

December 2012

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VOL. 6, ISSUE 12

PRICELESS

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Williamsburg Holidays Wilford Kale

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Every year our community offers so many wonderful and diverse opportunities to share in the holiday spirit. Some of the local happenings are new, and some are long-standing traditions that seem to get better with each new year.

This time of year can be inspiring and uplifting. For many, it puts us in touch with our holiday spirit. It can be a time for family and friends, of sharing food and fun, for festive music, plays and other forms of holiday celebrations. It can be whatever we want to make it because we are blessed with many opportunities to enjoy the season in a variety of inspiring ways.

This issue is brought to you by Collins Group, LLC, publisher of Next Door Neighbors, and the Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Alliance. Their website, www.ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com, not only provides an extensive listing of holiday happenings that out-of-town visitors can preview, but it is also a wonderful resource for locals who may want to attend some of the festivities right here at home. This website is being updated daily. You can find a partial listing of holiday happenings on page 32 of this issue, but please be sure to visit the website often to get the most up-to-date listings. Happy Holidays! **NDN**



Meredith Collins, Publisher

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CORRECTION: Regarding two recipes that were published in last month's issue, **Now You're Cook'in**. • **Stuffed Oven-Baked Croissants with Apricot & Orange Sauce** - I inadvertently left out how many croissants to purchase. The recipe calls for 10 large or 20 mini croissants, sliced sandwich style. • **Cheesy Potato Puff** - I left out the baking time. The recipe calls for baking it in a greased casserole dish at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. I am sorry for the inconvenience, and I hope you will now enjoy trying these recipes during the holiday season! Meredith Collins, Publisher

Inside

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3. Wilford Kale | 29. Amanda Keller |
| 6. Marie Bond | 32. Christmas In Williamsburg |
| 10. Karen Schlicht | 37. Sharon McArthur |
| 13. Rebecca Jarrell | 39. Angie Brown |
| 16. Carolyn Keurajian | 42. Marty Holland |
| 20. Cheryl DaVila | 45. Gulay Berryman |
| 23. Jena Chenkin | 48. Amber DeVore |
| 26. Nancy Rosier | 50. John Adams |

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Cover Photo by Lisa Cumming

A Dear Santa

By Narielle Living

Throughout his life, Wilford Kale has worked as a journalist, public relations officer and author. His most important job, however, and one that he has loved the most, is helping Santa Claus during the holiday season.

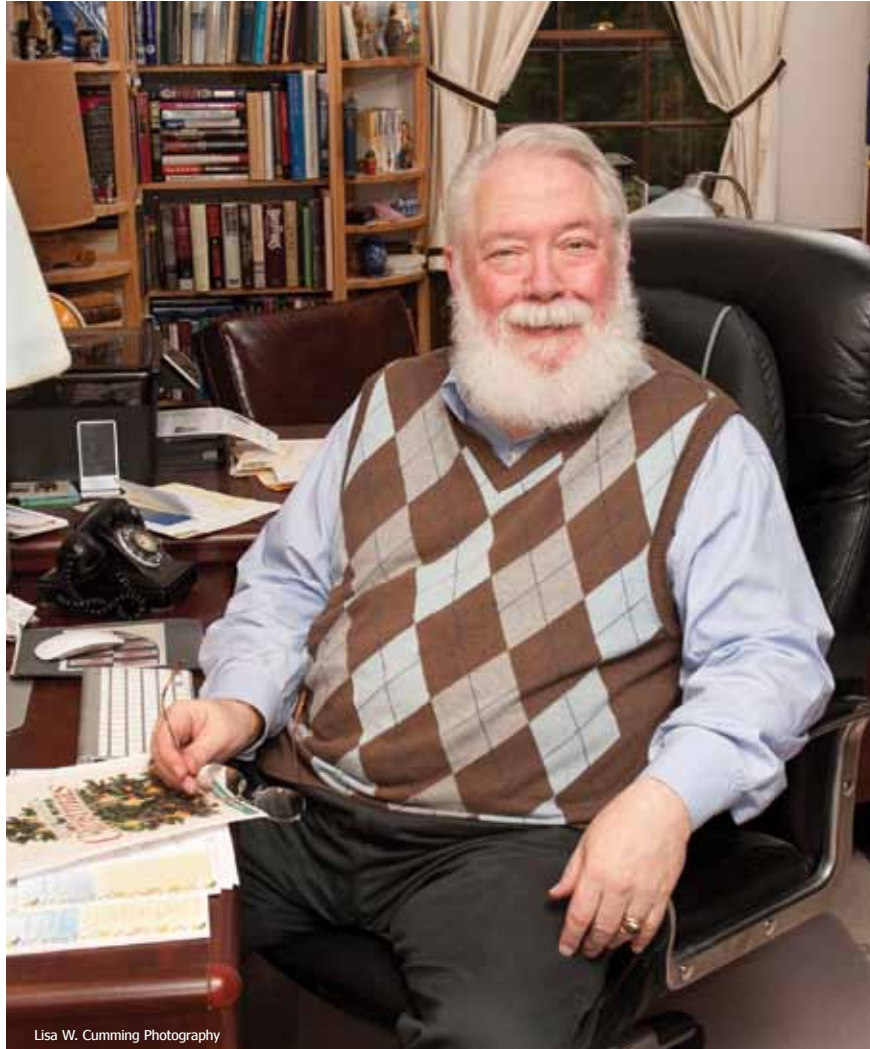
Wilford's newspaper career began in 1960 in Charlotte, North Carolina as a sports writer. In 1966 he took a position as a journalist with the Richmond Times Dispatch, reporting out of the Williamsburg news bureau. In 1993, after a lengthy career with the newspaper, he decided to join the Virginia Marine Resources Commission as public relations officer, where he established the public relations department.

When Wilford retired in 2007 he went back to what he loved best: writing, editing and publishing books. For more than 40 years, Wilford has been writing about Christmas.

"I've always loved Christmas, and always loved the spirit of the holidays," he says. "I started writing holiday pieces for the newspaper back in 1974, writing about things like the history of caroling and Yule logs."

That love of the holiday, combined with a keen eye for interesting Christmas stories, led to his most recent book, *A Very Virginia Christmas*.

The book, a collection of Christmas stories and traditions across Virginia, spans the state from the Shenandoah Valley to the Eastern Shore. Wilford is a repository of information on all things about Christmas in Virginia.



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

"Did you know that Williamsburg was one of the first of only about one dozen communities to do a Christmas tree lighting?" he asks. "Or that some of the people in the Richmond nativity pageant have been doing it for multiple generations? We have so many interesting holiday traditions, and there are so many great pieces written about them that I thought a collection would be appropriate."

Some of the stories include how eggnog is native to Virginia, the story of George Washington's return trip to Martha on Christmas Eve and the back story on Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer.

"Did you know that Rudolph was first written as a poem?" Wilford asks. "It was written for a little girl whose mom had cancer. One day this little girl asked her father why her mommy wasn't like other mommies, because her mother was sick all the time and basically bedridden. The father wrote the poem for her using animals to try to make his daughter view her mother in a more positive way." That poem made its way to the father's brother-in-law, who had connections to Hollywood.

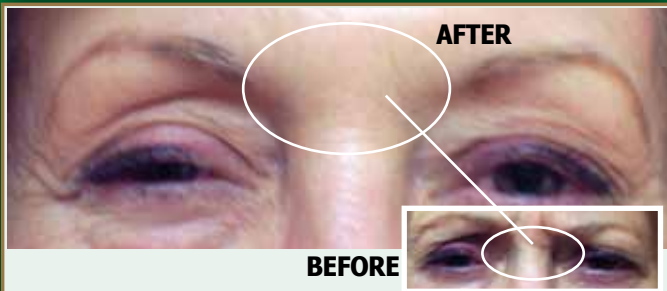
The rest, as they say, went down in history.

Originally, the idea for his newest book came about from a monograph Wilford found written about traveling from Newport News to Smithfield on a steamer. He thought it was well done, and approached his book designer about creating something with this short piece. She was involved in a

couple of projects at the time, so he decided he would find more stories to go along with that one.

After some research, Wilford stumbled upon a story written by Earl Hamner, the producer of the television show *The Waltons*. The story, "A Christmas Memory", was originally written for publication in Nelson County, Virginia. When Mr. Hamner gave permission for Wilford to reprint it, this became the first story in the book.

That's when Wilford started looking in earnest for Christmas stories. He called people he knew in different areas of Virginia and asked for stories, spent countless hours in William



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and Mary's SWEM library and found information on the Internet that he was able to track to the original source.

Once the idea struck, Wilford sat down and planned the book from layout to story selection, in about 100 days. "It was a long 100 days, but I was driven to finish this project," he says.

Some of the other chapters include information on Christmas poetry such as Longfellow's "Christmas Bells," Philips Brooks' "Christmas Everywhere," Tennyson's "Voices in the Mist," and one modern poem titled "Christmas Senses," written by Dell "Abe" Jones. Many of these poems have stories attached to them about why or how they came to be, and what they mean, and Wilford has made that an integral part of the book.

At the end he included a number of miscellaneous items about Christmas that have nothing to do with Virginia. "These were just things I liked," he said. Readers will find "Yes, Virginia, There is a Santa Claus," the World War I story titled "Christmas in the Trenches," and "A Sleigh Full of Cards," written by Wilford's daughter.

"My daughter is a wonderful writer, and I really love this piece she wrote. I think it speaks to everyone who gives and receives holiday cards, and it talks about where the tradition came from," he says.

It is obvious that Christmas holds a very special place in Wilford's heart, and it becomes even more obvious when he talks about his work as Santa. Each year, Santa Claus enlists Wilford to assist him in speaking with the children of the Williamsburg area and finding out what they want for Christmas. He has undergone extensive training for this type of work, as Santa is very strict about making sure his helpers follow proper procedures.

"It's one of the best things I've done," he says. "I have lots of fun playing the part of Santa, and I love hearing what the children have to say. Some of them are amazing."

Wilford recounts one woman who came to see Santa with her grandchildren. "I looked at her when the children were finished, and I asked her if she liked the doll she'd gotten all those years ago. She burst into tears, asking me how I knew about that." He shrugged. "It's the magic of Christmas."

Sometimes a child's wish can be difficult for Santa to grant, and sometimes it is beyond his power to give certain things.

"Once, a little girl came and sat on my lap and asked 'Can you bring my daddy back?' Apparently, her dad had died that year, and she thought I could bring him back." Wilford shook his head, wishing he'd had a different answer for the girl. "I told her that there were some things even Santa couldn't do, and she had to try to remember all the good times she'd had with her father."

Even though there are some wishes he can't grant, he loves being able to share the holiday spirit with kids and their families. "Adults love the experience, too. As Santa, you just get the most wonderful feeling. I hope the people who come to see Santa enjoy it as much as Santa does."

Clearly, the holidays are a special time of year for Wilford. He stresses that this is the time for love and acceptance, not worry and fear. "I have found that Christmas is a lot of things to different people. I believe it's terribly wrong to take your views of Christmas and compare it to anyone else. It's such a personal time of year, someone else might not appreciate what it means to you, just as you won't appreciate what it means to them. Enjoy the holiday for what it means to you, and don't take anything personally."

For Wilford Kale the writer and Wilford Kale the Santa Claus, the beauty of the holiday season comes with understanding and appreciating our families, our friends and our next door neighbors. NDN

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Giving Back to Our Community

The Christmas Homes Tour

By Narielle Living



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Marie Bond may have been born in Monroe, Louisiana, but it is clear that a piece of her heart belongs to Williamsburg. Prior to moving to this area in 1986, she and her husband, Tom, had already built two houses in the Williamsburg architectural style.

“I just fell in love with the architecture here,”

she says. When she and Tom visited the region, they decided the setting had everything they wanted for their retirement.

Marie has always been an active supporter of a variety of organizations in her community. Believing that the combination of family, friends and history are essential components

of the fabric of our lives, she tries to support causes that celebrate and enrich those things.

“I love everything I do, and I love people. I want to be able to give back to my community.” As a mother of two children and grandmother of six, it’s important to her to be part of creating and sustaining a positive family com-

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munity.

Marie's activities include being the current president of the Green Spring Garden Club, volunteering with Colonial Williamsburg as hostess to the St. George Tucker House, member of the Sentara Community Services board, Vintage Ladies Antique Club and Hospice House Guild.

Many of Marie's activities support and tie in with each other. For example, she works with both the Green Spring Garden Club as well as Sentara Hospital. The Green Spring Garden Club has been a donor to the hospital gardens, working to create a beautiful environment with numerous plants and flowers. The Green Spring Garden Club also worked on a community garden for the Hospice House in Williamsburg.

"That is something that is going to touch our lives somewhere along the way," Marie says. "I felt drawn to work with them."

Marie laments that her modest yard size does not leave much room for gardening at her own home. "I do have plants that are family plants and have been with us for generations,

plants that I brought with me when we moved to Virginia."

When they moved here she brought nandina, spider lilies, iris and crown imperial, all of which she considered family plants. "They're part of the history of where we came from," she explains.

Unfortunately, the deer population in the area love the flowers just as much as she does, and it's often a struggle to keep the plants healthy.

Each year the Green Spring Garden Club hosts the Christmas Homes Tour, and this year is the 53rd annual event. Taking place in Colonial Williamsburg, the tour consists of six homes this year, each with its own distinct historical significance. The tour is the only fundraiser the club holds each year, and proceeds from this event benefit community garden projects and scholarships.

Homes chosen for the tour are within the Colonial Williamsburg historic district. "If we want to have a home outside the historic district we have to provide a shuttle for people," Marie explains.

Usually, once a house has been utilized for the Christmas Homes Tour, the residence is placed on the list and will be put into the tour rotation. This means the garden club will ask the owner or residents every three to four years if they would like to participate again.

Once the residents of a home volunteer to have their house made available to the public, preparations begin. There are a number of steps taken to organize the house for a tour.

First, each house is assigned a house chairperson. This is the person that decides where the arrangements are placed for each room, as well as giving input into color combinations. Cards are placed where the arrangements are slated for display.

The next phase of the planning process is where the garden clubs and local florists bring the arrangements to the house. Each house gets at least one or two local florists working on displays. The displays might be moved from one spot to another at this point, depending on how well they work with the rest of the room. Everything used within the homes must be historically accurate, and the florists and gar-

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den clubs are provided with a list of materials that can be used. Anything seen from the street, such as a door wreath, must be completely historically accurate.

For the tour, a hostess staffs each room of the house that is on display. Not all rooms are for public viewing. The hostess acts as the tour guide for that room, providing historical information to visitors and answering questions that may arise.

Marie is careful to point out that everything done for the tour falls under Colonial Williamsburg's guidelines. "We work under Colonial Williamsburg guidance and rules, and we are so honored to be a part of sharing these homes with the public."

It's an enormous undertaking, but each year the Green Springs Garden Club works hard to ensure another successful season.

"The garden club is made up of 45 phenomenal women," Marie says. "The members are the heart of the club, and they really keep it going. Nobody ever says they can't do something, they always say 'yes, I can' whenever asked."

Marie's enthusiasm shines as she talks about

her work with the myriad of agencies, and she is proud to be part of several groups that provide community support. "The garden club truly works to enhance our community, and we keep things local. We even offer scholarships to area students."

Some of the Green Spring Garden Club endeavors include donating to Colonial Williamsburg to support, plant and maintain the Geddy Garden, replacing the boxwoods behind the Wythe house, and helping maintain the Robert Carter garden. The club has also donated to the Jamestown Settlement and a number of local hospital gardens.

With all of the volunteer work that she has done through the years, Marie sometimes forgets to talk about her career as an interior decorator. She worked as a decorator prior to moving to Williamsburg and continued her career in Virginia as well.

Clearly, Marie is talented in her field. In a home filled with family treasures, she has managed to create a warm, welcoming and historic atmosphere that immediately puts visitors at ease.

"I got started in interior decorating just to help friends, but it's something I loved." Marie soon found she had a natural talent for rearranging furniture and creating combinations that were aesthetically pleasing and turned it into a career. After 14 years with American Harvest in Williamsburg she decided to retire, but still puts her talent to use for family occasions.

