

SHORE

MONTHLY

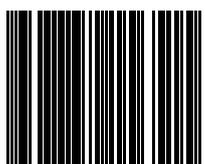
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Patty Crankshaw-Quimby,
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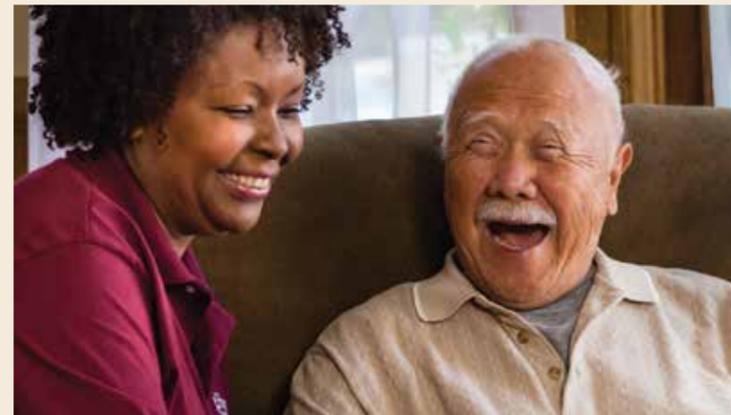


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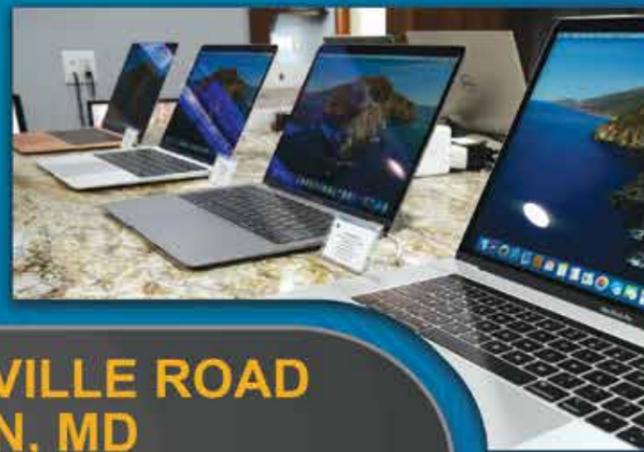
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PHOTO BY Stephen Walker

march 2020

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Patty Crankshaw-Quimby of the Talbot County Humane Society and her two bulldogs, Tank and Breezee at her home in Easton.

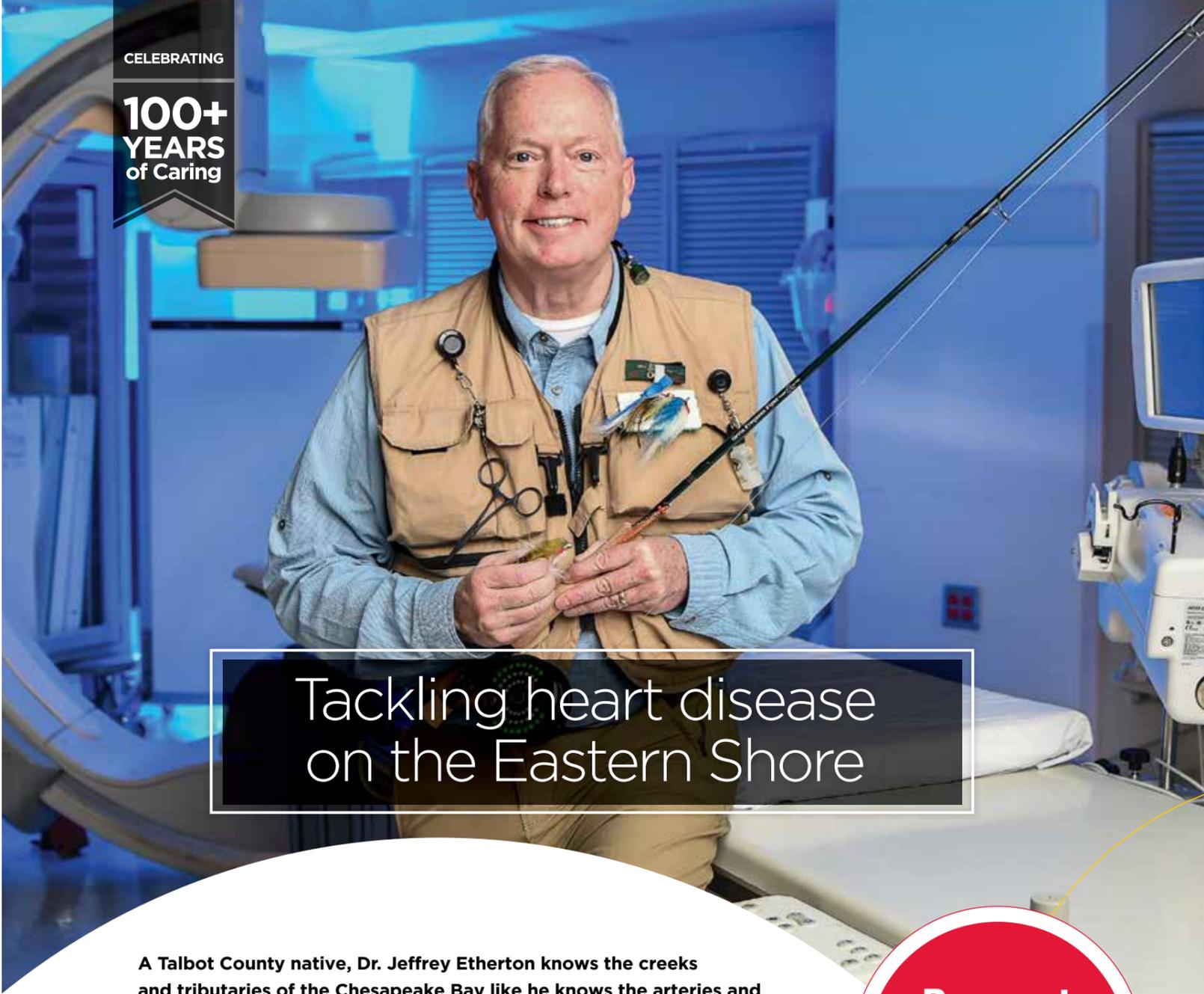
PHOTO BY Stephen Walker

Above: Mary Jane Nagel and her sidekick Buster Brown at St. Michaels Pet Supplies

PHOTO BY Caroline J. Phillips

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Tackling heart disease on the Eastern Shore

A Talbot County native, Dr. Jeffrey Etherton knows the creeks and tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay like he knows the arteries and vessels of the heart. As a cardiologist with the Heart and Vascular Center at UM Shore Regional Health, he works in the very place where his mother was a nurse, and he is fighting the very disease that took his father's life. You better believe this is personal. He's out to catch heart disease in this community. Because ultimately, it's all about saving the lives of his neighbors on the Eastern Shore.

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editors' NOTE

We all love our pets. They are almost as much a part of the Shore's magic as the people are. With this issue of *Shore Monthly*, we pay homage to some of the unique pets that reside with us, improving our quality life with every wag of their tale, nuzzle of their snout, or squawk of their beak. Whether they are working through a noble cause, like Pets on Wheels, or just behind the counter of a local business greeting customers, our pets are making a difference in peoples' lives across the region.

The winner of our first Pet Photo Contest takes a starring role on the last page of the magazine. Thank you for all your submissions — choosing the best pet photo proved to be more than a challenge for all of us! Check out our website to see who made the top 10 pet photos. By featuring a menagerie of pets in this month's stories, we hope that we made you smile.

In "The Humane Touch," the cover story, we share the efforts over the past 20 years of Patty Crankshaw-Quimby with rescuing and caring for some of our most vulnerable animals. Her commitment to our community goes beyond the doors of her nonprofit, as she lives out her passion at home and advocating around the state.

We're excited to feature a thoughtful, reflective approach to photography which has helped one woman cope with the burden of grief, as well as the story of "The Dreamer and the Millionaire" — how



Manning Lee and Amy Steward, co-editors, and Maire McArdle, design consultant, met at Coffee Trappe for a planning session.

Derick Daly is stepping up and out with Building African American Minds (BAAM) to now make a difference in the whole community.

On a lighter note, there is a new eclectic boutique, 2 Vintage Chics, on Tilghman Island with unusual fashion and gift items that you can't find anywhere else. And for lovers of down-home Southern cooking, you won't want to miss Minty's Place in Cambridge — the hottest new eatery that is imbued with the spirit of Dorchester County's own Araminta "Minty" Ross, or as we best know her — Harriet Tubman.

Finally, we look forward to following up on your interesting story leads. You can email any story idea to info@shoremontly.com as we continue to introduce you to the people who make this region special.

Spring is just around the corner. Our April issue will celebrate Earth Day and the natural environment — just one more thing that makes the Shore so special.

**Manning Lee and
Amelia Blades Steward**
Co-editors

SHORE MONTHLY

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Helping Families Heal
By: Ryan Helfenbein



Ask the Undertaker

"Knock Knock?"
"Who's there?"

That might be the one concern many of us have regarding generations to come. Will they remember me? Or better yet, how will they remember me? My 10 year old shared this joke with me the other day and it immediately triggered the creation of an article on a question that is commonly asked – How do I write an obituary? First, let's change the word obituary to what I'd refer to as a Life History. Leaving a legacy is important for us all, but leaving an explanation of that legacy is much more beneficial to those left behind and generations to come. We often find the write ups in the newspaper answering a series of questions: Born on...Died on...went to school at...married on.... And the list just keeps going. But, do these questions really explain the life of someone? Better yet, does the personality come through in simply answering questions, or should we look at this differently? Perhaps we need to eliminate the idea of listing facts of an individual, and instead look at writing about the highlights of a life lived with the personality of that individual shining through.

