

CHESAPEAKE *Style*

PRICELESS

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Serves and Celebrates the Chesapeake Bay Region and its People, Past, Present and Future

Fast Times on the Rivers

Take time to smell the flowers, we said. I am grateful to wake up and see out my windows, color—remnants of pink, white and fuchsia azaleas, mountain laurel in full bloom, yellow daffodils, columbine, native orange and yellow, and one, a deep purple. The view changes as the seasons change. Today there was the first daylily, orange. Later there will be mimosa, beauty berry, winter berry, but always green!

The world is too much with us; late and soon,...

So might I, standing on this pleasant lea,

Have glimpses that would make me less forlorn;

Have sight of Proteus rising from the sea;

Or hear old Triton blow his wreathèd horn.

The World Is Too Much With Us by William Wordsworth - 1770-1850

I record TV programs I want to watch. I can skip ads, especially those about the virus. Even the TV channels boast they will have the latest updates—and the damnable graphic glares in living color!

Our senses are bombarded, battered, assaulted, harassed on all sides, every minute, every day about the virus.

There is no break.

I try to ignore this, but it rudely penetrates my unwilling brain, and when I wake up at night the cursed word pops into my head.

The media won't let go! Over and over the words are cut up, minced by razors, to force feed our palates with information regurgitated like a bird feeds its young.

Now we have the virus and the latest Distraction of the day, week or month.

I need a break. I only want to watch the news to see the weather...but I can do that online.

It's time to feed our souls. How? Maybe nature, flowers, feed your soul, a walk in the woods.

Music feeds my soul.

DISH network has a plethora of channels with only music 24/7. No talking ever! No commercials ever! So an hour before I go to bed, I tune to my favorite channels, play solitaire, and feed my soul.

You can too. Most networks have music only channels. Find them on DISH, 892-981.

Maybe it's time for

...Still like that old time rock'n' roll

That kind of music just soothes the soul

I reminisce about the days of old

With that old time rock 'n' roll...

Or ask Alexa to play 'Round Midnight by Miles Davis, Thelonious Monk, Ella Fitzgerald, Wes Montgomery,

Find out what feeds your soul.

It's time.

Flowers, Masks And Poetry

By Dr. Jane Park Cutler

"I think that I shall never see

A poem lovely as a tree."

Do students still memorize poetry or is only those of us "of a certain age" who can still recite Joyce Kilmer's poem? During these "stay at home" days of March and April (perhaps longer), poetry and nature, especially our Spring trees and flowers lift our spirits. Is anything more lovely than a blooming dogwood or cherry trees?

Style f

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Chesapeake Style

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About the cover~

Dr Jane Park Cutler is a retired social worker who spent her career concerned about the emotional well-being of clients, students and society in general. She, her husband Gordon and precious dog Cotton moved to Deltaville twelve years ago to enjoy small town life and sailing on The Bay.

When the COVID-19 virus began to spread across the world, she gathered the requisite masks (thank you, 3M and Deborah Figg), hand

sanitizer and disposable gloves.

It was flowers, nearby waters and the words of poets across the centuries that gave her solace.

She enjoys sharing photographs of her flowers and other gifts of nature, as well as her yard sculpture Luna and, of course, the many moods of the water with friends to lighten the burdens we all carry during these uncertain times.

Flowers, Masks, Poetry in *Style*

By Dr. Jane Park Cutler



This single blue iris brings to mind Mary Olive's poem *Praying*. Might each of us choose to go into the silence to find new depths of gratitude, even as we sacrifice our normal routines? Might this enforced solitude be a gift for us to pause and patch together our own words?

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch
a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.



What a treat to see this tiny bee noshing on the apple blossom!
Wearing masks and gloves and missing friends and family
is not what we anticipated for this Spring. Yet the honeybee
continues its work, apple trees bloom and we can find JOY in our
anticipation of luscious apples and happier times in the near future.
Horatio Alger Jr certainly loved his apple orchard, as do I!

For is not this the rare, sweet time,
The blossoming time of the year?
I lie on a couch of downy grass,
With delicate blossoms strewn,
And I feel the throb of Nature's heart
Responsive to my own.
Oh, the world is fair, and God is good,
That maketh life so dear;
For is not this the rare, sweet time,
The blossoming time of the year?



Style Spotlight~Menokin Road Farm, The Barn That Love Built



By Martha M. Hall

There are many kinds of love, and many ways of expressing love. One of the tenderest kinds of love is that of parents for children. Nowhere is this expressed more beautifully than by the barn Keith and Janie Peyton built so their daughter Erica could have the wedding she dreamed of.

Complicated by her fiancé's deployment schedule and other logistical issues, Erica's summer wedding had to be rescheduled for December, and her dream of a country wedding seemed further thwarted by her inability to find an affordable site. That's when her father, the fourth generation to occupy Menokin Road Farm, decided, with the help and encouragement of his family, to build a barn on the Farm property as the

venue for Erica's wedding.

Constructed of locally sourced pine and poplar, the Barn is the work of many hands, all dedicated to giving Erica the wedding of her dreams. Keith told me that construction was truly a family affair. "I was blessed that my 82 year old father, a lifelong contractor, helped me with so much of the work." That work consumed every bit of their free time for the six months prior to the wedding. Keith, Assistant Minister at a local church,

and Janie, a Special Education teacher, worked all day at their regular jobs, and built at night. "We were still installing hardware the morning of the wedding!" Janie told me. "I am still amazed that we did this."

After Erica's wedding, the Peytons received inquiries from other couples looking for a country setting, and they soon built up an unexpected but very welcome business. Since Erica's wedding, Keith and Janie have provided their Barn as a setting for many couples' weddings, as well as birthday gatherings, anniversary celebrations, and corporate meetings.

Large and airy, the Barn is made for quick setup and cleanup, and is easily customizable. "We have an assortment of decorative items that we can make available," Keith said. "We have everything from an arbor for an outdoor ceremony to windows that can serve as

photographic backdrops or places to display seating assignments.

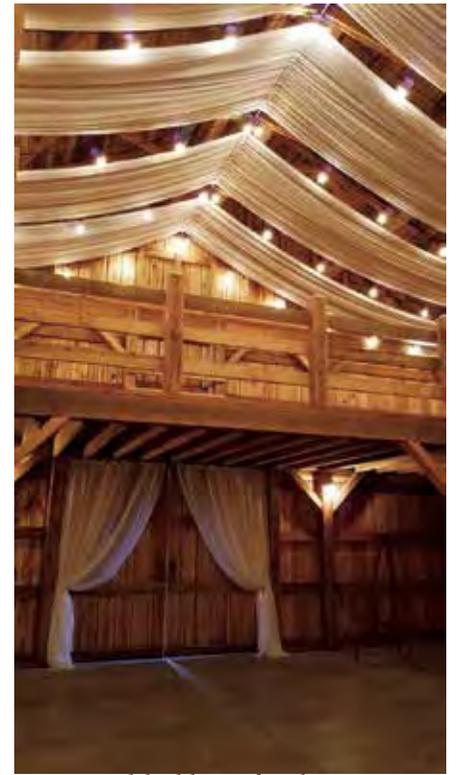
Erica used the fireplace mantel that her great grandmother was married in front of as the centerpiece for her wedding, so we have that available as well. We also have wine barrels and wooden crates, and of course, people who rent the Barn are free to decorate to suit their own tastes."

Although Janie was quick to say that they didn't involve themselves with any wedding planning—"We just help to park the cars"—it was obvious as we talked that she has gained a lot of ideas and insights into ways to help a couple decide on décor, table placement, and general logistics.

"One of the things that we enjoy about this business is that we get to deal with happy people," Janie told me. "Weddings and other kinds of celebrations are joyful occasions, and we like to be able to work with people who are excited about what they are planning."

The Barn's construction is simple, but spacious, with an almost magical, ethereal feeling: the high ceiling is lit by strings of small lights, and suspended from the rafters are filmy white hangings offering a soft counterpoint to the wooden walls. "We can handle about 120 people inside the Barn, but an event can be somewhat larger if the outside space is utilized for catering or group activities. We encourage folks to consider realistically their planned activities when they are trying to calculate if our venue will accommodate them."

"Every barn needs a loft," Keith told me, as we went up a wide staircase to the half floor over the main space. "We can accommodate 32 guests up here, and it's a nice gathering place. It's also a great place for pictures," he said, opening the loft window. The green pastures beyond would indeed make a lovely backdrop for pictures, and the window contributes to the Barn's sense of expansiveness.



As an added benefit, the Peytons have converted the walkout basement at their house into a Bridal Suite where the bride and her attendants can gather before the service. It is decorated with sofas, full length mirrors, and a makeup bar with lights, and pictures of previous Barn events are displayed to give prospective clients ideas for their own occasion.

The Peytons believe "In a world where you can do anything, celebrate love," and at Menokin Road Farm, they do just that.

Contact the Peytons at www.menokinroadfarm.com, email at wkpeyton@gmail.com, call them at 804-761-9429, or follow them on Facebook at Menokin Road Farm. *Martha Hall photos.*



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Chesapeake Style Magazine

Style Spotlight~Taking Title to Property is Complex Procedure

By Mari Bonomi

Everyone who's bought or sold property has needed a title and escrow agency like River Title and Escrow, LLC.

How many of us know, however, what goes on behind the paperwork? And during the 2020 pandemic, some of the ways in which clients and the agency interact have changed.

As Rawleigh Simmons explained, River Title and Escrow organizes closings for purchases, sales, and refinances on both residential and commercial properties.

Rawleigh spelled out the steps in the usual procedure.

First, the agent receives an "executing contract," meaning a contract fully signed by all parties involved—everyone who has agreed to the terms of the sale from one party to the other.

The next step, Rawleigh said, is title examination. The examiner goes to the courthouse and checks back through all the chains in the title listed in index books—indexes of all buyers and sellers in the chain of title, meaning every instrument related to the property in question. Some of the elements besides sales that might show up are liens, grants of easement, estate issues, or judgments.

Most searches go back either 40 or 60 years in the indexes general warranty deed, which can go back generations in the same family. The purpose is to make sure there are no liens or impediments to the transfer of ownership recorded against the property.

Once documents are signed and money has arrived in the trust account, the agent goes to the county courthouse and records the deed and, if there is a loan, the deed of trust. Once the deed is recorded with the clerk, the new owner owns the property. Post-COVID-19, the agent meets the clerk at the door and

hands the documents over, and then waits outside for the clerk to return the documents.

If there is an impediment to the title preventing final settlement, the seller needs to find a way to solve the problem that will satisfy the title insurance writers. The seller turns to an attorney or title agent to do this.

"Most people don't realize the plethora of title problems you can come across," Rawleigh said.

"Most titles don't have a problem; some have easily solved problems, like a missing signature or estate documents." In that case, the agent gets documents recorded with the court clerk to show that the ownership was properly transferred from the decedent.

One example of a total failure of title, which Rawleigh said was "unusual but it happens," was "a bank



loan that was made improperly. When the bank foreclosed on the property and went to resell it, the bank discovered that it didn't actually own the property." The deed was in both husband's and wife's name, but the mortgage loan was made only to the husband, and the wife never signed it. The husband and wife as a married couple still owned their property because the bank had no right to lend money with only the husband's

signature on the Deed of Trust.

Rawleigh said, "If people purchased that property without a title search and insurance, they'd never have known that they also did not own the property until they went to sell it. At that point the problem was theirs."

Buyers need to know the state of the title before paying for the property, which is why they need to get buyer's title insurance, not just lender's title insurance, Rawleigh said. Even if the title examiner does a bad title examination, the insurance issuing company is responsible

for solving the problem, up to the amount of face value of the insurance.

Rawleigh was born and raised in Irvington and was part of Dunton, Simmons, and Dunton, concentrating in real estate. "In 30 years as a lawyer, I saw five claims. Four were survey errors; the fifth was faulty title examination, where the examiner missed issues with deeds of trust," Rawleigh said.

He no longer practices law since he retired and bought the title agency with partners. "It's difficult to practice law without transgressing Bar Association requirements. I can't work on anything that might relate to issues involving titles the title agency is dealing with."

The coronavirus pandemic has changed his procedure. "We try to do the search online, but not every county has all the land records scanned and available online," Rawleigh said. If the sellers have an owner's title insurance policy dated after the online records begin, the complete title search is possible. If the search cannot be completed, the closing is on hold until the records room is reopened.

With COVID-19, closings are done curb-side, Rawleigh said. "But we still work to see our clients' needs are met."

River Title will move its offices in July to 219 Main St in Warsaw. Their phone will remain 804-333-0195.

Mari Bonomi photo.




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Style Spotlight~The Grown-ups Toy Store



so we headed for the conference room where we met two of the most delightful ladies we had ever encountered.

Meet Nancy Fisher, owner and manager of Allison's Ace Hardware and Lucille Huffman is Nancy's right arm for marketing and social media.

Things are happening all the time at the store. Lots of new things are

available now and some old friends are back on the shelves. Pride of place belongs to the new lift capable of hoisting riding lawn mowers for repair. Bill McKenney is the head of the Service Center and a Northern Neck native who is skilled working on small engines getting them humming in no time. Allison's Ace Hardware is a certified repair center for such brands of equipment as Stihl, Echo.

This brings us up to the new installation of an entire department devoted to Stihl products. This is one of the premier names in gas and electric power tools. But Stihl is not the only new kid on the block. EGO battery operated outdoor



equipment has joined the store's inventory of fine equipment. EGO specializes in manual as opposed to riding mowers. They offer gas, electric and battery powered mowers and trimmers for your lawn.

Hooray! Benjamin Moore Paints are back on the shelves as is Magnolia Home Paints. There is nothing that can set off your home exterior and interior like a fine paint with colors that never go out of style. Back in Grandma's day, paint came in colors and you took what was in the can. Now, not only can you design your own color, you can select textures. The only thing these paints don't do is put themselves on the wall. That will be coming soon, no doubt.

Did you know there's also a new Allison's Parts Center? We don't have the space to list all of the available parts but call to see if they have that one little part you need to make "it" tick like new.

Not only does son Joey deal with Seamless Gutters he also has a space age software package that allows the customer wishing to purchase custom awnings for their home to see an image of awnings to superimpose different size, shape and color awnings on an image of their own home or business.

The gardening area also has its contribution to make in the quest to

beautify our home inside and outside. There are many types of hardscape available for your selection. And



there is the greenhouse and plants to showcase that beautiful lawn and house that you've already prepared in your forever home. Tyler and I were taken with the large containers that collected rainwater for use to water the plants and trees. Kind of a supersize rain barrel.

