

SHORT

MARCH/APRIL 2021

The Collectors

Coins, quilts, vintage evening bags, bobbleheads and **The Beatles!**



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St. Patrick's Day Headquarters

What's up with Pickleball?

Wye Island's Treasure Trove

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ON THE COVER
Nathan Beveridge
and his Beatles
collection

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Ask the Undertaker

Many of us grew up with a dog or cat as the family pet, and most of us clearly remember the day that pet passed away. Grief over a pet's passing can be no different from the loss of an immediate family member. We want our devoted friends to receive the same respectful end of life care as our other family members. Fortunately there are more ways than ever before to honor the lives of our beloved pets.

Traditionally, many people have found comfort in simply burying their pet in the backyard. Seems straightforward enough, right? But what if it's winter and the ground is frozen, or if you're unable to dig or there simply isn't enough room in the backyard? Or worse, what if the kids are at grandma's and won't be home until Friday? Who can you call for help? That's right, your friendly neighborhood undertaker. Your local funeral home is experienced in providing services for your family members, and your pet should be no different. While your undertaker shouldn't be expected to apply cosmetics to your pet, they can come to your home, bring the pet into their care, and provide your family with a private time to gather and say farewell to their faithful friend. Undertakers today can further assist in the transportation to the place of interment, whether in a backyard or a pet section of a local cemetery, and see that the pet is respectfully laid to rest. Specialized pet caskets, markers and even online obituaries are options available to those who have lost a pet.

In some cases, burial might not be right for your family. If you've ever had to relocate for a job, you'll know what I mean. In that case, you might want to consider cremation. Undertakers today can help arrange for a private, individual pet cremation, assuring you receive the cremated remains of your actual pet. Undertakers even provide advice on the right urn for your family, whether it be an elegant urn for a place of pride on the mantle, or a rock urn so Fido can forever rest in the shade of his favorite tree.

When selecting a cremation service, it will be paramount

that you ask some questions regarding the process. Make sure there is a clear understanding if cremation is taking place individually (a private individual cremation) or in a group (often called mass cremation). Be assured that the cremated remains you receive are those of your pet and your pet only by asking what their identification procedure is and how they can assure those cremated remains are in fact only that of your pet. If you're not working directly with an undertaker but through a third party, say a veterinary or humane organization, make sure it is asked how often pets are transported to the third party crematory and in what method are they held in their care while waiting. If the answer is that your pet is placed in extreme cold storage for several days until 'the guy with the truck comes', you might want to look elsewhere - or quite simply, call your local undertaker.

No matter if you choose burial or cremation for your pet, know that the world of undertaking offers numerous ways in which your pet can be memorialized. A paw print can be taken, either in ink or in clay (or both), and one of a kind keepsakes can be made. Perhaps you'd want a portrait made of your special friend enjoying his favorite spot. Or maybe you'd just want to have a small clipping of fur as a keepsake. Remember that undertakers today have access to all of these resources and are ready to help you and your family capture those memories.

Providing compassionate care for the deceased is at the core of the professional life of an undertaker. No distinction should be made to exclude the members of your family that may be furry or feathery or otherwise endowed. If your undertaker hesitates when you call at midnight for the passing of your best friend, you might want to think about what that might mean for the care your human family might receive. Your pet lives to provide companionship and happiness. Shouldn't they receive the goodbye your family deems best when they reach the end of their journey?



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of Nathan Beveridge in his Beatles basement by Stephen Walker

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EDITORS' NOTE



PHOTO BY MAIRE MCARDLE

Spring is just around the corner. Signs like buds forming on the trees and the days getting longer give us hope for brighter times. This winter, we spent time at home with projects and our families, dreaming of being with friends and summer vacations. But until we get the “go ahead” to resume those things, many of us have turned to our hobbies and passions to “while away the days.”

This issue is dedicated to telling the stories of collectors on the Mid-Shore who want to share their passions for their collections with others. From art, vintage purses and jewelry, coins, bobbleheads, oyster cans, and quilts to memorabilia connected to African American history and the Beatles — we share with you their stories.

We offer how to add some fun to your St. Patrick's Day celebration this year at Denton's Market Street Public House, as well as ways to experience the serenity of nature and wildlife — at a state-owned preserve on Wye Island. There is also information about the phenomenon of pickleball and how you can learn this trendy sport. Finally, you will meet Jennifer Stanley, a local philanthropist and kid at heart, who will share her passion for summer camp and a small church in Oxford, Maryland.

We celebrate one year as the creative staff whose mission is to showcase residents on the Mid-Shore who are making a difference and contributing to our quality of life. We want to thank our readers for all of the positive feedback on the stories we have done this past year. We also appreciate everyone who has supported *Shore Magazine* as readers, subscribers, and advertisers.

We have loved meeting everyone we have featured in the magazine to date and look forward to the many new stories ahead of us in 2021. Please continue to send us story ideas and we will continue to share the faces of the Shore with you in each upcoming issue.

With appreciation,

*Amelia Blades Steward, Co-Editor
Manning Lee, Co-Editor
Maire McArdle, Art Director*

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COURTESY PHOTOS

EDITORS' COLLECTIONS

'By the Sea' glass

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

HOW DID YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

I began collecting sea glass and gems from the sea while in college after visiting Friendship, Maine. I never realized that there was so much sea glass washed up along the Atlantic Ocean's beaches — glass, pottery, and metal objects worn by the sea. I grew up on the Chesapeake Bay. As a Pisces astrological sign, I always feel drawn to water. As I traveled to more beaches in this country and abroad, I began collecting the gems I found along the way.

WAS THERE AN INSPIRATION TO COLLECTING IT?

My inspiration for collecting from the sea was the diversity of the colors and textures of the items I found. Although the sea had worn down their luster, I could still find beauty in the green and blue sea glass, the crackled glazes of antique English pottery, and the pitting on the surfaces of metal objects. History fascinates me, so when examining my treasures, I imagine

the homes where they came from and the people who held them.

HOW DO YOU INCORPORATE YOUR COLLECTION INTO YOUR HOME DÉCOR?

Because of their unique visual qualities, I choose to exhibit my collection throughout my home. I have a coffee table my first husband made me that has a glass top. A treasure trove from the beaches around Holland Island in Dorchester County is displayed in the coffee table right now — broken teacups, fragments from a bubbled antique glass pitcher, pottery shards from plates and serving pieces, and antique bottles. I also have glass lamps filled with sea glass in my sunroom — a place that I put all things by the sea. The room features paintings and photos of ocean scenes, shorebirds, and other reminders of my favorite finds from vacations I have taken. My collection gives me peace and tranquility and a water connection, even when I am indoors in my home.

Silver shines at home

BY MANNING LEE

HOW DID YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

I collect silver, not coins, but silver trays, tea services, and bowls of all different sizes. I began my collection when my mother gave me half of her silver that she'd been given as wedding gifts. I always loved her silver. Growing up, we used it in our everyday life. One of my assigned chores was to polish one piece of Mom's silver a week. I complained about my obligation incessantly but secretly loved the transformation of each tarnished piece of silver into a freshly polished treasure. We had a beautiful little butter dish. We used it so much that the handle broke off. Mom had it soldered back together. Ultimately she passed that butter dish to me. I use it daily.

WAS THERE AN INSPIRATION TO COLLECTING IT?

With Mom's silver in my home, I learned how happy it made me. I began finding more

silver at rummage sales and antique stores. I think the thrill was finding tarnished pieces, purchasing them to see if I could polish the tarnish off and make them beautiful again. My favorite place to find silver pieces is at Goodwill in Easton. One treasure I found at Goodwill was a set of silver-plated goblets. At Christmas, they make lovely tiny evergreen arrangements for the mantle.

HOW DO YOU INCORPORATE YOUR COLLECTION INTO YOUR HOME DÉCOR?

There isn't a room in my home that isn't adorned with some silver. My favorite daily use of my silver is in the kitchen with two mismatched silver-plated Champagne buckets that sit on the counter on either side of the stove. They hold all of my cooking utensils, marrying function to form. My collection probably has little dollar value, but indeed makes me happy.



The Merz Trio was the 2018 co-winner of the Lerman Gold Prize at the Chesapeake Chamber Music 9th Biennial Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition for Young Professionals in Easton.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHESAPEAKE MUSIC

EYES ON THE PRIZE

Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition

Postponed from April 2020 due to the global pandemic, this year's rescheduled Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition will be held on-line due to continued performance restrictions. Five ensembles will compete for the \$10,000 Lerman Gold Prize and the \$5,000 Silver Prize. The average age of an ensemble must be under 31, and some include members as young as 21. The ensembles represent a wide range of instrumental combinations including winds, strings, and mixed instruments, and percussion.

2021 FINALIST ENSEMBLES:

- Aya Piano Trio of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (Curtis Institute of Music)
- Colores Trio of Zurich, Switzerland (Zurich University of the Arts)
- Dior Quartet of Bloomington, Indiana (Indiana University)
- Iceberg String Quartet of Montreal, Canada (McGill University Schulich School of Music in Montreal, Quebec)
- Soma Quartet of Bloomington, Indiana (Indiana University Jacobs School of Music)

THE JUDGING

This year's competition judges include J. Lawrie Bloom, Ieva Jokubaviciute, and Michael Kannen. Bloom, founding artistic co-director of Chesapeake Chamber Music Festival and the Chesapeake Chamber Music Competition, recently retired as a bass clarinetist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO). Lithuanian pianist Jokubaviciute's performances have earned her critical acclaim throughout the U.S. and Europe on major stages around the world, such as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and London's Wigmore Hall. Cellist Kannen has appeared at chamber music festivals across the country and with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

THE DETAILS

The Chesapeake International Chamber Music Competition, a program of Chesapeake Music, is underwritten by the Talbot County Arts Council, the Maryland State Arts Council, and private benefactors. For further information about the Competition events, visit ChesapeakeMusic.org or call 410-819-0380. The Competition will be aired free of charge and timing and links to the event will be posted on the Chesapeake Music website, www.chesapeakemusic.org in early March.



PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER

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DIXON'S FURNITURE AUCTION, known by many as Crumpton Auction, is a third generation auction company established in 1961 by Norman Dixon. During each auction an estimated 1,500 to 3,000 items are listed and sold to collectors nationally.

