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After graduating Magna Cum Laude from Auburn University, Janice's career path took her from working as a Contract Specialist for the U.S. Army in Stuttgart, Germany to working as a Project Analyst for a firm in York County. It was there that she first became involved in commercial sales and leasing. Since then, she has focused on serving clients in the Greater Williamsburg area and throughout the Hampton Roads Peninsula.

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In this issue, I wanted our writers to talk to individuals who are doing "front-line service jobs" to find out about them and what they enjoy about their work. Williamsburg is known for its hospitality and those who provide the myriad of services to both tourists and locals alike are the folks I consider to be the backbone of our local economy.



Meredith Collins, Publisher

When I assign stories to my writers, I oftentimes do not know the person they will interview. I may have a name suggested by a reader or have met someone and made a mental note that I'd like to have that person interviewed sometime.

Such was the case with Gerald Simmons. Joe and I met him at a William and Mary baseball game several months ago when he directed us to park our car in the field next to the stadium. I was struck immediately by his positive attitude and terrific sense of humor and thought he might make a good subject for a story one day.

Other times, I have no knowledge of the person at all. For example, Barry Trott is someone I had never met or even seen before. I gave my writer the assignment to interview a librarian and she introduced me to Barry the way you may meet him - through his story.

No matter who we end up writing about, my hope is that you will see that we all share common ground when we work hard to serve others and contribute to the quality of life in Williamsburg. I think you will find these stories engaging. Enjoy! NDN

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PARK AT YOUR OWN RISK

Drivers are subject to Gerald's good nature

By Ryan Jones

Gerald "Amigo" Simmons is not hard to find on Saturday mornings in the fall. Rain or shine, he mans his post on Ukrops Way by the lacrosse field, helping to park cars for the William and Mary faithful as they look for the most convenient spot to leave their vehicles before Tribe football games.

The two young ladies that are taking game-day tickets in front of the stadium know exactly who Amigo is.

"Oh, that's Angie's dad!," says one worker, her face lighting up. "He'll be the one with the stereo playing at his post."

A quick search finds Amigo leaning casually against a road barricade watching a carload of lost sports enthusiasts approaching his intersection. He leaves his cooler, stereo, and portable grill behind and smiles to himself as he prepares to greet them and help them find a parking spot.

"You guys with the home or visiting team?" Amigo inquires as the car window rolls down.

"Visiting team," comes the reply.

"Well first of all, I've got to tell you. I don't like you," Amigo says.

The twinkle in Amigo's eye helps startled expressions give way to laughter as the out-of-towners find out that Amigo loves a good joke.

They spend a few more moments in casual conversation with him, and then go on their way smiling.

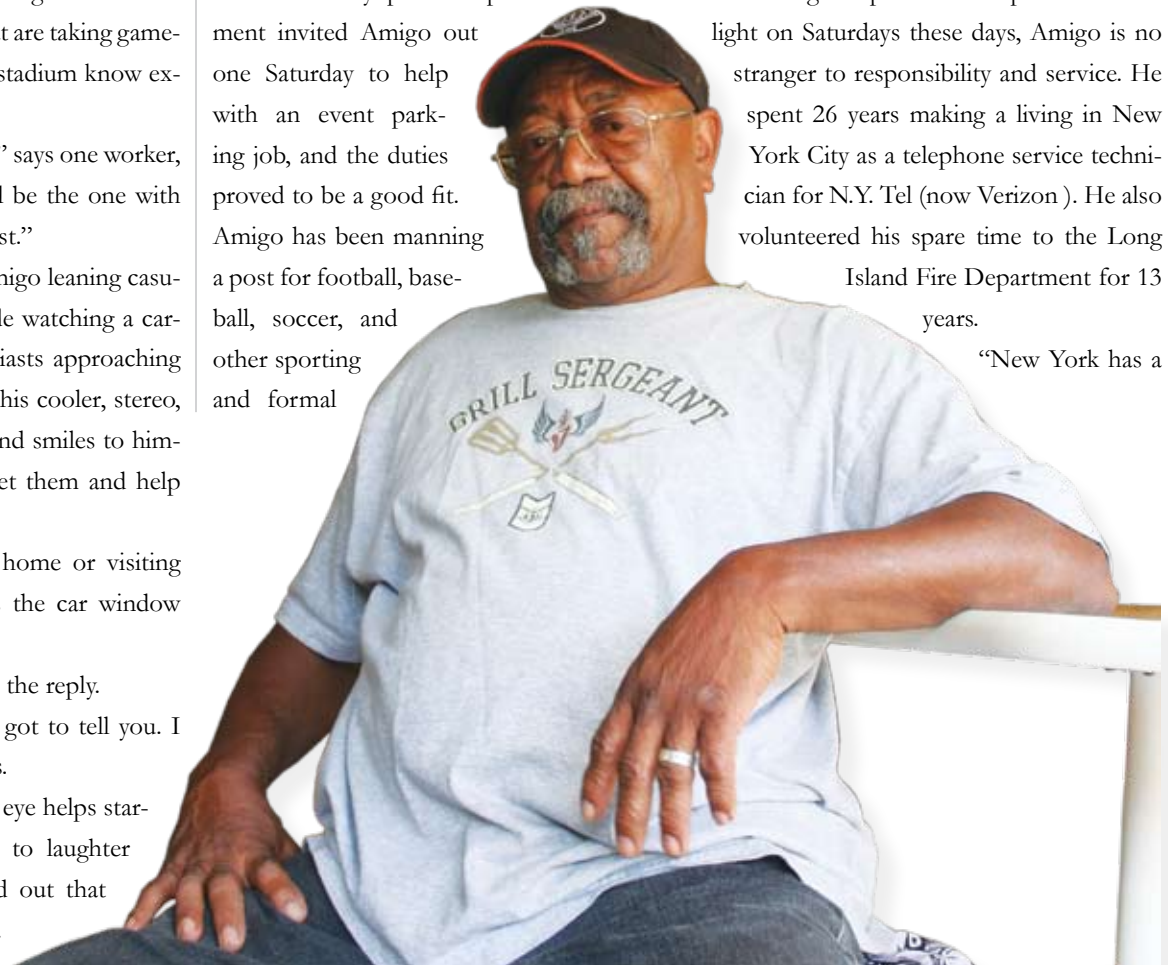
Amigo has been at work here parking cars for the college for the past few years. A friend and neighbor who works for the William and Mary police department invited Amigo out one Saturday to help with an event parking job, and the duties proved to be a good fit. Amigo has been manning a post for football, baseball, soccer, and other sporting and formal

events ever since.

"I didn't want the responsibility of running the whole show," says Amigo, who prefers his usual place in the shade and a chance to connect with area residents. "If they need me, they just give me a spot."

Although he prefers to keep his workload light on Saturdays these days, Amigo is no stranger to responsibility and service. He spent 26 years making a living in New York City as a telephone service technician for N.Y. Tel (now Verizon). He also volunteered his spare time to the Long Island Fire Department for 13 years.

"New York has a



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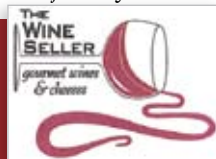
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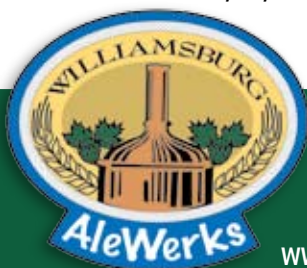
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fast pace, so it's multi tasking," Amigo says as he remembers his old days in the city. "It's no big thing. That's how it is."

While the Big Apple is not known for friendliness among strangers, Amigo developed an affinity for people while working for the phone company. He chuckles as he remembers some of the old friends he visited and served in the big city. Some of his service calls not only involved telephone repair, but running quick trips to the grocery store and even babysitting kids of more familiar customers while they stepped out briefly.

Amigo also carried his sense of humor with him during his volunteer work. His propensity for cracking jokes helped to lighten up some of the grim realities of working accidents for the fire department. It was his good nature that permeated the fire department that helped him earn his nickname "Amigo".

"I always play around with dialects," Amigo says. "I was one of the oldest guys they brought in. I used to come in and play with the Spanish accent all the time. I used to call the guys by their Spanish names. For some reason, they started calling me 'Amigo', and it just stuck."

Despite a strong work ethic, Amigo began to tire of life in one of America's biggest and busiest cities. His wife, Sandra, had family living in the Williamsburg area, and he recalls looking forward to leaving the big-city life behind as they visited the Historic Triangle once or twice a year. They both returned home to the city with wistful memories of their time here, and were quick to consider Williamsburg as a permanent residence when the time came for retirement.

As luck would have it, opportunity came knocking in 1995. After 26 years with the telephone company, Amigo retired and found himself in a moving truck headed south on I-95 toward a new life in Williamsburg.