The best Life History is autobiographical – written by the person that lived the life being remembered, and well in advance. Second, and most commonly, is a collected effort from close family and friends collaborating over the ways they were touched through the life journey of the individual being remembered. There should be no limit on how long or short, what should or should not be included, who is mentioned or not and most importantly not limited to the answering of a few questions. The recording of a life has no limitations and should shine with personality of that individual vs. a list of facts that simply is no different from someone else other than a few dates. Technology today allows modern undertakers to showcase the individual's full life history for all to find with no limitations on words or lines like a newspaper would. In addition, photos and background images are able to be attached to what a modern undertaker can provide to enhance the personality of the life history created.

A great example of what I mean was recently published in March of 2019. See if you can pick out the personality

of this individual, in simply the first two lines alone: "Tim Schrandt (Lynyrd) made his last inappropriate comment on March 29, 2019. If you are wondering if you may have ever met him, you didn't -because you WOULD remember " With just those first two lines, and there was much more to follow, future generations will know that their grandfather was quite a character and full of personality! Now if a typical mortician would have written that opening line it would most likely have been written like so: "Schrandt, Tim (Spillville) passed away on March 29 of cancer. He was 63". Major difference between the two, right? In just one sentence alone it explained the personality behind the individual and focused on a life lived vs. the reality of his passing.

Everyone that read that Life History of Mr. Schrandt knew his personality, what he must have been like and that he truly lived life to the fullest. The entire write up read just like that too! How he will be remembered for "always wearing his shirts unbuttoned three quarters down" and my personal favorite, that "...he did not lose his battle to cancer, that cancer departed when he did, so technically it was a tie." What truly hits home is the fact that out of this Life History alone his family will receive the strongest therapy available – an opening for friends, family and acquaintances to freely share memories of his glowing personality.

What if the personality is a bit softer? Not a problem. That in itself is the message to portray in the Life History. "At the age of 63, Sally left this world peacefully, at her home, overlooking her garden, surrounded by family, to be with her savior." This tells us that we are talking about a peaceful person, with strong faith and a love for gardening and family. You can almost picture the person before you.

Take the time now to simply list the highs and lows in life, stories that show personality, and share memories that were impactful to all around. Each of us has a story to tell, and all of us have impacted someone else at some point in our lifetime, weather we knew it or not. Life Histories are created to allow an avenue of therapy for all to be a part of and most importantly provide a record of personality so that one is never forgotten.



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WHERE THE STORIES ARE

MAP ILLUSTRATION BY LAURA GOODE

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PICTURE THIS

Rob Quimby and his 90-pound Sulcata tortoise Gamera hang out in their side yard. Gamera was rescued last year in Chapel Farms after he was found after crossing Route 50. His owners failed to identify him at Talbot Humane so Patty Crankshaw-Quimby, Executive Director of Talbot Humane, and her husband Rob adopted him.





Left: The latest popular flavor of the Smith Island Cake — undeniably Maryland — is Old Bay Buttercream from SmithIslandCake.com. Above: A favorite — the traditional, classic chocolate Smith Island Cake.

OLD BAY SMITH ISLAND CAKE?

THE ORIGIN

The Smith Island Cake can be traced to Welsh and English settlers who arrived on Smith Island in the late 1600s. Originally, the cake came in four layers, but the women of Smith Island stacked it higher as a form of competition, and it eventually grew to as many as a dozen layers.

THE HISTORY

In the 1800's, when Smith Island men went on the autumn oyster harvest, wives sent along what are now known as Smith Island Cakes.

THE NINE LAYERS

Thin layer cakes are frosted with fudge icing rather than butter cream because that helps the cakes stay fresh longer than thicker layered cakes.

THE HONOR

Nearly 12 years ago, Governor Martin O'Malley signed a bill for the Smith Island Cake to become the State Dessert of Maryland.

WHERE TO BUY

Smith Island Baking Company in Crisfield: www.smithislandcake.com. — Home of the Old Bay Buttercream Smith Island Cake

Sugar Buns in Easton: www.sugarbuns.com 410-820-4220 29137 Newnam Rd Easton Airport, Easton, MD Open 7 days a week 7:00am-3:00pm

Smith Island Cake kits: www.Amazon.com "Smith Island Cakes".

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MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Hedgelawn Classical Series presents **L'Abri Trio**
Sunday, March 8, 4:00 p.m.
Cost: \$15

Hedgelawn Bluegrass Series Kickoff with **The High and Wides**
Saturday, March 14, 8:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20

Saint Patrick's Day Fundraiser and Celtic Celebration
Friday, March 20, 6:30 p.m.
Irish dance exhibition and Irish-themed hors d'oeuvres
8 p.m.: Concert with Irish musicians Sean McComiskey (button accordion), Jimmy Eagan (fiddle) and David McKindley-Ward (guitar and vocals)
Cost: \$50
Oysters will be served at the break.

For further information or to purchase tickets, visit The Mainstay's website www.mainstayrockhall.org or call 410-639-9133.

PHOTO COURTESY THE MAINSTAY



Curated for the health conscious and healthcare professional — this is the **complete guide** for all things health, nutrition, and fitness from Baltimore to Washington D.C. and across the Chesapeake Region.

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If your health related business or organization would like to be included, please contact Brandon Silverstein at 410-200-6469 or by e-mail at bsilverstein@chespub.com

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY IN EASTON

THE PARADE

The parade starts at 5:30 p.m. in downtown Easton. It features over 40 floats, bands, classic cars, and local businesses. Be on the lookout for festively decorated golf carts at the parade provided by Hog Neck Golf Course.

THE POTATO RACES

The races take place on Washington St. immediately following the parade. Watch as teams of four relay between Dover and Goldsborough Streets balancing potatoes on wooden spoons. The fun and spirited event is sponsored by Talbot County Young Professionals.



SOURCES: DISCOVER EASTON / PHOTOS BY JEFF LANKFORD

Your January 2020 issue of Chesapeake Bay Wedding is Now Available!



If your business would like to be included in the Fall 2020 Edition, please contact Betsy Griffin at 443-239-0307 or by e-mail at bgriffin@chespub.com

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HER FRAME OF VIEW

Photographer Melissa Grimes-Guy captures the world one frame at a time

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD
PHOTOS BY MELISSA GRIMES-GUY

People often call eyes the windows to the soul. But when you talk to local photographer Melissa Grimes-Guy, you see that the camera's eye may be the window to what our souls need.

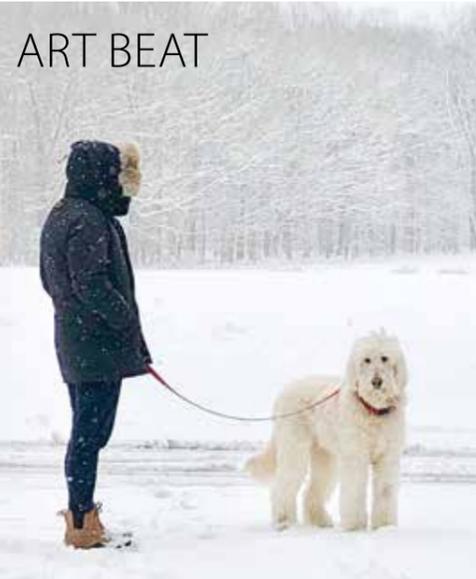
Grimes-Guy has worked in virtually all areas of photography — as a commercial photographer, an AP stringer/photojournalist, and since 2007 as a portrait, pet, and wedding photographer on the Mid-Shore through her business Melissa Grimes-Guy Photography. But it was not until the recent loss of her husband at a young age to early-onset dementia that some of her most haunting and personal images have come to life.

She calls the Instagram feed of her photos, "The Passion Project," which she created quite accidentally while coping with her grief.

She recalls, "I decided to take my dog Miles on walks each day. He was my motivation to get out and move

.....
This close-up photo of Charlie — a Golden Doodle — captures the purity of his spirit.





Clockwise from bottom-left: Melissa Grimes-Guy photographed her cousin's family, the Ashtons, and their beloved Golden Doodle, Charlie. The photo reflects the family's character.

An Instagram photo taken of Grimes-Guy's six-year-old Double Doodle, Miles, on a snowy walk with her son, Alex. Copy reads: Today. Slow Down.

The first of Melissa Grimes Guy's Instagram photos taken of a fence and a field. Copy reads: "And the fog shall clear and light rule the day."

A favorite pet portrait of a colleague's dog, Oliver.

in nature. I took my phone along on the walks and one day began taking photos of things I was seeing. I knew after the first image I took that I wanted to do something more with these photos."

"The purity of it — that was the surprise. I didn't set out with an intention. It didn't come from that place. It started with trees and a fence in the fog," she adds.

She explains that she can go within a mile of her home and find gems

in nature to photograph. She states, "When I do that, I then think about what the photo says to me — how it ties into the grief process. It has made me appreciate the support nature provides without us being aware of it. The natural world around me has helped me process the loss — a cathartic experience."

The positive feedback from the community to her reflective Instagram images has motivated her to think about putting together a book of the

images and offering prints for sale in the future.

While she calls the Instagram feed her muse, Grimes-Guy spends most of her days managing a diverse group of businesses which have grown out of her photography — including MyEasternShoreWedding.com, a wedding resource website showcasing the Eastern Shore's best wedding vendors; Photomatic Photo Booth; Chesapeake Pawtography; Rockfish Media Group; and most recently, Whirligig Films.

She reflects, "I have always loved photographing people. I have felt we co-create the picture in some intangible way. There is a zone you can get into when photographing someone where the end result becomes greater than its parts — there is a dance between the subject and photographer. It's a cool thing."

Chesapeake Pawtography grew out of her love of animals. "There is a difference when photographing a pet," she says. "I think animals bring a purity of spirit. When doing a photoshoot with a pet, there is something so pure about an animal. They are so in the moment. With lifestyle photography, I can capture that special something in that animal."

Reflecting on her continued passion for photography, she speaks as if looking through a lens.

"There is an excitement I continue to have about seeing the world in small frames," she says.

