

STHORE

NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER
2021

THE ARTS ISSUE!

ON THE COVER:
Betty Huang, owner
of Studio B Gallery
in downtown
Easton, displays
Waterfowl Festival
artwork by Sandy
Alanko of the
Working Artists
Forum, of which
Betty is president.



Special
**Waterfowl Festival
Retrospective
Inside!**

Painter
Nancy
Tankersley

Talbot Arts
Is Movin'
and
Shakin'

Dancer
Erinne
Lewis

Tred Avon
Players
Present
Gatsby

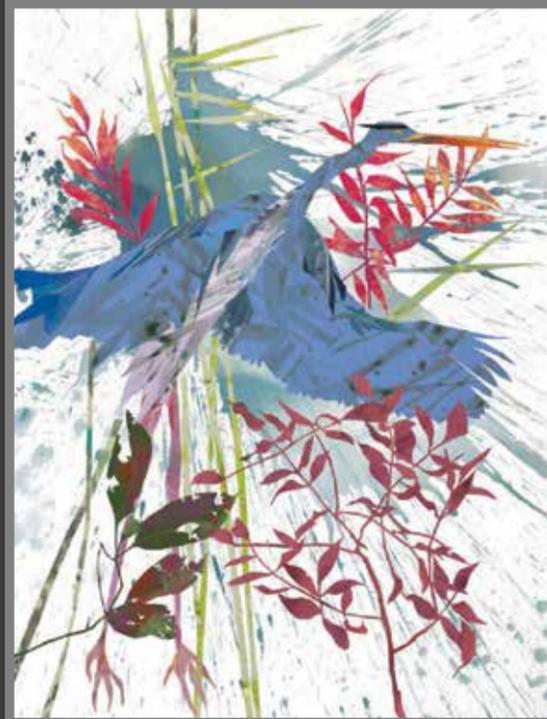
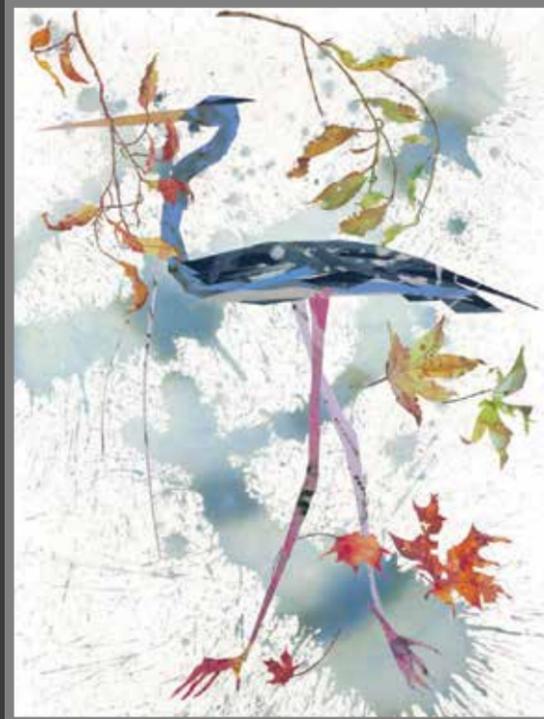
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NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

(features)

31

WATERFOWL FESTIVAL

Art, hunting, and conservation collided 50 years ago to create a festival like no other

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

38

A FRESH NEW VIBE

Talbot Arts is movin' and shakin'

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

44

NANCY'S NEW DIGS

Easton's Arts & Entertainment District offers artists live/work space options

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

50

TAP IS BACK!