This enterprise is one of the largest discovery auctions in the country. Due to the pandemic, Dixon's Furniture Auction has adopted an online selling platform to reach more customers and to make it easier to participate no matter where you are located.

AUCTION AND CONSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Consignment drop offs and online auctions are each on alternate weeks at the Crumpton Auctions. To mark your calendar, refer to the web site for the schedule.

www.crumptonauctions.com

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Items can be consigned and sold using the categories listed in the online catalogs.

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Antiques through contemporary styles as well as new items.

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Decorative items and furniture from the 1950s-60s.

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\$430,000 MDKE117482



So Pretty!
Come out to the country! Four large bedrooms, open living/kitchen/dining area with wood and tile floors, Sun Room w/pellet stove overlooking the fenced-in 20' x 40' in-ground pool, first floor owner's suite and a family room with two office spaces! This property has 2 septic systems to accommodate an attached beauty shop(family room area) and the main house. This property also has a 30' x 40' detached climate controlled garage/workshop. All of this is on 1.5+/- acres and overlooks farmland. Within a couple miles of route 301 for easy commutes north and south.
\$495,000 MDQA146422



Charming Home in Rock Hall
Solid home with a large bonus room, full bath and bedroom upstairs. The main level has a laundry closet in the kitchen, built-ins, and three bedrooms with one full bath. Great location, quiet street, but not far from the shops and restaurants in Rock Hall. Perfect for any stage of life, and could be a great second home. Get away from the city! The home is being sold as is. There is a propane tank that services the stove, and the hot water heater. The rest of the home is electric. Some hardwood floors, possibly hardwood under the carpet, but not sure.
\$210,000 MDKE117640



103 S College Ave. Chestertown
Updated home.. fenced back yard with a storage shed, zoned heat pumps. There is a patio and a third floor deck overlooking the semi private back yard. Brand new carpet throughout. Tiled floors in kitchen and Florida room, and fresh paint, inside and out. This home is adorable, just a couple of blocks from the wonderful historic Chestertown Shopping Area, and Washington College.
\$295,000 MDKE117358



6+ Acres on Churn Creek
Home has been upgraded and is nestled on 6.43 acres on Mac's Lane, with Churn Creek access via a private dock and 500 ft of water frontage. There is a wood burning fireplace with a wood stove, heat pump is 2 years old. This home features hardwood floors and an open floor plan. There is a full walk out basement, with plenty of storage for kayak, canoes and water toys. Quiet and peaceful location, about 10-15 minutes to Chestertown.
\$545,000 MDKE117528



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\$200,000 MDKE116928

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Painting by Tim Bell

Painting by Ed Cooper

Painting by Andre Brasilier

Painting by Ken DeWaard

Painting by Raoul Middleman

Painting by Stewart White

Photograph by Nanny Trippe

Painting by Chris Wilke



Painting by Rene Pian

THE JOY OF *Art*

Nothing makes Susan Chaires happier than to be surrounded by original artwork

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE
AND STEPHEN WALKER

SUSAN CHAIRES SAYS SHE can't imagine ever saying "I'm never going to collect another piece of art again." That's because of the immense joy and excitement she finds in the beauty of art. The avid art collector and intellectual property lawyer says her private collection has been gathered from all over the world and covers more than 50 years of collecting.

Many pieces are tucked away or are on display in her Easton, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. apartments. Her collection includes drawings, prints, etchings, lithographs, photographs, oil paintings, and more. Art from Chaires' collection has been exhibited on loan at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C., The Museum of Art and History at the Customs House in Key West, Florida, and The National Museum of Fine Arts of Havana.

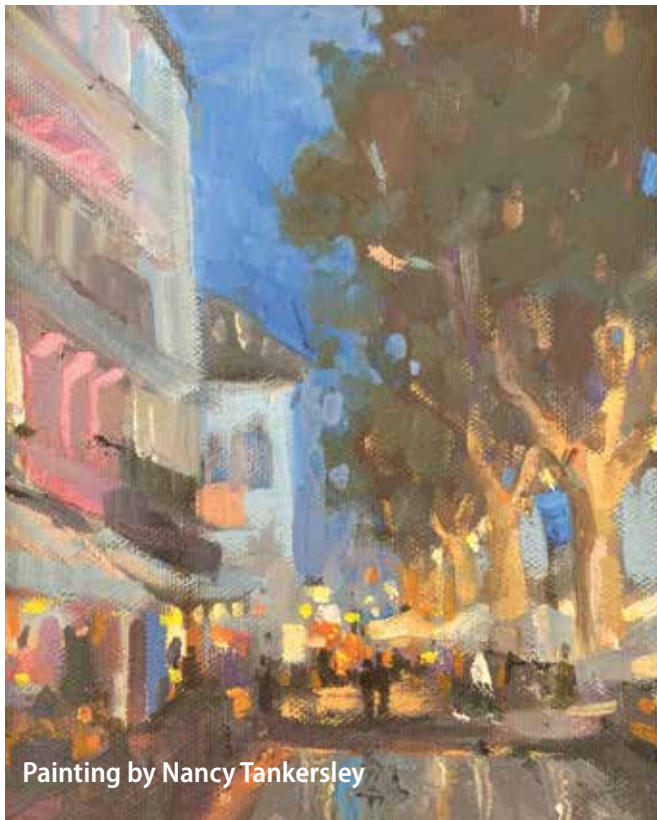
Chaires discovered the Eastern Shore and its artists while visiting St. Michaels, and began living in Easton as a part-time resident in 2009. She's been extending her time on the Eastern Shore most recently while practicing home-staying during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"When I came to Easton in 2005, the only

ART BEAT



Painting by Vanessa Bell



Painting by Nancy Tankersley



Painting by Betty Huang

galleries I found were South Street and Grafton Gallery,” says Chaires. “I met the owners and many of the artists and quickly fell in love with Easton and began collecting local art.”

Chaires says she enjoys adding local art to her collection because the subject matter expresses a joyful appreciation

of the Eastern Shore’s beauty, objects, and rich history. Much of the art she collects comes from artists represented in local galleries and from participating artists in the annual Plein Air Easton art competition — an event Chaires has faithfully attended in each of its 16 years.

Many Plein Air artists are represented

in her collection, including Nancy Tankersley, Tim Bell, Ken DeWaard, Camille Przewodek, Zufar Bikbov, Hiu Lai Chong, Diane DuBois Mullaly, Stewart White, and Betty Huang. Works of other locally represented artists include Raoul Middleman, Jorge Alberto, Chris Wilke, Bill Storck, Julia Rogers, David Plumb, Jim Plumb, Laura Era, Nanny Trippe, and Matthew Hillier.

“This is a really beautiful, aesthetic place, and it’s also a place that attracts creative people,” Chaires says. “What I am attracted to is an appreciation of the Eastern Shore beauty, and the creative spirit here.”

Chaires’ love of beauty dates back to her time growing up in Jacksonville, Florida, and while taking an art history course at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. She says she caught the art collecting bug after attending law school at the University of Georgia and while working in the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division.

“I had a salary for the first time and started collecting art in the early ’70s,” she says. “I mainly collected etchings and lithographs, including pieces from Peter Milton, Anthony-Petr Gorney and Mark Leithauser.”

Chaires says the largest influence on her art appreciation came in the late ’70s when she became a member of the Washington Women’s Art Center.

“I met so many women artists, and that’s how I got involved in the women and feminist art movements,” Chaires said. This is also when I learned about Judy Chicago and her Dinner Party Project.”

Chaires took a summer leave of absence from her U.S. Justice Department job and moved to a group home in Los Angeles to live and work with other artists on the project. She learned needlework to help with two of the multi-medium place settings celebrating individual historic women in the exhibit — women’s rights advocate Mary Wollstonecraft and medieval saint Hildegard of Bingen.

Whether Chaires is accessioning local art or art of national and international significance — one thing remains the same in everything she chooses for her collection.

“The pieces I’m attracted to evoke a curiosity to look more.”

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RAISE A *Glass*

Market Street Public House offers a bit of Irish on the Shore

BY MANNING LEE | PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER

ABOVE: Bartenders Brandon Sullivan and Ethan Robbins are ready for the pub's St. Patrick's Day celebration; OPPOSITE: Owner Brian Tyler demonstrates the kegerator tap on the repurposed school bus outside the bar.



ISN'T IT A FUNNY little "miracle" how each year on St. Patrick's Day everyone's a little bit Irish? Even if the Irish ancestry is nine generations removed, for the day, everyone is Irish. As the luck-of-the Irish would have it, a great spot in Denton — Market Street Public House — is this year's official St. Patrick's Day meet-up spot on the Shore.

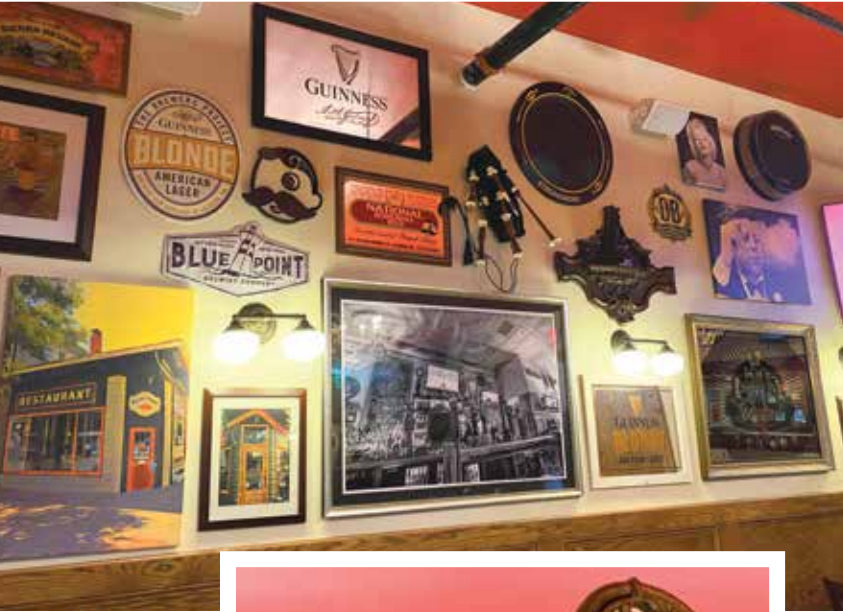
This year, St. Patrick's Day is a special day for the pub. It is both their fourteenth anniversary, as well as the first anniversary of the COVID-19 shutdown. "It takes on special significance. Because of our supportive customers, we've survived the pandemic. This year, St. Patrick's Day

marks the beginning of new opportunities for us," said Brian Tyler, owner of Market Street Public House.