"When that happens, it is a marvelous feeling to focus attention in some aspect or in some manner that would go unrecognized otherwise — seeing things in a new way. What continues to surprise me about photography is the combination of composition and the indescribable." ●



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Opposite: The welcoming exterior of 2 Vintage Chics boutique in Tilghman Island; Left: Penny Adams and Malissa Kirszenbaum admire the detailing on a new spring blouse. Upcycled furniture and vintage home decor and accessories fill the perimeter of the shop.

ISLAND CHICS

Two women with a unique boutique invite shoppers to Tilghman Island

STORY AND PHOTOS
BY MAIRE MCARDLE

On a clear, cold Saturday morning, the scenic drive from Easton to Tilghman Island in our VW Beetle was occupied by quiet conversation and oldies radio tunes. Looking forward to treating ourselves to a cozy breakfast, we were surprised when we pulled up to see a new shop directly next door to our favorite island restaurant, Two If By Sea. The tiny, rundown adjacent building had been transformed with bright yellow paint and a rustic-planked porch artfully displaying an assortment of wrought-iron chairs, plant stands, and baskets brimming with islandy trinkets. In the window, modern clothing was stylishly arranged alongside antiques, upcycled tables, and eclectic homewares. I shot an unmistakable arched eyebrow at my husband. He did not have to guess

where I was going after my eggs Benedict.

Malissa Kirszenbaum and Penny Adams each greeted me with huge smiles as I stepped into 2 Vintage Chics, their delightfully merchandised shop. We instantly chatted, exchanging business cards and stories about where we had all lived before. While my eyes darted to take in the upscale mix of antique beaded bags and brooches, “new” hip sweaters and tops in a wide array of sizes, scarves, and boho headbands, locally crafted sea glass jewelry and fun gift items — I found out all the details about how these women’s destinies converged to open their funky new boutique.

Malissa moved to Tilghman in 2014 with her husband, Leon, a pharmacist. He had been offered a position with

CVS Easton and it seemed like a natural time for the empty-nester couple to make a big move from rural Howard County. Malissa had been a paralegal for almost 32 years and had been an owner/partner of a small boutique, The Pink Cabbage, in Ellicott City. She intended to continue with her paralegal business from Tilghman, but shortly after she arrived on the island, she was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. After going through a period of beneficial treatments, she was able to achieve some physical relief. She relinquished her partnership with The Pink Cabbage, yet her savvy background would be the fuel to pursue an unrealized dream — to have a shop right there on Tilghman.

Penny, who had a 35-year career in national retail in York, PA, retired with her husband to Tilghman in 2015. After the first few quiet months, a conversation about possible employment with Patricia McGlannan, owner of the Tilghman Island Country Store, resulted in Penny accepting a perfect part-time job at the store. She had built-in opportunities to meet island neighbors and business owners.

A short time after Penny began working at the Country Store, Malissa walked in.

Their mutual penchant for estate sales, auctions, and garage sales created an instant bond.

Curious about the small, empty stand-alone structure, which had formerly been the island barbershop, Malissa tracked down the owner, Henry Miller, (also head chef/owner of Two If By Sea next door) to ask about leasing the building. When he agreed and endorsed her shop idea, a real business plan kicked off. Knowing in her heart how strong a teammate Penny would be, Malissa approached her to join in this new chapter, honestly revealing the unpredictability of her disease and charting the challenges this endeavor could present. It was exactly what Penny was looking for. The new partners dedicated their creative passions and retail acumen to opening their one-of-a-kind boutique on Labor Day weekend last year.

A strong commitment to the island’s residents is carried out through their “give back to our community” efforts with four benefit events planned

throughout the year. Because of their affordable pricing and variety, the owners have found that island visitors will return despite needing to travel the extra miles from Easton or St. Michaels.

Looking toward their second season, the shop opens on March 1 with a fresh look, new carefully-curated fashions and a host of surprises ranging from local art to fanciful mermaids and nautical-themed gifts, all on display with heart-warming smiles from two women who love what they do.

2 VINTAGE CHICS

Open through March 31st on Saturdays: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sundays: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

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Saturdays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.;
Sundays: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.;
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Penny: 717-309-5564
Email: 2VintageChics2019@gmail.com
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MINTY'S PLACE OLD SOUL, NEW FOOD



Dorchester County restaurant offers delicious comfort food with Southern charm

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

“I go to prepare a place for you.”

Harriet Tubman’s last words resonate for Teresa Lamar, visionary and owner of Minty’s Place, a new restaurant bringing Southern comfort food, hospitality, and charm to Locust Street in Cambridge. Most importantly, this place — Minty’s Place — pays homage to Dorchester County’s Araminta “Minty” Ross. Minty was born into slavery and became known around the world by her free name, Harriet Tubman, for her brave leadership on the Underground Railroad.

Teresa says the location — the long-vacant, 1930s building where Hyser’s Confectionery once operated — blurs the line between traditionally black and white neighborhoods and is now a place prepared to welcome all. Since opening on October 25 of last year, she says the restaurant serves as a gathering place to find great food and a place to receive love and kindness.

“Our guests like the spirit this place was built on,” said Teresa, who has

invested more than four years in making her dream of owning a restaurant come true. “Divinely, I believe this is what I’m supposed to be doing.”

She says the restaurant’s name evolved over several ideations. “At first, it was going to be Sweet Teas, with the first glass on me. Then it was Minty’s Cabin, Minty’s House, and then I thought, wait a minute, this is Minty’s Place. I only discovered later how Harriet’s legacy included that sense of place in her last words.”

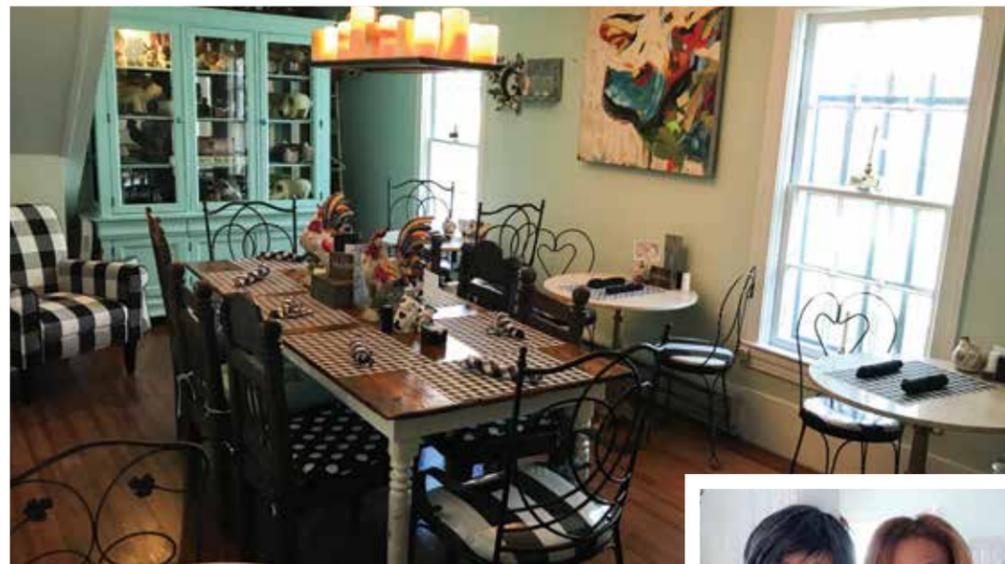
As soon as you walk in the door, Teresa or staff graciously welcome you. The open kitchen greets you with the delicious aromas of barbecue, fried chicken, and the day’s specials. The décor is light and fresh, adding to the feelings of comfort and home. Numerous dining areas offer plenty of spaces for large groups and individual diners, with seating for up to 88 guests.

Outside includes a large, lighted seating area and barbecue pit open in the warmer months, with year-round inside dining areas *continued on page 29*

PHOTOS COURTESY MINTY'S PLACE AND TRACEY F. JOHNS



Top left: Mrs. Harriet’s spicy pasta with Cajun shrimp; top right: Minty’s skillet cheesecake brownie; middle: Minty’s bean burger lettuce wrap (left) and underground crab cake sandwich served with Minty’s skillet macaroni and cheese; bottom left: Dorchester salad topped with fried tilapia; bottom right: Moses’ buttermilk fried chicken and waffles
Opposite page: Quaint farmhouse table decor



Above: Teresa unpacks fresh locally grown greens. Iced Tea is served in mason jars; Top right: Teresa poses with Harriett Tubman's direct descendants: Rose Banks, Peggy Ross (direct descendant of Harriet Tubman), Demetrius Jones, and Chenel Jones; Right: homey dining room interior with folk art decor; Below right: The mayor of Cambridge, Victoria Jackson-Stanley with Teresa Lamar

MINTY'S PLACE

A family-friendly restaurant in historic Cambridge, Minty's Place is located where Hyser's used to be. The building was purchased, renovated, and renamed in honor of Araminta "Minty" Ross, later known as Harriet Tubman, who was born in Dorchester County. (Araminta did not take the name "Harriet" until she married John Tubman.) If you wish to learn more about Minty's history, visit HarrietTubman.com.

Address: 824 Locust Street, Cambridge

Web site: mintysplace.com

Phone: 240-531-1362

Hours: Open Thurs., Fri., Sat. from 11:30 a.m. -8:30 p.m.; Sun. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; Closed Mon., Tues., Wed., and the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month



including booths, tables, and a bar with perfect views to watch the Executive Chef prepare his culinary specialties. We tried a delicious Creole pasta special — pasta in a delicate Cajun cream sauce, with fried shrimp, fresh sautéed greens, smoked Gouda and jalapeno for a lovely touch of heat.

Teresa says growing up as one of 10 children with deep roots on Virginia's Eastern Shore, she has always loved to cook and serve meals since a little girl. Now, those treasured traditions and recipes bring items on Minty's menu to the mouths of many, including a delicious version of baked beans, made with a variety of beans including black beans, and hints of cinnamon and honey.