"I'll bet I added five years to my life by coming down here," Amigo says, his New York Jets mini-grill sitting behind him by the car. Though all four of his kids (now grown) decided to follow him to the area, the transition from big-city life to life in a small town was not easy.

"Attitude...pace of life....social skills....I had to start all over again," he recalls.

Amigo now enjoys living in a community that he believes is friendly and trusting. He chuckles as he relates an experience he had soon after moving from New York.

"I was at the grocery store one day and a lady said 'good morning'," he says. Unaware that the lady might be speaking to him, Amigo continued on his way in silence. The lady pressed him a second time and said: "Excuse me. I just said good morning to you." Then

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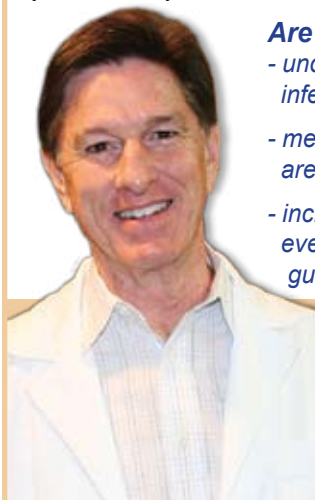
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it dawned on Amigo that he was living in a new place...with a new set of rules - ones that included a more relaxed pace of life, more waving at friends and neighbors from the car window, more time to stop and say a few words in passing, even to folks in line at the grocery store.

Pleasantly surprised, Amigo spoke kindly to his new acquaintance. "I am so sorry," he apologized. "Where I come from, I'm just not used to people being cordial. It's just not like that."

Reflecting on his past, Amigo is grateful for those who pointed him in the right direction growing up through a rough childhood that included segregation and integration in 1950's Baltimore, MD and Charlotte NC. "I'm young and old enough to remember all of that," Amigo says thoughtfully reflecting on past segregation in bus stations, restrooms and lunch counters. "That never had an impact on my life at all as far as how I view people."

Though his kids sometimes asked about the turbulent times of segregation and integration in the south, Amigo has remained positive in his responses and attitude. "I made sure they grew up without all of that nonsense," he says

Amigo is quick to point out that much of his success in life can be attributed to his wife, who was his childhood sweetheart. "I owe a lot to my wife of 48 years," Amigo says of Sandra. "She was always the rock that kept me grounded."

Twelve years after their decision to pack up and move to Williamsburg, Amigo has no problem talking to people in the store, on the sidewalk, or anywhere else - including his traffic post. It seems that his great sense of humor and positive attitude have made him a hit with many locals who stop to chat for a few minutes before heading off to the game.

"I love this," he says, as he prepares to fire up his grill. "I'm just a guy that's so glad to be here. Glad to be healthy. Things are going well with the kids. I'm enjoying some wealth that you couldn't buy. I am so, so blessed."

The trickle of sports fans continue to make their way toward the stadium through the light drizzle, and Amigo continues to joke and swap stories with locals and visitors alike.

"Come on," he says with a smile, "You call this work?"

As the next car approaches the roadblock, Amigo walks forward with a wink and a barely concealed grin. Will he do a little good-natured chop-bustin'? Probably. Will he tell them where to find a good spot to tailgate before the game? It's been known to happen. Will he make a directionally challenged sports fan's day a little better with his upbeat attitude and endearing sense of humor?

In a New York minute. **NDN**

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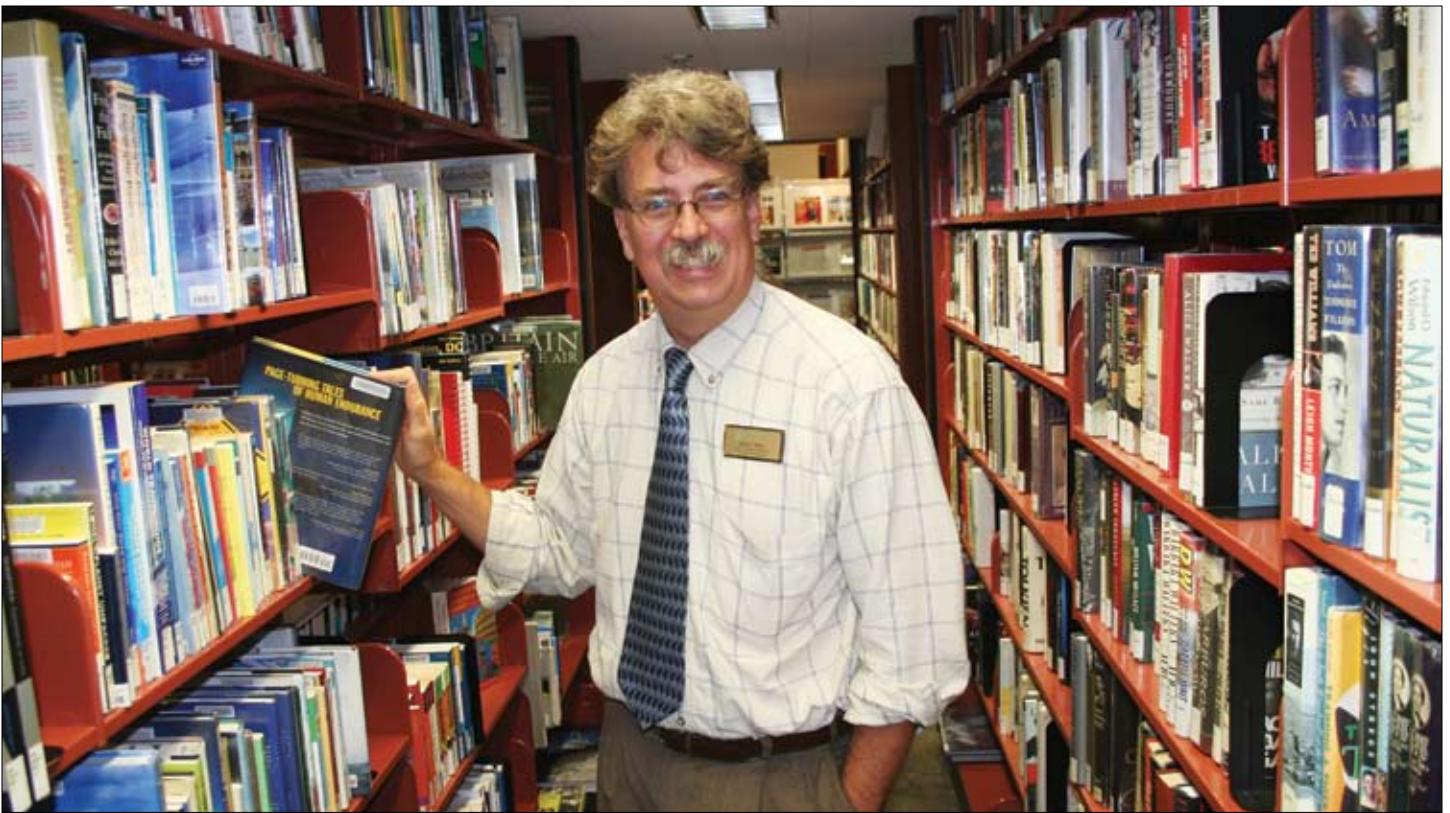


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Barry Trott The Answer Man

By Brandy Centolanza

Barry Trott, Adult Services Director for the Williamsburg Regional Library, believes his job is “an incredibly satisfying profession to be in,” though it is one that he almost didn’t pursue.

Barry graduated from the College of Wil-

liam and Mary with a degree in biology, intent on being a biology professor, but his career took a detour. Barry, also a musician, ended up working full-time for Colonial Williamsburg as a mandolin player, performing for more than a decade at their various taverns

and at events such as Grand Illumination.

When he decided to cut back on his hours as a musician, a librarian at Williamsburg Regional Library suggested library school.

“I thought it sounded very interesting,” he recalls. “I was looking for a new challenge. I

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never worked in a library before.”

Barry decided to attend The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC, near his hometown of Falls Church, VA to attain the education he needed to pursue his new passion.

“I just thought it was great, really exciting and fascinating,” Barry says of the learning experience. After graduation, he returned to Williamsburg and secured a position at the Williamsburg Regional Library, working his way up to his current position in 2001.

As adult services director, Barry supervises 13 librarians and three assistants as they oversee three aspects of the library: assisting those who use the library’s services, managing the selection and maintenance of the library’s adult collection in all mediums, and developing programming for the library that will be of interest to the community.

A big part of his job is assisting patrons with any help they need, whether it’s finding information, aiding with a school-related

project, or recommending a good book to read. Not only does he help them in person, but also by phone, email, instant messaging and text. Technology definitely is alive and well at Williamsburg Regional Library.

“We make ourselves as accessible to them as possible, to make it as easy as possible for users to get what they need,” Barry says.

