Middleburg Eccentric™
MIDDLEBURG'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
VOLUME 12 ISSUE 8 WWW.MBECC.COM DECEMBER 17, 2015 ~ JANUARY 28, 2016
Printed using recycled fiber

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GIFT IDEAS, 2015
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CHRISTMAS IN MIDDLEBURG PHOTOS

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MIDDLEBURG & MIDDLEBURG POLICE RECOGNIZED FOR BEST 2015 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

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CHRISTMAS TIDINGS

MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

DAN MORROW

Middleburg Police Chief A. J. Panebianco and Christmas in Middleburg Parade Master Jim Herbert estimated the crowds attending this year's December 5 Christmas in Middleburg celebrations at 26 to 28 thousand.

Perfect weather and a full docket of special events produced long lines of traffic, especially on the Route 7 approach to town.

A video of the morning parade of horses and hounds published on the Middelburg Eccentric's web site had pulled in 85,000 views in the first 36 hours it was up and is clocking over a quarter of a million views as we go to press.

Mayor Davis expressed her special appreciation for Economic Development Coordinator Cindy Pearon's hard work on Christmas in Middleburg, while she was not only doing her own job but filling in as a part-time Town Treasurer. Pearson thanked the Mayor, her fellow Town Staff members, and all the volunteers who had pitched in to help.

The annual celebrations were marred by two accidents: one, a fall, requiring that the afternoon Santa parade be halted for a time to allow free passage for an ambulance. Then, after the day's events, as darkness fell, Middleburg Police officer Tim Tharpe was injured while directing traffic, hit by a car driven by a local resident charged on the scene with driving under the influence.

Officer Tharpe, according to Police Chief Panebianco, recovered from his injuries, planned to attend the Town's annual staff party, and asked the Chief to express his thanks to the Town Council, staff, citizens and friends of Middleburg who had sent him their best wishes.

Continued page 14

CHECK OUT MIDDLEBURG ECCENTRIC'S HUNT PARADE VIDEO VIEWED 87,000 TIMES WWW.MBECC.COM



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FQ8470391 $3,999,000

10000 MOUNT AIRY RD, UPPERVILLE - Extraordinary brick colonial on 50+ gorgeous acres in prestigious Greystone. Over 9000 sq.ft.of spectacular living space featuring 3 beautifully finished levels. Heated pool, tennis court and brilliant gardens overlook a picturesque pond with fabulous moutain views, in a private & secluded location!

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



LO8269159 $2,800,000

35679 MILLVILLE RD, MIDDLEBURG - Beautiful stone home on 40+ acre. Bright, spacious 4 BR/5BA- perfect for entertaining. Open floor with spacious light-filled dining room and living room that open up to decks and views of Goose Creek. Exquisite 8-stall stone horse barn with tack room. Additional guest house and lot available.

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



LO8730673 $1,825,000

35469 MILLVILLE RD, MIDDLEBURG - Animal swim center- 43.32 acres, 4 parcels- one with 1+ acres, charming 2 bedroom cottage with gourmet kitchen, fireplace, wood floors; lot 1 with 14 acres, 50 ft oval and 40 ft linear animal swimming pools; lot 2 with 10 acres & 4 bedroom perc; lot 3 with 17 acres and 4 bedroom perc; lots also offered separately, gorgeous building sites, borders Goose Creek!

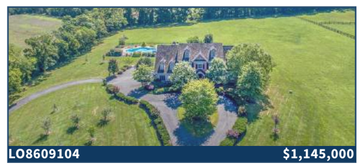
Joy Thompson 540.729.3428



LO8763606 $1,385,000

OLD MEADOW LN, MIDDLEBURG - Minutes from town, private, protected, all brick Georgian. 10' ceilings on first floor, coved ceiling, lovely molding, 2 gas fireplaces, 4 BR, 4.5 BA, new sunroom, great kitchen, 3 car garage w/ workshop, circular asphalt driveway on 7.75 ac. Perennial gardens w/ stone walls, flagstone terraces and views.

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



LO8609104 $1,145,000

35529 DEER POND LN, ROUND HILL - A long winding drive past a picturesque pond leads to exquisite brick & stucco colonial on 10 acres. 12 room residence boasts 4BRs and 5 1/2 baths; a stunning family room with vaulted ceilings, full stone wall fireplace; tiled sun room with wet bar. Beautiful heated pool and spa all in pristine condition!

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



LO8572779 $850,000

33615 AUSTIN GROVE RD, BLUEMONT - Beautiful home on serene partially wooded 32+acres in sought after location. Be in the heart of Loudoun's premier wineries! Finished basement, 4 car total garage w/ detached workshop. Large private stocked fishing pond! Exceptional rideout in Piedmont Hunt, abundant wildlife, fabulous hunting

Marqui Simmons 703.774.6109 | Jane Hensley 571.550.2728



YourCountryHome.net $749,000

21073 ST LOUIS RD, MIDDLEBURG - Unique country house on 8.5 acres with paddocks and riding ring. Visit horses just out front door, or use 3 stalls as a dramatic feature of a future atrium joining both wings of the home. Stocked pond with sandy beach! Home includes 2 main bedrooms plus two guest rooms/office. Mountain views!

Kim Hurst 703.932.9651



FQ9501611 $695,000

694 FEDERAL ST, PARIS - Fabulous historic property in the heart of Paris. Zoned Village Commercial. 1.7+ acres consisting of a main residence/showroom with 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. 2 bedroom Guest House/Rental Property and two smaller buildings for retail, office space, or storage.

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



FQ8757628 $690,000

HUME RD, HUME - Under an hour to DC; perfectly maintained 4000+ sf on 3 levels. 10.2 ac w/ paddocks, pond, horse stable. Stunning outdoor living spaces: large deck overlooks Cobbler Mtn & valley, kitchen flows to covered porch, extensive hardscaping, perennial gardens, 1st flr master, lrg great room, LL family, guest room.

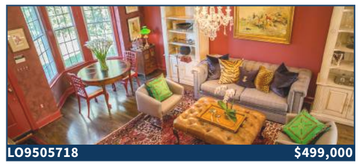
Carole Taylor 703. 577.4680



FQ8503814 $524,000

3085 RECTORTOWN RD, MARSHALL - MAKE AN OFFER Charming 3BR/2.5BA cottage. Weekend retreat or full-time living. Amenities include Viking range, soapstone counters, hardwood floors, wonderful front porch/second level porch with lovely views, wood-burning fireplace, fenced backyard. 2200sf. 10 mins to Middleburg, Marshall, I-66.

Walter Woodson 703.499.4961



LO9505718 $499,000

13 HUNT CT, MIDDLEBURG - Ultimate quality! Immaculate all brick townhouse w/ high end upgrades & finishes. Recently refinished HW floors, built-in bookcases, beautiful crown molding, Wi-fi thermostats & Ralph Lauren lighting fixtures throughout. 3 fireplaces, 4 levels, beautiful light-filled kitchen. Mins from downtown. MUST SEE!

Scott Buzzelli 540.454.1399 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835



FQ8639137 $450,000

677 FEDERAL ST, PARIS - c. 1810 Federal Style home located in the quaint Village of Paris, the home of the renowned Ashby Inn. Updated by the current owners with a new master bathroom, kitchen with SS appliances, and second bath. Owners have repaired everything needing repair including a new septic system. Adorable building that could be a great studio. A must see.

Patricia Burns 540.454.6723 | Peter Pejacsevich 540.270.3835

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News of Note

MBPA Holiday Biz Buzz

Salutes Community Citizens



Amid tears and laughter, the Middleburg Business and Professional Association held its final Biz Buzz of 2015—when the MBPA traditionally honors businesses and individuals in our community. The annual holiday Biz Buzz is held in the Parish House of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, with Tutti Perricone providing the delicious food.

The tears came when the Legacy Award was presented to the Allen family in honor of Nancy and Howard Allen, who both passed away this year. They were described as the kind of people "who leave an indelible mark on the community and the people they meet, not because they are flashy or flamboyant or because they seek the spotlight. The legacy they leave behind comes from their decency and integrity, their humor and compassion and the countless kindnesses they do throughout their lives. They represented the best of this town, and their shining example will light the way for us all." Mayor Betsy Davis and Page Allen accepted the award on behalf of their family.

Honors for Landlord of the Year went to Dan Kaseman, because he is "someone who sees beyond the rent check … and recognizes that the success of his tenants is part of his own success as well … He understands that every new business needs a helping hand at times … and by offering his support he sets an example for landlords everywhere."

The award for Overall Outstanding Customer Service went to Carolyn Mitchell with Safeway. She was described by one of her many nominators as "friendly, courteous and upbeat. She's the kind of person you look forward to seeing every day." She was also noted as providing the kind of service that makes her customers feel unique and special.

The Middleburg Community Center was awarded the Community Charm Award, for the Center's commitment to representing the community of Middleburg so well. The Community Center's charm "goes beyond physical appearance. Every event at the Community Center is made even more special by the attention to detail and the care and the staff, who are always ready to help."

The New Event of the Year award recognized the National Sporting Library and Museum's Open Late event, an evening series of concerts and performances that included the likes of the Piedmont Symphony and the West Point Glee Club. The award recognized the NSLM's commitment to "enrich the lives of our residents and to give them enjoyable events that can be shared with their friends and neighbors. And they did it with style!"

The Entrepreneur of the Year award went to Popcorn Monkey and Tone Moore, noting, "There aren't enough superlatives to describe Tone and Popcorn Monkey. Imaginative … innovative … enthusiastic … Tone is also someone who supports our community in every way. He's a true entrepreneur who brings the added and essential ingredient of also caring deeply about our town."

The MBPA board also said good-bye to three members who stepped down this year after serving for many years. Jo Ann Hazard, Mimi Stein and Genie Ford received recognition for the roles they played on the board for the past several years.

The MBPA holds Biz Buzz networking events every month of the year, except January. These events enable local businesses to showcase their operations and facilities, and brings business owners and citizens together in a congenial atmosphere, even as it provides important information on the many happenings in our little town. For more information about the MBPA, go to www.visitmiddleburgva.com.



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From boutique and production farms, to wineries and vineyards, to the livestock and equine industries, no one understands the local agribusiness landscape the way we do. That's because our roots are also here. Call or come in to discuss how we can help cultivate your success.

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News of Note

Middleburg & Middleburg Police Recognized for Best 2015 National Night Out





The Town of Middleburg and the Middleburg Police Department have been honored by the National Association of Town Watch as the top-ranked National Night Out 2015 among communities with populations of up to 5,000.

The annual National Night Out campaign promotes police-community partnerships through events that bring neighbors and police together in positive ways to make our communities safer, better places to live. Middleburg's 4th annual National Night Out was part of the 32nd Annual National Night Out that involved 38.3 million people in 16,728 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide.

The Middleburg Police Department and the Middleburg Community Center partnered again for this year's event, which featured a rock climbing tower, the ultimate bungee, bounce house, magician, DJ, health screening bus, fire/rescue display, fire marshal's display, blood hounds, bike safety information, food, drinks, and prizes for all. Over 400 people participated in the event - amazing numbers for a community of only 700 people or so.

Middleburg's award is a testament to the Middleburg Police Department's commitment to community policing and to the community's support for the department, including the many volunteers who helped make the event such a success. Police officers, who are known by their first names, witness this support every day, and the partnership between the Town and its citizens and businesses has helped to ensure that those who live and work in town and the thousands who visit enjoy a safe, welcoming environment.

To see the complete list of all winters and the top 10 from the Category 6 ("Less Than 5,000"), go to https://natw.org/award-winners.

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Merry Christmas ~ Tom Hays

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Book signing for A Community of the Horse: Partnerships, Stakes & Stakeholders, and Legacies



Bruce & Edie Smart

Upperville horseman S. Bruce Smart, Jr. is the author of A Community of the Horse: Partnerships, Stakes & Stakeholders, and Legacies — a unique non-fiction trilogy that offers an inside view into the people, horses, events and culture of Virginia's very unique horse and hunt country.

On the evening of December 4, a book signing by Smart, accompanied by his wife, Edie, took place in a most beautiful and appropriate setting: the Stable Lobby of the Equestrian Center at Salamander Resort & Spa, Middleburg.

The Smarts are both longtime horse people and remain very active in the horse world, especially racing. They finished 7th in the National Steeplechase Association's 2015 owner standings.

Adding to the book signing's ambience was the Museum of Hounds and Hunting of North America, Inc.'s Holiday Art Exhibit and Sale, featuring about 60 works by local contemporary sporting artists. Two of the exhibited artists are profiled in Smart's "Legacies": Anita Baarns and Sandra Massie Forbush.



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January 8 – 10: Eat for Your Health with Nutritionist **Jamie Martinez**

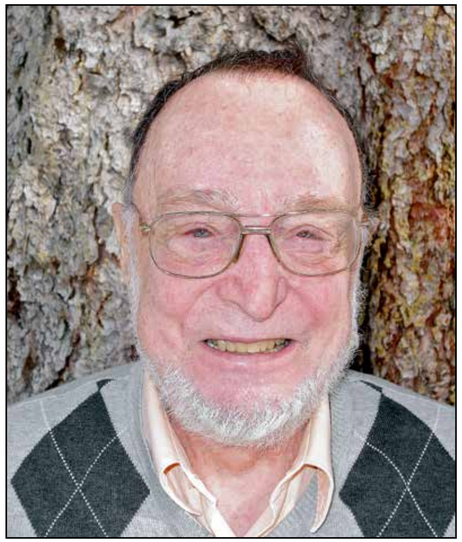
January 10 – 13: Begin Within with **Dr. Jon Ellerby**, PhD & International Yoga Therapist, Uxia Ellerby

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News of Note

Mosby Recognizes Tom and Gayle DeLashmutt and Paul Ziluca as Heritage Heroes



Paul Ziluca

The Mosby Heritage Area Association, the Northern Virginia Piedmont preservation and education organization, has selected three individuals to receive the organization's annual Heritage Hero Award. This year's awards go to Gayle and Tom DeLashmutt and Paul Ziluca.

The Heritage Hero award is given to individuals or groups in the Mosby Heritage Area who have demonstrated stewardship responsibility over many years. The awards were presented at a recent ceremony at the National Sporting Library and Museum.

Gayle DeLashmutt

Gayle has lived in Loudoun County for over forty-five years. She has served on many boards, including Grafton School, Fauquier-Loudoun Garden Club, Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter, the National Historic Landmark Stewards Association.

She has been a dedicated volunteer with various groups including The Journey Through Hallowed Ground and she served as President of the Mosby Heritage Area Association from 2006-2008.

In 1992, with her husband, Tom, Gayle began the task of restoring the gardens, outbuildings, and tenant houses of their home, Oak Hill, near Aldie. Oak Hill was the home of President James Monroe.

Gayle is a gracious host, allowing hundreds of school children to visit her home with the Aldie Triangle field trip program each April.

Tom DeLashmutt

Tom is the President and CEO of Barcroft Apartments, a family business for decades that is located in Arlington. Tom and his family have owned Oak Hill, near Aldie for 67 years.

Oak Hill was the home of President James Monroe and Tom, along with his wife Gayle, have been dedicated stewards, preservationists, and hosts, opening it for many groups and events, allowing the public into a presidential home.

Tom has also owned and preserved Berkeley House in Aldie for 50 years. Berkeley House is one of the most historic homes in the village of Aldie, and has been carefully preserved and maintained.

Paul Ziluca

As chair of the Citizens Committee for the Historic Cavalry Battles of Aldie, Middleburg and Upperville, Paul obtained a grant from the American Battlefield Protection Program to map these three battles employing advanced technology. The project was completed in 2004.



Gayle & Tom DeLashmutt

He also succeeded obtaining recognition from the Civil War Preservation Trust that these three battles were among the 10 most endangered Civil War battlefields in our country.

He is an advisor to the Special Committee that has guided the work of mapping and protecting the battle of Unison and has consulted with Fauquier County as it has begun the process of formulating comprehensive plan provisions for the protection of the 12 Civil War battlefields located in that County.

Before he began his Civil War battlefield work, Paul served as chair of the Virginia Outdoors Foundation for 8-years (1994-2002) during which VOF's conservation easement holdings increased from 80,000 to 250,000 acres.

Paul is a former Chairman of the Loudoun County Republican Party (4-years), a former member of the Republican State Central Committee (12-years), and a former fox hunter (15-years).

He received an AB from Harvard University and a MS from George Washington University. He served in the U.S. Air Force with 14 of his years of service overseas in Japan, Germany, Greece and Vietnam.

He served in the Pentagon as a nuclear planner, as a Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in Europe and as an installation Commander near Athens, Greece.

Previous winners of the Heritage Hero Award include Senator John Warner, Karen Hughes White, Janet Whitehouse, Hope Porter, Linda Newton, Robert H. Smith, Su Webb, Lori Kimball, Bob Sinclair, Robert Lee, Walter Nicklin, John Fishback, Mary Fishback, Mitch Diamond, David Blake, and Scott Kasprowicz.



Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday season from Goodstone.

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Help A Place to Be Match $50,000 Gift to Raise $100,000 for the New Year

Thanks to Ben and K.C. Graham, A Place to Be has an opportunity to raise $100,000 during the month of December. The Graham's have generously offered to match every dollar the highly regarded local organization raises this month up to $50,000.

