

February 2008

WILLIAMSBURG'S

# Next Door Neighbors<sup>©</sup>

VOL.2, ISSUE 2

PRICELESS

Discovering the people who call Williamsburg home



## Williamsburg is Getting It *All Together*

Dr. Eileen O'Brien, Rev. Jennifer Ryu,  
Lois Hornsby and Barbara Watson  
Explore Diversity Issues in *All Together*

**Diversity at  
the Movies**  
Kimball Theatre  
Celebrates 75 Years

**Lois Hornsby**  
Williamsburg's  
Renaissance  
Woman



Meredith Collins,  
Publisher

I'm excited to bring you this issue on diversity because I think no matter how open minded we believe we are there is always more we can do to extend ourselves for others – and not just those who seem to be like we are. Diversity is about respecting the differences in one another and embracing those differences openly, honestly and respectfully. While many of us consider ourselves to be open minded and accepting, the reality is that we all have moments where we need to examine ourselves and be very honest about our own ability to give that kind of acceptance.

I believe that the more we get to know people from different walks of life, the more we become comfortable being with others who may not travel in the same circles. If we learn to do this, we widen our circle and when we widen our circle we benefit from all of these new relationships. It's kind of like the saying about love – the more you give away, the more you have.

Russell Simmons, the Hip Hop mogul and owner of Def Jam Records and Phat Farm clothing wrote in his recent book, *Do You*.

*“Remember respecting diversity is a two-way street. When you're so rigid in the way you see the world that you can't connect with other people, then you are*

*severely limiting your ability to succeed. You need to find a way to open yourself up without diluting who you are. When you can do that, you'll be able to push ahead in business and in life. But when you're close minded and rigid, then you'll always be stuck in the same place.”*

I think his words are a reminder that no matter where we are or what we are doing we have a choice in our daily lives to move beyond the comfort zone we have established for ourselves, or not. Staying in our comfort zone results in stagnation and closed doors. Choosing to connect with others who are different from us fosters growth and opens the door of possibilities.

In this issue, we write about people who come together to explore issues of diversity, a couple who gives their time to mentor students, a woman who dedicates her career to finding ways to help children from diverse backgrounds succeed. We write about a couple who adopted three daughters from a foreign country, we explore the history of movies and how diversity is presented on screen, we share a story about best friends and we pay tribute to a woman who has lived a life that exemplifies embracing the differences in others.

As you read this issue, I hope you will enjoy learning about these peoples' lives and see that if you close your eyes - and refrain from looking at their photos - they could be anyone. Maybe even your neighbor...maybe even you. NDN

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**CORRECTION:** In the Health Care story of the January issue, Forecast 2008, the Williamsburg Radiation Therapy Center was presented to readers as Riverside Health System's facility. It is actually a joint venture with Sentara Williamsburg Community Hospital. Next Door Neighbors regrets the error.



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WILLIAMSBURG'S GOOD NEIGHBORS ARE

# All Together

By Linda Landreth Phelps

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said during the national struggle for civil rights in the early 1960's, "The good neighbor looks beyond the external accidents and discerns those inner qualities that make all men human and, therefore, brothers." Becoming "good neighbors" has been a long term goal for *All Together*, a Williamsburg social awareness group founded in 1994.

'Prejudice' is the word we use to refer to an unfounded bias that's rooted in fear and ignorance. *All Together's* premise is that when ignorance is replaced by intimacy, fear will fade away and prejudice on all fronts can be overcome - not only in its most blatantly overt guises, but also in the subtle, insidious ways in which people experience it every day. We remain ignorant,

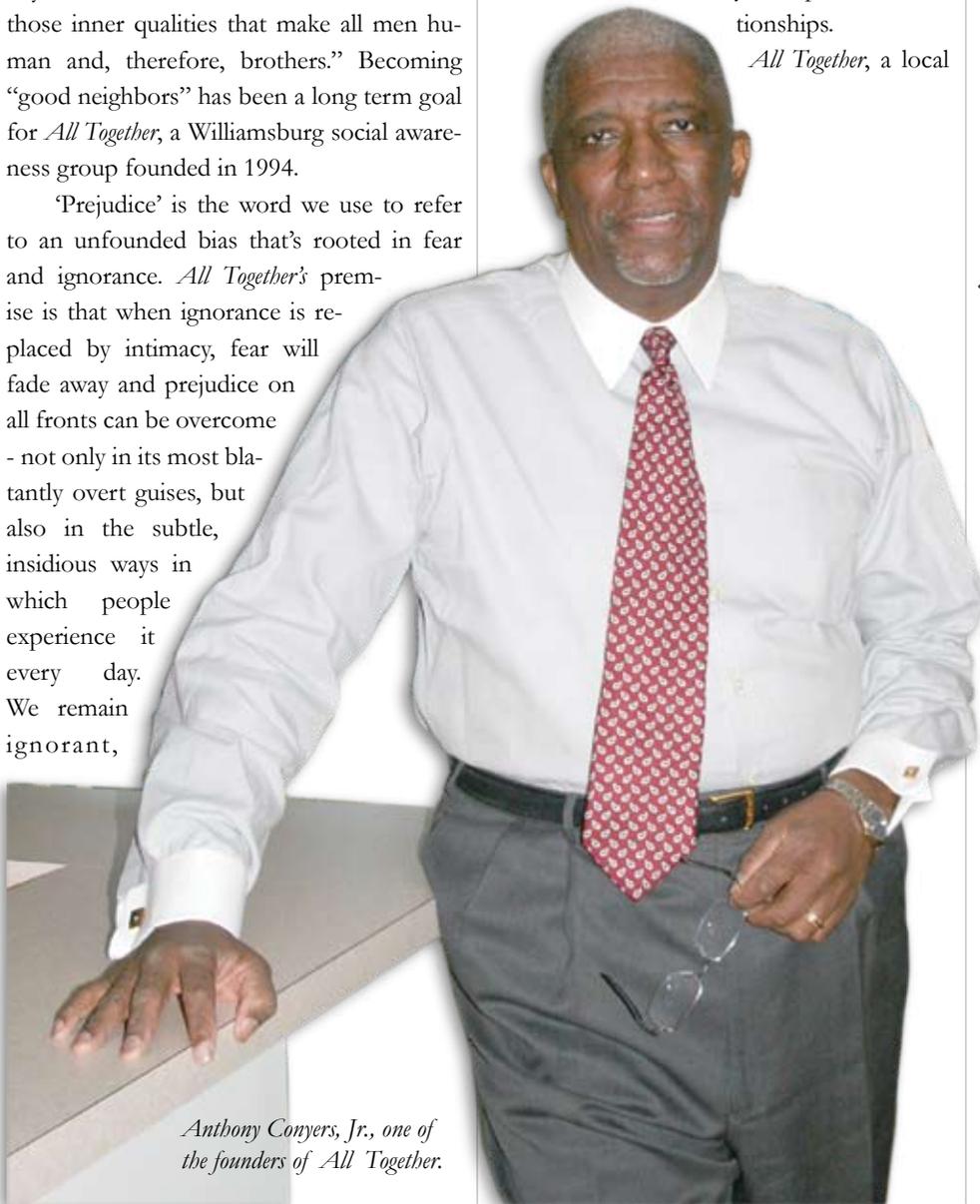
afraid, and therefore prejudiced unless we all make the intentional effort to break out of our narrow, homogeneous comfort zones and diversify our personal relationships.

*All Together*, a local

non-profit organization, allows people of diverse backgrounds to come together to breach the walls of their comfort zones. It is a place where they can discover common ground and appreciate their differences.

