to go with holiday colors like red and gold, but those are beautiful, popular colors for a holiday wedding.”

A native of Texas, Lynann received her Master's degree from Texas A&M University and then worked as a corporate trainer and instruc-

tional designer for seven years.

“My work mostly involved designing training manuals and trainer programs. And though I wanted very much to own my own business, it would have to be something that would fit well with the organizational skills that I had.

“Williamsburg offers the perfect backdrop and the holidays present great opportunities for creativity when planning a gathering.”

- Lynann Stensland

At the same time, I wanted to find an outlet for my creative side – something that I wasn't finding in the corporate world,” she says.

Although she and her husband, Steve, traditionally host Christmas in their home, they tend to focus on the decorating and the company, leaving the food to the professionals.

“We much prefer to enjoy the celebration as opposed to spending most of it in the kitchen. Besides, neither of us has great cooking skills, so it's the perfect opportunity to order our Christmas feast from one of my favorite local caterers,” Lynann says with a laugh.

For professional events, however, catering is just one component and Lynann will work from the outset to define the roles of each vendor being used in order to ensure overall success.

“For instance, we are working on a 50th birthday party for 40 guests. Even for an event this small, we will coordinate tents, tables, chairs, chair covers, sashes, lighting, centerpieces, flowers and decorations, a full band, and catering. So, in advance, we have provided each of our vendors with a very detailed document that includes the information for everyone we will work with, information about their products and/or services, scheduled arrival times, cell phone numbers, floor plans, etc. This way we are all on the



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same page.”

Red Carpet Events will assist clients on any scale, whether full service or by the hour.

“It really depends on your own stress threshold, how much time you have weighed against how many elements are involved. We’ve done small parties for as few as twenty guests. Sometimes when people are working full-time they don’t have the time or the desire to deal with details and party setup,” Lynann explains.

Of course, there are those individuals who want to have a more hands-on approach or who want to keep within a tighter budget, especially in these current financial times.

“Bad food or the wrong flowers cannot be fixed. Good vendors are absolutely essential for a memorable event.”

- Lynnan Stensland

“For some, the planning and organization of a party can be the most overwhelming part of it all so we have clients who look to us to help get them organized but they prefer to do their own legwork and tasks,” she says.

Red Carpet Events even offers a service called “The Day” for the client who wants to be her own event planner but only needs help on the big day. This division of the business is managed by Katie Singleton.

“Katie’s creativity, attention to detail, and organization paired with her experience in the industry make her an invaluable resource. As a DIY (Do-It-Yourself) bride, Katie understands the importance of a budget-conscious approach but she also understands that some brides want to handle most of the planning on their own. So, she is eager to help those brides to see their visions carried out on their special day,” Lynann says.

Of course, there will always be those who will conceptualize and execute their own events without professional help, but with more people working full-time and coming home to overflowing to-do lists, many will – at a minimum – bring in a caterer.

“The single most important advice that I can give you is: know your vendor,” Lynann says, adding that nearly 100% of the snags people encounter with an event result from using an inexperienced vendor.

“Bad food or the wrong flowers cannot be fixed. Good vendors are absolutely essential for a memorable event,” she says.

The good news is that Williamsburg is large enough to offer a variety of choices, and small enough that reputations are widely known. NDN

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How to Take Memorable Holiday Photos

1. Taking great indoor photos.

By Lisa W. Cumming

LISA W. CUMMING PHOTOGRAPHY
 Website: <http://lwcpphoto.com>

Know your camera.

Knowing how to work your camera will prepare you for whatever situation you are photographing in. Know how to turn off your flash, override your exposure meter and control white balance. You will get the best results with a camera that you can control the shutter speed and aperture. But if you have a point and shoot using the proper scene setting can help out in difficult lighting situations.



Use ambient light.

For photographing your Christmas tree and indoor decorations try using

ambient light. A flash will wash out the subject and you won't see the decorative lights.

Use a tripod.

When you will be shooting with a long exposure, the first important thing you need to do is stabilize your camera. The best thing to use is a tripod, but you could also place it on a table or other stable position. You want the camera to be absolutely still so use a cable release or the self timer, because even your hand can move the camera enough to cause a blurred image. Also, if your lens has image stabilization you will want to turn that off as that can cause movement with longer exposures.

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Camera settings.

You will want to set your camera to manual and try an ISO of 400. Since you are taking pictures of the Christmas lights and using other indoor lighting you need to set your white balance to tungsten. You will want to set your f-stop (aperture) for the depth of field you want. That means how much of the picture you want in focus. Use a smaller number to isolate the subject in focus with everything surrounding it going out of focus. Or if you are shooting the Christmas tree or other decorations with lights try stopping down, or use a large f-number to create star points on the lights. The larger the number the sharper the star points. For example, if you use f4 you will get soft glowing light but if you use f22 you will get sharp pointed stars. Now, because your light meter will have a difficult time reading exposure with all the small lights you can experiment with exposure with your shutter speed. At ISO 400 try starting at 1/2 second @ f16. If it does not look bright enough keep decreasing the shutter speed to maybe 1 second until you get the look you want. If is too bright, increase the shutter speed, maybe up to 1/8th of a second. If you want the ornaments to show make sure you turn on the lamps in the room for more ambient light. For point and shoots, set it at night scene. This will turn off your flash and balance for tungsten. Still remember to use a tripod because it will be slowing the shutter also.

Composition-move in close.

Now that you have the technical stuff down, think about your composition. Don't put your subject in the center. Try it off center to draw attention to it. And very important, move in and fill the frame. You will get much more impact when the subject is large and can't be missed.

As you look to take pictures of your decorations think details; move in and pick out a few ornaments, compose purposely leaving out anything that is not important. Mostly experiment and have fun.

2. Taking great outdoor photos.

By Kelly J. Mihalcoe

KELLY MIHALCOE PHOTOGRAPHER, LLC

Website: www.kellymihalcoe.com

We are in the season that everyone wants to take family photos! Thanks-



giving and Christmas are soon approaching, leaves are changing and the time to think of Christmas cards are upon us. So, the question is... how do I take a good outdoor photo?

First thing to remember, TIME of day is everything! Morning or late afternoon is best. Late afternoon will

give you a warmer cast and mood to your photo. Brisk mornings are a great choice as well. Occasionally you can capture a mist or fog in the background which is always fun. To take a good photo an easy tip to remember ... sun to your back, or side, not in your face. To do this though you must use fill flash. With point and shoot cameras make sure you have the setting that shows the sun behind the person symbol. For those that have an on camera flash make sure you set your camera's flash to fire so you fill the faces and eyes - otherwise you will get a silhouette.

I suggest you practice a few times before having to shoot an important family photo. Get creative, having the family play, kids throwing the leaves up in the air, lots of laughs, show your family's personality through the camera. This will be more fun for you and much more fun for the kids!

3. Taking high quality family portraits.

By Christie Bie

C. RITCHIE PHOTOGRAPHY, INC.
Website: <http://critchie.com>

The main tip I have for taking great family portraits during the holidays is to have fun! A stressed out photographer does not make for a fun photo session.



This is a wonderful time of year and your portrait session should be the same. It is so much easier to take a nice family photo when the subjects are at ease. So, plan ahead and plan for changes.

Try to keep the background as uncluttered as possible. Plan your clothing....if one person is dressed in red and the rest dressed in black, all of the attention

will go to the person in red. Watch those shoes!

With smaller groups, I tend to crop in closer to get the marvelous expressions. The larger the group, the more layers you need. Place people at varying heights (sitting on the floor, in chairs, standing) to give the image depth.

With small children, get down on their level. If they are on the floor, down you go! And don't push them too far. The last thing you want to do is end with family members upset.

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4. Taking great photos of your children opening their gifts.

By Helen Oderisi

HELEN'S PLACE AT COLONIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Website: www.colonialphotographyva.com

I've raised four kids and many dogs, and I know what Christmas morning can look like – pretty much complete chaos! Try some of these ideas and then let me know how it goes!

Ahead of time:

1. Take a test shot. Look for unwanted reflections and reposition as needed.
2. Pick an unwrapping spot, or station, for each

child. Don't sit the child next to a window in direct sunlight – draw the curtain, preferably a sheer one!

3. De-clutter each station. Did Santa leave a coffee cup somewhere?

4. For each station, place larger presents in the back.

5. Select Christmas Eve pajamas with simple, non-reflective designs to draw attention to your child's face.

6. Select which presents to open first. Children wear out! So if it's important to get a picture with Grandma's gift, you'll get a better expression early on.

7. Stockpile a few squeaky toys to get young children's attention.

Christmas morning:

1. Use as much available light as possible. Turn on lamps, overheads, everything you've got — close curtains against direct sunlight. If

you're using a flash, make sure you leave at least four feet between you and your subjects.

2. Vary your angle. Shoot down on your child surrounded by a sea of wrapping paper. Get down on the floor at his or her level. Use close-ups!

3. Work as a team. Let Dad take the photo while Mom gets their attention.

4. Keep pets out of the way. Take shots with them later.

5. Don't be afraid to stage a photograph. Ask Johnny to pose with his new Gameboy, and Julia cradling her doll.



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HOLIDAY CALENDAR



You and your family can enjoy the magic of the holidays by experiencing many of the wonderful things there are to do right here at home. Enjoy this convenient partial listing of holiday happenings, but please visit the website above to discover all of the things there are to enjoy during the holidays!