Gracious and genteel, Marie's love for family and community is reflected in the work she chooses to perform. Most of the work she does for Williamsburg has grown out of a genuine love of the area, as well as the fact that this place feels like home.

"I am very fortunate to have experienced living in a community like this, where I've been so welcomed by the people that live here. I think that most people choose to live here, and that's why so many love it."

For Marie, the history of the area is a large part of its appeal. "We are living in this place that is a veritable book of history. I think it's important to stop and spend time in our community, so that we can all read this book." NDN

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KAREN SCHLICHT

The Lighting of the Tree

A Favorite Community Ceremony

By Lillian Stevens

Every Christmas Eve, the Williamsburg community comes together for an old-fashioned holiday event including speeches, stories and song – and culminating in the lighting of a massive evergreen tree that is located on Market Square.

On Monday, December 24 at 5:00 p.m. sharp, Colonial Williamsburg Interpreter Karen Schlicht will join more than 2,000 guests for this very special occasion.

“I look forward to it each year – to looking out at that sea of happy faces,” Karen says. “They all just want to sing and be festive. In that moment, we are all one big family just having a good time.”

As twilight fades, the Fifes and Drums lead the march toward the Courthouse to celebrate the traditional tree lighting ceremony, co-sponsored by The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg. As costumed interpreters fire the Christmas guns, the program begins and Karen leads the crowd in holiday songs.

“This event has been going on forever,” Karen explains.

Indeed, in 1842, long before electricity was invented, a Christmas tree arrived at the St. George Tucker House on Nicholson Street. A young professor at William and Mary, a native of Germany, brought the tree

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Holiday Skating in Sullivan Square!

Nov. 23, 2012 through Jan. 13, 2013

Iron-Bound Gym, Town Management and James City County are partnering this holiday season to offer citizens and visitors another family-friendly recreational opportunity in New Town - a synthetic ice skating rink in Sullivan Square.

The rink opens daily after Thanksgiving, Nov. 23, 2012 through Jan. 13, 2013. There are weekday, weekend and winter break hours. The rink is closed on Christmas Day.

Skating is \$7/person including the skate rental or \$5 with your own skates. Season passes are also available for \$50/person and include the skate rental. Skating is conducted in sessions: 10-11:30 a.m., noon-1:30 p.m., 2-3:30

p.m., 4-5:30 p.m., 6-7:30 p.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. Operation hours may be adjusted based on weather conditions, participation numbers and special events.

Children under 12 must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. All participants must wear skates.

The skate rink surface is made of an EZ Glide 350 synthetic ice surface, offering a smooth surface suitable for all skating activities. Synthetic ice has a similar surface to ice, and almost anything that can be done on refrigerated ice can be performed and perfected on this synthetic ice. Skaters of all ages and abilities will find the surface safer and a more enjoyable alternative to refrigerated ice.

If you're a local business owner and would like a seasonal sponsorship in the rink, please call Town Management at 757-565-6200.

For more information on skating, please call 757-259-5360 or visit jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation.

Hours

Nov. 23 – Dec. 20
Weekdays: 4-9:30 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m.
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Christmas Day
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to Williamsburg because he wanted to demonstrate how the Christmas season was observed in his homeland.

It was the first appearance of a Christmas tree in Virginia.

Years later, with the invention of electricity, Williamsburg's 1915 community Christmas tree ceremony brought a modern way of celebrating the ancient holiday to the 2,500 inhabitants of the city, few of whom owned electric tree lights. On Christmas night in 1915, townspeople gathered around a tall evergreen decorated with electric lights.

The idea may have come from New York City's Madison Square Garden where America's first community Christmas tree had been erected just a few years earlier.

This year, from her position on the front porch of the Courthouse – that's where the dignitaries for that particular program are – Karen leads the songs.

"Stephen Seals will read 'The Night Before Christmas' to start us off. Then the master of ceremonies will introduce the program and welcome everyone. A minister will lead us in a little prayer, and then I bring in the first song which is 'O Come, All Ye Faithful.'"

An alto, Karen is quick to point out that she

is not a professional singer who "sings in the stratosphere." Instead, her job is to set the note so that everyone can sing.

"The whole idea is for them to sing – not for ME to sing. I'm just the choir leader!"

After three songs, the program goes back to the Master of Ceremonies who tells the Christmas Story. With the words, "'Twas the night before Christmas..." a hush falls over the crowd. And then, the Christmas story becomes part of a larger yarn.

"We've done different stories over the years, but generally the MC tells the story of Christmas at the St. George Tucker House in 1842," she explains.

In the recent past, local resident Page Warden has appeared to tell the story of her great-grandmother, Martha Page Vandegrift, who, in 1842, witnessed the first Christmas tree at the home of her cousin Cynthia Beverly Tucker. Also, the Kiwanis' president speaks about events in the community and their role in this occasion.

And then comes the magical moment as the tree is lit.

"They've been putting more and more lights on every year – up to around 10,000 now. They are LED lights, so they are very bright.

The lights are triggered by fading sunlight and they stay on until the sun comes up."

Karen enjoys interacting with the crowd, which consists of locals and – as she calls them – repeat locals. She has come to look for them over the years.

There are also a lot of Williamsburg and James City County residents who participate and include this gathering in their own holiday festivities – including members of the Kiwanis Club who arrive early to distribute the candles and copies of the programs.

"My own family lives far away, and so, for the past eight or nine years, this has become my own Christmas tradition," Karen says. "I celebrate here with the friends whom have become like family to me."

Though she calls herself "just a worker bee" she wouldn't be anywhere else on December 24. After the community Christmas tree is lit, Karen will dash off to dance at the Capitol for a "Capitol Evening," which is a ticketed event.

"So, I usually go from costume to modern attire to full regalia with wig for that event. Then, on Christmas Day, I'll be back at work from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. It's a popular day for our guests; they are waiting at the doorsteps when we open." NDN



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holiday Spirits!

By Brandy Centolanza

When it comes to holiday entertaining, Rebecca Jarrell, a bartender with Opus 9 Steakhouse in New Town, suggests keeping it simple.

Food options for a holiday party should be quick and easy. "You don't want to make it complicated or overwhelming for yourself," Rebecca says. "You don't want to be doing dishes or making drinks all night. You want to enjoy your party."

"People always like dips, and you can't go wrong with a veggie tray. That way people can pick and choose what they like," she says. "You should go with finger foods or wings or something in the crockpot like pulled pork and allow people to help themselves, so they can choose what they want and how much they want. You can also try catering food like sandwiches or a cheese platter. That really cuts down on the work for you. You don't necessar-



ily need to do it all yourself."

Of course, when it comes to adult beverages, Rebecca, a junior at Virginia Commonwealth University who bartends in between classes and spending time with her husband and daughter, offers up a few different ideas that will likely liven up any holiday gathering.

One recommended holiday specialty drink is hot-buttered rum, an interesting twist on the typical party punch. The drink consists of an apple-cider flavored mixture (water, orange juice, apple cider, syrup, lemon juice, cinnamon, nutmeg, clove and allspice) or "batter"

and rum.

"This is not a drink that requires a lot of work," Rebecca says. "You can have the batter made ahead of time, and all people have to do is just scoop and pour. It tastes just like hot cider for adults, but you can also make it for kids without the rum. It is a lot of fun."

Variations of the traditional martini are also trendy this year.

"Another fun drink is a Chocolate Tini or

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what we call the truffletini," Rebecca says. To prepare, drizzle a little chocolate syrup inside a martini glass, then add vanilla vodka and dark chocolate and white chocolate. Serve with a truffle.

"It's very cute and very yummy," Rebecca says. "This is also really three drinks in one because you can also serve it with only dark chocolate or only white chocolate. It's one that the ladies will definitely love."

Flavored cosmopolitans with flavored vodkas are also popular drink choices for women.

"You can add many different flavors, like mango, cranberry or tangerine," Rebecca says. "The grapefruit is really good. These cosmos are clean, crisp, nice twists on the classic martini. Flavored vodkas seem to be the trend right now. You can garnish the drink with any fruit too. Go with the flavor of the vodka. Have fun with it. The chocolatetinis and multi-flavored cosmos are fun and easy and you can make them in so many different ways. They are very versatile. As long as something tastes good to you, I would say go with your instincts. As long as you are comfortable making it and drinking it, other people will like it too."

One of Rebecca's favorite drinks is the French martini, which has vodka and chambord plus a splash of pineapple juice.

"This is a really nice drink," Rebecca says, who uses chambord-flavored vodka in her recipe. "It gives it a really pretty pink color. It's a different spin on the martini, and really good. I think it is decadent. This is a drink that could be served on the rocks or with some soda water with a lemon or lime wedge. A really nice touch would be to float a little champagne on top."

While ladies will likely savor these takes on the martinis, what about the men?

"For the men, I'd go with the classic Manhattan," Rebecca shares. "Get a great bourbon of your choice, add some sweet vermouth, a dash of Bitters and garnish with a cherry. This can be served up or on the rocks."

For guests who don't wish to imbibe, the Hot-buttered Rum can be enjoyed without the alcohol.

"Another great drink could be a play on a bellini, which is basically any fruit nectar like peach and, instead of using champagne, you could just use some soda water or Sprite and serve it in a champagne glass with a slice of peach to garnish," Rebecca says.

Another way to add to the ambience of a holiday party is to have an attractive centerpiece.

"You should have a nice big centerpiece with flowers, or an oversized martini glass with fruit slices," Rebecca says. "They have a lot of cute household accessories. Candles are also really fun. You can light a few here and there. It adds a nice touch."

Rebecca, who is studying chemical engineering and hopes to one day work for an oil company to find alternative fuel sources, doesn't typically entertain guests, though she does help her mother, Soon Bok, with party planning, usually tending the bar. Rebecca's favorite holiday is Thanksgiving.

"My mom is Korean, but she puts a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this American meal," Rebecca says with a laugh. "She works all day and then comes down all dressed up right before the meal. She does it because it is her way of showing us that she loves us."

Rebecca is also looking forward to the holiday season here in Williamsburg.

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"I love Williamsburg because it is so welcoming and family-oriented and it can really transform itself to be seasonal," Rebecca says. "I love the holidays because everyone always seems to be happier and more spirited during the holidays. It's all about family and friends and really connecting with them." NDN

Favorite Holiday Recipes

Hot Buttered Rum

Cider

1 qt water
 3/4 tsp cinnamon
 3/4 tsp nutmeg
 1 1/2 tsp ground cloves
 3/4 tsp allspice
 3 oz OJ concentrate
 8 oz simple syrup
 4 oz lemon juice
 1 gal apple cider

Mix water & spices in a large pot and simmer. Add OJ, simple syrup and lemon juice. Simmer additional 10 minutes stirring frequently. Add cider and simmer 5 minutes more

Butter mixture

Butter & Brown sugar (1 cup each)....blend until smooth. Per drink: Mug of cider, 1.5 oz spiced rum, 1 cinnamon stick, just under a teaspoon of butter mixture Use the cinnamon stick to scoop up the butter and stir into the rum.

French Martini

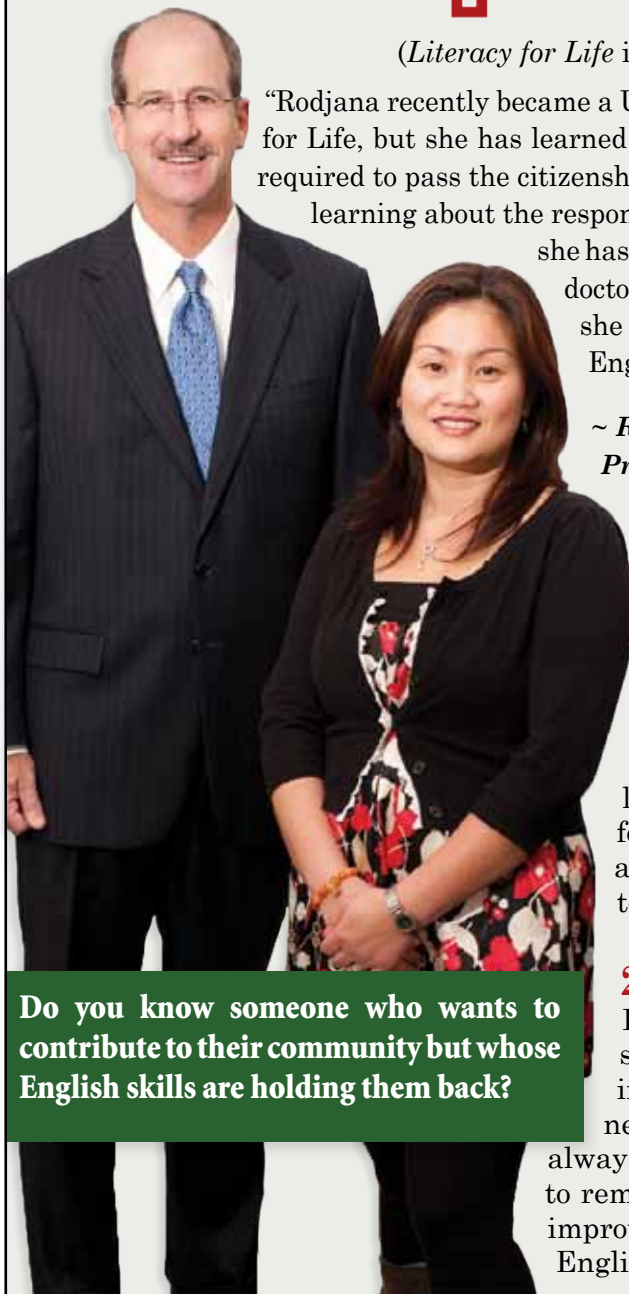
2.25 oz Vodka (We use Grey Goose) .75 oz chambord. Heavy splash of pineapple. Lemon twist. Shake and strain into chilled martini glass.

Chocolate Martini

1.5 oz Stoli Vanilla. .75 oz White Godiva. .75 oz Dark Godiva chocolate syrup lined martini glass (chilled). Shake and strain into chilled chocolate lined glass.

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~ Roy B. (Monty) Hargrove, Sr. Vice-President, Wells Fargo Advisors and Rodjana Saochan, a new citizen.

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A Capella Sing-Off

By Alison Johnson



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Diving into new experiences is a way of life for Carolyn Keurajian, from living on an Indian reservation as a child to touring with an international performing arts group as a young saxophonist. Carolyn has met jazz legends, Cab Calloway and Dizzy Gillespie, spent the night at Germany's reunification in Berlin, planned a black tie dinner to honor Sen. Ted Kennedy and appeared on the Today Show to publicize a national event promoting healthy habits for children.

Would she also agree to produce the first-annual *A Cappella Sing-Off* – an evening singing competition scheduled for

Dec. 6 at Busch Gardens – the day before her family closed on a new home in Williamsburg this past summer? Bring it on.

“It’s been 24/7 since then,” Carolyn says of the show, a fundraiser for the local nonprofits Literacy for Life and Williamsburg Choral Guild. “Since it’s the first year, everything has to happen from scratch and there’s a tremendous amount of work, but I’m so excited about what we’re doing.”

The sing-off will feature 10 groups performing a cappella – without musical instruments – for a panel of judges from the professional group Rockapella. The groups, chosen via YouTube auditions, will compete for a \$2,500 first prize, \$1,000 second prize and \$500 fan favorite award. Sponsored by SunTrust Bank,

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the show will be at Busch Garden's Globe Theatre amidst twinkling Christmas lights.

The event will combine the recent popularity of reality talent competitions with the age-old art of community music-making. "It's a way to celebrate the beauty of the musical world and create moments of community bonding." Public radio host Cathy Lewis will serve as emcee.

The long to-do list for Carolyn, 45, has included lining up performers and judges, organizing ticket sales, creating an event logo (her cousin, an artist, designed it), developing an advertising campaign (with help from the local firm Howell Creative Group), planning parking and security at Busch Gardens and figuring out where to put more than 100 singers between sets (heated tents).

She also helped brainstorm the fan favorite award, which will add together advance votes based on online videos – at \$1 per vote – and smartphone

"It's a way to celebrate the beauty of the musical world and create moments of community bonding."