Barry also heads the selection and maintenance of the library’s adult collection, including books, audio books, CDs, DVDs, and online databases. All materials are chosen based on reviews and on how well previous works by an author have fared, as well as the community’s interest.

“The community shapes a big piece of our collection,” he says. Barry receives close to 200 requests monthly, and purchases roughly 95 percent of what the public asks the library to buy.

Finally, his responsibilities also involve developing programming for the library, such as lining up talent for the Third Thursday

Series, a monthly program in which authors and other guest speakers often discuss topics related to the library’s collection. He also schedules basic computer classes for patrons, and arranges outreach services for those who are unable to come into the library.

“Our computer classes are the greatest demand,” Barry says. “We try to help folks who come in who may or may not be that computer savvy.”

Whatever the day may bring in the way of requests from those who seek knowledge and information within the walls of the library, one thing is clear. Barry loves his job.

“It’s never the same from day-to-day,” he shares. “There is always something new happening. One of the greatest pleasures of librarianship is helping someone find what they need. There also aren’t too many jobs where at the end of the day people have thanked you for doing your job.”

He credits his personal gratification and the success of the library’s ability to serve so





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many people in the community to Williamsburg's devotion to its library.

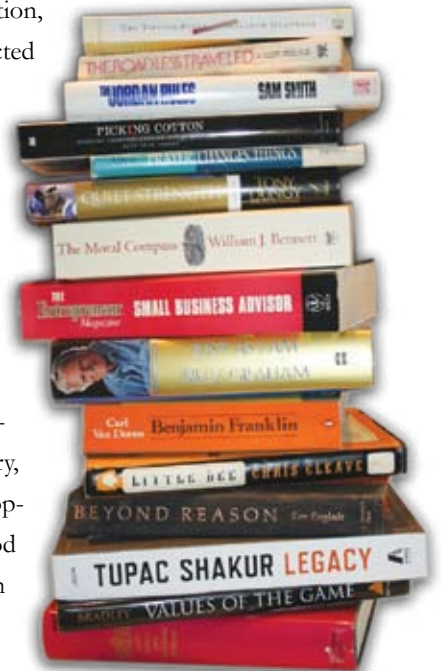
"The people here seem to really value their library," he says. "This community is so supportive of the library and that makes a huge difference."

Though being a librarian wasn't Barry's first career choice, books have always been a part of his life. His father's mother was a church librarian, and had some influence in his early life.

"Some of my very early memories are of books and reading," he says. "My family has always been 'readers'. There were always books lying around the house."

Barry is still surrounded by books, and he can't get enough of them. He's won numerous awards for his work and is a member of both the Virginia Library Association and American Library Association, having recently been elected president of ALA's Reference and User Services Association division.

He also travels nationwide to give presentations to other library employees about how to better connect readers with books. At Williamsburg Regional Library, he is involved with the popular "Looking For a Good Book?" program in which members establish an online reader profile and Barry recommends about a dozen books based on their interests as a reader. More than 700 profiles have been created since the program began.



Since 2004, Barry and his staff have also written half a dozen books on various topics, such as partnership development, running a small library, crime fiction, fantasy fiction, women's nonfiction, and book groups.

"We share our knowledge," he says. "It's our way of giving back to the profession."

Barry still performs at Colonial Williamsburg in a local quartet, *Runaway String Band*. His wife, Lynn, performs with him and shares in the joy of raising their daughter, Eleanor, a senior at Warhill High

School. The couple also enjoys gardening at their home in the country. They recently made 30 gallons of apple cider from their apple trees. "That was pretty cool," he says.

Just like his job.

"I enjoy the thrill of the hunt," he laughs good naturedly. "When you help someone find what they need, it really is an incredibly good feeling." NDN

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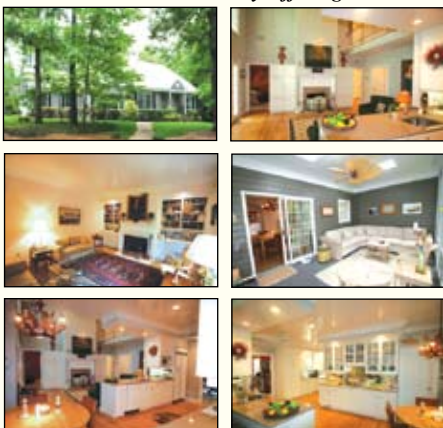
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Minh Giang

Service With A Smile

By Alison Johnson

The people who work with Minh Giang – and the customers who repeatedly request him as a waiter – notice that he almost always has a smile on his face. He is, they say, one of those somewhat rare types who seem completely content with life.

They are right. Minh has been through so much in his 48 years that his life feels like a dream come true. From making a death-defying escape by sea from Vietnam to spending a year in a refugee camp in the Philippines to building a long career in the American restaurant industry, Minh has grown used to hard work and attention to detail. His job now, as a server at Le Yaca in Williamsburg, is giving him the opportunity to watch his



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“My life, it is almost like a movie,” he says. “I am very appreciative of the life that has been given me.”

Minh prides himself on being part of a core team of servers at Le Yaca, all dedicated to passing on their extensive knowledge of French cuisine to customers. If he runs into a difficult patron, he doesn’t have much trouble staying calm.

“Patience is very important to being a good waiter,” Minh notes. “You have to be honest and grateful to the customers. You think about the customers first. You have to be friendly. They are very different skills from when you are working in a kitchen. But I am still learning as a waiter. I never stop learning.”

Early on, Minh learned he couldn’t have the life he wanted by staying in Vietnam. Under Communist rule, he lacked basic freedoms that Americans take for granted, in-

cluding freedom of speech and an opportunity for a good education. “The chances for success were very little,” he says. “Vietnam is totally different now, but that was a very complicated time.”

Minh was one of eight children born to

greatly against them. And they almost didn’t: Their small boat, carrying 134 people stalled at sea and drifted aimlessly for several days with no power. “We were packed in like sardines,” he remembers. “We had very little food or water. We were very scared. Even

“Patience is very important to being a good waiter. You have to be honest and grateful to the customers. You think about the customers first. You have to be friendly.”

- Minh Giang

a father who worked at a printing company and a mother who was a teacher but stayed home to raise her kids. When Minh was 21, he and a younger brother decided to attempt an escape from Vietnam. They had no idea if they would survive; in fact, the odds were

today I am still scared by oceans.”

Then, miraculously, a United States airplane spotted the boat from overhead and rescued its passengers. Minh and his brother landed in a refugee camp in the Philippines, where they lived with two cousins in a small



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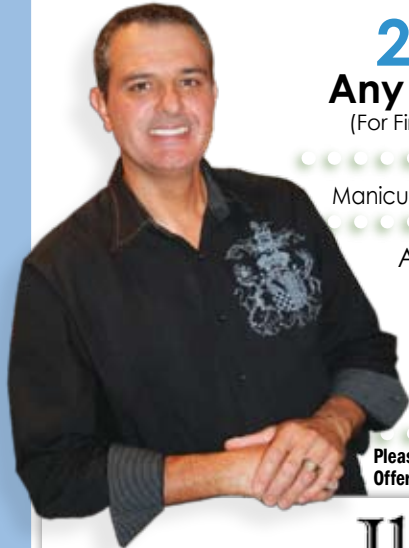
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shelter made largely from bamboo and leaves while waiting to travel to America. Again, food, clean water and medical supplies were scarce; Minh mainly ate fish and canned goods provided by the U.S. government. He didn't get sick, but many older people around him did. "It was a bit rough, and the water was not so clean," he says. "Some got upset stomachs and fever. But I was there only a year, so I was lucky."

Minh's first stop in America was Denver, CO where he arrived in October 1985. He began working as a busboy and dishwasher in a restaurant while he learned English. By the time he relocated to Richmond, he was good enough at the language to wait tables at a Chinese restaurant. He also reunited with the woman he would marry, Hien, whom he had met in school in Vietnam. Hien also had fled the country by boat but ended up in a refugee camp in Malaysia rather than in the Philippines. A chef, she would teach her husband much of what he knows about cooking.

In Williamsburg, the couple ran the local Vietnamese restaurant, Chez Trinh, for 13 years from 1990 to 2003. They eventually sold the restaurant and moved to Colorado for a year before deciding to settle back in Williamsburg. "Colorado was too cold for my wife," Minh laughs.

Minh, who also has worked at the WhiteHouse Steak & Seafood restaurant in New Kent County, has four children, ranging in age from 23 to 9. The oldest works in a nail salon and takes nursing classes at Thomas Nelson Community College. The second oldest is majoring in biology at the College of William and Mary and wants to become a doctor. The younger two are students at Lafayette High School and Rawls Byrd Elementary School.

"I love to see their success and think about their future," Minh says. "They are the reason for what I do. For them, I work hard."

That's certainly true, says Joy Abid, owner and manager of Le Yaca. Minh regularly picks up extra shifts and stays long hours at the restaurant, sometimes going home between lunch and dinner to take care of his children before heading back for a second shift.