No article would be complete at this point in time without delving into the Covid 19 and how it has affected business. Tyler asked about this and Lucille explained that they were classified as an essential business so they remained open and didn't change the hours. He also asked about masks. They stay on order.

Allison's has supported the community throughout this pandemic with items like masks and sanitizers. They wish to thank the community for continuing to support Allison's. A thank you to sons Greg—who runs the store—and Joey who is in charge of the seamless gutters and awnings. And a huge thanks to the loyal and hardworking employees who have continued to come to work and do their jobs. Well done!

Find Allison's Ace Hardware at 3010 Northumberland Highway, Lottsburg. Phone 804-529-7578 Email: allisonsace@yahoo.com. Hours are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday: Closed.

Darleen Nichols photos of Bill McKenney, Lucille Huffman, Barbara Ressler.

By Darleen R. Nichols and M. Tyler Sanders

That is what my husband, Jack, always called Ace Hardware and he was right. When we first moved into our new home, we needed lots of things for house and yard so Ace Hardware in Lottsburg became our home away from home. My co-writer, Tyler Sanders, and I walked into the front door to do the interview for this article.

Did we ever get excited. Right in front of us were two cartons of toilet paper and on a shelf slightly above about a dozen bottles of hand sanitizer. But we did have a job to do



"I want to thank everyone who has supported me and followed me over the years. You have become more than customers and consignors. You have become my friends. Without you and your support I could not have lasted 13+ years. Thank you is not enough to express how I feel."



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*Please stay safe and well.
Jane Woodle*



Faith Matters~Making All Things New Again

By Torrence Harman

Spring following winter reveals the message—an eternal cycle revolves around the idea that out of the old comes new life. Summer following spring claims this truth as color, form and abundance emerge. Summer is upon us and we are emerging in new ways too.

The parallel of Mother Nature at work this year while an unseen enemy—the virus—is trying to diminish everything in its path is perhaps one of the realities that has kept us all sane since March when our Commonwealth was called into sheltering in place, social distancing, washing and masking up all the time. I am not sure how comfortable our masking up is going to be this summer, but it sure is easier to maintain social distancing in our beautiful great outdoors than inside our buildings.

Maybe you are as excited as I am at the wonderfully creative ways that are springing up as we find ourselves in a new kind of normal and we adjust our life style to safeguard our community of folks we think of as family. Sidewalk tables and chairs are popping up around



restaurants in our small towns.

Our open air farm stands and any business involving planting something sport rows of vehicles filling parking areas even though staff may be offering delivery to your car only or one family member at a time shopping or we must halt at X marks the spot as we queue up to make our purchases. Maybe you, like I, can now spot a smile in a friend or stranger's eyes as quickly as we used to before masks.

Families and friends are challenged

to come up with new ways to gather. Zooming spans distances that can bring us together, face to face, even if we are hundreds or a thousand or just a mile or two away. A few lawn chairs six feet apart in a small circle offer connecting time in a neighbor's yard, a park or like the ones I see from time to time in the labyrinth up the road from me at a local church. If your church zooms or offers a Facebook Live message it may just as likely go out on the air waves from the pastor's yard as their office.

Our faith communities, all these houses of worship which dot our landscape are busting out in new ways, too. Church signs may prompt passers by to join in live streaming worship services. That idea of live streaming seems like an appropriate biblical metaphor as we who live in river country resonate with biblical stories of living waters and a baptismal river.

Mother Nature beckons her children to be at home with her and savor what she has to offer—a healing and restorative presence. All around us in nature is being made new again. May this be so for us as we look toward a summertime that is abundant not diminished. *Torrence Harman photo, Dug In Farms, (r) Owner Carolyn Quinn and Sara Hartnet.*

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Style Spotlight~Coan River Marina, A Boat Owner's Dream



slips, onshore boat stands, and a little maintenance. "We're not going to have a restaurant or a ship's store, or anything extra," Matt told me. "That just complicates operations, and

we're interested in keeping things simple. We're a two man operation, and that suits us just fine."

"Have you run a marina before?" I asked. Matt laughed. "No! I was a bean counter in my other life. I was responsible for starting up companies, so I traveled all over the world. I'm originally from Annapolis, and my father was in the military. We moved a lot, so when I went to work, traveling was something I was used to.

But it got tiring, so when I retired, my wife and I settled here in the Northern Neck." And Guy? "He's

retired Coast Guard and a naval architect. He still has his day job, but no, he's never run a marina, either."

"So why a marina?" I asked, although I thought I pretty much knew the answer.

"Well, I have some boats, and I've always had to pay somebody to take care of them. I figured I might as well have a way to take care of them myself," Matt responded.

"How many boats?" I asked, although I pretty much knew the answer to that, too. "Six," Matt grinned. And Guy? "He has more than I do."

When Matt and Guy found the Coan River Marina, it had been out of service for almost two years and needed some serious rehabilitating. "The docks were in bad shape, and the lift needed work, but we're in good shape now. We have slip space for 50 big boats, plus 10 for crabbing boats, and onshore storage for more.

"Our lift can handle 25 tons, so we can provide hauling in and out of the water for pretty large vessels. We have six acres of space total, and our location is really good, especially for those who are traveling to and from the Washington, DC area. We are on Killneck Creek, part of the Coan River, which empties into the Potomac River and feeds into the Chesapeake Bay.

"Many of our slips have electricity, and the whole marina has complimentary Wi-Fi. We try to make it easy for boaters to spend the night if they want, although we don't have a campground."

How about service? "It's just the two of us, so we can handle basic service, preventative maintenance—routine kind of stuff," Matt told me. "If a boater needs more than that, we



have people we can call in to help with that. We hired an intern, right before this COVID-19 thing hit, but we haven't had a lot of requests for service so far.

"The virus slowed our business down a bit at first, as people weren't eager to put their boats in the water, but it's picking up now. Some of our regular customers

are spending their time doing maintenance and trim work on their boats on site, getting them ready to go out." I commented on seeing one of those customers painting the keel of his tall masted sailboat—it was a large boat, and the keel seemed quite a bit taller than the man painting it.

"Our mean low water here at the marina is seven feet, so boaters have no problem motoring in and out, and we're far enough back from the Bay and the Potomac that we can provide a safe haven for boaters caught in a storm."

"We sell some boats," Matt told me when I asked about the few For Sale signs that I had seen on the grounds, "but our main business is providing service and space for boaters who keep their boats here or those that stop by for gas or for the night." The Marina's location, at the end of a country road dotted with a few houses, is a relaxed and welcoming spot. "This is the best office I've ever had," Matt told me, and I could see why.

Contact the Coan River Marina in Lottsburg at 804-529-6767, visit their webpage at www.coanrivermarina.com, or follow them on Facebook. *Martha Hall photos, Matt Miller.*

By Martha M. Hall

*"I must go down to the seas again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship, and
a star to steer her by..."*

Sea Fever by John Masefield

And a marina—you need a marina. Fortunately, Matt Miller and Guy Nolan have created just that. After a purchase and rehab that is almost five years old, Matt and Guy have honed the marina business down to the basics that most sailors need: gas, a vessel lift, boat

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Style Spotlight~We Know the Neck



Baptist, Episcopal or Methodist. After graduating high school, Carolyn went off to American University and Marion to RPI. This is a story that Marion told himself, his opinion not mine. He transferred to American University

By Darleen R. Nichols

The Rice Packett Real Estate Agency is truly a family affair. So let's meet the family. Marion Packett's father died before Marion was born. His uncle, Curtis Rice—a real estate Broker—stepped up to fill the father role in Marion's life. Mr. Rice was one of three Brokers in the Northern Neck during the 1950's. He was 56 years old. What is that old saying about the apple not falling far from the tree?

Marion passed the test and received his real estate license when he was all of 18 years of age. So young in fact that Uncle Curtis had to be responsible for all of Marion's deals until he reached the age of 21. Upon Marion's graduation from college, Curtis Rice turned over the agency to his nephew who continued to carry Rice in the name of the company that was now his.

Meanwhile, over in Montross, a pretty young girl named Carolyn Sisson was growing up and certainly not thinking that she was about to meet her future husband. At the age of 15, she went to a dance at St. John's Episcopal Church and met a young man named Marion Packett.

Back in the day, the young people gathered for social events be they

because Carolyn was there. He returned to finish up and the college had become VCU. Marion said, "Some people graduate Summa cum laude but I graduated Lordy how come?" He also did a stint in U.S. Army Intelligence.

After a few years of looking around, these two settled upon one another and married. They set up shop in Mr. Rice's original building which is now Dr. Chandler's Dental Office. They moved the office around a bit even renting the top floor of the Saddlery for a while until finally settling on the current location.

However, the current location will be changed shortly. The Packetts plan on moving their agency to the upstairs of the building next door. They also own this building which houses law offices on the first level.

Family and church are so very important to this hardworking couple. Son Curtis and wife Missy have presented them with a grandson, Avery. Son Marion James and wife Christy are parents to two beautiful little girls, Emma and Sadie. Marion and Carolyn are members of the Warsaw Baptist Church congregation where he is choir director and she is the pianist. The family is also accomplished vocalists and musicians.

Now that you've met them, let's talk about their credentials and ability to serve their clients. Carolyn and Marion are both graduates of the Realtors Institute of Virginia and both hold the designation of Certified Residential Specialist. Only 5% of all realtors in the U.S. have attained this title. Both of them are brokers.

Kelly Walters has been part of the Rice-Packett family for years. She has attained a GRI and an ABR (Accredited Buyer Representative) while currently working on her broker license.

Susan Crowley, officer manager, is tasked with keeping the other three on their toes at all times. Marion has also served as past president of the Northern Neck Association of Realtors. This entire professional family is dedicated to working in this community that they call home.

There are many properties available for purchase in the Northern Neck. These may be viewed on the website where you will not only find the properties but other helpful hints and links. Now you may wonder why I am not telling you more about the availability of homes and other properties but I think my personal story will suffice as an illustration of the abilities of The Rice-Packett Real Estate Agency.

In 2006 my husband, Jack, and I were looking to purchase land in Warsaw. We wanted close to an acre, in the Town of Warsaw with water, sewage and trash pickup. An acquaintance recommended

Carolyn Packett so we followed up and contacted her via email. Two days later we had an appointment.

Carolyn led us to this beautiful community called Briarhill Woods. The lot was perfect and so was the neighborhood. Jack and I talked it



"NORTHERN NECK RUSH HOUR"

over for a couple of minutes then went back to Carolyn and said, "This is it, we'll take it". I've often thought that was the quickest sale she ever made. We built our dream house on that lot and I still live there.

If you're thinking of buying or selling, contact The Rice-Packett Real Estate Agency. No one knows the Northern Neck and better that people who have been born and raised here. They may be reached via email, rprea@ricepacket.com, online, <https://rice-packett.com/>, offices at 219 Main Street, or call 804-333-4933. *Photos courtesy Rice-Packett Real Estate.*



Chesapeake Style Magazine

Style Spotlight~Preserving the Past and Present

By Carol J. Bova

Deborah Collier of Corner Cottage Frame Shop said that when you look at custom framing, you can see it is a part of home décor, like lamps, pillows and tables. She points out—how often do you change your art? It stays on the wall a lot longer than a household accessory. The effort you spend on framing should be relative to what a piece means to you. Choosing and framing artwork can create emotional ties to the work that make it especially meaningful to you.

A custom framer like Deborah will explore with you the history of the piece to be framed. Is it from a family vacation or a piece of family history? She has been a framing and restoration expert since 1980.

While people have been home, a lot of folks have been cleaning out attics and closets. Others have been going through old boxes and drawers of photographs. Did you find something that links you to your great grandparents? Maybe something from the Great Depression that

can inspire you as you remember the strength and determination of your ancestors.

This is where custom framing can create something memorable to be shared on your walls now, and in the future. Done properly, with good materials, your framed piece will outlast most other items in your home.

If framing materials are not properly chosen or of good quality, and if they are not put together properly, they won't hold up. Big box stores and online shops cannot provide the knowledge and insight Deborah offers. Her studies and training in art preservation and proper art handling techniques underlie all she does. Her artistic training and skills allow her to assist her customers in selecting the type of custom framing that will show their artwork to its best advantage.

Any textiles, including scarves and clothing, can be mounted and framed,



alone or with other objects. Deborah prides herself on the care she takes with needlework. Even antique needlework can be washed and remounted on new fabric to prepare it to be preserved in a lovely frame.

Deborah said, "If you plan to hang your framed artwork in an area with a lot of windows or with a lot of natural

light, you can get a lot of glare and reflections that keep you from fully seeing your art. "Tru-View" UV filtering Conservation Clear, Museum Glass, or Conservation Reflection Control glass protects against ultraviolet light which accelerates the fading of your artwork."

If you visit The Corner Cottage Frame Shop on Facebook, you can see examples of old and damaged paintings that Deborah is restoring to their original beauty. Such restoration takes a well trained eye and hand. The results of her work are amazing. She has even replaced missing pieces and restored flexibility to brittle painted canvases, and removed the effects of smoke and air pollution to

reveal the colors of the original art.

Deborah also restores watercolors, and torn, faded, or discolored photographs. She has some printing capability too.

It's hard to list all of the services Deborah can provide. One you might not think of is frame restoration where she can restore ornate frames to their original luster and even make a mold to replace a missing section.

Diplomas framed with painted glass mats with gold leaf panels make a striking display.

Military, law enforcement, or other memorabilia can be placed in a shadow box to form a miniature museum display on your wall. A photograph with a favorite piece of jewelry can become a treasured memento of a loved one. These collections of items tell a story, one that can be passed down through the ages.

Many of the Corner Cottage Frame Shop's main distributors are open. While a few are still closed, Deborah is hoping they'll be open soon, but she still has a good inventory of mat board and frame materials and is ready to help you frame and preserve your special pieces.

Baby, Deborah's cat, is still on hand to greet you at Corner Cottage Frame Shop, located at 6815 Enfield Road, Gloucester. Deborah's hours are Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You can call her at 804-693-6722 or send email to cornercottagefs@gmail.com. Facebook, Corner Cottage Frame Shop.

Photos courtesy Deborah Collier.



Chesapeake Style Magazine

Community Spirit Thrives During COVID-19 Pandemic

By Michael Norvell

COVID-19 has proven to be no match for the volunteers, donors and community partners who have joined Bay Aging to engage with and support the region's most vulnerable residents. In late April, Bay Aging launched its Helping Neighbors initiative to provide free meals to seniors, and those with underlying health conditions, helping them to stay safely in their homes throughout the Coronavirus outbreak.

For over a month, Bay Aging volunteers and staff across the Middle Peninsula and Northern Neck have been delivering more than 14,000 free hot meals a week to area seniors prepared by seventeen local restaurants. "We are absolutely thrilled by the community support that Helping Neighbors has generated," said Kathy Vesley, President and CEO of Bay Aging.