Candlelight Concerts at Bruton Parish Church

Every Saturday in November & December, 8 pm. Continuing a tradition begun in the 18th century, Bruton Parish Church each Saturday presents recitals by instrumental and choral groups, interspersed with organ and harpsichord recitals by the church's own splendid musicians. Concerts are held at 8 p.m. every Saturday. On Duke of Gloucester Street in the Historic Area. Free (freewill offerings accepted). Call 757-229-2891 for additional information.

Hollyfest 2010

November 18, 6 - 9 pm. Come out for the 1st ever Hollyfest at Busch Gardens' Christmas Town -- in Germany! Delicious food & drink - plus rides, games and shows! You will also be entered to win a \$2,000 savings account from Old Point National Bank. Please note: tickets will NOT be sold at the door. Call 757-229-6511 for more information. No children please. Cost is \$35/ticket.

Paisley Foodbank Drive

November 19 - 20. Receive 10% off at Paisley with a donation of cash or non-perishable food items to the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula on Friday and Saturday, November 19 and 20, 2010. Additionally, Paisley will donate 5% of our sales from the event to the Foodbank. Sales discount applies to in stock merchandise only. Located at New Town, 5138 Main Street, Williamsburg. Call 757-229-5624 for additional information.

Ne'Qua Ornamental Artist Triest Signing

November 20. Artist Triest will sign her glass ornamental artwork at Yankee Candle. Located at 2200 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. Call 877-616-6510 for additional information.

Holiday Farmers Markets on Merchants Square

November 20 & 27 and December 11, 8:30 am - 12:30 pm. Special holiday market on Merchants Square features fresh produce, baked goods, holiday wreaths, plants and much more.

Holiday Indoor Street Festival

November 20, December 4, 11 & 18, 10 am - 5 pm At the Williamsburg Outlet Mall. The Williamsburg Outlet Mall is located at 6401 Richmond Road, Lightfoot, VA.

Tree Lighting at Yankee Candle

November 21, 5 pm. Tree Lighting with Santa and Mrs. Claus! Sing carols with Santa, Mrs. Claus & the elves! We will be selling hot chocolate and Mrs. Claus' cookies! Enjoy the magic of the lighting of the Yankee Candle Christmas Tree!

Crystal Carols

November 22, 2010 - January 1, 2011, 11:30 am & 1:30 pm. Dean Shostak performs holiday favorites on the glass armonica, invented by Benjamin Franklin. Also hear amazing new and antique glass instruments from around the world in this popular Christmas show. Cost is \$8. At the Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square.

Star of Wonder: Mystery of the Christmas Star

November 24 - December 3. Presented since 1965, the show was completely revisited in 2008 to offer a truly immersive look at the journey of the magi while examining the latest clues and seeking once more to understand the appearance of the Star of Bethlehem. Cost is \$4, plus museum admission. At the Virginia Living Museum.

Laser Holidays

November 24 - December 3. Featuring classic holiday favorites like "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," modern hits like "Jingle Bell Rock," and unique reimaginings of timeless songs, this is an animated Christmas light display like no other you've seen before! At the Virginia Living Museum.

Rise My Soul: Music for Thanksgiving

November 24, 3 pm. Join members of The Governor's Musick for a program of 17th- and 18th-century music that reflects the spirit

of Thanksgiving, featuring harpsichord and voice. Tickets \$5 in addition to any Historic Area or museum admission pass. Programs and exhibitions at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's DeWitt Wallace Decorative Arts Museum are supported by the DeWitt Wallace Endowment Fund. Call 800-HISTORY for additional information.

Thanksgiving Day Service

November 25, 4 pm. Williamsburg area religious leaders conduct a service of Thanksgiving for the community and for our guests. Interfaith prayers, seasonal hymns and Thanksgiving proclamations from the past and the present will be featured. At the Play Booth Theater. In the event of rain, the service will be held in Bruton Parish Church.

Midnight Madness at Yankee Candle

November 25. Midnight madness! Deep discounts at Midnight to kick-off the holiday shopping! Yankee Candle has gone mad!

Blue Talon Turkey Trot 5K

November 25, 8:30 am. This race celebrates a traditional holiday highlighting the importance of involvement in our communities. A beautiful 5k in historic Downtown Williamsburg and through the campus of The College of William & Mary is the perfect venue for a great outing for the whole family. Events will be held for children and a raffle of outstanding food & wine items will help raise money to combat hunger in this country. Race begins at 8:30 am; kids race at 9:30 am. See website for complete info including course maps and registration forms. Cost: \$30 before race day; \$35 day of race.

Food and Feasts of Colonial Virginia

November 25 - 27. Virginia foodways are featured during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. At Jamestown Settlement, learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At the Yorktown Victory Center, learn about typical

soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen.

Williamsburg Premium Outlets - Midnight Madness

November 26, 12 am. Be one of the first 500 in line at Midnight wearing your pajamas to receive a Free gift. Stores Open at Midnight for exclusive deep discounts and special offers Midnight - 8AM.

Williamsburg Premium Outlets - After-Thanksgiving Sale

November 26 - 28. This is the BIG three-day sale event that kicks off the official start of the holiday gift giving season! Williamsburg Premium Outlets is located at 5715 Richmond Road. Call 757-565-1119 for additional information.

Christmas Town at Busch Gardens

November 26 - December 31 (Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays; daily December 17 - 31, except Christmas Day). Experience Busch Gardens in a whole new light during Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration. Holiday traditions, dazzling shows and one-of-a-kind gift ideas will make everyone say, "Now this is Christmas." Gaze at more than two million twinkling lights while enjoying Busch Gardens' signature peppermint fudge hot chocolate. A complete Christmas Town experience includes a visit to Santa's workshop and the park's 50-

foot tall, light-animated Christmas Tree. This year Christmas Town has been enhanced with additional operating days and the inclusion of the Italy village. For more information, including a complete operating schedule, call 800-343-7946.

A Kilted Christmas, Featuring Coyote Run

November 26 & 27, 7:30 pm; November 28, 3 pm. This enormously popular Celtic band takes you on a holiday visit to the imagined seaside town of Inis Veil for a family-friendly evening of music, storytelling, dance, powerful melodies, and killer harmonies. Cost is \$20 for adults; \$17 for students/seniors; and \$14 for children under 12. At the Kimball Theatre.

Holiday Antiques Show

November 26 - 28. The 29th Annual Holiday Antiques Show in Williamsburg will be held at the Williamsburg Marriott (located at 50 Kingsmill Road). Thirty-four dealers will represent 13 states and the U.K., with fine 18th and 19th century antique furnishings, silver, paintings, ceramics and much more in room settings. Admission is \$7 and is payable at the door. There will be an appraisal clinic by appointment on Sunday with the proceeds going to a charity. Hours are 6 - 9 pm on Friday; 10 am - 5 pm on Saturday; and 12 - 4 on Sunday. Contact Bettianne Sweeney at 757-220-1299 or visit the website for more information.

Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Season

November 27, 2010 - January 2, 2011. Nothing quite compares to spending the Christmas season in Williamsburg's Historic Area. Special programs, dining, entertainment, hotel packages, events for children and more are waiting to enchant guests who come to enjoy a magical season they'll not soon to forget.

Photos with Santa

November 27 & 28, 12 - 5 pm, December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 - 23, 5 - 8 pm. At the Williamsburg Outlet Mall. Come out and have your picture taken with Santa!

"Kid's Holiday Weekends"

November 27 - 28. Discover the magic of the season on four special weekends with programs throughout the Historic Area devoted to sharing fun, food preparation and festive entertainment for children of all ages. At Colonial Williamsburg. Best for ages 6 - 12.

Master Thespian's "A Christmas Carol"

Thanksgiving - Christmas (two performances each weekend). This 20-minute version of Charles Dickens' classic returns to Merchants Square!

Santa's Workshop

December 1 - 24. Santa Greets visitors daily in his workshop at Yankee Candle Williamsburg amidst the snow showers right outside his office every 30 minutes. Mrs. Claus Bakery will open daily serving lunch and special treats. Located



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2010 Celebration of Trees

December. The Crowne Plaza at Fort Magruder will host its annual holiday fundraising event - the Celebration of Trees! Over 17 trees are set up and decorated by area non-profits and community programs. The trees are then judged by community participants and selected by in-kind donations for the most original and festive trees. At the end, the trees' donations are calculated and totaled for each participating organization. The group that received the most money will also receive an extra prize from the Crowne Plaza.

An Appalachian Christmas

December 1, 4 pm. Join John Kennedy and friends as they sing and play traditional music from the mountains of early Virginia and the Appalachians. Hear fanciful tales, familiar songs, recipes, dances, and tunes performed on fiddle, guitar, dulcimer, limberjack, and voice. Celebrate the season with an old-fashioned "recipe swap," sing-alongs, and general toe-tapping merriment. At the Hennage Auditorium. Cost is \$5, in addition to museum admission.

A Colonial Christmas

December 1, 2010 - January 3, 2011. Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are recalled through special interpretive programs. At Jamestown Settlement, a film and

guided tours compare and contrast English Christmas customs of the period with how the season may have been observed in the difficult early years of the Jamestown colony. At the Yorktown Victory Center, hear accounts of Christmas and winter in military encampments during the American revolution and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s Virginia farm.

College of William and Mary Symphony Orchestra Winter Concert

December 2, 8 pm. In its 82nd season, the Symphony Orchestra combines the talents of undergraduate, graduate and community musicians. Tickets are \$8; free for children under 12. Call (757) 221-2674. At Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall.