Using ingredients sourced from local Amish and farmer's markets means the menu carries farm freshness right to your plate. Underground Railroad Fish & Grits, for example, includes trout as the catch this time of year — delivered directly to Minty's fresh, never frozen — and served lightly fried or grilled with Minty's cheesy grits. Other signature dishes include Moses Chicken and Waffles, and the Emancipation Burger served with dry slaw, cheddar cheese, a mini turkey-burger slider, and a grilled pickle. Vegan options include flavorful, smoky collard greens, and warmer months expand the menu with more barbecue options.

Not-to-miss are the sweet tea and lemon whipping cream pound cake, as part of this place and the Southern comfort dining experience Teresa Lamar has prepared for us. You can also try the house-made barbecue sauces, including a spicy, gingery Bam-Bam sauce, and another made with molasses and cinnamon called Sweet, Sweet Moses. Bottled beer and wine by the glass are available, with the full menu and hours posted at mintysplace.com.



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YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND

Local animal lovers share their special bonds with these five unusual pets

BY MANNING LEE

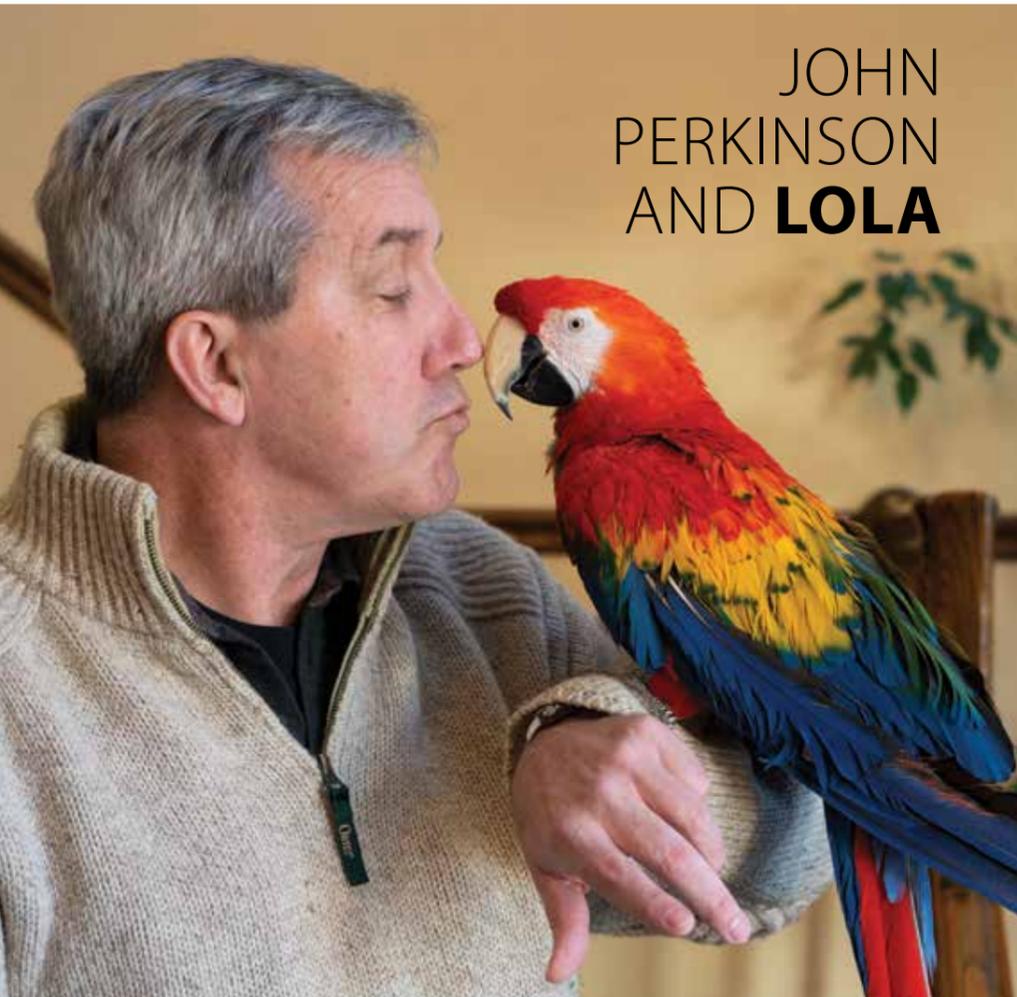
PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER

EDUARDO HERNANDEZ AND **CHANGO**

“ I had a lizard growing up, but my parents made me get rid of it. I just wanted another lizard, so I did my research and settled on Chango.

Bearded Dragons are native to the deserts in Australia and live about 10 to 12 years. When they are full-grown, they can reach up to 18 inches from head to toe. He was only three or four inches when I got him. Chango loves mealworms, crickets, and blueberries.

Chango sleeps a lot, but I take him out of the cage and put him on the floor where most of the time he finds quiet places to sleep. I have three dogs, and a cat, which have learned to leave him alone. Sometimes, when Chango feels threatened by them, he puffs his beard out and it turns black. He doesn't want to be near the other pets. In the warmer months, we take Chango outside. He finds a rock in the sun and just lies there sunning himself. ”



JOHN
PERKINSON
AND **LOLA**

“Lola is a four-pound Scarlet Macaw from Central and South America. She’s 10 years old, but her breed can live 50 to 60 years. Macaws mate for life, and as pets, they can become quite attached to one person and very protective over that person.

She loves fruits and nuts. She eats oranges, bananas, and grapes, and her beak cuts right through walnuts. Whenever I take her to Scottish Highland Creamery she loves vanilla ice cream. Once I took her to the Waterfowl Festival. One of the vendors makes crab soup. I think Lola must have Eastern Shore blood in her somewhere because she absolutely loved the crab soup!

She’s a little bit of a showgirl in town. People love her. The folks at Capsize love when I take Lola there in the summer. We sit at the bar, but I have to keep an eye on her as she walks around on the bar because she’s been known to steal French fries from people’s plates.”



TRISH
BEVERIDGE
AND **OLIVER
WENDELL**

“We’ve had Oliver for 10 years and he is very sweet, but I will never get another pig. He is a very big responsibility, and I’ve spoiled him. He doesn’t like to go outside in the inclement weather because he doesn’t like his feet to get wet.

You can’t make a pig do what a pig doesn’t want to do.

Oliver has a little spot in the TV room with a really cushy carpet where he sleeps on about 50 micro blankets. Once I made the mistake of laundering them all together. That night he wouldn’t sleep and he walked around the TV room. He cried and cried and wandered and cried and refused to lie down without his blankets.

Oliver trained my husband every night to scratch his back with his back scratcher. And I have to give him his nightly apple. If I don’t have an apple, I go to the store and get one. It’s that serious of a routine.

I’ve thought about sending him to a pig sanctuary, but he’d have to live outside and he doesn’t like being outside. That wouldn’t be fair, because he likes the life that we’ve given him.”

NICK MIELKE AND **HENRY** **THE CAMEL**



“Ten years ago, I bought Henry from a guy in New York. Henry was two and had gotten too big for the man. I figured I already had a water buffalo, so I needed a camel too.

Henry loves people and is very gentle with them. We take him to community events like nursing homes and county fairs where he gravitates to the children. One of his events is Easton Church of God's live Nativity Scene at Christmas.

Henry has a diet mostly of fruit and llama food, but his favorite thing to do is steal my Diet Cokes. He prefers to drink them from the can. He picks up the can, gets as much out as he is able then spits the can out onto the ground.

A few years ago, someone from the Department of Defense called and said, “We heard you had a camel.” It turns out they had a new imaging software product to test out. They paid me to walk Henry up and down our street. The software was miles away in the sky. I never saw them because they were testing how far away they could be and still see Henry.”

DEBBY GEIST-LYONS AND THE **SALTWATER GANG**



“My tank is a 90-gallon saltwater aquarium. I started with a Damsel since they are inexpensive and docile, but now he's been with me for nine years. He's huge and often the bully of the tank. His name is, Big Frank. When I introduce new fish, he throws temper tantrums and kicks up sand in the back of the tank.

I have two clownfish named Ozzie and Harriet. The black and white one is Ozzie and the orange and white one is Harriet. Ozzie pokes my hand if I get too close to Harriet.

Sam is my Goby. His job is to clean the sand. All-day long he picks up sand and spits it out. I reward his hard work with fresh brine shrimp, which he loves. I have a pretty little Pajama Cardinal we call Penelope and an eel with no name.

I use a special light for the tank that simulates the sunrise and sunset and even creates mini thunderstorms for the tank. Sometimes when I've had a stressful day, I'll sit with the lights out in front of the tank and watch fish dance in the thunderstorms.”

THE HUMANE TOUCH

In her menagerie at home, Patty Crankshaw-Quimby has three dogs, two cats, three tortoises, and one gecko. Work is another story.

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD | PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS



Jenna Green, operations coordinator, makes her rounds through the dog kennels. Opposite: An adoptable cat peers out from the stacks of cages in the hallway at Talbot Humane.



Executive Director of Talbot Humane Patty Crankshaw-Quimby has been in the animal rescue business for most of her life. In 2019, she marked her 20th anniversary with the local nonprofit, and it continues to be a surprise every time the door opens, and a new animal arrives.

The day of Quimby's *Shore Monthly* interview, her office was like a scene

from *Doctor Doolittle*. Quimby's Yellow-Nape Amazon parrot Jo Jo mocked her every time she laughed, with an accurate imitation. It made me laugh every time, too.

There are no monotonous or ever-repeating days for Quimby, and it's what she loves most about her job. She remarks, "You never know what is going to happen day to day and what's

going to come through the door."

She enjoys recalling her favorite exotic animal stories — two in particular that happened in the last year at Talbot Humane. A 90-pound Sulcata tortoise got loose in Mulberry Station in Easton and managed to travel across Route 50 to Chapel Farms before being captured and brought to the shelter. It was believed the

tortoise was abandoned after it grew quickly to its large size. This breed of tortoise can live 80 to 100 years. The tortoise, named Gamera, thought to be 15 to 20 years old, is now part of Quimby's household.