~ Carolyn Keurajian

balloting during the performance. "It's going to be a really fun format, good for people of all ages," Carolyn says. "A cappella is a very pure form of singing, a real art form that showcases the versatility of the voice."

Music has been a constant in Carolyn's at-times nomadic life. Born in Wyoming, she spent hours listening to her father's jazz on their living room stereo. "I was always singing without even knowing I was doing it," she remembers. "It drove my brothers crazy." She took up the saxophone in sixth grade and continued playing through her high school years in Fairbanks, Alaska, one of several places her father's career in public health took the family. There, she met Calloway, Gillespie, members of the Boston Pops Orchestra and other prominent musicians at the annual Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival.

"I'd hang out with them at the local pizza place," she says. "I didn't really realize until I was older how special that was." Alaska's climate was special in a different way, she says with a laugh: "It would be 40 degrees below zero and snowing sideways. It was a beautiful place, but I had a big mural of a beach painted in my room."

Music also brightened the three years that Carolyn lived on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, where her father had a job with the local health authority. Carolyn was in elementary school then and didn't always feel welcome. "I made some dear friends, but it could be a bleak place," she says. "I can remember standing at the bus stop and people yelling at me [derogatory comments] as they drove by."

When Carolyn was about 8, she went to a performance by *Up with People*, an international leadership and arts organization that aims to bridge cultural barriers through service and music. Two of the musicians

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stayed with her family. "I remember a lot of bright colors, audience participation and beautiful songs," she says. "It really stuck in my head." Carolyn would reconnect with *Up with People* years later as a student at University of North Texas School of Music, where the group was holding auditions. For a year, she traveled the world with a cast of 100 international performers, playing sax, emceeing and singing some solos during four or five shows a week (her list of favorite places include Alaska, Greece, Israel and Germany).

After that year, Carolyn, who also holds a business/marketing degree from the University of Puget Sound, launched a career as an event planner, including three years as director of special events for *Up with People*. Her work brought her into contact with many types of leaders, from former President Bill Clinton – "I remember being awestruck by the magnitude of his presence in the room," she says – to celebrity hairstylist Jason Backe, who appears on the TLC program *What Not to Wear*. She represents best-selling author and leadership expert Tommy Spaulding and will book his upcoming speaking tour.

One of the most memorable events Carolyn has produced was 1997's "Child Health Day," a national effort with actress Marilu Henner as its spokesperson. She organized a dinner honoring Sen. Kennedy's contributions to children's health care and did an interview with the Today Show's Al Roker. "It was very quick," she recalls. "The trick is to role-play possible questions and have sound bites ready to go."

Carolyn moved to Williamsburg in November 2011 when her husband, Richard, took a job as Vice President of Sales & Marketing at Kingsmill Resort. She met a member of Literacy for Life and Williamsburg Choral Guild at a party that winter, which eventually led to her current position as the point person for the *A Cappella Sing-Off*.

Supporting the two nonprofits is important, she says: Literacy for Life's work includes tutoring adults in reading, writing and math, teaching English as a second language and helping with career counseling and money management, while Williamsburg Choral Guild has offered popular performances since its founding in 1975. "Each brings such great things to the community," Carolyn adds.

Carolyn Keurajian hopes the *A Cappella Sing-Off* will become a popular community tradition. She's also a mother to three budding musicians at home: Paul, 14, plays guitar; Anya, 12, plays flute; and both Anya and Carley, 9, play piano.

"Music has taken me so many places and opened so many doors for me," Carolyn says. "Sometimes I feel like I've lived about five lives already." NDN

For more information about *A Cappella Sing-Off*, including ticket sales, go to : www.acappellasingoff.org

Tickets are \$50, \$35 and \$25 and are available in advance or at the door. The event will begin at 7:30 on Dec. 6. There is no additional charge to get into Busch Gardens, although the park's Christmas Town celebration will not be open that night.

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As we close this year, we want to express our appreciation and thanks to the readers of Next Door Neighbors for the goodwill you have extended to us. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

Dance!

By Natalie Miller-Moore



The basement of the Institute for Dance building is full of mountains of tulle, the netting associated with ballerinas, fairy princesses and Broadway productions. There are racks of skirted dance costumes, with giant wrapped Christmas presents sprinkled among the soldier and gingerbread men costumes.

“Dancers never outgrow dress up!” says Cheryl Davila, the community programs coordinator. In addition to the numerous dance classes offered throughout the year, such as jazz, tap, ballet, lyrical and hip hop, the Institute for Dance (known as iDance) students perform in the community for special events. Cheryl says that the kids spend more than 2,000 hours a year giving back to the community and story time at bookstores, dragging along their trunks full of pink tutus.

Fall and winter bring a full schedule for the dancers, ages 3 to adult, with numerous community performances, special events and rehearsals. Two of the big events are the “Williamsburg Holiday Parade” and the “Christmas Dreams” show. This year’s parade theme

is “Lights, Cameras, Christmas!” and Cheryl says the iDance students are busy creating their float, costumes and performance for the parade.

The float has been a winner in past years, and students are eager to ride and wear their costumes. The sign up list for the parade is posted, and the students decorate the night before at the studio. Williams Landscaping donates a truck for the base of the float, and the iDance students gather props, boxes, garland

and strings of lights for decorations. There’s also the practical side as well. Cheryl says they also use staple guns and liquid nails.

“There’s just something about tutus and tool belts that make an interesting combination. They love to decorate,” she says.

On Saturday morning, everyone gathers at the crack of dawn in their costumes. Dancers are often involved in other community organi-

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zations as well, so even if they don't get to ride the iDance float, many dancers are involved in the parade in some way.

"The parade, to me, is the essence of Williamsburg," says Cheryl. "It's like Old Home Week, so full of community spirit. DOG Street is just the most personal place in the world."

Cheryl became involved with iDance when her daughter was a dancer, but she is not currently taking lessons. She's 15 and focused on being a soccer player. Her son, 28, loves to wear the giant gingerbread man costume called "Gingy" in the holiday parade, and Cheryl walks beside him most of the time, guiding him along the route because the costume is so big. "Little kids love the costumed characters," she says.

The holiday parade is a great way for dancers to let off steam, because it always occurs the weekend before "Christmas Dreams" opens. Their schedule is decorating the float Friday night, riding in the parade on Saturday morning, and then heading to Saturday afternoon dress rehearsal.

"Christmas Dreams" is the iDance signature holiday show. It was composed as an original production by a former director at the school, and now occupies a place on many local's holi-

day calendar. It has been performed for the past five years and was held at the Kimball Theatre last year, to accommodate the larger audience. Cheryl describes it as "a little bit of Broadway." It includes a variety of dance styles, such as tap, jazz, point, and even a kick line. It's adaptable and each year the iDance leaders make changes based on artistic direction, students available and costumes. It's family-oriented, and runs 90 minutes, with an intermission.

iDance is 40 years old, and in 2006, they built a new million dollar facility. It includes hardwood floors, bars and mirrors for student lessons and performances. The top floor studio is larger than any stage in Williamsburg, according to Cheryl, so that students can practice realistically in the space, no matter where the performance will be.

"It is great because we'd always been in retrofitted spaces. We are blessed to have it. Especially since storage is always at a premium," Cheryl says. The iDance building located on Ironbound Road has three floors of dance studios, offices and storage for all those costumes! Production costumes are distinct from Halloween or dress up costumes, because they are made for performing and have better quality construction. iDance just acquired some Irish

dance costumes from Busch Gardens, much to the excitement of the dancers.

One of the other community events iDance participates in is their annual fundraiser, the American Girl fashion show at Great Wolf Lodge. (Sorry - all four shows are already sold out!) They also hold a "Fairies and Friends" lunch at Yankee Candle based on a book series, a show at Williamsburg United Methodist Respite Care, and regular story time at Barnes and Noble. Through their variety of community performances, students are expanding their skills in choreography, acting and writing scripts. That means they are taking a more active role in creating the shows they perform, such as adapting current performances to showcase certain talents or customizing the show for their audience.

The iDance building also has a window facing Ironbound Road. People driving by can see into one of the studios where the young ballet students are practicing. According to Cheryl, iDance gets calls about "the ballerina in the window" and that people aspire to be her, or to have their children get that experience. iDance continues to provide many different opportunities for dancing, as well as engaging the community through artistic expression. NDN

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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

THE HAPPY PLACE

By Sandy Rotermund

Silverware – knives, forks, spoons. These tools of everyday eating rituals are – to most people – just plain, old flatware with a function. Not so for Jena Chenkin, a seasoned violist with the Williamsburg Symphonia. Jena’s silverware is both music to her ears and therapy for her hands.

“My everyday silverware is sterling silver be-

cause I like the sound it makes as you place it on the table,” Jena says as she pulls herself upright into perfect dining posture. Her hands simulate the placing down of utensils.

“It makes this musical ding when you set it down.” The sound only she just heard makes her pause and smile.

“And it has to be hand washed. But I found

that washing the dishes every morning is therapeutic for your wrists and the tightness.”

Jena discovered this only after she became the proud owner of a dishwasher – and her wrists began to hurt. She had to relinquish her wonderful dishwasher in favor of her morning warm water routine.

“I’ve seen musicians go into the bathroom

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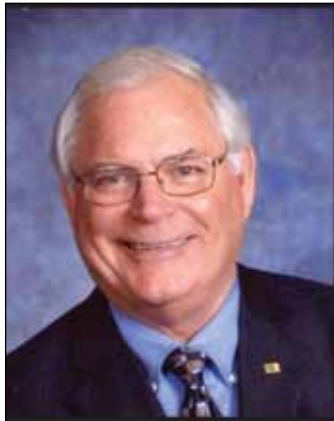
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and run warm water over their wrists before they play because that's just some of their therapy."

Rituals that enhance Jena's overall wellness have been a way of life for this Wisconsin native. In fact, she credits her lack of the usual neck and back pain commonly experienced by string players to her healthy lifestyle. Regular jogging, strength training, and healthy eating are as non-negotiable to her as practicing her music has been since grade school.

Jenna learned to play the violin first and later adapted her musical skills to play the viola as well. She enjoys both instruments.

"I started on the violin – and I was not good!" Jena says, grinning. "I didn't catch on very quickly. And there was this mean boy who sat in front of me. One day, he turned around and said, 'You're the worst one in the class!'"

Embarrassed, but admittedly performing under par, Jena persevered. She knew she loved the violin. So, by the following year and only after relentless practice, she excelled leaving her critical orchestra-mate speechless.

Jena's tenacity continued through college as she honed her musical skills. Even her brief courtship with math as her major that ended in Calculus Two didn't derail her. Her unconditional love for the viola prevailed, but not without a cost.

"I missed every homecoming every year in college because, as a music performance major, you're shut away in a practice room practicing all the time. The world goes by, and you miss the world and what's going on." She pauses. "Because you have to practice so hard."

The cost was worth it though. Jena joined the Milwaukee Symphony as one of their youngest members. This later led to opportunities with both the Richmond and Williamsburg Symphonies once she decided to tie the knot with her east coast fiancé who is now her husband.

"I wear many hats," Jena confesses as she describes the contrast between her composite of jobs and her husband's nine-to-five job as an electrical engineer.

In addition to performing with the Williamsburg Symphonia, Jena also teaches violin classes at an at-risk Portsmouth grade school. The program is privately funded and is the brain-child of that school's Principal.

"She's [the Principal] read all the [research] studies, and they say music will help in the brain development of children – and will help with other areas [like] math and science," Jena says.

Jena's love for teaching violin prompted her to develop the Williamsburg Symphonia's Outreach Program entitled "All Things Strings." She and a small group of string musicians perform in each of the grade schools in Williamsburg and James City County while introducing students to musical history and the instruments themselves. To date, they have visited every one of the area's schools.

When time allows between carpooling to soccer practice, music lessons, and then cooking – her favorite - Jena dons yet another hat. She owns a string quartet business called "Arte Musicale," which is Italian for "the love of music." The quartet plays at weddings and other social events.

"Nobody warned me," Jena says jokingly. "I keep trying to think whose fault it is. Nobody warned me before I had kids that these little people were going to have such busy schedules!" She laughs as she recognizes the craziness of her own schedule added to the mix.

With the holidays approaching, Jena is gearing up for the Williamsburg Symphonia's Holiday Pops Concert during Grand Illumination Weekend.

"I just get so excited," Jena beams. "They let us wear colors other than black! They let us wear red or green, black or white, or gold and sparkly!" Jena's eyes dance when she speaks. "The music changes every year. [It's] peppy, fast-paced. You have jazz, saxophones...[we] always have a soloist – sometimes vocal. One year we had a harmonica."

Jena attributes the high caliber of the Williamsburg Symphonia to veteran conductor, Janna Hymes.

"She is so much fun - just bubbly and energetic and funny. She's very tough. She's very demanding. You play better under demanding conductors," Jena says. "You demand of yourself a very high level [of performance] when you're playing with a very fine conductor."

In Williamsburg, Jena says that you have to have a high-level orchestra. "The patrons have moved here from New York City and other big cities, and they're used to a very high level of art and orchestra. We have to be good because that's what they expect."

The venue – the Kimball Theatre in Merchant's Square – is what Jena calls, "The Happy Place."

"It's because either the people are retired, and they're relaxed and walking slowly, or they're tourists and they're happy and walking slowly." Jena gazes through the café window at the cobblestone streets below. "How many places do you go where there are no cars driving on the main road right where the theatre is? When guest soloists visit from around the world [to perform with the Williamsburg Symphonia], you can just see the delight in their eyes."

Child-like delight, the musical dings of silverware, even the glittery performance costumes – all of these define something palpable in Jena, and that is passion. This holiday, Jena is sharing that passion so that we, too, can join her in that "Happy Place." NDN



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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

Traditional Folk Art

By Lillian Stevens

The first weekend in December is among the busiest of the year in Williamsburg. As visitors arrive in the Colonial Capitol for the annual Grand Illumination, there are many other exciting events that weekend – like the Trinkle Hall Art and Craft Show.

On Saturday, December 1 and Sunday, December 2, artists from six different states – including Williamsburg’s own Nancy Rosier

– will show their work at this unique arts and crafts extravaganza. The show, which is free to the public, is located just a short walk from Merchants Square.

Featuring American Folk Art and exhibitors from six states, there will be Christmas decorations, oil paintings, wood carvings – something for everyone. There will also be live music by Tim Seaman.

Traditional folk art in general – and theorem oil painting in particular – is Nancy’s specialty. Popular in the 1800s, the historically-based art form is done on cotton velveteen with the use of a stencil.

“I use oil paint but hundreds of years ago, artists used color pigments and mixed them with binding agents,” Nancy explains. “With the oil paints that I can buy today, I can re-

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produce the look of the old technique and of course earlier artists would have enjoyed having paint from a tube back then as well as acetate stencils. They would have used them too, believe me.”

You’ve probably seen theorem pieces many times and didn’t realize it at the time, especially in a folk art museum like the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum or even other Colonial Williamsburg venues like Bassett Hall, the 18th century house where John Rockefeller, Jr. and his wife (Abby Aldrich Rockefeller) made their home in the 1930s and 1940s. Typical theorem pieces are paintings composed of fruits or flowers. They are cropped closely, not matted, and are usually framed in either a gold or black frame.

Nancy says that once you understand the step-by-step process, it’s not that complicated. She learned by studying the antique theorems in museums. The originality is the application of paint and design work.

To create a theorem painting, she begins with a black and white line drawing and numbers the parts, in the order in which she will be painting them.

“I never put two like numbers beside each other and touching because then there wouldn’t be the outline definition I’m looking to create.”

Once the numbered drawing is ready, a piece of stencil paper is placed over it. Nancy traces only the parts which she has labeled number 1. The stencil paper is removed and another is placed on the drawing with all parts labeled number 2 drawn. This process continues until all numbers are traced to stencil paper.

Next the numbered parts are carefully cut from each sheet of stencil paper and the velveteen is mounted on acid-free board.

“It takes me several stencils – from four up to maybe eight – to complete most theorems,” Nancy says.

She paints with fabric wrapped over her finger – the same type of fabric that she is painting on – starting with lighter colors, then darker for the shading. Shading is very important in theorem painting for an authentic and individual design.