College of William and Mary Wind Symphony Holiday Concert

December 3, 8 pm. Founded in 1929, the William and Mary Wind Symphony is the artistic cornerstone of the William and Mary Band program, presenting the finest in symphonic wind music. Comprised of both music majors and non-music majors, the Wind Symphony brings together talented wind, brass and percussion players to perform wind ensemble and symphonic band music from a repertoire that spans the 16th through the 21st centuries. Tickets are \$8; free for children under 12. Call (757) 221-2674. At Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall.

Illumination and Christmas Tree Lighting

December 3, 7:30 p.m.

The holiday lights go on and the festive season begins at 6:30 p.m. with entertainment at the Victory Monument followed by the process of light through historic Yorktown to Riverwalk Landing. The ceremony includes holiday entertainment and a visit from Santa. 757.890.3500

New Town Open Houses

December 3, 10 am - closing. Enjoy special celebrations in each store and refreshments at all New Town shops.

Berkeley Plantation: Centuries of Christmas

December 4, 2010 - January 1, 2011. Berkeley Plantation will offer special Christmas tours during the holiday season. The elegant 1726 mansion will be beautifully decorated with fresh greenery from Berkeley's gardens. Costumed guides will add a special touch to your holiday season with stories of Christmas at Berkeley through four centuries of history. Enjoy our famous hospitality and make Berkeley a part of your holiday tradition!

Home for the Holidays at Shirley Plantation

December 4, 2010 - January 6, 2011. Visitors to Shirley will enjoy guided tours of the Great House featuring family Christmas stories dating back to the early 1800s. Enter the Colonial Kitchen and you will feel as if you just interrupted the cook preparing a Christmas feast!

Pete Childs came to the rescue on my oriental rug.



"My niece and her dog (a Chow) were here on a recent weekend. The Chow tinkled on my oriental rug and left a big stain. I was so annoyed, I just rolled the rug up and on Monday morning took it to a carpet cleaner and I asked that it be deodorized and cleaned. A day or so after it was returned to us, I had Pete in to give an estimate on having our upstairs carpet stretched. I mentioned that I was going to have the carpet cleaned after stretching and he said he also does carpet cleaning. I then asked him for an estimate on cleaning the carpet. On the way down the stairs, I told him my tale of woe on cleaning the oriental. I said, 'I just had this oriental rug cleaned and it still smells and has a huge urine stain. The stain was fresh when I took it to the other carpet cleaner to have it cleaned'. Pete said, 'If you would like to give me the opportunity, I'd love to try to clean it for you.' I bet you it was two hours later that he called to tell me he got the stain out (and the odor with it). So, of course, I was excited because I wasn't ready to replace the rug yet. I also had him clean my other carpets and I was extremely happy."

- Shelia Mackasek

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New exhibits, panels, displays and a new timeline will satisfy your curiosity about the past while the gift shop will satisfy your current desire for that one-of-a-kind gift for everyone on your list. On December 4, celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season with the Annual Open House and enjoy hot cider by the fireplace.

Pet Pictures with Santa Claus and Holiday Open House

December 4, 11 am - 5 pm. Bring your pets in so they can meet Santa! The first 20 people will get a free 5x7 picture. After that, you can get a free 5X7 picture with a \$25 purchase in the store. Louis Fronkier is the photographer for the day. Customers can also order additional prints, canvas, oils, holidays and more from him! At the Nautical Dog in New Town. Call 757-220-2001 for additional information.

Gingerbread Man Luncheon

December 4, 11 am & 1 pm. Come out and enjoy a Gingerbread Man Luncheon in Mrs. Claus' Cafe & Bakery at Yankee Candle. Decorate gingerbread men and have a special lunch with your friends!

Colonial Christmas Show

December 4 - 5. Head to the Colonial Christmas Show -- at Trinkle Hall on the College of William and Mary campus. Live music provided by Ardie Boggs. Exhibitors from 6 different states will be showing and selling the best

in handcrafted work, fine art, jewelry, folk art, wearable art, paper, baskets, pillows, photography, quilts, Christmas decor, food, gifts and much more! Show is from 9 am - 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am - 5 pm on Sunday. Trinkle Hall is located at the corner of the Campus Center, across from the Wren Building.

Yorktown Christmas Market on Main

December 4, 10 am - 4 pm. Yorktown's 4th annual Christmas Market featuring demonstrations, roasted chestnuts and hot cider, musical entertainment, living history, antique cars, arts and crafts, and much more. Historic Main Street. Free. 757.890.3500

College of William and Mary Choirs Holiday Concert

December 4, 2 pm and 8 pm. The Choir of the College of William and Mary, a 70-member mixed choral ensemble, celebrates 88 years of choral singing at the second oldest institution of higher education in the United States. Tickets are \$9; free for children under 12. Call (757) 221-2674.

Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade

December 4, 7 pm. Decorated in holiday spirit, area boaters parade the York River in competition for "Best of Show." Waterfront events begin at 6 p.m. Enjoy hot cider and musical performances in the glow of a beach bonfire while awaiting the magnificent parade of lights. Yorktown waterfront. Free.

51st Annual Christmas Homes Tour

December 4, 10 am - 6 pm. Presented by the Green Spring Garden Club. Enjoy touring five homes and buildings decorated for the holidays by garden club members and professional floral designers. Visit the Lightfoot House on East Francis Street, home of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation presidents; and the President's House at the College of William and Mary. The Tayloe House and the Grissell Hay Lodging House, both on Nicholson Street in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area, are also included. All four are original buildings from the 1700s. The fifth location is the Williamsburg Masonic Lodge built in 1931 on the site of the "Old Mason's Hall." It is across from the Lightfoot House. Tickets are \$25 (or \$7 to tour a single building). Ticket price includes use of Colonial Williamsburg buses from the Visitor Center and around the Historic Area. This is a fundraising project. All proceeds benefit local horticultural projects and provide scholarships for area students. Please call 757-903-2161.

Williamsburg Symphonia - Holiday Pops

December 4 & 5, 1:30 & 3 pm
Seasonal music to delight the young and the young at heart, at the Kimball Theatre, Williamsburg; performances each day at 1:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. Call 757-229-9857 for updates and ticketing info.

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December 5, 4:45. In the 18th century, illuminations were sometimes held to commemorate the birth of the reigning sovereign. Today we hold a Grand Illumination in the Historic Area to commemorate the birth of the King of Kings. Musical performances from multiple states throughout the Historic Area and fireworks displays from three different locations within the Historic Area make this event one that is not to be missed!

Grand Illumination Celebration

December 5, 11:30 am, 1:30 pm, & 3:30 pm Highlight the holiday season and get ready for the fireworks with four of Colonial Williamsburg's finest musicians. Barry Trott, Brian Forsman, Doug Austin, and Lynn Trott take you on a musical journey from the ballads and country dances of the 18th century to fiddle tunes of Appalachia and the early days of bluegrass. At the Hennage Auditorium. Cost is \$10 in addition to museum admission.

Christmas Carol Concert

December 5, 4 pm
The Virginia Chorale, the 20-voice professional choral ensemble, will present their Christmas Carol Concert at the Williamsburg Presbyte-

rian Church on Sunday afternoon, December 5. Tickets for the concert or for the season are available at the door or by calling 757-627-8375.

Cookies with Santa

December 5, 1 - 4 p.m. Enjoy Cookies with Santa in the Gallery at York Hall. Children and parents can visit with Santa and do some holiday shopping. York Hall, 301 Main Street. Free.

Christmas Town Dash

December 5. Chick-fil-A and Busch Gardens are partnering together to bring you Christmas Town Dash 8K - a run that will travel throughout the park! This event will help raise money for Toys for Tots. Visit www.christmastowndash.com for complete information!

Holiday Decorations Tour

December 6 - 31. A stroll through Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area during the holiday season is a treat for the senses. Windows and doors are decorated in 18th-century fashion with handcrafted wreaths, fresh greenery and festive garlands. As you walk, your guides will share the stories, traditions and celebra-

tions of Christmas in Colonial times. Available for groups of 10 or more through Colonial Connections. Cost is \$10/person. Call 757-258-3122 for more information.

An Appalachian Christmas

December 8, 4 pm. Join John Kennedy and friends as they sing and play traditional music from the mountains of early Virginia and the Appalachians. Hear fanciful tales, familiar songs, recipes, dances, and tunes performed on fiddle, guitar, dulcimer, limberjack, and voice. Celebrate the season with an old-fashioned "recipe swap," sing-alongs, and general toe-tapping merriment. At the Hennage Auditorium. Cost is \$5, in addition to museum admission.

Santa Calling

December 8, 5:30 - 8 pm. James City County Parks and Recreation is providing a "direct line" to the North Pole so you can talk to Santa on Wednesday, December 8! Santa Claus wants to talk to all children living in James City County and the City of Williamsburg who are 9 years or younger. Look for registration forms online at www.jccgov.recreation.

... and much more!

For the complete website listing of events and information about what you can do during the holidays, please visit:

www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com



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JERI CAMPANA



ON THE COLONIAL VIRGINIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

Jeri Campa grew up in Newport News, graduating from Peninsula Catholic High School before heading to Virginia Tech. She caught the non-profit bug early in life, first selling cookies as a Brownie with the Girl Scouts. As a teenager, she got involved in fundraising for her high school and for March of Dimes. In college, Jeri was active in Phi Mu, a fraternity for women, serving as Public Relations Chairman

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and Rush Chairman. Since graduating, she has been active in the local communities, serving on her church's board of directors, working on fundraising projects for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and helping with Hampton Bay Days, as well as leading a Girl Scout troop for several years. After meeting her husband, Ron, he encouraged her to join the Chamber of Commerce & Tourism



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Alliance and become an ambassador. Ron was also the impetus behind Jeri's American Red Cross involvement. Not long after they started dating, he invited her to a wine & cheese fundraiser, getting her to help serve at the bar so that he could circulate with fliers about an upcoming blood drive. Since that time, Jeri has assisted with fundraising and the Vince Campana Memorial Blood Drives. She joined the staff of the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross in June.