"I have always loved reptiles," she says. "I think it was just meant to be that we found him."

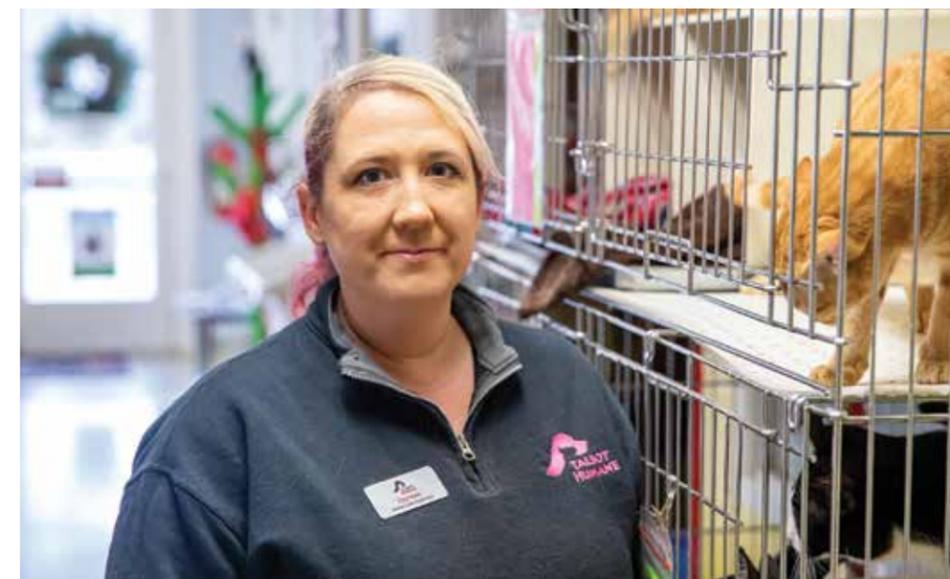
The second incident involved a Capuchin monkey who was brought in after its owner was arrested. Talbot Humane kept the monkey until her owner was free to claim her. She adds, "You have to learn how to care for these exotic animals as they are brought in."

Quimby's love of animals stems from her childhood, where she doesn't remember a time without animals in her home. "All of our family pets were rescued animals, except for two reptiles which we bought at a pet store," she says. "My parents and grandparents were all animal lovers."

Her journey to Talbot Humane, however, was not a planned one, though certainly one she doesn't regret. She states, "After graduating from Salisbury University with a degree in microbiology, I had worked five years as a server and caterer at Mason's Restaurant. In 1999, Talbot Humane was hiring an Animal Care Tech and I applied for the job and got it. I started at the front door of the operation when it was on a shoestring budget, and I quickly fell in love with helping the animals."

After serving as an Animal Control Officer for three years, Quimby then served as the Shelter Coordinator from 2004 to 2011 before becoming Executive Director of the agency in March 2011. She credits Suzette Stitely, one of the Shelter's previous executive directors, with mentoring her in the job.

Quimby reflects on the experience at Talbot Humane, particularly the



sheer volume of animals the agency was dealing with when she arrived in 1999. She comments, "We saw two times the number of animals a year then. I soon got the idea that I could help make a difference in that number."

"With every opportunity, I had to learn something. I still have more to learn today."

Top: Manuel Martinez, animal care technician.
Bottom: Dayniese Hurly, animal care supervisor.
Opposite: Patty Crankshaw-Quimby and parrot Jo Jo in her office.



Jenna Greene comforts a new dog arriving into the system. Opposite top: Bettye Make comes twice a week to pet and play with the adoptable cats. Opposite bottom: Morgan Jenkins is a volunteer who takes dogs outside and helps to socialize them.

Talbot Humane started in 1932 as Friends of the Animals and then opened a facility at its current location in 1948, calling the nonprofit Talbot County Humane Society and changing its name later to Talbot Humane. She recalls, "We were called 'The Pound' back then. Things have really changed in how people look at their pets and how society looks at animals today."

"What has changed the most is how people expect us to react to situations. It used to be punitive. Now, we try and help people to be good pet

owners. In most instances, it is a lack of resources and a lack of knowledge that creates the situations we encounter," she adds.

Quimby also credits the Internet, television and the media with educating people about the human/animal bond, people's knowledge and perceptions about animals, and animal adoptions. She states, "We can now acknowledge that it is 'ok' to care for animals at the level we are seeing people do it."

Talbot Humane's Spay/Neuter Program has also had a positive impact

on the number of puppies and kittens that come into the shelter today. Quimby shares that two-thirds of the animals in the shelter are cats and 20 to 25 percent of the dogs are pure breeds. As an open admission shelter, Talbot Humane must take in every animal that is brought to its doors. Quimby states, "Every animal gets a chance unless they are untreatable, or the animal's behavior is a danger to the community."

In 1999, Quimby said there were eight staff members and 10 volunteers caring for 2,000 animals a year. Today,

Talbot Humane has 18 staff and 150 volunteers caring for approximately 1,000 animals a year. The organization is also supported by Head to Tails, a local thrift shop. A new program, featured on Talbot Humane's website, helps with rehousing pets when people become sick, are aging, or moving. This allows the agency to help people find adoptive homes before animals are abandoned. For the past four years, there has also been a Pet Loss Group with Talbot Hospice to help pet owners who are grieving the loss of a pet.

"Although there are days that I cry and may say a curse word or two, it's knowing that we did the best we could for the animals here that matters to me most and is part of why I have stayed for 20 years."

Quimby also credits her Talbot Humane team, a supportive community and board of directors with the success of the agency and her personal satisfaction with the job.

Her growing role in animal advocacy has surprised her during the tenure of her work. She is currently president of the Professional Animal Workers of Maryland and on the board of Maryland Veterinary Examiners. She explains, "Advocacy was not something in my wheelhouse. I have forced myself into this role. If it's something I believe in or I am passionate about, I can do it. It is part of being willing to learn to do new things."

Last year, Quimby was instrumental in getting a new law passed in Talbot County which prohibits the tethering of animals in the county, as well as provides inspections and licensing of boarding kennels, breeders, and training facilities. On the horizon, Quimby hopes to see a new shelter built in Talbot County which would serve the Mid-Shore.

"I want to be a part of making Maryland humane and to see our Shore shelters flourish." ●



DERICK DALY:

Stepping up and stepping out for his community

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD | PHOTOS BY STEPHEN WALKER

When Derick Daly, Executive Director of Building African American Minds (BAAM), talks about his passion and the mission of his nonprofit organization, he likes to share the story of “The Dreamer and the Millionaire.”

“While getting my undergraduate degree in accounting at Suffolk University in Boston, all I wanted to do was to graduate and make a million dollars, because I thought money brings happiness,” he reflects.

But money wasn’t the answer. It was creating a framework for opportunity.

Daly grew up in a moderate-income family in Boston. His mother, a homemaker, cared for four children, and pursued a master’s degree in social work as an empty-nester. His father worked for the

Gillette Company, and became a pastor after the couple retired to the Caribbean.

“My father was smart with money and investments,” said Daly. “He bought a three-story home and rented two of the stories so he could live rent-free in the middle. Although he was not formally educated, he was the smartest person I have ever known. I got my work ethic from him.”

During Daly’s last year at Suffolk University, he married his wife Dina and commuted back and forth between Boston and the Eastern Shore where she had gotten a job as a social worker. After graduation, he got an accounting job with Orion Safety Products in Easton and worked there for 25 years.

During this time, Daly got involved in the community, first as a member of Rotaract — a junior Rotary



Derick Daly playfully displays the BAAM logo on his sweatshirt while posing in front of the new multi-purpose building on Jowite Street in Easton. The logo and colors are boldly integrated in the modern architectural façade.



Top: Derick Daly is surrounded by a group of middle-school boys who gather to do homework and then get rewarded with the opportunity to play basketball in the state-of-the-art gymnasium. Right: BAAM Board President Bill Ryan and Executive Director Derick Daly share a proud moment as they witness their program and building become a reality.

Club. He then became a member of Rotary, served on the board of the United Fund, on the Finance Committee of the Academy Art Museum, and on the Scholarship Committee for Mid-Shore Community Foundation (MSCF).

In 2003, only one applicant applied to a scholarship at MSCF that he and his wife created for African American male students attending college. That's when Daly realized his life's purpose.

"That sparked the beginning of BAAM," he said. "My wife Dina and I realized that if there was only one African American applicant for the scholarship that we had a problem in our community."

Daly met local businessmen A. James Clark and William T. Hunter at a MSCF gathering. They heard his dream to address the issue that young African American men were at high risk for academic failure and wanted to create a long-term solution to the problem.

"Can you do anything?" they asked.

"Yes," he answered.



That's when they asked him what he needed.

In 2005, Daly and his wife Dina created BAAM, a program that identifies at-risk first-grade boys, recognizes and addresses socioeconomic barriers that inhibit their ability to learn effectively, and provides academic enrichment in a safe, caring, and structured environment. The organization believes that by saving one child, it could be saving generations of children.

BAAM started as a pilot program for 10 students at Easton Elementary School, three days a week for one and a half hours each day after school. Today, the program is offered four days a week for two hours each day and has grown to include over 70 boys in grades first through fifth grades.

In 2013, Daly met Bill Ryan, who is now president of the BAAM board. At the time, Ryan was looking to donate to a local organization and identified BAAM from the United Fund agency list. Although from different backgrounds, the two shared a common business — both worked in safety products. Ryan's family-owned MSA The Safety Company bills itself as the worldwide leader in worker protection and safety product innovation. His family's company had developed the Edison Flameless Electric Miners' Cap Lamp with Thomas Edison.

"Our friendship grew from his initial \$500 donation," said Daly. "Today, he is a major donor and we are like family. We brought our skills together and developed our dream for the community. He is a big piece of this."