It began over a decade ago when a small group of committed people decided that it was critical to be able to talk openly about how and why, 130 years after the end of the Civil War, the country was still divided by race. Bill Bryant, a former editor of *The Virginia-Gazette*, called Anthony Conyers, Jr., an African American who was then the director of Human Services for James City County, with the purpose of starting a dialogue. Conyers contacted Rev. David Tetrault, of Bruton Parish Church, and then Lois Hornsby, whose dedication to community work and social activism in Williamsburg is legendary, and they came aboard. The group grew from there, merging with another led by George Genakos, a Williamsburg City Council member. They initially called themselves 'The Turkey Club' because they would get together for lunch over turkey club sandwiches at Wilma's, a favorite local meeting place.

According to Conyers, the need for interracial communication became particularly apparent during the O.J. Simpson trial, when opinions on the trial's verdict seemed to be sharply divided along racial lines. "It just pointed out what we already knew. Blacks and whites didn't really 'get' each other's viewpoints," he said. "The cultural divide was just too wide and we needed to find some way to bridge that gap. It's not an activist orga-



*Anthony Conyers, Jr., one of the founders of All Together.*

nization, even though there are worthy ones that I belong to. You won't see *All Together* marching, picketing, and so forth. We prefer a personal approach, a dialogue between people who really want to understand each other better."

Conyers has a long history in Williamsburg and his roots go deep in the community. He grew up in the historic area and graduated from the segregated Bruton Heights High School in 1965. His father worked as a janitor for Colonial Williamsburg, the same foundation that employed Conyers himself as a candle maker during his youth. Conyers still lives here in Williamsburg but now works in Richmond. He has served as Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services since March 2005, overseeing a budget of more than \$1.75 billion.

When it was begun, *All Together's* mission was to bring together the people of the Greater Williamsburg area across racial lines in order to communicate and engage in activities that foster unity, inclusiveness and equal opportunity for the benefit of the community and all of its citizens. As a result, successful collaborations were formed with non-profit and civic organizations such as Kiwanis, and many churches, businesses, colleges and universities. *All Together* sponsors study circles, community hymn sings, film series on the topic of race, leadership conferences, education forums and award programs.

You won't find any turkey club sandwiches unless you bring your own when the group gathers on the first Friday of each month at the Williamsburg Library on Scotland Street. The noon 'Brown Bag' meetings are open to whoever shows up, and the speakers adjust to talking over the crunch of potato chips. Here you'll find a safe place to explore sensitive topics and racial issues in a way that encourages tolerance for people of different backgrounds, faiths, and races. Sometimes as few as six or eight attend; other meetings can run as large as thirty. The participants at a recent meeting ranged from people in their eighties like longtime member Dick Orr, to little Kaya O'Brien-James who, at 5 years old, has been attending with her mom, Dr. Eileen O'Brien (see cover photo), for almost four years.

"The Brown Bag meetings are not very controversial. There is usually a healthy discussion, but people tend to be politely reserved. On the other hand, the Study Circles can get pretty lively," O'Brien laughs. "The difference is that you spend five to six weeks on a topic with trained facilitators and the same group of people. You get to know them and develop relationships. Sessions can become very emotional depending on the subject matter and an individual's experience." O'Brien has authored several books, including one due for publication in June, *The Racial Middle: Latinos*

and *Asian Americans Living Beyond the Racial Divide*, which specifically addresses the issues that two of the largest and fastest-growing minorities in the United States face as they struggle with discrimination, their perceived isolation from members of other races, and how they define racial justice. O'Brien is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Richmond where she teaches in the field of race relations, a topic which has impacted her personally.

O'Brien grew up in Williamsburg and experienced the pain of racial prejudice firsthand at age 15, when she, a Caucasian girl, began dating an African-American boy. "I moved away and was gone for ten years," she says. "I didn't want to come back here because of the way I was treated, but when I did, I was pleasantly surprised to find that things had improved."

*All Together* is working to make sure that there will be even more improvement in the future. O'Brien and her husband, Kendall James, an African-American, have been together for 6 years and are the proud parents of both Kaya and a son, Kaden, who is 6 months old. They're hoping that by the time their children are grown, racial prejudice will be a thing of the past.

Barbara Watson (see cover photo) is *All Together's* hard-working current vice president, and has been a



*John Levy, Ruth Mullaney and Romona Vasser discuss the diversity topic of the day at a recent brown bag lunch meeting of All Together.*

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member since the mid-90's. "Thayer Cory and I were the first two Study Circle facilitators," Watson remembers. "Each session has two trained facilitators and ideally has a mix of 8 to 10 people of diverse race, gender, age, and economic situations. The initial session starts out with a discussion of every person's background and their first awareness of race as an issue and continues from there. Many describe their participation in a Study Circle as a life-changing event. They hear how it feels to be followed by security in a store just because of the darkness of your skin, or to be ignored by a sales clerk when a white person arrives. These are issues and feelings which rarely cross the consciousness of a non-minority."

Watson is the Acting Assistant Administrator for James City County and has lived in Williamsburg virtually all of her adult life. She is married to Robert Watson, a native Virginian who is from King and Queen County. He has worked for Colonial Williamsburg for 29 years, teaching about African-American history and racial relations in

colonial times as an historical interpreter at Great Hopes Plantation, part of the Colonial Williamsburg restoration area.

Sometimes prejudice isn't even about skin color, but can appear as socioeconomic discrimination. People are judged by the clothes they wear, or denied a more lucrative job because they can't afford adequate dentistry. "All Together began with an awareness of our racial differences," co-founder Lois Hornsby (see cover photo) said in a profile published in *The Virginian-Pilot* soon after the group's inception. "But we've come to realize there's a lot of other diversity that deserves our attention. You have to care enough to learn the attitudes and circumstances of other generations and cultures too."

One of those cultures is represented by Reverend Jennifer Ryu (see cover photo), a Korean-American who is a relatively new board member of *All Together*. The group was actually instrumental in bringing her and her husband, Preston Moore, to Williamsburg. "We graduated from seminary and had been working in the San Francisco area," Ryu re-

called recently. "We were doing an online job search for a pastorate where we could serve together. Williamsburg came up as a place with an opening, but knowing nothing about this section of the country, we weren't sure what to expect and if we'd feel welcome. We actually found the *All Together* website, read it, and were so encouraged to find that there are people here who are interested in issues of diversity and inclusion that we applied and were accepted as co-pastors of Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists on Ironbound Road."

Ryu was born in Korea but lived in Ohio from the time she was six years old. She was an Asian in an area where they were a rarity. She remembers always feeling 'different' and that her teachers didn't treat her quite the same as her peers, however she didn't realize it was actually a result of racial discrimination until she was an adult.

Even those preconceptions that seem benign cause their own damage. "Asians are often categorized as 'intelligent', 'studious', or 'musically gifted', but what if you're not

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particularly smart - how does that make you feel,” Ryu commented. “What if you’re an Asian boy who desperately wants to play football but is rejected and told, ‘Go home and practice your violin!’ That kind of thing can affect a person for life.”

Lois Hornsby and her late husband, Bob, raised their three sons in a quiet neighborhood close to the William & Mary campus. Their children developed a social conscience early, when they performed in the multicultural *Up With People* singing group. Bruce Hornsby, Lois’ son who is an accomplished musician and song writer, exhorted us all in his iconic song about racial injustice, *The Way It Is*:

*That’s just the way it is  
Some things will never change  
That’s just the way it is  
But don’t you believe them*

The members of *All Together* have taken that song to heart - they want to help make things change. When the unknown is made

familiar and inequity has a name and face, it can’t help but affect people as individuals. The existence of such a group is a sign that perhaps ‘the way it is’ is becoming just ‘the way it was’ - not as quickly or as completely as we’d like, but undeniably traveling in the right direction on the long road to understanding and peace.