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"I don't know anybody really like him," Joy says. "He is such a team player, and he will do anything needed to make something happen. He knows a lot about food and has a work ethic like none other. He is fast to get to a table and will take on more than his share."

Customers can appreciate how hard Minh tries, Joy adds. "He takes it personally if he runs into somebody he can't please," she

says. "He always has a smile on his face. He never complains."

Waiting tables gives Minh the chance to meet new people, practice his English, pass on his culinary expertise and earn a good income. "The hours are pretty long, but I am used to it and generally I am very happy," he says. "I have very nice people working all around me."

He also enjoys cooking at home, whipping

up Vietnamese dishes when he's off work.

Minh hasn't been back to Vietnam since he left; his close family members now live in Denver. While his wife has become an American citizen, Minh says he hasn't had time to take the classes he needs – although he'd like to someday soon.

"I am working hard now," he says. "It was my dream to be in America. I am so happy I am here." NDN



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Sylvia Ayala

definitely a
“PEOPLE PERSON”

By Alison Johnson

Long before she had a paying job in sales, Sylvia Ayala was racking up sales experience. In fact, she was just a young child when her grandmother sent her out to sell homemade empanadas – pastries stuffed

with meat – around their neighborhood in Guam.

“I can remember saying, ‘But Grandma, I’ve never sold anything in my life!’” says Sylvia, now 32. “She was like, ‘Oh, you can do it.

Just get out there.’ So I did. It taught me how to go up to new people – how to not be shy about saying hi and getting to know them. Now I love meeting new people. Every day I go to work, I never know who I’m going

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By Mike Hu



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to meet.”

Sylvia’s outgoing nature and desire to brighten customers’ days are crucial parts of her job as a supervisor at the Disabled American Veterans Thrift Store on Merrimac Trail. So are what co-workers call her strong work ethic and fighting spirit, which Sylvia has built during a life marked by unexpected and sometimes devastating turns, including the end of a 10-year-marriage to her high school sweetheart and the death of her infant son.

Originally from Guam, the island nation in the Pacific Ocean, Sylvia was the youngest of four children born to a father in the Air Force, who now works for NASA, and a homemaker mother. She loved life in Guam, where frequent social gatherings and cultural celebrations made the community feel like one big family. “When people would smell barbecue,” she remembers, “pretty much everybody would come.”

The family moved to the mainland United

States when Sylvia was 11. She graduated from Warwick High School in Newport News and she describes herself as a “geek” who kept her nose in the books. “That’s what my parents wanted,” she says. “They said not to worry about partying, but to focus on my education and have fun later in my life.”

Sylvia got married at age 19 to her first serious boyfriend, who joined the Air Force. The two were living in Philadelphia when, in Sylvia’s fifth month of pregnancy, she delivered a baby boy in their car while her husband was racing to get her to a hospital. Doctors told her the tiny baby, named Ramon, likely would die that night. Sylvia disagreed, and she was right: Ramon lived for five days.

“I said, ‘My son is part of me, and he’s going to fight,’” she says. “And he did. It hurts to think about him sometimes, but at the same time he is truly one of my heroes. I’m really so proud to have had him. Every time I want to give up on something, I think about him. I wear an angel pin for him on my shirt,

and I don’t go anywhere without it.”

But Sylvia felt lost when her marriage failed. She hadn’t worked during those ten years; she often had stayed home because she and her husband had only one car. Her mother, who had worked at the DAV store as a processor, was the one who got her an application form for an entry-level job there. Sylvia, who now lives in Williamsburg, started in May 2007 as a floor worker, putting out clothes and filling bins. She later learned to man the cash register and price the store’s wide range of donated merchandise, which includes clothes, books, knick knacks and furniture.

All of that experience helped make her a better supervisor, she feels. “If you don’t know what’s going on in the store, you’re not going to be able to lead,” she says. “I had to start from the bottom, but I think that’s good. How can you tell other people what to do if you don’t know how to do it yourself?”



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Sylvia generally works five afternoons a week, supervising a team of four or five workers on a 12:30 to 8 p.m. shift. One of her favorite parts of the job is interacting with a diverse group of customers. They are young and old, and some are struggling greatly with their finances or have lost everything in a disaster such as a fire.

"You have to like people to do this job," she says. "I like to smile and goof around and make people's days better. If you can brighten just one person's day – especially if they've been having a bad day – it's worth it."

Listening to customers is particularly important, she feels. Older customers often like to tell stories about their past, while younger ones may look for opinions on different outfits. She tries to learn

the names of the store's regulars – or gives them fond nicknames such as "Book Lady" for the woman who loves books and "Mail Lady" for the post office employee – and doles out hugs to those who want them.

"If you take the time to care and talk to people, they can become your best shoppers," she says. "They'll want to keep coming into the store."

Sylvia's personal pride in her work makes her shine at customer service, says Terri DeWitt, the manager who mentored Sylvia when she first came to the Williamsburg store. "She was always one wanting to achieve more, always willing to take that extra step," says Terri, now manager of a DAV thrift store in the Denbigh area of Newport News. "She was willing to get out there, talk to the cus-

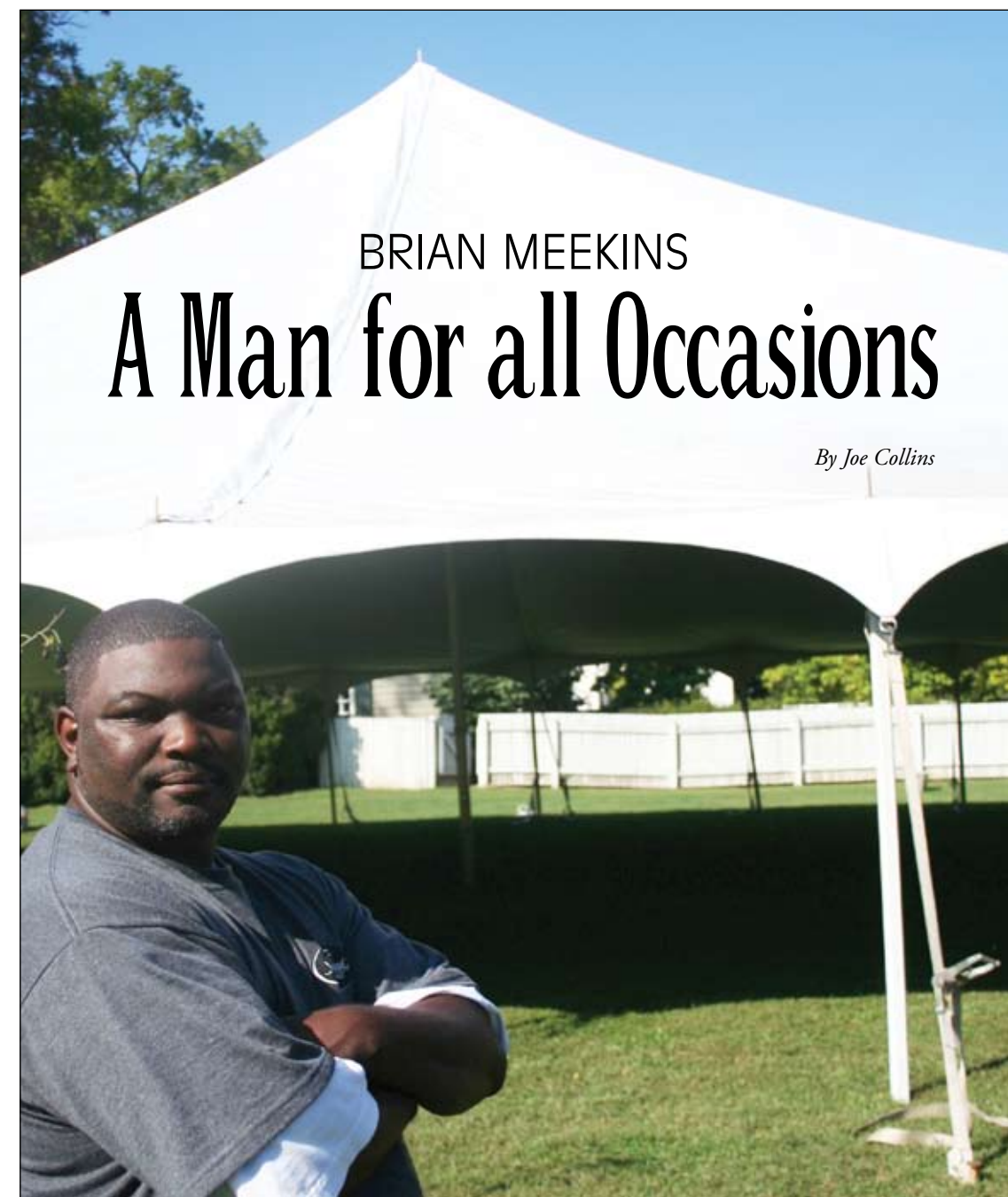


tomers and sell. She wasn't hesitant about approaching anyone to help them."