In 2015, Daly got a spiritual message that woke him up at 3 a.m. It lit a fire under him to build an Athletic Center to serve the boys and their families. Daly recalls saying that night to God, "But I am a numbers man, and I don't like dealing with the public."

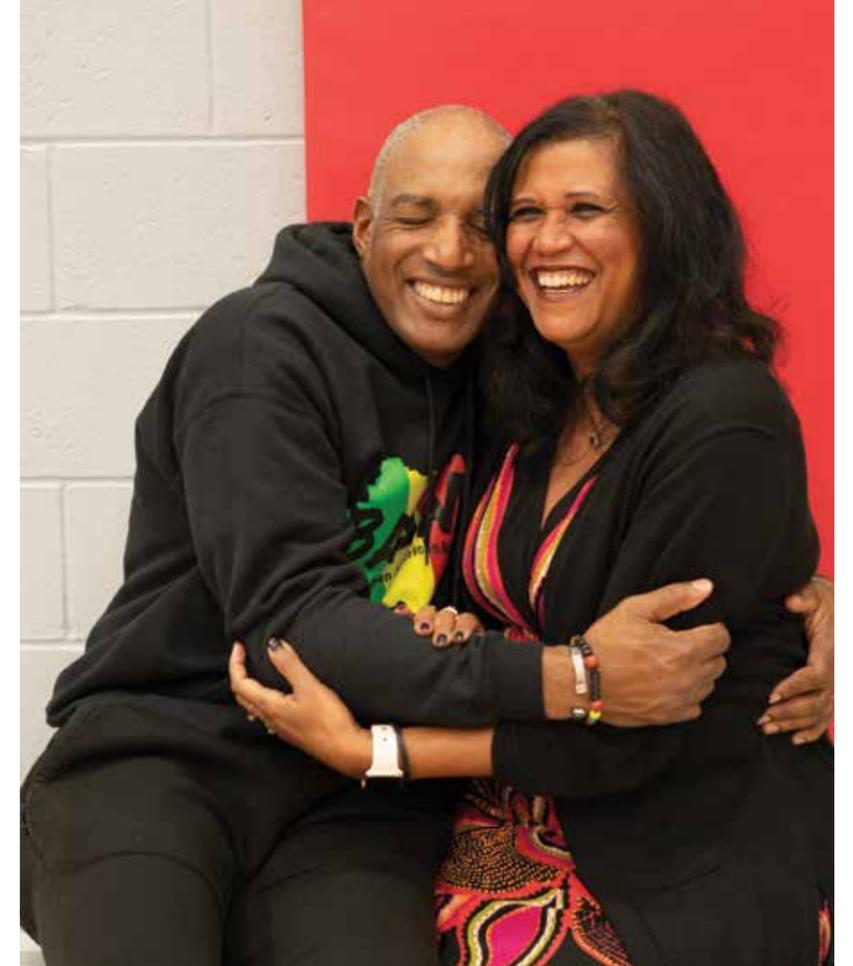
Daly then remembered his father. "He was the great communicator. He was able to get things done by talking with people. Watching that became the root of me — it was implanted. He modeled the community role that I needed to get this project done."

During this same time, Daly had reached the financial goal he set for himself in college. But his reaction was different than he thought it would be.

"Even though I reached my financial goal, the material things weren't making me happy," he said.

"I also realized that if I was going to take BAAM to another level, I needed to be spiritually involved. God asked me to step up and step out. I was baptized and re-committed my life to Him."

Three years after purchasing a property, on December 14, 2019, BAAM opened the doors of its new facility at 31 Jowite Street to the community. The



organization had raised the \$3.5 million needed for its new building — and when the building opened it was fully paid for by private donations. The new BAAM Athletic Center has two purposes — to attract middle and high school students to stay engaged in the program and to engage their families.

"BAAM started with boys in first grade and we had a plan to follow them all the way through to their first jobs," Daly said. Now, we are caring for the boys, as well as their families."

Since its opening in December 2019, BAAM's Athletic Center has gained 300 community "members" who are utilizing all types of services. "We are using this building to help people find jobs and to further their education," he said. "We hope to have Chesapeake College classes offered here in the not too distant future and we will be allowing the Census to operate here."

But Daly's dream was not over. In 2019, he and his family and some friends started Polaris Village Ministries, a village of support for people who want to find their purpose in life and optimize their potential through biblical principles.

He smiles, "This building exudes light and safety and new people are coming through the door every day." ☺

Derick and his wife, Dina, hug after not seeing each other for a day. The couple is committed to BAAM, the organization they founded in 2005.

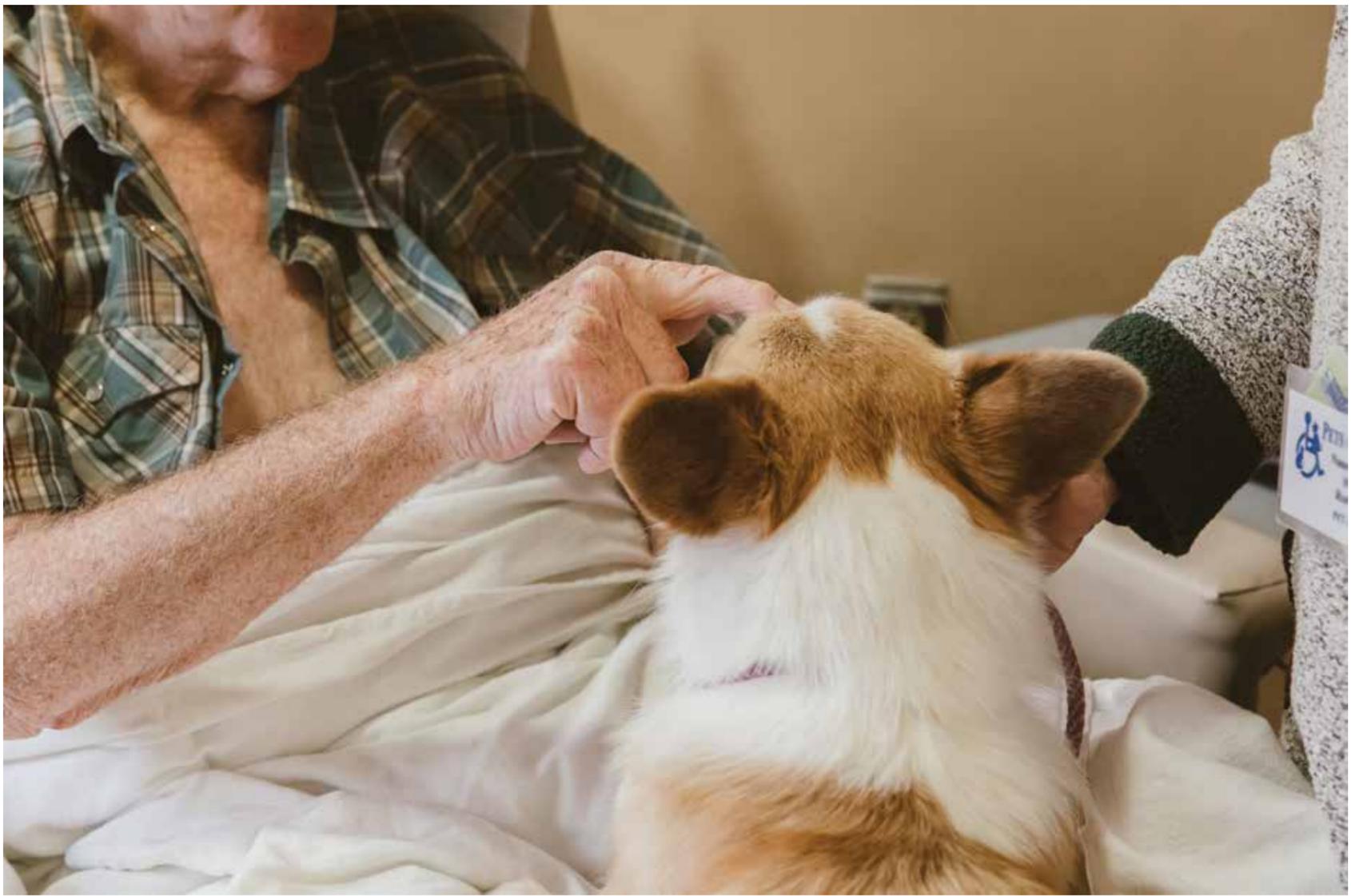
KATE THE GREAT

Award-winning Corgi with Pets on Wheels encourages cancer patients

BY MANNING LEE | PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS



Nancy Matthews and her Corgi, Kate, walk down the hallway at the Cancer Center at University of Maryland Shore Regional Health to visit patients receiving chemotherapy. Opposite: Kate snuggles on a gentleman's lap who is receiving his chemotherapy treatment.





Leigh Mingos, a registered nurse at the Cancer Center, gives therapy dog, Kate, a much-anticipated jellybean during her visit.

We enter into the Infusion Center at the Cancer Center at University of Maryland Shore Regional Health together one afternoon. It's Kate, her handler Nancy Matthews, a fellow Pets on Wheels volunteer Ruth Renkenberger, and I. Affectionately called "Kate the Great," a four-year-old Pembroke Welsh Corgi Grand Champion Bronze leads the way.

All that's missing are the paparazzi and camera flashes as she enters. Kate is clearly a star.

The staff recognizes her and stops what they're doing to greet her. Kate recognizes them, too. She is calm, engaged, and focused. She knows she's got work to do.

A staff member reaches into the cabinet and pulls out a pack of Jelly Bellies. Kate waits for a piece of jellybean with her ears at attention, sitting tall. It's definitely part of her routine.

Next, Kate greets a woman in a chair with tubes attached to her arm

receiving a chemotherapy infusion. Before I know it and at the woman's request, Nancy hoists Kate into the woman's lap and rewards the compliant Corgi with a second piece of jellybean. Satisfied, Kate gets comfortable in her charge's lap. The woman warmly strokes Kate's back and tells Nancy stories about her last three dogs. During that time, no one mentions chemotherapy — or cancer.