What is the mission of the Red Cross?

The American Red Cross, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by its Congressional Charter and the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross Movement, provides relief to victims of disaster and helps people prevent, prepare for, and respond to emergencies.

How is the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross funded?

We depend entirely on the generosity of the community. We are a United Way partner agency. We also gratefully accept donations from individuals as well as corporations and foundations. We hold fundraisers

throughout the year to support our work, and proceeds from our Health and Safety classes contribute to our budget. We receive NO FUNDING from the government.

What is your role with the organization?

I am the Public Support Coordinator / Director of Financial Development. One of my areas of focus is on raising awareness of our local chapter and the role that the American Red Cross plays in the greater Williamsburg community. A larger part of my job, though, is raising the money required by the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross to help those in our area recover from disasters and to meet our daily operating needs so that we remain here, ready to serve at a moment's notice.

How does the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross serve our community?

Most visibly, we respond to emergencies. So often, it is noted at the end of a news story, "The American Red Cross is assisting the family". We are THAT "American Red Cross". We help when a family loses their home to fire, flood, or other disaster. We're here for the single family and we're here

when mass shelters are needed.

The second highly visible component of the American Red Cross is our Blood Services Program. This area of service provides over half of our nation's blood supply. This is accomplished by holding many blood drives throughout the year, processing the collected blood to ensure safety, and then distributing the blood products efficiently to waiting hospitals. But this is only part of the American Red Cross story.

Did you know that the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross serves our military forces by providing a 24-hour emergency link between immediate family members and service personnel stationed world-wide? We are the means of delivering a birth message or notification of a verified family emergency that requires the presence of a service member.

The last service that the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross provides is in the education arena. We teach classes in CPR, first aid, AED, water safety, babysitting, and community disaster education as well as other courses. We teach a Wilderness First Aid class that people travel from out of state to attend. Our classes help the community prepare for the challenges that come with life in coastal Virginia.

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What are some of your greatest needs right now?

Simply put, cash. With the economy, donations are down and yet the needs we meet are still around. The "Gift of Life" is truly that... a gift of enormous value.

What are some of the interesting facts that you can share regarding how much blood is donated by locals each year, how much is used here or in other places, etc.?

Only 5% of the eligible community donates blood, but over 97% of us will need blood in our lifetime or will have a close loved one need blood. The Colonial Virginia Chapter held 104 drives in Fiscal Year 2010 with a goal of 4,852 units. We had 5,201 registered donors. From these, we collected 4,576 productive units of blood.

When someone takes the time to donate blood, how does that donation impact the lives of others right here in our community? Any stories you can share?

Every time you donate blood, you can save up to three lives. One of those saved lives belongs to my husband. I can tell you of the enormous difference that two pints of blood made - quite literally the difference between life and death. But if a picture is worth a thousand words, I can only imagine what the video would be worth, and I really wish I'd thought to make that video. Ron had been organizing blood drives for over 30 years and now he was about to see, first hand, the difference that blood donors make.

Several years ago, he'd been put on a harsh regimen of chemotherapy and radiation to shrink a large tumor that had grown on his lung and into the mediastinum. He grew weaker and weaker as the treatment progressed. At this point, Ron spent most of his time curled up in front of the fireplace sleeping when possible and freezing always. On a Sunday, he looked like he was ready to give up, and in fact, didn't look as if he could continue on even if he wanted to. He had his blood workup the following day and was told he needed a transfusion. The next day, he went to the hospital, barely having the energy to get from house to car. He must have received "high test" because he came home bouncing and excited about the breakfast he'd been given. It had been a fight to get him to eat anything for a long time. It was simply too much effort. And here he was just hours later, happily telling me of his day. He's been running around town, back to promoting

blood drives ever since. In truth, all blood is "high test", and all blood donations have the power to help bring someone "back to life".

Who is eligible to give blood?

You just have to be 16 years old (with a Red Cross parental permission slip) or 17 + years old and in good health. However, there are many other questions that we do ask in the health history portion of the donation process. You should visit www.redcrossblood.org to look those over or you can just come out to a blood drive.

What are some of the reasons people don't give blood?

The two most common reasons cited by people who don't give are: "Never thought about it" and "I don't like needles". I'm particularly fond of the latter. Most people don't "like" needles and if you do, oh boy. So..I hope you never learn to like needles, but will give anyway, now that I'm making you think about it.

During "the giving season," what are some of the things people can do to get past these obstacles and become regular donors?

Look for an upcoming blood drive and make a date with a buddy to give. Sometimes it's more fun when you have a friend, particularly the first time. Or just do it. The first time that I gave blood, I was walking across campus with a friend, and we saw the sign. We just did it. We didn't think about it and give ourselves reasons not to. It was probably at about this time of year, and what better gift to give than the gift of life this holiday season. We run blood drives all over the community trying to make it as convenient as possible for potential donors. You can always look for a list of public blood drives at <http://cvc.redcross.org> locally or for a broader list, go to www.redcrossblood.org. You can also contact Shannon Revels at 757-287-9879 or revelssd@usa.redcross.org. As an incentive to get people past any obstacles, this November and December, we have a really nice cookbook that all donors will receive. It's full of recipes from celebrities!

In addition to donating blood, what are some of the ways people can get involved as a volunteer?

If you aren't donating blood, please consider volunteering at the blood drives. You can register people as they enter or help

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at the canteen. As I said earlier, funds are needed to keep our chapter able to meet the continuing needs of the community. That means that I could really use energetic people helping on committees for the various fundraising events. I've got some FUN fundraisers in the works so it'll be exciting to get them off the ground! We also use volunteers to man booths at health fairs and other community events. There is always a need for course instructors. Training is available. Disaster volunteers are a great group too. They respond to emergencies and set up shelters among many other things. And again, we train volunteers.

What are some of the encouraging stories you can share about people in our community who give blood consistently to help others?

We have so many dedicated donors who give blood every chance they can. You can be a blood donor every 56 days. While we have so many donors who have given repeatedly, I would like to take this chance to single out one particular individual for just the sheer number of drives he has organized. Cleve Wright has been coordinating drives for the Chickahominy Masonic Lodge and James City Ruritans. In 1996,

two drives were held. By 2001, the number had grown to three each year. Since 2006, Cleve has coordinated six blood drives yearly. He and his blood drives were recognized by the Red Cross and WTKR TV3 earlier this year for success achieved. On September 23rd, he held his 58th blood drive in 15 years that brought in a cumulative total of 2,500 units. What a phenomenal job!

My husband, Ron, has been putting on blood drives for many years as well. He began when he worked in the blood bank at Williamsburg Community Hospital. The next drive he has scheduled is December 3rd from 2-5pm at FirstMed of Williamsburg. Ron's son, Ron, Jr., took on a blood drive as his Eagle Scout project. This was the Vince Campana Memorial Blood Drive. The success of this event spurred Vincent Campana, our nephew, to do another drive for his Eagle Scout project. This blood drive was huge! It took the efforts of our large Italian family and even larger committee along with the help of Boy Scout Troop 103 to pull off this 2 day affair with a goal of 1,000 units. To this day, I still see t-shirts around town from these drives and have folks asking when we'll do another one.

What do you enjoy most about your involvement with the organization?

I like the challenge of raising money for an incredible organization. It's amazing to see the expression on someone's face when they realize that strangers are there for them and that they are not going to let them have no place to go after catastrophe strikes. I'm always focused on raising the money so it's a great feeling to see that it can make such a difference in life. I'm not raising money for the Red Cross. I'm raising money for your neighbor in need.

If you could fulfill one wish for the holidays that relates to the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross, what would it be?

I wish that the public would become more aware of the Colonial Virginia Chapter of the American Red Cross and all that we do to fulfill the Red Cross mission. So often, it's just in the back of people's minds that the Red Cross is there. "It's always been there. It'll always be there. I'll never need it." Or worse, they don't even stop to realize that we are here, and we do need help to continue to be here. We can only give what we are given. NDN

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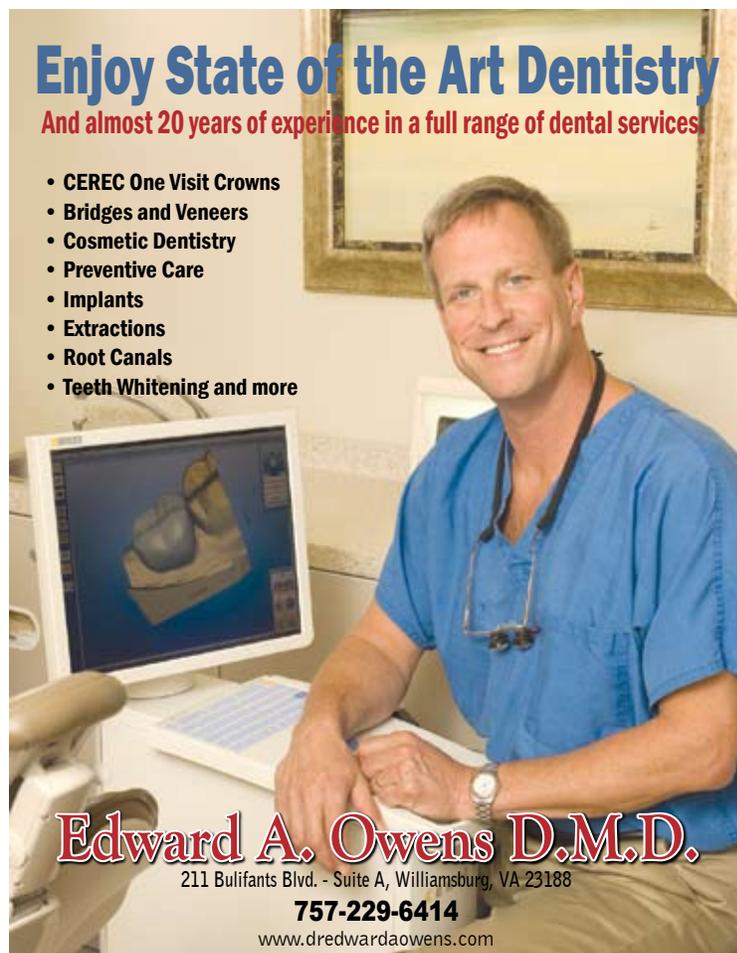
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Williamsburg Pottery