As for helping herself, Sylvia is taking on-line classes in business management through Ashford University in Iowa, studying after work and on her days off. She hopes to hold a managerial position someday or even own a business. "I still have a lot to learn," she notes. She blows off steam by fishing, hanging out with family and friends and watching football (the Manning brothers are her favorite players).

The DAV store is never far from her thoughts. In fact, she was putting in so much extra time that fellow employees recently banned her from the store when she was supposed to be off work.

"I just enjoy my job," Sylvia says. "The managers and the customers make it enjoyable, and we are all a real team. We're like a family. I never thought I'd be where I'm at now in my life, but I'm happy. I'm learning new things all the time." **NDN**



BRIAN MEEKINS A Man for all Occasions

By Joe Collins

For most of us, if we are lucky, every now and then a day at work may turn out to be a special occasion. But for Brian Meekins, every day he goes to work is an event. Or, to be more precise, it is an event once Brian and his co-workers at Williamsburg Event Rentals have done their job of converting the customer's backyard, parking lot, or pasture into a party site.

For over four years Brian has been helping customers throughout the area by taking a lot of the sweat and worry out of planning and hosting a special event.

"My primary job is driving and delivering items that have been ordered," Brian explains, "but I also help with setting up and placing tents, tables, chairs, dishes, and silverware and even putting together dance floors, lighting, and stages."

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Brian was raised in Toano and is a graduate of Lafayette High School. He was not really sure what he wanted to do for a living. Fortunately the right job found him. "I never chose a true career but when this came about it was like it came natural to me," Brian says.

"I never chose a true career but when this came about it was like it came natural to me." - Brian Meekins

"It's a great environment and it's a great job and the hard work is fine with me. This job is not for everybody, you really have to be ready to put your heart into it, which is fine with me too."

Brian now lives in Surry with his wife of ten years, 13 year old twins, a 13 year old

stepson, and a 9 year old daughter. "I try to spend time with them whenever I can," Brian says, explaining that he commutes to Williamsburg by ferry every day. "Sometimes the long hours don't allow and I get home with just enough time to crash for the night."

That routine is mostly due to the fact that events aren't usually planned on weekdays between 9 and 5 during normal work hours; Brian has to be prepared to work whenever and wherever the business dictates. "We don't have set schedules," Brian explains. "When Steve [Rose, owner of Williamsburg Event Rentals] says we're off, we're off. If he doesn't say that we come to work. Sometimes it can be seven days a week and sometimes it can be seven days a week for a month straight. It's always mostly steady, but spring and fall are the busiest times of all."

The biggest category of events they sup-

port is weddings followed by fundraisers and college events. They concentrate their business in the local area building strong relationships with many repeat customers. That makes their front men, the set up crews, extremely important to establishing great working relationships with those clients.

For Brian, taking care of customers' needs comes natural. Quiet and unassuming, even when pressed, he cannot recall an unpleasant encounter with a co-worker or a customer. "People are really friendly and we're a small company where everybody knows each other," he says. "It is a pretty friendly environment. I get to meet a lot of people being a delivery driver and by making small talk while putting up tents. They always seem really friendly."

There is plenty of time for small talk while the work is being done since putting up the tents can be a timely undertaking; from 45

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minutes to set up the smallest tent, 10' x 10' and weighing 30 lbs., to two and a half hours to put up the largest tent, a 60' x 90', 1,200 lb. behemoth. Add another hour and a half for four to five people to set up the inside and put on the finishing touches and you have a pretty full day that requires constant attention to detail. "If you follow the procedures it goes smoothly," Brian says. "Sometimes people will forget something like to put a pin in. With the tents we have a lot of tension on all the parts and it will pop out so we have to get up on a ladder and struggle to put it back in to make it safe and secure."

Even the most careful preparation is sometimes no match for the power of Mother Nature. "We had one of our biggest tents, the 60' x 90', on Jamestown Island right beside the river one time and during a heavy storm it literally just got destroyed," Brian recalls. "With the wind and the ground saturated

with water it didn't have a chance. There were tables and chairs completely under water and we had to get rid of them."

However, there are more memorable events than unfortunate ones by far, including one of the company's finest moments when they helped with hosting the visit of Queen Elizabeth II when she visited the area in 2007.

Storms, royal visits, parties, and every day deliveries - Brian takes it all in stride in his own quiet and easygoing way.

"We're a small company," Brian explains, "I'm sort of a field manager type, out here making sure the new guys know what they are doing. I'm not very verbal; I say what I have to just to make sure the job goes correctly."

Relaxed, friendly, and at your service; if you ever have the occasion to need Brian's services you can be assured it will be a special event. **NDN**

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Elizabeth Mead

Making Art by Experiencing the Space Where She Lives

By Sara E. Lewis

The environmental impact of consumerism is considered a problem, especially the tons and tons of plastic it produces, which makes its way to the world's oceans. Plastic never dies. At least not for a few thousand years, experts speculate.

An exhibit at the Mariners' Museum, *Mes-sage in a Bottle*, presents this problem in beautiful, large-scale photographs that seduce the viewer to look closely. The tiny parts that make up the whole are meticulous arrangements of the things we throw away, like the

billions of plastic cigarette butts or thousands of cell phones, as well as plastic bottles and more. The title of each work lists how many thousands or millions or billions of tons of each disposable item are discarded by people in an hour or a day or a week or a

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month, things that eventually make their way, in whole or in parts, to the world's oceans.

Several sculptures by College of William and Mary students dot the Mariners' Museum campus in support of the exhibit. Their arrangements of plastic and other recycled materials were created as an assignment for a class taught by Elizabeth Mead.

The sculpture professor had an environmental epiphany after visiting a very large dump near San Francisco, but environmentalism as such isn't behind her art or her teaching. Originally, she was inspired to pursue art by a very good high school teacher. After earning a Masters in Fine Art, she bounced around the nation and the world lecturing and exhibiting her work. It was exciting for the sculptor to explore new spaces and be inspired by all that cities offer.

"I think of myself as a sculptor, though I also draw and take photographs. Drawing is a way to resolve some of the complexity

of spatial relationships inherent in sculpture," says Elizabeth, who has been pleased to discover that Williamsburg is a good place to settle down. "It doesn't have the usual distractions of a city. After leading a rather peripatetic life for many years, Williamsburg seems to be the right fit for me."

In particular, she is happy to focus on natural elements that eluded her in the cities where she lived. She enjoys the lush landscape as well as birds, chiefly the big ones like vultures, red tail hawks, osprey, owls and bald eagles. Her big bird art is featured in the current Faculty Art Show at the Muscarelle Museum of Art at the college.

"I have a marvelous studio overlooking Lake Matoaka," Elizabeth says. "The focus of my most recent show is two twelve-foot by six-foot drawings of what it feels like to be in the trees I see out my studio window. The trees are like giant sculptures that envelope you."

The sculptor relates to nature's space. On walks along the James River, she notices that other natural features envelop us. "The bathers walking out for hundreds of yards, yet only submerged up to their waists, are another favorite site."

Far from being an environmentalist and lover of natural themes with an agenda, though, Elizabeth is doing what comes naturally to the sculptor. She is moving in and around the space where she lives, observing and using her observations in her art.

At William and Mary, Elizabeth is fulfilled to move in a space with so many curious and observant minds. "I have found William and Mary to be an extraordinary place to teach. My colleagues are supportive, interesting, engaged in exciting research, and committed to teaching." It's not surprising to learn that she has become involved in the university's interdisciplinary Global Inquiry Groups. Faculty members who are working on similar top-

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ics in different disciplines strive to integrate courses and thereby maximize the benefit for students.

Currently, she is working in a Global Inquiry Group focusing on mercury issues. "Our project creates an interdisciplinary portal through which to explore environmental hazards that transcend international boundaries," she explains. "This spring I am curating the exhibition *Unbearable Beauty: Triumph of the Human Spirit*, Photographs of W. Eugene Smith' at the Muscarelle Museum of Art." The exhibit complements the 2010 International Mercury Expo, to be held from April 22 to 25. "Burgeoning ecological perspectives have opened up for me a new way of thinking about my work," she adds.

The artist doesn't have an agenda as much as the artist is part of the agenda. "To recognize landscape as a place inhabited, a space of memory, is to acknowledge our ecological interaction with the world," she says. Elizabeth believes in an interdisciplinary and empathetic approach to teaching art that asks students to look at a problem in many different ways. Being interdisciplinary, she says, is essential to solving the problems that face us all.

Through their participation in the Mariners' Museum show, Elizabeth's students

learned about aspects of their contribution to achievement of this lofty goal. In her course *Spaces and Places: Near and Far*, students looked at information about the Museum grounds in photographs and online and planned sculptures for sites there that would echo the environmental theme. Then, the students took their sculptures to the museum to see how they related to the real space.