Looking back, we could celebrate how far we’ve come in the quest to become what Dr. King referred to as ‘good neighbors’, but *All Together* prefers to focus on the path ahead. There are still many long miles to travel on that road before different races, faiths, and social strata fully know and accept one another. Forty five years after Dr. King’s 1963 speech, *All Together* is helping us learn to look beyond the external accidents, hoping that one day we all truly will be brothers as well as good neighbors. NDN

### Want to know more?

Visit *All Together*’s website at:  
<http://www.alltogetherwilliamsburg.org>

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## DIVERSITY AT THE MOVIES

# The Kimball Theatre Turns 75

By Rachel Sapin, *W&M Intern*

The motion picture arts have always served as a reflection of society, be it a contemporary or retrospective reflection. Just as you can trace the history of diversity in this country through historical records and anecdotal information, you can also trace the history of diversity - or at least many of the highlights - through the cinema.

So what happens when the movies come to town? This is the question posed by a film event aimed to historicize 75 years of movies and moviegoing at the Kimball Theatre in the time span of four days. According to Timothy Barnard, a professor of English, American Studies and Film Studies at the College of William & Mary, the answer seems to be quite a lot. Over the course of this year, Barnard along with American Studies and Film Studies Professor Arthur Knight, have been working with William & Mary students to put on a film event of enormous proportions. Appropriately titled, "When the Movies Come To Town! 75 Years at the Williamsburg/Kimball Theatre: A Festival of Movie History," the event will commemorate the Kimball's 75th birthday in a fashion that is a cross between a retrospective film festival, an educational

conference, and a local community-building gathering.

"We often think of movies as a democratic art form that appeals to a diverse array of people," explains Knight.

"There is some truth to the idea of film as a democratic art, but you don't have to scratch very far below the surface of those ideas and myths to find out that the social space of the movie theater was more complicated than that." With an array of films, scholarly lectures and live performances, the event aims



*Photo courtesy of Colonial Williamsburg.*

*The Kimball Theatre promotes the movie 'King Kong' in 1933.*

to gracefully scratch beneath the surface of Williamsburg's own movie-going history. "One of the things you begin to discover when you think

about the social history of moviegoing is that the movies have long been a place where Americans thought of coming together to have fun and be entertained," says Knight.

For this event, the Kimball Theatre will serve not only as a social space for fun and entertainment, but a space in which mem-

bers of the community can come together and investigate issues of diversity. The schedule of films and lectures during the event will examine topics as diverse as gender, immigration, travel, race, sexuality, foreign versus American films, children in and at the movies and dating at the movies. "We're packing a lot in," explains Barnard.

The event seems to have something for everyone: from Warner Brother's *Looney Tunes*, to famed Italian director Michelangelo Antonioni's *Blowup*, to John Wayne's fatalistic



*Arthur Knight, American Studies and Film Studies Professor at William & Mary, and Clay Riley, Manager and Programmer of Kimball Theatre, stand at the entrance of Williamsburg's popular theatre.*

final film, *The Shootist*.

By exploring ideas of cultural and racial diversity through both Williamsburg's film history and its social history of moviegoing, Barnard hopes the festival will also dispel myths about Williamsburg as simply being a Colonial town. "Because the typical tourists images of Colonial Williamsburg are pre-modern, we want people to see that Colonial Williamsburg actually has a very rich, modern history," he explains. For its screening of the original *King Kong*, the festival will recreate the ballyhoo over its premiere in the first months of the theatre's opening. In addition to all of the hype, the William & Mary ballroom and swing dance clubs will demonstrate the popular dance styles of Hollywood icons such as Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire in conjunction with the festival's Valentine's Day screening of *Roman Holiday* starring Audrey Hepburn.

When the Williamsburg Theatre (now known as the Kimball) opened in 1933, it was the only place in town where you could see the latest Hollywood flick. "What we really want is for people to come out and experience seeing these films on the big screen as

they were originally experienced in the theatre," explains Barnard.

In addition to scratching below the surface of the Kimball's moviegoing history to better understand 20th century history in Colonial Williamsburg, the festival will give a local dimension to how these movies were viewed when they first came to town through oral histories from longtime Williamsburg residents. These local, oral histories conducted by William & Mary students will be featured as part of a running slide presentation that plays as people enter the Kimball Theatre.

According to student interviewer Briana Paxton, the oral histories take on a variety of subjects regarding Williamsburg's moviegoing history. "Our research touches on big issues from age and gender relations to socioeconomic differences," Paxton explains. The oral history interviews will also serve as part of a broader discourse on race relations in and at the movies in Williamsburg.

According to Barnard, the cinema has a carnival-like function in society. "It's a space where we can break all of the rules and investigate ideas of cultural and racial diversity that we would not otherwise," he explains.

"One of the goals of this event is to use cinema as a platform to dissect the issue of race relations and whether these local, oral histories fit in with broader understandings about what films signify and mean for race relations." Barnard and students who conducted research for the event found that sometimes the oral histories from local residents fit general perceptions on race in cinema and sometimes they did not.

Leontine Brown, who was interviewed by a William & Mary student regarding the event's planned screening of *Gone with the Wind*, is an example of a longtime African-American resident who holds a complex viewpoint on race in the cinema. Brown was interviewed on the subject of Hattie McDaniel's Academy Award-winning role as Mammy in the film. She describes her feelings on the stereotyped role of African Americans in the Southern epic as follows:

*"You know, you didn't like to see your people like that, but that's the way it was. And so you didn't stop going to the movies because of that. You just... like I look at it now, going with the old movies where blacks were maids and butlers and all that, and I like a lot of movies like that. It's just like anything*

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else, you have some good employees and you have some bad ones, so you know, you just deal with it. Because you know, I love a lot of old movies now - look at the Turner Classics and all that... [laughs] I like all that."

"Hattie McDaniel in *Gone with the Wind* serves as a great example of how intricate these issues are," Knight explains. "From my own perspective it's unquestionable that there were racist aspects of that film, but at the same time McDaniel won the first academy award ever awarded to an African American for her role in the film."

In fact, it was the only Academy Award given to an African American going on two decades after that. According to Knight, many reviewers and African American moviegoers were very proud of McDaniel for her performance in *Gone with the Wind*.

"At the same time there were African Americans, sometimes the same people that were proud of McDaniel, who saw the film as deeply problematic," explains Knight. "While these individual commentaries ground the experience of going to the movies here, they also remind us that these issues are complex."

The film medium seems an indispensable social tool in that it allows us to examine often volatile issues at a safe distance. It seems we find it easier to discuss diversity issues - both past and present - when we are prompted by a film we watch: it is a more contained version of the issue that is safe to touch, dissect and explore. "One of the things about the movies that makes engaging in uncomfortable issues possible is that film is not a live medium," explains Knight. "Films can historically represent social and cultural circumstances that may have been controversial in their time in a way that is a little more distanced than a live stage perfor-

mance. When we watch movies, we feel that we are being presented with an issue very directly or viscerally but we also have the contradictory feeling that what we're seeing is literally distant from us."

Focusing on race relations in and at the cinema is only one of the ways in which this event aims to be considerate of the diversity of viewpoints that make up the history of moviegoing in Williamsburg. Other films being presented in the event such as *The Godfather*, will reflect upon the American immigrant experience with accompanying oral histories.

Even the history of the transformation of the Kimball from a Hollywood studio theater to an art-house cinema will be threaded into the thick tapestry of topics that make up this event. "We want this event to be thoughtful," explains Barnard. "It's a reflective consideration of the more difficult and problematic aspects of our theatre's history in terms of race relations and tolerance for difference."

Knight also believes that going to movies today still serves a communal rather than an independent function. "My deep hope as a community member and as a scholar is that this event will allow people to reflect on the spaces of public entertainment as places

where communities do come together rather than thinking of the cinema as a space where you just go and see something individually," he says.