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

KIM MALONEY

A New Era for the Williamsburg Pottery

By Greg Lilly, Editor

An institution in the region, the Williamsburg Pottery is flexing its muscles for a new era, a time to re-vamp, re-tool, re-engineer the business model while polishing the core values of founder, Jimmy Maloney. Leading the process is Kim Maloney, a woman with the

business intellect to guide the Pottery through a tough recession and emerge ready for retail resurgence. Kim's plan situates the Pottery on its original foundations – literally and figuratively.

"Jimmy always said there's a time to sit back and a time to start," Kim explains. "Jimmy's

legacy has to be here forever." She admits the economy is struggling now and many businesses are holding back, waiting. But, she takes a more optimistic view.

"This economy's not going to be forever," she adds. "One day, it will come back."

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Kim's plan starts now for the recovery. A new \$20 million, three building project, constructed on the original site of Jimmy Maloney's 1938 Pottery starts construction this month. The goal is to celebrate the grand opening of the Pottery on April 5, 2012.

"What would have been Jimmy's 100th birthday," Kim says. "That's where Jimmy started, and we want to go back there. That day we want a grand opening of a whole new Pottery for a new century."

Kim's personal journey started in Seoul, South Korea. Her parents immigrated their family to the United States. They arrived through the Norfolk Airport "and up I-64 - it was just barely finished," Kim says with a laugh. "We loved it here. This is where America started and where we decided the family should move."

America presented opportunity and Kim knew what she wanted to do. "My dream was to go to Harvard University's Law School," Kim says. "That was my goal. I was blessed with a

baby, my son, and he became my goal then. He's almost 31 years old now."

Even though she had her college degree, Kim had to return to school. "I had to learn English because in Korea, we learned British English. So, I couldn't understand the American dialect. In Britain, they say 'How do you do, Madame?' Here they said 'Morning.' I would say 'Huh?'

"Jimmy always said there's a time to sit back and a time to start. Jimmy's legacy has to be here forever."

- Kim Maloney

I started going to Thomas Nelson Community College to learn like a new-born again, to learn the way of speaking here. My mother and father told us we needed to go back to school. We had already graduated from college, but had to go

back for basic training."

She began working part-time at the Pottery. One day she met Mr. Jimmy Maloney, but she didn't know who he was. "I met him and thought he was just a maintenance guy at the Pottery," she says. "He talked to me during my lunchtime. I said I wished that one day I could run this business. He said 'Really?' I said 'Yes, I see a lot of things to update and change. The Pottery has not changed.' That time, 1979, the Pottery was a very successful business. But, still you have to change. I told Mr. Maloney a lot of things. He listened to me, and then said 'Do you know who you're talking to?' I said, 'I don't know. You must be working here.' He said, 'I'm Chairman of the Board.' I was shocked," she says, laughing.

"Jimmy was very hard working," Kim says. She continues his core values for the Pottery. "Always, he said: be nice, plan ahead, work hard, share the profits. That's the Jimmy Maloney goal."



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The economy began to struggle and Jimmy's health declined. "I had to take care of Jimmy," Kim explains. "Our work was struggling for a little while. Jimmy passed away five years ago." Her determination of continuing Jimmy's legacy kicked in. "I said okay, I can not sit back any more. The Pottery has sat back too long," she continues. "Wal-Mart and Target, all the national stores came into the neighborhood. The Pottery's not like the old days of the pottery."

She knew to survive, the business needed to change. Kim describes that the Pottery would improve, but keep the aspects that draw customers from all over the country. "Variety, price, value," she lists. "We're going to maintain the lowest price. We're not going to raise prices because of the new buildings. We're known for the best prices."

The Pottery is also known for its niche products and services. The original Williamsburg Pottery is still made on-site. In 1938, Jimmy Maloney started a pottery between Route 60 and the railroad tracks to make eighteenth cen-

tury reproductions for Colonial Williamsburg. That original site is the location of the renewal project.

"Our geraniums are the number one selling geraniums in Virginia," Kim adds. "Customers call from Georgia, New Jersey, everywhere to get our geraniums." The greenhouse at the Pot-

"We're going to have a lot of performances here that people can enjoy – a cheerful feeling. That's what we're going to share with our neighbors."

- Kim Maloney

tery continues to produce these prized flowers. Floral arrangements and picture framing are two of the custom services that the craftspeople at the Pottery continue to offer. In addition, the top lines of silk flowers, gourmet foods, and tabletop glass and dinnerware draw in customers from around the region.

The renewal project helps local companies now and in the future. Kim and her team decided to employ local contractors and design companies.

"We first started with four companies from around the region," Kim explains their selection process for awarding the construction contract.

"Jimmy started here in Williamsburg, and we are local. We decided to award the contract to Henderson, Inc. as the contractor. The designer is Tom Tingle (Guernsey-Tingle). We're very happy with the architects." She compliments the expertise in the Williamsburg area. "We have the talent here. We have everything here and want to use the people here." The Pottery renewal

takes on a community economic renewal with its focus on local labor and contracts.

The current buildings will continue operation as the construction project advances. The greenhouse, the Linen and Furniture buildings take on new functions. "The greenhouse will be our plant growing area," Kim describes.

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“The Linen building will be the e-Commerce department. Yes, we’ll have e-Commerce; we have to. Times are changing and the young generation, they don’t want to come in for shopping; they want to use the Internet. The Furniture building will be the ceramic factory. This building,” she says of the Print building, “will become a warehouse.”

During the two-year construction, the Pottery stays open. “Absolutely, we’ll be operating,” Kim stresses. “We’re not going to

close one day, except Christmas day. We should be finished next December and start moving things, with the Grand Opening set for April 5th. We’re not going to close. We are going to continue serving our customers.”

When the Pottery’s new buildings open, it

will renew its position as a community gathering place. “Williamsburg is a very old traditional town. I know, I’ve been here over 30 years,”



The “new” Williamsburg Pottery

Kim explains. “After dinner, we have no place to go. No place for the children, parents, teenagers to go.” She envisions the Pottery as a location where visitors can linger, especially after dinner. “We’re going to open the new place for twelve hours each day. So evenings, people can

come here. Of course, I’m a businesswoman, I want to sell some things, but people can come here with their families. Drink a cup of coffee, have an ice cream cone. We’re going to have a lot of performances here that people can enjoy – a cheerful feeling. That’s what we’re going to share with our neighbors.”

Kim takes a big-picture approach to the economic recovery of the area, an approach that Jimmy Maloney taught her. “My hope, my goal is to help bring the traffic to Williamsburg Pottery, Colonial Williamsburg and Busch Gardens. To help turn Williamsburg back to the number one tourist attraction in Virginia,” Kim says. “We can all get together and make this town grow. The Pottery’s goal is to bring back the tourists so all neighbors can share, not just for us.” NDN

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MARK LERMAN

The Virginia Theatre Machine

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Lisa W. Cumming Photography

The concept goes back to the Middle Ages: a travelling company of actors, stage sets, costumes and all the elements that make entertainment. “Medieval pageant wagons,” Mark Lerman, founder and director of the Virginia Theatre Machine, recalls the term from his theater history classes. Mark brought the concept to present day with his interpretation of a mobile high-tech stage and production company.

Mark has a rich background in theater. He ran the Perishable Theatre in Providence, Rhode Island before moving to Williamsburg. “I was the artistic director for that theater for 15 years,” he says. “I was getting to the point that I needed to do something new, just to fight burn-out. I had been at that not-for-profit for so long I was mainly fund raising, which can

take a lot out of you.”

His wife, William and Mary Sociology professor, Kathleen Jenkins, had been offered a position at the college in 2005, and they decided it was time for a change. “I was burning out and needed a shift,” Mark describes. “This was a great job opportunity for Kay, and a wonderful place for our two daughters. Williamsburg seemed like the perfect place and time for all of us.”

Once the family moved and the girls, Kathryn and Jackie, settled into their schools, Mark started thinking about what he would do next in his theater career. “After running theater for many years, I knew I didn’t want to do that again,” Mark says. “When we moved down here, I decided to take the year off and spend

more time with the kids.” His job at the Perishable Theatre in Providence had resulted in 70-hour workweeks. His exhaustion materialized once he stepped off the treadmill of running the company. “The theater artist in me got a little itchy,” he says, “and I needed to decide what I was going to do. There aren’t a ton of theater opportunities in the area. Most people with my experience become freelance directors, which means you end up travelling. I didn’t want to be away from my family for six to eight weeks at a time.”