Were photographs alone sufficient to inform a work of art that would resonate with the space? Could they know all they needed to know by getting information second hand? Or is it better to experience the space? Of course, they learned that personal, hands-on research makes them smarter. Later, the students constructed a second sculpture. Different and better sculptures emerged.

"With the advent of the Internet and other digital technologies, the world, regardless of how far away it may be geographically, is always at our fingertips. This is both exciting and frightening," she says. "This project aimed to ensure that we always remember that nothing can replace the experiential and the phenomenological."

Elizabeth is teaching art students that in addressing environmental concerns or, for that matter, any other subject, their art must always answer to the formal elements. "If

the work is to resonate it must have those qualities intact," she says.

The W. Eugene Smith work to be exhibited as part of the mercury study, Elizabeth thinks, is powerful in this regard. "You have the subject matter, for instance mercury poisoning, then you have the powerful image," she explains. "The reason we look at the image is because it is so stunningly composed. If it wasn't a darn good photograph in the first place we would not be looking at it still. I think this is true for all work." Likewise, the intriguing compositions in the Mariners' Museum Message in a Bottle exhibit are darn good. Because they are good art, they contribute to viewer responses to all that plastic in our space.

Elizabeth always has a series of drawings and sculpture underway that explore without any preset agenda. Although interested in the intersection between art and science she says, "I understand the world through both my mind and my body. The world around me and the places I find myself all fuel what it is I do. I think my work will always be grounded in the phenomenon of being where I am, how I respond spatially, physically, metaphysically and how I remember those places and sensations will determine future directions." NDN

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Ramona Robbins Finding Her Voice

By Sara E. Lewis



The crowd of enthusiastic supporters in evidence when Ramona Robbins performs would be the envy of any artist. They smile and applaud their bluesy-alternative friend and make the rounds to promote the singer-songwriter's new CD, *Just a Girl*, while Ramona's alluring vocals fill up the space with rich tones shaped into catchy tunes.

Her compositions vary in pace from a peppy "Hey, Hey" to the hand-holding, slow-walking tempo of "Hometown."

Ramona sings all of her own work, but the sounds are absorbing and familiar; hearing it for the first time, listeners might be reminded of Norah Jones. From the sexy sound of "Learn You" to the emotionally-driven

"Clear," Ramona accompanies herself on piano or guitar and her band provides guitar, bass, and percussion.

Asked about her inspiration, Ramona gives credit where credit is often due: to mother. "I grew up listening to my mom sing and play piano," says Ramona. "She has a beautiful voice and sang at church a lot when I was

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growing up.” When she was three, Ramona begged her mom to let her take piano lessons. “She said I had to wait until I was four! Soon after starting lessons, I realized I could play by ear much faster and began making up little songs.” Ramona was frustrated to be hemmed in by reading and adhering to notation.

“I grew up listening to my mom sing and play piano. She has a beautiful voice and sang at church a lot when I was growing up.”

- Ramona Robbins

singing solo in front of others. “Most of my life, I never thought I was that great of a singer,” admits Ramona. “I also didn’t think I was much of a piano player since I had stopped taking lessons after a few years.”

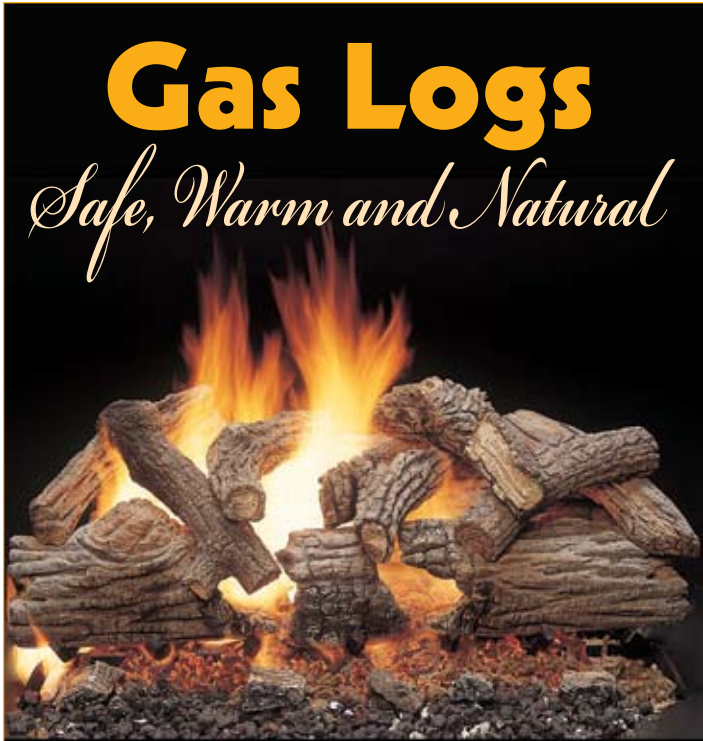
Ramona, whose family moved to Virginia when she was 11, has lived in Williamsburg since attending William and Mary. “I enjoyed singing in choirs and was a member of the William and Mary Women’s Chorus.” During her sophomore year a disappointment was the proverbial door that closed and window of opportunity that opened. “I tried out for an a cappella group and was rejected. It was the best thing that ever happened to me!,” she says. “I decided to get back into piano and began writing songs. I realized that I had my own style and I learned how to use my voice advantageously. With my mom’s help as a vocal coach, I also learned to strengthen my voice.”

All the while, she listened to a variety of music, but was most influenced by Norah Jones, Jewel, and Sarah McLachlan. “I have always aspired to reach their level of professionalism and technique,” says Ramona. But she’s taken bits and pieces from many genres. “Sometimes the music I write is pop, folk, jazz, a little bluesy and even a little bluegrass.”

Ramona has often sung with a band and played with friends at college events. While in college she also learned to play guitar and her piano skills improved. She had been writing poems since she was in high school, so it was just a matter of time before all of her talents began to merge.

A couple of years ago she started gigging with guitarist Tyler Weiss. She realized that teaming up with Tyler helped everything she’d written sound better. After a few months with Tyler, John Ha-gee joined them as drummer. “He helped us cultivate a fuller sound,”

Naturally, Ramona’s first performances were in the church choirs that her mother often directed. Although she loved to sing, it took a while for her to feel confident



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Ramona says. It's a sound that people started to notice. Finally, a few months later, Melissa Parris added bass to the mix. Melissa also plays a little ukulele from time to time.

"I'm so grateful to be working with all of them. They have been so supportive and easy to play with," says Ramona. "When I write a new song, they bring so much to the table and they make the music come alive with what they add to it."

Ramona feels that listening to lots of well-written music has been fundamental to her development as a musician. Her musical virtuosity is also a skill that comes in handy as a teacher at Stonehouse Elementary School. "There's nothing that quiets my kindergarten class faster than me tuning the

guitar," she says. "We always sing our morning songs with the guitar. I try to bring a few different instruments throughout the year like guitar,

piano, ukulele, and mandolin. It's fun and the kids love it!"

It's clear to Ramona that what the experts say is true: music benefits children in many ways. She sees music as giving some students the self-confidence they desperately need. The positive response from children encourages her to use music often and in the hallways her students can be heard singing their ABC's and Johnny Appleseed song daily.

Although Ramona receives good wishes for success from her friends, she's easy-going about what's next. She wants to yell at the television during shows like American Idol that make it seem that contestants have lost everything if they don't win and make it to the big time. "There are plenty of opportunities! If you really love making music, then you'll do it anywhere with anyone," she emphasizes. "Fame and fortune motivates some people to sing and American Idol draws many of those types. It's the wrong reason to be out there. Do it because you love it or go home!"

"Wherever my music takes me, I'm open to it," she concludes. "I would love to perform full-time someday and go on tour. In the meantime, I will continually be experimenting with my music and pushing my limits. I'm very thankful to everyone who's been supporting my endeavors to make music thus far." NDN

Visit Ramona's website at www.myspace.com/ramonarobbins to sample her songs. She performs on November 19 at Squires and on December 17 at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center.

"If you really love making music, then you'll do it anywhere with anyone."

- Ramona Robbins



Aging Appropriately

Dr. Kate Slevin
Explores Ageism in Society

by Greg Lilly, Lifestyle Editor

You can fight it with every weapon in your arsenal. But, no matter how well funded or creative, no one conquers aging. “It’s my most recent fascination,” Dr. Kate Slevin explains. “All these cultural messages about getting old and how they shape the aging experience.”