Helping A Place to Be reach this goal will help every individual who benefits from the services they provide to help people who face, navigate and overcome life's challenges using the therapeutic arts.

Donations that were made during the group's recent Friday Night Recital pictured here, have provided a great start for this fundraising campaign to support the exceptional work A Place to Be does to inspire understanding and kindness.

Please make this part of your end-of-year donations to help them create an outstanding opening for their clients in New Year.

To make donations, please visit www.aplacetobe.org, or telephone 540 687 6740.



Ben & K.C. Graham

Middleburg Lions Club

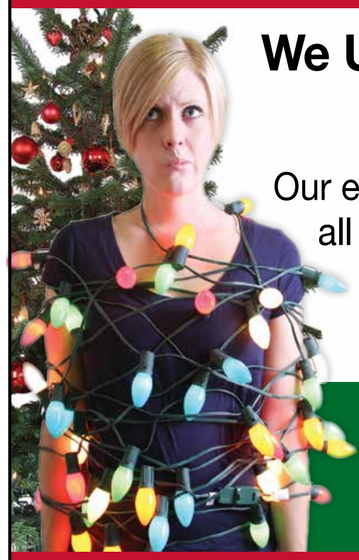
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News of Note

Middleburg Humane Foundation
breaks ground on a new shelter campus headquarters



Zohar Ben-Dov, Hillary Bogley, Lisa Ben-Dov, Candy Farakerley, Joshua Muss, Bethann Beeman, Ron Steele, Polly Gault, Kevin Clarke, Christy Martin, Sam Gunter

Middleburg Humane Foundation is excited and proud to announce the ground breaking of its new shelter campus headquarters at 5000 Cunningham Dr. in Marshall VA. This will be phase 1 of two phases which will complete the entire headquarters.

Phase 1 encompasses the stables/barn and various livestock enclosures, as well as a four bay shed for storage of supplies, equipment, feed and hay. Phase 1 will enable MHF to serve the ever increasing needs of our equine and various livestock rescue programs. Above the stables there will be two apartments to house employees on site which will facilitate 24/7 care for the animals.

Phase 1, was designed by Earth Design, being constructed by the Princeton Companies, and project management will be done by Promacs. It is estimated that the construction will take approximately six months, Which will provide occupancy by next summer.

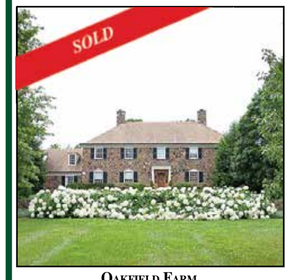
We would like to thank the community who have come together in support of this great project. Livestock Facility Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Please contact us if you would like to be a part of our future and help us build a better shelter. We are excited about the upcoming opportunities for Middleburg Humane and look forward to providing assistance and programs for many more people and animals.

MIDDLEBURG REAL ESTATE ATOKA PROPERTIES

A Selection of Properties Sold in 2015

Teddy Zimmerman 540.905.5874

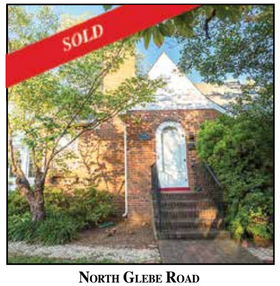
Laura Farrell 540.395.1680



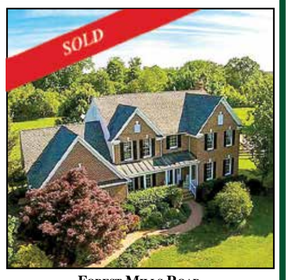
Oakfield Farm
Upperville $4,495,000



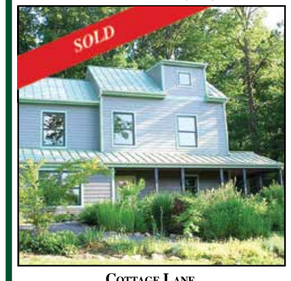
Telegraph Springs Road
Purcellville $999,900



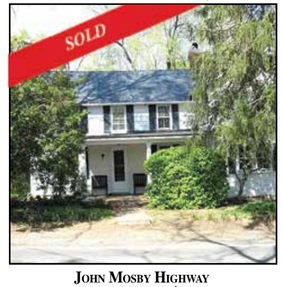
North Glebe Road
Arlington $759,900



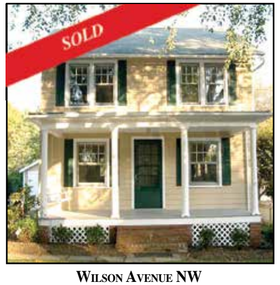
Forest Mills Road
Leesburg $699,000



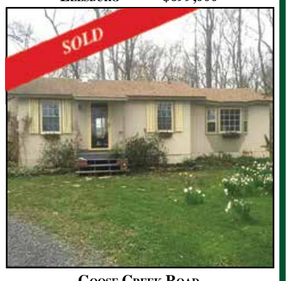
Cottage Lane
The Plains $425,000



John Mosby Highway
Upperville $425,000



Wilson Avenue NW
Leesburg $355,000



Goose Creek Road
Marshall $299,000

www.MiddleburgRealestate.com

A Place To Be - MOVES!



Tom Neel

A Place To Be, who recently celebrated their 5th anniversary of helping people face, navigate, and overcome life's challenges using the therapeutic arts, has just moved to a new expanded location at 8 North Jay Street, in Middleburg.

As the country's leading center for Performance-Based Music Therapy, APTB provides services to some 200 families. APTB has experienced enthusiastic growth since its founders, Tom Sweitzer and Kim Tapper, created the organization in 2010 with the guidance and support of Ben Graham. This, from their original location at 15 South Madison Street.

So often, many 501c3 non-profit organizations do not survive their first year, but APTB has thrived and grown, outgrowing their own place to be in the process. Their new location then comes at the perfect time. The 4,500 square foot space will not only provide more room, it provides their clientele, many with special needs, expanded hallways and multiple ADA approved bathrooms and more.

Adorned with the organization's cheerful color scheme and wonderful natural light, the space was specifically designed by Sweitzer and Tapper and built to their needs by Kevin Hazard and Chris Knoedler, both who so graciously donated their time as contractors. Further support came by way of The Wheeler Family Foundation, Indiegogo supporters, the Middleburg Business and Professional Association and others. As they say, "It takes a village.", and clearly the village of Middleburg has embraced this organization in a big way.

The new space utilizes the building's entire first floor of the 3 story building, and then half of the second floor. The other half of the second floor has now also been leased by Bridget Wilson for a great new Native Barre studio space. It's actually a great combination.

While A Place To Be and its 16 staff members, will call Jay Street home, their community reach is far greater, also serving clients at the Paxton Campus - Leesburg, Inova Loudoun and soon Inova Cornwall. The organization has also touched over 25,000 students with their message of acceptance and understanding through their signature touring production of The Same Sky Project. A Place To Be and The Same Sky Project, which was also the opening presentation for the National American Music Therapy Conference in Kansas, is set to be the keynote opening presentation for the NIH conference on Rehab Medicine in May of 2016, and will be touring to its first university campus as they head to Longwood University in 2016.

One of the true gems of Middleburg, it's good news that A Place To Be was able to keep its place to be in its home town for the foreseeable future! To learn more about A Place To Be, their services and performances, or to donate, please call 540-687-6740 or online at www.aplacetobe.org

Barbara Smith Joins Middleburg Real Estate/ Atoka Properties



Middleburg Real Estate/Atoka Properties proudly announces the addition of REALTOR Barbara Smith to their team, serving discriminating home and land buyers and sellers in Northern Virginia.

Barbara has been a top producing Real Estate Agent representing both buyers and sellers throughout the

Commonwealth of Virginia for over 10 years. She is a member of the National Association of Realtors and the Dulles Area Association of Realtors.

Now more than ever buyers and sellers need a Realtor who is focused and equipped with an understanding of the market and current market trends. Barbara has years of knowledge in Real Estate, and knows how to apply that to each clients individual situation. Purchasing and/or selling a home should

be handled by an agent with the skills necessary to get the job done with the least amount of stress and hassle as possible.

Barbara lives in Loudoun County with her husband and four children. She enjoys spending time with her family, and two dogs. Hobbies include, running and bird watching



News of Note

Carla Heron Joins Middleburg Real Estate, Atoka Properties



Carla Heron has lived and worked in Northern Virginia for almost twenty years and is a licensed real estate agent in Virginia. Carla made a name for herself as a dynamic Project Manager in the corporate setting -- combining her experience, acumen, and MBA into a "business force of nature" to shepherd at-risk projects to successful conclusions.

For over a decade, Carla has applied her marketing techniques, project organization, analytical expertise, and personal communication skills in the Northern Virginia markets for rentals, condos, and single-family homes.

Just as in the corporate world, Carla understands the value of listening -- in particular, listening to the client's current requirements, as well as taking into account the future expectations and aspirations.

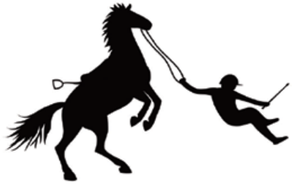
Having bought and sold personal property throughout the Mid-Altantic region, she knows that real estate is a big investment -- both financially and emotionally, and she works efficiently and effectively to ensure that the optimum property is identified and that a strong deal is negotiated to the satisfaction of the client.

Carla also has experience rehabing older properties and is able to provide a "renovator's eye" to unlock the hidden potential of properties and to make suggestions that are both aesthetically and functionally aligned with the client's taste and lifestyle.

Carla currently lives and works in Loudoun County with her husband, Todd, where they spend their free time rehabilitating and fostering shelter dogs to be adopted through rescue organizations.

She is just as committed to animal welfare, as she is passionate about the advantages of living and working in Northern Virginia and is pleased to be working in an area with such generous, friendly people.

From the bustling East Coast seat of political power and business, to the bucolic settings near the Blueridge Mountain range -- Northern Virginia has properties to suit every lifestyle, and Carla looks forward to another decade of helping clients turn their home-buying dreams into realities.



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Leesburg, VA 20176

For more information, visit inova.org/loudoun

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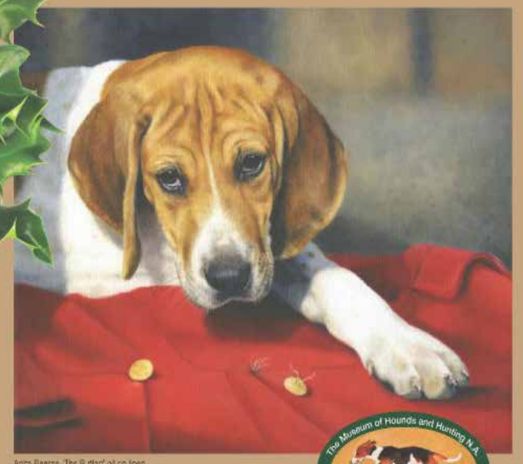
Merry Christmas *and* Happy Holidays *from*

The Museum of Hounds and Hunting NA, Inc

Holiday Art Show and Sale

December 1 - January 3

The Salamander Resort and Spa Equestrian Center
Middleburg, VA



Anna Basma "The Button" oil on linen.

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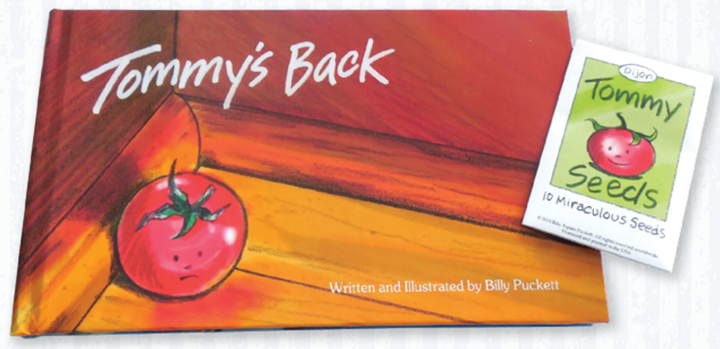
Questions, please contact Nancy Bedford: Phone - 540.364.7820, Cell - 540.454.1257

Visit our on line gallery at www.mhhna.org!!

To Benefit The Museum of Hounds and Hunting NA, Inc. 501(c)3



Celebrate the miraculous circle of life with your children.



Introducing *Tommy's Back*. This new children's book is about fun, friendship and the miraculous circle of life. In contrast to a world of mind-numbing video games, this book promises to get children out of the house and into the garden where they can experience real growth—the growth of plants and a respect for this marvelous world we live in.

Recent research by Ryuta Kawashima, a professor at Tohoku University in Japan who specializes in brain imaging, proves video games not only put our children into a trance, they also fail to stimulate growth in areas of the brain associated with learning, memory, emotion, and impulse control. And while this might be reason enough to order the book, the primary reason is because it's fun and puts children on a path of wonder and respect for life in all its stages.

This is the first printing of *Tommy's Back*, which includes a package of miraculous seeds. Appeals to children ages 4 and up. Quantities are limited. It was written and illustrated by Billy Puckett, a resident of Delaplane, Virginia.

Order your book today at Tommysback.com

News of Note

Hill School's Linda Conti Elected Virginia Art Education Association President



Linda Conti, Chair of The Hill School art department and a long-time teacher at the school, has been elected to a two-year term as President of the Virginia Art Education Association, the VAEA announced in mid-November.

Conti, served as vice president of the 900-member organization the last two years and is in her 20th year teaching at Hill, the Junior Kindergarten through eighth grade school founded in 1926.

"We're the primary source for development for professional art educators," Conti said of the VAEA. "I'm committed to art education. The thing I love about VAEA is that it gives me a chance to remind teachers why they got into this business in the first place."

A native of Chicago, Conti's family moved to the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C. where she attended Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville. She took a number of psychology courses at Montgomery College "when it just became clear to me that I really needed to study art."

She earned a degree at Temple University in Philadelphia, studying at the prestigious Tyler School of Art and excelling in drawing, working in clay and mixed media. She's also a highly-skilled mixed media artist herself, and her work has been featured in a number of galleries in the Washington area.

Married with four grown children, Conti and her family live in the Purcellville, Virginia area. Her teaching philosophy is simple.

"I want to challenge the children," she said. "A lot of what we do is problem solving. You may be amazing at drawing but can you also do well in collage or clay? The whole process is about the children expressing themselves, and I expect them to use as many tools as possible. I want them to make something meaningful to them with the material they have in front of them, and not be afraid to fail."

The VAEA has been a voice for art education in the state dating back to 1915, when there first became an art department in the Virginia Education Association (VEA). The Virginia Art Education Association became its own organization in 1961 and then in 1976 unified with the National Art Education Association. Currently it's one of the largest state art organizations in the nation with a mission is to promote, support and advance visual arts education through professional development, leadership, research and service.

The goal of a Hill School education is to build character, self-confidence, and scholarship through academic and co-curricular excellence, individualized attention, and a strong sense of community.

Don & Lillian Marro Estate Sale to Benefit Middleburg Humane

Lillian Marro died December 9th, 2014, and the time has come for Don Marro to part with what made their life together such a pleasure. Their beautiful Middleburg estate, set in the rolling hills of Hunt Country will soon reveal its secrets.

Here is a small part of the history of the Marros and a peak into the collection they gathered worldwide over the last 30 plus years.

Donald Marro has his roots in the New York metropolitan area and Lillian Diane Svec Clancy Marro was from Cicero, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago best known by some as the place where Al Capone lay low for a while in the '20's.

Lillian was from a family of musicians and she was a classically trained string bass player good enough to be invited to join the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Lillian continued her schooling at Northwestern, never joined the orchestra, but instead accompanied her new husband to the Presidio in San Francisco where he was stationed with the United States Navy.

Lillian began her family but a later a divorce resulted in a and new career, which found Lillian operating her own firm specializing first in technology and ultimately biotechnology recruiting.

Clancy Associates was arguably the best of the six largest firms in biotechnology recruiting, so much so that Lillian was invited to help develop and establish a biotechnology sector in Britain to rival that of the United States.

Don met Lillian on a recruiting assignment. When he moved to California, he courted Lillian. They were together with from 1983, marrying in 1991.

Don's business interests took him regularly to France and Switzerland, Lillian often accompanying him, and on one such trip she nicknamed Don "Monsieur Cassis" for the bottle of cassis he broke in a rental car trunk.

Art and furnishing acquisitions began soon after Lillian and Don were together in San Francisco. By 2006, their collection numbered nearly 1,000 pieces, ranging from the whimsical to the breathtaking, including a great many artists with memorable style, talent for color and visual daring.

Some are now deceased, John Ash and Aaron Birnbaum, for instance, but many more are still active, like Barbara Sparhawk, Valentin Popov and Dona Dalton. Great local

artists are likewise represented, like Alan Rubin, Mark Miller and Elsa Rosenthal, Rosemary Gallick, Jennifer Duncan and Paul Zdepski.

One of the artists whose work is well represented is Barbara Sparhawk. Barbara began painting at age 15 when she was an apprentice in the Laguna Beach Playhouse where Marlo

Thomas first performed. Barbara was commissioned by the playhouse to prepare a portrait of "Harvey", a rabbit in a tux.