The celebration takes place on Saturday, March 13. They start in the morning with green eggs, green beer, and delicious buttermilk pancakes for breakfast. After breakfast, they will kick off the rest of the day with live, traditional Irish music mixed with Bluegrass. They serve green beer all day long with their 'kegerator,' a repurposed school bus with nine taps parked outside for the day. As the weather allows, they have activities such as tricycles races, corn hole, shuffleboard, and a ping pong table. As the evening festivities get



Market Street Public House is a multi-room complex filled with surprises through every doorway. Offbeat art and signage plus a human-sized mannequin of St. Patrick himself add unexpected charm at this fun-filled establishment. Generous menu offerings like Irish baked potato soup, fish and chips, and corned beef sandwiches do not disappoint!



underway, there will be a classic rock ‘n’ roll band on stage.

Even though March 17 is always fun, what makes the pub such a great place to meet up the rest of the year is a combination of so many things.

“We’ve discovered that people come from Annapolis to meet friends who live at the beach. We are the perfect midpoint for people to meet on the Shore. In the summer, everyone loves the outdoor dining, and they love our live music,” Tyler said.

Having come to Denton sight unseen, Tyler built his career starting and running world-class nightclubs in Georgetown and the United Arab Emirates. Upon returning to the States, his determination and true grit assured his dream of owning a pub would be a hit. He knew all the bits and pieces of what it took to create a winning business. He put it all together to his own specifications and came up with the restaurant/bar that he’d always imagined.

“At the bar, we have 50 different Irish

whiskeys, as well as a variety of ryes and bourbons. Such a variety gives our customers a world-class experience considering that we live in such a small town like Denton,” he continued.

“Our approach to food is that we take a simple idea and make it just a little bit healthier. We focus on serving fresh foods like oysters and hand-breaded fresh cod and chips. We cut up 200 pounds of Idaho potatoes a day,” Tyler added. “My personal favorites are the Asian Chicken Salad with a Szechuan ginger dipping sauce and the Blackened Salmon Caesar Salad.”

New to the pub is the music room with a stage. Bands come each weekend on Fridays and Saturdays from 7 to 9 p.m. The room, originally the showroom for Ford Model T’s in the ‘30s and ‘40s, feels like a night under the stars with the lights hanging from the ceiling.

Tyler converted the upstairs into mini bed-and-breakfast suites/apartments, containing well-appointed one-bedroom junior suites with stainless steel and granite

Market Street Public House
200 Market Street
Denton, MD
410-479-4720
www.marketstreet.pub
OPEN Tuesdays - Saturdays 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.
lunch and dinner
Sundays - 12 p.m. - 8p.m. lunch and dinner
CLOSED on Mondays

Pub Suites
[Airbnb.com](https://www.airbnb.com) - Denton, Maryland
\$95 - \$129 per night
2 one-bedroom apartments

kitchens that can be found on Air BnB and VRBO for between \$95 and \$120 a night. These suites are perfect for those who are planning ahead for a safe and fun night out on the town.

The Market Street Public House is a great part of Denton’s natural charm. Even though the early days of last year’s pandemic slowed the pub down almost to a grinding halt, loyal customers supported Tyler and the pub and kept it afloat. With that loyal customer base, it assured Tyler that Denton loves the Market Street Public House he created and that it will be around for years to come. ☺

FILL?

ACADEMY
ART



Multiple showrooms at Bay Country Antiques are filled with eclectic fine and fun antiques.

OPPOSITE: Melissa Fox's attention to detail and merchandising sets this store apart from most.



Finer THINGS

This multi-showroom antique store in Cambridge offers rare finds and collectibles with family business savvy

BY MANNING LEE | PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER



RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL antiques business can be considered an art form. It is as much of a discipline as sculpting, painting, or composing a symphony. There is no exact formula to follow that determines success. It must have a balance of grit and experience mixed with innovation and creativity.

On the Shore, established antique stores can be difficult to find. Sometimes, it is easier to uncover fine antiques than it is to locate a store dedicated to antiques.

Perhaps that's why Bay Country Antiques in Cambridge, established in 1980, is so rare. It offers one of the largest and most

comprehensive collections of fine antique furniture and collectibles on the Eastern Shore. Recently, I sat down with Melissa Fox. She and her father, Terry Tubman, have run the store together for years.

As a child, Melissa remembers when there was no Bay Country Antiques. Back then, they sold antiques at antique roadshows a couple of times a year in places 500 or 600 miles away from home. "Mom and Dad took us to shows. We'd visit big shows in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where we'd pack the inventory up in trucks and go. At the shows, we'd set our merchandise up in booths. I helped my parents arrange the booths making them presentable so that the customers would feel

SHOP TALK



LEFT: Melissa Fox and her daughter Alyssa in the antique boat house; ABOVE: Fox and her dad, Terry Tubman, work in sync to create a store filled with carefully selected, quality antiques.



free to come in and shop,” she described. “After the shows, we’d bring all the inventory back here to the warehouse and clean it up to get ready to go to the next show,” she added. It would be years before that warehouse space would become their showroom floor.

“My father has a great collection of old

automotive signs known countrywide. Over the years, Dad found them in gas stations that were closing down, here and there. In those days, antique dealing was lucrative. Antique dealers found stuff all over the place in every nook and cranny. He found Coca Cola signs by rooting through people’s attics

at estate sales,” described Fox.

In speaking with Fox, I witnessed a beautiful relationship between her and her father. Their professional relationship is what I think makes their business so successful. Tubman brings decades of professional experience to the store and possesses such

Bay Country Antiques

415 Dorchester Avenue

Cambridge, MD 21613

410-228-5296

baycountryantiques.com

baycountryantiques@gmail.com

a vast knowledge of this industry. Tubman knows how to pick and choose beautiful pieces to restore and sell. His ability to interact with dealers and everyday customers makes him an impressive virtuoso and a giant of the antique world. Fox described, “Dad taught me many things about the business and about purchasing antiques. One thing he told me, ‘never buy a piece of furniture unless you can inspect it inside and out.’ He showed me how to examine each piece’s structure by turning it upside down and testing it for its strength.”

Likewise, Fox, never giving herself enough credit, has an incredible eye for merchandising, seeing the big picture, and predicting future trends. While Fox deeply respects her father’s experience, she’s learning that her strengths combined symbiotically with her father’s work ethic is what drives their success.

Fox described for me her maturation process into the business. She explained what she brought to the table with her gifts and talents in the antique business. “I wanted to add retail furniture into the showroom. I wanted it to be a one-stop-shop for both decorators and their clients who want to fill homes with both old and new pieces,” added Fox. At first, Tubman was reluctant to bring new furniture into the store. He finally agreed. They incorporated the very best quality Henkel Harris pieces into the store. It has worked like a charm.

Another aspect that Fox explained, “I keep a variety of antique styles in the store. Everyone has different tastes. We have customers from Upstate New York and Georgia who like the Colonial look. People from Ohio like a more primitive look. It takes more effort to keep the inventory from different tastes, but it pays off in the end. At Bay Country Antiques, there is something for everyone. It’s a lovely shop with incredible pieces. It is truly a one of a kind type of store. It is worth the drive to Cambridge to see it. 📍

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W2W FILL?

the Collectors

*Introducing five
passionate people and
their favorite things*

COLLECTING HAS BEEN AROUND for thousands of years. Collections usually start with two items, which gives rise to collecting more of the item to fulfill a goal — some may collect for monetary reasons or simply for enjoyment.

Whether it was scientists collecting specimens of flora and fauna or families collecting dishes that have been passed down for generations — most of us have some sort of collection based on an emotional connection, nostalgia, or the prestige a collection can bring. What's behind this passion or "obsession" that causes people to drive hundreds of miles to find the next piece?

In these collector profiles, we showcase several different collectors and how they began their collections, their most prized possessions, and what plans they have for their collections. From vintage purses to Beatles memorabilia — collections can grab us and take us on a ride that can change our lives. 🖱️



THIS PAGE: John Evans, wearing an original Washington Senators jersey shares the bobblehead replicas of William "Refrigerator" Perry and Fran Tarkenton. INSETS: Left, a peek inside Evans' all-women bobblehead cabinet; Right, a bobblehead roundup of several famous basketball stars



the Collectors

Bobbleheads!

One local man's collection will make your head spin

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

When their heads bobble, they make us smile. Chinese nodding-head figures were documented in England and Continental Europe as early as the 1770s. Some believe that bobbleheads may have been popular in temples in Asia much earlier than that. While baseball and football figures were the most popular among collectors in the beginning, now collectors are drawn to bobbleheads of minor league team players, presidents, and celebrities. The latest trend in bobbleheads is gnomes. **John Evans** of Easton developed a passion for sports bobbleheads at an early age. That passion led to his collection of more than 525 figures that adorn his home today, along with a million baseball cards.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

In 1966, at the age of 12, I acquired my first ceramic bobblehead when I was attending a Redskins football game with my father. My father took me regularly to baseball and football games in suburban D.C. where we lived. I was partial to the teams there.

WHAT MADE YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

It's the whimsy of the figures and the fun of looking at their heads bobble that makes me smile. As I became an adult, my journalism career helped to feed the passion behind my collection. As a sportswriter and photographer, I got to cover games and collect the bobbleheads of players I saw play. I even got a bobblehead made of myself and gave it to my wife Linda so she wouldn't miss me while I was away covering games.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS IN YOUR COLLECTION?

My collection of sports bobbleheads includes baseball, football, basketball, golf, and Nascar figures, as well as women's sports figures. My favorite bobbleheads are figures of William "Refrigerator" Perry, who has a refrigerator next to him on the bobblehead, and Joe Namath, as well as Jenny Finch, USA softball player. I also have nearly every Oriole bobblehead ever produced.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PIECE?

My first bobblehead was a generic figure of the Washington Redskins team. Among sports bobbleheads, team mascots were often the first to be collected. Bobbleheads of individual players did not come about until the 1960s.