"We are also happy that so many of the region's hard-hit local restaurants have been able to take part in Helping Neighbors as it provides much needed revenue for them."

Increased food insecurity is an unfortunate byproduct of the COVID-19 crisis and Helping Neighbors is just one of several initiatives Bay Aging has launched in response to the virus crisis. Through a generous donation from the Food Lion Feeds Foundation, Bay Aging also distributed Food Lion gift cards to 100 of the neediest seniors throughout the region. "These gift cards will be a lifeline to many area residents who are in dire need of toiletries, pet food and other necessities not provided through



our Meals on Wheels program," Vesley said.

To provide additional services with both public health and economic stimulus benefits, Bay Aging launched a new Mobile Food Pantry program in May, delivering shelf-stable groceries, sourced from local grocery stores and the Healthy Harvest Food Bank to area seniors who are

sheltering at home. In the Mobile Food Pantry's first week of operation, 250 bags of groceries were delivered to the residents of Bay Aging's senior apartments across the region.

Volunteers and recipients alike have emailed pictures and comments to Bay Aging about how thankful they are for the opportunity to tap into the vibrant community spirit found in

abundant supply across the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula. Civic organizations including the Warsaw Rotary Club, Westmoreland Ruritan Club and the Rotary Club of West Point have provided volunteers.

Donations have also come from a myriad of sources including the Gloucester Rotary and Ruritan Clubs, Atlantic Spray Systems, the Middlesex County Rotary Club, Anthem HealthKeepers Plus, the Abingdon Ruritan Club, Kelsick Specialty Market, the Severn Church's Joyful Hands Ladies Circle, the Food Lion Feeds Foundation and the Walmart Foundation. The Middlesex and Essex County Public School Boards redeployed PPE and cleaning supplies no longer needed after schools were closed to Bay Aging.

For more information visit Bay Aging's website at www.bayaging.org or call 800-493-0238.

Michael Norvell photo of Bay Aging's board chairman, Stanley Clarke.



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Style Spotlight~A Fun Business with Quality and Service



By Carol J. Bova

Ron Jewell of Rivah Interiors says with a smile that November to March is hard for him while he counts down the days to spring, but it gives him something to look forward to during the winter. Now that spring is really here and summer approaching, he's in great spirits!

"Rivah Interiors highlights high quality indoor and outdoor furniture, with an emphasis on high quality," Ron said. "I'm very passionate about it. I'm pleased and delighted to work to get people what they want."

Ron's proud too that all of his manufacturers are headquartered in North America. A few are

temporarily closed at the moment, and he's eagerly waiting for them to reopen. But his major suppliers are up and running, and all of them are tops in their field. Telescope Casual has offered outdoor patio furniture since 1903 and according to a Casual Living survey of retailers, they consistently ranked number one in quality and service.

Frankford Umbrellas has been in the shade business since 1898. Until recently, they only worked in the commercial field, but now, their expertise is available to the public through retailers like Ron.

Sunbrella Fabrics began in the 1960s. They created a new kind of fabric with a lifespan considerably longer than the

traditional cotton that can be used indoors as well as outdoors.

Another important company for Rivah Interiors is Tuuci, Inc. who developed their business from the marine industry. Their innovative shade designs have engineering that make them extremely durable. Every single part is replaceable. When a windstorm damaged a customer's umbrella, Ron was able to restore it to its full function and beauty by replacing two small parts.

There are 18 umbrellas on display at Rivah Interiors, including designs from Tuuci and Frankford. Ron said, "I love it! It's just a fun business. We even have a 12 x12 deck so people could see how things look on a deck that size."

He works with customers from other states as well as Virginia. "Someone from Michigan called me about an umbrella, and I shipped it to her. I have another customer who orders and comes from Maryland to pick it up by trailer. Quality and service—that's what it's all about."

Although eighty percent of Rivah Interior's business is outdoor furnishings, they do have a selection of furniture and accessories for living rooms, dining rooms and bedrooms as well. Ron likes the challenge of matching colors and fabrics. Their pillows are American made and can change your entire look.

Ron has 500 different fabrics for sofas, mostly Sunbrella. The

fabric is low or no maintenance, and works indoors or outdoors. He said, "I don't carry anything that rusts or rots. Genuine premium teak is the only wood we carry."

Ron pointed out that you might find similar items online, but his prices are often better. "Plus, you can come in and see what you're going to get. No cheap furniture here! It's all high quality that you buy one time and enjoy for a long while. It's so much fun to show people our items, and how well built they are."

In 1968, Ron first started selling furniture for Grand Piano and Furniture Company in Roanoke. He started his own company in 1998 as The Sleep Center in Kilmarnock which grew into Rivah Interiors. Marjorie's from Westmoreland and manned the Rivah Interiors Kilmarnock store until they closed it last year after 21 years. She's also run the flea market in Warsaw for close to 40 years.

Ron grew up in the Northern Neck and spent some time away from it. "I guess you can call me a come-back-here." By a fortunate coincidence, Ron now lives in the same house he grew up in. He founded Rivah Interiors on the principle of the friendly, relaxed, and casual Northern Neck lifestyle.

Browse their galleries online at www.rivahinteriors.com and come into the store to see a wide range of items. Ron's glad people are coming in to look now, as well as shop online. He keeps the doors open so people don't have to touch door knobs, but sanitizes them anyway during the day, along with the bathrooms, so customers can feel safer.

Rivah Interiors is located at 838 Northumberland Highway, Callao. They're open Monday 10 a.m. to 4: p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, 10 to 5 and Saturday 10 to 3 p.m. They're closed Tuesday and Sunday. You can email them at rivah1@verizon.net or call 804-529-7770.

Photo courtesy Ron Jewell.

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A Wake-Up Call in the Midst of Chaos



By Cindy Balderson

On January 21, 2020, the world as we know it quickly turned upside down. The day the CDC confirmed the first case of Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States. The words shutdown, quarantine and new normal quickly became prevalent in every conversation on any given day. Communities across the country began to shut down, dividing businesses by essential or non-essential. A global pandemic.

Covid-19. Days turned into weeks.

Some of us adapted to working from home while also teaching our children. Those deemed essential business adjusted operating procedures and implemented safety measures to continue providing necessary services. Many struggling to keep up with increased demand. Food banks experienced a major influx of clients due to the loss of income and jobs during the crisis. Adapting each day to meet the need.

The entire country has been gripped in a rapidly evolving situation but when we rise, and we WILL rise, we should not want to return to the normal we left behind. That normal was fueled by greed, hate, inequality and a vast disconnect. Don't we owe it to ourselves and our fellow men, women, and children to look at this crisis as an opportunity for a new beginning? A beginning where the world comes together.

Isn't it time we rise above and come out of this stronger? United in a way that can and should be described as a NEW normal. A place where we take better care of ourselves, our neighbors, family, and friends. A place

where the elderly are cared for in the way they deserve. A place where we treat our planet with the respect it has earned so that future generations can thrive. Just imagine what that new normal has the potential to be.



Suppose we move forward with a heightened perception of everything this world has to offer. What if we look at the world around us through

the eyes of a child? The simplicity of small joys that make up each day. The amazement of catching your first fish and the curiosity and awe of feeling its scales for the very first time.

The feel of dirt in your hands and grass under your bare feet or the joy of splashing in a mud puddle after a spring rain. The sheer wonder of watching waves roll onto the shore as you stand in the warm sand. Imagine seeing the world through the eyes of a child. To be inspired by their innocence and reaction to the little things. To see the joy in their eyes at the beauty of a world we as adults often take for granted. We could learn so much about kindness, compassion, and gratitude for everything around us. This is an unparalleled time for new beginnings...so... what if we aspire to see the world through the eyes of a child?

Cindy Balderson is the Vice President & Development Director of Healthy Harvest Food Bank in Warsaw.

Samantha Parks photo of son, Mason Gilbert, Cindy's grandson and "were my inspiration for this column."

Spike's Wildlife Almanac~Orchard Oriole

By Spike Knuth

A member of the blackbird family, this is the smallest of the orioles and measures 7 to 7.25 inches. Often called the brown oriole, or hang nest, its fore and upper parts, wings and tail are black with its under parts and rump being chestnut or burnt sienna, with a narrow wing bar.

The female is yellowish or olive-green above, darker on the back, more yellowish on the rump with dusky wings that have two wing bars. Young males have a peculiar plumage in that they are similar to the female but its lores—the front portion of cheeks, chin and throat—are black

and it will take three years to attain full adult plumage. So different is their plumage that it was thought to be a separate species at one time.

The song of the orchard oriole is a loud warbling clear but high-pitched and its call is a whistled "tweed." They commonly sing when on the wing. Orchard orioles are probably not numerous but are common all



over Virginia. This is a true country bird, favoring areas with scattered trees or orchards along streams and roads.

One year we had a pair of orchard orioles visit our neighbor's elm tree in Mechanicsville with one of them being a young male with the black face. I have also seen them along the Staunton River at the Brookneal fish hatchery in the large deciduous trees.

They will often nest close together in somewhat of a loose colony. The nest is a hanging pouch or basket-like affair woven of green grasses, stems, and plant down and suspended in a forked branch 10 to 20 feet up. About four to six bluish white eggs scrawled with purple and brown are laid.

Orchard orioles generally feed high in the tree canopy on plant lice, caterpillars, flies, and wasps, as well as a variety of fruits and come fall they go to croplands to feed on some grain crops and seeds in blackbird fashion. They leave us in September to winter from southern Mexico to northern Columbia.

Original art by Spike Knuth.

Style Spotlight~Rockin' and Rollin' Down the River to...

By Darleen R. Nichols

A delightful addition in Colonial Beach, the Pearl of the Potomac, is another pearl and this is the newly renovated Riverview Inn with a 50ish theme. I love this 50's motif—that was my heyday—Elvis, Pat Boone, Buddy Holly and so many more of the great names of our time.

I had an informative conversation with Kelly Woods Vaughn and her husband, Bob. Given the current situation regarding vacations, we discussed things that are not ordinarily part of a normal interview process.

Kelly, a California native, and Bob from Western Virginia arrived in Colonial Beach in 2003. They purchased a lot upon which they built a garage with an apartment above. What a great weekend and vacation getaway. They quickly learned to love

the beautiful little town and the beach.

So, in 2017 they purchased the Riverview Inn and spent part of the year renovating. Their hard work and planning can be noted everywhere as well as their determination to keep it in the 50's. Evidence of this is the screen doors that adorn each door.

The rooms are spacious and quite beautifully appointed in soft restful tones while the accent pieces scream beach. The baths are equally well appointed and spotless. There's nothing quite like rising on a lovely summer morning and padding across the floor to observe the glass like surface of the



river. What a way to start the day!

The location of Riverview Inn can't be beat for a place to stay when visiting Colonial Beach for a couple of days or a couple of weeks. Kelly recalled a visiting couple quite clearly. "They were passing through and stopped because they had spent their wedding night here 60 years ago", she said with a warm smile. Another memory was a group of German backpackers traveling around the U.S. who stumbled across Colonial Beach. They were interested in the history of the area and ended up staying four days at the Inn.

People of all ages visit the Inn for a variety of reasons and cover all age groups. Younger visitors come to enjoy the beach or to attend weddings many of which are held on the beach itself. You have the more middle age group which comes to enjoy the peace and quiet while enjoying the fine variety of restaurants. Then, sadly, there are those family members who gather to attend funerals for loved ones who reside at the beach. All of the visitors find comfort and excellent service.

Kelly and Bob reopened the Fisherman's Pier right beside the one owned by the town but for the specific use of their guests. This addition is called Ferry Landing Pier and it looks beautiful stretching out

into the water with the little white tables, chairs and colorful umbrellas.

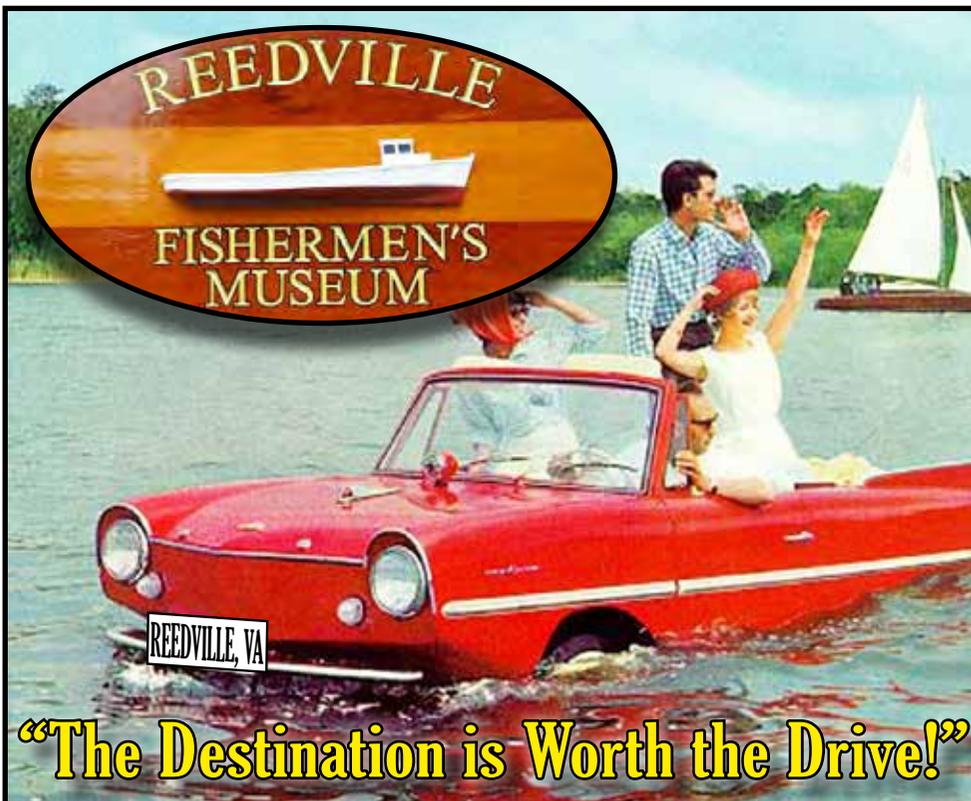
One can just picture lazily whiling away a summer day here with a good book. Or the more active type will find many diversions that they might fancy. There are bikes, paddle boards and kayaks for rent. A charter fishing boat may also be engaged for visitors who want to try their luck on the river.

Many fine restaurants line the beach and the town. Visitors may choose to walk, rent a golf cart and ride or go to the other side of town in a taxi. Your host/hostess will assist you in selecting a restaurant according to your taste.