One summer day while cutting the lawn, Mark started thinking about the old medieval pageant wagons. “I was thinking about theater...and theater history,” he adds. “Somehow the image of those medieval pageant wagons

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that took theater from town to town emerged. Mind you, that day was about 100 degrees while I was mowing the lawn." His original brainstorm formed the idea of a combination ice cream truck with a theater component, maybe for puppet shows. "You know, an ice cream truck looks a lot like a puppet stage," he says with a laugh. He started researching used ice cream trucks over the Internet. An old friend from Providence, designer Jeremy Woodward, talked through the idea with Mark and convinced him that he wasn't in the ice cream business and to stick with what he knew, which was theater.

"If you do the puppet thing, you're limited to just puppetry," Mark says. "We thought if we built something that could do theater then we didn't limit ourselves to just puppets, we could do live theater. We came up with the idea of a trailer. I challenged Jeremy to design something

"It's a really old idea, back to the 1500s. Although the idea is something that just doesn't happen today: Taking theater to people."

- Mark Lerman

that was affordable to build and practical to use while artistically open to a lot of uses. I wanted it to employ all theatrical elements: set design, lighting design, costumes, sound design. I wanted it to be as technically proficient as possible in a small mobile stage." The result was what Mark likes to describe as a mix of a classic Airstream trailer and an iPod. The transportable theater is eight feet by eight feet and about eleven feet tall. "Just enough stage size to accommodate up to three actors," he says.

"It's a really old idea, back to the 1500s," Mark states. "Although the idea is something that just doesn't happen today: Taking theater to people. But, this gives me something that is manageable, and when I need to take a break, I just park it in my driveway." The Virginia Theatre Machine was born.

Mark had produced a ten-minute, one actor performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" back in Providence. "It was a huge hit," he says. "I wanted to do it as the first show for the Virginia Theatre Machine, a bit longer, a bit bigger. Everyone loves 'A Christmas Carol,' so it was a great way to introduce people to who I am."

That play made a perfect fit for Mark and the new stage. "It's a great story for using all the elements of theater I like to use," he says. "It has ghosts, and as soon as you have a story with ghosts, that means you can have puppets, sound effects, fog machines, lighting effects. The show has a lot of surprise going on. It shows people what all you can do in a small eight by eight space." That's one of the things he likes to show children when he visits schools, all that can be accomplished in a small space. "A small footprint doesn't have to limit your imagination," he says.

Just as in medieval times, the concept is bringing theater to where people are. "Basically, we're doing street theater," Mark says. "It's very sophisticated, highly theatrical street theater." Most current day street theater



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involves an actor or two on the city sidewalk performing; it's all about the actors. But, the Virginia Theatre Machine is street theater with the tech: scenery, costumes, lights, sound and special effects. "All the theatrical elements you would find when you go into a building and sit down for an evening of theater," he describes, "but brought to you as street theater. That makes us unique." When Mark researched the concept, he saw that while the idea may be hundreds of years old and be a version of how theater started in Western culture, this model is unique today.

"There's nothing else like this in the United States," he adds. "It's a several hundred year old idea, but it's a new way to see theater. Our current culture has grown into this thing," he describes, "of going into a building to experience theater. We're trying to take theater to the people again."

For the past two years, Mark has set up the show in Merchant's Square. "A lot of people see that show," he states. "Probably six thousand people a season see that show, ranging from ages three to eighty-three. That's exciting. Hopefully, if we can excite them about our little piece of theater, they may try some other theater."

One of the elements of the Virginia Theater Machine is audience interaction. The actors are able to engage the audience in a unique way. But that also makes the acting hard for the performers because the script becomes fluid, changing with each audience, which also ebbs and flows throughout the performance.

"Street theater is really hard," Mark says. "I tell any actor I hire that this will be some of the hardest theater they ever do. The audience will let you know in a second if they lose interest, because they walk away." In an indoor theater, the audience usually will not get up out of their seats and leave. Maybe it's the cost of the tickets or the embarrassment of walking up the aisle in front of other theater patrons, but it takes a lot to make a person leave the building during a performance. Not so out

"I tell any actor I hire that this will be some of the hardest theater they ever do."

- Mark Lerman

on the street.

"If a person doesn't like the actor, the story, the performance for five seconds," Mark says, "they will just walk away. The actors can sense when the audience is tuning them out, so they can adjust. Especially in Colonial Williamsburg, a horse or an ox can walk by and steal attention. I tell the actors, not to freak out. I'd want to turn around and watch the ox too. But the ox will move on, and as long as the actor is doing his job, he'll bring the attention back to the stage. That aspect makes the artists incredibly focused to work at 200 percent all the time."

Mark Lerman's Virginia Theatre Machine presents the one-man, less than 20-minute version of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" each weekend on Merchants Square from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Come out and discover Mark's modern version of the medieval pageant wagon.

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Michael Barder Sets the Pace for the First Annual Christmas Town Dash

By Greg Lilly, Editor



One of Michael Barder's goals for his position as Marketing Director at the Monticello Road Chick-fil-A is promoting healthy events, events that his customers would enjoy. This December 5th, Michael will help oversee the First Annual Christmas Town Dash. "This is an eight-kilometer run through Busch Gardens," Michael explains. "It's an opportunity for runners to explore the park in a way they've never been able to before."

One of the restaurant operators in the Newport News area is an avid runner and had been involved in races before. A 5K race was to be moved to a different venue, and Michael suggested bringing it to Williamsburg.

"We had done some work in conjunction with Busch Gardens," Michael says, "and someone suggested having the race in the park. Everyone got on board." The group, at first, thought about holding the race in the spring. "But with Christmas Town beginning this season, we thought it would be a great venue for the race, a great theme at the holiday," he adds.

Christmas Town Dash is an atypical distance for most runners. "We chose that because it is unusual," Michael says. "There are a lot of 5Ks and 10ks, but an 8k opens up the event to both recreational runners and the more serious runners." An eight-kilometer course is 4.97 miles, and the route adds a challenge with the hills in Busch Gardens.

"The run goes through Christmas Town and that's going to be fun for the runners to see," he says. Along with the main race, Michael has helped organize the "Running of the Chick-fil-

A Cows,” half-mile family fun run. “The kids will enjoy this,” he says.

Michael knows about kids, since he and his wife, Jodi, have five. “They are,” Michael recites, “eight weeks, two years old, five, seven and nine years old.” He says Jodi is the star of the family, running a small business, taking care of the five children, and “she puts up with me,” he adds with a laugh.

Michael, Jodi and the children moved to Williamsburg in August of 2006. Originally from San Diego, they decided they didn’t want to raise the children in Southern California. “My dad is from Hampton,” Michael says, “so growing up we would come here to visit my grandparents.”

Memories of those trips reminded Michael of how much he enjoyed the area and the quality of life the Peninsula offered a growing family.

“We decided to move here, literally packing what we could into a six-foot trailer and drove

across country,” he says. “We love this area. It’s a great place to live.”

He finds the business and social climate here more conducive to his way of life than that of Southern California. “Organizing the 8k has been a great experience in terms of building re-

event and allows the business community to join forces as well. “In San Diego,” Michael says, “the population is about that of the entire Hampton Roads area. So to get community involvement in San Diego is next to impossible.”

An example he cites illustrates the interwoven lives in the community that he loves. “My wife and I just had a baby,” Michael states. “I saw the nurse who helped deliver her just last week here in the restaurant. We talked for a minute. That never happened in San Diego. You never ran into people like that because there are so many people, no real sense of community. Whereas

here, it’s so different. The exact opposite. That’s one of the things I love. People here are much more accepting of new people coming into the area, of networking with other businesses, because they know we’re all here to help each other out. That’s what I like about this area.”

Michael and his team have rallied local and national businesses to help support the event.

“The run goes through Christmas Town and that’s going to be fun for the runners to see.”

- Michael Barder

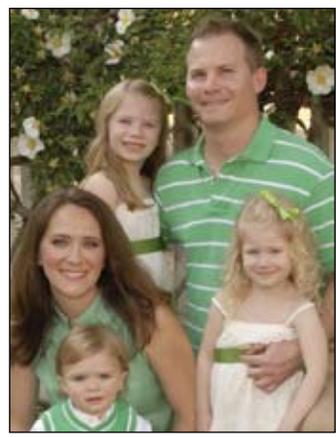
relationships,” Michael says. “The Williamsburg business community is a close-knit community. I was talking to some Chamber members, and it’s amazing how interconnected a lot of the people are. It’s a tight knit community, which is great.”

The Christmas Town Dash allows the public to become involved in a fun and healthful



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The Health and Fitness Expo will be the pickup point for runners to check-in and collect their race packets. Also, a portion of the race's proceeds will benefit the United States Marines' Toys for Tots campaign. The Expo hosts a toy drive for the public, race participants and local businesses. "Along with that toy drive," Michael says, "we'll have our main sponsors, health and fitness vendors, and an opportunity for the runners and public to get a feel for the local Williamsburg businesses."

An exciting branch of Michael's outreach to the community about the race is his use of social media. Many of the runners stay in communication with each other and upcoming races via the Internet, from e-mail lists and race websites to Facebook and Twitter. The Christmas Town Dash organizers have taken advantage of these opportunities. The website (www.christmastowndash.com) has links to Facebook and Twitter accounts that distribute information on the race and the Health and Fitness Expo. The Facebook page allows runners and potential runners to ask questions of the organizers, analyze the course, encourage first-time racers, and help build anticipation and buzz for the event.

"The social networking sites are exciting," Michael says. "We can see this is becoming a whole family event with the kids doing the fun run and parents running the 8k."