The Tred Avon Players kicks off the season with a challenging rendition of *The Great Gatsby*

BY DEBRA R. MESSICK

CONTENTS

PAGE 44

Nancy Tankersley
in her new studio

PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

CONTENTS

(departments)

3 EDITORS' NOTE & MASTHEAD

SHORE TIME

- 11 Festival of Trees,
- 12 Beachcombing Center
- 14 Centreville holidays

16
ART BEAT
PASSIONATE PURSUITS
An artist reaches well beyond her easel
BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

21
ATMOSPHERE
DANCIN' IN THE STREET
Easton native choreographs new possibilities for Mid-Shore youth
BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

24
SHOP TALK
MUSIC AND ART
A Chestertown couple's love for each other fuels their creative passions
BY NIAMBI DAVIS

ON THE COVER
Easton artist Betty Huang in her Studio B Gallery; photo by Stephen Walker

56
TASTE BUDS
SPRINKLES OF MAGIC
Adding artistry to delectable desserts
BY NIAMBI DAVIS

60
SHORE PROFILE
CREATIVE PASTA-BILITIES
An Easton couple shares a life filled with art and cooking
BY REEN WATERMAN

64
BOOK ARTS
DUST JACKETS
Taking book collecting to a new level
BY MANNING LEE



PAGE 21
Choreographer Erinne Lewis in front of the Tidewater inn

PHOTO BY RANDY BACHAND

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EDITORS' NOTE

Over the last two years, the Shore Magazine team has sought to engage and inspire its readers to learn about the Mid-Shore's people, places, and lifestyle. We have introduced you to some real characters, uncovered hidden gems in our towns and villages, and showcased a lifestyle that continues to lure new residents who soon realize the value of this very special place we call home.

In this issue, we have chosen to feature "the arts" on the Shore — one of the qualities of life here that attract visitors and residents alike. Art is the fabric of our Shore communities — with new artists moving here every day to live and work.

Two annual events — the Waterfowl Festival in November and the Plein Air Easton event every July are two of the reasons people who love the arts visit the Mid-Shore. In this issue, we pay special homage to the Waterfowl Festival — taking a look back on how art, hunting, and conservation collided to create this unique fall weekend 50 years ago. We also explore Easton's new Arts & Entertainment District and get up close and personal with two local Easton artists, Nancy Tankersley and Betty Huang, who are helping to promote the local arts scene here.

You will also meet Constance and Rosario Del Nero, who are combining their talents in art education and food to inspire art and food lovers of all ages to engage in their creativity. Dancer Erinne Lewis is "choreographing" a new life for Mid-Shore youth dancers. Learn how love brought



Maire McArdle and Amelia Blades Steward

together the owners of Tish Fine Art Plus Gallery in Chestertown and how the owner of Vintage Books & Fine Art helps collectors find used, rare and antiquarian books on scholarly topics, antique maps, historic documents and newspapers, and even fine art by Eastern Shore artists.

Talbot Hospice's Festival of Trees and Carols by Candlelight in Easton and the annual Heck With the Malls at the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts in Centreville are sure to get you into the holiday spirit. The newly opened "Beach Bank" on Tilghman Island is a great weekend jaunt to learn about the region's most unusual beach finds, while shopping for some great holiday gifts for family or friends.

As we close out 2021, we are sad to say goodbye to our talented Art Director Maire McArdle, who is retiring to enjoy the "next chapter" of her creative life. She has elevated our magazine to star quality with her design, art direction, and photographs. She will be sorely missed by all who love her.

Thanks for being part of the journey with us these last two years. We look forward to new and exciting things for the magazine in the new year, so stay tuned!

Wishing you peace for the holiday season,
Amelia Blades Steward,
Editor-in-Chief
Maire McArdle, Art Director



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UNDER CONTRACT



11471 Augustine Herman Hwy., Kennedyville, MD

Horizon Organic Dairy has been certified organic since 1998. The farm consists of 3 parcels totaling 467+/- acres. There is an 864+/- square foot home on the largest parcel. The dairy farm offers a 120 X 4 free-stall barn with headlocks, sprinkler system, a 14 X 14 milking parlor with rapid exit, shop and 2 equipment sheds, one with radiant floor heat and solar panels, manure pit and manure separator, foot table, commodity sheds, 6 bunker silos, 3 earthen lagoons, 2 diesel generators, 4 wells, several ground testing wells, Heifer barn, maternity barn, some irrigation and a spring fed pond. **\$4,250,000 MDKE2000366**