“I’m particularly interested in overlaying colors,” Nancy says. “On an apple, for instance, I’ll do a base coat of ochre yellow and

then cadmium red around the outside and let the yellow show through – and then a brown raw umber around the edge so that it pops out and that gives you individuality.”

The final step is to do the detail work – filling in spaces, veins in leaves and other outline definition – using a very thin paint brush.

Once the paint is dry, Nancy sponges the background with coffee to “age it down.” Then comes the false-grained framing.

“My husband makes the basic frames and I paint them,” Nancy says.

A false-grain frame is essentially a bright color oil base with a wash of another color over it. The idea is to do a design over the light color – a wash of a darker color.

“Then, I dab it with the side of a corn cob which gives a great look – almost like curly maple,” she says. “Or you can create a frame that’s a little more formal – incorporating stencils. It’s actually gold pigment rubbed through a medallion stencil when the varnish on the frame is just tacky enough not to pull off the varnish underneath. Then there’s another coat of varnish on top of that.”

Nancy is originally from New York State.

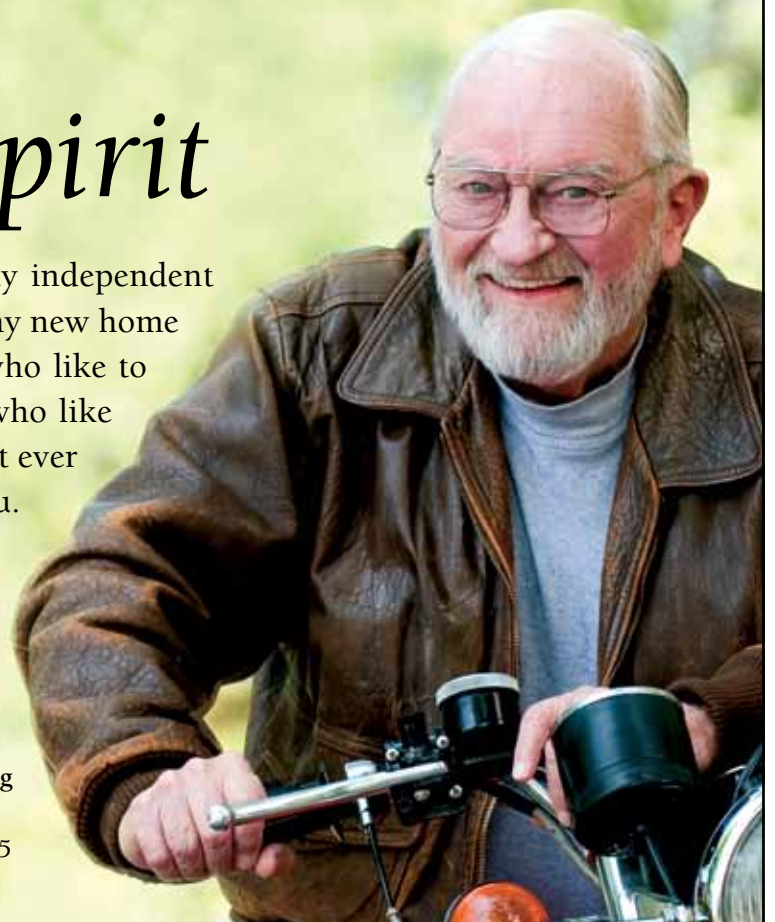
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She and her husband, Bill, have lived all over the country, as his corporate career in Information Technology took the couple from New York through five states and finally to Williamsburg. The couple has lived here for about ten years.

“Over the years, we’d come back and forth to Williamsburg as many people do and once I got into doing this I visited as many of the folk art museums as I could. Of course, the best one is right here in Williamsburg. Museums and shows in Shelburne, Vermont and Sturbridge, Massachusetts are also good sources.

“I enjoy participating in the select shows because they are carefully juried and they are mostly focused on traditional crafts,” she says.

In a “juried” show, slides or photographs are submitted by the artist and reviewed by a “jury” (a knowledgeable committee). Then, the artist’s work is accepted based on technical skill, creativity and so forth.

Over the span of her career, there are many highlights and good memories. Nancy has become a nationally recognized artist and authority on theorem painting and her work

has been featured in many magazines, newspapers and books. Still, there are two particular highlights of her career. During the Clinton administration, one of her works was a part of the holiday decorations at the White House. Another highlight was being asked by Colonial Williamsburg to be a guest speaker and demonstrator at one of their symposiums covering the subject of “Embroidered and Painted Arts of the New Republic.”

“So that was really neat,” says the artist who has always loved to draw.

She also enjoys participating in shows where the focus is educating children – drawing them in and helping them understand art.

“I believe that anything you like to do as a child you will like to do as an adult. I’m fortunate to have a career with something I love to do,” she adds.

Nancy has been a participant in the Trinkle Hall Art and Craft Show for several years now. The Show features everything from folk art to holiday foods, decorations and live music.

“It’s a fun gathering for the artists, local residents and tourists alike.” NDN

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Recreating the Rockefeller's Bassett Hall Christmas

By Ryan Jones

What kind of weather do you associate with Christmas?

Folks who live in Williamsburg might recall anything from a few inches of snow to an eighty-degree sampling of spring. Amanda Keller, Assistant Curator of Historic Interiors for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, says she can sum up the scenery for most of her childhood Christmas celebrations in one word: cold.

"I grew up in Tonawanda, New York, a suburb of Buffalo in western New York," she explains. "Most of my Christmas memories involve eight-feet of snow, snow suits, and my entire family building igloos in our front yard. It was a lot of fun. I really miss the snow living here in Virginia. I think mild winters are really strange, but I'm slowly getting used to it."

Since moving to Virginia four years ago, Amanda has become an expert on interpreting Christmas celebrations; though not necessarily from a meteorological standpoint. Part of her job as a curator involves researching Christmas traditions from a historical perspective and then using the information to recreate decor inside historical houses.

"I have done a lot of research on how Christmas was celebrated in eighteenth-century Virginia," she says. "I discovered that decorations



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

were not widely-used during the colonial period. We could only find a few references and print-sources that showed greenery like mistletoe and holly being placed on exhibition for

Christmas. Holly was often placed in small ceramic vases on mantles and a bunch of mistletoe was hung in taverns from the ceiling, but that's about it."

This year, Amanda has shifted her focus from conventional eighteenth century customs to those of the twentieth century. She and a bevy of other Colonial Williamsburg staff have created a first-ever Christmas program that will be presented at Bassett Hall, located just south of the Capitol on Francis Street. The program, which Amanda says will be fun for all ages, is set to highlight some of Williamsburg's holiday traditions during the peak of the restoration in the 1940s.

"Much of what they did during a 1940s Christmas was dependent on World War II," she explains, "but we're not really portraying a 'before the war' or 'after the war' timeframe. We're decorating with typical materials you would've found in the 1940s"

As a relative newcomer to the area, Amanda's work on the Bassett Hall Christmas program has given her a chance to connect with the Williamsburg community's roots in a way she might not otherwise have been able to experience. When she first entertained the idea of moving to Williamsburg in 2008, she considered the likelihood of living and working near



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the historic area to be a long shot. Nevertheless, she rolled the dice and says she wound up landing the perfect job for her personality and interests.

"I went to college from 2002 to 2006 at Hartwick College where I majored in History and minored in Museum Studies, Art History and Gender studies," she says. "Then I attended the Winterthur Program in American Material Culture through the University of Delaware from 2006 to 2008. A curator at Winterthur suggested that I apply for the position in Colonial Williamsburg while I was still a student. I didn't really think I would get hired, but that probably gave me the confidence to just go in there and give it a shot. What did I have to lose? I got the job and I've been working for Colonial Williamsburg for over four years."

Being an employee of the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation has been a good experience for Amanda. She says the Bassett Hall project is a good illustration of the multi-faceted components that make up her job description, and highlights some of the reasons why she has yet to experience a boring day as a curator.

"I think my job is really unique," she says. "It's never the exact same on any given day. I research and write furnishing plans for the historic houses, purchase reproductions for the

buildings, design the table settings, have faux food made for the dining rooms, and collect antique objects for the household accessories. I've always wanted to work with historic houses and get to do museum work, and my job gives me the freedom to have the best of both worlds. I never get bored! I think the town is beautiful and I really enjoy the strong sense of community and history here. I think it's the perfect place to raise a family."

Amanda says she began working on the Bassett Hall Christmas program in February when she and a colleague were awarded a grant to visit the Rockefeller Archive Center in Pocantico Hills, New York. For three days, the pair scrutinized letters and other documents, compiled the information they needed to frame the project and came back to Williamsburg ready to work. Thanks to their research, the Christmas program features a recreated 1940s dinner party that was actually hosted by the well-known Rockefeller family. Visitors to Bassett Hall are quick to learn that John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his wife, Abby Aldrich Rockefeller were the financial architects behind most of the restoration of Colonial Williamsburg during the 1930s and '40s. In 1936, the couple purchased Bassett Hall as a headquarters to oversee the work of the restoration, and used it there-

after as a getaway from their hectic city-life in New York. In 1979, the Rockefeller family bequeathed the property to Colonial Williamsburg, and the house was opened a year later as a museum.

"The Rockefeller dinner party actually happened in 1944, so we are recreating that dinner from the actual letter we have from Abby talking to her son," Amanda says. "I worked with our conservation department to create faux food that we can put in the house without having to worry about pest issues or off-gassing," she says. "We had to look through 1940s cookbooks to get the recipes. Then we went to the home of one of our conservators and cooked all day. We had another colleague come out to take pictures of the food so that we could have color-correct images to refer to. As soon as a food item was cooked, we plated it, put it in the living room with our lighting equipment and took photographs. Then we wrapped everything up, took it all back to our facilities in Williamsburg and froze it. Conservation technicians worked for months using the frozen food specimens. They made an actual plaster cast, and then they did all the painting to make it look realistic. It's incredible what they can do. They make better faux food than what's available on the market. I'm so thankful

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that we have such a great team in-house at Colonial Williamsburg.”

Amanda says that, though the recreated dinner party is a large part of the Christmas program, she has worked on other traditional aspects of the program to ensure the house has an authentic 1940s tone.

“We had to think of so many little details,” she says. “Just to see how people decorated their trees in the ‘40s is so different from how we might decorate our trees today. We’re decorating a total of four Christmas trees this year with typical materials you would find in the ‘40s. We’ve got vintage 1940s lights, tinsel and shiny bright ornaments. I think people will really connect with the decor.”

Amanda says the program will feature artifacts that link guests to the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum on Nassau Street. Displayed in the second floor bed chamber will be a gown worn by Abby Aldrich Rockefeller in a portrait that hangs near the entrance to the new wing of the museum. Outside, volunteer choristers will be on hand singing 1940s Christmas carols. To complete the package, nine holiday-themed workshops will be offered next door at Bassett Hall cottage. Participants can learn how to knit scarves, make Swedish Christmas ornaments, and participate in a brand new workshop crafted by the site-supervisor, Cynthia Nothstine. Rain, shine, or eight-feet of snow, Amanda says the Bassett hall Christmas program has a little bit of the 1940s magic in store for everyone.

“I’ve really enjoyed the challenge of trying to make Bassett Hall look festive for the holidays,” she says. “I think visitors will appreciate taking a trip back in time. People really enjoy visiting Bassett Hall as it reminds them of houses they grew up in or their grandparent’s house. It’s one of my favorite houses to work with and I hope everyone can come and visit during the holiday season.” 

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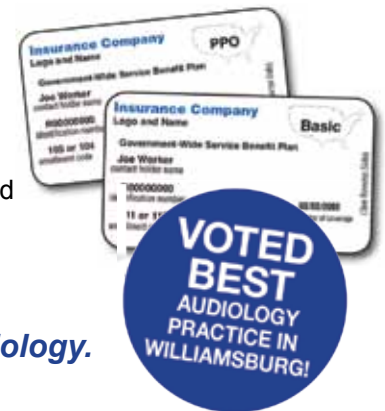


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Star of Wonder: Mystery of the Christmas Star

Nov. 21, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2012

Experience the journey of the Magi around you in the Virginia Living Museum's state-of-the-art digital planetarium theater! Since 1965, the museum has journeyed in the footsteps of the Magi. Over the years, the scientific thinking has changed, archeology has revealed new clues, and our understanding of who the magi might actually have been has grown. The show was completely revised 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. Days and times vary. \$4 in addition to museum admission. Detailed schedule at thevlm.org. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 and 25.

Laser Holidays

Nov. 21, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2012

Get into the holiday spirit with the music of the season and dazzling laser effects at Virginia Living Museum! It's an animated Christmas light display like no other you've ever seen! Recommended

for ages 6 and above. Days and times vary. \$4 in addition to museum admission. Detailed schedule at thevlm.org. The museum is closed Thanksgiving, Dec. 24 and 25.

Turkey Pardoning/Food Drive

Nov. 21, 2012

11:00 AM. For the third year, the Virginia Living Museum will celebrate the long and healthy life of its wild turkey during the annual Turkey Pardoning, Wednesday, Nov. 21 at 11am. The ceremony will be held on the Virginia Living Museum's outdoor trail beside the Turkey/Deer Habitat. Also, through Nov. 21 the museum is collecting non-perishable food items for the Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula. The event included in regular admission.

Blue Talon Bistro Turkey Trot 5K

Nov. 22, 2012

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. 5K begins at 8:30 am; kids race begins at 9:30 am. Prince George Street, Merchants Square. Visit the website for complete information.

Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia

Nov. 22, 2012 - Nov. 24, 2012

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.

Thanksgiving Night Open House

Nov. 22, 2012

Quirks of Art. 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM Mark your calendars and join us for this special event at Quirks of Art!

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Midnight Madness at Williamsburg Premium Outlets

Nov. 23, 2012 - Nov. 25, 2012

Don't miss the annual After Thanksgiving Weekend Sales, featuring the ever popular Midnight Madness event! Enjoy extra savings on top of our everyday savings of 25% to 65%! Hours: Friday, 12 am - 10 pm; Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm; and Sunday, 10 am - 7 pm. See website for additional information.

Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Season

Nov. 23, 2012 - Jan. 01, 2013

Make your holiday season unforgettable with a romantic Colonial Williamsburg getaway. Rest and rejuvenate in the Spa, enjoy our spectacular Grand Illumination celebration, or get in the holiday spirit with a Decorations Tour. Cozy up in one of our Resort restaurants and start a new holiday tradition with your loved ones. More details coming soon. 800-HISTORY

Christmas Town: A Busch Gardens Celebration

Nov. 23, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2012

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 millions of 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 parks' 50-foot tall, light-animated Christmas tree. See website for a complete calendar.

Sure Fire Favorites!

Nov. 23, 2012

DeWitt Wallace Museum. 4:00 PM Tastes and styles change over time. Discover how keyboard music and instruments evolved during this concert of enduring keyboard favorites from the 18th and 19th centuries, presented in conjunction with the exhibition. Changing Keys: Keyboard Instruments for America, 1700-1830. Elain Funaro, world renowned harpsichodist and president of the Historical Keyboard Society of North America, presents music by Purcel, Handel, and J.C. Bach. Randall Love, Duke University associate professor of music performance (piano-fortepiano), presents later compositions by

Mozart and Beethoven.

Holiday Skating in Sullivan Square

Nov. 23, 2012 - Jan. 13, 2013

Sullivan Square - New Town . \$7/ person including skate rental or \$5/person with your own skates. Ironbound Gym, Town Management and James City County are partnering on ice this holiday season! The team is offering citizens and visitors another family-friendly recreational opportunity in New Town, a synthetic ice skating rink in Sullivan Square. There are weekday, weekend and winter break hours. The rink is closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25. Season passes are also available for \$50 and include skates. Skating is conducted in sessions: 10-11:30 a.m., noon-1:30 p.m., 2-3:30 p.m., 4-5:30 p.m., 6-7:30 p.m. and 8-9:30 p.m. Children aged 11 and younger must be accompanied and supervised by an adult at all times. All participants must wear skates. For more information on skating, please call the County Park Office at 757-259-5360 or visit the website.