In discussing the current situation regarding face masks and social distancing, Kelly and Bob assured me that they were on top of all of the requirements and prepared to meet them. It all depends, of course, on what the official requirements are at the time. If face masks are required, each guest will be required to wear one as well as social distance. Face masks will be provided for guests who not do have one and the lobby has been arranged to allow for social distancing. Cleaning is no problem as they always thoroughly clean everything daily.

The staff is well trained in taking care of the guests. I noticed this myself when looking at the reviews which overall was 9.4 and the staff a 9.7. There is free parking for guests. Your family is welcome but pets must remain at home because they are not allowed at the Inn.

Go to www.colonialbeachriverview.com, www.ferrylandingpier.com, Email: cbriverviewinn@gmail.com, Location 24 Hawthorne Street, Colonial Beach, Call: 804-224-4200. Photos Courtesy Riverview Inn.



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Hope and Beauty and Acupuncture



special care of their girl. Clean bedding twice a day and a change of puppy pads whenever needed, everyone keeps an eye on her to make sure she is clean and dry. This helps to prevent urinary tract

By Mary Beane

We all know women who wear their beauty easily. It's just a part of them, no fuss or pretense. Our Calico cat, Coco, is like that. Colorful, vibrant patches of black, brown and orange set off by a white chest and paws make for a striking coat. While unaware of her beauty, she is equally unaware of her condition, incontinence.

Eight months ago, Coco suffered a fall that prevented her from walking. Over time, she regained the use of her legs and was able to run and jump again, but she could not control her bladder or bowels. X-rays and examinations showed no broken bones or sprains. Nerve damage near the spinal cord was the likely diagnosis.

Volunteers at the Northumberland County Animal Shelter take extra

infections, better yet; Coco seems appreciative of the attention.

What's a girl to do? Tapping into the cat world network and further research led to an unconventional idea, acupuncture. Would it work? We had to try. The Friends of the Northumberland County Animal Shelter (FNCAS) agreed to foot the bill so we went in search of an acupuncturist.

Little did we know that right over the Norris Bridge was the Hartfield Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Steven Skinner, DVM and acupuncturist to the dogs and cats with various painful ailments.

Acupuncture is a form of alternative medicine used to treat a wide range of conditions. Believed to have originated in China around 100 BC, the practice has evolved as it has spread to the Western world.

Thin needles are inserted into the



skin at designated pressure points. A typical session consists of five to twenty needles inserted for ten to twenty minutes to attempt to stimulate the damaged nerves.

Coco is a good patient. She puts up more fuss going into the carrier than lying still and being a pin cushion for 20 minutes. We had to

try and we have hope. She has begun to take more of an interest in her litter box. A good sign. A beautiful sign. *Northumberland County Animal Shelter is a no kill shelter. Working with the Friends of the Northumberland County Animal Shelter has resulted in a 96% save rate. In addition to providing financial support, FNCAS is instrumental in the search for forever homes for adoptable animals through local events, rescue organizations, online adoption sites and community outreach opportunities.*

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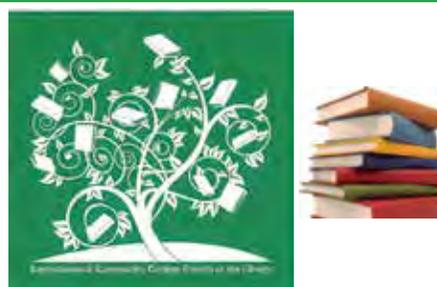
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Exponential Growth



chasing us. I put on my wetsuit and went for a dive. Did I mention I don't like cold... especially cold water? Well, as typical in the colder months, the water was clear(er), at least

By Gerhard Straub

A few weeks ago I de-winterized the systems on the boat and took it out to get the engine good and warm and make sure everything was working. I knew we had some hard growth of barnacles on the bottom and prop, as we were going on two years in the water since the last haul out for painting.

I was pleasantly surprised when we were able to do almost 6 knots, although we couldn't quite make full RPM on the engine. Short of time, we just got the engine up to temp and then put her back in the slip.

Fast forward two weeks and it's time for a real social distance sail. We drop the lines and head out from the slip v-e-r-y s-l-o-w-l-y. We could barely make three knots. Seriously?! In two weeks?! In disgust, and kicking myself for not hauling last year, we inched back to the slip moving only slightly faster than the barnacles

until I started scraping barnacles and all sorts of varied marine life off the prop. Then things got pretty cloudy, but I could tell there were lots of barnacles on the hull as well, every time my head bumped into the bottom of the boat with a crunching sound. At least the water is probably too cold for vibrio I thought! There's always a silver lining people tell me.

After coming back to the surface and washing off all kinds of stuff, I decided to do a little research. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, barnacles are crustaceans related to crabs and shrimp. There are four species of barnacles in the Bay; the Bay Barnacle, the White Barnacle, the Ivory Barnacle, and the Little Grey Barnacle.

In the lower Bay, the most common are the Ivory and Little Grey Barnacle, with the Bay and White Barnacles being more common in the north. Being kind of in the middle of the Bay, I am quite certain that all four species live on my hull, and

I hate them all! Barnacles are filter feeders and our creek is surrounded by farm fields that drain in to the creek, and the creek can have a measurable current at tide changes, so there is an endless supply of food for the little guys. How could they not like the bottom of my boat?

Well, they shouldn't like the bottom of my boat because I paint it with an antifouling paint that is supposed to keep them from attaching. The paint I use is an abrasive paint that is supposed to wash away as the boat moves through the water and continuously expose more of the thing in it that barnacles don't like. The key words here are "move through the water." You actually have to use

your boat for it to work properly.

Ah, I see the problem. Not enough time on the boat! By the time you read this, those barnacles will have had a rude awakening from the business end of a scraper, and I'll be sore. I have a plan for preventing that exponential barnacle growth on the bottom of the hull, however. It's called an exponential increase of making the boat move through the water. Take that, barnacles!

See you on the water...eventually!
Gerhard Straub is master of the skipjack *Claud W. Somers*, which is owned and operated by the *Reedville Fishermen's Museum*. My very own barnacle farm!
Photo by Gerhard Straub

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Style Spotlight~Michelle's Sweet Treats

By Ann Eichenmuller

Pastery chef, bread maker, chef de partie—whatever you call it, for Michelle Carpenter, being a baker isn't just her job—it is her destiny.

"I've been baking since I was seven," she admits with a smile. She spent her childhood entering the county fair with her homemade creations.

But little girls grow up, and it wasn't until she'd gone to college, moved away and come back to the area that Michelle began to do more than win first place ribbons for her sweet concoctions. She was working at Northern Neck Chevrolet when she started baking after hours, doing desserts for Angelo's in Montross, family, and friends.

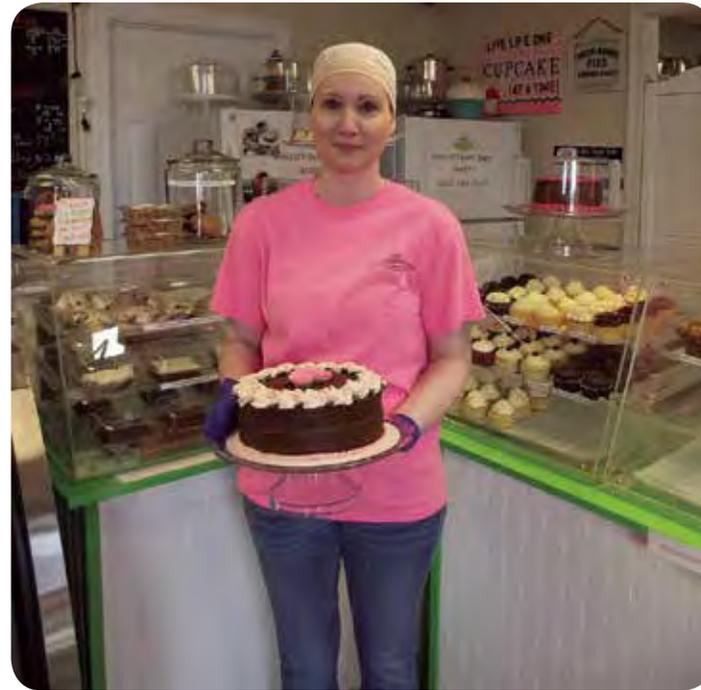
Through word of mouth, her business grew, until she found herself baking until ten or eleven

every night. It was then that she realized—why not make a career out of the work she loved?

That was four years ago, when Michelle's Sweet Treats was born. Tucked on the corner of St. John's and Main Street in Warsaw, the shop is a mixture of magic and whimsy. Out front, visitors are greeted by bright banners, a giant cupcake sign, and life size statues of Alvin and the Chipmunks, perfect for family photo ops. But the real enchantment begins inside, where a vast array of baked goods crowd the shelves and display cases. From macaroons to pies, truffles to cinnamon rolls, cupcakes to cookies, if you can imagine it, Michelle can bake it. In fact, she wishes you would.

"I love to try new recipes. I ask my customers all of the time for suggestions. I'm open to new ideas."

While Michelle still uses "lots of Grandma's recipes," she enjoys



At the time of our interview, Virginia was still on shutdown, a situation that has proven devastating to many small local businesses. But thus far, Michelle remains optimistic. Throughout the pandemic, she has continued to spend twelve to thirteen hours a day in the kitchen. While the shop itself is not open to foot traffic, customers can call in Tuesday through Saturday for pickup.

When we were there,

the phone never stopped ringing. experimenting. Her husband is her official taste tester, along with her mom, who helps out in the shop, and her four employees. In addition to the ingredients that make her desserts, she's also gotten creative with design and presentation. If you have something special in mind, Michelle will do her best to recreate that vision in edible form—no matter how crazy it may be.

"One of our customers wanted to do cake for her sister's birthday with inscription 'Holy Crap You're Turning 40,'" Michelle says, laughing, "so we did it in the shape of the poop emoji!"

She has even decorated a stripper cake at a customer's request, though she points out that one "did not get posted on the website."

For those who follow a gluten free diet, Michelle's Sweet Treats always has gluten free chocolate chip and ginger snap cookies, macaroons, and truffles on hand, and cakes and cupcakes available to order. It seems she truly has found the recipe for success: today, in addition to her Main Street shop, Michelle's baked goods can be found from White Stone to Montross at places like Dug In Farms and Ellen's Country Store, and occasionally on the menu at Relish.

"We're all eating our way through this quarantine," she jokes.

While business is booming even in these difficult times, Michelle has her eye on the future. She is excited about the changes coming to Warsaw's Main Street and hopes that a pedestrian friendly town will bring in folks who haven't had a chance to taste her magic. She is considering staying open later to accommodate eventgoers or clientele from the new brewery, and would love to see her creations on the dessert menus of more local restaurants.

"My goal is to continue to grow with the community," she explains.

As soon as her doors are open, treat yourself to a visit. Until then, visit her Facebook page, Michelle's Sweet Treats, to get a look at her incredible baked goods. Then call 804-761-7565, Tuesday-Friday from 7-5 p.m. and 9-3 on Saturday to place an order or arrange for pickup. Then eat, enjoy the spring, and take the advice of the sign on her shop wall: "Live life one cupcake at a time."

Eric Eichenmuller photo.

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Books In *Style*—*Mary Ball Washington: The Untold Story of George Washington's Mother*

By Fred Lucas

When a teenage George Washington set out to join the British Royal Navy, it was his mother Mary Ball Washington that forbade him from enlisting as a cabin boy.

This is among the reasons “from adolescence to adulthood, Mary was a near constant irritant to the maturing George,” according to presidential historian Craig Shirley, in his book *Mary Ball Washington: The Untold Story of George Washington's Mother*.

America is indebted at least in this case to her overbearing nature. The British navy had a caste system that placed American colonists last and cabin boys also regularly died at sea in battle or disease. Thus, it seems the indispensable man might have never made it to lead a revolution without this overprotective parenting.

The book is a reminder that behind every great man is at least one great woman and probably more. A mother has profound influence, even a mother-son relationship seemed cold at times. Preventing military service

to the crown was entirely a motherly act, not a political one. Mary was at least for a time a royalist, Shirley writes. Yet, her stopping her teenage son's foolhardiness probably saved the American revolution she had little room for.

Details of Mary Washington's life are sketchy. Shirley took on a herculean task of investigative history, patching together her genealogy as best as possible, and paints a vivid picture of the time she lived in. He parallels Washington's desire to break from the British crown with breaking from the grip of a hovering and demanding mother.

The book notes early historical accounts were of an almost divine motherly figure. This subsided to a harsh portrayal of a cantankerous

woman, as George's cousin had said of Mary, “I was ten times more afraid than I ever was of my own parents.” While no historian can present a complete picture, Shirley demonstrates the near certain truth: It's complicated.

Augustine Washington died when George, one of six children, was only 11, leaving Mary a widowed single mother. So, one might understand why she wasn't always warm and perky. Though, to cast George Washington as an ingrate son would also be overly simplistic and inaccurate.

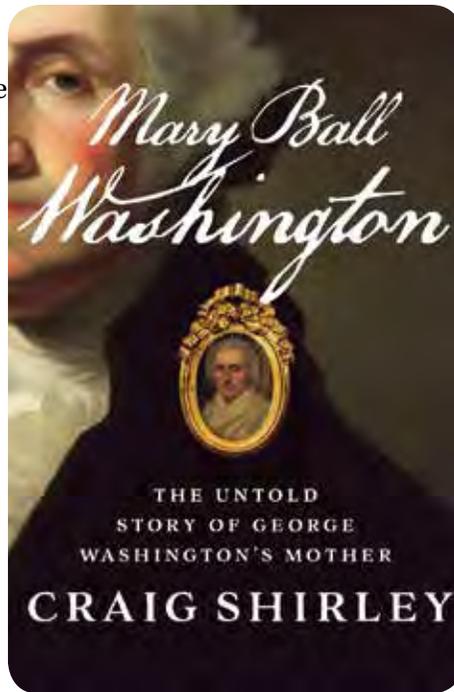
Letters to his mother are few. In a 1787 letter, he at least showed he cared for his elderly mother's wellbeing by suggesting she move in with one of the children for

care, while insisting she really would dislike Mount Vernon.

George called her “Honored Madam,” which Shirley said showed respect but kept her at arm's length. However, Shirley writes that “kindness and control” were one in the same for Mary, and that far from an ingrate, “Washington still credited her with his principled and moral upbringing.”

The first president was, Shirley writes: “the standard by which all future presidents would be measured, recorded as also the greatest president by most historians—a man who would be widely revered for his integrity, grace, manner, charm, Christian faith, and humility. His devout mother played a key role in the development of his character.”