9831 Breezcroft Lane, Chestertown, MD

Amazing property just ten minutes from Historic Chestertown, with panoramic views on coveted "Fairlee Creek"! Private dock with deep water slips, 6' +/- at high tide. Plumbing, electric and foam insulation approx. six years old. The kitchen has quartz countertops and an oversized island. There are two owner suites on the first floor and hardwood floors throughout the first floor. The upstairs has a loft bedroom with separate HVAC, private bath plus a large bonus room. A public boat ramp is located just one property away. **\$859,000 MDKE2000484**



21060 Spring Cove Rd. Rock Hall, MD

Spring Cove Manor! This 7.99+/-acre waterfront property is operated as a country inn with daily/weekly rentals. The main house, built in 1890+/-, offers 5 bedrooms each with baths and separate heating and cooling, a dining area, breakfast area, kitchen and a peaceful front porch. Has a cottage with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with an amazing view. Finally, there is a one bedroom, 1 bath flat with kitchen, bedroom and living room and a deck with water views located over the garage. **\$895,000 MDKE2000346**



315 Roosevelt Dr. Chestertown, MD

Cute rancher with wood floors throughout most of this home. Replacement windows and a family room addition make this an amazing value. Propane gas forced air heat and window a/c units to help heat and cool. Located near the end of a dead end street. Great backyard that backs to woods. Has a security system. Great community setting! **\$149,900 MDKE2000238**



21173 Chesapeake Ave, Rock Hall, MD

This home has been meticulously maintained in the heart of everything Rock Hall has to offer! This 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home has a 2 story entrance foyer and a large living room with cathedral ceiling, heat pump and mini-split systems for heating and cooling and it is move in ready!! A free standing propane stove will help take the chill off during the cooler months. There is a side deck for outdoor entertaining. Need storage?.....There is an interior storage/shop room and a large shed. Only a short distance to the harbor and restaurants! Watch the Rock Hall July 4th fireworks right from your deck next year!! **\$445,000 MDKE2000424**



11943 Augustine Herman Hwy, Kennedyville, MD

This Historic duplex in the quaint village of Kennedyville has a rich history. The John Kennedy House was built as a 'double house' somewhere prior to 1877. Was used as a rental property for many years and is currently registered with the Maryland Lead Poison Protection Program. One side of the duplex offers a heat pump for heating and cooling and the other side offers just oil heat. The main roof has been replaced recently however the porch roof needs attention. Public water and public sewer. Wood floors are throughout most of each unit. The outside is brick with a stucco finish. Could be a great income producing property! Live in one side and rent the other. **\$184,900 MDKE2000042**

AGENTS

- | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
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410-920-9435 | Vinny Assante Di Cupillo
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Let's face it, we all need a sanctuary from the hustle of daily life; a time to relax, restore and reconnect. Fall is the perfect time to escape to Kent County to sip locally-made spirits, savor roasted oysters near an open fire or find unique treasures at Main Street shops. We're open for you, as long as you're **OPEN FOR IT**

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KENT COUNTY
kentcounty.com/visitors

Photo credit: Christian Ciavaglia

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December 31 - Hat Parade & RockFish Drop
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Photo by Robert Buckheit