From there she went on to portrait work, including that of William F. Buckley, worked in the Ashcan School style, and did bold and colorful pieces like the Carmel, California, scenes and the Pope of Greenwich Village homage in the collection.

Valentin Popov is a Russian-born artist whose St. Batman series found particular favor in this collection. Popov's work from this period blended iconography with a comic book panache.

John Ash was also a favorite and quintessentially English, a roamer who painted snowy scenes in Brighton as well as he painted boules in Paris. Ash was commissioned by the ownersto capture Edward Hopper-like scenes but in an English setting. The results are quite clever.

Aaron Birnbaum was a Ukrainian-born artist whose art reflects Eastern European origins and harmonizes perfectly with Lillian's forebears from Lithuania and Bohemia. The farm and early 20th century urban representations by Birnbaum will strike a responsive chord with anyone whose families came here around that time.

Alan Rubin is a magnificent local artist whose imagination is equaled by his technical skill. Rubin's works in the collection include commissioned portraits of the Marro/Clancy dogs

and of Marro's parents. His other works are pure Rubin and are unmistakable as a consequence.

Rosemary Gallick is a Professor of Art and Art History at Northern Virginia Community College with a B.A. from the SUNY Stony Brook in Art, an M.F.A. from Pratt Institute in New York, and a Master's in Communication from Cornell University. She has published numerous articles and given various presentations on art and popular culture. Her art has been in numerousexhibitions in the United States and in this collection her pieces depict show business celebrities.

Jennifer Duncan says of her work, "My paintings began as abstract work, guided by line, shape and composition. I allow myself to play, and find the paintings revealing themselves to me as I build and take away layers of color to reveal a rustic and painterly surface. I love to

incorporate found objects, and I'm always on the hunt for antique postcards or letters that will add intrigue to my painting's story

Several "in the manner of" pieces from Caravaggio and Rembrandt will catch your fancy as will Toots Shor-style caricatures of Nixon, Sinatra, Hope and FDR by Howard Allen.

As if this wasn't enough, there are whirligigs, penguins, a Dona Dalton sphinx and other sculptures to satisfy the appetite for things Americana and things whimsical.

Altogether a the Marro Estate is a museum and altogether a feast for the eyes.

Art is displayed throughout the house. Art covers the walls in every available space, on cabinets, doors and greeting visitors on the drive leading to the house itself.

The effect is visual exuberance with an eclectic blend of artistic expression that deftly balances the fine art, local and hunt country art, outsider and primitive art and the unique furnishings.

On the main level, the kitchen has boA private online sale to benefit Middleburg Humane began in early November at www.marrocollection.com.

Private viewings may be arranged for a $150 entrance fee and a public sale will be scheduled in April of 2016. To schedule a viewing appointment, please email contact@marrocollection.com.

Anne Carter Zimmer



Anne Carter Lee Ely Zimmer, 88, of Winchester, Virginia, died on Sunday, November 15, 2015, at the Shenandoah Valley Westminster Canterbury.

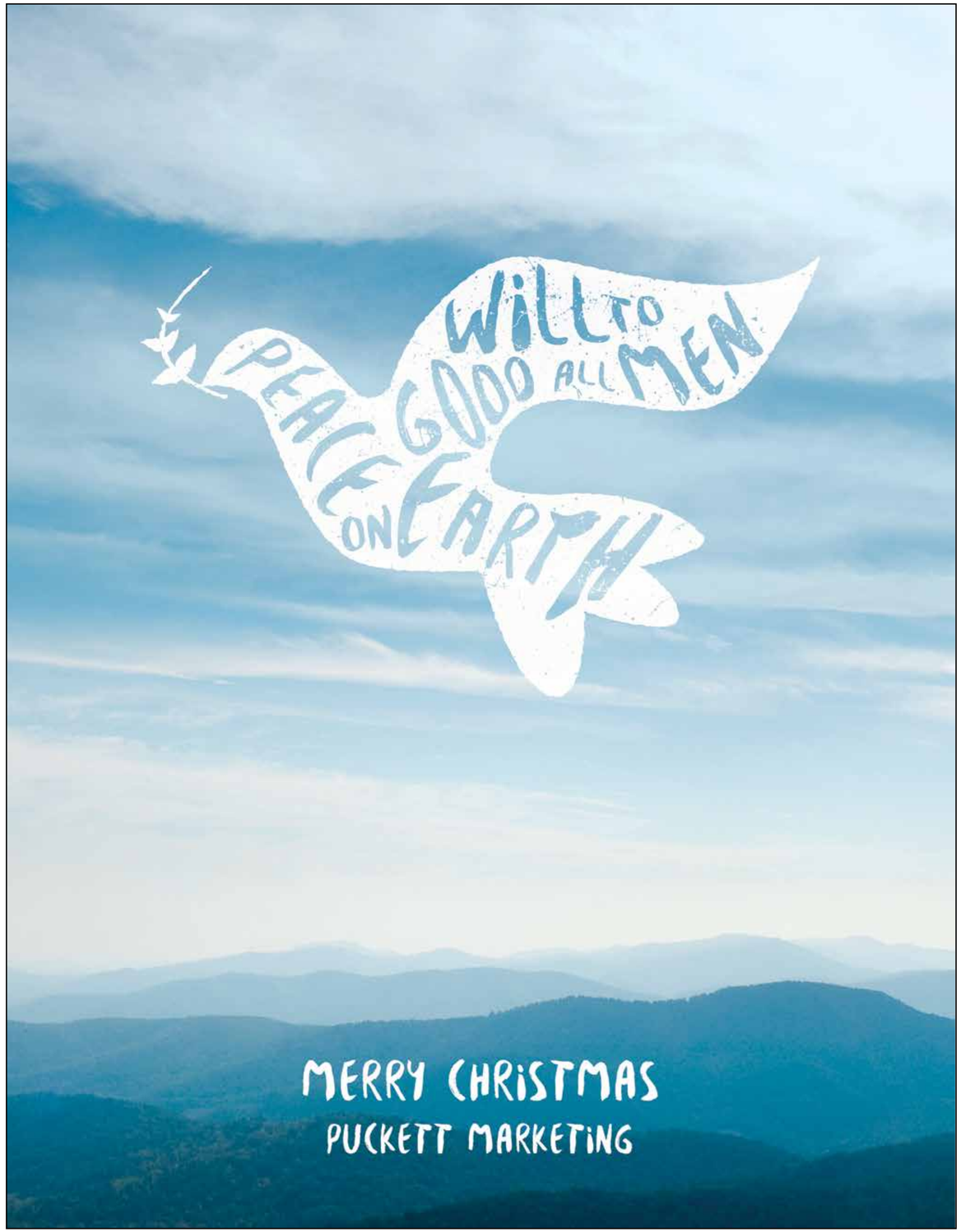
Anne Zimmer was born in 1927 in Washington D.C., the daughter of Hanson Edward Ely, Jr., and Anne Carter Lee. She was a graduate of St. Catherine's School in Richmond, Virginia, and Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. After college she worked for ten years as a freelance writer in New York City, where she met her husband Frederick Allen Zimmer, Jr. When the couple moved to Columbus, Ohio, she completed a Master's degree at Ohio State University. She also accompanied her husband on his two Fulbright years in India and Pakistan and on other extensive world travels. After he retired, they moved to Upperville, Virginia, where she continued her career as a writer. In 1997, she published The Robert E. Lee Family Cooking and Housekeeping Book and became a popular speaker at many historical sites associated with the Lee family.

Her husband preceded her in death on February 6, 2015.

She is survived by her daughter, Susan Carter Vogel, with her husband Paul, of Essen, Germany, and Upperville, Virginia. She also leaves behind one grandson, Christopher Vogel, with his wife Kelley, of Dallas, Texas.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Virginia Historical Society, c/o Cathy Boe, P.O. Box 7311, Richmond, Virginia, 23221-0311.

Please view obituary and tribute wall at www.ompsfuneralhome.com



News of Note

Middleburg Film Festival Reviews

A Review of Hitchcock/Truffaut

Paul Martin

Just as *Hitchcock/Truffaut*, a collection of interviews Francois Truffaut had conducted with Alfred Hitchcock in 1962 and published in 1967, persuaded many a cinephile to repudiate the classification of Hitchcock as a "light entertainer" and to fancy him, instead, a sophisticated and serious filmmaker, Kent Jones's *Hitchcock/Truffaut*, the 2015 documentary based upon the book of interviews from 50 years ago, effectively rehabilitates Sir Alfred from the stilted and sensational representations of him in recent films, such as *Hitchcock* (2012), where Anthony Hopkins portrays an all-too-human A.H. (a coincidence?), whose colossal cockiness and unbridled monomania have him hitched, despite significant risks, to the making of *Psycho*, or HBO's *The Girl* (2012), in which Hitchcock is depicted as a sadist who, during the making of *The Birds*, delights in pecking at and terrorizing Tippie Hedren, the film's beautiful leading lady, after she spurns him by taking flight from his lurid advances. Jones rightly dispenses with the lust and restores much of the luster to the legendary Hitchcock.

Having premiered at Cannes in May and set to open in New York this December (after a late October screening at the Middleburg Film Festival), *Hitchcock/Truffaut* is less an explorative account of the relationship between two great filmmakers (though their fans are treated to handsome and humorous black-and-white stills and—even more enticing—rare audio clips from the interviews) and more a contemporary tribute to Hitchcock as an *auteur*. Kent Jones artfully hitches excerpts from interviews with contemporary filmmakers—Wes Anderson, Richard Linklater, Martin Scorsese, among others—to images and sequences from a wide range of Hitchcock films, including two rather lengthy appraisals of *Vertigo* and *Psycho*, to celebrate the enduring impact that Hitchcock's "high art" has had on *le cinema*. As you might expect, the contemporary filmmakers eulogize Hitch to the hilt, establishing him as not only a master manipulator whose choice to elongate or telescope the passing of time controls the way an audience makes sense of and meaning from a motion picture sequence, but as a brilliant theoretician of space whose devotion to storyboarding results in films with a compelling and vigorous visual aspect, films that not only show *and* tell but tell by *showing*.

If *Hitchcock/Truffaut* has a *petite faute*, it is no more than the customary and conventional disappointment that audiences have after watching a film based upon a beloved book: too much material is excluded. Yes, Jones's topical treatment of interview content treats the viewer to revelations about Hitch's fear of the police and his brazen proclamation "All actors are cattle," and, of course, there are the audio clips of Hitch explaining his use of the high angle shot or discussing his interest in the theme of guilt and its transference. And then there are the conversations about recurring images and symbols in the body of his work, the Freudian weight of which not even a psychoanalyst can sublimate. But if, in the end, if this buffet has whetted your appetite, and if it's true that the book is always better than the movie, then you might as well pick up the revised version of the original *Hitchcock/Truffaut* (which is still in print!) and digest the main course before enjoying a cigar.

Christmas Tidings

Middleburg Town Council Report - Continued from Page 1

Mayor Davis Returns

Mayor Betsy Davis was once more in the chair at this month's regular meeting of Town Council.

After leading those assembled in the traditional recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, she took a moment before launching into the evenings agenda to thank Council, the Town staff and many many members of the public for both their generous expression of support and for allowing her to take time away from some of her duties to be with her family during her recent loss. She had recently lost, in all too quick succession, both her parents.

Councilmember Bundles Murdock noted for the record and all those assembled that Mayor Davis's parents had been posthumously awarded the Middleburg Business & Professional Association's coveted Legacy Award during the organization's last meeting.

Janet Clarke Farewell

Janet Clarke, the departing Blue Ridge District representative on the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors, appeared to make her final report to the Town and to express her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the area's representative.

Clarke discussed at some length a map showing of the proposed road network around the new StoneSprings Hospital, all of which, she noted, have been funded.

Metro, she noted, should also be up and running in Loudoun by 2020.

In the Brambleton area, Clarke reported that Creighton Road will be extended to the site of Loudoun's newest elementary school, scheduled to open in the fall of 2016 The surrounding campus, she said, would eventually include both a middle and high school.

The property adjacent to the campus, she said, was scheduled to become a two hundred fifty-four acre, $45 million, park that would include "equestrian trails, a fishing pond, an ADA compliant playground and athletic fields." Construction, she said, would begin in a year.

Following her presentation, Mayor Davis presented Supervisor Clarke with a Middleburg paperweight and a floral arrangement in appreciation of her service to the Town and County.

Optimus Prime

According to Police Chief Panebianco a 220,000-pound behemoth, a large generator, with wheels bolted to its body, and too large to fit under the overpasses across most Interstate would slowly make its through Middleburg, accompanied by a State Police escort, late on one of the nights of the week of December 14.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that it was so large some 20 of Middleburg's trees might well have to be trimmed, with some losing large limbs, in order for it pass.

It weighed so much, she said, Town officials were concerned that it might damage some of the paving currently covering newly laid and dearly bought pipeline.

In response to a question by Councilmember Murdock, Semmes noted that she referred the movers to the Town's contract arborist, Care of Trees to mark, map, and minimize damage.

National Night Out: Number ONE in the Nation

Chief Panebianco announced that Middleburg's National Night Out event had been named the top event of its kind in the nation, noting that " it would not be possible without complete Town Council, staff and community's support."

The Chief offered special thanks to Lieutenant Mike Prince who, he said, "did the lion's share of the work in planning the event."

Panebianco also recognized the Middlebur Eccentric for its ongoing advertising support of the project.

The Eccentric co-owner Jay Hubbard, he said, helped put together the Department's application for the award. The "crowning touch," the Chief noted, was Hubbard's well-produced video documenting the event.

The national award, he said, represented ."a crowning moment" for the department.

Town Donations to Non-profits

Town Council unanimously approved the appropriation of funds from the Town's treasury to support the work of nine outstanding local non-profits.

The largest proportion of the funds, $29,000, are derived from the nominal annual "profits" from the Town's rental of space in the community-owned Health Center Building. A small portion each year is also allocated from the Town's general fund, this year some $6,500.

The recipients included:

- *Seven Loaves Services $12,000*
- *Windy Hill Foundation's Tutoring Program $3,000*
- *Cherry Blossom Breast Cancer Fund $2,000*
- *Middleburg Library Advisory Board $2,000*
- *Middleburg FISH $3,000*

Middleburg Eccentric
Advertising Deadline
Jan. 14th
for
Jan. 28th Issue
540.687.3200

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MBPA

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American Water Resources Association
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BB & T Bank
Bendure Communications
Big Ass Cans
Blue Ridge Hospice
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Boxwood Winery
Briar Patch Bed & Breakfast
Buchanan Hall
Business Help
Catherine Boswell Design
Catherine "Bundles" Murdock
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Middleburg Eye Care Center
Middleburg Film Festival
Middleburg Hunt
Middleburg Life
Middleburg Millwork
Middleburg Orthopaedics
Middleburg Printers
Middleburg Real Estate/Atoka Properties
Middleburg Spring Race Association
Mosby Heritage Area Association
National Sporting Library & Museum
Native Barre Studios
O'Donnell & Co.
Olio Tasting Room
Patusky Associates
Paws for Holistic Pet Care
Piedmont Environmental Concil
Popcorn Monkey
Print Management, Inc.
Red Fox Inn/Red Fox Fine Art
Richard Allen Clothing
Robert A. Galegos, DDS
Salamander Resort & Spa
Second Chapter Books
Sheridan Macmahon
SONA Bank
Sprout Theraputic Riding
Suntrust Mortgage
The Care of Trees
The Christmas Sleigh
The Community Music School of the Piedmont
The Fun Shop
The Graham Companies
The Grooming Room
The Hill School
The McGhee Foundaton
The Outpost
The Scout Guide Hunt Country
The Shaggy Ram
The Unison Advisory Group
Thomas & Talbot Real Estate
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Three Crowns
Three Fox Vineyards
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Town of Middleburg
Tully Rector
Union First Market Bank
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Wakefield School
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Yount, Hyde & Barbour

Now is the time to join MBPA for 2016!

For more information visit our website at
www.visitmiddleburgva.com
On Facebook & Twitter at Visit Middleburg



The Middleburg Business & Professional Association

Lungeline

Local Junior Foxhunters Shine at North American Championships



Photos by Lauren R. Giannini

Lynda Johnston Perpetual Spirit Award winner Lucy Arnold of Old Dominion Hounds. Bear Johnston, Heather Heider, Iona Pillion, Douglas Wise-Stuart ex-MFH, Marion Chungo, and Michelle Arnold.



First Field 13 & Over Champion Heather Feconda (holding green cooler) of Loudoun Fairfax Hunt, with rosette winners and adult VIPs.



Hilltopper Champion Brighton Craig (with trophy and cooler), Old Dominion Hounds). Reserve Champion Kate Thresher, Loudoun Fairfax Hunt, with rosette winners and VIPs.



First Field 12 & Under: Emma Keahon, local Reserve Champion from Old Dominion Hounds, next to Champion Maggie Buchanan, Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds, with ribbon winners and VIPs.

Lauren R. Giannini

On November 8, Old Dominion Hounds welcomed 90 qualified enthusiasts to the finals of the Junior North American Field Hunter Championships. It was a most impressive spectacle when they lined up in the field at the Albert P. & Katherine Steedman Hinckley Memorial Hunter Trial Field, near the ODH kennels.