Dr. Kate Slevin, Chancellor Professor of Sociology at the College of William and Mary, began researching gender and aging in the 1970s. Originally from Ireland, Kate earned her undergraduate degree at University College in Dublin then completed her masters and doctorate at the University of Georgia. “In graduate school, my concentration was gender,” she says. “It was only some years later that I specialized in gender and aging. I had a colleague at the University of Richmond who was a gerontologist. He and I wanted to do a project together. We

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combined his interest in aging with my interest in gender and did our first study on retired women. I really found it fascinating."

Gender and aging had not been a subject of study until recently according to Kate. "I was a bit early," she says. "It was exciting, especially as a feminist scholar looking at aging. I was able to look at women in retirement in a way that most researchers had not studied them." Kate has three books published on gender and aging. She interviewed people in their sixties, seventies and eighties, discussing with them what it was like to grow older, to look older in a youth-obsessed culture.

"I think our culture is tremendously ageist," Kate says, "and getting more so. All the messages in the culture about defying aging, fighting aging, and really that you are a slothful and lazy person if you're not fighting aging – that's what fascinates me." Her study included both men and women, and although she found men under pressure by society to keep youthful, nothing compared to the demands on women. "The men were not as obsessed as the women, and understandably so," she explains. "There are no positive cultural messages about looking old, especially for women. Think about ageism and the prejudice against the old. I always tell my students that ageism is the only prejudice that everyone learns."

No one wants to be old and we're taught not to want to be what we will eventually become. Kate explains that the study's respondents (older Americans) repeatedly said that they prefer to be around younger people as opposed to older ones. Where does this universal attitude come from? How does it manifest itself? These are the types of questions Kate examines in her research and in her classes.

"I love the research and I love the teaching," Kate says. "William and Mary faculty are an interesting hybrid because we're not a big research university and we're not a small liberal arts college. For us, teaching, research and service are very much interconnected." Her classes and workshops tend to have waiting lists. Her students can relate to her concentration on gender and aging because they see their parents, grandparents, and eventually, themselves in the subject matter.

As we all face getting older, the tone of retirement seems to have changed. Kate explains that for most people, retirement is supposed to be a time for leisure, a time to enjoy the fruits of a lifetime of labor. "And yet truthfully," she adds, "old, affluent people spend more and more time working on their bodies, going to the gym, spending time trying to look more youthful. It becomes a new form of work in retirement. If we don't do that, then people say we've let ourselves go."

This is not just a self-perception issue. Society reinforces ageist attitudes. From her research, Kate documents women discussing how they begin to feel invisible as they age. "I've had a number of women talk about walking into stores, particularly to buy cosmetics, and the attendants would either ignore them or if there was a younger customer there, serve the younger customer first. So women are keenly

tuned in to the slights that come their way,” she says. Also, Kate finds the language we use contributes to the culture of ageism, phrases such as ‘a women of a certain age.’ “What does that mean?” she asks. “Why don’t we say ‘older women’? But we don’t like ‘old’ or ‘older’ so we have these euphemisms that really tell us a lot about how our culture feels about aging.”

There is a stage of acceptance. “Eventually, when the biological clock ticks to the point when you’re in your eighties and beyond,” Kate adds, “there is that point when fighting becomes ridiculous because the body wins.” The message from culture seems to be that you can choose to become old or not. With effort and money, you can get body parts replaced, you can get cosmetic surgery, you can work on your body in a variety of ways, but ultimately with the passage of time, it no longer helps. “And that’s where you see the insidiousness of the ageism,” she says. “It’s a losing battle.”

Perhaps it is a losing battle that we shouldn’t fight. Kate says the healthy attitude is to face facts. “Find ways to accept, as positives, that aging is inevitable. We want to stay healthy,” she says. “But, don’t obsess about aging in a negative way.” Her advice is to stay busy doing things you enjoy. “If you have a lot of time on your hands and you’re looking in the mirror, that’s a recipe for bad news,” she says. “But, if you don’t have a lot of time on your hands because you keep busy giving to others and contributing to your community, that’s a recipe for a healthier and more fulfilling old age.”

Physically, our aging bodies begin to slow down, we get heavier, key functions such as sight, smell and taste diminish, but attitude is still under our control. “There are a lot of physiological changes growing older,” Kate says. “How we deal with them is part of the challenge of living.”

The challenge may be more difficult for people who have had their appearance praised by culture most of their lives. “I think the struggle to accept aging may be easier for women who weren’t particularly gorgeous or didn’t care whether they were or not - and didn’t get recognition,” she says. Societal recognition plays into an individual’s perception and subsequent ease of accepting the changes that come with age. “For example, I interviewed a woman, a lesbian, in her sixties who had had three cosmetic surgeries,” Kate explains. “She was a very active feminist. I asked her about it. When she told her life history, it made sense. She had been a homecoming queen, and physical beauty had been important to her, and it continued to be. Contrast that with women who weren’t beautiful as young women. They found satisfaction and self-esteem in other places. When the looks fade, it’s much less painful. I want to look at that in more detail.”

As Kate’s research continues, she offers sage wisdom from those who have survived gray hair, wrinkles, stiff joints and a few extra pounds. “In my studies, my eighty-year-olds, almost universally, say the same thing: ‘I’m thrilled to be alive. I’m enjoying life. I’m able to get around.’ They’re very grateful for what they have, not for what they’ve grown past.” NDN

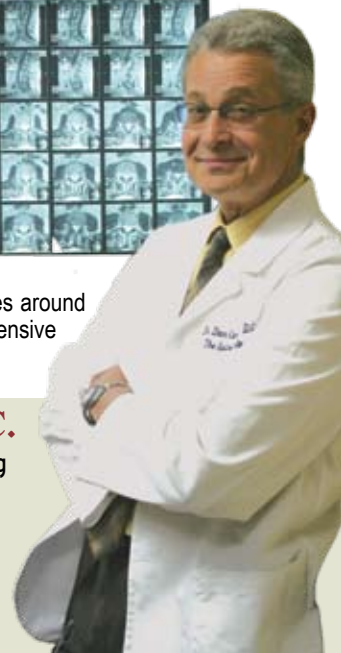
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PEACE *of* MIND

Margaret Mondul
 Organizes Critical Household Documents

by Greg Lilly, Lifestyle Editor



Household document management could denote different things to different people, but Margaret Mondul found the process to mean ‘peace of mind’. Margaret and her husband, Steve, moved to Williamsburg in 1992. After Margaret’s career in the Navy and in the private sector, she stretched her arms around the community and became involved in organizations and groups such as the James City County Water Conservation Committee, Master Gardeners, Senior Services Coalition, and the Peninsula Task Force on Aging. A common topic of discussion among her friends and associates was the need to begin helping their parents with financial matters and organizing legal concerns. “My friends were considering – or were in the process of – moving parents to Williamsburg to help care for them,” Margaret explains. “Or, sadly, they were settling estates.”

This reality hit home when Margaret’s parents decided to update their wills. “About four years ago, my parents asked if I would be their back-up executor,” Margaret says. “Having listened to all the horror stories from friends, I agreed but said ‘You know we have to have the conversation. It’s an intergenerational issue where parents don’t talk to their children about money, and children do not like to talk to their

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parents about money, or inheritable assets. But at some point it has to be done." The uncomfortable conversation about end-of-life planning and decisions could not be avoided.

Not knowing where to start, Margaret's planning and logistics skills from her Navy career and her private sector banking and insurance experience prompted her to investigate the best way to do this.

"I thought since millions of people have been executors, there must be a class I could take on what needs to be done," she says. "There isn't one. Then I thought I could find it on the Internet. There's lots of information about duties and liabilities, but little help on the right questions to ask your parents."

She began to make a list of things that she would need to know. The two main questions for each item were: Does this information exist? And where is it? Legal and financial documents could be scattered throughout drawers, filing cabinets, shoeboxes, safe deposit boxes. The possibilities were endless and she knew she needed to organize things to make life easier for her parents and for her.

"By the time I finished," she adds, "I had a list of over 85 documents that I defined as critical family documents." She was able to work through the list and organize the information into one storage place. She used a fire-proof, water-proof, safe box filled with file folders. "One accessible place," she says.

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Q & A

An Interview with Frank Hughes

PRESIDENT OF WILLIAMSBURG AREA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

Email Frank at info@waarealtor.com

Frank, when it comes to the health of the local real estate market - are we there yet?

HUGHES:

Yes, Williamsburg, forgive the takeoff, we are almost there. The conclusion of the upcoming holiday season should coincide with the end of the housing decline we've been experiencing. The statistics that follow clearly indicate that the worst is behind us, and early 2010 should see the beginning of a stabilized housing market, followed by small, incremental sales increases.

For those readers who are waiting to "time the market," I suggest you act now because you may have already missed the nadir of our local housing decline.

James City County, which represents almost 65% of the Williamsburg area housing statistics, showed a sales

decline of only 4.6% for June through August, compared to a 19% year-to-date sales decrease and a 29% decrease for 2008. Pending sales, the barometer for future closed transactions, reflected a 13% increase for the same time frame. Inventory levels, another integral component to a balanced market, are 4% lower than last year.