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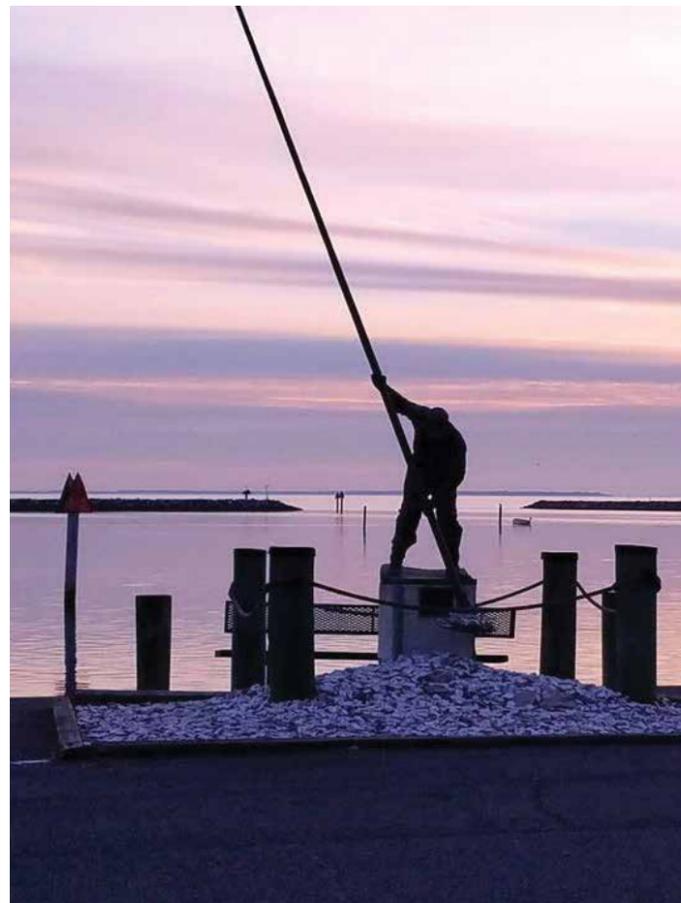
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Tish Fine Art Plus presents the **2nd Annual Fall into Chesapeake Country Show** from October 21 to November 14

Tish's annual fall plein air event is expanded this year to include Maryland's Cecil, Kent and Queen Anne's counties in a display of paintings by local, state and national artists featuring the autumn splendor of the Eastern Shore.

Also coming up at Tish, the **2nd Annual Silver and Gold Show** from November 18 to December 24. This fun show features art, crafts and apparel geared toward the holiday season which may or not actually be silver or gold! Whatever color it is, you can be sure to find that unique item at Tish.

Tish Fine Art Plus is a gallery offering paintings, sculpture, furniture, crafts and jewelry focusing on local artists and artisans for the beginning and experienced collector. For more info go to www.tishfineart.com

Tish Fine Art Plus
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11 am to 3 pm (Free)

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10 am to 4 pm

Outside Holiday Music
10 am to 4 pm

Letters to Santa
Kids can write letters for Santa and leave them in a box at the Bulkhead

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Most items in the room is 25 cents, they come in with a list and we have elves that will help them shop for family gifts and free gift wrapping. Sales benefit Rock Hall Parks and Rec