For 75 years the Kimball Theatre has stood at the center of town as a unique social space where residents have been able to come together and investigate cultural, racial,

and even global diversity through movies and moviegoing. It seems only fair to have an event that offers moviegoers a time for celebration, commemoration and above all, thoughtful reflection on the history of diversity on-screen at the Kimball and off-screen within the Williamsburg community. NDN



Timothy Barnard, leading students in a discussion as a Professor of English at William & Mary.

## Want to go? When the Movies Come To Town! 75 Years at the Wil- liamsburg/Kim- ball Theatre: A Festival of Movie

**History**, sponsored by the Film Studies Program and the Reves Center for International Studies at the College of William & Mary (and Colonial Williamsburg/Kimball Theatre), runs Thursday, Feb. 14th through Sunday, Feb. 17th. The screenings are free, but tickets are required. For more information on specific movies and events, visit the official website at: <http://filmfestival.wm.edu>



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# Lois Hornsby

## Williamsburg's Renaissance Woman

By Linda Landreth Phelps

“It’s the world that makes us all interesting - learning about it and embracing it,” says Lois Hornsby, one of Williamsburg’s most recognizable and colorful residents. Interested and interesting, that pretty much describes Lois. She can frequently be seen scooting around Williamsburg in her yellow 1972 classic VW bug, sporting one of her colorful head coverings. “I need it to keep my brains in!” she laughs.



Lois Hornsby at home in her kitchen and dining area - a room she fondly refers to as her “Headquarters” because it is from there that much of her community work is accomplished.

Sixty years ago, Lois Saunier Hornsby came to post-war Williamsburg as a bride with her handsome young husband and stayed to put her unique stamp on almost every aspect of the adopted town she’s grown to love so much.

She was born and raised in Henrico County, where her father, Pierre Paul Saunier, was the Superintendent of Music for the schools, including one-room shacks that served the African-American population before the days of integration. Her parents hailed from New England and the young Lois absorbed their attitudes. “They had never heard of the concept of ‘soul-less’ races, that prejudicial theory that supposedly justified the

cruelty of slavery. It was a surprise to them.” Lois’ father worked with and was influenced by Virginia Randolph, the child of slaves who became a great educator. The value of a good education would become one of Lois’ lifelong motivators.

“My mother was a member of the League of Women Voters.” The right to vote had been won in 1920 and the Women’s Suffrage movement became the nucleus of the League of Women Voters. “She was my role model!” Lois exclaims.

Lois was a beautiful Richmond debutante who traveled in the same circles as people who descended from plantation society, but she had her own strong opinions. Some of her closest friends were from Westover in Charles City County, and were part of the plantation circuit. “They were the dearest people, but had no awareness of what they had fallen into,” Lois says. “They had just never been educated about the truth. I was blessed to not be afraid of people. I found them to be kind and gentle to me and so I was not afraid to speak up.”

Like most love stories, it began by chance. In the fall of 1946, Lois was invited to a formal Homecoming dance at the College of William & Mary where she met Robert Hornsby, a former officer in the Navy who had returned to school after serving in WWII. That meeting led quickly to love. They announced their engagement as soon as Bob passed the bar. Lois graduated from Mary Washington College in May, and they were married in August of 1948. Bob soon built his bride a little house and they started a family while he worked with his father, a former Seaford waterman, in the management of Hornsby Oil Company. In the early ‘50s he began Hornsby real estate with the development of Middletown Farms, one of the first post-war housing communities in Williamsburg. After two of their three boys came along, Bob built the family a larger

home on Indian Springs Road, where Lois, alone since Bob’s death in 1998, still lives.

She keeps her finger firmly on the pulse of the town from her kitchen, the room she calls ‘Headquarters’. Her kitchen’s dining area doubles as a photo gallery and scrapbook, where every vertical surface is thickly papered with drawings, photos, and memorabilia of people, places, and happy occasions. She’ll point out her favorites, share anecdotes, and put names to the faces you don’t already know if encouraged. It’s clearly evident she’s led a fruitful life. Now a grandmother of eight, her personal seat in the kitchen is a doublewide rocker, its upholstery showing the wear of generations of children who have snuggled up to hear Lois read them a story.

One of the interests close to Lois’ heart is promoting literacy through reading programs. She’s a life member of the Lafayette High School PTA. Parents throughout Williamsburg are familiar with the way she lobbies for better schools and more parental involvement. In addition to being a founding member of *All Together*, a group dedicated to diversity awareness and education, Lois participates in the Collaborative Leadership Group, a think tank of 50 community activists in Williamsburg and James City County. Music has always been very important to her and she is on the board of the Cultural Alliance, working on behalf of the arts throughout Hampton Roads.

Her list of interests and involvement is long and eclectic: The League of Women Voters, Citizens for Community Progress, Williams-

burg Garden Club, Richmond Woman’s Club, and Church Women United are among them. Lois is honorary chairman of Williamsburg’s First Night, the family-friendly community celebration of New Year’s Eve. Students at William & Mary may have gotten to know her through her 20 years of service with Campus Ministries United as an adviser to the Christian Science organization, resulting

in the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Humanitarian Award from the college. Her busy schedule and wide-ranging projects can be explained by her religious faith and her personal motto: “To be is to do good.”

“Sometimes in

the morning, I ask myself, ‘Why am I here?’” Hornsby says. “The scriptures tell us that our purpose is to be a blessing where we are.” What impels her is simple, she says. “What will Thou have me do today?” Lois asks every morning during her daily Bible study. “My Bible reading leads me to follow the Master, who went about doing good things. Doing good is gratifying, but it’s not meant for our own gratification.”

Doing what she feels will please God has led to a very satisfying, fascinating, and full life for Lois Saunier Hornsby.

“Make sure you put this in,” Lois says at her door as we part. “Life is meant to be enjoyed - it’s an adventure!” That being so, then she is living it well. NDN

Her busy schedule and wide-ranging projects can be explained by her religious faith and her personal motto:

**“To be is to do good.”**

# The House of Grace-Ed

By Linda Landreth Phelps

In this era of 'bigger is better', Eddie and Grace Liu are an anomaly. They have traded down from a sprawling, comfortable home in Kingsmill to a modest brick townhouse that they refer to as 'The House of Grace-Ed, or Graced'. Having both earned Ph.D.'s in the field of engineering, they will tell you it is precisely 23% of their former living space. No papers or magazines can be found on their coffee table to read; for that activity they cross the street to what they consider to be their study, the Williamsburg Regional Library. Their house may be small, but it's cozy and full of love for the Chinese students of William & Mary who find a little piece of home there.

In the first days of 2008, Eddie wrote an email to members of the group that meets every Friday night at their home: "Taking the need for

grace as our starting point, pray for the Lord to do whatever it takes in our life this year to give us a spirit of humility and simplicity."

Eddie and Grace are long time U.S. residents and citizens, natives of Taiwan who have worked hard and enjoyed successful careers as restaurant entrepreneurs as well as NASA engineers. "Food is a ministry," Grace says, and their culinary skills are regularly put to good use when they provide real home-cooked meals for their young Chinese friends every Friday night. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. sharp and the door is open to anyone who wants to come. When a new person comes for the first time for what the Lius call 'spiritual potluck', they are told: "The first time you come as a guest, the second time you're here because you belong, the third, you

are expected to serve others in some way." This encourages their focus to be outward, to develop a genuine sense of caring for one another.

The tiny dining area fills up fast, and soon animated young people with plates on their laps fill the steps leading to the second floor. Mandarin is the preferred language, with the occasional English thrown in. Forty minutes are allotted for eating and socializing. Anyone can come to eat and for those who care to, they can stay for the study group which begins at 8 p.m.. They sing praise music and hymns for awhile and then move into more serious life lessons - currently an exploration of the Biblical book of Revelation. The lesson ends at 9 p.m., but often the young people will linger for more fellowship.