Championship and reserve honors were awarded in three divisions with rosettes to 10th place: Hilltoppers, First Field 12 & Under, and First Field 13 & Over.

Champion of the Hilltoppers was Brighton Craig, riding Riots Maeve, representing Old Dominion; the reserve tri-color went to Kate Thresher and Caramel Topping of Loudoun Fairfax Hunt. Old Dominion's Kylee Keahon and Halloween Party took home fourth place. Loudoun Fairfax's Bethany Visokay on Holly finished 9th and Ashby Hatcher aboard Lightening Bug placed 10th.

First Field 12 & Under champion was Maggie Buchanan and Good Fortune from Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds (Pa.), with Old Dominion's Emma Keahon and Duck Duck Goose earning the reserve honors. Blue Ridge Hunt's Drew Schwentker and Scout placed 6th while Lilia Sharp and Isodorable took 10th. Colby Poe, representing Old Dominion aboard Blueberry, finished 8th.

First Field 13 & Over featured the most finalists, 40 in all, with Heather Feconda and Color Me Blue (aka Yogi) from Loudoun Fairfax earning the championship, while Lee Lee McNeil and O'Ryan from Radnor Hunt (Pa.) claimed the reserve tricolor. Old Dominion had three in the ribbons: Hayley Davis and Arts N Crafts placed 3rd, Lakyn Harlow and Ice Princess were 4th, and Connor Poe finished in 10th. (Complete results are on the website.)

Feconda, 15, knows the importance of the correct mount. After she outgrew her pony, she got to hunt her mother's horse, Yogi, but they had to take turns. Several years ago, she tried to qualify for the finals, but the horse she had

wasn't quite up to the demands of hunting under the scrutiny of judges.

"This was my first time ever to compete in the Junior Foxhunter Championship, and I rode my mom's horse Yogi," said Feconda, who earned her C-3 Pony Club rating last summer on Yogi whom she evented at Training level. "We went to one qualifier and it was my home hunt. I tried to see it as just a regular hunt. I felt pretty comfortable, but it was a little scary when the judges rode up next to me to watch me jump. Yogi is smart with his feet and knows what he's doing. I was busy with school and my mom hunted Yogi to keep him fit. I was really surprised to win, but Yogi is a really good boy in the hunt field."

Nina Bonnie, Katherine Byron MFH, Snowden Clarke, Helen Brettell, and Joseph Keusch ex-MFH, avid enthusiasts who know what's involved to run and jump in a large group of horses with hounds in full cry, judged the finals. The first phase was equitation, like an under saddle class at a hunter show, but in a big field, followed by the pivotal test, a 30-minute Mock Hunt scored by judges on horseback and in vehicles at key locations. Comparing scorecards, judges selected 10 finalists in each division to perform an individual test. Just leaving their companions can be challenging to any equine, let alone jumping or dropping rails, crossing water, galloping and halting out in the open. To be a finalist at the finals is huge; to win speaks volumes for the horse-and-rider partnership.

In 2003, Douglas Wise-Stuart, then Joint-MFH Old Dominion, and Iona Pillion of Blue Ridge Hunt founded the Junior North American Field Hunter Championships. Two years later, the program was growing so quickly, they brought in Marion Chungo to help with organizing. They set three primary goals, above and beyond fun in the hunt field, for the juniors who would participate in this exciting and innovative learning experience.

The first goal involved the youngsters learning about the importance of land conservation. The future of hunting requires young people and open land: win-win to raise their awareness now. Since the JNAFHC's inception, it has donated more than $35,000 to various land conservation groups that support participating hunts. The entry fee this year, per junior, was $50, allowing them to ride in as many qualifying hunts as they wanted.

The second goal was for like-minded foxhunters to meet each other. Qualifiers offered a day being judged while riding to hounds, followed by a tailgate breakfast. The juniors often hunted totally unfamiliar country, thanks to the qualifying meets hosted by 19 hunts in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Georgia and North Carolina.

The third goal, the competitive element includes sportsmanship, always an important aspect of hunting. The Lynda Johnston Perpetual Spirit Award was presented for the first time. Old Dominion Hounds' Lucy Arnold was the junior chosen for best exemplifying the sportsmanship, horsemanship and dedication of the late Mrs. Johnston, who loved horses and hunting, belonged to several packs, most recently Loudoun Fairfax, and had a knack for mentoring young riders in the hunt field.

The greatest overall combined goal, however, is the versatile education of young equestrians who hunt. Foxhunting takes the skills learned in the ring to an advanced level when riders gallop in company across natural terrain, whether or not they jump, but most do, especially if they have the right horse. Many young enthusiasts participate in Pony Club, and almost all love to show — hunters, jumpers, equitation, three-day eventing, etc. Skills and work ethics learned with horses lend themselves well to every aspect of life.

The finals weekend included an invitation to hunt on Saturday with Old Dominion, shopping that afternoon at Horse Country Saddlery and, that evening, a dinner-dance at Alwyngton Manor, in Warrenton. On Sunday, during the finals, Old Dominion Hounds and the ODH Pony Club provided lunch for everyone.

"The JNAFHC program is now in its 13th year and we're thrilled that so many hunts participated and that we had juniors from nine states for a total of 28 hunts represented," said Marion Chungo. "Next year, the finals will be hosted by Iroquois Hunt in Lexington, Kentucky. We're very excited that this program keeps growing and we're looking forward to it catching on throughout the foxhunting community so that it can continue to benefit our juniors and our countryside."

For more information: email Marion Chungo: jnafhc@yahoo.com and be sure to visit: www.jnafhc.com for complete results and Facebook.com for lots of photos

Maureen Brennan and Northern Trust Win U.S. Open Women's Polo Title



Photo courtesy of Kirsten Withers Braden

Northern Trust (l-4) Julia Smith, Maureen Brennan (captain), Kristy Outhier, Sarah Wiseman - US Open Women's Champions

Lauren R. Giannini

In November at the Houston Polo Club, the Northern Trust team made history by winning the U.S. Open Women's Championship for the second consecutive year thanks to fierce playing by Maureen Brennan (captain), Kristy Outhier, Julia Smith, and Sarah Wiseman.

The 6-day tournament, rated 20–26 goals, provided a rare opportunity to see some of the world's best female players in action, and the title round did not disappoint. Northern Trust rallied from a three-goal deficit in the final chukker to tie the score at 7-all. In the nail-biting "sudden death" overtime, Northern Trust was first to score, thereby defeating Rocking P/The Plank Co, 8-7.

This is the fourth US Open Women's title earned by Brennan whose Goose Creek Polo Team won in 2011 and 2013.

"It was an incredible game," said Brennan. "We knew that Rocking P/Plank Co were going to change their strategy from the last game [which Northern Trust won]. But we decided no matter what, we were going to stick to our game plan."

At one point in the hard-fought last chukker, Northern Trust was still down by two goals. That's when Outhier rallied the team with what can best be described as "fighting words."

"I said, we have 6 more minutes to win this game, let's go!" recalled Outhier, who earned Most Valuable Player on her "home" field. In the last 15 seconds, she converted a penalty shot for the tying goal. The overtime offered spectators the exciting spectacle of two well-matched, determined teams locked in prolonged battle, but ultimately, assisted by Outhier's relentless defense, Smith worked the ball up the boards and scored the tie-breaking goal, securing the win for Northern Trust.

A senior at University of Virginia, Smith is co-captain for the third year of the UVA Women's Varsity team, winners of the 2014 U.S. Polo Association National Intercollegiate Championship. For two years running, Smith has received UVA's #1 MVP All-Star award. She grew up in Haverford, Pa., and learned to ride at Chamounix, home of the Work To Ride program, where she got hooked on polo.

Smith contributed to the Cowtown/Work To Ride team's victory in the 2012 USPA National Interscholastic Open Championship; one of only two females playing in the open tournament, she was named to the All Star Team. A 2014 member of Team USPA, a special program for outstanding youth, she has set her sights on becoming a professional polo player.

This was her third U.S. Open Women's title, having been part of Brennan's Goose Creek team that won in 2013 and last year's Northern Trust team. Last summer, Smith attended Team USPA's summer camp in Wyoming. The previous two years, she spent her summers immersed in horses and polo at Brennan's Virginia International Polo (VI-Polo), based at historic Llangollen Farm in Upperville.

"Maureen has been so incredible as a mentor, teacher and friend — my career wouldn't be where it is without her," said Smith. "She's a great teacher and such a kind person. She's successful in women's polo as well as in open polo. It's so great to play on the same team with her. I have extreme confidence, no matter what the other players are like."

Accolades from Outhier's great day included two of her horses winning Best Playing Pony titles. Reata won BPP for excellence in the 3rd chukker, and Moon won the Quarter Horse Best Playing Pony as Outhier's first chukker horse and also her overtime horse.

Brennan took up polo in 2002. Her lifelong involvement with horses includes high performance show jumping. She's a USPA Governor at Large (2015) and serves on many USPA committees. Currently rated at 6 goals in women's polo and 1 goal in open (coed) play, Brannan has won many national tournaments and earned a number of MVP and BPP titles. Her VIPolo horses and Goose Creek Polo Team will winter in Wellington, Florida. Students of all ages and at all levels of play are welcome.

For more information: www.vipoloclub.com



Lungeline

Kathy Broaddus, DVM, Takes Tevis Challenge in Stride

Lauren R. Giannini

Veterinarian Kathy Broaddus loves to go fast — she started running in high school, but horses deliver the best locomotion. Her sporting enthusiasms include foxhunting (she whips in at Snickersville Hounds), ultra marathon, adventure racing, pairs racing, Ride & Ties, and endurance riding. In August, Broaddus tackled the 100-mile Western States Trail Ride, aka the Tevis Cup, for the first time and finished 10th in 16 hours 25 minutes on Cowbboy Bob (aka Cowboy), 8-year-old Arabian, bred and owned by Terryl Reed.

Given the Tevis is the father of all endurance rides worldwide, to complete, let alone finish in the top 10 was a huge achievement. Broaddus, however, is a very accomplished horseman, in the old-fashioned, uber-complimentary sense that implies versatility and great skills, on and off horses. She knew that the Tevis was a true test of horsemanship and that the demanding and technical trail required a solid game plan.

In lieu of riding various segments of the Tevis in advance to get a feel for the terrain, Broaddus watched videos on YouTube, but quickly gave that up as a bad idea. Much of the trail is accessible only on foot, on horseback or by helicopter.

The course starts at Robie Park near Lake Tahoe, winds over the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains at the Squaw Valley Ski Resort where the 1960 Winter Olympics were held, and finishes at the Auburn fairgrounds. You are literally climbing up and down rugged mountains. The Tevis isn't for the faint of heart.

The wellbeing of the horses is of paramount concern. There are two mandatory 60-minute holds for rest and veterinary evaluation and many check points staffed by volunteers, offering food and water for the horses, beverages and snacks for the riders. Of the 201 starters, only 90 finished. Some were spun at the vet checks or retired along the way.

"I studied the statistics from last year—who finished, when they got to the various checkpoints, all of it," said Broaddus. "I wrote all the stats on my arm in permanent marker. I had the names of the checkpoints, when to do what. I took a GPS with me to figure out pacing. It was two miles off, so things didn't go according to plan, but Cowboy was doing well."

"Cowboy is an amazing, great horse," continued Broaddus. "I had done two Ride & Ties with him and Lani. A friend got us connected with Terryl for a Ride & Tie. She bred Cowboy from her stallion, HR Aflame. Last year, with another rider, Cowboy finished his first Tevis in 15th place. I wasn't going to do the Tevis this year. I wanted to crew for someone else and check it out, but Terryl insisted. She did a super job training him. Her daughter Shannon was my coach while I was in California. Lani was a great support manager. Nothing went wrong from the time I left Virginia on the plane. The Tevis was the hardest thing mentally I've ever done, but I had a great horse. Cowboy was phenomenal. I also have to thank Sharon White—my dressage lessons came in handy, especially on trails that were narrow with a sheer drop-off on one side."

In the early 1980s, in Blacksburg, Va., Broaddus was studying for her vet degree at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine when Lani Newcomb, another vet student, needed help to exercise her endurance horses when she ran home to northern Virginia on the weekends to help at the family farm. Then, Newcomb asked Broaddus if she wanted to try an endurance ride and the rest, as they say, is history. Broaddus loved it.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BECKY FEARMAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Kathy Broaddus, DVM, and Cowbboy Bob at the 2015 AERC National Championships, October 10, Orkney Springs, Va.

In 1986, the two vets established their practice in Herndon, and in 2006 moved Broad Run Equine Veterinary Services, Inc. to Bluemont. Newcomb bought the Bluemont Store where their office is in the lower level. Thanks to entreaties from the local community, they re-opened the Bluemont Store. Items include fresh eggs from Newcomb's free-range chickens, grass-finished beef raised by her brother, household necessities, homemade soup, pizza and freshly made sandwiches, sleigh bells, crafts, novelties, and much more (no alcohol, lottery tickets or cigarettes).

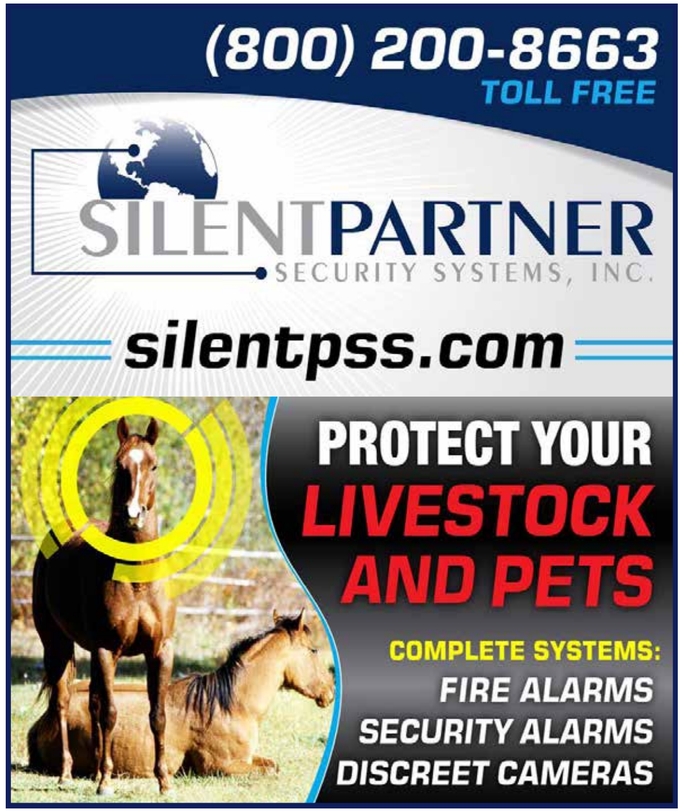
Being a veterinarian doesn't mean much time left over in the day for sporting pursuits, but the Broad Run vets have it down to an art and a science. Newcomb handles the business while Broaddus tends the 18 horses at the farm.

"I hunt as often as I can and I love whipping in," said Broaddus. "I started about four years ago with Snickersville and it's been great. I don't know about going back and doing the Tevis again. It was great riding among the best horses and riders in the nation, I loved how my plan worked out, and Cowboy was fantastic—it doesn't get any better than that. There are so many things I want to try. Maybe polo, maybe driving…"

Broaddus grinned. It doesn't take much to imagine her careering cross-country during the marathon phase, performing a well-planned but hair-raising equestrian version of Mr. Toad's wild ride.

Tevis done and dusted. Next pinnacle, please.

www.teviscup.org
www.bluemontstore.com
www.broadrunvet.com







Places & Faces

Tri-County Feed, Fashions, Finds Ladies Night

Marshall, VA ~ Photos Holder Trumbo





Darrin Mollett, her daughter and friend



Jordanna Hersey



Alden & Gavin Moylan



Rob Banner

Places & Faces

23rd Annual Middleburg Community Center Ball

Middleburg, VA, Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard



Elaine Burden, Treavor Lord, Kathy & Read McGehee, Stewart & Jim Herbert



Bill Balhause & Darin Mollett and Rae Stone & Kent Allen



Chip Stine, Beth Ann & John Mascatello, and Mary Stine



Shannon & Jim Davis



Jimmy Mills, Nadia Stanfield, Chris Allen and Gertraude Hechl



Gayle & Tom Delashmutt



Jim Bridgeman & Genie Ford and Joseph Keusch



Jim Gable, Virginia Jenkins, David Hartley and Melinda and Bradley Gable



Sean & Susan McCaskey



Chris & Vanessa Allen and Bethann & Randy Beeman



Chet & Kate Fannon



Childs Burden, Ginger Wallach and Vivian Warren

Places & Faces

23rd Annual Middleburg Community Center Ball

Middleburg, VA, Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard



Debbie Trout, Missy Corkrey, Jim Corkrey, Kim Smith, Dr. Gallegos, Beth Gallegos, Amber Hall



Barbara Sharp & Hurst Groves



Beth & Dr. Robert Galegos



Olivia Rogers and Jamie Pearson



Marcie Harris and Sally Hosta



Mary Looney, Stewart Herbert and Lizanne Driscol



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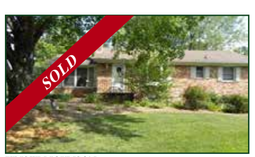
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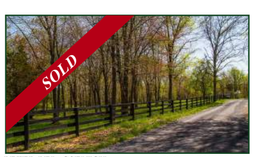
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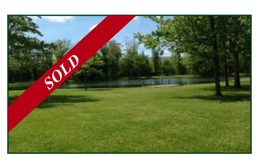
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Places & Faces

Middleburg Christmas Parade

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard























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8:00 pm Festival Service
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11:00 pm Candlelight Service
a more quiet and contemplative liturgy,
a cappella music and the celebration of the
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10:30 am Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Epiphany
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7:15 pm Celebration of the Holy Eucharist



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Places & Faces

Middleburg Christmas Parade

Photos by Dee Dee Hubbard



























Places & Faces

2015 Annual VHSA Meeting and Convention

Hot Springs, Virginia ~ Photos By Teresa Ramsay



Claiborne Bishop Presents the VHSA Sportsmanship Award to Mohammed Attar



Kathy Newman and Ernie Oare induct Mr. Sandy Gerald into the VHSA Hall of Fame



Philip Bourassa, Jane Gaston, Peggy Seals, Eric Dirks and Jan Simpson



Karen Clifton, Lesley Browm, Gregg Clifton



Chris Wynn and family. His parents won "The Perfect Parent Award"



Miranda and Walter Scott





Sandy Gerald Presents the Horse Person of the Year Award to Maria Shannon



Ada Cosby and Gordon Reistrup present Karen Clifton with the High Score Amateur Owner 3'3" Championship.