WHAT ARE YOU STILL COLLECTING?

I don't think about resale as much as about what I like. I usually collect for the team and the novelty of the bobblehead. I still enjoy figures with unusual poses, that move or talk, or that are caricatures of people.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR COLLECTION?

Now that I am retired, my collection helps me stay in touch with the game and its history. I love the game and sports bobbleheads are part of the game. I guess it's worth what anyone wants to pay for it, but I imagine I will keep the collection for a while longer.

PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER



Vintage Sparkle

A dedicated “picker” finds happiness when surrounded by shiny little bags

BY MANNING LEE

Susanne Bradley of State Street Antiques deals in fine antiques. Her collection can be found at Foxwell Antiques in Easton. She collects fine dollhouse furniture, books, lamps, vintage jewelry, and specifically, vintage Whiting and Davis evening bags.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

My mother was a collector. When I was a child, she dragged me along with her on her hunts wherever she went in barns or antique stores. I didn’t like going, but her blood courses through my veins. She would be happy knowing I’d followed in her footsteps.

WHAT MADE YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

When she passed away, we found all her things packed up and registered in books and she’d left me a note. The books cataloged what she had, where she got it, and how much she had paid for it. I didn’t even know about the handwritten note until my son told me.

WHAT WAS THE FIRST IN YOUR COLLECTION?

A Whiting and Davis bag that goes around your waist like a belt bag.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE BAG?

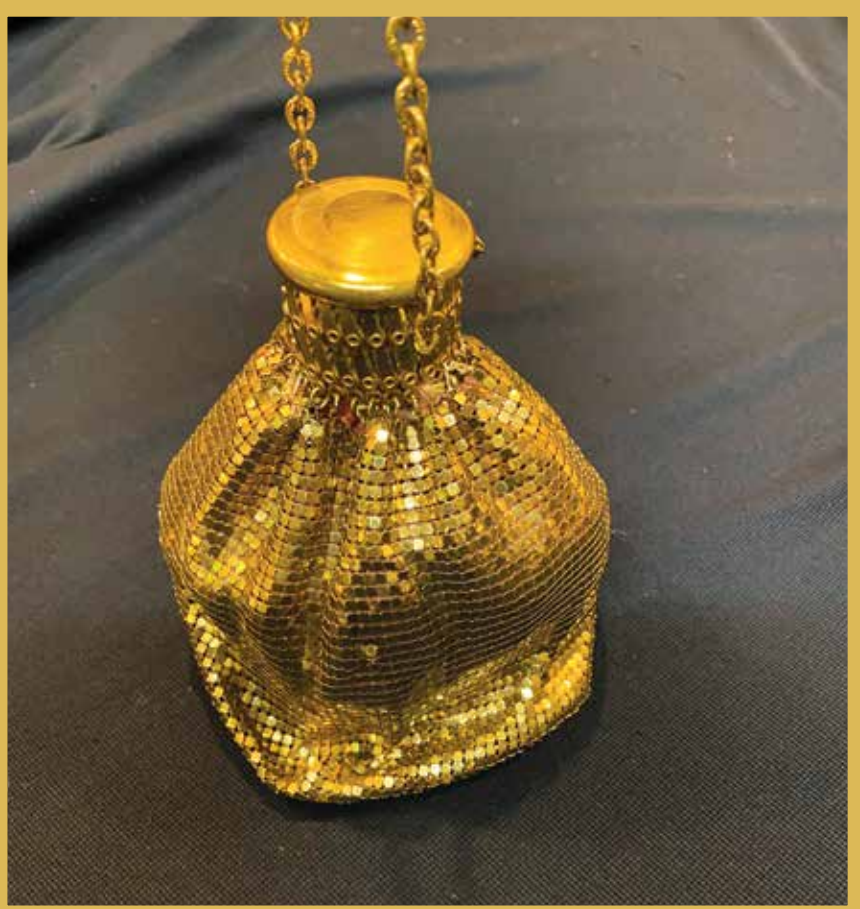
I think my favorite would be the Whiting and Davis rosary bag. I was traveling down south and had gone to an estate sale. This estate sale was a member of the Reynolds Tobacco Company. I found the vintage bag that is the size of a little pocket with the rosary beads inside. I was so excited.

ARE YOU STILL COLLECTING?

I always look for new pieces, but I also enjoy collecting other treasures like Red McCormick Teapots and antique crates.

HOW DO YOU ADD TO YOUR COLLECTION?

Some of my friends in the antique business and I all have this same sickness. We are always on the hunt for antiques. Once a month, we go on a pick. We set a two-hour perimeter from our home and map out where we want to shop. We take turns in plotting out our map, the stores where we want to visit, and where we want to eat lunch. We’ve been doing it since 2015.



THIS PAGE: Susanne Bradley artistically displays her beloved Whiting and Davis evening bags in her booth at Foxwell’s Antiques in Easton; OPPOSITE: Closeups of several favorites.

PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER

“There’s a Place”

Local Beatles fan creates a “Magical Mystery Tour” in his basement

BY MAIRE MCARDLE

Nathan Beveridge’s eyes light up as he carefully unhooks a Sgt. Pepper Lonely Hearts Club Band bass drum from the wall. As we set up the scene for the photoshoot, this 59-year-old Easton resident can’t contain his unadulterated obsession for all things Beatles. From ceiling to floor, his meticulous, custom-built, museum-style displays deliver a British pop panorama. With *Rubber Soul* playing on the turntable and a documentary about John Lennon’s life on a wide-screen TV, this lucky visitor is immediately immersed in sensory overload and observes that Beveridge is ready to tell-all about his beloved Fab Four acquisitions.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

I started collecting full steam roughly four years ago after my wife, Trish, suggested we redo our small guest bedroom into a ‘Beatles’ room. Up until this point, I had kept my items in boxes on shelves in my home office. I thought my continuous deliveries were going unnoticed since I would hide the parcels as soon as they arrived. Then one day I walked by to see my wife in there and realized I was busted. I have completely outgrown the guest room and have recently renovated our basement to make way for my ever-growing collection.

WHAT MADE YOU START COLLECTING?

I seem to have always been a collector of many things throughout my life which I can attribute to my mother, who loved antique dolls and toys. But I really got serious when I received a Beatles book from my wife and son for my birthday. Then I bought another book and then another. The rest is history.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITES IN YOUR COLLECTION?

I have many favorites! It depends on what area I am working on at any given time. I have, without a doubt, one of the largest collections of Beatles “toy rings” that I know of. Another prized Beatles item that I started to pursue lately is all the

officially-licensed women’s luxury make-up mirror compacts that were manufactured in the UK.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PIECE?

The first piece in my Beatles collection was an unused movie ticket for their first movie, “A Hard Day’s Night.” I no longer have the ticket because I donated it to a charity auction way before I became a serious collector. Although it did sell for about \$250 and actually helped pay for someone’s kidney transplant, I do wish I had it back!

ARE YOU STILL COLLECTING?

I collect now more than ever. A day doesn’t go by where I won’t have at least a dozen items in the postal system on their way to me from somewhere in the world. I spend at least an hour a day going through my eBay, Mercari, and Etsy sites looking for that next special piece.

HOW DO YOU DISPLAY AND ACCOMMODATE YOUR COLLECTION?

I have as much fun creating the displays as I do collecting. I build the showcases, shelving, racks, and frames myself. My record album display is a replica that I actually remember seeing at Hochschild, Kohn & Company department store in Baltimore.

DO YOU HAVE A BUDGET CAP? DO YOU EVER SELL PIECES TO ACQUIRE NEW ONES?

I hate selling, but I do (kind of!). Whenever I upgrade a piece to one in better condition, I always tell myself I will sell the older inferior one, but somehow I never get around to it. (Please don’t tell my wife!) Luckily, Trish is quite tolerant of my hobby and spending. We both enjoy our late Sunday afternoons in the Beatles room listening to records while I talk about the Fab Four and my memorabilia. We do this every Sunday, literally! It never gets old.



PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER



THIS PAGE: Kaye Butler loves to show her own creations along with dozens of rare quilts dating back to the 1800s. OPPOSITE: Appliquéd designs on rare chintz quilts over 150 years old.

Kay's motto that hangs in her studio reads: *"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."*

Psalms 90:17

PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER



A Stitch in Time

Vintage quilts tell stories of their original makers

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

Quiltmaking has been a popular pastime in the U.S. since the late 1700s. Today, quilts are highly collectible as works of folk art with historical significance. They also inspire other quilters who collect them. Over the years, quilts have become more personal and less utilitarian. For **Kay Butler**, antique quilt collector, quilt historian, and conservator, quilting started with her love affair with fabric. It has grown into a passion that now includes collecting and teaching others about the history and value of antique quilts through her business "Quilted Blessings" in Denton.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PIECE?

I made my first quilt in 1985 after I joined the Heartland Quilt Guild in Denton. Later I stitched an Amish crib quilt for my newborn daughter. I continued my quilt hobby by making table runners, wall hangings, crib quilts, and eventually full-size quilts for which I have won awards.

WHAT MADE YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

I love the beautiful designs of antique quilts and wanted to reproduce those designs. As a perpetual student, researching the history of antique quilts has been a very gratifying passion.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS IN YOUR COLLECTION?

My favorite quilt from the 1930s is a Bible History Quilt produced by the Home Arts Studio out of Des Moines, Iowa. The quilt, divided in the middle by a cross, features stories of the Old Testament on the left and stories of the New Testament on the right, with scripture references in each quilt block. Another favorite quilt is one I made in 2017—a replica of a Shenandoah Valley Botanical Album quilt from 1858. The quilt, which uses reproduction fabrics, has been featured in several quilt shows around the country.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

I decided to purchase my first vintage quilt in 2009 while attending The Lancaster Quilt Show with a friend who collected antique quilts. It was a lovely 1930s applique basket quilt. I was fascinated with the beautiful designs and hoped that I could later reproduce those designs.

ARE YOU STILL COLLECTING?

I am more selective in my quilt collecting now, focusing on quilts that have special meaning or that tell stories. I enjoy sharing research about the original makers. I like to think that those dear ladies



would love the fact that their quilts are appreciated and enjoyed.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR COLLECTION?