Eddie says that at the end of



Grace and Eddie Liu (front) with W&M students they mentor: Rui Yang, Huan Xu, Xin Zhao, Fengyuan Xu, Hao Han, Qun Li, Hai Tian

their Friday evening meetings, he asks three questions: 'Do you know each other better?', 'Do you know God better?', and 'Do you know yourself better tonight?'

Grace and Eddie have three American-born sons, Eddie, Jr., 37, father of their only grandson, and Gene, 35, both of whom have now moved to Taiwan, and 30 year old Eric, who lives in California. Their boys are all grown and far away, but some of the Chinese students whom they have mentored consider the Lius close enough to be their 'American parents'. For most of the students, this is their first time away from home, first time living in a foreign land, and, in these days of mandated one-child families, their first exposure to close, sibling-type relationships with others. It's a lot of adjustment to make in a short time, and the Lius feel that standing *in loco parentis* when needed is part of their ministry and will help the students to make that transition successfully.

They are here to serve, Grace and Eddie agree, and their service takes many different forms: mentorship, transportation when needed, advice about American culture, a

cheering section for triumphs, and a shoulder to cry on when homesickness strikes or when a relationship hits a bump. Participation in the spiritual activities is purely voluntary - they serve anyone, with no strings attached. They're living out their church's admonition to 'go fishing, not hunting' when it comes to spreading their faith.

Since their home is a block or two from the Amtrak station that is used frequently by students, they're in a prime fishing spot. They can - and do - hook many a young man or woman rolling a suitcase by their door late at night when the last train stops. Grace laughingly admits to snatching them off the street, inviting them in for a meal on the spot, any time night or day.

Their unit is easily identifiable, set apart from the others in the brick building by its twin stone lions guarding the doorway, and word has gotten around about the hospitality offered there. "One day a couple of kids

we didn't know were walking by, but I was gone," Grace says. "One said to the other, 'If I circle the block one more time, I wonder if someone will see me?' You know, God has a funny sense of humor because just as he said it, I drove by, stopped, and asked them to come and eat with us!"

There are photographs displayed of their sons, grandson and other friends and relatives in their home, but the places of honor are reserved for pictures of the many churches in China they have helped to build and continue to support through International Cooperating Ministries. As much as the recipients of their donations, hospitality and loving attention benefit, the biggest blessing just may belong to the Lius; the peace and joy they radiate is palpable. There is a verse in the Bible that states, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." It's clear that Eddie and Grace Liu's treasure and hearts are fully dedicated to ministering to the young people who come their way. NDN

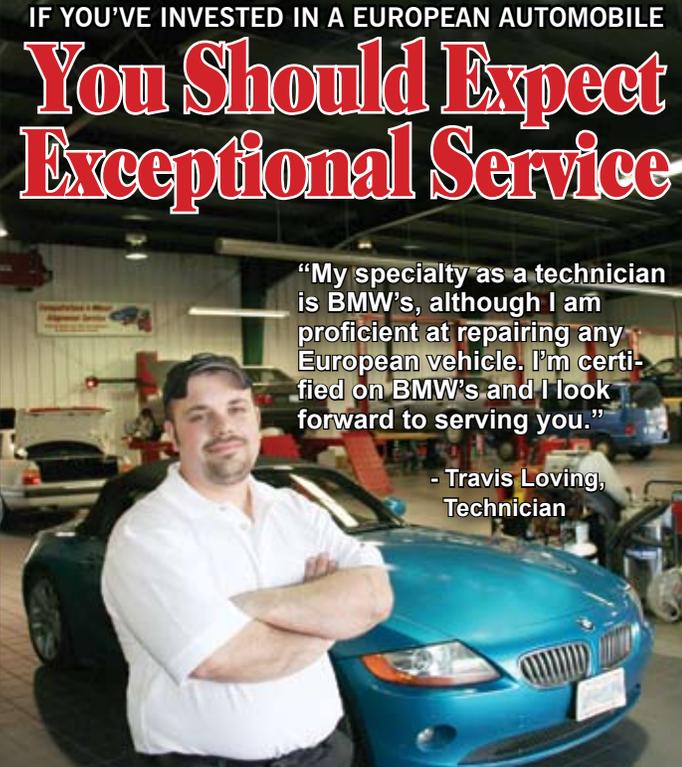
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# Promoting Scholastic Achievement for All

Dr Angelina Hopkins  
is Making a Difference

By Joe Collins

In 1968 cartoonist Charles M. Schulz introduced a new character in his Peanuts comic strip, an African-American child named Franklin. Though Schulz - and the children in the strip - simply treated Franklin like every other character, the addition raised some eyebrows in a time of racial upheaval in the country. When Franklin was shown sitting in front of Peppermint Patty in class, Schulz received a letter from a Southern editor who said, 'I don't mind you having a black character, but please don't show them in school together.' Schulz ignored the letter and changed nothing.



*Dr. Angelina Hopkins has spent much of her career helping to find ways to improve the lives of young people.*

group of laws that came to be known as 'Massive Resistance', designed to counter the integration of public schools. At the center of this legislation was a law cutting off state funds to any school that integrated. This was the opening volley in a series of confrontations between the State of Virginia (and some of its school districts) and the Federal government over school integration. Resistance was often dramatic and persistent: Prince Edward County closed its public school system from 1959 - 1964 rather than integrate and certain private acad-

In the 1950's Virginia State Senator Harry F. Byrd Sr. spearheaded the passing of a | emies subsidized by the state government did not enroll African Americans until 1986.

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Closer to home, William & Mary accepted its first African-American student on March 22, 1951. A short distance away on First Street was the Bruton Heights School, a three building, 17 classroom school for African-American students in Williamsburg. Considered a model for African-American schools it supported all grades, elementary through secondary school, but still operated with second hand equipment and supplies passed on from all-white schools. The school buildings still exist and have been transformed into Colonial Williamsburg's Bruton Heights School Education Center.

We can shake our heads and wonder that public opinion and public policy were once so misguided. At the same time we can take some solace in the fact that we have come a long way; today our schools are a kaleidoscope of cultures and nationalities that even our adventurous founding fathers could not have envisioned. However, accommodating students of all backgrounds in common facilities is actually but a small step in truly

promoting achievement for all. We still have a lot of work to do. We want to be sure that 40 years from now people won't look back at what we've done and shake their heads at our lack of understanding about learning and diversity and empowering children to succeed.

Fortunately there are forward thinking organizations and forward thinking educators like Dr. Angelina Hopkins who are dedicated to providing the educational and private community with the tools they need to instill self-confidence and purpose in young learners.

Hopkins is the Assistant to the Superintendent for Multicultural Affairs for Williamsburg-James City County public schools where she is responsible for providing resources

and collaborating with school administrators, school staff and community stakeholders to facilitate the elimination of the achievement gap. It's a role that she relishes and that she has been preparing for all of her life.