Diana Dodge and Carol Miller



Walter J. Lee and Sandy Gerald present the Andrew Montgomery Award to Ginny Graham



Teddy Ismond and Sandy Gerald



Douglas Wheeler, Keedie Leonars and Meredith McLaughlin accept The Horse Show of the Year Award for the Keswick Horse Show from Sandy Gerald.

Places & Faces

Christmas in Middleburg Hunt Parade

Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos By Nancy Kleck







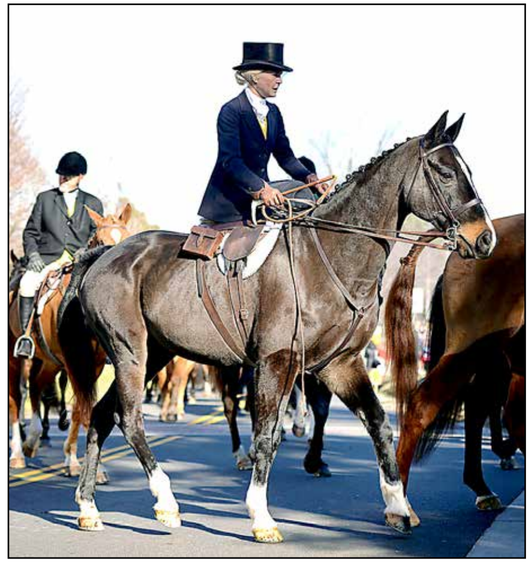


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Christmas in Middleburg Hunt Parade

Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos By Valerie Durbon









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Places & Faces

Christmas in Middleburg Hunt Parade Stirrup Cup

The Red Fox, Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard













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Leesburg - This charming Colonial has been completely renovated and is close to historic Leesburg in a great commuter location. Featuring 2 levels, 2BR, 1BA this beautiful home offers single family ownership at a townhouse price. Almost 1/4 acre w/large back yard, new patio & lovely front porch, formal LR & DR and a step down FR w/gas FP. LO8623250

$289,900 Marci A. Welsh (703)906-5802



Paris - Huge price reduction for this 45 acre parcel of wooded land with seasonal stream on the Blue Ridge Mountain. Easy access from Rt. 50. just west of Upperville. A wonderful place to hike and hunt or have off- road fun! Soil is good for grape growing. Currently in forestry use with extremely low taxes. Can be subdivided once. LO8597723

$195,000 Joyce Gates (540)771-7544

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Follow us on:

Aliloo Oriental Rug Corporation

3 S. Madison St. | Middleburg, VA 20117 | 540-687-3048 | Email: arugs@msn.com



Happy Holidays, with Warm Wishes and Thank you for a Wonderful 30 Years

Dear Friends & Clients,

Having reaching my 66th birthday, I have decided to retire and look back on all the wonderful memories I have gained from Middleburg and my most loyal customers. I have nurtured this business and have treasured every minute of my over thirty years in The Village, happily serving this area and beyond.

To show my appreciation to you as a loyal customer and friend, my entire collection of rugs is now being offered at savings of over 50 percent off their original price. As many of you know, this sale is the only one I have had in all my time here and is the best opportunity to find the same incredible selection you have always enjoyed at drastically reduced prices. I have been so fortunate to have made such great friends and enjoyed incredibly fond memories that this is my way of thanking you and reflecting on all the great times. I can assure you that the reputation for quality and integrity I have built over the past three decades will not be compromised throughout this spectacular close out event. I look forward to seeing you and officially kicking off my retirement. As a third generation merchant in fine Persian and Oriental rugs, I have scoured the globe from the open air bazaars of Iran to market places around the world, for rugs that reflect the finest quality and the most decorative designs and colors. Aliloo Oriental Rugs have graced your homes all over the country for the past thirty years. The vast array of art caliber antique carpets in the myriad of styles we possess offers our clients a wealth of design directions to match any home. We help clients choose awe inspiringly beautiful carpets to transform a distinctive residence into an unforgettable one. Once they discover the extraordinary effect our carpets have on their contemporary or traditional décor, many clients decide to use them throughout their home or as a focal point for their next interior design project.

Thank you for your patronage and friendship over these past thirty years.

Parviz Hadjialiloo

ANTIQUE & SEMI ANTIQUE TAPESTRIES



French Aubusson Tapestry 5’ 6” x 7’ 1”



Persian Isfahan 6’ 6” x 4’ 3”



French Aubusson Tapestry 5’ 9” x 7’ 1”

LARGE SIZE RUGS



Persian Bakshaish 15’ 3” x 20’ 10”



Persian Serapi 17’ 9” x 11’ 3”



Persian Serapi 12’ 10” x 10’

VILLAGE RUGS



Russian Kazak 3’ 6” x 4’ 4”



Persian Serapi 10’ x 12’



Persian Serapi 4’ 9” x 6’ 4”

CITY RUGS



Persian Tabriz 9’ 9” x 13’



Persian Mohair & Silk Tabriz 9’ 6” x 10’



Indian Agra 9’ 10” x 12’ 9”

SILK RUGS



Persian Qum 3’ 3” x 5’



Persian Qum 3 ‘2 ” x 5’



Persian Qum 3’ 2” x 5’

Shakespeare in the 'Burg

April 1-3, 2016



Saturday, April 2, 2 pm – *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
Doors open at 1:30 pm for a musical prelude. Tickets, $40

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm – *The Life of Henry V* by William Shakespeare
Doors open at 7 pm for a musical prelude. Tickets $40

Sunday, April 3, 11 am – Gourmet champagne brunch, followed by a performance of the winning play from our international one-act playwriting competition. Tickets $25

All performances are at the Middleburg Community Center, 300 W. Washington Street, Middleburg, VA

New this year: The Community Center stage will be extended so that every guest will have a great view of the performances. This will make the plays more accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

"The truth is rarely simple and never pure…"
– The Importance of Being Earnest



"From this day to the ending of the world, But we in it shall be remembered– We few, we happy few, we band of brothers…"
– The Life of Henry V

Become a sponsor of Shakespeare in the 'Burg:

$125 – Two tickets to either HENRY V or THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

$250 – Two tickets to HENRY V or THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, plus the Sunday gourmet champagne brunch with the one-act play performance.

$500 or more – Two tickets to HENRY V and THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, and the Sunday brunch with one-act play performance.

$1,000 or more – Four tickets to all performances, recognition on our website, in our program and other promotional materials, as well as a special surprise gift from us to you.

Shakespeare in the 'Burg

Places & Faces

Paul Aliloo Says Thank You for 30 Wonderful Years

SONA Bank, Middleburg, Virginia ~ Photos By Dee Dee Hubbard



Paul Aliloo



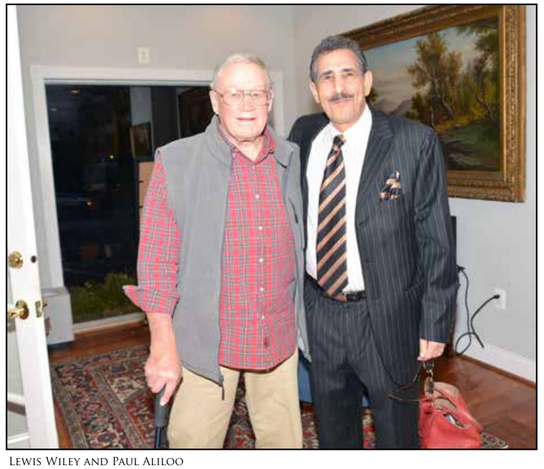
Linda Bow, Arash Aliloo, Minoo Azizi, Paul Aliloo, Arezo Aliloo, Parisa Aliloo and Sahab Azizi



Amir Rezza, Parisa & Paul Aliloo



Parisa Aliloo, Devoon Porter, Paul Aliloo, Linda Sandridge and Roy & Sharon Page



Lewis Wiley and Paul Aliloo



Parisa Aliloo, Amir Rezza, Paul Aliloo, Minoo Azizi and Sahab Azizi

Progeny

Mary Looney & Rachel Kahler Join Middleburg Academy Board of Trustees



Mary Looney



Rachel Kahler

Two parents of Middleburg Academy students have been welcomed to the school's Board of Trustees.

Mary Looney

Mary Looney, was raised over the mountain near Boyce where she attended Powhatan School 1st through 8th grade and attended Notre Dame Academy from 1979-1980 as a five-day boarder. Her dorm room was across the hall from the library.

She finished high school at Garrison Forest, an all girls' school in MD. She then went on to graduate from Keene State, NH with a BS Degree in Business Management with a minor in Communications and Political Science. She has worked as a special events coordinator at both a hotel and on political campaigns.

In 1990 she worked for Marymount High School, a small catholic high school in Richmond, VA. Marymount was similar in size to Middleburg Academy where she worked as the Director of Admissions and Development.

In 1994, Mary moved back to Middleburg to work at Foxcroft School in the Admission Office in a variety of different positions over seven years. She lived and worked on campus where she met her husband, Gregg Looney, and married in 1997.

He had two children he brought to the marriage, Chloe and Owen. After having two boys, Andrew and Henry, Mary became a full-time mom. When her youngest went into kindergarten at Hill School, she was asked back to Foxcroft and worked part-time for an additional four years in the Admission Office.

She has always been very involved at Hill School, serving as head of the Parent Teacher Club and chairing their annual auction. She loves spending time outside and enjoys horseback riding and fox hunting with her son, Andrew. Her family enjoys biking, hiking and traveling together.

Mary has many years of experience in independent schools and brings a great deal of enthusiasm and knowledge to Middleburg Academy's Board of Trustees. As a trustee, she volunteers her time in many areas but is focusing much of her efforts with the Admissions Office at Middleburg Academy.

Rachel Kahler

Rachel has been an advocate of small independents schools since experiencing their unique benefit first hand at the Woodward School for girls in Quincy, Massachusetts as an eighth grader. So it was no surprise when she took the opportunity to join the dedicated professionals on the Board of Trustees for Middleburg Academy.

Rachel moved to Virginia in high school and graduated from the university of South Carolina. Her passion for working on political conventions took her to Texas, California, Philadelphia, and New York, but home has always been with her family in Virginia. Her daughter Tori is credited with finding Middleburg Academy and the family has been all in since their first visit in June of 2013.

Rachel comes to us with a background in politics, fundraising, and large event production experience, including working in the preparation and execution of the men's 1994 World Cup Games in Washington DC. Rachel has worked in Advancement for a variety of ventures over the years and will help shape the Advancement plans at the Academy.

The mother of two, Jack (class of 2015) and Tori (a current junior), Rachel is eager to support all aspects of this great institution. Rachel and her husband Jeff have been supporters of the school as Chairmen of the Annual Fund Committee during the past two years.

Shakespeare and 21st Century Skills at Powhatan School

R. Dixon Bell Announces His Retirement

Traditions and rituals help cement a school's identity while signaling what a school values. The Shakespeare tradition has been a part of Powhatan school since the early 1960s, and the annual Shakespeare play is rite of passage for the eighth grade class. And while the play itself is a massive undertaking for these students, there are many important lessons that are taught along the way.

This year, Powhatan's 8th graders began working on Shakespeare's The Comedy of Errors in June when long-time faculty member R. Dixon Bell presented the cast with their parts.

They are instructed to learn their lines over the summer, and come back in August ready to learn – from Mr. Bell - how to perform it. Dick Bell and his assistant director, Tracie Lane, worked with the students in the auditorium, coaching them on how to effectively deliver their lines with expression and how to interact with their fellow actors on stage while upper school Art instructor Ryan Royston worked with the students on artwork related to the production.

Thanks to this experience, students not only act out an entire Shakespeare play, they also learn about enunciation, projection, memorization, group cooperation, and the power of a positive attitude! Long after graduating from Powhatan, alumni can often rattle off their first few lines of Shakespeare for you…so it definitely becomes ingrained!

This year is particularly special as it represents the end of an era for Powhatan School, as our resident Shakespeare expert Dick Bell has announced his retirement this spring. Comedy of Errors represents the 35th production that he has seamlessly directed for our students and community. Over three decades of passion and enthusiasm for Shakespeare that has impacted hundreds of students, has put Mr. Bell in a category that makes his name synonymous with Shakespeare at Powhatan School, matched only by his beloved predecessor and founder of Powhatan's Shakespeare productions, former Headmaster Mr. Donald Niemann.

Mr. Bell has been a member of the Powhatan faculty since 1973, and began directing the Shakespeare play in 1982 with the production of The Tempest. His final production was a rousing success, with many current and former faculty and Powhatan alumni in the audience.

While we celebrate a job well done by these eighth graders as they perform the play, we must not lose sight of the strong lessons that will stay with these students long after they've left Powhatan. It's just another example of how we live our mission; We learn not for school, but for life.



Reynolds Oare, Highland Varsity Boy's Soccer Coach, Voted Virginia Coach of the Year



Highland's Varsity Boys Soccer Coach Reynolds Oare was voted Virginia's National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Coach of the Year on the heels of his team's recent state championship win in Richmond, Virginia.

Reynolds was one of just two nominees, and was voted for this award by the state coaches and athletic directors of the Virginia Independent Schools Athletic Association (VISAA) membership.

Highland's varsity boy's soccer team finished this season with an impressive record of 18-4-2. The final win of the season was an impressive 4 – 0 win over Eastern Mennonite High School in the State Championship.

Highland entered the tournament as the D II state's fifth seed and upset three opponents, #4 Trinity at Meadowview and #1 North Cross School before defeating #2 EMHS in the title game. This win gives Highland a total of 12 state championships and is the second state championship claimed by Coach Oare and fourth overall achieved by the boys soccer program.

"I am truly blessed to coach incredibly gifted student-athletes every year," Oare said.

"The players on the 2015 Highland Boys soccer team deserve all the credit for doing whatever it took to win a state championship. They did everything that was asked of them, and acted in a way that earned the respect of every program across the state. That is the greatest honor a team can give to its coach, and for that, I thank them."

"The path to this state championship actually started after last year's state championship loss to North Cross," said Athletic Director Gary Leake.

"Coach Oare and his team prepared hard during the off season and they were determined to redeem their loss through hard work, positive team chemistry and teamwork. I am incredibly proud of this accomplishment."

Coach Oare attended Highland and played on the soccer team as well, graduating in 2000.

"As a player in the late 90's, I could have never imagined I would someday take over this program, which began to flourish long before I became the coach," said Oare. "I am so grateful for the opportunity and support provided to me by Hank Berg, Gary Leake, and the Highland community, as well as for my family for always encouraging me throughout the process.

Additionally, none of this would have been possible without my coaching staff, which includes but is not limited to two very close friends in Ronnie Ross and Mark Miller (also an alum and former teammate). They are knowledgeable, hard-working, and respected by all the players."

"It's great to have our alumni return and help us continue to carry out our mission," said Head of School Hank Berg. "Reynolds' dedication to his players and the game of soccer is a tremendous addition to our program."