This is a wonderful account and fast read of a complex mother-son profile that ultimately doesn't deify or demonize but appropriately humanizes a great man and an undoubtable influence on his life. *Fred Lucas is the chief national affairs correspondent for The Daily Signal and co-host of The Right Side of History.*



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Style Spotlight~Problem-Solving At Your Service!



less independent lifestyle. Whatever the reason, moving heralds the dreaded task of disposing of possessions that we've accumulated, packing or unpacking boxes of things that we once used, never used, or thought that someday we would use.

Facing a spare room, an attic, or a garage stuffed with things is a daunting experience. "I'll deal with that tomorrow..." is what many of us are tempted to say, as we close the door on piles of mess and memories.

Thankfully, the help we're looking for is only a phone call away. Kristine Stables, owner of Mermaid Consulting Services, LLC, and her business, Mermaid Home

Organization, is just who you need to clean out and systematize your home and possessions. A born organizer, Kristine says that she has been on the trail of this career since childhood.

"I've always loved colors, shapes, and structures, and I was by nature a very neat kid. I organized everything—including my mother's kitchen, where I arranged products according to color or purpose. After I got my MBA, I worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers as a learning development consultant. That's when I really began to hone my skills as a problem-solver, and that's what I can offer my clients now."



Kristine's business focuses on helping people make decisions about how to organize their living spaces to reflect not only what they need, but also what they enjoy. "My job is to guide and support my clients in creating comfortable environments that are long on practicality and short on clutter. When I contract with a client, I spend a good amount of time listening to what they feel is an issue for them, what they would like to see as the end result."

Her impartial observations help Kristine's clients focus on what they want to accomplish, and putting together a plan is the first step. To help overcome that overwhelmed feeling, for example, Kristine starts her clients with something small and manageable. "Conquering a small project gives them confidence to tackle larger projects, and gives me an idea about how to guide them," she said.

Each client has a different story

and a different need. "One gentleman was living in temporary housing for his job, but still wanted to arrange his belongings so that he felt like he was home when he came in after a long day. We made a plan, and I developed his living space, consulting with him before and after each arrangement."

"Some of my clients are trying to downsize, which means letting go of things they are very attached to. I never try to push my clients to dispose of things that are important to them. Instead, I try to help them find a way to keep or reassign precious items. One of my clients had three children that she wanted to leave family heirlooms to when she passed away. We got three plastic tubs and packed each one with those items that were specifically chosen for that person.

When we were done, we had three neatly packed containers in a closet, waiting for their rightful owners to claim when the time came. It gave my client a great sense of relief, and alleviated what I call the "mental weight" that often burdens folks who have accumulated a great deal of memories that they don't know what to do with."

Besides being a member of the National Association of Productivity & Organizing Professionals (NAPO), Kristine has hands on experience in organizing in a very personal way. "When my husband and I got married, we each had a house and a lot of possessions, and we needed to combine everything into one home. Then we moved to my husband's family home and had to unpack, re pack, and shift things around again. Believe me," she laughed. "I am well acquainted with what my clients face!"

Contact Kristine at 804-758-5814, by email at kristine@mermaidcs.com, or on Facebook, Mermaid Home by Mermaid Consulting Services. *Photos Courtesy Kristine Stables.*

By Martha M. Hall

Successfully organizing is a skill that many of us lack, but it's a challenge that we all face at one time or another if we live in more than one place. Most people move at least 11 times in their life, some more often than that. The reasons people move are varied, usually coinciding with age or altered circumstances.

Sometimes the reasons for moving are happy: a better home, a new job, or an addition to the family. Sometimes the reasons are less attractive: loss of a job, loss of a spouse or parent, a need for a

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Style Spotlight~Summer Color at Foxy



feels like summer is getting here now.”
 The summer clothes at Foxy are comfortable and casual, and a lot of them are in what Kathy called, Mod Squad colors, referring to the bright rainbow of colors from the late 60s through early ‘70s. Foxy’s selections include a lot of cotton and cooling synthetics. Styles include the ever famous three-quarter sleeve tops with a lot of sleeveless ones for the hotter months. There’s a wide selection from travel wear to cotton and gauze.
 Kathy said, “People still seem to prefer leggings and tunics. Lightweight jeans are coming back

area, she wanted to have a people oriented business. There was only one other clothing store, but it wasn’t in Kilmarnock, so she opened Foxy in 2002. The first ten years Foxy was located on Church Street, then they moved to Main Street and there has been an excellent response ever since.
 Kathy said, “The first few months of this year have been a challenge, but we we’ve been able to maintain our entire staff. I brought in our summer stock in February, so we were well supplied before the shutdown. Now we have a lot of beautiful apparel, in sizes 4 to XXL. We try to lift spirits up and always have something colorful displayed in the front window.”
 The Foxy staff is great at helping customers pick out styles which are flattering and appropriate for any occasion. They’ll also encourage them to try out something new that will look good on them. Their cheerful friendliness and excellent customer

service turn casual shoppers into regular customers and friends.
 A few years ago, I found a pair of colorful earrings for a gift. The friend who received them still enjoys and wears them often. There are so many items in the store, it’s fun to browse and find something unexpected that becomes a favorite.
 Kathy said, “I’m seeing a lot more optimism as people venture out. Restaurants in the area are doing curbside delivery and have outdoor tables. We hope the community comes out and supports small businesses this summer so they can continue to be around.”
 With a turquoise blue building and a mannequin outside dressed in cheerful summer attire, it’s easy to find Foxy at 12 S. Main Street, Kilmarnock. The June hours: are Tues- Sat, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Check Facebook or call at 804-435-2200.
Gwen Keane photo.

By Carol J. Bova

You’ll find bright colors at Foxy in Kilmarnock, from the racks of clothing to the jewelry and accessories. Owner Kathy Lukasewicz said, “We have so many pretty summer things. There’s a lot of color this year. People are tired of being stuck in the house and want to get out. They want to be cheered up, and we do that well. It really

too. If you’re going to a wedding or an outdoor party, we have a lot of dresses because women realize they’re cooler. We’ve got the different styles all covered. I think buying new clothes lifts their spirits after being so tired of being in lockdown. We all need something bright and new and colorful to make us feel better after so much time in sweat pants.”
 When Kathy first moved to the

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Six to a Room

By Kenny Park

The first time I stepped into a dorm, I was struck by how tight the space was. A narrow hallway, four or five doors on the inside wall, and another at the end. At the opposite end of the building, three bathrooms, an all-purpose room—kitchen/dining room/living room. Two stoves/ovens, three refrigerators, a table big enough to seat 15 people, and couches around a television. Fly strips hanging from the light bulb.

When I stepped into the bedroom, there were two or three bunk beds, in the big room at the end there were four or five. Big and sturdy, built to hold an adult, not a child.

Thankfully, this group of men had been coming for several years, and while there were occasional tensions and arguments that arose, their focus was on getting along, and

tending to their primary task, which was to work as much as possible while here so they could return and spend the remainder of the year with their families back in their home country. They made the best of the situation. Since they were seasonal, and for the most part the same group would come for their given season, they had become friends as well as coworkers. Many were from the same extended family; brothers, cousins, in-laws, nephews and uncles.

Their employer has grown to love them—not as simply employees, but as close to family as you could get, given the dynamics involved. They care for them, provide for them, are glad to see them arrive and are sad to see them leave each year. Some have even gone to visit them at their homes, been introduced to their families, gotten to know their communities, their neighborhoods, the region they're from.

Other employers are less engaged with their workers on a personal level. Larger operations, with many more workers than the smaller ones. In those cases, there may be some closeness with those relied on to convey business decisions and daily tasks, but the workers in general are seen as parts of the business. Those employers are still required to provide housing and transportation, and do so under the same guidelines, 6-12 people to a room, common areas, shared cooking and eating and living space.

Now comes the pandemic. Social distancing is impossible. Depending on the product, there is travel to and from outside areas, some are centers of contagion, and the workers return, the end result is similar to what is happening in our prisons. Close proximity means the disease spreads.

Thankfully, most workers are healthy, even robustly so.

But there are those with other issues, underlying conditions, and they succumb.

And they are unseen. Unheard. Unattended. Unnoticed. We may see them on a Friday evening or a Saturday at Wal-Mart or Food Lion, but the rest of the week they are hidden. Please don't forget them. *Kenny has served the Northern Neck Immigrant community and as Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church in Warsaw since 2003. His email address is Kenny.park@gmail.com*



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Seis Por Cuarto

Por Kenny Park

La primera vez que entré en un dormitorio, me sorprendió lo cerrado que se sentía el espacio. Un pasillo estrecho, 4 o 5 puertas en la pared interior y otra al final. En el extremo opuesto del edificio, tres baños, una sala de usos múltiples - cocina / comedor / sala de estar. Dos estufas / hornos, tres refrigeradores, una mesa lo suficientemente grande como para acomodar a 15 personas y sofás alrededor de un televisor. Tiras de moscas colgando de la bombilla.

Cuando entré en la habitación, había dos o tres literas, en la sala grande al final del pasillo había 4 o 5. Grandes y resistentes, construidas para sostener a un adulto, no a un niño.

Afortunadamente, este grupo de hombres había estado viniendo durante varios años, y aunque

surgieron tensiones y discusiones ocasionales, su enfoque estaba en llevarse bien y atender su tarea principal, que era trabajar lo más posible mientras estuvieran aquí, para así poder regresar y pasar el resto del año con sus familias en su país de origen. Hicieron lo mejor de la situación. Como eran trabajadores de temporada, y en su mayor parte el mismo grupo vendría para su temporada dada, se habían convertido en amigos y compañeros de trabajo. Muchos eran de la misma familia extendida; hermanos, primos, suegros, sobrinos y tíos..

Su empleador ha llegado a amarlos, no solo como empleados, sino tan cerca a lo que es ser familia como pudieran, dada la dinámica involucrada. Los cuidan, los mantienen, están contentos al verlos llegar y tristes al verlos partir cada año. Algunos incluso fueron a visitarlos a sus hogares,

introducirse a sus familias, conocer sus comunidades, sus vecindarios, la región de la que provienen.

Otros empleadores están menos comprometidos con sus trabajadores a nivel personal. Operaciones más grandes, con muchos más trabajadores que las más pequeñas. En esos casos, puede haber cierta cercanía con aquellos en quienes se confía para comunicar las decisiones referentes al trabajo y las tareas diarias, pero los trabajadores en general se consideran simplemente parte del negocio. Aún se requiere que esos empleadores proporcionen alojamiento y transporte, y lo hagan bajo las mismas pautas, de 6 a 12 personas por habitación, áreas comunes, espacios compartidos para cocinar, comer y vivir.

Ahora viene la pandemia. El distanciamiento social es imposible. Dependiendo del producto, hay viajes a lugares externos, algunos

son centros de contagio, y cuando los trabajadores regresan, el resultado final es similar a lo que está sucediendo en nuestras cárceles. La proximidad significa que la enfermedad se propaga.

Afortunadamente, la mayoría de los trabajadores tienen buena salud, incluso de salud robustamente buena. Pero hay quienes tienen otros problemas, condiciones subyacentes, y sucumben.

Y no se ven. No se les oye. Ignorados. Inadvertidos. Podemos verlos un viernes por la noche o un sábado en Wal-Mart o en Food Lion, pero el resto de la semana están ocultos. Por favor no los olviden. *Kenny ha servido a la comunidad inmigrante de nuestra área y como Pastor de la iglesia bautista Jerusalén en Warsaw desde el 2003. Su correo electrónico es Kenny.park@gmail.com*

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COMMONWEALTH SENIOR LIVING

Welcome Home



Style Spotlight~40 Years of Artistry



By Carol J. Bova

Ficklin Bryant is a man who loves his work. In midcareer, though, he felt he was getting burnt out and took a bold step. He went to Costa Rica for five years. While he was there, he explored his artistic side as a painter and poet. He said, "I love to paint birds. With pastels, you actually paint and blend with your fingers—literally, a

hands-on experience." Refreshed, he returned to apply his artistry to his upholstery business. Ficklin has no regrets. Living in Costa Rica was the experience of a lifetime.

Work has really picked up at Ficklin Bryant Upholstery with people at home, looking around and saying, "My chair or my sofa needs redoing." Ficklin said, "We're really very grateful to have work and that we've been open the entire time and not

forced to close. It's very safe. Only three of us work here, and there aren't many customers at the same time."

A question a lot of people have is how to go about getting a price on upholstery. They want to find out if their furniture is worth doing, and how much yardage it would take. To do that, people can take photos of their furniture on a cell phone and text or email them to the shop. Ficklin said, "I can see a piece and give a pretty good estimate of what it would take, and whether the furniture is worth doing. The general size, length, width, height, is helpful too." He can look at the legs and tell cheap furniture from good furniture.

Ficklin said, "A lot of inexpensive furniture was made to throw away, but I deal with a lot of people who have nice furniture that's almost always worth redoing. When I look at a picture, I can tell if it needs new foam in the cushions or new springs, or whatever else is needed."

One thing he finds out is whether a piece is in the living room and used a lot, or in an old time living room where it's hardly ever used. He has all types of fabric, although if customers want to buy their own fabric, he can give them the yardage. He said, "If they buy my fabric, though, I discount the labor, which saves them money, but if they've seen something they really like, or have had it in the closet a long time, that's perfectly fine too."

When Ficklin upholsters a piece of furniture, he takes off all the old covering and checks out what's inside—springs, padding, frame.

Cotton webbing and any upholstery supplies a particular piece requires are included in the cost. He touches up the wood and does frame repair if necessary, and replaces cushions if new ones are needed. "When they get it back, it's a new chair."

Upholstery generally runs the same or less than mid priced furniture, more than cheap furniture, but way less than expensive new furniture.

Another important consideration is if it is a family piece with sentimental meaning. One of Ficklin's favorite things to do is restore antiques. "We're so proud of our work because we know we're going to do it right, no matter what we have to do."

Visit Ficklin Bryant Upholstery's Facebook page to see a recent example of a major restoration of a sofa and other examples of Ficklin's creative upholstery talent. There are photographs of wingback chairs, rockers, dining room chairs, ottomans, an upholstered headboard, storage pieces and a wide range of sofas and chairs. Each one has a fabric that reflects the personality and preferences of the owner.

Ficklin will pick up and deliver if needed, usually within about a 50-mile radius throughout the Northern Neck.

Visit Ficklin Bryant Upholstery at 11975 Richmond Rd, Warsaw. Hours 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. You can call them at 804-333-3343 or 804-313-7303. Email Ficklin at costaricafick@gmail.com, and find them on Facebook. *Totally renovated by Ficklin Bryant.*



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Chesapeake Style Magazine

Insights for Artists from Artists~The 2020 Pandemic



have lots of time to paint! So why is my time spent doing other things?