Since I have retired from teaching school and because of the pandemic, I share my antique quilts with others through online teaching and small classes in my new basement studio here in our home and through the FACES in Denton. It's important to me in planning my estate to make sure that my collection gets into the hands of people who appreciate quilts. I have family members and friends who will receive some of my quilts. Also, I donate my quilts to special groups to be sure they live on for others to enjoy.

For further information about individual and small classes, email Kay Butler at quilts4kay@aol.com or call 410-829-5136.

Hobby in your Pocket

Coin collecting is about finding diamonds in the rough

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

The reasons behind being a numismatist or coin collector are many. Some people collect coins for their beauty, while others collect as an investment. An 1804-dated U.S. silver dollar specially made on behalf of President Andrew Jackson and still in mint condition sold for \$3.8 million. The coin was intended to be given as a diplomatic gift on behalf of President Andrew Jackson by State Department representatives on trade missions to the Middle East and Asia and is one of only eight of its kind known in existence. On the other end of the spectrum, the most popular and most affordable sets of coins today to collect are Lincoln and Indian Head penny sets. For **Bill Dickerson** of Easton, age 74, what started as a childhood hobby has become a business that helps afford his lifetime hobby.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

I have been collecting coins since I was 11 years old. As a child, I used my chore and grass-cutting money to buy rolls of coins from the bank to find Lincoln cents and later Buffalo nickels.

WHAT MADE YOU START YOUR COLLECTION?

I enjoy researching the history behind coins.



As an adult, coin collecting became a minor obsession. During my career in the insurance business, I traveled to coin shows to buy and sell coins. You can have fun with the hobby, and you can also increase the value of your collection. Rarer coins and coins in mint condition appreciate.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS IN YOUR COLLECTION?

When I was 12 years old, I found a 1950 D nickel in some change. I was a member of the Easton Coin Club and the only one to find one. Forty years ago, I collected a 39 D nickel which was uncirculated. It was a neat coin to have at the time.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST PIECE?

The first coin I found was an 1896 Indian Head penny and the seed was planted.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH YOUR COLLECTION?

Following my retirement, I opened Delmarva



Gold and Silver with my friend and colleague Jesse Furry in the Easton Amish Farmers Market in 2014. It has always been a hobby I have wanted to share with others. I try to plant seeds for the hobby of young people. I offer them free coins when they come into the shop with their parents. It's not all about the money. It is also helping to bring interest in coin collecting back.

ARE YOU STILL COLLECTING?

Everything in the shop is for sale. I still have collector's blood. The shop affords me the ability to have my hobby. You never know what is going to come across the counter here. Coin collecting is about the unknown and the potential. My partner, Jesse, recently researched an obsolete double denomination banknote from 1862 to 1865 from the Somerset & Worcester Savings Bank in Salisbury. The note had \$5 printed on one side and \$1 printed on the other side. It may be the only banknote of its kind.

Delmarva Gold and Silver sells rare coins and currency at wholesale prices to collectors, as well as buys and sells gold and silver bullion and jewelry. The shop is located at Easton's Amish Farmers Market at 101 Marlboro Avenue, Suite 1, in Easton. For further information, call Dickerson at 410-310-2789. ☎



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER



THIS PAGE: Bill Dickerson displays a sampling of his impressive coin collection. OPPOSITE: From left to right, 1883 Carson City one dollar coin; business partner Jesse Furry showing rare bank notes from the 1860s; an 1873 one dollar gold coin.

Canned

Goods

One of the most collectible items on the Shore

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

CHESAPEAKE BAY Maritime Museum Chief Curator Pete Lesher exemplifies his title while dressed in his signature bowtie and carrying his trusted pocket watch. He leans in to speak with palpable enthusiasm and his incredibly deep knowledge about the Chesapeake Bay region's history to speak about oyster cans, why people collect them, and the significant role the seafood packing industry has played in helping to create a fishery.

The Talbot County Councilman, Eagle Scout, log canoe sailor, and historian has spent 35 years at CBMM. He started as a dockhand, occasionally arriving by rowboat from across the Miles River. He later completed an internship focused on the museum's small craft collection, with many of those artifacts on public display today in CBMM's Small Boat Shed exhibition.

Lesher met his wife Mariana while she



PHOTO BY RICHARD DORBIN

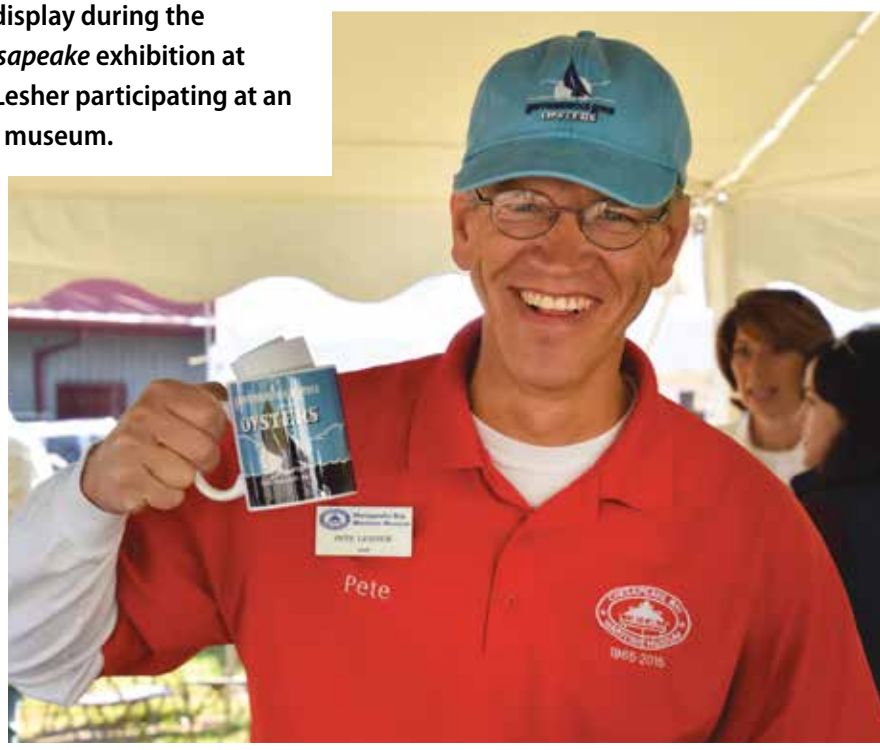


PHOTO COURTESY CBMM

ABOVE: This curated display of oyster cans is a popular stopping point for CBMM visitors; OPPOSITE: Pete Lesher surrounded by stacks of oyster cans



LEFT: An oyster can display during the *Oystering on the Chesapeake* exhibition at CBMM; RIGHT: Pete Leshar participating at an oyster festival at the museum.



PHOTOS COURTESY CBMM

was docking at CBMM with family. Now their two school-aged children join them as skilled sailors and are growing up knowing the names of every skipjack and sailing log canoe in the Bay's fleets.

Leshar became CBMM's curator in 1991 and dedicates his time researching and curating a collection that now holds more than 70,000 objects, all related to the Chesapeake Bay. Objects include the 1879 Hooper Strait Lighthouse, a fleet of historic workboats, waterfowl decoys, maritime models and one of the largest collections of Chesapeake Bay oyster cans known in existence.

Leshar says 660 items are cataloged in CBMM's oyster can collection, which began in 1990 before he became curator. He says the collection will never be complete because of the endless number of collectible items surrounding the oyster packing industry — including a recently accessioned press used for soldering oyster can lids, and items including bill-of-sale receipts, branded paperweights and more.

He says each can shares a unique story, with many of the oyster cans and related items in CBMM's collection found at local

antique shows and stores, collectible dealers and estate auctions. The collection's largest acquisition took place in 2002 when CBMM purchased from collector Ronnie Newcomb of Dorchester County's Church Creek.

"Ronnie Newcomb's collection started with tins, but includes much more," Leshar states. "Items include shipping crates once used to load oyster cans on railroad cars, bulk retail store containers from which oysters were ladled to customers, packing company ephemera and more."

Leshar says other collectors include people interested in the history and culture of this area and the identity of places each oyster can represents. He says many people like to collect from a particular geography. A Tilghman Island weekend homeowner may collect Tilghman Brand cans for example. In Crisfield, you might find a collector with a tin from H and B Brand oysters.

"Some tin collections are culinary and seafood-related, including that of the Betty Thomas Shulz and her family still operating the Fisherman's Inn in Grasonville, Maryland, for example. Their collection dominates the ambiance of the

restaurant. The décor alone — much less the seafood — is enough to draw you there," Leshar says.

Leshar says many oyster cans can be affordable, while some have significant value depending on the brand, condition and age of the tin. A vintage Chesapeake Bay Famous Pearl Brand one-gallon oyster tin is listed for purchase on eBay at \$120. A one-gallon B & L Brand Oyster Tin from the Bivalve Oyster Baking Company is another listed at a nearly \$200 price point.

"With anything collectible, condition matters," Leshar adds. "The nice thing about collecting oyster tins is that they can be quite affordable — most can be had for under \$50 until you come across some of the scarcer tins. People mainly collect around their locality. If you are from Crisfield or Baltimore, there are lots to find, but even small towns like Oxford have an impressive variety. Oyster tins and collectors come from other regions also, including New England, Delaware Bay, and the Gulf Coast."

Many of the Chesapeake Bay's beautifully lithographed oyster cans — or tins as they are often called — can be seen on public display in CBMM's *Oystering on the Bay* exhibition — a waterfront, indoor space with the oystering skipjack E.C. Collier — a centerpiece to the exhibition — and a dock just outside for nipping or tonging for oysters.

The historic oyster cans are part of a larger exhibit highlighting the oyster fishery's role in shaping the Chesapeake Bay region's

"Canned, fresh oysters were very much relied upon at that time as many rely on chicken or ground beef today."

— Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum Chief Curator **Pete Leshar**

history, culture and landscape. The balance of CBMM's oyster cans is safely and securely stored in CBMM's collection, which — along with the museum's library — is accessible for researchers by appointment.

The variety of oyster cans in the exhibit shows the broad reach of the Chesapeake's seafood processing and oystering industries over geography and time, and the creativity needed to differentiate brands in the commodity market that railroads and refrigeration created for oysters and canned food at the turn of the 20th century.