Michael expects Christmas Town Dash to sell out at 2,000 registrations. "As the inaugural event, I'm encouraged by the response by the running community, the public, and the support of the business community." NDN

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For more information and to register for the race visit:
www.christmastowndash.com/info.html



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Janice Smith and the Art of the Gift

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Some would describe her as the matriarch of Williamsburg retail, others may say she's the very icon of style and sophistication; she's all that and more. Janice Smith is a woman of grace, civility and elegance. She has helped many people find the perfect gift for a loved

one, a skill that has become her art.

She grew up playing along Duke of Gloucester Street and remembers going into Binn's as a small child. "Mrs. Binn was the type of lady that wouldn't let you touch the clothes," Janice recalls, "or fumble through the racks be-

cause she had a problem with the thought of the clothes getting dirty. You could not touch them. She brought out what she thought you were best suited for. That was interesting." The climate of retail has changed from Mrs. Binn selecting what to show a customer to that of

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the self-service mentality of large chain stores. Janice says she gets to know her customers and offers suggestions, along with allowing them room to browse to discover items on their own.

"I am of the old fashioned style of helping customers when they come in the store."

- Janice Smith

A person will linger by something that strikes her or his interest, Janice explains, and will probably return to it again. This skill of observation will help anyone looking for that perfect gift this holiday season. Take that hard-to-buy-for person to a few stores and watch.

Janice was born in Williamsburg, "and I never left except to travel," she says. In 1959, she searched for her first job and walked into Casey's Department Store, located where the William and Mary Bookstore is today. "That was a Southern Department Store which was owned by Eugene Sydnor who lived in Richmond. The Sydnor family had that store, and Mr. Sydnor would come to Casey's here in Williamsburg from time to time," Janice says. "I started out selling little boys' Walsingham Academy uniforms." Janice had wanted an office job, not to be on the sales floor, and Mr. Sydnor assured her that as soon as an office position opened, she could move to it.

"It's interesting," Janice says, "because everything I did helped bring me to this." The sales floor experience assisted her when she learned the back office tasks, and she soon learned the full operation of a department store.

The manager of Casey's, J.B. Hickman, bought Binn's Department Store (after Mrs. Binn had passed away) and moved it to the current location on Duke of Gloucester. "I think that was 1963," Janice recalls. "I left Casey's to have my daughter, Kimberly. Mr. Hickman moved into this building and wanted me to move too with the same job, but at Binn's." She declined the offer because she wanted to stay home to be a full-time mother. "Kim was born and four years later, Tom was born," Janice says of her time away from retail. "The day Tom went to school, I walked in here (Binn's), and said I want to have a part-time job. That was in the early '70s. I sold on the floor, part-time, while the children were in school. I have now been in Binn's, this store, for 37 consecutive years."

Today, her daughter Kim is the President of Binn's. "My career has been wonderful from meeting so many people," Janice says. "I've been in the business and gone through the channels. I now manage the store for Kim."

Janice's method of helping customers discover the perfect gift stems from her retail experiences. "I am of the old fashioned style of helping customers when they come in the store," she says. "I consider it being a friend; it's not all about selling because I hate when a salesperson just pushes and pushes. I would rather find the right item for a customer later on than have them buy today something that's not quite right."

She knows what her customer buys from her and what the customer's tastes are. She and the sales staff she manages keep a complete call list of their customers' husbands to remind the guys of upcoming anniversaries, birthdays and holidays. She wants to help surprise the wives with a perfect gift. "Peter Carl Fabergé made surprises for the Czars' wives," she says of master goldsmith and legendary jeweler, Fabergé. "He knew them and he knew what they would like. We know our customer – the wife. We can surprise her at Christmas with all the interesting things she likes. We know her sizes, we know her shoe sizes, we know what jewelry she likes. The husbands don't want to look around; they want to get the gift. That's the service we have."

That same philosophy applies to holiday gift giving. Understanding the style and fashion that appeals to a person goes a long way in finding the right gift. If buying clothing for other people, knowing their sizes and colors scares you, Janice suggests consulting with the store where they shop.

Another avenue for gifts is home fashion. Janice explains that the home department at Binn's consists of merchandise selected for quality, style and a range of prices. "A lot of porcelain," she states, "a lot of Fabergé. We have a big selection of Christmas items. We bring in Ringo Mueller, who does the Mueller Pyramids, the weekend of Grand Illumination. Even the men come to see him. Ringo brings his lathe, and people can watch him carve." The Mueller event is part of Binn's Outdoor Market that returns this year. Janice describes it as a European style market positioned just outside the store that is popular with residents, visitors, students and families.



Q&A

An Interview with Nan Piland

PRESIDENT OF WILLIAMSBURG AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Email Nan at info@waarealtor.com

How are Realtors® involved in the Williamsburg community during the holidays apart from their professional role?

PILAND:

The holidays are thought of as a time of giving. It is the time of year when we reflect on our lives and appreciate our own blessings while also being mindful of the needs of others. As a community, we are more aware of those who are less fortunate during the holidays than any other time of year. Coordinated efforts from many groups and individuals provide assistance to those who could benefit from a helping hand. The holidays give a natural lift to our spirits and to the spirit of giving.

Chances are, among these groups and coordinated community efforts are Realtors® you know. Realtors® are generally seen as professionals who help you buy and sell homes, but that only tells part of the story. Realtors® have personal lives just like you. They go home to families, cook dinner, work in the yard

and spend time with their children. Realtors® attend church, volunteer, work at school functions and live their personal lives in ways that reflect their values - just like you.

As real estate professionals, they are even more focused on serving the community they call home - and they give back all year long. This year alone local Realtors® have supported a children's book drive for Child Development Resources, donated food, toiletries, clothing and bedding to FISH, donated school supplies to children in need, provided volunteer hours to Housing Partnerships and Avalon, provided volunteers for Relay for Life, rang the bell for the Salvation Army, held an annual blood drive for the American Red Cross and provided gifts for families through the Angel Tree program, supported the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association and much more. These coordinated efforts only represent what Realtors® do as an organization. Individually, Realtors® do even more.

Why? Because they are more than people who facilitate the

buying and selling of homes. They are your neighbors and friends too. They stop to share conversation in the grocery store, lend you yard tools when you don't have them and join in the neighborhood yard sale. They are sitting in the stands at William and Mary basketball games, standing in line at the movies and pushing little ones through the neighborhood in strollers.

Realtors® take their profession seriously and pride themselves in being able to offer professional service to clients, but they value their family, neighbors and community even more. So the next time you see a Realtor® know also that they may not be going to show a house to a potential buyer. They just may be heading to a youth league soccer game!

For information on how to participate in the REALTORS® Angel Tree project contact the Association staff at 253-0028.

For up to date local market conditions, to find a Realtor® or to find out more about the Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors® and all the information we provide, visit our website: www.WAARealtor.com.

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“Flora Danica,” Janice says of a display of floral patterned porcelain vases, plates, platters and other pieces of tableware, “was made for Catherine the Great of Russia. She died before it was finished. The King started using it. It’s like a garden when you set the table because each piece is a different flower.”

Another designer she likes is Meissen. “A piece of Meissen is a unique gift that can be a single piece or you can add to someone’s collection. A vase,” she suggests, “or some table setting pieces can be used alone or can complement other collections.” That’s a key tip she has: choose a highlight to a current collection. Many people have neutral place settings that a gift of a single, coordinated, maybe a bit more elaborate item can complement. She places a Flora Danica platter with a classic white table setting to show the compatibility and the accent the piece adds. “You can take so many of those patterns and mix with white,” she adds. “Many people are mixing designers. You aren’t locked into one

pattern.”

“Baccarat crystal is always a great gift,” she adds, “and we now have the Baccarat crystal necklaces.”

For a contemporary home, Janice says the

“The fun and satisfaction I achieve when I help a customer find the perfect thing to wear to her special occasion or the right gift to give at the holidays is immeasurable.” - Janice Smith

Michael Aram collection is popular. The form and texture of nature are captured in metals. Platters are in the shape of leaves; serving sets appear to be silver-plated or nickel-plated flower stems or twigs. Another tip she offers is a gift of a piece from a new designer. Depending on how much the recipient loves it, you may have started a collection for her or him. That helps

with future gift giving because you can then keep adding to the new collection.

“There’s a right gift for everybody,” Janice states.

She says the best part of being a retailer in Williamsburg is the customers who come into her store. “I have had so much fun and met so many wonderful people,” she adds. “Each person is different and unique. The fun and satisfaction I achieve when I help a customer find the perfect thing to wear to her special occasion or the right gift to give at the holidays is immeasurable.”

Janice Smith’s skills encompass observing her customers to discover what they are drawn to, knowing their past buying patterns and tastes, suggesting complementary items that work with current collections and recommending new designers that match their style.

“I didn’t know when I started out at 19,” Janice says of her long career in retail, “that I was going to love it so much.” NDN

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Hey Neighbor!

Please visit www.WilliamsburgNeighbors.com and click on **Hey Neighbor!** for a complete list of current community announcements.

Hey Neighbor!

NEW EXHIBITION THIS CENTURY ART GALLERY

Now – December 17, 2010

Robert O'Sheeran, Contemporary Paintings; Linda G. Bunch, Clay; Members' Gallery - Fantasy and Whimsy. For more information contact Linda Miller at 757.229.4949. tcagcommunications@yahoo.com

Hey Neighbor!

FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP AREA NON-PROFITS DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Find out how you can help local nonprofits, and the community, this holiday season! NetworkWilliamsburg has set up a special link for the community to review the needs of local nonprofits this holiday season,

including volunteer needs, items needed, and upcoming events that need your support! There's a way for everyone to help make the holidays special for someone this year! Please visit www.NetworkWilliamsburg.com to see how you can help!