A Kid's Holiday Memory Tour

Nov. 24, 2012

\$15 adult, \$7.50 child. Colonial Williamsburg. Lumber House Ticket Office. This exclusive daytime tour includes a visit with a colonial character, making holiday decorations and various colonial games with a trained costumed guide. Each child receives a bag to hold their itinerary and decorations, as well as any other treasures they acquire. Children must be accompanied by a ticketed adult. Not recommended for children under 5. 9:20, 10:00, 10:20, 10:40, 11:00 a.m. (90 minutes).

Wine, Wit & Wisdom

Nov. 24, 2012

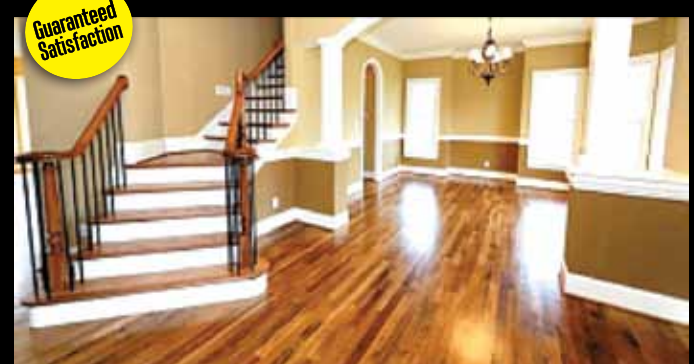
2:00 PM, Williamsburg Lodge \$45.50 includes tax and gratuity. Fall in Love with Wine! A tasting of lesser known varietals to linger over. Join Executive Chef Rhys H. Lewis and his groupies for an interactive educational, and fun wine tasting. Sample some of the world's greatest wines paired with artisan cheeses and chocolates.

Holiday Evening in the Planetarium

Nov. 24, 2012

Experience the journey of the Magi around you in the Virginia Living Museum's "Star of Wonder: Mystery of the Christmas Star." Presented since 1965, the show was completely revised in 2008 to offer a

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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. It's an animated Christmas light display like no other you've ever seen! See "Star of Wonder" at 6:30 p.m. and "Laser Holidays" at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m. Shows \$3 for VLM members, \$6 for non-members.

"The Night Before Christmas" Puppet Show
Nov. 24, 2012

Virginia Living Museum. Start the holiday season with a sneak preview of Rainbow Puppet's new show, "The Night Before Christmas." This brand new re-telling of the holiday classic features narration by legendary entertainer Mickey Rooney and an original score by Rainbow Puppet Productions founder David Messick. Rainbow Puppets is donating the performances in honor of its 35th anniversary and to help the Virginia Living Museum recover from flood damage. Shows at noon, 1 and 2pm. Included in museum admission.

Holiday Farmers Market
Nov. 24, 2012

8:30 AM - 12:00 PM. Merchants Square. Products at this market will feature berries, greens and cut trees for decorating, baked goods, meats, seafood, and items for gift giving will be for sale at these festive markets. So'lach will play Celtic and folk music.

A Holiday Celebration of Dulcimers
Nov. 26, 2012

4:00 PM . DeWitt Wallace Museum \$6 in addition to museum admission. With musicality and seasonal joy, Timothy Seaman demonstrates the families of dulcimers similar to those on exhibit in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Folk Art Museum: an array of hammered dulcimers, mountain dulcimers, and scheitholzes, bowed and plucked psalteries, and autoharp. Distinctive American melodies and festive holiday music showcase these magnificent old instruments.

Kingspoint Neighborhood 43rd Annual Christmas Tree Lighting
Nov. 26, 2012

7:00 PM . Location: Corner of Kingspoint Drive and Woodbine Drive. Tree lighting, carol singing, Santa's visit, hot cider, cookies, fellowship sponsored by Kingspoint Garden Club at the corner of Kingspoint Drive and Woodbine

Drive. For more information, contact Olivia Molineux, 299-1424, Secretary of Kingspoint Garden Club.

Deck the Halls
Nov. 28, 2012

3:30 PM. DeWitt Wallace Museum \$6 in addition to museum admission. A rousing Christmas show filled with humor, anecdotes, and singing. Multitalented musician Stephen Christoff performs holiday music on an assortment of unique instruments from the 18th century, including the musical saw, Jew's harp, Spanish guitar, trombone, comb and paper, bottles, spoons, and mandolin.

Wine, Wit & Wisdom
Nov. 29, 2012

2:00 PM Williamsburg Lodge. \$45.50 includes tax and gratuity. Christmas Afterglow in Oporto Portugal. Join Executive Chef Rhys H. Lewis and his groupies for an interactive educational, and fun wine tasting. Sample some of the world's greatest wines paired with artisan cheeses and chocolates.

Crannanchan, Crubeens, and a Kissing Bough
Nov. 29, 2012

4:00 PM . DeWitt Wallace Museum \$6 in addition to museum admission. Sing along with Kelly Kennedy and Andy Cleveland as these two veteran performers share the seasonal tunes and traditional of their ancestral homes. With fiddle, flute, piano, whistle, accordion, drum, and dancing, Kelly and Andy invite you to deck the halls in a Welsh home, dance in an Irish pub, carol in an English village, and celebrate Christmas in the Scottish highlands.

Christmas Tree Lighting - Historic Yorktown Area
Nov. 30, 2012

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM. A tradition that began in 1945 continues with the Yorktown Christmas Tree Lighting. Evening highlights include a 7 pm performance by The Fifes and Drums of York Town at the Victory Monument, festive music at Riverwalk Landing, the procession of lights through the historic village, and the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus. Free. (757) 890.3500

Christmas Memories
Nov. 30, 2012

7:30 PM . Kimball Theatre \$22 adults, \$20 seniors/students/military. Experience the Christmas

season with all the charm and enthusiasm of days gone by! ShowStoppers Productions is please to present "Christmas Memories," a light-hearted evening for all ages, filled with beloved traditional holiday classics, laughter, and merriment. Make new Christmas memories as you join in holiday sing-alongs and welcome a special guest. It's a perfect dose of entertainment for friends and family.

Christmas Market on Main

Dec. 1, 2012

10 am - 3 pm. Whether you are searching for a holiday gift for family, friends, or as a treat to yourself, you're sure to find it at the Christmas Market on Main. The market features arts and crafts, demonstrations, roasted chestnuts and hot cider, entertainment, and much more. Historic Main Street. Free. (757) 890-3500.

An UnCivil Christmas: Holiday Music of the Civil War

Dec. 1, 2012 - Dec. 28, 2012

\$15 adult, \$7.50 children. Should you celebrate a holiday during wartime? Often, soldiers and their families looked to familiar traditions, especially music, to remind them not only of better times with loved ones, but also of the ideals for which they were fighting. Dec. 1, 6, 14, 19, 24, 28 at 7:30, 9:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

53rd Annual Christmas Homes Tour

Dec. 1, 2012

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM \$25 for advance tickets, \$30 if purchased on Friday, Nov 30 or Saturday, Dec 1 (\$10 to tour a single building) Colonial Williamsburg. Presented by the Green Spring Garden Club Inc., features six houses decorated with holiday floral arrangements and located in and around The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation's Revolutionary City. Tickets include free parking at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center and use of Foundation buses from the Visitor Center and around the Revolutionary City. Tickets will be available at the Visitor Center and the Williamsburg Lodge on Friday, Nov. 30, 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 1, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tickets also will be available at each house on the tour during tour hours. Advance tickets are recommended.

Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center-A Colonial Christmas

Dec. 1, 2012 - Dec. 31, 2012

At Jamestown Settlement & Yorktown Victory Center. Holiday traditions of 17th- and 18th-century Virginia are recalled through special interpretive programs. A Jamestown Settlement holiday 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 Revolutionary War encampments and glimpse holiday preparations on a 1780s farm.

Williamsburg Old-Time Radio Hour

Dec. 1, 2012

10:30 AM. \$6 in addition to museum admission. DeWitt Wallace Museum. Return to 1930s Williamsburg and attend a "live" radio broadcast. Hear popular seasonal songs of the day along with holiday stories. See the wacky sound effects that will ignite your imagination throughout the performance. Step back to the days before television and enjoy Christmas in Williamsburg during the time of the restoration.

Christmas Down on the Farm

Dec. 1, 2012

1:30 PM \$10 in addition to museum admission. DeWitt Wallace Museum. Join Kelly Kennedy and the Olwell family of Nelson County as they celebrate an old-timey Christmas with traditional tunes, sing-alongs, Appalachian flatfooting, clogging, Jack tales, and more. Matt and Aaron Olwell, sons of renowned flute maker Patrick Olwell were raised on the music and dance of Ireland and Appalachia and make their living as musicians, dancers, teachers and instruments makers. Joined by Matt's dancer wife, Emily, banjo player Amy Hunsicker, and singer, multi-instrumentalist, and longtime Williamsburg performer Kelly Kennedy, this group creates a joyous American celebration down on the farm. Enjoy music on fiddle, banjo, guitar, drum, Irish flute, limber-jack, dulcimer, piano and even the kitchen sink.

Holidays Around the World Family Days

Dec. 1, 2012

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. Included in Museum admission. Mariners Museum. Enjoy a day with the family exploring the museum, making arts and crafts, going on

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Dec. 1 & 2

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Grand Illumination

Dec. 2, 2012

5:15 PM. No ticket or reservation is required. Colonial Williamsburg. In the 18th century, illuminations were sometimes held to commemorate the birth of the reigning sovereign. Today we hold a Grand Illumination in the Revolutionary City. Musical performances from multiple stages throughout the Revolutionary City beginning at 5:15 p.m. and fireworks displays from three locations - the Palace, Magazine, and Capitol - at 7 p.m. make this event one that is not to be missed! Highlight your holiday season with a pleasant memory of a present experience from the past.

Cookies with Santa

Dec. 2, 2012

1 - 4 pm. Christmas is alive at York Hall where children and parents can visit with Santa Claus, enjoy some tasty treats, and shop for holiday gifts in The Gallery at York Hall. Cameras are encouraged. 301 Main Street. Free. (757) 890.4490.

A Charles Dickens Christmas

Dec. 2, 2012

12:30 PM, 2:30 PM, 4:30 PM. \$10 in addition to museum admission. DeWitt Wallace Museum. Experience a Victorian Christmas during the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens. Readings from A Christmas Carol paired with holiday music from the era are sure to enchant audiences of all ages. David Gardner, Gabe Stone, Stephen Christoff, and Jan Tilley present a new twist on this classic featuring Victorian instruments and costumes. Audiences of all ages will enjoy this nostalgic performance before the Grand Illumination celebration complete with fireworks.

Karla Steinbach at J. Fenton Gallery

Dec. 2, 2012

Karla Steinbach will be at J. Fenton Gallery on Sunday, December 2nd. Purchase one of her world famous German Nutcrackers on or before that date at the store and Karla will personalize it for you. Location: 110 South Henry St. Call 757-221-8200 for detailed information on when Karla will be at the store.

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 8, 2012

8:30 - 10 am. Join Santa and Mrs. Claus, our special guests from the North Pole, for a kid-friendly breakfast. Experience the enchantment on the children's faces as they relay their Christmas wish list to Santa. Special treats for the kids. Riverwalk Restaurant, Yorktown waterfront. Seating is limited. Tickets Required. (757) 875.1522.

Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 8, 2012

9 - 11 am. You and your family are invited to attend our annual "Breakfast with Santa." Enjoy a pancake breakfast buffet and a morning of "holly-day" cheer with Santa and Mrs. Claus. At the James City County Recreation Center. Cost is \$12/person, 2 and under free! Register early (by November 30) -- there is a maximum of 100 participants.

Breakfast with Santa Claus

Dec. 15, 2012

9 am. A spirited morning featuring children's holiday fun, your favorite breakfast foods, mouth-watering hot chocolate, visits with Santa's helpers and much more! At the Williamsburg Lodge. Cost is \$30. Reservations are required at 800-404-3389.

Christmas Tree Illumination

Reception

Dec. 24, 2012

4 pm. Gather for hot cider and holiday treats before being led to a reserved viewing area for the lighting of the community Christmas tree. Guests will receive a Souvenir Mug refillable for all 2013. At Chowning's Tavern Garden. Cost is \$25.95. Reservations required at 800-404-3389.

Christmas Eve "Feast of the Seven Fishes"

Dec. 24, 2012

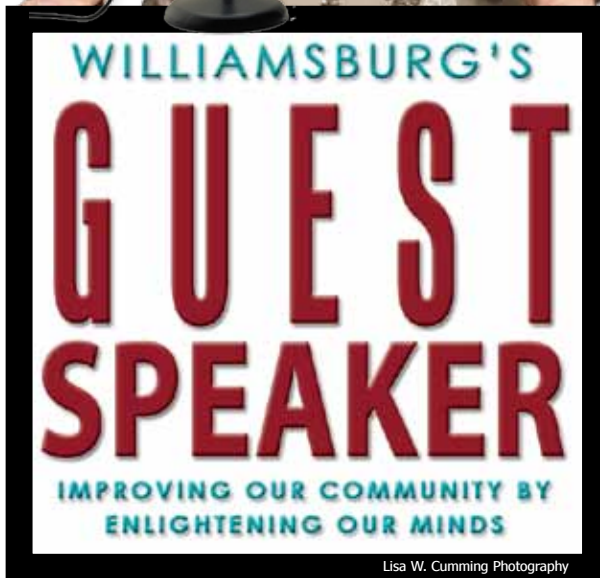
5 - 9 pm. Enjoy a traditional Italian-inspired holiday feast, featuring signature soup, chefs cold table, Italian-inspired entrees from our open kitchen and an Italian desserts buffet. At Traditions at the Williamsburg Lodge. Cost is \$36 for adults and \$14.95 for children. Call 800-404-3389 for more information.

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

ChristmasInWilliamsburg.com

SHARON MCARTHUR

ON GROVE CHRISTIAN OUTREACH FOOD PANTRY



Sharon McArthur heard about Grove Christian Outreach Center's need for volunteers and stepped up to help. "I felt we had been so blessed to purchase our home I wanted to give something back," Sharon explains. "I knew I needed to be doing some kind of service for God and this is where He sent me."

At the time, her husband, Michael, was employed by Smithfield Foods and had received a few Christmas hams. Sharon's family decided to donate the hams to Grove for the center's Christmas baskets.

"Also we saved our change for a year and would donate it as a gift to Jesus," she adds. "That year we also gave it to Grove." A few months later, in February

of 2002, Sharon became a regular volunteer, and today, leads the volunteers with the Food Pantry.

What is the objective of the program?

The objective of our food program is to reduce the risk of hunger and food insecurity for those in need in the Grove community. Every day our clients are faced with making decisions to pay for utilities, medical care, rent or feeding their families. In providing this basic necessity, our goal is to treat each person with dignity and respect and to show the love of Christ. In doing, so we have been able to establish personal relationships with our clients. Our clients are very special to us.

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Why did this program start?

Pastor Thomas McCormick was the mail carrier in the Grove area and he saw a great need to minister to the people by providing food, clothing and spiritual support. His church agreed to help in some way, and Grove Christian Outreach Center was established. We want to ensure everyone in Grove with a need is provided for. Many of the residents live at or below the poverty level, and 68% of the children attending James River Elementary School qualify for the Federal Government's Free or Reduced Lunch Program.

Is this a year round program?

The program runs year round and we also distribute holiday food baskets at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

What types of items are provided at the Food Pantry?

We provide meats, fresh fruits and vegetables, breads, pastries, dairy products, and non-perishable foods, which include canned vegetables, boxed dinners, canned meats, canned fruit, cereal, oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, juice, soups, cookies, crackers, etc. Almost any item you would have at home, we have available to our clients. We keep in mind our clients likes, and their dietary needs, and try to provide them if possible. We also distribute USDA commodities and serve deli type items for lunch on Mondays and Fridays. Snack bags are available for children once a week. Bread Day is a weekly community food distribution held on Wednesdays that provides bread, pastries, fresh produce, dairy products, restaurant foods and meats. Over a hundred families are served through this outreach program. Bread Day is a special time not only to receive food, but to fellowship with each other, clients and volunteers. Prayer requests are taken and the day starts with prayer.