Middleburg Academy's Tori Kahler Brings Home School's First All-State



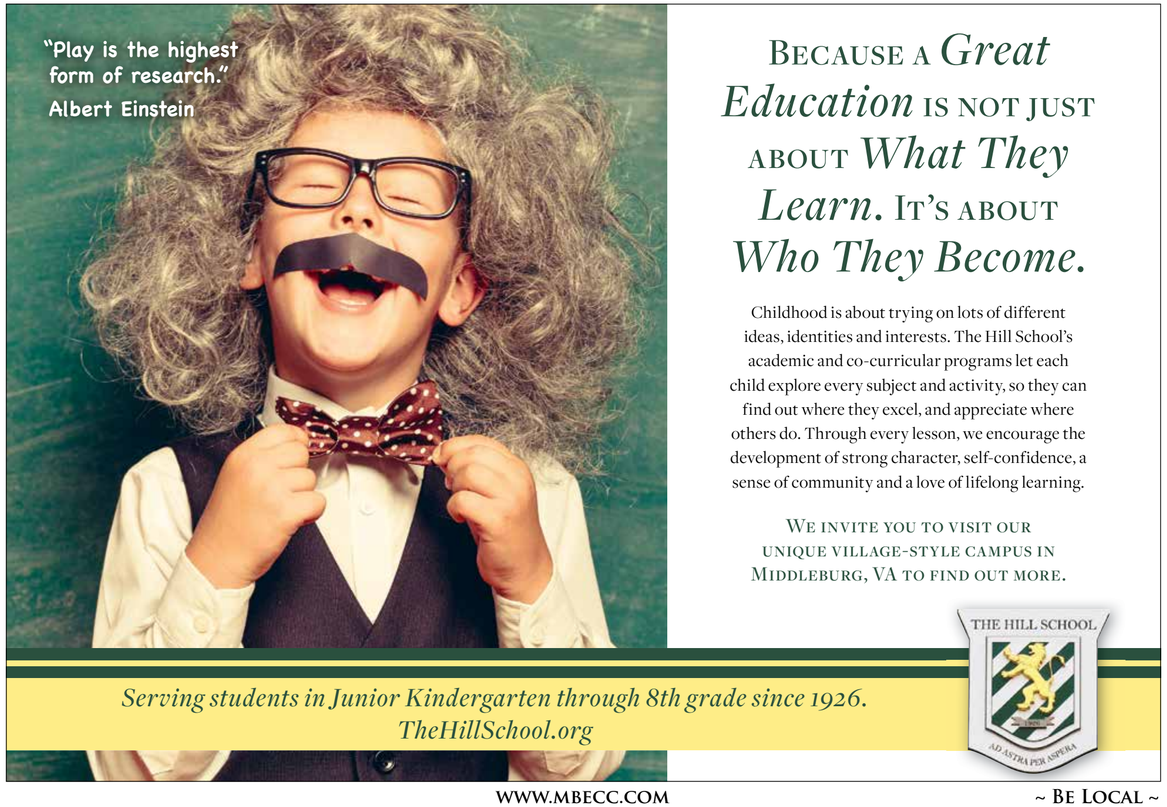
Middleburg Academy's Cross Country Team recently participated and placed well in the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association Division 2 State Championship. Their second year participating in the state competition, the Varsity Boys cross country team finished 12th of 35 Division 2 schools, and female runner Tori Kahler brought home the first ever All-State designation for a runner in the school's 50 year history, finishing 16th in the state with a time of 21:17 minutes.

Middleburg Academy Varsity Boys Cross Country team is comprised of runners Joshua Kay '18, Jack Tyler '18, Jan Juergens '18, Jimmy Cunningham '18, Colley Bell IV '20, Michael Howley '18, Jack Fanning '18, Niketh Vellanki '17, Cillian Cox '18, Alan Salacain '17, and Oliver Mu '20. Middleburg Academy Varsity Girls Cross Country team is lead by Tori Kahler '17, and Kiara Laurenzano '16, with runners Hayley Alcock '16, Nancy Alcock '18, and Alex Hess '18.

This has been a transformational year for the Dragon's Cross Country program. Since Spanish teacher and Coach Brittany Myers took over the running program last year, the team has grown from five runners to sixteen, the top four of which consistently run a sub-20 5k.

The top female runner, Tori Kahler has taken home four individual medals over the course of her first running season, and finished three season races in 1st place. The team has also seen great growth in their home meets against local schools, growing from two teams and 10 runners in October 2014 to five teams and over 50 runners this past September.

In true Middleburg Academy fashion, there is a no-cut policy with the cross-country team, and all students who wish to run, participate. This makes the Middleburg Academy cross-country team a program to watch in the coming years, as all but one of the 16 runners are returning next season.



Pastimes

Poinsettia, the Back Story

The Plant Lady



Karen Rexrode



The poinsettia has long been a symbolic plant of the Christmas season. A native of Mexico, where it is known as "flor de noche buena" or the Christmas Eve Flower. Sample were collected by Joel Poinsett, an American physician, botanist, and diplomat. He served as the first American ambassador to Mexico and many plants from Mexico were collected and evaluated by Joel in the late 1800's. Born in Charleston, South Carolina, his father, a physician, hoped he would become a lawyer.

The poinsettia is Euphorbia pulcherrima, a bushy member of the euphorbia family with upper leaves or bracts that color while days are short. The bright red floral bracts are designed to lure pollinators to the real flowers, which are small and potentially overlooked. This is typical of euphorbias, the flowers are unisexual, either male or female. The species epithet pulcherrima, means "most beautiful" but also speaks to the female gender of its floral parts.

From there the story gains momentum, primarily with the breeders of poinsettia and the Ecke family. In 1900 Albert Ecke moved to Los Angeles, California from Germany. He was the founder of a spa and vegetarian restaurant in Germany and came to California looking for a better climate to grow fruits and vegetables. Over the course of four generations and three moves he accumulated a lot of land, including some in Guatemala, with the sole intent of growing outside plants, including edibles. His breeding work with poinsettia began in the 1920's. A secret technique was used to make the poinsettia a bushier plant, something he claimed was learned from a back yard gardener in Germany. The technique involved grafting to create new cultivars. The entire world marveled at his results.

The Ecke firm moved from growing (finishing) poinsettias to selling cuttings. Most of the companies work would be breeding or raising new cultivars. At one point they were the source for 70% of all poinsettia cuttings in America and half of the plants grown outside of the United States. Four generations later they would hold the patent for 30 varieties and produce 100 million rooted cuttings each year.

Paul Ecke III sold the firm in 2012. The company would continue with its breeding program and employees would keep their jobs. Real estate became much of what Paul Ecke III would be involved with. When asked what he wanted to say about poinsettias, his simple reply "They're not poisonous".

The Artist's Perspective

Tom Neel



I was recently reminded that it has been 20 years since the National Gallery of Art hosted the first ever Johannes Vermeer retrospective. Featuring 22 of the artist's 35 paintings that were known to exist by the artist, the 1995 exhibit came at a time of a government shutdown and on the heels of a metro area blizzard, and I certainly remember attending.

I must admit that I have read, not remembered, that the government debacle kept the gallery closed for 19 days of the 3 month exhibit and many that truly wanted to see it, were not able to. I can recall though, going with a friend who had a VIP status of sorts, in a - "It's not what you know, it's who you know." fashion, which helped avoid the massive lines that formed.

20 years later, in tribute to the exhibit's anniversary, the powers that be have brought back Vermeer's 1663 "Women In Blue Reading a Letter". As an artist, seeing this painting instantly reminds me of something I strongly remember about seeing those 22 paintings of Vermeer so many years ago, just seven years into my own painting career and it's something many will not agree with. I don't think Vermeer stretched himself all that much as an artist.

It's as I can hear the "WHAT?!!" coming out of many a mouth right now, but I'll try my best to explain. It would be easy to think I'm off my rocker here, as this is Vermeer we are talking about, but this was one of my vivid observations years ago. Vermeer lived 43 years, from 1632 to 1675, but only painted 35 paintings that we know about. Not a whole bunch and most used the same formula of his subjects looking left, some facing the viewer, but pretty much all draped in the same natural left window light of his parents home that he apparently inherited. There are of course [a few] exceptions like "Girl With a Red Hat", but you get my point.

Being there and seeing them, I just felt that he was not extending himself much as an artist and wasn't exploring his range as a painter. I wondered why? Because seeing "View Of Delft", his home town and I think his only landscape, I felt Vermeer was a talented exterior painter and "The Little Street", truly sends that message home for me. It has me then scratching my head why he seemed to imprison himself as he did, using the same set to try and tell a different story over and over again. It is fair to re-mention that this was the 1600s. It's not as though painting was easy, but hey, it seems Vermeer had time to father 11 children, so he had good reason to get out of the house and take a painting break!

My point with all of this is not to question Vermeer's talent, it is rather questioning his decisions about subject matter and a fixation on one thing, much in the way Monet did late in life with the pond behind his house and the 250 water lily pond paintings he did. I guess when you look at those numbers, Vermeer's couple of dozen interior paintings don't seem all that out of line. Not until you again consider he only did 35 altogether. I will say though, he sure got very good, very quickly! I just think about what else could have been.

In closing, I wish all of you a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays and a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Live An Artful Life, Tom

You as an Algorithm

iMED

Terry Sharrer



If something can't be measured, it doesn't exist. That's why Haverhill, MA physician Dr. Duncan MacDougall in 1907 put especially sensitive scales beneath the legs of a death bed so he could measure the weight loss at the moment of expiration. By that means he claimed the departing "soul" weighed about three-quarters of an ounce, or twenty-one grams.

In theory, electroencephalographs and PET scans can measure emotions and perhaps even wisdom. And so on.

Clinical medicine, of course, relies on a thicket of diagnostic measurements. The normal range blood urea nitrogen in urine is eight to twenty milligrams/deciliter. Men are supposed to have 200 to 1,200 micrograms/deciliter of testosterone in their blood; women, twenty to sixty micrograms/deciliter.

Hundreds of diagnostic tests exist for screening or monitoring and their indications usually come with a number. There's even a formula for how much testing is likely to benefit a patient. Correlate all those figures and you have the "digital patient," with an electronic medical record that can feed data into an algorithm for health assessments.

Like it or not, each of us is a living manifestations of a gigantic math problem doctors sometimes can solve.

Genomics and proteomics deploy entirely new genres of measurement.

DNA sequencing can give counts of missing or multiple repeats of "steps" (base pairs) in the double helix "ladder," while microarray instruments determine the level of gene expression for dozens or hundreds of genes at a time.

Proteomics mainly relies on mass spectroscopy to determine an individual's "protein profile" regarding a disease state. This involves shooting a laser beam at a sample target (e.g. blood), scattering its particles to reveal their mass and charge features as a signature. Then, comparing an individual's protein profile to others of known health states provides an indication.

With both genomic and proteomic data, artificial intelligence programs do the calculations in the emerging field of "computational medicine."

Computers are incapable of a friendly "bedside manner," but they can give doctors some extremely valuable insights into the digital patient who may have a warm smile or a worried look.

Computation can show whether a patient with a primitive blood cancer has acute lymphoblastic leukemia or acute myeloid leukemia, which can be hard to determine with standard pathology methods. The difference is critical because the chemotherapy regimens are different.

It can give the probability after brain tumor resection that no residual malignancy remains. On a larger scale, running the numbers may be able to show that complex conditions, like Alzheimer's or vascular disorders, are actually composites of several simpler diseases.

Or, it could unscramble the misdiagnoses of familiar, but vaguely defined diseases, like cerebral palsy or epilepsy, as genetic diseases. And on a larger scale yet, it could reveal the salient health features of tribes, generations of families, religious adherents, workers in hazardous occupations, ethnic populations, or even nations of people.

The algorithm will show that your number is unique, just like everyone else's.

How to Manage Your Budget?

Ask a Remodeler



Tim Burch

When you ask folks considering a remodeling project what they fear most, one of the most common concerns is the project coming in "over budget". A sound approach including the following guidelines can help to allay these fears and minimize risks.

First it's important to understand your program. It may be helpful to distinguish between, "must haves" (required elements), "nice to haves" (upgrades or added elements), and "stretch/future" (elements that may be outside of consideration but could be transformational). With this defined, your design team can approach the project with this order of priority in mind.

Further, it may be helpful to identify aspects of the project that are critical maintenance items, elements that are required to preserve and protect the value of your home. These might include interior/exterior painting, replacement of windows, siding/trim replacement, deck replacement, roofing, etc. While remodeling often costs more than one might expect, it is helpful to understand and quantify what portion is attributable to protecting one of your most important investments.

When developing a budget for your remodeling project be sure you're not overlooking any of the less obvious costs. Beyond design and construction, there are costs for permitting, interior design, professional cleaning, furniture moving, duct cleaning, landscape repair, extra utility fees, etc. Also, some contracts have "provided by Owner" clauses for cabinets, painting, plumbing and electrical fixtures, specialty finishes, and carpeting. There are also soft costs to consider, such as temporary storage for large projects, transaction/financing charges, and costs of disruption, particularly with home offices. Make sure you have a complete picture of the commitment and a clear understanding of what is included before signing.

Differences in expectations can be a major factor affecting budget. To avoid discrepancies, it is critical to have very specific talks with your remodeling professional about the details. Instead of relying on words like "custom," which have become so ubiquitous that they are practically meaningless, be sure the details are clearly defined. For example, when selecting counters or cabinets, the exact finish, edges, pulls, and other details, should be carefully reviewed and noted. Additionally, "allowances" in contracts should be avoided. Not only will the exact costs be known, but by making all selections ahead of time, your remodeler should be able to provide the best pricing because there will not be delays due to unknown or last-minute selections during construction.

Opting for a fixed-price remodeling contract, as opposed to a "cost plus" one, is another way to eliminate the risk of cost overruns. "Cost plus", "Time & Material" or "T&M" agreements are sometimes appropriate for remodeling projects over $1M or projects in which the scope of work is unclear due to unknown site conditions, but for most mid- to large-sized projects they can and should be avoided.

Perhaps most importantly, hire a remodeling expert very experienced in the type and size of project that you are considering. Then, discuss your budget goals from the very start and clearly ask what the risk of unknowns are in your specific project. For most remodels, with a bit of upfront due diligence, these should be minimal.

With a clear understanding of all the costs associated with your renovation and excellent communication with your remodeling professional, you can work to create a project that maximizes your program goals and respects your budget.



Do you have a remodeling or design question for me that you'd like to see answered in the next issue? Email me at AskBOWA@bowa.com.

Tim Burch is Vice President of BOWA, an award-winning design build firm specializing in luxury renovations ranging from master suites and kitchens to whole-house remodels. A Northern Virginia native, Tim focuses on clients in the Loudoun and Fauquier County areas providing them with his 25 years of expertise in the design build construction industry. He is a third generation builder, certified remodeler, and instructor. Prior to joining BOWA, he was the Lead Project Manager of Construction for the Emmy Award winning construction reality television show, Extreme Makeover Home Edition on ABC Television. For more information on Tim and the BOWA team, visit www.bowa.com, or call 703-734-9050. Have a question for Tim that you'd like to see covered in Middleburg Eccentric? Email him at AskBOWA@bowa.com.

Megan and Anakin

A Girl and Their Dogs



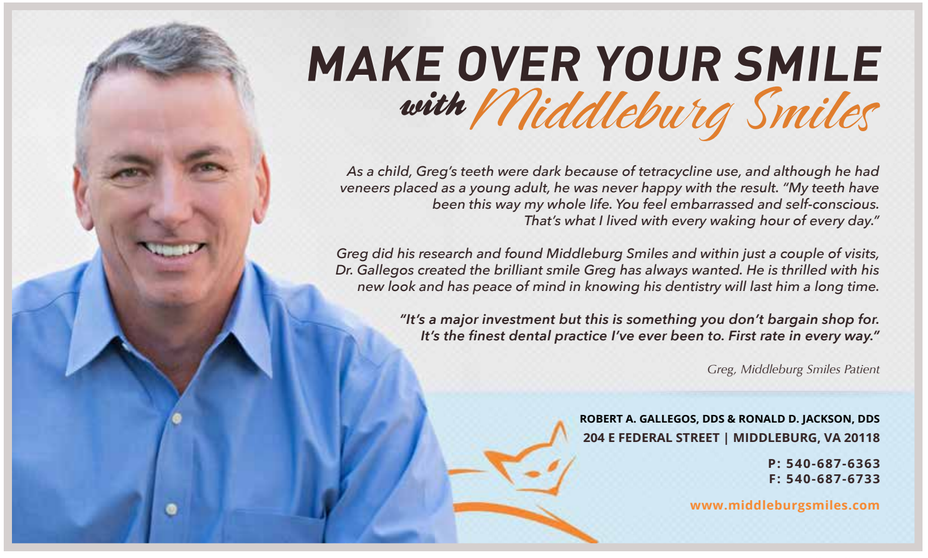
"I am the Equine Activities and Therapy Manager at the Rainbow Therapeutic Riding Center in Haymarket, Virginia and Anakin, my seven-year-old golden retriever, is the Resident Therapy Dog and Mascot. Anakin's main job is to provide support to children and adults with physical, social and emotional needs. Anakin helps out by being available for hugging, petting and just all-around loving. Anakin's calm and affectionate demeanor is very welcoming. This same even, unflappable temperament helps to decrease stress and anxiety in the participants who come to ride at the Center. It's remarkable to see the calm-healing effect Anakin can provide to the students, and the ability to replace the negative feelings they may have with positive warm fuzzy ones instead.

In addition to Anakin's day job at the Center, Anakin also visits nursing homes and elderly care facilities. Twice a month we visit recovering service members from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, as well.

Anakin hails from New York. His father was in the breeding program for a guide-dog foundation. Originally, I planned to train Anakin as a Search and Rescue Dog. However, at that time, I was managing a farm and working with sport horses and the demands of my job made it impossible for me to pursue this line of work with Anakin. It was just as well, since Anakin was a natural for therapy work. He had all of the necessary attributes at a very young age and gravitated toward people more so than other dogs.

This has worked out for the best since now I have the ability to bring my dog to work to do something we both love. It's great to have Anakin with me 24-7, as both a co-worker and side kick!