"Oysters were once a staple protein," Leshar says. "We were harvesting plentiful oysters from the Chesapeake Bay, processing them at packinghouses, beginning at those already established in Baltimore, and ultimately feeding much of the country and our Civil War soldiers at the time."

"Canned, fresh oysters were very much relied upon at that time as many rely on

chicken or ground beef today. Collectors seek out these unique objects through an attraction to the sense of place linked to each can."

He also says the oystering industry was once the foundation of the region's economy — supporting jobs, culture and economic growth.

"We lose sight of the oystering industry's significance to the region because today's number of watermen is relatively small compared to the height of oystering," Leshar says.

Those watermen were working the Bay when Maryland's oyster harvest reached approximately 15 million bushels in 1884 as an all-time peak. The Chesapeake Bay Journal for comparison reported preliminary June 2020 figures indicating the last wild harvest season netted 270,000 bushels of the bivalve.

Leshar says he found unexpected joy

growing CBMM's collection in one particular oyster tin that may have been packed at the location known as Navy Point, once the site of several seafood packinghouses and the maritime museum's home since its 1965 beginning.

"I discovered a 1903 letter from J. L. McCready to an out-of-state customer saying he had just formed a partnership with George Caulk in St. Michaels and was now selling his product under his new Navy Point brand," he adds.

"We had already had J. L. McCready tins and I thought they were only connected to Baltimore," he added. "Now, I understood those oysters in that early tin may have been packed right on our location. These details added a significant layer of meaning to an object already in the collection."

CBMM has recently digitized information and photographs of its collection, which is now searchable online at collections.cbmm.org.

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NOMINATE YOUR LOCAL EDUCATORS

Amidst these challenging times, our local educators are quietly dedicating themselves to teaching our communities both in person and virtually. Join us in recognizing educators in Talbot, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline and Dorchester counties. Go to www.stardem.com and nominate the educator that you think reflects everyday dedication in your county. Please share the full name of educator, position, county served and place of employment.

A list of all the nominations will publish the week of March 14th in the below papers:

Kent County News
THE STAR
Bay Times Record Observer

All of the nominations will be entered into a drawing and three will receive a well-deserved \$50 Amazon gift card



the History Keeper

A daughter's efforts to chronicle her African-American heritage

BY NIAMBI DAVIS

IN 1996, I came home to Centreville from Washington D.C., expecting that — as always — my mother would recover from her illness, and in a couple of weeks I'd be back in the nation's capital. I did return to D.C., only this time to make a permanent move to Centreville. I became my mother's caregiver, a soapmaker and a writer. I bought a computer and logged on to Rootsweb. My mother, Marie Johnson, was fascinated by the historical information that could be found with the click of a few keys. And until she passed away in 2007, together we embarked upon the reexamination and exploration of her many file folders, books, photos, newspaper articles and boxes filled with historical documents that revealed her dedication to African American history.

My mother was born in 1915 to parents who were both descendants of free Black landowners. Her father was born in 1860. Many find it hard to believe, but my mother had the receipts — including the original family Bible and a copy of the 1870 Census. She was, as I became, an only child and a Daddy's girl.

I was also my mother's shadow. Wherever her curiosity took her, I

wanted to go. Of all of our trips, Harper's Ferry, Gettysburg, and Churchville in Harford County, Maryland, remain the most memorable. On those annual fall homecoming Sundays to Churchville, I realized that before she became my mother, Marie Johnson Brown had at one time been a little girl in a self-sufficient, close-knit African American community. To my mother, it was the beloved "homeplace;" her foundation and the inspiration behind her desire to preserve African American history. Harford County became my inspiration as well.

My grandfather Franklin was born in 1860, one year before the Civil War began. His stories of family history and freedom seekers were the beginning of what would become a lifelong avocation for his daughter. As a student at Princess Anne Academy (now the University of Maryland Eastern Shore), Virginia State University, and later at Temple University (where Richard Nixon was her graduation speaker), my mother continued to collect photos and records — especially of the campuses of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). To the dismay

HISTORICAL IMAGES COURTESY NIAMBI DAVIS

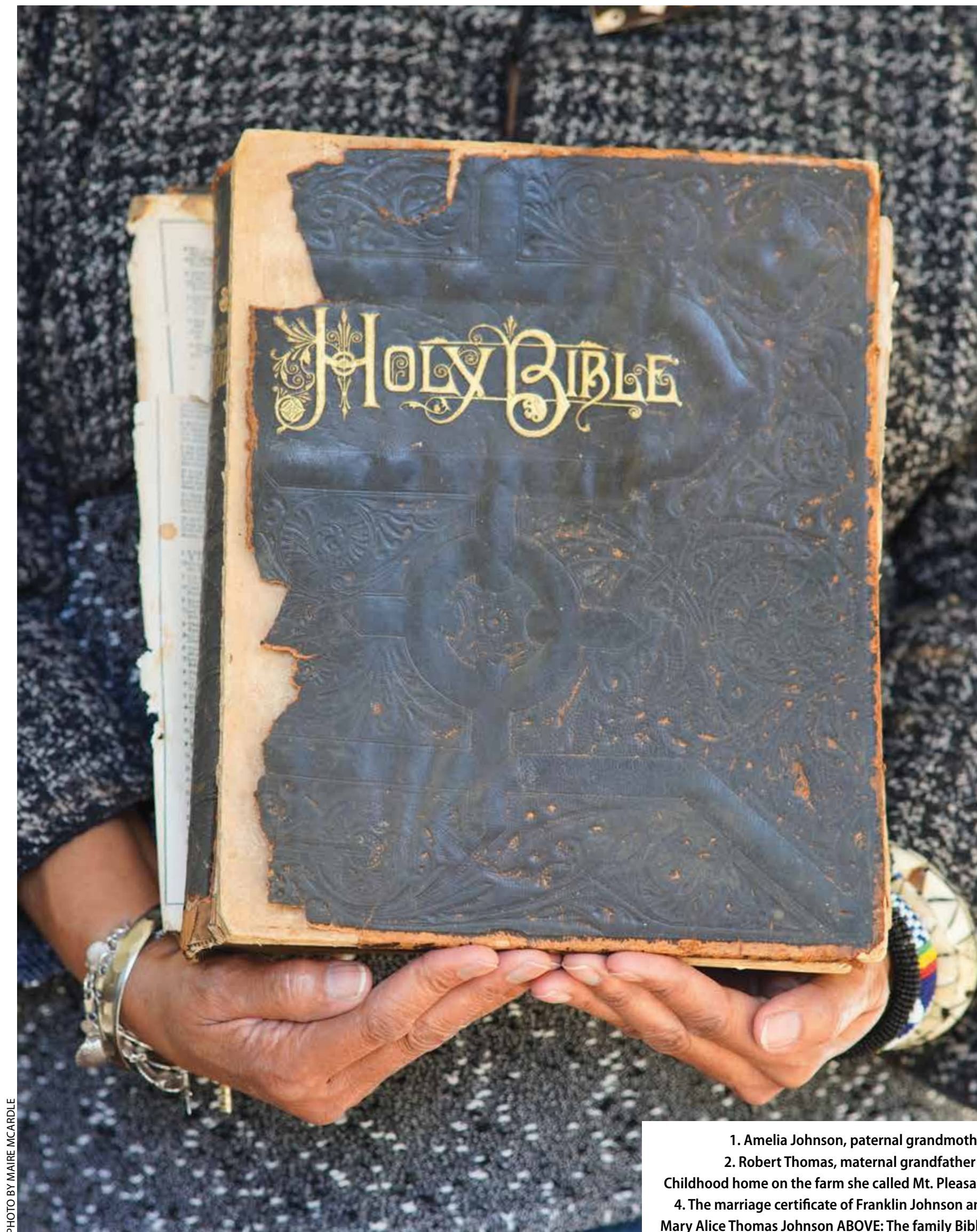


PHOTO BY MAIRE MCARDLE

1. Amelia Johnson, paternal grandmother
2. Robert Thomas, maternal grandfather
3. Childhood home on the farm she called Mt. Pleasant
4. The marriage certificate of Franklin Johnson and Mary Alice Thomas Johnson
ABOVE: The family Bible.



HISTORICAL IMAGES COURTESY NIAMBI DAVIS

of us both, after she freely loaned a photo album to an interested party, it was never returned.

Although my mother considered herself a collector more than a historian, she was some of both. She was a home economics teacher, but her love of history can be summed up in her own words, “I should have been a history teacher.” “Miss Marie” — as she was also known — was an untrained archivist. She owned a 19th-century graduation program from Howard University, a 1916 course catalog from Hampton University, photos of early 20th-century life on the campuses of HBCUs, and a program from a 1937 recital of the great Roland Hayes, an African American tenor and composer.

In a plastic box no one person could lift, she stored copies of *Ebony Magazines* from 1953, including one of our most prized issues celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation with Frederick Douglass on the cover. On her bookshelf, my mother kept a 1945 copy of Richard Wright’s *Black Boy* and a 1913 gift to her mother — a book entitled *Religious Folk Songs of the Negro as Sung on the Plantations*. Many of her 78 RPMs have survived a hot attic so that Ella Fitzgerald, The Ink Spots, Harry Belafonte, Billie Holiday, and Mahalia Jackson can live to spin another day on our 1965 Magnavox floor model stereo.

My mother was adamant that Black history celebrations include more than the readily recognizable names and faces. One unforgettable February, she decided that it was time to bring local African American history to places other than local churches and schools. By then, she was in her 80s and still owned enough of her mind to put the project together. When the Centreville branch of the Queen Anne’s County Free Library agreed to host the exhibit, she and I went to work. She chose the pictures, articles and captions. I typed the text and mounted each item. When the display was done to her satisfaction it was placed at the library entrance. If my mother had her

way, when she was interviewed by a local reporter, the call would have lasted hours as an impromptu lesson.

I have inherited my mother’s boxes, file folders and photos — all in need of better preservation than I can give. Many I have donated to the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Association, as would have been her wish. Some I have shared on Facebook with an enthusiastic response. Others were lost to water damage. I’m still in possession of many fragile sheaves of newspapers from African American newspapers from the early 20th century. My friend Jamie Thompson — an Easton area collector, kindred collecting spirit and a woman who loves to hold history in her hands — advised me to keep the crumbling, tattered sheets as best I can.