With a quick Corgi waddle down the hallway, we reach the radiation therapy waiting room. Kate finds a friend who Nancy recognizes and sits down beside. They've met here before. The woman is waiting for her husband who is being treated nearby.

She leans over, now face to face with Kate the Great. She speaks in her "dog voice" and scratches her behind the ears. Kate, her eyes fixed upon the woman, smiles with her Corgi grin.

"We are waiting until he gets well," the waiting room woman says of her husband. "Then we're getting a dog. We're definitely dog people."

She's still petting Kate. "Dogs are so great because they speak human," she says. "Without talking, they're talking. I can always tell what they're saying."

Finished with his treatment, the man enters the room. It's noticeable, the toll cancer has taken on him. It's also taken one on her.

This daily visit is simple. As a visitor from Pets on Wheels, Kate's Corgi charms cannot heal, but they can bring hope — and a meaningful distraction from the harsh realities of cancer. The pup also provides an easy icebreaker, making conversation automatic. Kate allows Nancy chance to share a nugget of hope and encouragement.

Nancy is a breeder from Cordova who's bred Corgis for 25 years. She's an AKC Breeder of Merit, with champions in the show ring among her breeding accomplishments. Health and temperament are important to



Kate sits at attention waiting for her cue to visit a patient.

her, as is adhering to her impeccably high written standards. As a member of the PWCCA, she signs a Code of Ethics every year.

She's had a number of Corgis before Kate, but two very special dogs in her life were Rosy and Cora. "Cora was very accomplished in the show ring just as Kate is," she said. "She won at all breed and specialty shows and had obedience and rally titles and nose work trials. She was a Grand Champion Bronze who also

showed at Madison Square Garden. Rosy, besides being a therapy dog, participated in rally, obedience and nose work," says Nancy. They were well rounded, setting therapeutic and behavioral standards for Kate.

Officially, Kate the Great's registered name is GChB Coventry Reach For The Stars, CGC, THDA. "I want my dogs to have titles in the front of their names as well as in the back of their names. I want them to be good citizens because the breed has

so much to give. That's why I want Kate to be a therapy dog with Pets on Wheels," says Nancy.

Nancy lost her husband in 2000. Less than a year later, she herself was diagnosed with cancer. "I was angry. I regretted it and wanted a do-over. Now, I count it a privilege to help cancer patients," says Nancy.

"Kate's my dog, and when I see other people react to her in a positive way, it makes me feel good."



Kate and Nancy patiently waiting to visit patients at the Cancer Center.

Both Nancy and Ruth volunteer for the auxiliary also at the Cancer Center. They spend their time helping patients get from one place to the next within its many halls and rooms. Sometimes, patients open up — but sometimes it's their caregivers who need a little encouragement. Radiation patients' schedules are grueling, with treatment daily for weeks on end. They are in the fight of their lives and appreciate encouragement from people with or without their pets.

Ruth recalls what it was like losing both her husband and daughter to cancer. "Wherever I went for their treatments, everyone was so kind. That's another reason why I give back — I remember how it felt."

Pets on Wheels of Delmarva, Inc. is a group of volunteer teams, pets, and handlers. Started in 1993, they visit nursing and assisted living homes, homes for the disabled, and schools. Talbot County now has 17

active dogs and has a total of 170 volunteers in all of Delmarva.

"We get requests to visit new places. Currently, we don't have enough teams to fill visitation needs. We're looking to recruit new volunteer teams. Not all pets are well-suited friends, but we have a thorough screening process," says Ruth.

In addition to the Cancer Center, Talbot County Pets on Wheels also visits elementary schools, Candle Light Cove, and The Pines in Easton. "When we go into the schools, our teams visit first and second graders who are learning to read," says Ruth.

"Each class gets its own dog and the children take turns reading. They really feel they can relate and talk to it. It's nice to see the children so engrossed in their dogs. It's been proven that reading to the dogs really helps the children learn to read because the dogs are non-judgmental and never correct mistakes. We also have dogs that visit special

education classes. We see a big difference with the kids in the special education classes that you don't get from the other kids. That's exciting for the handlers to witness."

While "Kate the Great" is thought of as a friendly visitor, what happens each time she enters the room at the Cancer Center provides so much more. The valuable interaction she encourages with patients begs the question: Does Kate need us, or do we need Kate? Perhaps it's a little bit of both.

Whether they're at the Cancer Center or any number of places throughout the Delmarva region, the Pets on Wheels dogs walk right in and lighten the mood. Dogs have an innate ability to take people off their guards. They encourage our vulnerability with one another and help us temporarily forget our troubles.

For more information about Pets on Wheels please visit, www.petsonwheelsofdelmarvainc.org.

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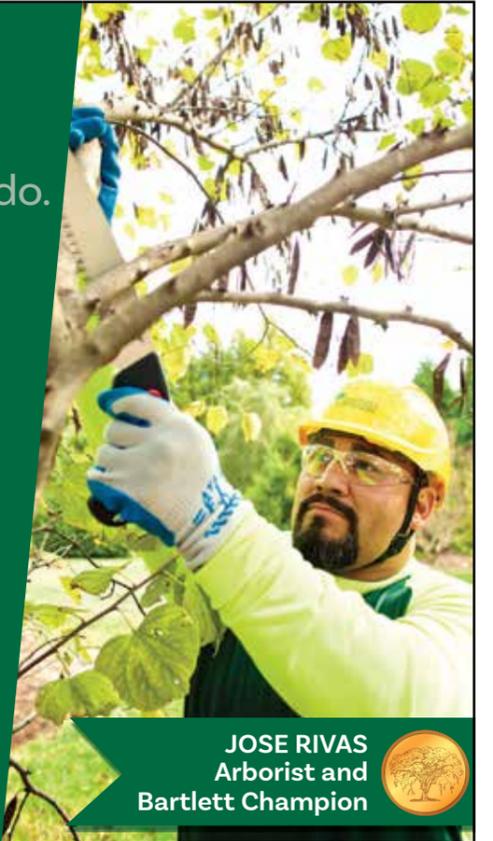
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PETS AT WORK

St. Michaels shop owner gives a local perspective of the benefits in bringing pets to work

BY MANNING LEE

PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS



Left: Buster Brown greets a customer at the St. Michaels Pet Supplies shop, pictured above.

Something Mary Jane Nagel, owner of St. Michaels Pet Supplies, has known for years is that bringing pets to work may actually be a terrific idea. Nagel brings her poodle mix rescue dog, Buster Brown, to work every day.

“People love him and sometimes come in only to visit with Buster,” she said. “When the school bus comes in the afternoon, a couple of the kids come right over to see him and say hello. I have some customers who come in only a couple of times a year from Pennsylvania and from a few other places too. As soon as they walk in the door, they want to know if Buster’s here. He’s on our Facebook page and on our website. We post pictures. People know him and come in just to talk to him.”

Sometimes, the pup acts as a model. “When customers wonder if clothes will fit a dog or not and they are close to Buster’s size, he models for us. We also use him to demonstrate how to use

equipment like muzzles or leashes. So, it’s like he’s the star of the store,” said Nagel. Buster Brown’s presence communicates the friendly demeanor of the shop. Buster Brown helps turn shoppers into repeat customers.

Whether in a small-town store or corporations in large cities, workplace stress contributes to production problems, lowered morale, and even burnout. Companies interested in encouraging their employees’ well being look for low cost, effective solutions to improve stress levels and productivity.

Dog lovers already know that pets at work make us happy, but do they help reduce work stressors, too? Now there’s science to catch up with the craze.

In 2012, a Virginia Commonwealth University study under the guidance of business school professor Randolph T. Baker took a deeper look inside a company called Replacements Limited in Greensboro, North Carolina. The



.....
 Above left: Buster Brown accompanies shop owner Mary Jane Nagel to work each day and sits in his bed behind the counter until a customer arrives. Left: Buster Brown kindly welcomes customers into the shop.

operation employed 450 people and typically allowed between 20 to 30 dogs in their office.

During the week of the study, participants either worked with or without dogs and completed surveys and gave saliva samples measuring the stress hormone cortisol at certain times of the day. Although researchers found no difference in cortisol levels among the participants, employees who worked with dogs reported that their stress levels declined in afternoon. During the same time, stress reportedly increased for participants in the study who had no pets at work.

The researchers also discovered that the dog-related interactions contributed to reduced stress and happiness. Participants without dogs requested to take dogs on breaks that included exercise.

“Buster Brown and I usually go on a walk of about a mile and a half in the mornings,” Nagel said. “Once he gets back from his walk, we play fetch for a while — only he doesn’t really ever bring the toy back — then he settles in his bed.” That kind of exercise makes the day go faster and everyone feels better.

A December 2018 article in *Business Insider* reports that office pets “not only help lower stress levels but may also boost productivity levels. Marie-Jose Enders of Open University in London who studies how animals and humans interact said, ‘Not only does your cortisol level drop when you pet a dog; you also produce more of the hormone oxytocin, which makes you feel more relaxed and happy.’”

Although the study merely scratches the surface, perhaps employers are coming around to what pet and shop owners like Mary Jane Nagel have known all along. Having our pets at work just makes being at work better. ●

The study was supported by the VCU Center on Human-Animal Interaction. A copy of this study is available by contacting the journal at communications@emeraldinsight.com.

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TO HIS OWN BEAT

Jordon Stanley's artistic expression lives in rhythm — and that's what ties his music and writing together to make his life's work.

BY KRISTINA GADDY
PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS



Jordon Stanley, an in-demand drummer for musicians and groups as varied as gospel, pop, jazz, and indie rock

As an in-demand drummer across the Eastern Shore, he's played with musicians and bands as varied as gospel singer Princess Lee, singer-songwriter Kentavious Jones, dream pop band Del Florida, indie-rock band Heartside, and the Front Porch Orchestra's *Bluegrass Nutcracker*, always providing the steady backing the bands need. And although currently separate from his musical life, his written work is

grounded in meter and pulse, whether it is poetry or prose.