I've said it before that if I could bottle his goodness, I'm sure it would create world peace."



Pastimes

Gift Ideas, 2015

Sincerely me

Brandy Greenwell

Happy, happy holidays to you and yours! Gift giving should always come with meaning and love. Shopping is an art which I mastered while still aged in single digits. I have blended those and come up with a list of my favorite things for gift giving, 2015. If you are stumped, this one's for you. I encourage you to support local, be creative and, of course, give from the heart.

Goodsport is a Virginia based company that creates incredible vintage and equestrian inspired artisan made jewelry. It many not be on her list, but she will love it. They have vended locally at many sporting events and you can find them on Facebook, as well as Foxfire Antiques and Tri-County Feeds, Fashions and Finds. Give the gift they want.

My husband and I give homemade gifts into which I just love to put thought . I do realize it is not 1985, but giving someone a soundtrack of memories via playlist will always be charming in my book. Think mixtape. Think Lloyd Dobler. Give the gifts of thought and music.

One of my latest obsessions is the local farm shop, Fields of Athenry. Have you heard how drinking bone broth is all the rage? If not, google it to learn of the benefits. FOA has two special blends and I swear they have magical powers. Really. All of their products are amazing and just going for a visit is a most pleasurable experience that anyone would love. Give the gift of health.

I have a slight ebay addiction and have, in years past, given gifts under $25 all purchased on Ebay. Ebay and Etsy are a little like small business e-malls for crafty folks and master recyclers. Pick something your recipient likes and plug that into a search. You may be surprised at the clever results and find that perfect gift. Give the gifts of creativity and uniqueness.

Country Club Prep is one of my favorite websites. The owners are Virginia gentlemen and their buying style and merchandise ooze southern charm. I think when you see their fox mascot, Longshanks, who can cleverly been seen branding their merchandise, you will see why the collection is loved in Middleburg. Give the gift of prep.



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Walt Whitman wrote in Song of Myself "When I give, I give myself." (Which oddly now reminds me of the Dos Equis commercials) Perhaps the greatest gift you can give someone you cherish is togetherness. Skip the wrapping paper and share a bottle of wine, a walk in the park or a genuine moment. Sometimes that is needed more than anything money can buy. Give the gifts of smiles and love.

Happy Giving! Peace to you all.

Albert's Corner

A monthly column for people who share their homes with four-legged friends.



Albert P. Clark

For years, scholars have debated about whether animals are capable of recalling the past and/or planning for the future. There is additional debate about which animals can do so, if any. Corvids and primates show the most evidence of doing both. I don't have a definitive scientific answer for you. I can tell you that I certainly remember the past, as do all of my canine friends. And I plan for the future too. (Why do you think we bury bones?) But I'm a journalist, not a scientist, so I'll just leave the discussion to the academics.

I think it's unfortunate, however, that people spend so much time studying whether we remember and plan when they should really be focused on what we do best, which is live in the present. We are experts at seizing the day and enjoying the moment. The majority of humans, however, have never mastered that skill. While a certain amount of reflection and projection is healthy, too much of it has the opposite effect. Too often, people are distraught because they dwell on a past that is long gone or a future that has yet to unfold.

Anyone who lives with a dog knows that almost all of us wake up each morning ready to greet the day. Our joy is visible in our eyes and in the constant motion of our tails. We're excited about eating, playing, and sleeping. When our people come home after being gone for even a short time, we're ecstatic. We're fascinated by nature. We find 100 reasons each and every day to celebrate life. Regrets about the past and worries about the future do not burden us. We live in the now and expect it to be wonderful.

Of course, there are times when we get sad. I'm heartbroken to say that my lifelong friend and pack mate is in the final stages of his life, and he is visibly depressed. I don't know what his thoughts are, but I know his "now" is not a happy one. Until very recently, however, he lived his long life the way that most dogs do – embracing every moment.

I chose to write about this topic because the world is in a terrible state. It seems that each day brings some other reason to be frightened. The news is about unspeakable tragedies and disturbing threats to our security. Terror is gripping the globe and people are scared. It's more than understandable that worry would rule the day for many humans.

At this time, however, the best thing people could possibly do is to take a page out of our book. Understand that all anyone ever has is this moment right now, so it makes sense to live in the present. As much as possible, find space away from the global strife, political wrangling, and raging arguments. Focus on the little things that make the day wonderful. Be thrilled to eat, play, and sleep. Be ecstatic when your loved ones come home. Stop to appreciate nature. Find 100 reasons each and every day to celebrate life.

A new year is upon us. There will be trials and tribulations. There will be sadness. That's okay. A wise rector in Middleburg once told my person to allow for the possibility that things would turn out much better than she could ever imagine. Good advice.

A new year is upon us. There will be lots of resolutions. May I humbly suggest that people should simply resolve to be more like their dogs.

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Finding Balance



Kay ColganKay Colgan, Certified Fitness and Pilates Professional, Health Coach

The human body is always striving for balance. Internally, it operates efficiently when things are in balance. If things should be a little off, the body tries hard to regain homeostasis. Externally, balance requires the coordination of three senses; eyes, sense of spatial awareness and our vestibular system. For instance, with the vestibular system if the fluid in the inner ear is off then balance becomes an issue. Balance problems can also arise from certain prescription medications, effects of alcohol and certain diseases. Diabetes, neuropathy and arthritis can effect balance. But there are so many things you can do today that can greatly improve your balance.

A balanced body requires flexibility to allow movement in any direction. It also requires strength to hold and stabilize a position. Most importantly, it requires the ability to process information coming into your brain from your eyes, muscles, skin and joints. To increase strength, stability and flexibility balance needs to be addressed daily. Good balance is imperative to be able to enjoy an active healthy lifestyle. There are no complicated machines needed to work on balance. Any standing exercise can be an opportunity to work on your balance. The following are a small list of exercises that have been shown to help with balance. Please check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program.

1. Stand with feet parallel to each other hip-width apart (just stand and count to 30)

2. Stand in a split stance (one foot in front of the other) feet about hip-width apart. (count to 30)

3. Split stance with feet in line with one another (narrow stance) (count to 30)

4. Stand on one foot (be near a kitchen counter or something you can hold onto in the beginning) The goal is not to hold on. (count to 30)

For more information about fitness, please contact Kay Colgan, Middleburg Pilates and Personal Training, 14 S. Madison Street, Middleburg, Virginia or call 540-687-6995.

Why do I get these Pesky, Painful Cold Sores?



Dr. Robert A. Gallegos

Colds and flu are an unfortunate part of this otherwise festive season. Frequently, with colds and flu come "cold sores", so named because they often accompany a cold or flu. Since it is the time of year when cold sores are most common, I want to share some facts about cold sores so you know how best to deal with them and maybe even avoid getting them.

What is a cold sore?

A cold sore is a blister that usually forms on or around the lips. The blister typically lasts 7 to 14 days; it may be a singular blister or a cluster of blisters. The blister is actually an infection caused by the herpes simplex virus, HSV-1. Most of us were initially exposed to the virus as children. The initial exposure to the virus will go dormant (asleep) until it is triggered to reappear. There is no cure for the virus but there are things you can do to shorten the severity and duration and in some cases, avoid the outbreak.

Who gets cold sores?

Most everyone experiences a cold sore from time to time. Some people react severely and get more involved outbreaks while others get a single blister.

What triggers a cold sore outbreak?

Fatigue, stress, anxiety, cold weather, excessive sunlight, hormonal changes, certain foods, lip and mouth injuries and a weakened immune system are the most common triggers. Fatigue and stress can deplete your immune system. Cold weather and excessive sunlight will dry out and damage the lips causing cracking and possibly blistering. Hormonal changes during menstrual cycle and pregnancy may cause outbreaks. Certain foods (e.g. acidic foods and nuts) can cause outbreaks in some people. Lip and mouth injuries, even something as simple as bumping your lip with a toothbrush or a routine dental visit or orthodontic braces may stimulate an outbreak.

How can I shorten the duration or prevent outbreaks?

To help strengthen your immune system eat a well-balanced diet, exercise, get a good night's sleep and identify your stress and anxiety and work to minimize them (e.g., through exercise, prayer, healthy distraction, counseling). Regular use of a lip protectant balm or lipstick is important. Use a high quality lip balm with good moistures and UV protection (SPF) or high quality lipstick with good moistures and SPF to protect your lips. If you are sensitive to some foods, avoid those foods that cause outbreaks. The cold sore virus is contagious so don't: touch the blisters, share eating utensils, share drinking glasses or kiss during or immediately after an outbreak. Clean your hands regularly with soap and water or 70% isopropyl alcohol hand sanitizers. Often, people who get cold sores on a regular basis know when it is going to appear due to a tingling feeling. If you occasionally get a limited outbreak, an over the counter cream, Abreva, found in the drug store can be effective when applied from the first tingle and following the directions on the box. If you experience more frequent and/or severe outbreaks a prescription cream or pill may be a better choice. Ask your dentist or physician about the use of these prescription medicines. These simple precautions and treatments can make the season more joyful.

Dr. Robert A. Gallegos is a Fellow in the Academy of General Dentistry, he is on the faculty of Spear Education, a member the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine and the American Dental Association. Dr. Gallegos practices dentistry in Middleburg, VA. www.MiddleburgSmiles.com.

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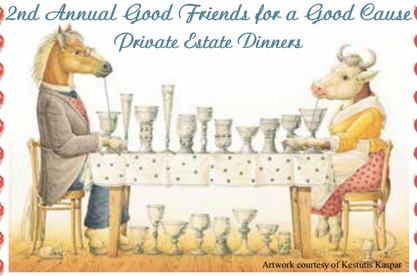
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Artwork courtesy of Kestutis Kaspar

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Liberty is a 3 year old chestnut Appaloosa cross that is 13H. He is ready to be trained & would make a great hunter pony. He stands for the vet & farrier & is very sweet. He is ready to find his forever home.



Stormy lived in a home for 12 years, & through no fault of his own has found himself without a family. Stormy is declawed, so he is a little cautious when meeting new people & new cats. However, he seems to have adjusted very well to a multiple cat environment here at MHF!



Bruce is a 6 year old Norwegian Elkhound who is quite the ladies' man! He's not convinced that men are his kind of people, but he'll do anything to impress a lady, even his cute frog-leg-belly-crawl, his signature move. Bruce gets along with bold cats who aren't afraid of him, but he will chase a cat who runs. He might enjoy living with another dog.



Ruger is a 5 year old lab mix. He is a big, active dog who is seeking a home where he will get plenty of exercise. He would enjoy going on long walks or hikes & having lots of time playing in a securely fenced area. Ruger is not a couch potato!



Chip is a bouncy, adorable 3 year old beagle. Leashes are still a little confusing to him, but he loves going for walks. Chip also loves to play, especially with people! He seems to have very little experience with toys, but he is so playful we are sure he will learn in no time. Chip would be delighted to live with another dog.



Tobias is a very special kitty! He has micro-ophthalmia (his eyes are smaller than normal). Tobias is able to see & his eyes do not bother him, but he looks a little different than most kitties. Tobias is a snuggly cat who loves everyone he meets. He plays well with kittens & other cats, & will climb right up onto your shoulder when he wants some attention.



Nutmeg is a 10 year old Shetland Pony. She is seeking a home with someone patient & kind. Nutmeg is sweet & cooperative with people who spend the time to get to know her & win her affection (treats help a lot!). She has had some groundwork training, & she may be willed to continue learning new things with someone she trusts. If you're looking for a companion/project pony, Nutmeg may be the one for you!



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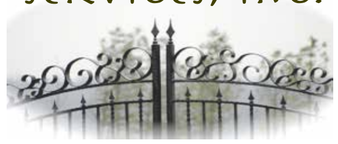
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Editors Desk

Christmas in Middelburg

TEAM 44

At press time the Middleburg Police Department was estimating that an all time record crowd of between 26 and 28 thousand people were present for all or part of this year's Christmas in Middleburg celebrations.

Police Chief A. J. Panebianco's calculations were based on widely accepted crowd density standards, cross-referenced with the measured length of the parade round multiplied by a close estimate of the square footage available for standees on both sides of the street along the route.

Santa's elves came up with much the same numbers using the tried and true North Pole system: counting feet and dividing by two.

The weather was perfect.

Horses and hounds were in fine fettle and out in force.

Santa was welcomed officially to town by yet another extraordinary parade.

Middleburg also showed its true spirit in the face of two incidents that, in other times and places might well have dampened what was otherwise a perfect day.

A photographer fell and was hurt badly enough to require that an ambulance make its way through the crowds.

The parade was delayed as traffic was halted to make way for first responders.

Santa, at the end of the parade, as usual, noticed not one whit less of enthusiasm from the huge crowds who, despite the delay, stayed to greet him.

Later, a Middleburg Police officer, directing traffic at days end, was hit by a motorist who was later accused of driving under the influence.

The officer was evacuated by helicopter, his injuries treated, and by all accounts at press time was doing well.

An event the size of our Christmas celebrations in a town the size of Middleburg is no small undertaking.

Accidents and other unhappy events are, statistically, inevitable.

Our police department, town staff, a host of volunteers, and the tens of thousands of men, women, and children lining the streets all rose to the occasion, stayed calm, and carried on.

There is a tendency in such circumstances to thank one's lucky stars . . . but luck has little or nothing to do with it.

Great preparation, great responses, and good people (along with a little luck) make all the difference.

Thanks to all for a great and happy day and best wishes to everyone for a Safe and Happy New Year.

The Refugee "Crisis"

Blue

Dan Morrow

So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933

When President Roosevelt spoke of "fear" during his first Inaugural Address in the stormy March of 1933, there was much to fear.

"Be very afraid; be VERY afraid," seemed like good advice, and then as now, there were many eager to give and exploit it.

In 1933 the greatest war in human history was an event of the recent past. And the end of that war in 1918 had been followed by an influenza epidemic that killed more people than the war.

In 1933 Roosevelt's America not only found itself facing the unemployment, breadlines and despair of the Great Depression, Japan had invaded Manchuria less than two years earlier and set up, as a launch pad for later aggression a puppet state called Manchukuo.

And that same January 1933, German President Paul von Hindenburg had named a new German Chancellor, named Hitler

Though Roosevelt, his administration, Congress and the American people sometimes succumbed to the worst of their fears, somewhere in the darkness and always in his rhetoric lurked the better angels of our nature.

Chastened by our failures, and soon to be made aware of the costs in lives and treasure and national honor by a new world war that eclipsed the first, we soldiered on.

Now, a decade and a half into the 21st century, we are still struggling, despite our relative insulation from the worst of the worlds problems, our command of the strongest military establishment in human history, wealth beyond all human imagination, and science and technology that promise to bring freedom from want, freedom of speech, and even freedom of worship closer to a truly global state of reality than at any point in human history.

Then, stage right, inevitably, the beast reappears: nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror, trumped up at the expense of refugees, overwhelmingly innocent men, women and children fleeing poverty, oppression, death and worse.

These new manufactured terrors breed both fear, and hate that, in turn, generate rhetoric, policies and behaviors that both harm and shame us.

Would-be leaders of a country founded, built and long defended by immigrants, call for walls, fences, moats, and religious tests that violate not only the spirit and letter of our laws, but the most decent of our instincts.

Refugees all over the world are, indeed, now as ever, in "crisis."

The real crisis for Americans, however, lies in our response to those in need.

It is a crisis of conscience, decency, generosity, and courage . . . not theirs, but ours.

Some of our would-be leaders make Lincoln's better angels weep.

Let us praise the others.

It's an Invasion

Red

Jim Morgan

OK, let's stipulate right up front that not all Muslims are terrorists. No serious person has suggested that anyway, but the accusation that Americans, especially conservatives, believe it is the progressive default response whenever anyone points out that modern terrorism is largely an Islamic phenomenon which, of course, it is. Since 9/11, there have been nearly 28,000 Muslim terrorist attacks worldwide. No other group comes close. So it doesn't matter that most Muslims are not terrorists. It does matter that most terrorists are Muslims.

Allowing thousands of young, fighting age, male Muslim Syrians into America is a very bad idea. We're told that opposing this uncontrolled flood of (mostly) young men is an insult to Muslims and a recruiting tool for ISIS. But our president and Hillary both have assured us that ISIS isn't really Islamic. Never mind all those shouts of "Allahu Akbar" right before the shooting starts. Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.

But if terrorism has nothing to do with Islam, then how exactly are we insulting Muslims by condemning terrorism? How can such condemnation cause moderate Muslims to become terrorists if terrorism is not Islamic? Obama does refer to Iran as the "Islamic Republic of Iran." So it's apparently not insulting to refer to a regime which executes girls for the crime of having been gang-raped as "Islamic." The progressive mind truly is a labyrinth.

What a great distraction this crisis has been. It lets the Obamedia flacks talk about how racist and lacking in compassion Republicans are, how we're afraid of widows and orphans, and how we hate immigrants, while avoiding any discussion of Obama's disastrous foreign policy which caused the refugee crisis in the first place. It began with the red line that Obama didn't enforce in Syria and with the ousting of Khaddafi in Libya with no thought to what would come next. Oh, and that's another reason, Mrs. Clinton, why what happened in Benghazi does make a difference.