What can the community do to help with the program?

We are an all volunteer organization. We are dependent on donations of time, talent and resources. Having a food drive, individual donations, and volunteering would help. We are in need for someone to assist our clients in selecting their food, people to help process the food, and also pick up food at grocery stores and restaurants during the week. A few hours a month can make a significant difference. With the upcoming holidays fast approaching, an individual or group may consider sponsoring a holiday food basket for one of our families.

What are some personal experiences you have had that renew your commitment to this program?

Our clients are so grateful for what they are given. To watch a single mother relieved because she can now feed her children, or to be able to give a birthday cake to someone having a birthday is very fulfilling. This community sticks together and they help each other through tough times. That is not something I have seen too often. It brings me joy unspeakable!

How has your work there affected your personal life?

I have become more aware and sensitive to the needs of others. Through the years I have had to be away from the Outreach center for periods of time. I was always anxious to get back to work. It keeps me going; it gives me a purpose in life. Every day is different and there is always the next thing to look forward to. NDN

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ANGIE BROWN

Creating Memorable Customer Experiences

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Customer experience means more than a transaction of money for goods. Businesses differentiate themselves from competitors by building relationships with customers and making the experience a memorable one. Angie Brown, general manager at Great Wolf Lodge, says the lodge's customer experience is

her main focus.

"I sat with about 75 Pack members for an Exceptional Service training class this morning," she says. "All of our Pack members take the class. It's about creating and finding those touch points for all our guests. From 0 to 89 years old, we can make the stay special."

All year, Great Wolf Lodge makes staying at their hotel an experience, but during the holidays the employees ramp up the game.

"Our mission statement is to create family traditions one family at a time," Angie explains. "To me, it's when that family is pulling out of our parking lot after spending a weekend, and



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they're looking in their rearview mirror saying, "That was an amazing family experience for each and every one of us. When can we come back? When is that next trip?" That is my goal."

The mantra of Heads-in-Beds for the tourism and hospitality industry will produce just that: a commodity where differentiation is by price alone. Few lodging customers get excited or long to return to a big brick box next to a highway slotted with bed units. What Angie and the Great Wolf Lodge practice can be adapted for other businesses in other industries by focusing on the customer's experience.

"Good isn't good enough anymore. How do we get to exceptional?" Angie asks. "All our guests, after they depart, receive an e-mail with a survey. It's widely used in the hospitality industry. It gives us a score based on our guests' responses. We're looking at top-box scores. We look at how many people give us fives (1 - 5 ratings with 5 being the exceptional score). At the end of the day, ones and twos are not acceptable. Threes are satisfactory, but is that what we aim for? Four is good, but we're not Good Wolf; we're Great Wolf. What we really care about is giving every guest above and beyond expectation to continue to grow our

brand and our customer service."

Angie suggests energizing employees by reminding them that the customer's experience is the result of their hard work. Glancing around the lobby, anyone can see the expression on the faces of the kids as they look up at the clock tower or spot Violet the Wolf dancing with Pack members. That expression of awe on the children's faces illustrates how extra effort pays off.

"When the guests come here and experience the water park, the arcade, the games and the interaction with the Pack members, kids squeal with excitement and can't stand still from their delight. This is what it is really about," she says.

Angie's first job was at a hotel in Wausau, Wisconsin. "I was 16 years old and worked in guest services. Probably like a lot of our Pack members who are teenagers and work for us, I was doing it for a little extra cash to put gas in the car or to buy a pair of jeans my mom wouldn't buy for me. I fell in love with working with guests. The satisfaction of being able to make someone else's experience extraordinary is really addictive."

Even though she loved that job during her high school years, she didn't think of it as a ca-

reer.

"I went to the University of Madison. Within a year or two of college, I started waitressing at a hotel, doing banquets and that sort of thing. I enjoyed that. I went to school for something completely different. When it was time for me to graduate, one of the owners at the hotel where I worked said his son and some other individuals were starting up a new hospitality company with entry-level management positions. He suggested I talk with them."

She had her first interview with Kim Schaefer, who is now the CEO of Great Wolf Lodge.

"There were no Great Wolf Lodges at that time," Angie explains. "I was able to go to work for the company as a sales manager at two Holiday Inn Expresses outside of Milwaukee." She worked her way around the company and ended up at the third Great Wolf Lodge to open. It was in Traverse City, Michigan, and Angie was the Director of Guest Services.

"Most recently, I was in Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin - the water park capital of the world. There are fourteen indoor water parks there and several large-scale outdoor ones." When the opportunity came to relocate to Williamsburg, she jumped at the chance. "I had been



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here before to help open the lodge, so I knew what a special place it was.”

Guest interaction is the hallmark of Angie’s style. She wants every guest family to have their own adventure. Her team has plenty of activities for guests to try, from the indoor water park and MagiQuest (a live interactive video game) to crafts in the Cub Club and the games in the arcade.

“We have Elements spa for the adults to relax. We’ve added an XD theater, which is a motion, 3-D movie theater and the Ten Paw mini-bowling alley. Some fun for all ages.”

For the holidays, snow is added to the experience. “The only thing that competes with watching the kids get snowed on indoors is kids getting dumped on by the thousand gallon bucket in the water park,” Angie says. “Those are my two favorite things.”

With Snowland, the lobby is decorated in icebergs and Christmas trees and large scale decorations. Santa visits several times each week. “Snow falls in the lobby three times a day,” she adds. “The clock tower shows a holiday production. We have Snowland University where the kids go on different adventures. We build a life-size gingerbread house where a table

of six to eight can be served a meal. The \$20 seating fee per family goes to Big Brothers Big Sisters.” Outside, the Snowland Trolley takes guests on a ride through holiday light displays.

Angie recommends business managers identify where they can find those unique touch points to really create a “wow” reaction from their customers. “It’s about finding a reason to show the guests how much we think about them, to make contact and build our relationship with them. You can’t just have a really great material product. The people skills and relationship-building moments make or break the business.”

She suggests businesses in all industries create special holiday customer interactions. Services such as gift wrapping, assembly of boxed toys or furniture, delivery, lay-away, e-mail reminders can all help a frazzled holiday customer.

Customer experience is a continuing evolution for businesses. “We’re always looking to see how we can improve, how we can continue to develop our brand and our guest experience,” she says.

During the hectic holiday season, Angie’s favorite time is the first night of Great Wolf’s

tree lighting, December 1st. “The gingerbread house is finally complete after a month of work; Santa has an exciting arrival and the kids are hyped for that; Rowdy the Reindeer makes his first appearance; we play the clock tower’s holiday show for the first time, and it snows,” she describes. “I love making it snow in the lobby.”

She realizes that locals enjoy the experience as much as the out-of-town guests. Hampton Roads families stay at the hotel for a few nights during the holidays or they house their guests there.

“We work with Big Brothers Big Sisters as our local charity,” she explains. “We do a lot of partnering with them. We sell 5-day passes and all proceeds go to Big Brothers Big Sisters. Locals can definitely come play at Great Wolf and help BBBS.”

After the transaction fades, the lingering memory of a business is the customer’s experience. Angie knows her customers will not forget the fun and excitement of staying with her and her Pack members.

“It snows in our lobby,” she says, like she can hardly believe it herself. “I tell you, that’s a memorable experience.” NDN

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This Holiday Season...

Have a Ball!

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Marty Holland began bowling at the “alleys” on Scotland Street. “The bowling alley, what we call the bowling center now days, was near where Green Leaf and Paul’s Deli are today,” Marty explains. “It was where you go down stairs. That was where the bowling alley was. That’s where we would go on dates.”

Marty was born in Williamsburg at Bell Hospital. “A lot of old people will know that,” Marty says. “It was on Cary Street, off Jamestown Road, across from the Methodist Church. Old Dr. Bell delivered me, many years ago. That was a very small hospital.”

She attended school in Williamsburg, starting at Matthew Whaley School when it was both an elementary and a high school.

After she married her husband, Hal, Marty would meet her friends at the new bowling center Colony Lanes at the Williamsburg Shop-

ping Center. “That’s where Peninsula Ace Hardware is today. That must have been around 1960. We had twenty lanes there, and where I got into league bowling. One of our leagues that we still have here at the AMF Williamsburg Lanes, the Morning Glories, started there at Colony Lanes. It’s the oldest continuous league we have, together for over fifty years.”

Bowling was her thing to do for fun, her time to relax and socialize with friends. “I would bowl in the evenings because I worked during the day. My last son was born in 1978.

I remember taking him to the bowling center. I would put him on a pallet on the floor, and he’d sleep while I bowled. He’s the one of all my children who is most interested in bowling. He heard bowling pins even before he was born; I bowled while I was pregnant with him.”



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All of Marty and Hal's three children grew up around bowling. "My daughter Robin owns the Paint On Pottery at High Street," Marty says. "My youngest son Scott is the assistant principal at J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School. My oldest son, Gordon, lives in North Carolina and works as a general manager of a restaurant. I'm very proud of my children. They have given me 13 wonderful grandchildren and two perfect great-grandchildren."

As a Certified Youth Bowling Instructor and Coach, Marty has helped many boys and girls learn the fun and skill of bowling. Although she tried to attend all of the games her own children competed in, it was the first one of Scott's she missed that she remembers the most.

"I had never missed a game in which Scott had competed from the age of seven until present time...except for one. I received a phone call from the center where he was bowling for the National Tournament in Oklahoma City. They put Scott on the phone. I thought something bad had happened. But, no. He said, 'Guess what Mom? I just bowled a 300!' I asked him what he had scored on the other games. He said, 'I haven't bowled the next two yet. I wanted you to know right away.' I cried tears of

joy with a bit of sadness, since I had not been there to celebrate his first perfect score...and the only game I hadn't been there to watch."

Achieving a perfect score is a goal of many bowlers, but the sport is a challenging mix of technique, skill and strategy. "Plus, it's just plain fun," Marty adds.

She holds classes to teach the young children the joys and skills of bowling. "I have four things I stress: One, have fun. That's why we're here. Two, keep the ball in the lanes. We have bumper guards to help the kids keep the ball from going into the channel." The channel is what used to be called the gutter. "If we keep the ball in the lanes, we – number three – knock down pins. If we knock down pins, then we're really doing number four: having fun. Having fun is both number one and number four because that is the most important thing about bowling."

As bowlers relax and have a good time, they find techniques that work for them. "There are certain things you learn as you go along," she states. "Like picking up certain spares, using the boards to pick up the last pin. It can get a little scientific in strategy."

People who bowl regularly tend to join leagues. A league usually meets once a week to

bowl together. Marty is the league coordinator at AMF Williamsburg Lanes.

"I worked at the athletic department at the College of William and Mary for 20 years, full-time," she says. "Then I worked 20 plus years part-time. I did that until 2003 when I was diagnosed with breast cancer. At that point, it was August, and we were getting ready to go into football season. I didn't know how much I could be at work and I knew they needed someone, so I left. I had been working there since 1958."

While Marty had been at William and Mary, she helped start a bowling league for the people who worked at the college. "We called the league the Friendly Indians." The name came from the mascot of the College at the time.

"We started with about six teams of William and Mary employees. That started in 1977. It's still going. Competitive, but fun."

Leagues help build communities of bowlers. "We have leagues for ladies. We have mixed leagues, senior leagues, church, neighborhood, home school, Special Olympics and company leagues," Marty lists. "Fords Colony has a fantastic league. Governor's Land has a league, as well as Stonehouse. Neighborhoods are forming leagues. Home school leagues use this as a



Dr. Brett C. Dunnill, D.D.S. and family

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Dr. Brett C. Dunnill, D.D.S.

Dr. Brett Dunnill grew up in Hamilton, Virginia. He earned his B.A. in Biology from the University of Virginia in 1997, and his Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S) degree from the University of Maryland in 2001. Dr. Dunnill then completed Advanced Education in General Dentistry at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Dunnill's natural artistic

ability, coupled with his extensive dental training, has enabled him to improve the esthetics and oral health of his patients for over ten years with compassion and distinct professionalism.

Dr. Rick J. Rubin, D.M.D.

Dentistry has been an integral part of Dr. Rick Rubin's family for over 70 years beginning with his grandfather, who graduated from Indiana University School of Dentistry in 1938. After honorably serving three years in the United States Army, Dr. Rubin earned his B.S from the University of Florida in 1994, graduating with high honors. Dr. Rubin then earned his Master's Degree in Health Policy

& Management from New York University, and his Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dr. Rubin is committed to providing personalized dental care to his patients with excellence, integrity, and compassion.



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P.E. class. Our senior leagues have a ball. It's a great thing for seniors to do. The Morning Glories bowl in the morning then go to lunch each week. These are some of my best friends. We've been through a lot together over the years."

When Marty was diagnosed with breast cancer, her bowling community rallied for her and to help raise funds for cancer research. The bowling center hosts "Bowl for a Cure" as a breast cancer awareness and fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen charity. Bowling with her friends along with the support and encouragement they gave her helped Marty fight her cancer. "It's a horrible disease. Since my diagnosis, both my mother and my daughter have battled it. I'm gung-ho on fighting this disease."

Today, she's doing great and loving every minute of bowling. "It's a wonderful sport that you can do all your life. I bowl with my grandchildren. What other sport can generations play together?"

Bowlers from the age of three to 93 help Marty enjoy her time at the bowling center. "I really enjoy the friendships I've made through bowling. Having fun, that's what it is all about." NDN



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to home. Locals are encouraged to look for "The Buck Stays Here" decal in store windows which indicates that a merchant is participating in this new campaign. Patronizing these businesses will fuel the local economy, improving the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

"When you shop locally, the buck stays here," says Tiffany Phillips, the Chamber's Manager of Membership Development. "Your purchases put money back into the community where you live and work."

Former Chamber President Marshall Warner, a strong supporter of the new initiative, adds that Studies by Civic Economics have shown that, for every \$100 spent locally, up to \$70 stays in the community through payroll, taxes and other expenditures. In turn this money helps support schools, parks, and other community assets.



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Lisa W. Cumming Photography

The Artist GIVES ART

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Williamsburg artist Gulay Berryman has travelled the world and found a variety of interests that she reveals in the subjects she paints. From the landscapes of France and Italy to the human figure to motorsports and the military, Gulay has developed an extraordinary approach to color and light. She's applied this technique to her Williamsburg paintings

— a distinct style that makes the work uniquely hers.

“I was born and raised in Turkey,” Gulay says. “My parents were both into visual arts and performance arts. I would come home and see my sister, my mother, my aunt talking about the last play they had seen or discussing Simone de Beauvoir, the French feminist

writer and existentialist; she was very much a topic. My family liked to support the arts. My sister studied fine arts. My aunt and uncle had a vast collection of art. My uncle was the head of the state theater. He was also a playwright and poet. In high school, we read his poems.”

During her young years in Turkey, Gulay explains that theater and opera were popular

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in her community. When she turned twelve, her parents decided it was time that she could attend a performance herself. Until then, she had only heard the adults talk of the theater.

“I think the first opera I saw was an American company doing *Porgy and Bess*. I loved it. After we would see a piece of theater, we would always come back and discuss it. I learned so much from those discussions.”

Her father stressed that his daughters learn different languages and study other cultures. Gulay attended school where most of her professors came from Great Britain. “We learned a lot about British culture,” she says. “My father also encouraged me to take French as a third language. I went to France to do my studies. I was in my twenties then. It was very difficult that first month. I cried because I was away. But, afterwards, it was very easy because the professors and students in France were very nice. I studied Fine Arts.”

She completed her Fine Arts studies and returned to Turkey and began working in a textile company creating curtain designs. “At that time they had different designs for the

export and for the domestic products. I tried combining them. They liked that idea because they didn’t have to do two different patterns. Combining was fun, but a lot of labor.”

Her cousin started his own textile company and asked her to join him. She didn’t get to paint or design there, but did learn about imports and exports.

In Ankara, Turkey, a young Foreign Service agent working at the United States Embassy was introduced to Gulay through a mutual friend. “That was in 1981,” Gulay remembers. “Clyde gave me his card. I thought he was very nice, but I was going on a vacation with my sister the next day. When I returned, we would occasionally see each other on National Days or among other people. I think we had lunch once and a few dinners with other people. We found we had a lot in common. Our families seemed very much the same.” Clyde and Gulay became an item.