Gatling Guide Service will be on location to do dog retrieving demonstrations

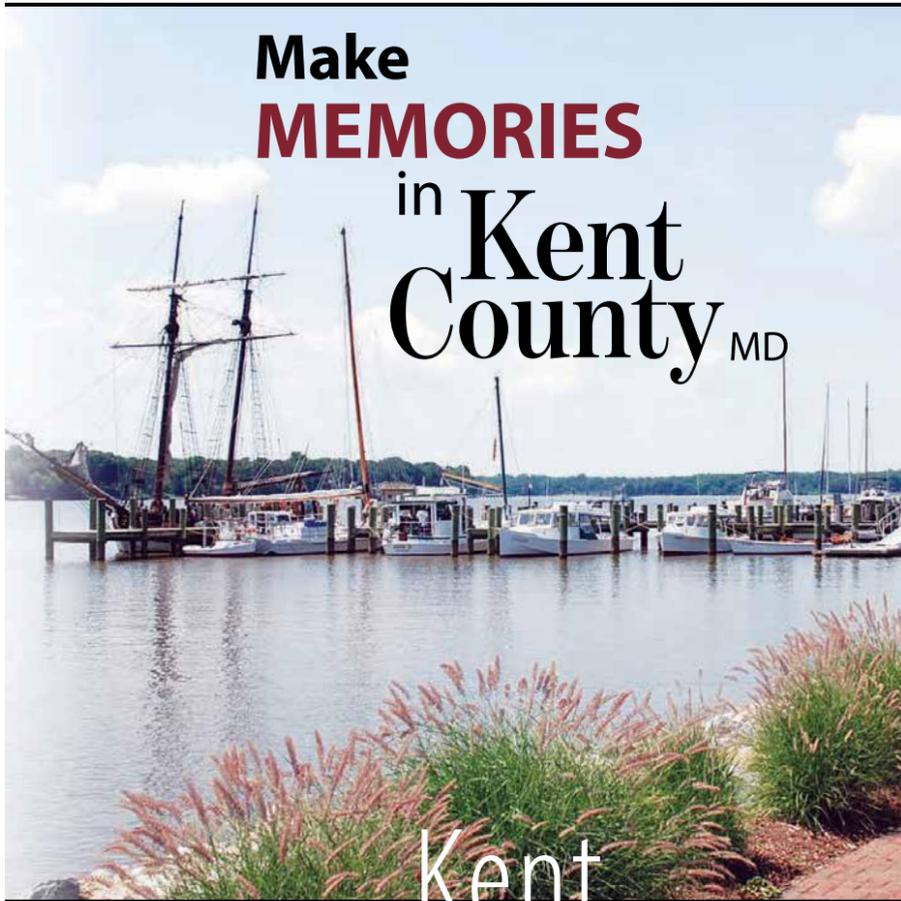
Harbor Shack will be open for lunch!

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A peek inside 2019's Festival of Trees in the Gold Ballroom at the Tidewater Inn

PHOTO BY TED MUELLER / COURTESY FESTIVAL OF TREES

A WINTER WONDERLAND OF TREES

Presented by Friends of Hospice to raise funds for Talbot Hospice, the festival offers 50 tabletop trees for sale, as well as a display of 50 beautifully decorated and locally-sponsored trees for the whole family to enjoy.

- Festival of Trees**
Saturday, Nov. 27, through Monday, Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adults \$10. Ages 5-12 \$5. Under age 5 free. See festival-of-trees.org or call 410-819-3378 for information.
- Carols by Candlelight**
This magical free festive holiday evening of Christmas carols, hot cocoa and cookies will take place outside on Harrison Street from 5 to 7 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27. The event begins with Santa lighting a beautiful 22-foot-tall Christmas tree from Maine. Twinkling holiday accessories will be for sale.
- Hospice Memorial Tree**
Patients under the care of Hospice in 2020 and 2021 will have their names displayed on two spectacular trees in the Gold Room during the Festival.
- Poinsettias**
Family and friends may remember a loved one by purchasing a beautiful poinsettia plant. A form can be found at festival-of-trees.org to order beautiful poinsettias and have a name listed on a large Festival Memory Scroll on display during the event. Plants may go home with you after the Festival.
- Santa's 5K Run**
Saturday, Dec. 11, from 9 to 11 a.m. in Easton's Idlewild Park. Runners and walkers of all ages are invited to participate. Register online starting in mid-October at festival-of-trees.org.

COMPILED BY HARRIET DOWNS-SLAUGHTER

A TREASURE TROVE

The Beachcombing Center

opened in September in The Beach Bank on Tilghman Island. Mary McCarthy, current president and executive director of The Beachcombing Center (which was founded in Maine as The Sea Glass Center in 2014 but never officially opened), is working with the center's board members Danielle Perreault, Kim Hannon, Kirsti Scott and Richard Lamotte on the museum's new location on the Eastern Shore. The group helped transfer The Sea Glass Center to Maryland and is seeking to expand the center's collection and educational mission to include coastal erosion and marine debris.

When searching for a new home for the center, McCarthy saw the 1915 bank building on Tilghman Island, formerly Crawford's Nautical Book Bank, and immediately fell in love. An author, journalist, reiki master and Chesapeake Bay beachcomber, McCarthy also currently serves as vice president of the Board of Directors of the North American Sea Glass Association. She has lectured, created educational exhibits, identified sea glass and judged contests at many sea glass and beachcombing conferences internationally. She also is the author with Kirsti Scott of a children's book, *I SEA, A Beachcombing Treasure Hunt*.