Instead, we hear constant assurances about the robust vetting process (stop laughing!) combined with syrupy appeals to the spirit of Emma Lazarus. Curiously, or maybe not, few seem to remember that President Obama himself blocked the admission of Muslim Iraqi refugees into the country for several months after two known terrorists, men who had killed Americans, were discovered living in Bowling Green, Kentucky. They were vetted refugees! So why wasn't it an insult to Muslims and an ISIS recruiting tool when Obama did it?

Ted Cruz has suggested that we allow only Syrian Christians into the United States. Naturally, that was met with howls of indignation and cries of "Islamophobia!" by the left. In fact, however, it would address our completely justifiable concern about terrorists disguised as refugees. Christian refugees would be more easily vetted through contacts with their church leaders in the region. More to the point, it would show real concern and compassion for people who not only have been displaced and largely ignored but who are being deliberately exterminated by none other than Islamic terrorists.

Charles Krauthammer had another good idea; admit only women, children, and men over 50. Neither Cruz's suggestion nor Krauthammer's is perfect but, together, they do provide some basis for an actual policy to address an actual threat. Some combination of the two should be seriously considered.

But it won't be. Not by a president who, the day before the Paris attacks, declared that ISIS had been contained and who just named a Hamas sympathizer to oversee our anti-ISIS policy.

As for compassion, America is the model for the rest of the world. In 2014 alone, we took in over two-thirds of all the world's refugees. But misguided sentimentality does not make good policy. We can help – are helping – Syrian refugees without accepting the flood of military age males who already are causing problems in Europe. We should stop this invasion while we still can.







Hypocrisy

Tom Pratt

Once again, as pointed out in the book, "The Shock Doctrine," governments and companies are capitalizing on disastrous events.

Immediately after the Paris attacks the 'pathological liar,' John Brennan (as described in the NY Times) immediately blamed Edward Snowden saying he had "blood on his hands". How utterly false and hypocritical.

Has Brennan forgotten all the past failures of intelligence such as The Cole, embassy bombings in Africa ,Timothy Mcvey etc that took place long before Edward Snowden arrived on the scene?

Also, I have not heard that the French are blaming Snowden.

Some in the intelligence field are also saying that because of the Snowden revelations terrorists are using new communication apps developed because of the disclosures. I would hasten to say that if the agencies had not been breaking the law, Snowden would have had nothing to reveal and therefore, according to them, those apps would not exist!

It is a moot point in any case because terrorists KNOW governments spy on them and will always try to find undetectable means of communication.

Another fact following Paris is that the stock in defense companies soared as soon as the markets opened and I am sure the CEOs of those companies felt their mouths start to water at the prospect of more endless war and more profit for them.

On the subject of ISIS and the attacks: as horrible an organization as it is, capable of throwing gay men off 10 story buildings, beheading hostages on video, and many more atrocities, I am not sure our response and the rest of the western world's use of aerial bombing by planes and drones and personnel on the ground is going to result in the desired the outcome.

After 15 years of those tactics, the Taliban controls more of Afghanistan now than it did before the U.S. invasion and groups such as ISIS are stronger and more potent.

Perhaps, as distasteful as it may be, it is time to accept the fact that ISIS is a state. It has territory, income, citizens, military recruits and a governing body capable of running an organized war effort.

Maybe it is time to seek a political solution as the past tactics to defeat terror have proven incredibly costly and ineffective.

Because of the wars and invasions, hundreds of thousands of people have become refugees and, for the United States to take in such a small number of these refugees proportionately of those fleeing their countries, is not only hypocritical but shockingly cruel.

If a refugee can make it to Sweden they are not only accepted with grace and dignity they are given a small allowance, housing, language lessons and a job after assimilation.

Even so called military experts who are paid I might for regular appearances on corporate media, agree that the Bush and Cheney illegal invasion of Iraq most probably has caused most of the turmoil that exists in the area today.

Given that, it is even more shocking that we assume most refugees are either terrorists or criminals and treat them as such. The mean spirited and mostly Republican governors of states attempting to ban refugee who are Syrian for the most part, are simply wrong.

Syrians seeking refugee status are the most heavily screened of all asylum seekers and are therefore the least likely to be terrorists.

All of the idiots running for the Republican nomination who suggest that this country should pattern itself after Nazi Germany and require people of Middle Eastern background to wear identity badges of some sort should not be able to have any chance of becoming president of this country.

Christmas in 2015

The Public Square

Chandler and Jerry, "Dutch" Van Voorhis

Christmas is a Season when the self encounters itself. There is a solitary quality about Christmas, as well as one of great merriment spent in joy with family and friends all across our great land.

Christmas elevates, in some manner, the spirit. It consumes us as a calendar event, but at the same time, it is larger than the calendar. It invades us, connects us, and enables us to yield to a larger world than ourselves.

We may think we own the world of Christmas, but it also owns us. The rest of the year plays out differently. This year, in a strange way, there seem to be heightened issues of control. For example, more and more we see the dominance of drones, robots, and servers.

They are all data vultures. They are organized as a tool of consumption and control. They are information sweepers and conveyors. They create vast outputs for society. Supposedly, they enable us to own and govern ourselves better.

At the same time, things seem perilously out of control across the country and world. The volatility of world currencies, the mindless thrusts of terror, and the fragility of the climate cloud are seen as "black holes." They reach beyond the logic of the human mind and thrive in a tenure of vast unpredictability.

We need to apply our most salient intelligence to these and other questions of course. However, the world of drones (and other technologies) and the dicta of omniscient policy may conflict more than they collaborate. How does such a world stay connected, and what is the lesson of Christmas for us?

Fresh thinking in China offers one clue. He Huaihong, a professor at Peking University, in a new book of writings published by Brookings, contends that "our material...power is at an extraordinary peak, but the spiritual and cultural bonds that keep us connected to one another have never been weaker." He calls for a renewal of "spiritual roots." Spiritual beliefs "pervade every aspect of our lives... they exist on their own plane," he declares. He adds, "they cannot - and should not - be forced, and modern society increasingly accepts that fact." He holds how such beliefs are "strong and sustained," however, and how no nation without them can generate the "spiritual power to draw in other nations." China is seeing the need for some ancient wisdom in this modern hour.

And this month, the celebration of Frank Sinatra's life offers a glimpse how one transcends the ordinary. Sinatra, the great mid-20th century singer, would have been 100 on December 12. He was a self-educated man, and lifelong reader. There is a startling new biography about his mastery of music also. The power of song did not fall easily from his lips, as one might assume. He practiced hard and stuck to a rigorous and very disciplined routine all his life.

"I take a sheet with just the lyrics. No music," he once told the casino mogul Steve Wynn. "I'm looking at a poem. I'm trying to understand the point of view of the person behind the words. I want to understand his emotions. Then I start speaking, not singing, the words so I can experiment and get the right inflections. When I get with the orchestra, I sing the words without a microphone first, so I can adjust the way I've been practicing to the arrangement. I'm looking to fit the emotion behind the song that I've come up with to the music. Then it all comes together."

Once Sinatra sang the number, on record or on stage, he inhabited the lyric. Sinatra became himself with the song. By thinking the thoughts, and feeling the feelings, he let the listeners think and feel them too. Authenticity, work, and connectedness gave the world something unique.

The common lesson is not China or Sinatra in a Christmas message, but the need for us to be grounded individually well, and, as a people. Our common future depends on it. There is a Scripture in Hebrews that says it well: "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never...continually make the corners thereunto perfect." What does this mean for us?

It means there is something other than our mind and prejudices, our ways, our institutions, our cultures - something more, something beyond, ourselves which perfects our universe. It means our devices of thought, however admirable, will never be enough in themselves to meet the needs of an uncertain planet. It means there is an arrow of love and the flame of truth that transcend the law being only "a shadow of good things to come."

The Christmas promise is about God's love appearing to humanity and the regeneration of the spirit and reformation of character that bring increased joy and peace to many. It is about a season that touches our deeper nature and enlarges the shadow of good things to come for all.

The ISIS Mindset and Ways to Undermine ISIS Propaganda

Dr. Anthony Wells,
Dr. Andrey Chuprygin, with
Mr. Valeriy Matrosov.

The Issue

Propaganda plays a key role in ISIS recruitment and sustainment of its base. Ideological aspects that have major propagandist aspects have equal validity as military strength in understanding ISIS.

Why does ISIS continue to be attractive for large groups of people from a variety of countries and regions?

Islamic eschatology is a key lens through which to examine both the concepts and the practical operations of ISIS, and therefore understand ways to challenge this major threat.

The[se] propagandist aspects have to be countered in sophisticated and carefully orchestrated ways to undermine the very essence of ISIS's ideology and modus operandi.

Background

ISIS presents the restoration of the Caliphate as a political deed necessary for salvation, a hugely manipulative tool, with ISIS legislating the ways and means. Graeme Wood wrote in The Atlantic magazine that, "ISIS follows a distinctive variety of Islam whose beliefs about the path to the Day of Judgment matter to its strategy". Secular actions are therefore holy duties, aimed at accelerating the approach to the End of Time.

The ISIS leadership appeals to the Signs of [the coming Day of Judgment], including:

- The Smoke above the Earth, pollution, is created by the "Crusader" nations.
- Sunrise is from the West, a way of saying that life is turned upside down, like using paper money instead of precious metals.
- The Beast of the Earth (Dabba al-Ard) is represented as a Zionist movement, the state of Israel.
- The Earthquake in the East is attributed by ISIS propaganda as the December, 2004 Asian Tsunami that claimed over 100,000 lives.
- The Earthquake in the West is associated with Hurricanes such as Katrina in the US.
- The Earthquake in Arabia, the third of the Earthquakes, is prophesied to happen when the invading armies of the West (ar-Rum), enter Kaaba.
- The Fire, coming out of Yemen (in some Hadiths as a consequence of the Arabian Earthquake), is presented as the Yemeni Civil War, a form of ISIS prophecy. In another Islamic tradition, in "Sahih", by Imam Abi Abdillah Muhammad al-Bukhari, the fire will come out of the land of Hijaz.
- The Gog and Magog have been described as USA and Russia, and though ISIS has not yet used these names in its eschatological discourses, this may happen in the future.
- The Minor Signs are:
- Women will dress like men and vice versa.
- Homosexuality will become the way of life.
- Children born outside marriage will become commonplace.
- Muslims will become slaves. . . .
- Treasure will be found in the Euphrates River. This could be simply interpreted as producing oil near Deir az-Zour, in ar-Raqqa province, and in Iraq. Oil is called "the black gold" and can be considered as treasure, but some Hadiths warn not to take anything from this treasure, and others claim that there will be a great struggle for this treasure.
- The Muslims will fight the Jews and kill them all ("until the stone will say: Muslim, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him"). Such perspective is considered by ISIS leaders as the near future. After conquering Damascus the next goal is claimed to be Jerusalem, and the Jewish state of Israel itself.
- The truthful person is belied and the liar is believed.
- The people will begin to worship the ancient idols (in some versions al-Lat and al-'Uzza, in others, Dhi al-Khalassa).

The Challenge

ISIS has an ability to psychologically blackmail the Moslem world, by presenting two significant points. First, the Judgment Day is close (although the Qur'anic tradition implies that it is only Allah who knows), and the second is that the Caliphate (ISIS) is a means of facilitating its approach.

Conclusion and Way Ahead

ISIS exploits Hadiths in selective ways, removing anything that challenges its leadership. . . . . This provides scope, as just one example, for the Hadith itself to be used to contradict ISIS propaganda.

There are two radically different pressures operating in the contemporary Arab world: a push to democratize via secular elections, with equality between the men and the women; and a tendency to return to the times of the Prophet by rejecting all principles of Western society, while accepting some Western achievements, such as technical and military inventions and, for example, the style of male clothing. ISIS is not alone in the latter regard.

However, ISIS is the clearest and the most manifest model.

ISIS leadership twists Islamic culture by using selective texts and by interpreting them for their own purposes.

Muslims must be given the opportunity to read the original and pure versions of the Qur'an and the Hadiths to circumvent the effects of ISIS propaganda, simply by having access to their cultural and theological heritage.

Muslims should be encouraged to understand that there is no directive in the Qur'an to destroy the West, to kill all who do not believe in a God, in the "only righteous Muslim" way, and that no one religion knows when the End of Time will come, and there is no such last battle between the Islamic cultural heritage and the rest of civilization.

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Wood Hill
Middleburg, Virginia
$3,300,000

3 miles from Middleburg • 49 acres • Elegant 1940's brick colonial home • Stable • Cottage • Apartment • Pool • Tennis court • Mature trees and sweeping lawn to Goose Creek which surrounds most of the property

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Faraway Farm
Middleburg Area
$2,975,000

Solid stone home with copper roof on 70 acres • Original portions dating from the 1700's • First floor bedroom & 3 additional suites • Original floors • 8 fireplaces • Formal living room • Gourmet kitchen • 2 ponds • Mountain views • Stone walls • Mature gardens • Pool • Log cabin • Piedmont Hunt

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Providence Farm
Bluemont, Virginia
$2,650,000

42 acre equestrian property in Piedmont Hunt • Lovely 5,000 sf home with 1st floor master suite • Horse facilities include indoor (150' x 75') and outdoor (200' x 100') arenas • 10 stall stable with large apartment • 8 more stalls in shed row • 6 paddocks • Cross country course & 9,800 sf heated Morton Building

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Fairview
Boyce, Virginia
$2,300,000

Circa 1904 Colonial home • 3 BR • 3 1/2 BA • High ceilings • Gourmet kitchen • 5 fireplaces • 90x200 covered arena • 12 total stalls • Main barn redesigned by John Blackburn • 4 bay garage with apartment • 12 paddocks • Asphalt drive & security gate • Heated pool • Property has 2 DUR's and whole house generator • Hilltop setting with mountain views

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Buck Run Farm
Hume, Virginia
$1,925,000

Stone & stucco cottage overlooking 2 ponds & amazing mountain views • 72 acres with minimal maintenance & maximum quality throughout shows in every detail • 4 BR • 2 1/2 BA • 3 fireplaces • Copper roof • Antique floors & beams • Charming library & multiple french doors open to massive stone terrace

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Greystone
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Circa 1807 • 33 acres ideally located between Middleburg & The Plains • Rare quarried stone exterior, 10-foot ceilings • Period mantels, original wood floors, two-story front porch • 3 bedrooms/3 baths, each a private suite • Historic stone barn includes one bedroom/bath apt, heated tack room, 6 stalls • Carriage barn • 3 paddocks, large turnout field, run-in sheds, auto waterers • Whole farm generator • Pond • Orange County Hunt

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Ragley
Upperville, Virginia
$1,600,000

13.54 acres surrounded by large estates • Prime protected location • Updated brick home • Notable room sizes • 5 bedrooms • 5 full baths and two 1/2 baths • 2 fireplaces • In-ground pool • Stone walls • Beautiful gardens • Well built home

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Emarcris
Marshall, Virginia
$1,475,000

Brick colonial on 22.56 gorgeous acres • Orange County Hunt • 4 BR • 4 BA • High ceilings • Wood floors • Grandly scaled rooms for gracious entertaining • 5 FP add warmth & charm • Covered veranda overlooks spectacular gardens w/ fabulous views • Library w/custom bookcases • Family room w/vaulted ceilings • Separate guest suite • Sauna • Idyllic setting

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Kerfoot House
Upperville, Virginia
$1,290,000

Circa 1810 Federal brick home with stucco wing • 4 BR • 3 1/2 BA • 6 FP • High ceilings • Beautiful woodwork & floors • Recently renovated • Lovely kitchen with new custom cabinets, Carrara marble countertops, Viking refrigerator, Bertazzoni gas range and slate floor • New baths, Carrara white marble floors • English period gardens, specimen plantings, mature boxwoods, grand setting

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Stonecrest
Bluemont, Virginia
$1,200,000

Beautifully maintained stone and stucco house • On crest of the Blue Ridge • Large views to the east • Perfect for entertaining and gatherings of extended family • Over 7000 sq ft, 5 BR, 6 FB, 1 HB, 3 FP • 2 MBR suites, one on main level • Finely appointed in all respects • Landscaping, automatic security gates, & estate fence ensure privacy • Garages for 5 vehicles

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Westwood
Marshall, Virginia
$1,100,000

21 acres of mostly open land • Classic fieldstone home with a portion circa 1835 • Renovations include open kitchen, screened-in porch, new windows, new siding, updated bathrooms & metal roof • Original floors throughout most of the house • Lots of charm & an unusual amount of natural light for an old house • Grand oak trees & a lovely setting

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Foxhall
Round Hill, Virginia
$1,000,000

Historic property in protected area • First offering since 1951 • 3 log structures circa 1690, 1720, and 1940 connected to create charming home • 4 BR, 3 BA, 3 FP & beautiful floors • Huge boxwoods • Needs updating • 33.89 acres mostly open • Creek • Solid barn • Original structure Quaker meeting house

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Sunny Meadow
Middleburg, Virginia
$925,000

Charming cape nestled among sunny meadow, shade trees and creek • 4 BR • 3.5 bath • 2 master bedrooms with full baths en-suite • Large kitchen • Light-filled family room • Pool w/pool house & patio • Separate 3 car garage with in-law suite/home office above

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The Plains, Virginia
$700,000

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Cliffside
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$498,000

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