As someone who lived through Jim Crow, segregation, and integration, “Miss Marie” would have been elated at the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. She would be moved by local organizations such as the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Association, and especially by the commemorative nameplate on the kitchen that bears her name. I can hear her response to the knowledge that local communities and organizations have begun to exhibit a more inclusive history. She would say, “I never thought I’d see the day!”

I have carried on her legacy in ways that I could not have imagined. Two years ago, I appeared in three segments on local history produced by Salisbury’s ABC Channel 47. Last February, I was interviewed on a live segment at the station about the Kennard African American Cultural Heritage Association. Whenever I discover a long-lost, forgotten treasure — or sometimes a new treasure, I am reminded of my mother’s straight-ahead, unwavering dedication to our history. She would be proud to hear me described by a friend on her way to the Eastern Shore, “If you want to know about history over there, ask Niambi.”

All credit, however, goes to “Miss Marie.” 

Paddle PLAY

Pickleball's popularity soars on the Shore

BY DEBRA R. MESSICK | PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE

ONE SUMMER AFTERNOON IN

1965, three Washington state dads — seeking backyard family fun — planted the seed of a future sporting phenomenon. What began with ping pong paddles and a perforated plastic ball atop an old badminton court morphed into the pastime of pickleball.

With simple rules, games lasting less than 15 minutes, condensed court space and a sociable vibe, pickleball play steadily grew, flourishing in sunbelt states of California, Arizona and Florida — especially among, but not limited to, seniors.

By 1984, pickleball had an official organization; by 1990, it had reached all 50 states, reaching 10,000 registered members by 2015 and 30,000 by 2018. In 2019, three million players participated, marking it among the country's fastest-growing sports, according to the Sports Fitness Industry Association, including across the Eastern Shore.

From beach to bay, at YMCAs, community centers, parks, clubs and schools, pickleball courts, clinics and tournaments are everywhere, with more planned.

Often called 'addictive,' transcending ages and athletic levels, it's family-friendly and quickly learned, with shorter, less physically intensive games providing beneficial physical activity feeling more like recreational, convivial fun, according to Wendy Palmer, associate executive director at Easton Family YMCA @ Washington. In 2014, the Easton Family YMCA @ Peachblossom gymnasium created two indoor courts, adding six outdoor courts in 2016. In 2018, the Easton Family YMCA @ Washington featured four indoor courts,



THIS PAGE: Mike Jump plays pickle ball with his wife Jane, opposite, at least 3 to 4 times a week. The outdoor courts at the Easton Family YMCA @ Peachblossom in Easton provide nearly year-round access when weather permits.



A doubles pickleball match is a fun way to socialize while getting exercise.

with Open Play currently available daily.

“The YMCA held pickleball camp last summer and holds regular clinics,” Palmer said. Since 2018, the YMCA has hosted five tournaments, each attracting up to 180 players across the region and beyond. Last October’s first outdoor tournament — limited to YMCA members during the pandemic — drew 50 players.

In Talbot County, Nick Papson and

Mike and Jane Jump are USA Pickleball ambassadors (volunteer advocates).

Papson maintains an email list of those involved in area play, coordinates, and communicates information, and stays current with new developments. The Jumps, active in the Worcester County pickleball community prior to moving to Easton, help several clubs streamline tournament management using a

Pickleball Locations Across the Shore

Fluctuating COVID-19 restrictions continue to impact play. It’s best to call ahead at the numbers below to confirm court availability.

YMCA of the Chesapeake:

Easton Family Y @ Peachblossom (410-822-0566)
Easton Family Y @ Washington (410-822-1515)
Perkins Family Y & Bay Hundred Senior Center St. Michaels (410-745-5963)
Robbins Y, Cambridge (410-221-0555)
Henson Y, Salisbury (410-749-0101)
Lower Shore Y, Pocomoke (410-957-9622)
Kent Y, Chestertown (410-778-3148)
Cecil County, Elkton (410-398-2333) *coming soon*
Queen Anne’s County, Centreville (443-262-9994) (groundbreaking this summer)

There’s more!

Parks and Recreation Departments plus residential communities are working to create and adapt pickleball courts to meet skyrocketing demand.

specialized computer program. Mike Jump has also earned a rigorous Level II Certification, qualifying him to lead instructional clinics.

All three began as novices. After repeatedly turning down a Western Shore friend’s insistence that he come play, Papson — with a tennis background — finally took the plunge, soon finding himself “hooked.” At his Easton weekend home, he called the YMCA repeatedly asking about pickleball. In 2014, after receiving an email announcing a dedicated court at last, “I was so excited, I jumped right in my car and drove down there,” he said.

Mike Jump’s initiation via a younger fellow cast member of a local theater production eventually contributed to major weight loss. Wife Jane remembers the exuberant joy he and other players demonstrated — “the guys were jumping over the net” she added, with a laugh. After watching two women in their seventies enthusiastically embrace tournament play, she also embraced pickleball.

Volunteer Talbot County play coordinator Bob Kopec, who has also played in Florida, adopted the scheduling app Heja used there. Currently, about 75 Easton players post and receive game information. Kopec, along with other players, also owns a portable net, helping to adapt tennis, basketball, and other courts; paint and tape can also help them conform to pickleball specifications.

Cambridge area pickleball enthusiast Glen Wong began playing three years ago after an injury sidelined him from volleyball and tennis. He now helps Dorchester County ambassador Dave Thatcher coordinate play, primarily at what has been the area’s outdoor tennis facility, Glasgow Courts. “People would be surprised how many playing spots exist across the Shore,” Wong said.

“Last summer the Hyatt (Regency Chesapeake) and Dorchester County Parks and Recreation Department hosted a successful tournament,” he added. “And just across the county line in Sharptown, there are two of the area’s relatively few permanent pickleball courts.”

For more information about pickleball, visit www.pickleballusa.org.

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Doing her Part



*Jennifer Stanley
takes play to a
whole new level*

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

WHEN YOU MEET Jennifer Stanley, you can't help but be swept up in her exuberance. Her bright blue eyes twinkle as she quickly moves about a room. At 74-years-old, she can keep up with any 10-year-old and has for nearly 40 years since she founded Oxford Kids Camp — a summer camp experience for children in Oxford, Maryland. Her passions run deep for her campers, her town, the environment and her country.

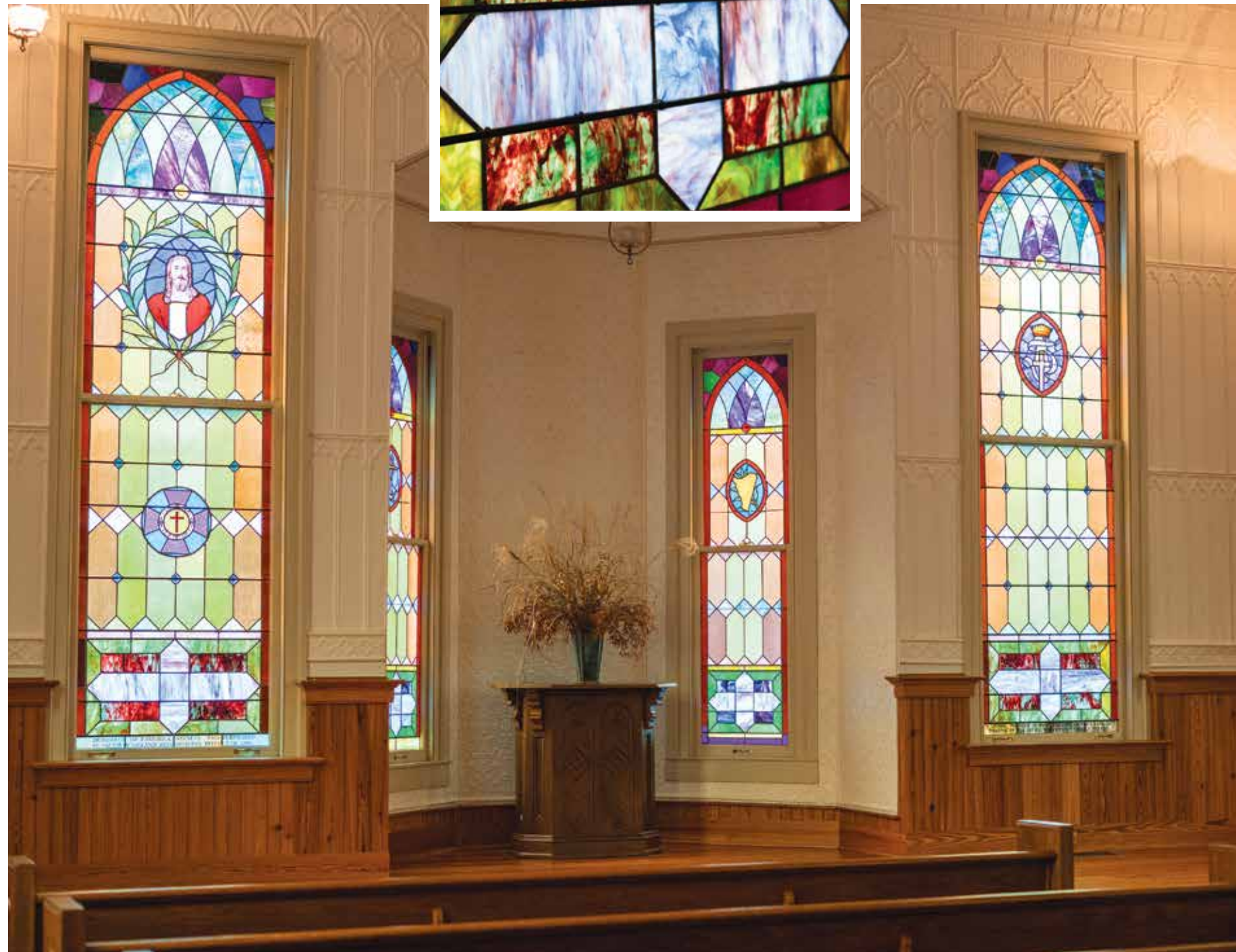
Jennifer and her husband Ted Stanley moved to Oxford in 1979 after sailing in the area and keeping their boat moored there. The two met at South Street Seaport in New York, New York where she worked as an educator. Ted operated Town Creek Foundation for 38 years and helped build a bigger, stronger, and more diverse base of environmentally engaged Marylanders. Soon after they arrived in Oxford, Jennifer decided she wanted to start an environmental camp.