"We are collectors of history. The artifacts we find on shorelines are pieces of a larger whole both literally and figuratively," says Mary. "Each beach find tells a story and this building is a testament to a community of beachcombers who are dedicated to preserving the rich history and many stories that wash up on the disappearing coastlines around the world."



Below: Mary McCarthy is inside The Beachcombing Center on Tilghman Island



PHOTO BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD/BEACHCOMBING CENTER

The museum features international pieces, as well as local collections from the Chesapeake Bay, including indigenous tribal artifacts, shark teeth and fossils, seashells and shipwreck finds; a sea glass donation made by former first lady Barbara Bush; and a sample collection from the world-renowned collection of Nellie

Myrtle Pritchard from the beachcombing museum in the Outer Banks of North Carolina.

When's Low Tide is an ocean arts retail shop that offers accessories, apparel, bath and body products, books, home décor, candles, jewelry, stickers and stationery, and artwork. Sales proceeds benefit The Beachcombing Center.

Location:
The Beach Bank
5782 Tilghman Island Road
Tilghman, Md.

Hours:
Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
beachcombingcenter.org

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OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES

Take the whole family to experience the Kid's Fishing Derby, Retriever and Fly Fishing Demos. Watch in awe as the Birds of Prey take to the skies!

HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Kick-off the holiday shopping season at the Chesapeake Marketplace. You'll find gifts for everyone on your list—the art lover, the hunter, the fisherman and the gourmet! You can even find the perfect painting for your own collection from the artists of the Working Artists Forum.



EASTERN SHORE SPORTING AND HUNTING TRADITIONS

Buy Sell Swap Exhibit features decoys, Americana folk art and hunting memorabilia; the Harry M. Walsh Waterfowl Artifacts exhibit is a mini-museum tracing the unique history of waterfowling.

Browse the best in sporting gear and experiences and try out a waterfowl call at the Sportsman's Pavilion—perfect for outdoor enthusiasts.

WORLD WATERFOWL CALLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

The best callers travel to Easton from all over the world to compete in these "Super Bowl" contests.



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Tickets, event schedule and MORE at [WaterfowlFestival.org!](http://WaterfowlFestival.org)

Your visit and art purchases benefit waterfowl and wetland restoration and conservation efforts in the region.

Christmas in St. Michaels



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10

Marketplace

Noon - 3:00 pm **Granite Lodge St. Mary's Sq.**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11

Holiday Breakfast

7:30 - 10:00 am **St. Luke's Church, 304 South Talbot St.**

Breakfast with Santa

8:00 - 10:00 am **Foxy's Harbor Grille, 125 Mulberry St.**
Ages 4-9, \$10 per child
Reservations Required

Marketplace

9:00 am - 5:00 pm **Granite Lodge, St. Mary's Sq.**

Seasonal Music - Mid-Shore Community Band

10:00 am **Corner of Railroad Ave. and Talbot St.**
prior to the parade

Talbot Street Parade

10:30 am **Talbot St.** *One Mile Santa Dash*

Eastern Shore Dinner

11:00 am - 3:00 pm **Union United Methodist Church Parish Hall, 100 Fremont St. and Railroad Ave.**
\$20 per person

Tour of Homes

11:00 am - 5:00 pm Tickets Required
Advance: \$25 Event Weekend: \$30

Jackson Jubilee Singers

1:30 pm **Christ Church, 301 South Talbot St.**

Lighted Boat Parade

6:00 pm **St. Michaels Harbor**
Weather permitting - decision made on the day of the parade

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Marketplace

10:00 am - 3:00 pm **Granite Lodge, St. Mary's Sq.**

Tour of Homes

11:00 am - 5:00 pm Tickets Required
Advance: \$25 Event Weekend: \$30

For more details and to purchase tickets and ornaments, visit: christmasinstmichaels.org or call 410-745-0745

SHORE TIME



Shopping, caroling and so much more during Centreville's holiday events



HOLIDAY CHEER

at the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts

Heck with the Malls

After a year's hiatus due to COVID restrictions, the annual Heck With the Malls is back at the Queen Anne's County Centre for the Arts.