Born and raised in this area, Hopkins was introduced to adversity at a young age. "We lived in Norfolk – without the kind of parenting and supervision and resources that we needed," she recalls. "So by age four, the department of Social Services came in and my siblings and I were packed up and sent off to foster homes. Two went one way, two went another and two went another way. One of my sisters was placed in the home with me and we were two years apart. She's two years older. The couple was very nice. They didn't

**"I believe I had a first-hand glimpse of what community folk can do if they partner with the schools. When I go out to forge new partnerships for the school division I always keep a snapshot of how I grew through poverty to where I am today."**

*- Dr. Angelina Hopkins*

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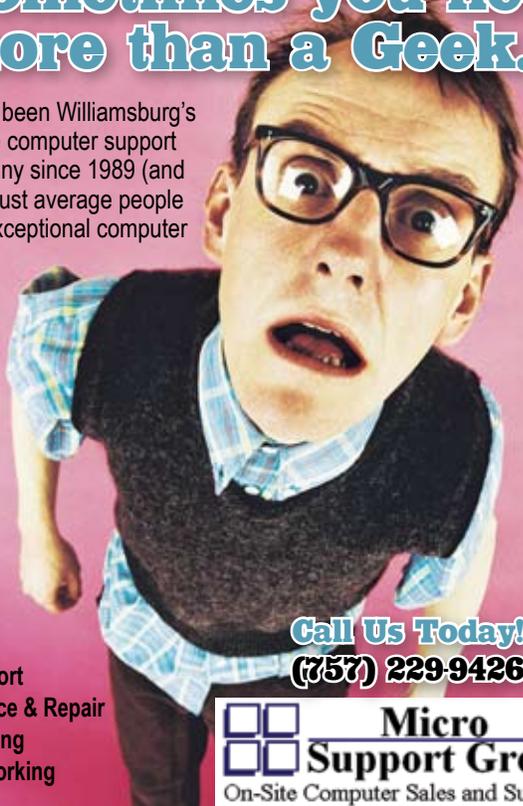
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have any kids of their own but they did keep five of us at a time, so the other three kids in the home with my sister and I were not family."

Hopkins seems to have a gift for being able to reflect on challenges and difficulties yet retain only positive and inspiring lessons from them: "I didn't always have all the support I needed to navigate through grade school because my guardians were not learned. Thankfully there were mentors there for me – some of my teachers embraced me and there were several that I still remember quite vividly," she recalls. "I believe I had a first-hand glimpse of what community folk can do if they partner with the schools. When I go out to forge new partnerships for the school division I always keep a snapshot of how I grew through poverty to where I am today."

After completing her undergraduate work at Norfolk State (she would later earn her doctorates at Virginia Tech), Hopkins worked as a high school teacher in Portsmouth in the early 1980's. This provided her with what would be the first of many opportunities to combine her skills as a teacher and educator with her passion for mentoring and helping others. As she remembers, "There were children who were failing and children who were not doing so well. I had the opportunity to work with teachers, and more importantly, students who were at risk due to repeated failures - some of which had special learning needs and required an IEP, which is an Individualized Education Plan. I was able to work with those students and teachers to help ensure that the approach to teaching those students were certainly based on the student's individual needs."

She was with Portsmouth schools for over ten years and rose to the level of Assistant Principal, which gave her the opportunity to become deeply involved in the opening of the Churchland and IC Norcom High Schools. She then went to work for the Richmond school system as a Customer Relations Specialist. This job also served as an incubator for the talents and expertise she brings to her current job. "That position afforded me the opportunity to work with the administrators, the principals and the community to ensure that we were conveying to the community what we were doing within our school buildings," she says. "My purpose was to build stronger bridges for communication and relationships."

Six months later she became the principal of Richmond Community High School, a small experiential college prep high school on the west side of Richmond. "That high school was unique in that it was developed by the public school officials and a group of businessmen who had a special vision for what it would be like to provide higher order teaching and learning to students from all backgrounds. And so imbedded in the mission of that school was to allow students to apply to this public/community school from all attendance zones. We admitted a certain high percent of students who were of poverty so that we could see that if you keep expectations high for all students and you teach them using research based instructional strategies and

achievement data to guide the teaching and learning then we could ensure that all of the kids would go to college and they would all receive scholarships,” she explains. “It worked. I worked there for three years. We ended up with the highest test scores in the city of Richmond.”

When Hopkins made the move to the Williamsburg-James City County school system in 2005 the timing was serendipitous. The school system had just received a series of recommendations from its Minority Student Achievement Task Force and Hopkins entered the picture with the right background, experience and passion to make those recommendations a reality. “One of the main recommendations was to reorganize this department and have it report directly to the superintendent, and with a change in title. That’s how I became the Assistant to the Superintendent for Multicultural Affairs,” Hopkins pointed out. However, the innovations did not stop there. “We’ve developed, with the superintendent’s support, a concept that we refer to as Multicultural Lenses. So that regardless of what we do each day, we will stay focused on the differences that our students bring to the table. We emphasize the fact that they are all different and they are uniquely different and that they have diverse needs. And so with this concept, my office provides a lot of professional development for teachers and administrators.”

To this end, Hopkins has teachers in every building who work part time as Minority Achievement Leaders (MALS). They collaborate with teachers and principals to help move things forward within their schools. They promote cultural competence within their schools. The MALS meet with her monthly and they have monthly training, including diversity training. “The MALS are the pioneers and the trailblazers for ensuring that the level of collaboration is prevalent in each building,” Hopkins says with obvious pride.

Hopkins also works hard on strategies for getting parents and families involved. Married for 31 years and a mother of three children, she knows how difficult it is for parents to stay involved. She also knows how important it is that they do. “We know that in order to move the students ahead we have to deal with the whole child – all of their issues. And the family is certainly an issue.”

The WJCC Schools Office of Multicultural Affairs has many exciting and revolutionary initiatives underway designed to help eliminate the achievement gap in its schools. There are far too many initiatives to recount here and it would be even more difficult to keep up with all of the ideas and initiatives Hopkins has in the works. That is not to say that her work is going unrecognized; the State Department of Education just awarded her department its Leadership in Cultural Diversity Education Award for 2007. But for Hopkins every idea and initiative is simply a matter of dealing positively with adversity and intelligently and compassionately with diversity. “I talk to kids about staying focused,” she says. “I talk to them about understanding and embracing our differences.” That’s a message we hope the children will remember and pass on 40 years from now. NDN

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# FAIRWELL TO THE Ukrainian Orphanage

WILLIAMSBURG COUPLE SHARES THEIR LOVE & FINDS IT WITH THREE DAUGHTERS OF THEIR OWN

By Brandy Centolanza

Seven years ago while visiting an orphanage in Ukraine as part of a church mission trip, Nancy Hathaway's life changed forever. Nancy and her husband, Steve, had been praying for some time for a sign from God about where and when to adopt a child. Little did the couple know that with in the

next two years they would be bringing home not one but three little Ukrainian girls.

"I just felt like God was putting it right at our feet," recalls Nancy of her initial trip to Ukraine. After sharing her experience interacting with the orphans with Steve, they decided to pursue an adoption. The Hathaways then headed to the Ukraine over the Thanksgiving

holiday in 2001, in search of a child.

The first girl they encountered at the orphanage was Natalie, then nine. "I saw her and immediately knew that she was the one," Nancy remembers fondly. "I just knew." Natalie was equally enamored. "I was surprised, and happy," she says when the Hathaways told her they wanted to bring her to live with them.

After a few short months, Steve and Nancy contemplated another adoption. "We felt like there was another child for us," Steve says. "Once you go there and see them, you can't forget."

Natalie told her mother and father about her best friend from the orphanage, Angelina.



Steve and Nancy Hathaway (sitting) with their daughters Angelina, Natalie and Elisabeth.

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“We were really good friends, and I always wanted a sister, someone to play with,” Natalie remembers. The Hathaways were told initially that Angelina was not available for adoption; however, when they later learned Angelina could be adopted they jumped at the chance to make her a part of their family. On their next trip to the Ukraine, Steve and Nancy also fell in love with Elisabeth, another orphan who was also friends with Angelina. “We were just so taken with her,” says Nancy.

Their family complete, the Hathaways set off for home with Angelina plus Elisabeth in tow. “It was so exciting seeing my mom and dad, this house, their dogs, all of it,” says Elisabeth.