CAMP PHOTOS COURTESY

PORTRAIT OF JENNIFER STANLEY BY MAIRE MCARDLE

THIS PAGE: Jennifer Stanley stands still long enough to have her photo taken in her home. INSETS: Oxford Kids Camp photos from years past

GIVING BACK



Stanley's renovations of the St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church on Morris Street in Oxford have opened the church to community events once again.

PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE

She discerned, however, that kids need a variety of things to do in the summers. Ultimately, they want to have fun. In 1982, she started Oxford Kids Camp, known as "OKC," and an afterschool program — both operating at the Oxford Community Center in Oxford.

"I liked the idea of summer camp and had fond memories of attending a day camp and a 4-H camp as a child. I grew up in an era when we could play, so I modeled OKC after what I enjoyed as a

child," Jennifer Stanley said.

"I especially liked the idea of kids being outdoors," she added. "Children have too many restrictions today. Our camp offers campers a place where they can safely be kids and feel challenged to grow."

Since 1982, the five-day a week camp has operated four weeks every summer. It serves children between ages six and 13.

"OKC campers have always been provided with opportunities for trying new things, being creative, being productive,

developing social skills, and making friends. But ultimately, it is smiles and plain old good times that make the camp so much fun," Stanley said.


The youth-centered full-day program is a mix of social, artistic, athletic and environmental activities. They are all designed to promote opportunities for fun, development and exploration. Because of the integral role of the Chesapeake Bay in the history and present-day life of Oxford, the staff teaches the importance of the

natural environment. Also, they emphasize outdoor adventures in all camp sessions. Campers must demonstrate the skill of riding a two-wheeled bicycle as the camp gets around by bikes. They use the whole town of Oxford as its campus. The camp is supported by campers' tuition, the Oxford community, and Stanley herself. Campers like it so much that many often return as counselors during their high school and college years.

Another of Stanley's passions has been St. Paul's Methodist Episcopal Church on Morris Street in Oxford. It's a historic Greek and Gothic Revival frame church built in 1856. It contributed early on to the growth of Methodism on the Shore. When the couple arrived in 1979, the church, across the street from their home, was in danger of being torn down. The congregation had stopped meeting in the church in 1977. The building was for sale.

"We bought the church because of its architectural and historical significance," stated Stanley.

After they bought it, the Stanleys did extensive renovations, returning the church to its glory days. They showcased its floor to ceiling pressed tin work and vibrant stained-glass windows. Enhancements such as remodeling the interior bathroom, making the building handicapped-accessible, and installing heating and air conditioning made the church suitable for community events once again. They completed interior renovations in time for Ted's memorial service in 2009. This was very important to Jennifer who oversaw the final renovations during his illness.

Stewardship has always been important to Stanley — whether it is cultivating people's love of the environment, teaching campers to respect one another so that everyone could enjoy the summer camp experience, or renovating a significant historic building in her hometown. Lessons we could all learn from as we take care of the communities we live in today. 



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A WALK ON *Wye*

This quiet nature retreat beckons visitors to a enjoy a beauty-filled respite

BY ANNE MCNULTY

TUCKED BETWEEN the Wye and Wye East Rivers in Queen Anne’s County lies a tranquil oasis called Wye Island. Hundreds of white-tailed deer roam the fields and woods of this 2,450-acre state-owned preserve managed by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Here wood ducks and mallards swim around the island’s 30 miles of shoreline. Overhead, a marsh hawk hovers then swoops down to capture a rabbit. A solitary fox hunting for prey crouches in the field while Delmarva fox squirrels scamper up the island’s Osage orange trees. As you approach the island from Carmichael Road, you cross the bridge where sunbeams sparkle on the river. You will then pass by the leased fields planted with corn and soybeans.

Next, you will come to the Granary Creek picnic area that invites you to sit at a picnic table and walk over to the creek. There’s a new canoe/kayak launch here that’s available to visitors from March until October. Red and blue kayaks dot the creek during spring and summer, but in the fall and winter, it belongs to the waterfowl. You will know when the geese arrive as they noisily skid into the creek.

As you continue along the 4.2-mile road, yellow oaks tower overhead — their branches arching together resemble a Gothic cathedral. COVID-weary humans can take comfort in the beauty that reaches out to them as they walk, drive, or bike along the gravel road.



LEFT: Trees in a cathedral-like arch canopy part of the trail at Wye Island.
Inset: A Barred Owl overlooks the natural habitat of this tranquil island.

PHOTO OF TRAIL BY GEORGE BLOOD; PHOTO OF OWL BY EMILY CARTER MITCHELL

You will pass Schoolhouse woods — an old-growth forest over 200 years old. In this area stands an old holly tree that’s over 260 years old, and you can view it close-up from the Schoolhouse Nature Trail.


Further down the road are three campsites that Scouts and other youth groups can use. At night, campers will often hear the Great Horned, Barred and Eastern Screech owls.

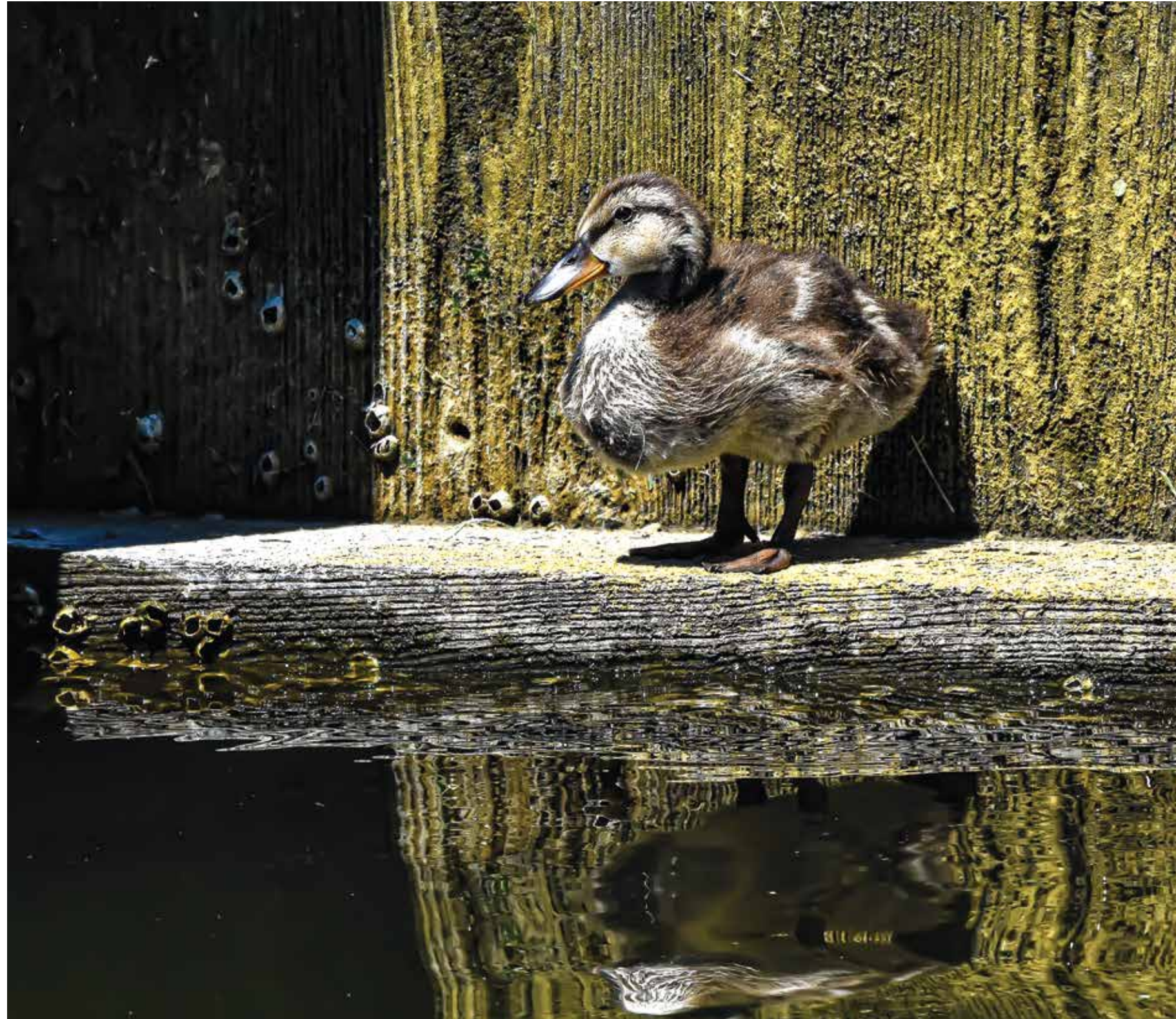
During this winter afternoon, a couple walks their Irish Setter who constantly has his nose to the ground. They’re strolling along the three-mile Ferry Point Trail that leads to a small beach where in the summer you see children splashing in the water and then running back to land.

The island was settled and owned by two prominent men — Charles Beale Bordley farmed and owned the western half of the island, while his brother-in-law William Paca, a governor of Maryland and one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, owned the eastern half. Bordley, thanks to the labor of his enslaved workers, was able to make his own bricks, brew his own beer and produce wine from the grapes he grew in his vineyard.

Since that time, sections of the island were bought and owned privately, and in 1922, an eccentric couple named Glen and Jacqueline Stewart bought eight of the 13 farms that were there at the time. Then in the 1940s during World War II, Stewart began building a hunting lodge he called the Duck Lodge. Fearful of a German invasion, he put in a false floor in front of the fireplace that had a trap door to the lodge’s concealed basement. Stewart then stocked it with a year’s supply of food and plenty of ammunition.

The lodge, located on Granary Creek, remains today. Able to accommodate about 25 persons, it’s now used for meetings, conferences, and small weddings.

Today the island, except for six private residences, is owned by the State of Maryland who wisely decided that this historic and beautiful parcel of land should not be bought by developers, but instead used for the benefit of those who wish to visit. 



SIGNS OF SPRING

A Mallard duckling takes a rest as mom swims nearby on the Cambridge Creek.

PHOTO BY LORI R. BRAMBLE



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