This annual event encourages holiday shoppers to say "heck with the malls" and shop for handmade gifts made by local and regional creators. These talented artisans include jewelry makers, oil and watercolor artists, photographers, woodworkers and ceramic artists, fiber and leather artists, as well as makers of handcrafted soap, coastal crafts, ornaments and home decor items.

When: Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville

Annual Christmas Concert

The annual Christmas Concert returns to the Centre for the Arts, featuring Centreville resident Stefan Scaggiari. Scaggiari is internationally known both as a classical and jazz piano performer. He has performed at the Monterey Jazz Festival, Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center and at the White House as a former member of the United States Marine Band. He was also director of music at the Annapolis landmark King of France Tavern.

When: Saturday, Dec. 18 from 7 to 9 p.m.

Where: 206 S. Commerce St., Centreville

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to Haven Ministries, an organization of Christian churches that offers housing assistance, clothing, food and support to Queen Anne's County residents whose lives are affected by poverty. For further information or tickets, call 410-758-2520 or email qacartscoordinator@gmail.com. COMPILED BY NIAMBI DAVIS

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Betty Huang in her Studio B Gallery with her painting "Blackwater Sunset"

(Betty Huang, Studio B Gallery)

PASSIONATE PURSUITS

This Easton artist reaches well beyond her easel

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS | PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE AND STEPHEN WALKER

Betty Huang's passion for beauty and art fills the air in her Studio B Gallery on Goldsborough Street in Easton as she warmly welcomes a couple dropping in before dinner during a recent First Friday Gallery Walk. Huang's gallery is one of the event's featured venues and includes the works of award-winning national and international artists, including those of master painter Jove Wang.

The couple chats with Huang while taking in the gallery's beautiful paintings and sculptures. Then they continue their downtown Easton walk after purchasing an original painting by Hiu Lai Chong, a Plein Air Easton grand-prize winner. Soft music plays in the gallery as Huang smiles enthusiastically each time visitors arrive, trailing a gentle breeze amid the sound of Canada geese honking as they fly by.

Huang says her enthusiasm is driven



PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

PHOTO BY MAIRE MCARDLE



COURTESY WORKING ARTISTS FORUM

Left photo: Members of the Working Artists Forum during Plein Air Easton 2021: Mary Ford, chair, Local Color; Denise Grant, vice-chair, Avalon Foundation Board; Hiu Lai Chong, judge; Carole Boggenmann-Pierson, award of excellence; Rhonda Ford, best in show; Nancy Thomas, award of excellence; Jim Rehak, award of excellence; and Betty Huang, president, Working Artists Forum. This photo: Betty Huang in her studio

by the joy she derives from art. She's also very passionate about supporting a growing community of organizations and artists working together and has served in leadership positions of the Working Artists Forum and Discover Easton to help promote the local arts scene.

Learning of Huang's 36-year career with the International Monetary Fund may impress those who meet her. But her superpower lies in how she translates her love and art using those diverse cultural experiences to influence every brushstroke and color palette created on her canvases.

"Now is my time to pursue my passion," says Huang, who retired from IMF's Washington, D.C., headquarters in 2006. She then moved to Easton in 2008 with her husband after spending time with family in Taiwan. She and her husband have now been married for more than 51 years.

Huang says her love of art began as a very young child and was influenced by her mother's passion for art. Huang developed her painting techniques at the Academy Art Museum shortly after arriving on the Shore. One of her Academy Art Museum teachers, Bobbie Seger, later sponsored her as a member of the juried Working Artists Forum, which she says she was very eager to join.