However, Nancy and Steve and their three daughters soon experienced some difficulties as the three girls adjusted to a new school, a new language, and a new culture that included unfamiliar foods and clothes, and a completely different lifestyle.

“Pizza was really strange,” laughs Angelina, who was not accustomed to fast food, or such a variety of meats, fruits, and vegetables. “To go from having no stuff to a lot of stuff took some getting used to,” adds Nancy. Learning English, surprisingly, was not that problematic. “Most people think that is such a big thing to overcome, but it really is a minor thing,” Nancy states. “It happens very quickly, and they transitioned over to English in a matter of months.”

However, Nancy points out, “I tell everybody that the biggest challenge of all was learning how to be a part of a family.”

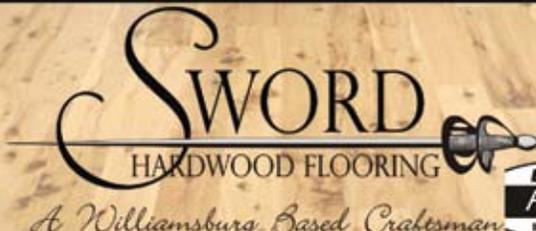
“It was pretty hard at first,” notes Angelina. “We were so used to having such freedom. It was hard being told when to brush my teeth, or what time we were having dinner.”

“I was pretty much raised on my own,” adds Elisabeth, now 19. “Following the rules, having a bedtime, doing chores, sharing things, getting along with each other was all really hard.”

Despite the hardships, Steve enjoyed every minute of it. “I looked forward to coming home at night and them jumping in my arms,” he says. “It gave me a purpose. It takes a lot of love, and it’s very rewarding. I think it’s been a win-win situation for everybody.”

Steve and Nancy, who also have a 30-year-old son, helped their daughters persevere, and before long they were able to assimilate to their new way of life. Today, the Hathaways can be described as the typical American family, who squabble on occasion, and often tease, support, love, and respect each other, and the girls are typical American teenagers who like to shop and hang out with friends. Natalie and Angelina are freshmen at Williamsburg Christian Academy while Elisabeth is studying to be a nurse at Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA. Meanwhile, Nancy, a former actress and television producer, has become involved with an adoption support group, *Hard for Orphans*.

Elisabeth calls her transformation and new life nothing short of a miracle. “I hope we can be encouraging to other families who want to adopt,” Elisabeth says. “There are challenges, no family is perfect, and you just work through them, and be happy. We’re happy.” NDN



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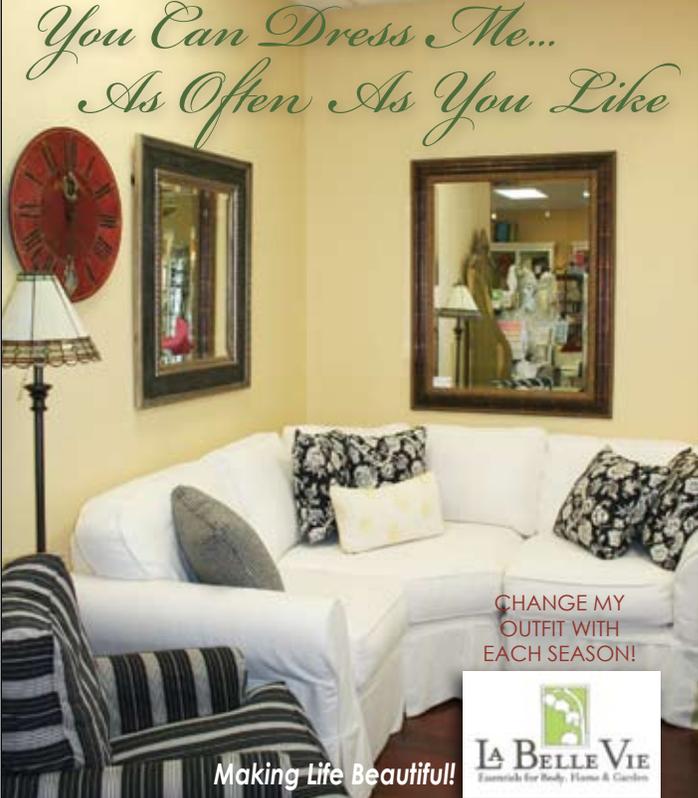
**Robert Marakos**

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The March issue of *Next Door Neighbors* publishes Feb. 21<sup>ST</sup>  
**ADVERTISING DEADLINE - TUES., FEB. 5<sup>TH</sup>**

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Since moving in across the street from each other in The Pointe at Jamestown, Cissy Draine and Susan Soderholm have developed what they like to call a ‘number-one speed dial’ kind of relationship.

“She can call me anytime she needs me. There’s nothing I wouldn’t do for that girl,” Cissy avowed. “It’s hard to describe our friendship, but it just seems like we have known each other for 100 years.”

In fact, it has been just three years since Cissy and Susan first bumped into each other while each was on a walk through their new neighborhood. They started chatting, which led to sharing their walk, which led to the beginning of a dedicated exercise routine that would soon blossom into the kind of friendship that would make many people envious.

“I needed to maintain good health to keep up my strength for my work and she needed to keep up an exercise program to handle her diabetes. We were the perfect match,” Susan said. “I feel blessed to have found her.”

Six days a week, the two meet at 7 a.m. for either a brisk walk around the neighborhood or, on days that are too cold for them to tolerate, sessions of The Firm® workout in Cissy’s spare bedroom, which they have converted into a makeshift gym.

The fast friends and neighbors, Cissy, who retired from a 21-year career in the Army in 1993 and a subsequent 12-year career with the U.S. Postal Service in 2005, and Susan, a practicing massage therapist, admittedly “couldn’t have come from more different backgrounds.”

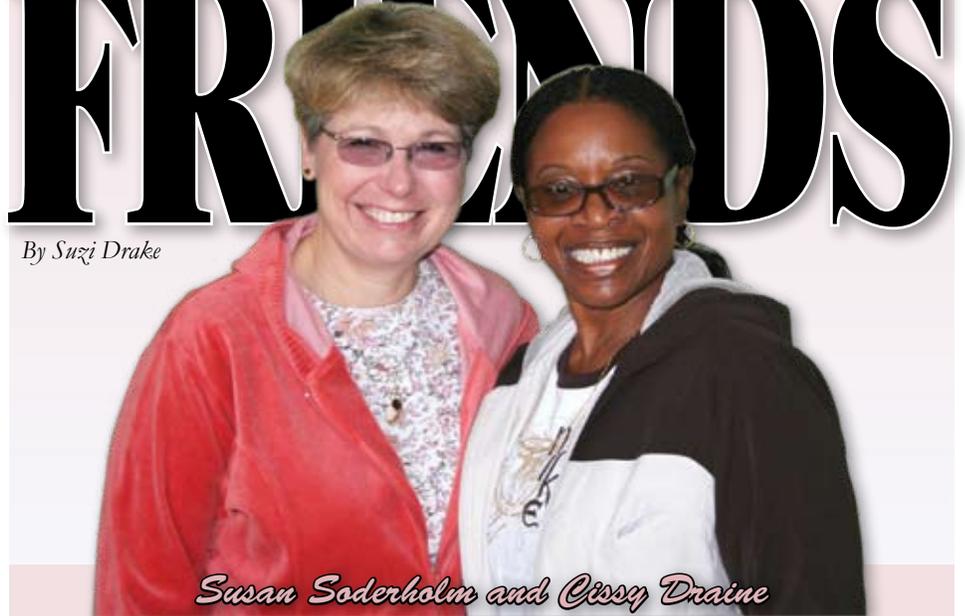
Cissy, the daughter of a Pentecostal minister and is a member of the Baptist church and sings in the choir. She was born in Baltimore, Md., and was a career woman who traveled the world and never had children of her own.