Another positive sign has been increased sales in the \$400,000 to \$600,000 price range, heretofore having experienced extremely slow activity. Almost 50% of their sales this year have closed in the last three months.

I still believe there will be continued price contractions, although not to the extent we have previously witnessed. Your home, if it has been maintained, shows well, and is priced correctly, will have activity within a relatively short period of time. Obviously,

substantial inventory levels in your price point or neighborhood will control your days on market.

This is my final column as president of the Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors®. My successor, Kathy Chambers, will continue to provide you with insight into our local housing market as well as with timely, pertinent information which a seller, buyer, or interested party will find useful.

One final thought: Realtors® are professionals, schooled and trained to assist the public in a myriad of real estate issues. Use their expertise before the process becomes too uncomfortable or documents are signed. Find a Realtor® who will become your "trusted advisor" on all real estate matters. It will be a call or e-mail you'll be glad you made.

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Home

ering the documents was a process, I think it took a lot of the emotion out of it for both my parents and for me," she explains. "These are documents that I needed to know how to find."

She explains that her father, who had been in the Navy too, had set up the household finances like many military families did in his generation. "He did his part of the finances," Margaret says, "and my mother did the household part. They didn't even talk to each other about what they did. This project allowed me to pull that together." With the documents collected and organized, both parents saw the overall picture of their legal and financial plans.

Once through this process with her parents, Margaret talked to her friends who had gone through the same collection process with their parents then she consulted lawyers and financial planners for input. She created a sturdy list of documents and a proven method that she uses to assist other people in organizing their household documents.

She's found that the age group that shows the most interest in organizing personal documents is the fifty to sixty-something-year-olds who have gone through an event with their parents and struggled to find the most up-to-date information. "They don't want to leave a mess for their children," she explains.

A word of caution Margaret offers is: "The process isn't just a matter of finding the information and filing it; you need to read it. You need to read your insurance policies so you know what you have; you need to look at your bank accounts to make sure they are set up properly so that things transfer the way you think they will transfer; you need to look at your investment accounts and make sure the beneficiaries are correct." Are primary and secondary beneficiaries appointed? Many people set up financial accounts so that they pass between husband and wife, but don't consider that something may happen to both of them at the same time. "Then everything gets dumped into this huge probatable pile that has to be sorted out," Margaret adds.

Legal and financial documents are living things. People acquire documents at different stages of their lives, ensuring that the facts and figures are correct at the time, but as circumstances change, so do the needs and wants that have been documented. Margaret stresses to look at all of your documents for consistency and understanding. "Is the document still doing what you want?" she asks.

She advises everyone to review all critical documents such as wills, trusts, insurance policies a minimum of every five years. "Or when there is any substantial change to your life," Margaret adds, "such as births, marriage,

deaths, divorce, re-marriage, moving. Those are always triggers for reviewing documents."

A document that everyone must have is a birth certificate. "In this day and age," Margaret says, "people need to find their birth certificates and confirm that it's a valid birth certificate. Documents that people used be able to use for identification are no longer accepted." She says the same for a real marriage certificate. "Thirty percent of people do not have a valid copy of their marriage certificate," she explains. "It is not the document that the church gives you; the marriage certificate is a state document. You have to have it to claim Social Security and other marriage benefits."

The big three documents that she recommends everyone gather and keep in a safe place are: Birth Certificate, Marriage Certificate, and some estate planning document like a will or a trust. "You do not want to die intestate in the Commonwealth of Virginia," Margaret warns.

Another bit of advice from her experience is to encourage everyone to document some type of end-of-life guidance for their families. "Just one piece of paper," she stresses. "During that very traumatic period of time, the more information you can provide to your loved ones, the better. Knowing your wishes truly makes a huge difference."

Although having *the conversation* with your loved ones may be difficult, Margaret encourages everyone to update and organize their important household documents. Your peace of mind is worth the effort. **NDN**

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Hey Neighbor!

There are more community announcements for this issue that did not fit on this page.

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

Hey Neighbor!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR FISH

The Williamsburg Area Association of Realtors® is requesting donations for clothes and bedding for FISH. The drive runs through October 30th. If anyone would like to donate items they can drop them by the Association office at 5000 New Point Rd., Suite 1101, anytime between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm Monday – Friday.

Hey Neighbor!

AVALON FUNDRAISERS

October 23, 29 and November 5, 2009

Several area businesses will be donating a percentage of their profits to Avalon on the dates above. To find our more contact Kim at 258-5022 or kim@avaloncenter.org.

Hey Neighbor!

CELEBRATE FALL AT THE LIONS CLUB APPLE FESTIVAL

October 24, 2009

Held from 10 am to 6 pm at the Gazebo in New Town. There will be fresh-picked apples from Winchester, Virginia; Apple Cider, Apple Butter, and Caramel Apples will all be available. Brooms made by the Blind will be for sale and the New Town Lions Club Cook Book, which is hot off the press, will be offered. Live music & food vendors. Rosewood Vineyards wine tastings. For more info contact us at www.newtownlionsclub.org/apple.html or call Lion Dal at 757-259-6878.

Hey Neighbor!

OLIVE BRANCH CHRISTIAN CHURCH ANNUAL CWF FASHION SHOW

October 24, 2009

The Christian Womens' Fellowship presents

its annual Fashion Show, Luncheon, Country Store, Silent Auction and Quilt and Afghan Raffle. Begins at 11 a.m. and luncheon will feature the "famous" chicken salad as served in years past. Luncheon cost is \$20 and chances on the quilt and Afghan are \$1. For information contact Nancy Griffith at 566-3604 or Shirley Harrison at 566-8422.

Hey Neighbor!

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP SERVICE CLASS

Retirees Making a Difference! Community Leadership Service (CLS) is a robust, interactive and in-depth exposure to the Historic Triangle's leaders and institutions. Join other people of retirement age for nine classes (1 day each week in February and March) where you will explore, among other things: The local economy, history of the area, the hidden side of Williamsburg, local governance, education, arts and culture, courts and public safety, health and human services. Visit our website for more information at www.williamsburgcc.com/members/cls/ Or contact us at (757) 229-6511. Application Deadline: November 30th, 2009.

Hey Neighbor!

AMERICAN RED CROSS 7TH ANNUAL BOARD & FRIENDS BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

October 31, 2009

9 am to 10:30 am at the Garden Pavilion at Ford's Colony. Attend a fundraising breakfast and learn about your local chapter, Colonial Virginia Chapter. Special Guest Speaker: General Anthony Zinni of the United States Marine Corps (Retired) Special Appearance by the Williamsburg Christian Academy Middle School Orchestra. RSVP by October 23, 2009 1317 Jamestown Road, Suite 105, Williamsburg, VA

23185 253-0228 or Email: hharmon@cvc-redcross.org

Hey Neighbor!

THE 2ND ANNUAL AMERICAN JUKEBOX

November 5, 2009

From 6:00 – 10:00 pm at The Settlement at Powhatan Creek. Food, Fun, Dancing, Football & Door Prizes to Benefit the Local Chapter of the American Red Cross. \$40 per person / \$75 per couple / \$280 per table of 8. Beer and Wine for Purchase. Music by Slapwater. For information and tickets call Heather Harmon 757.253.0228 or hharmon@cvc-redcross.org.

Hey Neighbor!

WASHINGTON DC BUS TRIP

November 5, 2009

The Woman's Club of Williamsburg is sponsoring this bus trip departing from Monticello Marketplace no later than 7 a.m., to tour our Nation's Capitol, lunch at Phillip's Seafood Restaurant, and then tour the Freer Gallery. The visit to the historic U.S. Capitol begins at the Visitor Center, with soaring spaces and skylight views of the Capitol Dome. The cost of this all inclusive trip is \$80 per person. For further information and security requirements to enter the Capitol, contact Shelia Mackasek, 757-565-7311.

ATTENTION NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS!

Please email heyneighbor@cox.net
on or before Tuesday, November 3rd
to be considered for inclusion in the

November 19th issue of
Next Door Neighbors.

2009 Alzheimer's Memory Walk

Saturday, November 7th at the Williamsburg Community Center

Registration at 9:00 am at the CW Community Center...Walk starts at 10:00 am ; Walk 2 blocks or 2 miles...it is up to you ; NEW THIS YEAR...raise only \$20.00 and you will receive a free T-Shirt! ; A moving tribute area for honoring and remembering our loved ones with Alzheimer's ; Special Children's tent with activities planned by the Junior Women's League including face painting and clowns ; Dog-friendly walk with treats for your furry friends ; Antique Car Display from the Colonial VA Model A Club ; Cheerleaders and Music to rev you up ; Yummy goodies to eat and free coffee provided ; Lots of door prizes and giveaways! **For more info, call 757-459-2405.**

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