Stanley's love of music and words started when he was growing up in Preston. Around nine years old, he had the opportunity to start an instrument at school. Inspired by his father's love of jazz, he first wanted to play the saxophone. He quickly learned that he lacked the embouchure for getting the sound out of the saxophone's reed, so

Stanley settled on the flute.

After a year of playing the flute, when he was about ten, everything changed for Stanley. His mother took him to see the movie *Drumline*.

The film follows Devon Miles, played by actor Nick Cannon, as he morphs from a drummer in Harlem to the member of a highly respected marching band at a college in the south. On the big screen, the precise rhythms

and high energy of the drumline drew Stanley in. He couldn't hide his enthusiasm.

After the movie was over, he remembers his mother turning to him to say, "You probably want to play the drums now, right?"

He did, and his parents supported the idea.

Stanley immediately switched to the percussion section of band, where

he started with just a snare drum. As a drum teacher today, the percussionists know that parents can have a hard time encouraging young drummers. Kids enjoy beating out rhythms on almost anything they can find, which is different from committing to learning an instrument.

After a few weeks, Stanley remembers his father asking him, "If I buy you a drum set, will you stick with it?"



Above: The rhythm of words has captivated Stanley since his middle school days. In 2019, he published his debut collection of poetry.

He said he would, and he did. As an adult, he appreciates that his dad wanted him to be serious about the instrument.

Stanley started playing with the band at his Methodist church during worship services because they didn't have a percussionist. They also didn't have a drum set, which meant that every Sunday, he and his father would haul the drums back and forth from church.

The church became a special place for Stanley to share his talent.

"That's really where I got my start," he said.

Intent on keeping his promise, the percussionist kept at it through middle and high school, and then entered the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as a music major.

At UMES, his second rhythmic love re-entered his life.

In middle school, Stanley had become interested in the percussion of words. "I had a group of friends that really liked hip hop and rap," he says. "We'd write rhymes instead of doing classwork, then read them to each other at lunch."

It was the first time he realized that he liked what words could do. They could make people think, and "make people say hmm and ah." But growing up in Preston, Stanley felt hip-hop and rap were from a different place, and he didn't feel like he could adequately identify with it. He stopped writing rhymes.

In college, he saw a video of people doing spoken word poetry, and Stanley says he "fell in love" with words again. He saw that hip hop and rap and his love of words could be expressed in myriad ways, from writing his own poems to simply reciting poetry from memory. He started writing poems and performing them at church events, open mics, and weddings.

For Stanley, poetry pairs with his career as a drummer, and reflects who he is and his background. In his debut collection, *Poems from a Poem* published in 2019 by Salt Water Media, his faith is unmistakable. He writes in his forward,

"Who I am as a person, the depth of what I have to offer as a human being, the very essence of who I am is meant to be appreciated and effective for good."

He also uses his own interpretation of Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's own poem, recreated in Christ Jesus that we may do those good works which God predestined for us, that we should walk in them." He says that his poems are about things that have happened to him, grounded in his experience growing up and living on the Eastern Shore, and he hopes his experiences can be helpful to someone else.

His poetry also reflects his goals for his own musical career. His poem "Butterfly" begins:

*I've heard butterflies speak;
I've seen butterflies live.*

*They taught me that cocoons are
as temporary as they want to be.*

Just give it time, stay a while.

*But contain the consistency of
the sun when you come out.*

Wherever you're welcomed, fly.

As a drummer, Stanley has welcomed a variety of opportunities that come his way. In the last half-decade, he's played with bands that range from jazz to indie rock to bluegrass to pop, and he's played on gospel and singer-songwriter albums. The genre doesn't really matter to him.

"It's more about having fun and doing something challenging," he says.

In the coming year, he's planning to break out of the cocoon of backing up other people and bands.

"I've played on a lot of records and helped people release their music," he says. "And I feel like I want to do that now, put something into the world."

Stanley lights up when he talks about potentially pairing his music and poetry together in an album of spoken word poetry or writing more song lyrics. In addition to the support he's received from his family throughout his life, he's happy that he has friends and musicians in and around Easton who want to see his creative pursuits succeed. ●



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QUEEN AMELIA POND

Mail-order chick is now Easton's resident goose royalty

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS
PHOTOS BY LAURA OLSON

Easton's Amelia Pond arrived to the Eastern Shore as a mail-order chick nearly a decade ago, and has grown to carry herself as a queen, gaining loyal fans and followers along the way. She even has her own Facebook page, and gained notoriety with a photo of her posted to the People of Walmart website.

You may have seen Amelia during her days sauntering in Easton's Holiday Parade, or today while she's strutting along Rails to Trails, or socializing like royalty at Easton's Farmer's Market with her family — the Olson's. Hues of apricot surround her face like a soft, feather boa — complementing her sassy, sweet, and sophisticated style.

Amelia Pond is an American Buff goose, purchased with a penchant for wild things. The breed developed in the United States and comes from the wild Greylag goose, with hens known for being great egg layers and docile pets. They live to be around 20 years of age and are too heavy to fly far. Amelia began living inside and now



This page: Amelia Pond takes a stroll on the Rails to Trails. Opposite page, clockwise, from upper left: Amelia is unfazed by the two dogs she encountered on a walk; She is a willing model for fashionable duck wear and a cozy couch blanket wrap; and Chris Giddy watches as his son, Cohen, follows Amelia on a dock with a toddler's curiosity.

is the happiest living outside, as part of a flock.

Amelia's family says at times, she can be stubborn and sneaky, working her queen-like ways to have things done on her terms. However, Amelia is most known for mothering every living creature she meets. (Including this author, whom Amelia wouldn't leave the curb without to cross the street.)

"Mother Goose is a goose for a reason," says Laura Olson, who along with her husband — and the help of Amelia — has raised and homeschooled four children. Their youngest child is now nearing adulthood. "She'll sit on anyone's eggs, including the ducks that she's raised, and gets very upset if any of her eggs are taken. Amelia really thinks everyone is hers to mother."

Hunter, Hannah, Analisa, and Evangelyn — along with their parents — raised Amelia from the time she was a little chick. Laura says she arrived by mail from Washington State and came as a way to provide more challenges to the children's lessons during their homeschooling days. Big fans of the television show Doctor Who, the children named Amelia after the curious and courageous young fictional character in the British science fiction series.

The challenges paid off. Laura and Eric's children all have a deep love of animals, nature, and humanity. Hunter earned a degree in biology and wants to continue his education to become a physician's assistant. Hannah is just beginning nursing school and wants to be a NICU nurse or further her medical education. Analisa is also interested in the medical field, and Evangelyn — the youngest — is currently interested in nature and mission work.

Hannah says Amelia's greatest lessons to her have been to value life, even in the smallest of things.

Now a full-grown goose, Amelia assumes the role of large and in charge,

living in a pond in the backyard, and minding a collection of ducks, chickens, rabbits, and other animals that make up her family. Laura says she gets especially upset if any in her flock are, what we'll call, making out in the pond.

"She's an excellent watchdog," continued Laura. "Amelia's honking has protected the animals from a hawk attack, and she helps keep the neighborhood safe from any harm."

Which is part of why — along with

her charming personality — all the neighbors love Amelia Pond. As she would have it, of course.

Amelia once received a special award created just for her in a Talbot Humane Society Bark in the Park dog trick contest, spreading her massive wings and strutting her stuff until crowned the queen. Befitting for a life lived on her terms. ●





An osprey family nesting on our shores

FIRST WINGS OF SPRING

BY MARY HELEN GILLEN
PHOTO BY RON KETTER

Ospreys are one of the quintessential animals of the Chesapeake Bay, as intrinsically tied to the region's ecosystem as the blue crab or the Diamondback Terrapin. Each March, around St. Patrick's Day, they return to the bay from their winter migratory grounds in Central and South America. Listen for their familiar chirps and whistles, signifying the coming of spring. At local nature preserves such as Easton's Pickering Creek Audubon Center, they can be

frequently seen hunting for fish in the waterways that border the property.

Colloquially known as the "fish hawk," this raptor is unique among North American birds of prey for feeding almost exclusively on fish; they routinely average over 50 percent success on dives, a success rate that would make any angler jealous.

In late March through May, keep an eye out for individual osprey carrying bundles of sticks to nesting sites, which can include man-made structures such as telephone poles and nesting platforms. These large stick nests are hard to miss. Osprey return to the same nesting site year after year; after multiple generations, the nest can approach six feet in diameter and be up to twelve feet deep!

Ospreys are a conservation success story as their population has rebounded from a decline during the mid-twentieth century following the ban of some heavy pesticides that were poisoning the birds and thinning their eggshells. Today, Ospreys face new threats, including a proposed loss of protections under the United States' Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Under the newly proposed rule change, the MBTA will no longer hold responsible groups accountable for the accidental but foreseeable killing of birds through industrial activities.

Many of us on Maryland's Eastern Shore are fortunate enough to mark the changing of the season with the arrival of ospreys over our creeks and rivers. If interested, visit www.audubon.org/takeaction to champion strong MBTA protections. As March and April approach, keep an eye out for spectacular dives over the water, signaling warmer weather and longer days just around the corner. ●

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"Mack is a three-year old male German Shorthaired Pointer who grew up on the Choptank River. He has all the energy of every other dog I've owned combined and enjoys using it swimming in the river. He also enjoys kayaking and chasing off every bird that comes close to the yard." – Bill Whaley

The image was taken in Secretary on Greenpoint Road. The background is the Choptank River.

Check out our website www.shoremonthly.com to see who made the top 10 pet photos.



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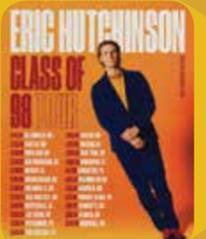
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