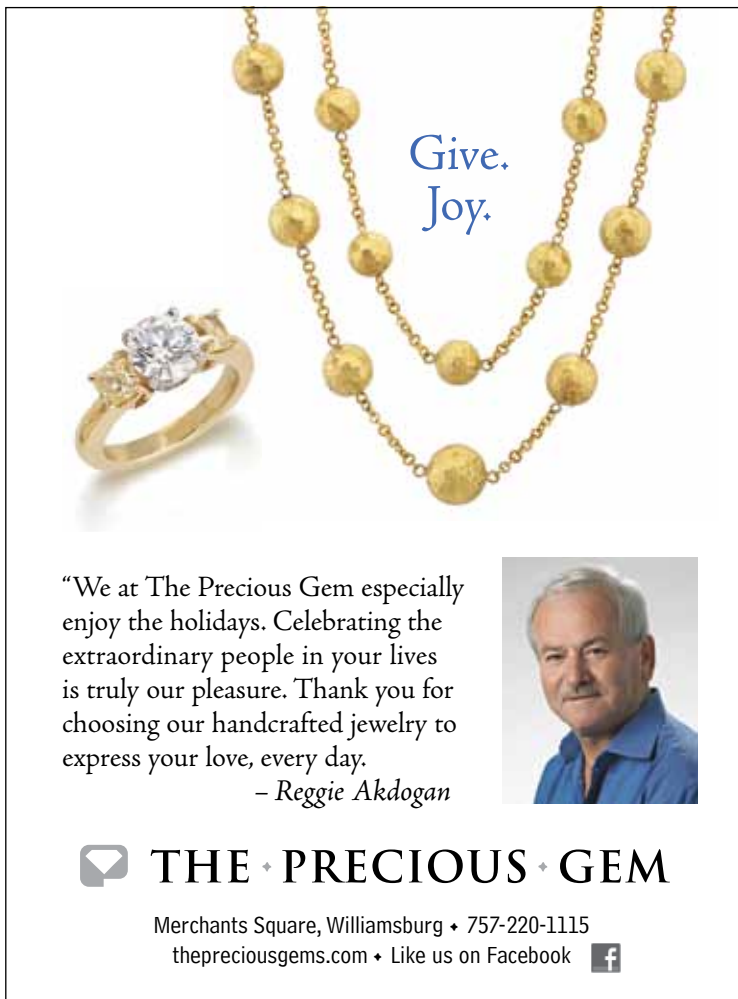
Clyde’s mother was travelling to France from the U.S. to visit her sister. His aunt and cousins lived in the family house in the French countryside. He invited Gulay to meet the

family. “His mother was very nice. I also met his aunt and cousins who he grew up with in France. Clyde spent most of his summers in France with his mother’s family.”

They married in 1982, came to the United States, and Gulay became a U.S. citizen. Clyde’s next posting was in France, and they were thrilled to be near his aunt and cousins. Clyde’s position at the Embassy allowed Gulay to meet people from different countries and cultures, an aspect that she delighted in.

“In France, when you meet up with a friend or relative, you always go see an exhibition,” Gulay explains. “Then you have lunch or tea together to discuss the exhibition – same with seeing a movie. It’s part of their culture, and I just loved that.” Her discussions enhanced her understanding of people, architecture, culture, art, music and theater from all over the world.

“We had a wonderful apartment overlooking the Seine River. If you looked out and bent really far over the balcony, you could see the Eiffel Tower. The scenery was wonderful and I thought I should paint our view. That was the first thing I painted. I did some personal




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things for us to put on our walls.”

A friend at the embassy convinced Gulay to put some of her paintings in an art show, and she received great reactions to them.

After living in France, they were assigned to London. “That was where our daughter Ajda Dyan was born.”

Gulay painted a house-portrait of the Ambassador’s residence. She also created a portrait of Formula 1 Champion Alain Prost, his car and the raceway at Monaco. Clyde is a huge Formula 1 fan. Her list of subjects expanded as she followed her different interests. Gulay exhibited her work in such places as Paris, Milan, Iceland, the United States, Dakar (the capital of Senegal in Africa), Mauritius (a small island nation off the coast of Madagascar), Oman, Belgium and Switzerland. Her recognition in awards and collectors grew.

Gulay’s wide interests in music, literature, theater and culture added to her visual art in the way she contemplated a scene.

“I think the colors come more easily to me, the harmony in composition,” Gulay describes. “I’ve learned to approach a painting with love. Your mood reflects in the painting.”

This can be seen in her painting “The Williamsburg Inn at Christmas.” The piece conveys

paintings,” she says. “I love Colonial Williamsburg. There are still a lot of subjects I’d like to tackle. Every time I go there, I see things in a different way. I love Custis Tenement, the Capitol, [and] the Governor’s Palace. I’ve painted them each twice. I like the buildings, but the history behind that is very important. I think that’s why we chose this place to live and retire, because it has so much to offer – not just history, but also the community.”

She explains that her parents taught her to be a useful person.

“What you can give to the community is very important and that enriches the soul. It’s not very easy, but I’d like to do something and be useful to this community. Artists, we never retire. It is not easy to find enough time to be a part of the community because we are

producing all the time. But also, someone once said that the artist gives art and makes people happy – that’s their contribution. I hope I do that a little.” NDN

“My goal is to keep doing Williamsburg paintings. I love Colonial Williamsburg. Every time I go there I see things in a different way.”

~ Gulay Berryman

the holiday spirit and history of Williamsburg in an iconic image. Her Williamsburg paintings are popular at New Town Art Gallery, where Gulay is one of the founding members.

“My goal is to keep doing Williamsburg

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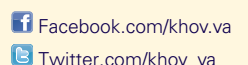
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Food, Drink & Guilt-Free Cheer

By Greg Lilly, Editor

Holiday gatherings usually mean lots of food, drink and regret. Registered Dietitian Amber DeVore says there are ways to manage your food intake and still feel satisfied and festive.

“The New England Journal of Medicine reported that the average weight gain between Thanksgiving and New Year’s is about one pound,” Amber states. That statistic is less than most people would guess. “Fourteen percent of the people in the study who gained five pounds or more were already overweight or obese. Current weight status is a factor in how much you may gain during the holidays.”

In reality, the days of feasting come down to only about three days. “Depending on your religious background,” Amber says, “for a lot of people, it’s really just three days: Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year’s. Although in our culture, we tend to extend that with a lot of holiday gatherings and parties. People are likely to overeat due to the stress of the holiday season or because they are multi-tasking. I suggest people focus

on mindful eating.”

Mindful eating means becoming aware of exactly what and how much you consume on a daily basis. Even when you try to be an ap-

AMBER DeVORE



Lisa W. Cumming Photography

preciative guest and accept second helpings, that response is probably a bad idea for your nutritional health.

“People mean well. Food is an expression of love, but you need to be ready to say ‘No thank you.’ You need to think about what that extra helping means to your weight.”

Amber grew up in Greenville, Pennsylvania. “I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a Registered Dietitian. The main reason was that I loved the idea of prevention of disease. Even though it is not an easy task, nutrition is one of the things, along with exercise, that we can really control for our health.”

Her father is a respiratory therapist and works in a hospital setting, which helped introduce Amber to the medical field. “Even from my high school days, I was a nursing assistant at an Alzheimer’s unit in a nursing home. I was very interested in disease and nutrition.”

After graduating from the University of Pittsburgh, Amber started her career as a clinical dietitian. “I worked with different disease

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states from tube feedings to TPNs (total parenteral nutrition).” After about five years as a clinical dietitian, she decided to move to North Carolina to be with her future husband, Luke, who was a Marine artillery officer stationed at Camp Lejeune.

“I transitioned from being a clinical dietitian to a sports dietitian working with the Marine Corps. I worked with Marines and their families as the dietitian for Marine Corps Community Services at Camp Lejeune. Then I was offered a position for the United States Marine Corps Special Operations Command (MARSOC), where I helped Marines prepare for their pre-deployment training and combat.”

As a Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics (CSSD), Amber works with athletes who can burn as much as 10,000 calories a day, but she is also consulting with clients who need to learn weight management. “Those clients are on the other end of the spectrum, trying to limit calorie intake.”

She opened her private practice, DeVore Nutrition and Wellness, because she loves helping people with nutritional needs and experiencing her clients’ excitement when they see results and their health improves.

Amber offers advice to help manage holiday food intake during the party season:

Don’t skip meals – “At a holiday party, don’t arrive with an empty stomach. Sometimes people start to feel guilty and skip meals in order to conserve calories. We know that skipping meals leads to over eating. It is better to eat regularly throughout the day.”

Bring a healthy covered dish – “When you take a dish to a gathering, bring a healthy dish.”

Watch the alcohol – “Alcohol can be a huge contributor to weight gain at these holiday parties. Alternate water with each drink of alcohol.” You can also choose mindful drinking. “Choose your drink wisely,” she adds. “For example, a 12-ounce glass of eggnog made with whole milk is around 515 calories. Something like a Bud Light is around 110 calories. Do they taste the same? No, but it’s about making smart decisions.”

Adopt a holiday buffet strategy – “First, survey the whole table before taking any food,” Amber says. “You should decide what is worth eating, what you can ignore, and then stick to that decision. There will be things that are your favorites at the holiday – by no means am I saying don’t eat that – but scanning the table first helps you make better decisions.”

Position yourself for success – “Try not to hang out near the high fat items on a buffet. Find a comfortable spot across the room and focus on talking with other people at the party.” This keeps your absent-minded grazing to a minimum.

Keep your hands occupied – “Some people like to pick at food,” Amber explains. “Keep a glass of sparkling water in your hand. That helps to keep your hand occupied. For a lot of people, having something in their hand makes them feel more comfortable at social gatherings.” Make it a glass of water or low calorie drink instead of fudge or cookies.

For the host or hostess of a party, Amber says a great way to assist your guests is to set the serving size for them. Small pieces allow guests to sample dessert without the burden of making the decision on how large the slice of pie should be. “People love individual serving sizes. If I were hosting a party, I would have small servings because your guests can have a small piece of dessert and still feel satisfied without the guilt.”

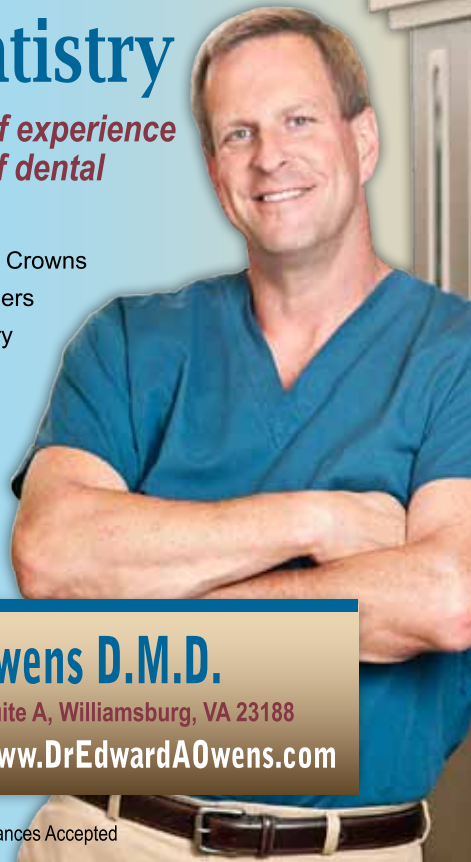
Amber DeVore’s main advice is to relax and enjoy the holidays with friends and family. “Do not put unrealistic expectations on yourself, like trying to lose weight,” she says. “The goal should be not to gain weight over the holidays.”

Food, drink and good cheer can be guilt-free fun. NDN

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JOHN ADAMS

Christmas Lights Tradition

By Greg Lilly, Editor

For the past 23 years, cars, minivans and SUVs have crept around the circle at Jackson Drive just off Merrimac Trail to view the Christmas decorations of John and Cathy Adams' home. The flashing lights synchronize to

Christmas music broadcast from the house, and heard from the cars' radios. This year, John promises a grand display of new sets, lights and music.

"It all started in 1989 when Cathy and I got

married," John says. They went to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, and that's where John got his inspiration.

"In the Christmas Shop at Dollywood, Cathy saw this helicopter with Santa in it,"

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John explains. "I said, 'I'm buying that.' We strapped it on top of the van and drove it back to Williamsburg."

The lighted holiday decoration was unique and that's what John liked about it. "I had never seen one before," he says. There is not another one anywhere like it today, because John and his buddies had to remake the helicopter after an ice storm brought tree limbs down on it many years ago. "That ice storm just tore it to pieces. At the shop, I rolled metal and repaired it."

John and Cathy both grew up in Williamsburg and have lived here all their lives. Their house is in the same neighborhood that John was raised in. "That house is about ten houses down the street," he says.

He started working at Colonial Williamsburg in 1971. "I was still in high school at James Blair. I worked through CW's training program and then after I graduated from high school in 1972, I went full-time doing electronics and TV work. Mr. Chuck Squires hired me at CW."

At the holiday season, the Santa Helicopter needed some supporting lights. "We always had to go to Richmond or downtown Newport News to see Christmas lights," Cathy explains. "We decided to do Christmas lights. John said he would do 500 lights. I told the kids we would help. I strung lights across the front of the house and stapled them to the gutter." When John came home from work, she told him to stand outside and watch while she plugged the lights into the electrical outlet.

"There were sparks going everywhere," John says with a laugh. "You can't staple electric lights to metal."

Their children are now in their thirties, but their grandchildren love seeing the lights. The displays are changed and tweaked each year. "Mainly when they break," John says. "Sometimes I'll see a design I want to create. I see a lot of ideas on the Internet. There are a lot different things I'd like to get."

From his first 500 lights, the display has grown to almost 40,000 lights. "I start putting them up the last week of October," John says. "I work on them an hour or two at night. If I have two weekends, I can get everything up by myself." He has created a system of components to set up each sequence. "Extension cords are another world," he adds. His electrician trade training has helped him become efficient and safe.

"Years ago I put a lot of outlets in. Now, most of my lights are LED. I don't use very much power with those. It's hard to compare electricity bills before and after the LEDs. Before I had less lights and it was about \$25 more a month in power. Now with the LED lights, it's about \$5 more than average."

Originally, John had eight 20 amp circuits installed for his lights. "Now I can run everything off of two. That's the difference with LED."

His favorite display is still his first. "I like the helicopter. I like this pole tree, too. It will be different this year. Last year it was a 12 foot tree. This year it will be 24 feet. Each color of light is on its own channel."

With colors set to different channels on his music controller, John can create an unlimited amount of variety and creativity of visuals and sounds. "The first time I used music, I bought a program that was preset. I wanted to change things to sync with my yard. I talked to the engineer a lot to try to tweak it for my display. This new one is very

provided by the Williamsburg
Association of REALTORS®

what's up in real estate



In just a few short weeks you will be hearing Salvation Army bells ringing in and around Williamsburg. Many of those bell ringers will be REALTORS® and Affiliates from our Association. We will also be hosting an Angel Tree for the Salvation Army, and collecting gifts from our membership for 90 children and 10 senior adults.

We are grateful for the opportunity to serve our community.

While home ownership is certainly one of our primary focuses, as your neighbors we know there is so much more to being in the real estate industry than listing and selling houses. I'm talking about taking an active role in being there for others who need our help. It is a position REALTORS® take quite seriously.

The Association and its volunteers participate in many charitable events each year. We've just recently concluded a "United Through Reading" book drive in support of U.S. Troops overseas. More than 250 new children's books were collected from local REALTORS® and Affiliates and then sent to a remote location in Afghanistan for service men and women to read while being recorded on DVD. The book and DVD are then shipped back to their children in the states. Anyone who has had a deployed family member knows just how much this can mean to a child. Another drive which was conducted earlier



by **Sam Mayo**
President
**Williamsburg
Area Association
of REALTORS®**

this year helped provide warm coats and blankets during the cold of winter. And, calls to replenish our local food bank (FISH) were generously answered by our REALTOR® members and Affiliates several times during 2012. These are just a few of the ways local REALTORS® have served, and will continue to serve, in our community.