Hey Neighbor!

LEE WELCH AND DOUG AUSTIN-BALLDEERS

November 17, 2010

The Williamsburg Music Club begins the Holiday Season with the presentation of Lee Welch performing holiday music of the 18th century. Join Lee and Doug for a delightful program of carols, songs, and stories of the Yuletide sung and performed on a variety of period instruments. The musical program

beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Lewis Hall of Bruton Parish on Duke of Gloucester Street in Colonial Williamsburg will be preceded by coffee and conversation at 10:00 a.m. followed by a brief business meeting. The program is free and visitors are always welcome. For more information about the activities, programs and scholarships of the Williamsburg Music Club, please refer to their website at www.williamsburg-musicclub.org or call 757-258-0435 or 757-229-4429.

Hey Neighbor!

AUDITIONS ARE BEING HELD FOR WILLIAMSBURG YOUTH ENSEMBLE

Auditions are being held to join the first season of the Williamsburg

Youth Wind Ensemble. Auditions are free (available by appointment only) and are held before and after rehearsals on Tuesdays at Berkeley Middle School. The ensemble is for motivated sixth through tenth grade students with at least one year of playing experience, featuring contemporary and pop music. Visit our website at www.wywe.org, or call 757-506-1303 to learn more.

Hey Neighbor!

ADOPTABLE ANIMALS AT NEW TOWN CINEMAS

November 19-21, 2010

Heritage Humane Society (HHS) adoptable animals at New Town Cinemas for the opening weekend of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1 (4-8) heritagehu-

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Hey Neighbor! JWCW BREAKFAST WITH SANTA November 20, 2010

Santa is making an early arrival for the Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg's second annual Breakfast with Santa at the Holiday Inn – Historic Gateway located at 515 Bypass Road. Limited seatings are available for 8am and 11am, so make your reservations early! Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$16 for children 3 – 10, and \$6 for children 2 and under. For more information, visit www.williamsburgjuniors.org or call 571-334-1990 or 757-291-3774. Graciously sponsored by the Junior Woman's Club of Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor! ADOPTABLE ANIMALS AT Z PIZZA IN NEW TOWN November 20, 2010

Heritage Humane Society (HHS) adoptable animals at Z Pizza in New Town (12-3) heritagehumane-society.org

Hey Neighbor! HERITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY SOCIETY FUR TREE Nov. 26 – Jan. 1, 2011

Heritage Humane Society Fur Tree. Honor a cherished pet past and present and help an HHS animal in need. Tie a ribbon on the HHS Fur Tree located in front of Mermaid Books on Prince George Street. heritagehumane-society.org

Hey Neighbor! AARP TAXAIDE TRAINING Beginning December 1, 2010

Williamsburg AARP Tax Aide is looking for volunteers to assist seniors as well as low and moderate income taxpayers in completing their 2010 tax returns. We are certified by the IRS and provide this FREE service in partnership with the Williamsburg Library and James City County Library. Volunteers should be comfortable using a computer and have some experience preparing tax returns. Please contact Jane Alcorn, District Coordinator, at janealcorn@cox.net for more information.

Hey Neighbor! A COLONIAL CHRISTMAS: WILLIAMSBURG'S YULETIDE HISTORY AND TRADITIONS December 1 – 4, 2010 and Decem- ber 12 – 15, 2010

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year in Williamsburg! Register with Program # 12236RJ at <http://roadscholar.org> Questions? Call (local office) 757-221-3649 or 1-800-454-5768

Hey Neighbor! FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HER- ITAGE HUMANE SOCIETY December 1, 2010

Heritage Humane Society will have an information booth at the Colonial Heritage Holiday Health and Wellness Expo. Colonial Heritage Athletic Club (3-6) 757-645-2029.

Hey Neighbor! CHESAPEAKE EXPERIENCE FUNDRAISING EVENT December 2, 2010

5:00-9:00 p.m. Bring a friend and join local environmental education non-profit Chesapeake Experience at Hi-Ho Silver in New Town for a night of wine tasting, desserts and shopping! All proceeds will benefit local students and teachers in our summer camp, school field experience and professional development programs. Questions? Please contact Jill at 757-890-0502.

Hey Neighbor! WILLIAMSBURG MONTES- SORI SCHOOL'S ANNUAL OYS- TER ROAST December 4, 2010

2:00-6:00PM at The Watermen's Museum, 309 Water Street, Yorktown, Virginia 23690. Come and enjoy oysters, chowder, clam fritters, hot dogs and much more! Live music, activities for children. Tickets are \$25.00/person, children 12 and under are free. Proceeds benefit the Williamsburg Montessori School and The Watermen's Museum. Call 757-565-0977 for more information.

Hey Neighbor! BUS TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., AND OLD TOWN, ALEX- ANDRIA December 4, 2010

Sponsored by The Woman's Club of Williamsburg – GFWC. Cost of

the trip is \$60 per person and will include driver tip, coffee and donuts in the morning and refreshments on the return trip. Contact Shelia at 757-565-7311 or wcsmackasek@cox.net for reservations or further information.

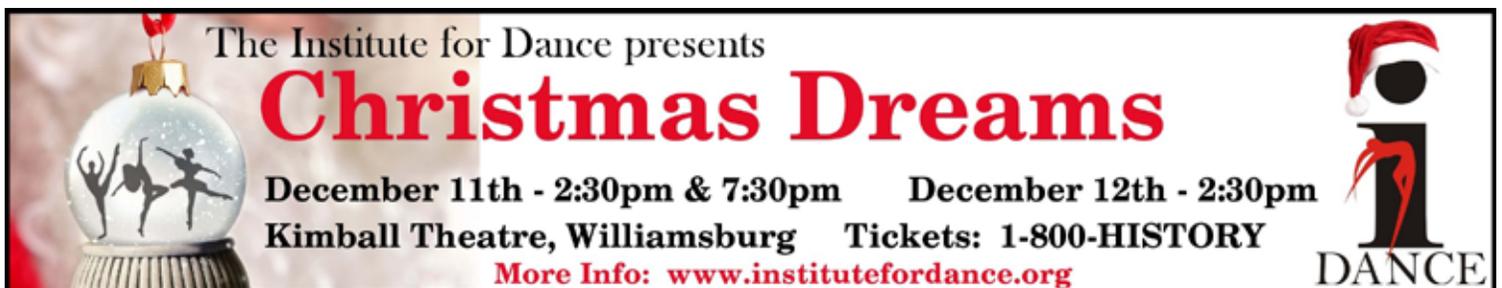
Hey Neighbor! CANTORI VOCAL ENSEMBLE PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CONCERT December 5, 2010

3:00 PM at Walnut Hills Baptist Church, 1014 Jamestown Road. The concert is free, but an offering will be received in support of Cantori. Cantori is an auditioned choral ensemble composed of professional musicians and singers with extensive vocal and choral experience. This concert will celebrate the Christmas season with music both joyful and reflective.

Hey Neighbor! ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE HOMELESS December 11, 2010 or before

The Buffalo Boyz of Williamsburg is feeding the homeless and we would like our community to donate items they need to us to give. We need hats, scarfs, coats, gloves, food that is non-perishable, soap, lotion, etc. for baskets and any items and all sizes. We have a drop off location, at 103 Luther Drive (Carver Gardens). There is a container on the porch to receive donations. Thank you for your help. Our P.O. Box is 1552, Williamsburg, Va 23185.

Non-Profit Organizations! Please Email Your Submissions to: HeyNeighbor@cox.net



The Institute for Dance presents
Christmas Dreams
December 11th - 2:30pm & 7:30pm December 12th - 2:30pm
Kimball Theatre, Williamsburg Tickets: 1-800-HISTORY
More Info: www.institutefordance.org

Real Estate Is Local

Get The Facts.

By Liz Moore

All of us are overwhelmed by the menagerie of media reports on the state of the market. New homes sales are down last month (or, was that up year to date?). Foreclosures are double this time last year. Or, did I see a report somewhere that Hampton Roads enjoys one of the lowest foreclosure rates in the country? Prices are down 20%. But, in some cases, values are holding steady.

It seems that headlines and stories are inconsistent, and it's impossible to make any sense of it all. Has the real estate market hit the proverbial bottom? What does it all mean?

From my perspective, it would be a mistake for us to draw our conclusions about our local market by watching CNN, or even based on reports from our local newspapers, whose wire reports often reflect West Coast news. While it may be interesting to follow the markets in Arizona and Florida, it's dangerous to base buying or selling decisions on national trends and data.

At Liz Moore & Associates, we are students of the local market. We follow the trends, and analyze the statistics every day...monitoring the months' supply of inventory, absorption rates, average prices and other indices that help us understand the market dynamics and how they affect our clients' interests. Interestingly, those dynamics



success in a volatile real estate market. For consumers, having a market savvy agent can save thousands of dollars when negotiating.

Last year, we deployed Altos Market Trend graphs at www.lizmoore.com, giving our agents and our website visitors up-to-date data feeds by zip code. Our analysis measures inventory levels, time on market, price per square foot averages, price reductions, and many other metrics that help us keep our finger on the pulse of supply and demand.

We also now offer a subscription to weekly trend reports, so that you, too, can become a student of the local market. Just visit lizmoore.com, click on Buyers, then on Market Trends, and sign up for our complimentary Market Trend reports.

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can vary widely from city to city and neighborhood to neighborhood.

Having access to reliable, up-to-date, local data, and having the experience and insight to interpret it correctly is key to



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