Susan, on the other hand, was born and raised in Virginia in the ambit of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She married a service member in the U.S. Navy and led the life of a military wife and stay-at-home mom, taking on odd jobs, like cake decorating, while dedicating most of her time to raising four sons.

As prominent as they may be, none of these sociological distinctions have ever seemed to make even the slightest bump on their road to friendship. Nor has the more obvious difference they share – Cissy is black and Susan is white. In fact, race or religion are not things either one really dwells on.

# BEST FRIENDS

By Suzi Drake



*Susan Soderholm and Cissy Draine*

“The only time I ever thought about (race) was the first time I went to church with Susan,” Cissy said. “But they treated me like I was one of them, they were all so nice. I don’t know why I was ever worried.”

Over time, the pair has grown closer and closer, sharing more and more with each other and becoming exponentially a part of each other’s lives.

“We just do everything together,” Cissy said. “We plan baby showers, I went to her son’s wedding, she came to my (adopted) granddaughter’s birthday party – we just go everywhere together.”

“I have a key to her house and she has one to mine,” Susan said. “If she’s out and thinks she left her curling iron on, all she has to do is call and I’ll be over there to make sure it’s off.”

The two display all the characteristics of best friends – shopping, baking and gardening. But through the years, albeit only three, their relationship has evolved to encompass deeper, more spiritual and even family-like qualities.

“Exercising is a very personal thing,” Susan said. “We really share with each other our lives, especially when we are walking. When we’re not huffing and puffing, we vent and

share.”

“I’ve shared more with Susan than I have with my own sister. She’s like my best friend and my psychiatrist,” Cissy said. “When we walk, we talk about anything. I tell her about what stresses me and I always feel so much better.”

And with such a solid bond comes the innate impulse to protect the other. To this end, Susan has taken on the role of consummate health researcher, discovering new products to help Cissy manage her diabetes, offering her masseur skills to alleviate some of the pain the disease can create and even carrying an extra pack of crackers on their walks in case her friend forgets to eat before they set out.

“We help each other live better,” Susan said.

It seems for Susan and Cissy, their contrasting upbringings and cultural backgrounds were not issues to overcome, but welcomed spectrums of diversity that they have used to help each other grow stronger, love more and live longer.

“It is the person you become friends with, not their (race or religion),” Susan said. “If you just look on the outside, you are most likely going to miss a great treasure.” NDN

# Hey Neighbor!

Email: [heyneighbor@cox.net](mailto:heyneighbor@cox.net)

**ATTENTION NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!**

Please email [heyneighbor@cox.net](mailto:heyneighbor@cox.net) on or before Tuesday, February 5th to be considered for inclusion in the February 21st issue of *Next Door Neighbors*.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **FAMILY TO FAMILY CLASSES**

**JANUARY 30, 2008**

A free series of 12 weekly classes for family members of close relatives with serious mental illness begins Wednesday, January 30th. This Family to Family Course is structured to help family members understand and support their ill relative while maintaining their own well being. It is taught by a team of trained volunteer family members who know what it's like to have a loved one with a serious mental illness in the family. Norge Community Center, 7402 Richmond Rd. (Rt. 60), 6:00-8:30 p.m. Presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) - Williamsburg Area. Pre-registration required: (757) 220-3200, ext. 531 or (757) 564-3803.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **THE WILLIAMSBURG SYMPHONIA PRESENTS "MUSICAL STORIES"**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2008**

The Williamsburg Symphonia presents "Musical Stories," the third annual Family Concert, featuring the timeless and treasured fables of "Peter and the Wolf" and Dr. Seuss' "Gerald McBoingBoing." Enjoy the versatility of orchestral instruments, skillfully played by our Symphonia musicians. Sunday, February 3, 2008, 1:30 and 3:00 pm, Kimball Theatre. Tickets are available online at [www.williamsburgsymphonia.org](http://www.williamsburgsymphonia.org) or call 1-800-HISTORY. The ticket price is \$10. *Dates, times, program and artists are subject to change.*

## Hey Neighbor!

### **FROM THE HEART...FOR THE KIDS AUCTION & DINNER**

**FEBRUARY 10, 2008**

King of Glory Preschool will present "From the Heart . . . For the Kids" on Sunday, February 10, 2008 at King of Glory Lutheran Church & Preschool, 4897 Longhill Road, Williamsburg. The event will include a silent auction from 3:30 until 5:15 p.m., a live auction starting at 5:30 p.m., two spaghetti dinner seatings at 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.,

as well as other activities. Proceeds from the event will allow the preschool to continue its tradition of excellence in education by upgrading equipment and offering scholarships. The auction catalog will be available beginning February 1st online at [www.kingofglorywilliamsburg.org](http://www.kingofglorywilliamsburg.org). Call King of Glory Preschool at 258-1070 for more information.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **WOMEN'S OPPORTUNITY AWARD**

**DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2008**

Soroptimist International of Williamsburg, a volunteer organization for business and professional women, seeks applicants for their Women's Opportunity Award. Recipients receive cash grants for educational expenses. This award is for women who are the primary wage earners for their families and are seeking to attain higher education or additional skills training. To obtain an application please call Megan Cordova at 565-0794 or e-mail at [mrcordova@cox.net](mailto:mrcordova@cox.net). Deadline for application is Feb. 15, 2008.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB**

**REVERSE RAFFLE - MARCH 1, 2008**

Want to WIN \$10,000? Tickets will be sold for \$150 each and a maximum of 200 tickets will be sold. On March 1 tickets will be drawn from the barrel one at a time. Once a ticket is drawn, it will be announced and will no longer be eligible for cash prizes. The tickets are whittled down throughout the night and the LAST TICKET in the barrel is the big \$10,000 winner! Saturday, March 1; Check-in & Receive Number 6:30 pm; Drawing Begins at 7:30 pm. Must Be Present To Win! Your ticket buys you: • One entry into the Grand Prize drawing for \$10,000 • Event Admission for two people • Heavy hors d'oeuvres buffet and complimentary drinks from the bar • Chance at additional cash prizes. For more information or to purchase tickets: [www.jwcvevents.org](http://www.jwcvevents.org) or call 757-784-0191.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **5<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WILLIAMSBURG**

**ARTHRITIS WALK**

**APRIL 26, 2008**

More than 400 walkers are expected to turn out for the 5th Annual Williamsburg Arthritis Walk to be held on April 26 at Sullivan Square, Newtown. The 5K and 1-mile walks support the Arthritis Foundation while raising money for Arthritis research, health education and government advocacy. Teams are forming now. Please contact Sarah Smith, 804-359-1700, x. 311 or Denise Farr, 229-8811 for more information.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **WALT INTO SPRING!**

Start the New Year expanding your horizons. Williamsburg Area Learning Tree (WALT) is where neighbors share their talents and interests with neighbors. WALT offers an assortment of classes on the most wonderful topics. This is your chance to open your mind and try your hand at something new. WALT, a public service program of the Williamsburg Unitarian Universalists, is a non-profit educational program open to everyone. The newest catalogue of courses is now online at [www.wuu.org/walt](http://www.wuu.org/walt) or pick up a copy at the WJCC Library. Call Jill Whitten, Program Coordinator, at 757-220-9975 for more information.

## Hey Neighbor!

### **MAGIC IS ALIVE AND WELL IN WILLIAMSBURG**

Did you know there is a magic club that welcomes anyone with a serious interest in learning to perform magic? It is the Williamsburg Assembly of the National Society of American Magicians, made up of professional and amateur magicians--and anyone simply fascinated by the craft of entertaining with magical effects. We meet the fourth Wednesday of each month (except January) at 7 p. m. in Room 009 of the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church, 215 Richmond Road. For more information call the club's president, Phil Thorp at 229-2329.

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