My first insight comes from these two. We are all stunned, but are moving, some more quickly than others, toward creating a new learning and doing reality for ourselves and our art communities. We need to let ourselves experience fully these changes without being hard on ourselves.

Kathleen continues, “Thankfully, I can keep up with my weekly watercolor class through our new private Facebook page! Yes, I give them lessons and homework and they call it Noffsinger University!”

Steph adds: “I communicate with



learning how to whittle wood. He has whittled and painted spoons, spears and even characters from Harry Potter and Star Wars.”

These parents’ reflections led to another insight. While we may not have our face to face art sessions, we may have strengthened the family as an art community in itself. That is no small feat and a positive one in my mind.

Steph Brown said, “Creating, in my opinion, is the ultimate method of healing.” For both adults and children, artistic endeavor and connection continues to heal us, albeit perhaps differently than before spring, 2020.

To see more opportunities to create and view art, visit the website at www.bayschool-arts.com.

Deborah Butler photos of (t,l)Emma Saunders and (l)Hannah Burney.

By Deborah Butler

During this strangest of times, The Bay School is, like many other art groups, counting on the human will to create, and so has provided ways to continue to generate and share art in a community of distance.

If you go to the website you can find the virtual gallery tours of art works, blogposts of artists working by themselves or with family members on art projects, and connections to art lessons in other distance venues. There continues to be focus on young people’s creativity with the Art to Go kits produced weekly by the School’s artist teachers.

How are artists and art teachers experiencing these times? How have they maintained or created communities, and what insights might we all realize from our experiences? Long time Bay School artist Steph Brown honestly reflects: “People are moving in and out of anxiety, depression, stillness, and impatience. There is no rhythm right now.” Teacher and artist Kathleen Noffsinger, shares her thoughts about being an artist in these different times. “I remind myself that I now



the School’s recent efforts for children. “Bay School came up with a way to make Art to Go kits, which I think was a great idea. Art to Go, unlike classes with wait lists, is open to all and has allowed us to include more children of all ages.

“I think being able to offer parents the ability to pick up a prepackaged kit that contains everything they need to create a craft with their children is setting the stage for building memories together during this time. A silver lining for all of us has definitely been the slowing down of our life style and the ability to reconnect as families.”

Jennifer Christensen, another parent, adds, “The silver lining in staying home and missing all the fun art activities is that we have a lot more time to do larger projects as a family. Tools like saws and drills have been introduced for creating fun projects like birdhouses and pirate ships. My oldest son has been

my students via texting and email and am getting ready to launch a few online classes.” Indeed, her Facebook group Creative Cronos has been a regular resource for posting art and getting feedback—a lifeline for helping artists continue to create.

Parent and Bay School teacher of younger artists, Lisa Leavell, describes

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Style Spotlight~David Fine Sells Homes, Not Houses

By Darleen R. Nichols

David Fine is a known name in the Northern Neck. He is generally associated with The Callao Coffee Café where many area diners, including this writer, have enjoyed memorable Friday night dinners.

Alas, all good things come to an end. In 2018 David learned that he had a tumor on the back of his neck and surgery was required. At this time, he made the difficult decision that the café had to go. He was working 70 hours or more a week between the café and his actual career, real estate. That's right. Real estate sales was and is David's career. He leased the café and dedicated himself full time to his career.

We need to know more about David and there may be other surprises. A native of Alexandria and graduate of George Mason University,

David went to work in the Metro Washington, D.C. Home Building industry where he was employed for over 30 years. This experience has been an asset to his real estate career.

In 1986, David and his wife, Sharon, purchased a 1900 waterfront farmhouse in the Northern Neck. They created a family tradition by bringing their three children to this old house every weekend from March to November each year. "We loved the Northern Neck so much that we made it our full time home in 2003. Our children and grandchildren are coming here and they too have fallen in love with the Neck". The year 2003 was also the beginning of David's real estate career.

His life changed course when he met Tipper Williams, his current franchise owner. A year later, in 2018, he joined the Keller-Williams Agency, the largest real estate firm in the U.S. and around the world. David strongly

feels that the online training they offer have not only helped to make him a better agent but also a better person. He is certainly qualified to sell real estate in the Northern Neck—he not

only knows the highways and byways but also the waterways. An avid boater, David can advise his clients as to which of the local waterways are best suited for their individual needs.

Most of David's clients are people from the Metro DC area and the Richmond area but he also receives referrals from agents all over this country and the world. A great number of lookers are seeking waterfront property or acreage where they can find privacy and space.

Covid-19 has stepped up the use of virtual tours of homes on the market. Folks are buying with Virtual Tours without setting foot in the house. "This is a buyers' market and homes are selling." David Fine is an outstanding realtor and a gourmet restaurateur but most of all he is a community oriented individual who cares about people and helping them find that dream home.

The Northern Neck can boast of the local wineries, the many historic sites and certainly lots of water. But David added, "The most important of all we offer peace, quiet and clear skies. When my children and grandchildren come to visit we don't watch TV. Instead we go fishing, kayaking or just looking at the osprey

and eagles soaring against a royal blue sky. At night, we look at the clear sky without a film of various exhausts overlaying it. It's magic."

Now I will tell you a couple of things that David wouldn't share because he would see it as boasting. David Fine is a Top Producer every year. In 2019, he earned the Diamond Sales Award from the Northern Neck Association of Realtors. He was also named Best Realtor by the Readers of the *Northern Neck News* and he takes great pride in this.

The title of this article is a statement David made to me: "I sell homes not houses". His motto is interesting. "Need to get away? I can help". Help and helping are words that David uses frequently.

David Fine's office is located at 25 Sandy Street (at the light in Callao). A Northern Neck Information Center is also located in this office where maps, tourist information, are available. Call him at 202-297-8946, online, www.NorthernNeckGetAway.com.



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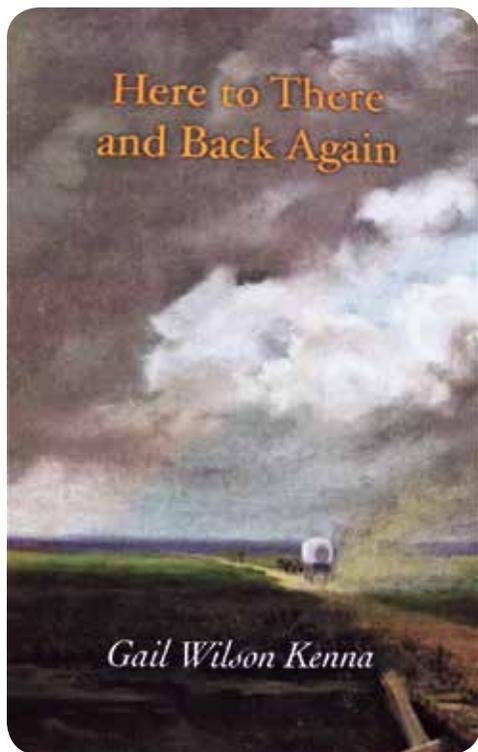
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Books in *Style*~Here to There and Back Again



grandmother's mountain cabin in Poso Park, which borders California's Sequoia National Forest. One night, Gail's grandmother handed her an old ledger that contained a distant relative's letters from 1849, the year Gail's great-great grandfather traveled the Gold Rush trail.

In reading about Eugene Chase's often treacherous journey to California, Gail felt he was speaking to her: "It is hard to leave one place for another. Hard to be alone and uncertain. Hard to keep walking when your feet beg to stop. But don't give up." Eugene's letters helped Gail face a necessary but unwanted military move, which meant leaving the Napa Valley where she taught.

When she and her two young daughters left Poso Park that summer, Gail knew she would write Eugene's story; and three years later, New Reader's Press published *Along the Gold Rush Trail*. For twenty years in multiple editions, the book remained in print.

Then in 2019, Gail visited an old friend in Sedona, Arizona. Carole, a teacher of *English as a Second Language* (ESL) had her students reading used copies of *Along the Gold Rush Trail*. In the night class, students explained to Gail why they related to Eugene's journey. They had fled countries, often under perilous conditions, and loved his story of courage and survival. Their

reaction made Gail decide to publish a revised edition of her 1982 book.

The new edition's cover shows a lone covered wagon traveling under an ominous sky. Beautiful artwork, gallery drawings, and a map add authenticity to the story. Eugene leaves home against the wishes of his parents but promises his sister, Hortense, he will write letters home. The actual letters form the basis of Gail's fictionalized story.

The reader will follow Eugene as he rides a riverboat on the Ohio, joins a wagon train in St. Louis, endures a desert crossing, and eventually mines for gold. The map of his journey shows Eugene's route from Vermont to California. The gallery informs a reader about gold mining and travel in the 1850s. The book, used for ESL and adult literacy, though simple in style, is an engaging story for any reader, young or old. Why? It shows how a difficult

journey makes or breaks a person's character. Eugene becomes a mature adult while his friend, Leal, is further broken on the Gold Rush trail.

Had Gail not discovered the letters in 1979, she would not have begun to write. If she had not started writing, I would not have been able to take my first class with her in 2005. Without her continuous instruction and encouragement, I might not have written *My Jewish Great-Grandmother* and *At Home on The Road*. I am only one of many students inspired to write because of Gail's great-great grandfather, Eugene, and his legacy of letters.

Visit Gail on her website: www.gailwilsonkenna.com and follow her on the blog, Literature I've Loved. *Here to There and Back Again* is available through Crosshill Creek Publications, and can be ordered at both Amazon and Barnes & Noble books.

By Ilona Duncan

In reviewing Gail Wilson Kenna's *Here to There and Back Again*, I will state the author has been my teacher. I have attended her writing and literature classes since 2005, through RCC's Institute for Lifelong Learning. I knew of her books, *Along the Gold Rush Trail*, *The Face of the Avila*, and *Beyond the Wall*, but never asked Gail what prompted her to become a writer.

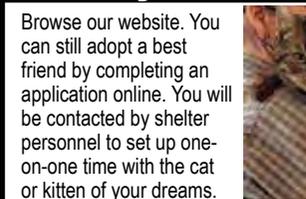
In the prologue to *Here to There and Back Again*, Gail recounts a visit in 1979 to her maternal



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Remembering



By Carol J. Bova

This night is silent. No cars on the road, no sounds at all, until I hear the rain's slow taps against the window.

As the breeze wakes the taps mount to steady patter. Wind-whipped sheets of rain slither across the road to wash against the house. Separate gusts compete in the darkness. The cat on a pillow next to the electric radiator stretches out a paw to touch my foot. I welcome the connection.

Now the wind settles down, and the rain slows. In the renewed silence, my thoughts drift back to a childhood time of isolation, three months in bed, away from family and friends. My mother checking in and bringing meals, dropping off a weekly packet

of homework, leaving a book, taking one away, but otherwise, solitude.

From the solitude of those nights, an old radio was my sole relief. While the rest of the household slept, I'd dial in programs from distant stations and lie there in the dark, volume adjusted so only I could hear the words and sound effects that filled my imagination. By the time I was ready to sleep, I felt the comfort of being with familiar friends.

A couple of months ago, Hans Durstling, a longtime friend in

Nova Scotia, convinced me to try Zoom. I reluctantly agreed, and it was much easier than I anticipated. Since then, I've been going to the weekly Zoom meetings of the Rappatomac Writers critique group. It has been great to see everyone, and share work and ideas. It's already become a high point of my week.

Now Hans is a renaissance man: gemcutter, lapidary, inventor, writer. He decided to create a nightly radio event to read aloud to his friends on Facebook. No video, just a friend's voice, comfortable, familiar. He sets a time and announces what book he'll be reading passages from and we join him. We've heard from several, from different times, on different subjects. In one, Mark Twain talked with wry humor about his time as a riverboat pilot on the Mississippi. Our imaginations threw in the sound of the boat cutting through the water, the clang of bells and the shouts of the crew.

One book I never dreamed of picking up in these circumstances turned out to be fascinating—"A

Journal of the Plague Year," Daniel Defoe's first person account of the great plague of 1665 in London, England, where 100,000 died in eighteen months. The challenges for the officials on how to manage such an event and for the people, whether to stay in their communities or go to a second home before the city was shut down, how to get supplies, and how to cope with a world turned upside down. And yet there was a comfort in hearing this recounting in Defoe's simple, yet exquisite writing, from four hundred years ago. For all the tragic events, we know the plague ended, the society survived, and life did return to normal.

Perhaps that's the lesson here—to reach out to others and remember, life will go on. Carol J. Bova writes for *Chesapeake Style* magazine and *InsideTheCrater.com*. She is working on *Breaking the Eighth*, a Chestnut Springs novel. Radio image by © Can Stock Photo / smuki.

Brain Injury~Coping with a Pandemic

By Martha M. Hall

Thanks to COVID-19, we are living in a difficult, strangely surreal time. We're observing a six foot distance from others, staying at home, and wearing masks and gloves when we have to go out for essential supplies. The news is bad, the threat is real, and we go to bed at night full of anxiety for ourselves and our loved ones, afraid we will be the next victims of the virus.

For brain injury survivors and their caregivers, this virus poses a special threat. Those surviving a brain injury are more likely to contract pneumonia or flu than those for whom brain injury is not an issue. COVID-19 seems to target compromised immune systems, so those struggling

with the co-morbid effects of any type of brain injury need to be particularly mindful of the risks associated with personal or surface contact.

Equally troublesome are the difficulties that our current environment causes in the day to day processing of anxiety producing changes. Your loved one may demonstrate an inability to focus or to follow simple directions and may seem unusually distracted. You may need to break tasks down to smaller pieces: if working in the yard seems to help, give your loved one a smaller job than usual, and compartmentalize as much as possible.

Maybe you usually say, "trim these shrubs." Say instead, "cut off this branch here," and then direct him to the next branch. Remember that itemizing small steps really helps to

create more focus. You know what Clean your room means, but for a person with a brain injury, it requires a degree of conceptualizing that they simply may not have. Individual tasks, given one at a time, such as "pull the covers up on your bed," or "empty your waste basket," are easier for the brain injured person to grasp than the global request "Clean your room."

Be sensitive to the fact that the current state of affairs is unnerving and disconcerting to all of us, and is even more so for your loved one, whether or not he is aware of the changes in our ways of doing things. Your own anxiety is palpable to him: even though you are trying to practice safety measures, you are still disconcerted by what you see on the news, you feel the pain and fear of others, and you find yourself

going to bed anxious and uneasy, afraid you or your loved one will "catch it." Any change in schedule is disruptive, so try to maintain a familiar routine: as much as possible, keep the survivor's daily activities as normal as possible, and encourage him to rest often. The "mental weight" of this stressful time is exhausting, particularly for a survivor.