As the end of the year draws near, I feel it is important to acknowledge the great work of the Association's Community Outreach committee as well as to recognize those REALTORS® and Affiliates who supported the various events. Please know that all of your efforts are greatly appreciated.

IN OTHER NEWS: If you are looking to buy a home and are interested in visiting some of the area's open houses, go to our Association web site (www.waarealtor.com) and click on the Open House tab. You will find descriptions of the scheduled open houses as well as times, dates and directions. Accurate, local home sales statistics are also provided monthly on our site by the Williamsburg Multiple Listing System. They can be found by clicking on the "Home Sales Statistics" tab.

For additional expert information and guidance, consult a REALTOR®. For a complete and accurate listing of homes for sale, visit www.WAAREaltor.com.

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advanced. It can grow. I like to add two or three songs to the program each time. It is time consuming to synchronize the music to the lights.”

John loves the technology. He recommends using LED lights to everyone – big displays or not. “If you put those little mini lights out, they fade over time. You put out LED – it’s a hard shell that is hard to break and they don’t fade. That’s a big difference. They are more durable. I could run my truck over the LEDs and they won’t break.”

One new innovation that he’s excited about is ribbon lights. “It’s like a ribbon with LEDs in it,” he describes. “They’re called RGB (Red Green Blue).” This type of light uses the primary colors to create other colors – a color-changing string of lights.

“People have been putting those under their kitchen counters. You can buy a remote to change the color of the lights or to dim the lights. We’ve started to use them at work. They are really nice and not that expensive; they’re low voltage,” he says.

The LED lights last a long time, but they can’t survive everything Williamsburg throws at them. “I mainly have to change an LED string because a squirrel might get hold of one,” he says. “Squirrels will chew up the wires. One squirrel would take the bulbs and snap every bulb with his teeth. Another would chew the cords off at the plug. He chewed up sixteen cords, year before last.”

College kids, Sunday school classes, out-of-town tourists, neighbors and friends come to see the house, tuning their car radios to the music being broadcast. “They have fun,” John says.

Over the past few years, John and Cathy have received many thank you cards for the lights. People enjoy the lights and want to express their gratitude to John for all the work he does. “Technology has made it fairly easy,” John says with modesty. “Everything is programmed with timers.”

He says he’d like to start the display earlier this year. “I’m shooting for starting that weekend after Thanksgiving. Usually, I start the Saturday before the Grand Illumination.”

Many, many people drive by the house to see the decorations. “The traffic around here,” he begins, “well, people have a lot of patience. We’re at this circle on Jackson Street, so that helps.” John and Cathy have some new neighbors that they hope will enjoy the spirit of the lights. “Traffic moves fairly well. We just enjoy people who like seeing our lights. The lights make people happy.”

He’ll keep decorating his home because he finds experimenting with the lights interesting and challenging.

A lot of people have asked for his help in setting up lights at their homes, but he says he just doesn’t have time. “I work at Colonial Williamsburg and part-time at Williamsburg Furniture helping Dan (Jones); it’s been about 25 years doing that.”

He advises people to “start small and add a little bit at a time” when they set up lights at their own homes. John sees his home Christmas decorations as a special occasion for families to go and do something together. “It’s the spirit of Christmas to make people smile and enjoy themselves. What more could you want to do for your friends and neighbors?” 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.

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

Hey Neighbor! **TOYS FOR TOTS HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE**

The Warhill High School wrestling team is having a holiday toy drive for Toys for Tots. The team will be participating in the Mike Duman Toys for Tots wrestling tournament at Nansemond River High School on December 21-22, 2012. We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys throughout the months of November and December and delivering them to the tournament for Toys for Tots. Donations may be dropped off at Warhill High School, 4615 Opportunity Way, Williamsburg.

Hey Neighbor! **FUNGUS AMONG US** November 17, 2012

The monthly "Learn and Grow" educational series sponsored by the Williamsburg Botanical Garden will be on Saturday, November 17 from 10:00-11:30, in the Interpretive Center at Freedom Park. The program is free and open to the public, no registration required. For more information contact Helen at 757-564-4494.

Hey Neighbor! **CONCERT: JENNIFER KIRK- LAND AND BERT CARLSON** November 17, 2012

This duo presents an unforgettable musical conversation featuring jazz,

blues and other American popular music, providing an entertaining musical experience for audiences of all ages. (This performance is sponsored in part by a grant from the Virginia Commission for the Arts) Time: 7:30 pm at the Williamsburg Baptist Church. Free and open to anyone who wishes to attend. All concerts are held at 227 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. For more information call the church at 229-1217.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG HOLIDAY FARMERS MARKET** November 17 and 24, 2012

From 8 am – 12 noon. Products at these markets will feature berries, greens and cut trees. Baked goods, meats, seafood, and items for gift giving will be for sale at these festive markets. November 17 – High Country will play and sing seasonal music. November 24 – So'lach will play Celtic and folk music. Libbey Oliver, Market Manager, 757-259-3768. For information, contact lo-liver@williamsburgva.gov or www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com.

Hey Neighbor! **PHAEDRA McNORTON & JANE ALCORN** November 21st, 2012

At 10 a.m. in Lewis Hall of Bruton Parish, Duke of Gloucester Street.

The Williamsburg Music Club will present Soprano Phaedra McNorton accompanied by pianist Jane Alcorn in a program opera to Broadway favorites. Guests are FREE. Contact Sylvia Lynn 757-741-0006 or www.williamsburgmusicclub.org.

Hey Neighbor! **BASKETBALL JAMBOREE** November 23-24, 2012

The Rotary Club of the Historic Triangle is sponsoring its second annual Basketball Jamboree. This is an action-packed, two-day event pitting our three local public high schools against three private schools – teams they don't see during the regular season. Boys play on November 23, and girls play on November 24. Contact Sally Wolfe, Senior Director of Development, Williamsburg Landing, 5700 Williamsburg Landing Drive, Williamsburg, VA 23185. Phone: 757-253-9677

Hey Neighbor! **AARP TAXAIDE TRAINING** Beginning November 28, 2012

Williamsburg AARP Tax Aide is looking for volunteers to assist seniors as well as low-to-moderate income taxpayers in completing their 2012 tax returns. Our counselors are certified by the IRS and provide this FREE service in partnership with the Williamsburg Regional Library. Volunteers should be com-

fortable using a computer online and have some experience preparing tax returns. Membership in AARP is not required. Training will take place at the e-CLIC computer lab at the James City County Library beginning in November. Please contact Jane Alcorn jane@thealcorns.com for more information.

Hey Neighbor! **FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS GALA** November 28, 2012

The Auxiliary of Sentara Williamsburg Regional Medical center invites you to join us November 28th for our Festival of Lights Gala fund raiser. 6-8 PM. \$30.00 per person for an evening of surprises including a silent auction, great food, drink, music and lots of fun. Location: Sentara Williamsburg Hospital. Contact: Gert Berthiamue Phone: 757 345 0966 or Betty Pittman 757 871 9620

Hey Neighbor! **HOLIDAY TEA FASHION SHOW** November 28, 2012

The Woman's Club of Williamsburg -GFWC is hosting a "Holiday Tea" Fashion Show in the Ballroom at Colonial Heritage on Wednesday, November 28, 2012. Registration will start at 10:30 am tea served at 11:45 am. and modeling beginning at 12:45 pm Fashions by



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Saturday, December 8th 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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Hey Neighbor! **THE KING'S PLAYERS FALL PRODUCTION**

November 30 & December 1st and 2nd, 2012

King of Glory Lutheran Church's theater ministry, The King's Players, cordially invite you to attend our Fall 2012 production of The Christmas Bus on Friday night, November 30th, at 7:30 P.M.; Saturday night, December 1st, at 7:30 P.M., and Sunday afternoon, December 2nd, at 2:00 P.M. All performances will be in the Fellowship Hall. The Christmas Bus is a one-act play about a group of active but lovable orphans and how they discover the meaning of Christmas. Tickets will go on sale on November 4th and all other Sundays in November; they will also be available during the week through the church office. Ticket prices are \$8.00 for adults, \$6.00 for seniors and students, and \$5.00 for children and non-members. We also offer a "family plan" featuring tickets for a family of four or more for \$25.00. Following each performance there will be a "Christmas cookie" reception for cast, crew, and audience members to enjoy some seasonal treats. King of Glory Lutheran Church is located at 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188. Telephone: (757) 258-9701. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Mark Elgert at mark.elgert@gmail.com.

Hey Neighbor! **SANTA CALLING!**

December 4, 2012

James City County Parks & Recreation is coordinating phone calls from the North Pole for County and Williamsburg residents age 9 and younger. Santa and/or Mrs. Claus will personally call each child who returns their completed registration form by Nov. 27. Santa will

attempt to call children on Dec. 4 between 5:30-8 p.m.; however, specific times cannot be guaranteed due to Santa's holiday schedule. Registration forms are available at the Centers, Satellite Services in Toano and online at www.jamescitycountyva.gov <<http://www.jamescitycountyva.gov/recreation/recreation>>. Free!

Hey Neighbor!

CONCERT: AARON RENNIGER
December 5, 2012

Organist and Erich Graf, Flutist. The third concert of the Fall Trinity Organ Series at Saint Bede Catholic Church, 3686 Ironbound Road in Williamsburg, will be held at noon. The concert will feature a program of organ and flute, including music of the season. Bring a friend and your "Bach's" lunch and join the artists tableside after the FREE concert. Complimentary beverages will be served. For more information, please call (757) 229-3631 or visit www.bedeva.org.

Hey Neighbor! **WILLIAMSBURG HOLIDAY FARMERS MARKET**

December 8, 2012

From 8 am – 12 noon. Products at these markets will feature berries, greens and cut trees. Baked goods, meats, seafood, and items for gift giving will be for sale at these festive markets. Reveille a women's capella group will sing holiday music. Libbey Oliver, Market Manager, 757-259-3768, loliver@williamsburgva.gov or www.williamsburgfarmersmarket.com

Hey Neighbor! **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA**

Dec. 8, 2012

From 9-11 a.m. You and your family are invited to attend the annual pancake breakfast buffet and morning of "holly-day" cheer with Santa and Mrs. Claus!

Photo opportunities available. Register by Nov. 30. Max 100 people. Please register everyone who is attending to ensure a seat! \$12/person; ages 2 and younger are free. James City County Recreation Center.

Hey Neighbor! **CHRISTMAS CONCERT & PAGEANT**

December 16, 2012

Wellspring United Methodist Church will be offering a Christmas

concert and pageant on Sunday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m. The concert will include the adult and junior choirs, as well as the praise bands: Cross Purposes, Servant, and Breakaway. Also, "All God's Puppets", as well as liturgical dance and Wellspring's drama group. The evening will conclude with a revisit from Shrek and Donkey and will answer the question "What did we do with our gifts to the King?". Refreshments will follow in the church's gathering place.

Hey Neighbor! **"BLUE CHRISTMAS" SERVICE**

December 17, 2012

Wellspring United Methodist Church, 4871 Longhill Road, Williamsburg is offering a "Blue Christmas" service on December 17 at 7:30 p.m. This is a special service for those with heavy hearts make it through Christmas, knowing they are not alone. Also, the church is hosting 3 Christmas Eve services. The first service is at 6 p.m. and is a family service, geared to the children and will include puppets and Birthday cake for Jesus. The second service will be held at 8 p.m. and is a candlelight service and will feature the praise band, Cross Purposes. The third service, also a candlelight service, will be offered at 10 p.m., with the Adult choir providing the special music.

Hey Neighbor! **FIRST NIGHT WILLIAMSBURG**

December 31, 2012

First Night Williamsburg will celebrate New Year's Eve with over 45 live performing acts throughout downtown Williamsburg and on the stages of the campus of William & Mary. Admission: \$15 pp, kids 5 & under are free. Buttons are on sale throughout the month of December at local retailers. For information, visit www.firstnightwilliamsburg.org.

Hey Neighbor! **OLDE TOWNE MEDICAL CENTER 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

January 26, 2013

Join us for a fun evening of celebration honoring medical and dental clinic founders, Dr. Tom Tylman, DO, and Dr. Tom Luckam, DDS, and the many wonderful volunteers serving our patients. This black tie optional gala will be held in the Virginia Room of the Colonial Williamsburg Lodge. Tickets are \$95

per person for dinner and dancing. Sponsorships including tickets and advertising opportunities are also available. For information call 757-259-3259 or see the event flyer at www.oldtownmedicalcenter.org under Community Support, Special Projects.

Hey Neighbor! **LECTURES – LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**

February & March, 2013

Tuesday mornings. The topics are about important international issues and are sent to the League by The Foreign Policy Association. Refreshments are served by the Women's Club of Williamsburg at 9:45 a.m. and the lectures begin at 10:30 a.m. ending with questions and answers at 12 noon. The lectures are held in the auditorium of the Williamsburg Library. If interested, please write the LWV-WA, PO Box 1086, Williamsburg, VA 23187.

Hey Neighbor! **CONCERT: DA CAPO**

February 23, 2013

This fresh, young vocal quartet takes audiences on a refreshing journey spanning over a hundred years of vocal music with songs ranging from the early 1900s to sings on the radio today. Their dynamic presentations have brought them success in many vocal competitions. Time: 7:30 pm at the Williamsburg Baptist Church. Free and open to anyone who wishes to attend. All concerts are held at 227 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. For more information call the church at 229-1217.

Hey Neighbor! **CONCERT: WREN MASTERS**

April 20, 2013

This quartet of William & Mary faculty members plays period instruments in performances of 16th to 18th century music, featuring works by Bach, Couperin, Handel, Telemann and Vivaldi. The group is named for their favorite performance space, the 1695 Wren Chapel on the campus. Time: 7:40 pm at the Williamsburg Baptist Church. Free and open to anyone who wishes to attend. All concerts are held at 227 Richmond Road, Williamsburg. For more information call the church at 229-1217.

Send Your Non-Profit Event Listing to:

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COOKE'S CHRISTMAS

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

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INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

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2400 Pate's Creek

Gracious 5,000 sq. ft. all brick custom home built on one private acre, three car garage, 4 oversized bedrooms to include a 1st floor master, suite, gourmet kitchen, study with coffered ceiling and gorgeous bookshelves, spacious family room boasts vaulted ceiling, spectacular all season sunroom. \$875,000.

AMERIKA LAMM
(757) 869-5533
amerika@lizmoore.com



QUEENS LAKE

Pristine, immaculate home with spacious formal and casual rooms. 4+B/3B. Extensive hardwood and FP in FR. Open kitchen with bow window and eat-in breakfast area face the fenced backyard and gardens, filled with hundreds of daffodils and flowering bushes. Large deck off back, front porch and oversized garage. Quiet location near New Quarter Park makes this a must see for anyone! MLS# 30030762 offered at \$435,000.

Susan B. Smith
757-876-3838
susansmith@lizmoore.com
www.lizmoore.com/susansmith



MONTICELLO WOODS

3,136 sqft., 5 BRs 3.5 BAs. A terrific value! Impeccably maintained home at end of a cul de sac with open floor plan. Great rm w/ vaulted ceiling opens to kitchen w/ granite & breakfast area. Butler's pantry with add'l bar area. Generous 1st flr MBR and 2nd flr MBR w/ ensuite BA. 2 add'l BRs w/ Jack & Jill BA. Loft plus media/ bonus. Luxury outdoor living! Deck/ pergola, paved patio w/ firepit, fenced yard. \$500,000.

Deelyn Peterson
757-503-1999
deelynpeterson@lizmoore.com
www.PremierWilliamsburgRealEstate.com



TURNERS NECK

1048 Turners Landing Road

Build your dream home on this amazing 3.36 acre waterfront parcel on the Chickahominy River. Private, deep water pier, covered 40 foot, 16,000 lb lift with remote, oversized wet slip, shore power and fresh water. Constant pressure well pump. Three-rail fencing for your horses. Approved for septic. House plans are available or bring your own. \$650,000.

Charlotte Turner
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