Above all, follow the CDC guidelines for personal safety for yourself and your survivor: stay at home, practice social distancing if you have to go out, wear masks, and avoid crowded locales. Brain injury and COVID-19 can be a toxic combination. For more information on brain injury, contact the Brain Injury Association of Virginia at 800-444-6443 or at www.bia.vnet.



Style Spotlight~Sometimes It Takes Two



he met his future partner, Joe Howell.

Joe Howell is a Northern Neck born and bred in Kremlin. He graduated from Washington and Lee High School in Montross. It was during this period that Joe became a passionate antique collector. He has spent most of his life accumulating unique and

valuable treasures. "The house where I grew up, he said, was just full of the most unique objects and furnishings. Joe attended RCC where he received a certificate in computers. He then wandered off to Richmond where he met Allen and worked various jobs including a stint at Hunton-Williams law firm.

Their adventures came to an end in 1990 when Joe had to return to Kremlin to take care of his mother who was elderly and need the help. Allen came along. They opened the shop at 443 Main Street in Warsaw which Allen tended while Joe went to work for Westmoreland County Social Services from which he recently retired. In their spare time, they traveled the highways and byways of the Northern Neck searching for those very special things.

Walking into the shop is like walking into my great grandmother's house. I saw so many things that are familiar to me from my childhood. One of Joe's favorite items is a set of Porky Pig salt and pepper shakers which came from the 1920-1930's era. I ended up purchasing something I had had my eye on for a year at least.

I came home with this cookie jar shaped like a little chipmunk. I have never been big at baking anything. Hardly ever baked cookies but I do like adorable little animals so I will

find a spot in the house for Sir Charles as I dubbed him. I took a photo of Allen and Joe so they posed with a Victorian Imperial Pressed Glass vase. An elegant piece to be sure.

So much to take in all at one time it definitely needs several visits. Exquisite jewelry, lamps, china, crystal and furnishing such as accent tables of various shapes and hues. Joe and Allen are both prideful of the unique vintage clothing and Weiss jewelry they have collected and have displayed for sale.

"People often decide to downsize and call us to look at the items they want to part with. We are very fair with what we offer for the items. When there is something of great value or importance, we do not hesitate to let the person know because honesty in this type of business is what we believe is necessary", said Allen.

If your home is overcrowded with

antiques/collectibles and you need to winnow some out, give Joe or Allen a call. They will offer you a fair price for those cherished possessions.

If you're looking for that perfect gift, look no further. This is your one-stop shopping location for gifts to celebrate weddings, birthdays, anniversaries and the very special welcome to the new baby.

You can find something here for everyone and shopping is a real joy. Someone will answer your inquiries and help you to select the exact gift perfect for the occasion to be marked. You won't be ignored nor will you have a sales clerk hovering over your shoulder. You are encouraged to take your time making your selection. And when visiting, you will be treated as an honored guest. As our old friend, Porky Pig, used to say, "that's all folks"!

Darleen Nichols photo.

By Darleen R. Nichols

Partnership is defined as a cooperative relationship between two people who agree to share responsibility for achieving some specific goal or a contract between two people who agree to pool talent and money and share profit and losses. When solid, a partnership can offer far greater success to the pair than either could have managed individually. So, without further fanfare, let's meet the two amazing individuals behind 443 Main Street Antiques and Collectibles.

Allen Elledge was born and raised in Raleigh, North Carolina. Following graduation from high school, he attended North Carolina State University majoring in Economics and Business Management for two years. He then transferred to Virginia Commonwealth University where he continued the study of Economics. Allen worked in banking and restaurant management for a few years.

At the age of 26, Allen had an epiphany and switched gears and embarked on a career as a hair stylist. When asked what brought this change about, Allen said, "I just felt that I had a calling to do this." He operated a hair salon in Richmond for 10 years. The salon was called The Mane Event. It was during this time that



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Style Spotlight~The Little Town That Could



By Darleen R. Nichols

“Why are you moving to Poland?” That was what my friends in Northern Virginia asked me when I told them I was moving to Warsaw. I told them to look it up. They did and the vast majority of them thought Poland was the better option. I love Warsaw and this little town is on the rise big time. I had a long chat with Town Manager Joseph N. Quesenberry and we took a look into Joseph’s crystal ball. Here are some of the things I learned.

My first question was about the elections for Town Council Members which usually takes place in May. It has been decided to move that election to November when the others take place. There were two

basic reasons for that. The voting machines are very expensive and after being used once have to be quarantined for 30 days after the election and wouldn’t be available for the primaries in June. In addition, the expense of staffing came into play. Moving the Town Council Election to November made a lot more sense especially from a fiscal standpoint.

Now, we move to the more exciting news. I asked Joseph what was going into the empty space between the jewelry store and the popcorn store. “The Old Rappahannock Tap House” replied Joseph and went on to explain that “this will be a family restaurant offering an Americana menu A little bit of everything from hamburgers to steak and shrimp. The opening was scheduled for May but now we don’t know.”

Everyone has been watching the Dairy Queen wondering when it would be open. They were also scheduled for a May opening which could still take place. They have more than adequate parking space for takeout and a drive-in window.

We will need something to work off the pounds from all of these new restaurants to try in addition to those



we already love. Ace Hardware is coming to Warsaw. The old building on the corner of Main Street and Richmond Road—formerly the Bargain Center—will be demolished and a new edifice erected there.

The store will offer the usual hardware, plants. They will also have a rental service for small equipment. For instance, if you need to grind up a stump you don’t need to buy a piece of equipment to do it—just rent one from Ace Hardware. I’m using this as an example. I have no idea if they will be renting this piece of equipment.

“What on earth are they doing in the Bottom” people are constantly asking. Well, here’s the answer and it is really exciting. This is a project that will be going on for some time. Stage One will be the completion of the pond and walking trails.

The pond will be stocked with fish and turtles while ducks will be paddling above. This is for the youngsters to enjoy. The plan calls for the installation of the little machines that dispense fish food so the kids can feed the fish and turtles.

Next is the walking trail which

will be cleared and mulched by town employees. The trail leads right to the Enchanted Forest.

Where is the Enchanted Forest? The area on Wallace Street where Tom Rhoads has carved wonderful characters from cartoons, real life people and amazing animals. It’s an amazing place for the kids and for the kid that lives in all of us. In the future, the plan calls for our Farmers Market to return. How great that will be to have all of this fresh produce so close to home.

An amphitheater will be constructed where patrons can bring chairs or blankets and enjoy performances there. Bands may come and have concerts; plays may be presented by various theatre groups. Maybe Warsaw could

get its own little theatre group. All things are possible when you dream.

My next question to Joseph was what are you going to call this? The Bottom doesn’t seem appropriate. His response was “No bottom. It will be called The Bounds.” And he went on to explain a little of Warsaw history to me. The Bounds was made up of the area where the courthouse green intersects with Richmond Road and Main Street. That area once housed a hotel, a pub and probably more businesses. This was undoubtedly a thriving area at the time. After hearing this, I made a mental note to visit the Richmond County Museum to learn more about this wonderful little town that I call home.

Joseph reminisced a bit about his birthplace in Patrick County, Virginia. He feels right at home here. I think he will be with us for a long time.

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A Hotel Sign for The Times



By Ellen Dugan

If hotel rooms could talk, we probably wouldn't want them to. At least not about us. But they do have ways of communicating. Consider those printed cards urging you to *Help Save the Planet* by using your towel more than once, or the handy, reversible *Do Not Disturb/Please Clean* doorknob sign. Whether or not you actually respond to these

marketing memos, they do have a communications role to play, much like a parental substitute.

And like parents who aren't really parents, these hotel signs can relax. Some even try to predict what you'd like them to say on your doorknob greeting. Important information like *I'm in here. You're out there. Let's keep it that way a while longer. Or Try Next Door. I'm Busy.*

One small hotel, perhaps the one pushing energy conservation via a *This Room Is Not Afraid of the Dark* sign also offers a *Do Not Disturb - My Ego Needs A Rest* doorknob hanger.

These paper missives are not new. Had you stayed in a big city hotel during the winter a hundred years ago, a seemingly friendly, handwritten card addressed *To our Friends* would first instruct *If you leave your windows open, please turn off radiator*, and then, as if justification were needed,

admonish *We should not be expected to heat the outside of our building.*

Another challenge early hoteliers wrestled with was untidiness around their telephones. Specifically, guests who couldn't remember numbers or needed to take notes. Management took this challenge on pro actively with a *Please Use the Pad and Spare the Walls* card. You have to wonder if they would later warn that *Children Left Unattended Will Be Sold to the Circus* as one boutique hotel threatened recently.

Current hotels don't limit their communications strategies to the inside of your room however. Often, main doors and parking lots are included. Helpful door signs like *PUSH. If that doesn't work, PULL. If that doesn't work, we must be closed* and a *Caution. Trees don't move* sign for the parking lot.

A hotel in Missouri even printed cards noting that *...We have a few*

harmless bugs that sometime make their way into our guest rooms.

If you see any, please use a tissue to pick them up... or if you prefer you may ask the front desk person to come to the room and dispose of the bug for you. You might not want to stay in this hotel, but you do have to admire their honesty.

In striving to be both honest and helpful, hotels in China sometimes face tricky language battles. Witness: *Beware of Safety, No Celery Phones*, and "Slip Carefully" in English. If these signs miss the mark, there is always the fail-safe *We Apologize for any Convenience* sign. And instead of insisting that we stay on the sidewalk and *Keep off the Grass*, the Asian translation respectfully asks that we do not disturb the lawn and reminds us that *Tiny Grass Is Dreaming*. Now, isn't that a great way to end a trip!

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Style Spotlight~Old Friends, New Venture

By Martha M. Hall



Kinsel, MD, and Diana Jamison, LCSW, however, have a different kind of therapy in mind: retail therapy!

Friends for over 15 years, Vicki and Diana were, in their spare time, buyers for a local boutique, an experience that taught them a lot about the retail business. In a serendipitous convergence of events, Vicki retired from medicine at the same time that Diana decided to give serious voice to her creative nature, and the two women teamed up to establish what they had thought would be a physical storefront featuring natural fibers, free trade apparel, and unique clothing and accessories.

About that time, the “serendipitous convergence of events” also included the COVID-19 virus, which radically affected both established and beginning businesses. Undaunted, Diana and Vicki changed their business plan and opened an online business with the same mission and purpose they had planned for their brick and mortar business.

In May, they launched When Ordinary Won't Do, an online boutique featuring clothing and accessories, with several lines provided by companies specializing in supporting women's cottage industries or that invest in causes promoting the education and entrepreneurship of women.

“When Ordinary Won't Do (WOWD) is also about hosting and supporting local artisans,” Diana told me, “and going green by supporting environmental artwork and creative methods when and as we can.

We want to provide a space where women entrepreneurs can display their work, and creative, wearable art is very much a part of what we're offering.

“We want to support local artists, because we are committed to keeping our business and our efforts local, so that we give back to the community every chance we get.” Vicki added, “Our web designer is local, our lawyer is local, our advertising is local, even our business cards are produced locally. Establishing and maintaining a community presence is very important to us.”

Retail is a tough business, but Vicki and Diana have found that it is an exciting venture, full of challenges—Diana calls them FTEs, or First Time Experiences—and opportunities to grow and learn. Diana was already moving in the direction of designing her own clothing line when she and Vicki teamed up. “I always wanted to design clothes,” she told me, “and I love finding a creative use for odds and ends that others would just throw away.

“Once, as a child, I made a mud pie and decorated it with lavender blossoms. It was beautiful!” Diana's passion is finding articles of clothing that would normally be relegated to the landfill and re purposing them with stenciled designs, appliqués, unusual trims, and other original motifs to give them new life and a different appeal.

Vicki enjoys finding unique apparel in her travels and introducing new and comfortable clothing to her wardrobe. “I think fashion has



always been with us,” she said. “I am sure that even in caveman days, some woman thought to herself ‘That shell, or that piece of bone, would probably look good right there...’ I like clothing that is comfortable, but makes a statement, something that sets off an outfit and creates something special.”

Another aspect of WOWD that Diana and Vicki are very committed to is a program they call “Friends.” In an effort to

keep things local, they have selected two local non profits to benefit from WOWD sales: Northern Neck Partners for Pets, and The Haven Shelter and Services. The women plan to donate a portion of certain sales to these two organizations.

Partners for Pets, a nonprofit dedicated to building a no kill animal shelter and adoption center in the Northern Neck, was a natural choice, since Vicki is a Board member, and both women are committed to the efforts of The Haven to provide shelter, job assistance, and counseling for abused women and victims of sexual assault.

Vicki and Diana are pet owners and animal lovers, their dogs, and Vicki's variety of farm animals, will be featured on the WOWD's website, making fashion statements and contributing to the nature of the venture. ‘Fun’ and ‘unique’ are the watch words for When Ordinary Won't Do, and developing a new approach to fashion is central to the vision that Vicki and Diana are pursuing.

Shop online, <https://whenordinarywontdo.com>, and on Facebook, When Ordinary Won't Do; email, shop@whenordinarywontdo.com, *Photos courtesy WOWD.*

What do you get when a medical doctor and a mental health therapist go into business together? If you guessed ‘a clinic,’ you'd be partly right. Vicki

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Furry and Winged Visitors

By **Sandra C. Fykes**

There are days when I long for a four legged pet. I consider myself to be more of a dog person, but more about that later. So during this time of home contemplation, I have imagined daily furry cuddles, lap visits, a TV and reading companion, a nap time buddy, and fun outdoor walks and excursions to the dog park. My daydreaming list of dog adventures goes on and on.

Then, reality sets in and I think about the responsibilities and challenges that I would have as a dog parent during this time of my life and with my medical conditions. I have talked to my friends that have pets, and those that have lost them, for advice and to get a picture of what

it is really like to be a pet owner.

They have shared the unconditional love, joys, comfort, and the security benefits, as well as the annoyances, the fear that comes with runaway experiences, the vet visits and bills, travel considerations and challenges, and the indescribable grief that comes with losing them. I can count on my friends to share their experiences, good and bad, and to be bluntly honest with me.

I have also never considered myself to be a bird watcher until recently. In the past couple of months at home, I have enjoyed watching the cardinals, blue jays, finches, and hummingbirds in my backyard. I have even been amazed at watching the larger birds, like the woodpeckers, crows, owls, and hawks.

Sometimes they all get along, and

sometimes they get on each other's nerves, and even those times can be somewhat entertaining to watch—up to a point. I enjoy listening to their chirps and chatter throughout the day, sometimes wondering what they are saying to each other, and about us.

Now, back to the kitties. Years ago in my development, we had a neighborhood cat that would roam around from house to house. The cat would come by my house, frequently nap on my front porch soaking up the sun, and entertain himself or herself in my backyard. My neighbors would fondly talk about their feline visits, too. Now that I think back to those times, those unexpected visits always brought me delight and joy, and even though I never touched the kitty, we did have wonderful conversations.

Well once again, we have

another community cat. He or she is plump, and has patches of black and white all over with a cute pink nose. And this morning while I was having my morning devotions, guess who appeared on my front porch? I don't know the cat's name, so I'm going to call him or her Patches for now. Patches loves my front porch and backyard, and also finds entertainment in watching the birds, squirrels, and rabbits. I get joy from her visits and from watching her exploits.

So even if I have to hold off on getting a pet, or I never get one, I believe that God knows my heart and my desires, and sends these furry and winged creatures every once in a while to visit me. I am very thankful for these moments.

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Style Spotlight~ More Than a Boathouse, More Than a Marina



By Darleen R. Nichols

When I took on this assignment, I knew nothing of boathouses or marinas.

What I do know is when I meet someone who is a warm, caring and engaging human being. All of these adjectives fit very comfortably on the shoulders of Bill Bowman, Sr., owner and operator of the Boathouse Marina and a major cheerleader for the Colonial Beach community.

Once upon a time, the marina was known as The Stanford Marine Railway. This was opened in 1946 by Clarence Stanford where he made a career of building classic workboats. Bill is a retired contractor—or as retired as you can get when you own a business. He owned a contracting business in Richmond, where he still maintains a home and office. When asked what he built, Bill replied “Anything I had a contract for”. It’s hard to imagine this upbeat, ready

to participate man as a retiree.

Most of Bill’s life has been spent restoring things, especially cars. I asked what car was his favorite and he responded, “I have a pre-World War One Silver Ghost Rolls Royce.” He assured me that they did indeed ride very smoothly. He has sold some of his cars but still has some left including several classic and antique cars as well as boats.

Also the marina has an electric car charging station; one of only two in the Northern Neck. The other being located at Tides Inn. Bill doesn’t charge a fee for the charging service. As you will see, Bill doesn’t charge an additional fee for many things.

Bill is justifiably proud of a variety of things but none more than his sponsorship of Sea Scout Ship 258. He is very committed to the next generation. I used to work in a high school so I know this age group can be quite a challenge. When asked why he did this, Bill responded “Because I want to give these kids

an opportunity to get out and get an education in something other than hand held computers”.

Bill’s love of restoring old cars eventually led to restoring boats about 30 years ago. His collection of antique boats is equal to his collection of antique cars. He bought the marina in 2013 and has been working on upgrades ever since.

The marina was the epicenter of that very destructive storm that passed through in April of 2017 which led to the addition of new piers, floating slips and major upgrades

need not fear as Bill offers slips for them also. The Boathouse Marina offers a full service marina store. If he doesn’t have it in stock, Bill can find it for you, a testament to his dedication to his customers and slip holders.

Even the most avid devotee of boating wishes to come ashore sometimes and when that happens, they want to find comfortable surroundings. Not only does the marina offer free WiFi and a courtesy car or golf cart, there is a large screen TV and showers available 24/7. During regular business

hours, free laundry facilities are also available. Bill hosts many events at the marina for his slip holders and guests.

On his website, he lists restaurants in town and sights that might be of interest to tourists. This man is very community minded which is clear when conversing with him for any length of time. The Boathouse Marina consistently receives 5 star ratings from Active Captains and other boat venues.

Bill and his staff look forward to seeing you in Colonial Beach at the Boathouse Marina where fair winds and sunny skies await you.

Find them at 829 Robin Grove Lane, Colonial Beach, online, www.theboathousemarina-va.com, email, billbowmansrbhm@gmail.com, Call 804-224-7644 or Cell 804-761-6620. Find them on Facebook at The Boathouse Marina. *Photos Courtesy Bill Bowman.*



in buildings. As a matter of fact, the electric plant and water lines were completely redone as well as the landscape of the marina.

The Boathouse Marina provides many services. There is the maintenance, repair and restoration of boats so your boat stays in good shape. There are annual slip rentals so your boat is ready to go whenever you get the urge to set out on the water.

Transient boaters on the waterway

Spring Forfeit

By Don Loop

The sun comes north in springtime
Op’ning blossoms everywhere
And the sound of songbirds
Swooping, singing fills the air.

But joy this spring was daunted
With fear on every hand
As the threat of covid-nineteen
Like the devil stalks the land.

So, with social life deleted
We ‘come hermits in our home
‘Till the scourge has been defeated
And the pestilence is gone.

Wild *Style* Cuisine~Venison Steak and Cheese



By Wendy Hyde

I wasn't raised in a family that hunted regularly and never considered the activity until I was invited to deer hunt with a guy I dated during high school. It was not a successful hunt and the relationship didn't last long, but that first experience afield was positive and laid the foundation for future activities I never would have imagined back then.

Several years later I met my husband, and his marriage proposal came with two conditions—he was mostly kidding—we would live in Virginia, and he was going to hunt. He is a native Virginian going back seven generations, and my father's job with IBM—I've Been Moved—meant I had no strong ties to any one place. I agreed to the conditions.

He became my lifelong partner and hunting mentor. When our twin daughters arrived, we decided they would grow up learning what we had come to enjoy doing together. We thought infants needed a lot of room in a car, but when we started hauling four firearms, four pairs of winter

boots, jumpsuits, lunches, backpacks, and other gear into the woods, we used every inch of our Mega cab truck! Once our daughters started college, I decided to become a volunteer Hunter Education instructor through the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. I wanted to introduce other women and kids to what had evolved into a lifestyle for our family. I wanted to help build the same sense of confidence, independence, knowledge and respect for wildlife we watched develop in our girls. I've been teaching for 10 years, am a Master Instructor with over 2,000

volunteer hours served and am part of a team that teaches other instructors how to organize and run safe live-fire range activities. The group of people I volunteer with are some of the most knowledgeable and dedicated people with which I have had the pleasure to work.

I now combine my love of cooking with my hunting and teaching experience through Field to Table workshops with VDGIF. I made these Venison Steak and Cheese Sandwiches as part of a workshop at a wildlife club in Northern Virginia that had a beautiful, newly renovated kitchen. The club president was discreetly watching from a distance making sure I treated their kitchen with care. I encouraged him out of the shadows for a sample and was happy to hear, "This is the best steak and cheese I've ever eaten!"

Venison Steak and Cheese Sandwiches

2 lb. venison roast
6 oz. button mushrooms
2 medium red, yellow or green bell peppers
2 medium sweet or yellow onions
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes, or

to taste

1/2 c. Tonton Hibachi Japanese Steak Sauce (available at Wegman's)
6 Tbsp. clarified butter or neutral oil
Freshly ground black pepper
1/4 c. A-1 Hearty Steak Sauce
8 slices white American cheese
Mayonnaise
Salt and pepper, to taste
4 large hoagie rolls OR
2 loaves of narrow Italian bread (each about 15 inches long and 3 inches wide)

Cut roast into large chunks that will fit in the chute of a food processor and freeze until a knife can be inserted in the center with some resistance, about 2 hours. Using a thin slicing blade (2 mm) in a food processor, slice the partially frozen meat. (Alternately, slice partially frozen meat very thinly with a sharp

and add 2-3 Tbsp. clarified butter or oil. Sear half of the meat just until cooked through (do not brown); remove to a bowl and keep warm. Scrape skillet clean, add remaining 3 Tbsp. butter, then remaining meat, cook, then add to the bowl with the already cooked meat. Do not clean the skillet. Reduce heat to medium high, add mushrooms and cook until most of liquid has evaporated.

Add the peppers and onions and a pinch of salt, and sauté until almost tender but not soft, scraping up all the browned bits in the pan. Stir in the meat and A-1 sauce and cook and stir 1-2 minutes until thoroughly coated. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary and remove from heat—Do not cook until all liquid is evaporated—the pan juices add moisture and flavor to

the sandwiches.

Split bread or rolls in half lengthwise, remove excess bread from the center to create a trough, and spread one side with mayonnaise. Layer opposite side with slices of American cheese. Distribute the meat and vegetable mixture evenly between the bread/rolls. Wrap tightly in aluminum foil and warm in the oven for 15 minutes. Remove from oven, cut each sandwich in half and serve



knife.) Rough chop the sliced meat several times to yield small pieces and put into a medium bowl. Add Tonton Steak sauce, crushed red pepper flakes and pepper and set aside.

Slice peppers and onions into 1/2-inch strips and cut mushrooms into 1/4-inch slices; set aside.

Preheat oven to 400°. Heat a large, heavy skillet over high heat

with dill pickles and potato chips. *Photos by Wendy Hyde. All recipes included in this column are original by Wendy Hyde unless otherwise noted. She can be contacted at wildstylecuisine@gmail.com; follow her on Instagram as girlgamechef.*

Tidewater & Timber~June Brings Chill Time On The Water

By Chelly Scala

This June brings with it the excitement of being on the water. Anglers are now able to pursue recreational striped bass in all 3 fisheries' jurisdictions. Striped bass seasons are open in waters managed by Virginia, the Potomac River Fisheries Commission (PRFC) and Maryland's Department of Natural Resources (DNR). PRFC, DNR and Virginia have new striper seasons and creel limits. Check their fisheries websites often for any changes in the current and upcoming seasons. Look for consistent signs of menhaden in an area of water, troll that location for a while and zig zag along the channel edges for good possibilities.

The current VMRC Chesapeake Bay recreational striped bass season covering the Virginia Chesapeake Bay and tributary waters opened May

16 and continues through June 15. The minimum size Limit is 20 inches and the maximum size limit is 28-inches. The daily possession Limit is one per person. The website is available at <https://webapps.mrc.virginia.gov/public/reports/swrecfishingrules.php> or <https://mrc.virginia.gov/index.shtm>

PRFC recreational striped bass season for tidal Potomac River waters went into another season on May 16 that continues through July 6 with a size and creel limit of a 20-inch minimum and two fish per person per day. Visit the PRFC websites at <http://prfc.us/pdfs/BLUE-SHEET.pdf> or <http://prfc.us/index.html> for additional information.

The Maryland DNR Fisheries striped bass season changed on May 16 and has a size and bag limit for the Chesapeake Bay



hooks, with or without beaded spinners. Our preference is beaded spinner hooks when fishing deeper, murky waters. Use hooks without spinner flash and beads with enough weight to keep the baits right on the bottom. Croakers can also be caught from the docks or shorelines using bobbers and a single hook.

Look for stretches of bottom with obstructions, oyster shell or sand. Sometimes, big croakers can be found in small feeder creeks and coves in the late evenings and after dark, in as little as three feet of water. As the days heat up croakers often move into deeper channel waters.

These same rigs can also produce catches of blues,

rockfish, flounder, spot and puppy drums. During the heat of the day, look for action in waters 30-40 feet deep, using larger sinkers. When wind and tide are troubling, try drift fishing as opposed to anchoring. Anchor up after marking the spot where the fish are biting. Come evening or early morning hours, start fishing closer to shore in about 20 feet of water. Move deeper as the day and water heats up.

If bottom fishing is not preferred, some prefer fishing in the chum slicks for stripers and bluefish. Fish are attracted to the ground menhaden oil and will readily bite small chunks of fresh cut menhaden drifted back into the slick.

No weights should be used for this type of fishing; just tie the hook directly to 12 to 15-pound test leader and let it drift back into the chum. When the tide starts running, use a small pinch weight 2 to 3 feet up from the hook. Be sure to keep a net available to scoop up your catch.

Chelly Scala photo of Mickey Vaughn holding a Chesapeake Bay rockfish he caught.

and its tributaries of one fish per person, per day, with a minimum size of 19-inches. The Maryland DNR websites at <https://news.maryland.gov/dnr/2020/04/08/regulations-proposed-for-2020-summer-fall-striped-bass-season/> or <https://dnr.maryland.gov/fisheries/Pages/default.aspx> provides additional information.

This time of year, bottom fishing, drifting or shore fishing also provide great possibilities. Blues, rockfish, flounder, spot, croaker and puppy drum are all species to fish for. Using top and bottom rigs fitted with two hooks and a 1-2-ounce weight should produce great catches. Bait choices should include blood worms, strips of cut spot, minnows, squid strips, peelers, soft crab or shrimp.

Bloodworms have proven the best option for croaker fishing; although sometimes anglers also find fish-bites work almost as well. Squid, hard crab pinchers and cut pieces of spot have also been good baits for croakers.

Bait and tackle shops are great places to purchase double hook top and bottom rigs along with #1-3

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Served up with Love in *Style* by Melissa

By Melissa Haydon

As we find ourselves navigating the waters during this pandemic, I myself have really paid attention to the



amount of food we waste. So our family has utilized leftovers and recreating meals as much as we can to stretch what we have. Bananas are one of those things we try to buy and have on hand more often but always seem to dwindle down to just a few left that no one wants to eat. So of course, we make banana

bread. But this time, we kicked it up a notch and gave it a tropical twist. This was a huge hit with my family as I hope it would be for yours as well.

Hawaiian Banana Bread

1/2 cup butter, softened
1 cup granulated sugar
2 large eggs
1 ripe banana, mashed
8 ounces crushed pineapple (do not drain)
2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp baking soda
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 cup shredded coconut

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar together with a mixer until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time and beat to incorporate. Stir in mashed banana and undrained crushed pineapple. In a separate medium sized bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Add

to wet ingredients. Stir in shredded coconut. Pour mixture into a greased 9 x 5 loaf pan. Bake for 1 hour or until



a toothpick inserted comes out clean.

Crock Pot Barbecue Chicken

Since we are eating more at home these days I am utilizing my crock pot more and more. We typically keep chicken of various pieces in the freezer to pull out when we are wanting something a little different. This time we had a value pack of drumsticks that needed some love.

Cooking them in the crock pot low and slow infused with an enormous amount of bbq flavor and was a big hit. We served this with some macaroni and cheese and a side salad. The perfect dinner for a crazy busy day or just when you need a helping hand making a meal for your family. 3-4 pounds of chicken drumsticks (or desired chicken pieces)
1 (18 ounce) bottle of your favorite BBQ sauce

Place the desired chicken pieces into a 5 - 6 quart crock pot. Cover with BBQ sauce and cook on low for 6-8 hours.

If you enjoy these recipes, find many more over on my website, Served Up With Love. Where I share easy, no fuss meals to feed your family that satisfies the tightest of budgets. Please note, these recipes may not be 100% my own. I use many resources to make the recipes I share with you.



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