PHOTO BY MAIRE MCGARDLE



STUDIO B GALLERY

Betty Huang
7B Goldsborough St.
Easton, Md.
studioBartgallery.com
betty@studioBartgallery.com
443-988-1818

Today the Working Artists Forum includes more than 100 juried artists from throughout the Delmarva Peninsula as well as Annapolis and Virginia. Forum artists will be exhibiting at this year's Waterfowl Festival, which will be held from Nov. 12-14, following a successful "Local Color" Plein Air Easton exhibition in July.

Huang says she quickly became involved in the local art community after moving to Easton and began exhibiting with a group of other artists in a small location on Harrison Street. She housed her gallery and artwork in a few different downtown Easton storefronts before landing at her current Goldsborough Street location eight years ago.

Now Huang paints daily in her upstairs studio as light filters in from the skylights and throws shadows on every object and tool, stopping only when visitors arrive at the gallery. A note posted outside of Studio B Gallery's front door downstairs kindly asks visitors to ring the doorbell when the door is locked.

"I like to capture the light and emotion found in nature and pristine landscapes," Huang says. "Every place has a different light and its own beauty, which is represented by the works of art in my gallery and through that of the Working Artists Forum."

Huang says Working Artists Forum artists will be exhibiting at "A Small Gift of Art" at the Talbot County Free Library's Easton branch from Dec. 1 through 30. Small, framed original paintings will be for sale and proceeds will help support the library. Other upcoming exhibition locations include Annapolis's Quiet Waters Park, The Art League of Ocean City, and the "Local Color" exhibition of Plein Air Easton. More information is available at workingartistsforum.com.

MORE GALLERIES

TRIPPE GALLERY

In October 2013, the Trippe-Hilderbrandt Gallery opened in Easton but when partner watercolorist Don Hilderbrandt moved to the West coast, it became simply The Trippe Gallery in 2015.

Nanny Trippe represents 48 award-winning artists from Vancouver to Dublin to Easton, displaying all mediums from oils, watercolors, etching, printmaking, sculpture, and fine art photography.

During the Waterfowl Festival, there will be a book signing at the gallery for photographer Jay Fleming's new book "Island Life," and an exhibition of his photographs, plus "For the Birds" featuring avian paintings by Paula Waterman and Kevin Garber.

For the holidays, Nanny features exceptional small works of art that are perfect gifts and offers extended hours for convenience with a festive First Friday holiday party.

"My vision is to exhibit art that will appeal to all tastes and price points. I am discerning when it comes to the



PHOTO BY STEVE BUCHANAN/COURTESY NANNY TRIPPE

Nanny Trippe in her gallery

artists that I invite to exhibit in the gallery. Recently, I have launched a home/office curation service and I bring the art to you so you can see it in your space. I assist not only in art selection but the placement and professional hanging."

Trippe Gallery

23 N. Harrison St., Easton, Md.
410-310-8727
thetrippegallery.com
Monday-Thursday: 12 to 4:30 p.m.;
Friday: 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday: 11
a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays,
and Sundays by chance or appointment.
Open "First Fridays" in April to December.

TROIKA GALLERY



PHOTOS COURTESY TROIKA GALLERY

Laura Era in her gallery; painting by William Storck

Troika Gallery

9 S. Harrison St.
Easton, Md.
www.troikagallery.com
410-770-9190
Thursday-Monday
11 a.m. to 6 p.m., or by
appointment

The original "troika," which is the Russian word for a group of three people working together, were artists Laura Era, her mom, Dorothy Newland, and Jennifer Wharton. They opened their art space in the Talbottown shopping center in 1997. The moniker has stuck even though Laura is now the sole proprietor. "I am not going to change the name to 'Uno!'" she quips. Troika Gallery represents 35 classically-based artists in all mediums from watercolors to bronze sculptures. A lifelong painter and portrait artist, Laura is approached by inquiring artists multiple times a month to join her cadre of creatives. With the help of her gallery manager and collaborator, Peg Fitzgerald, Laura will ask new artists, "Do you think your work fits? Is your work better than the best work we have on display?" Laura's high standards are as clear as her gallery's tagline: "the finest of fine art."

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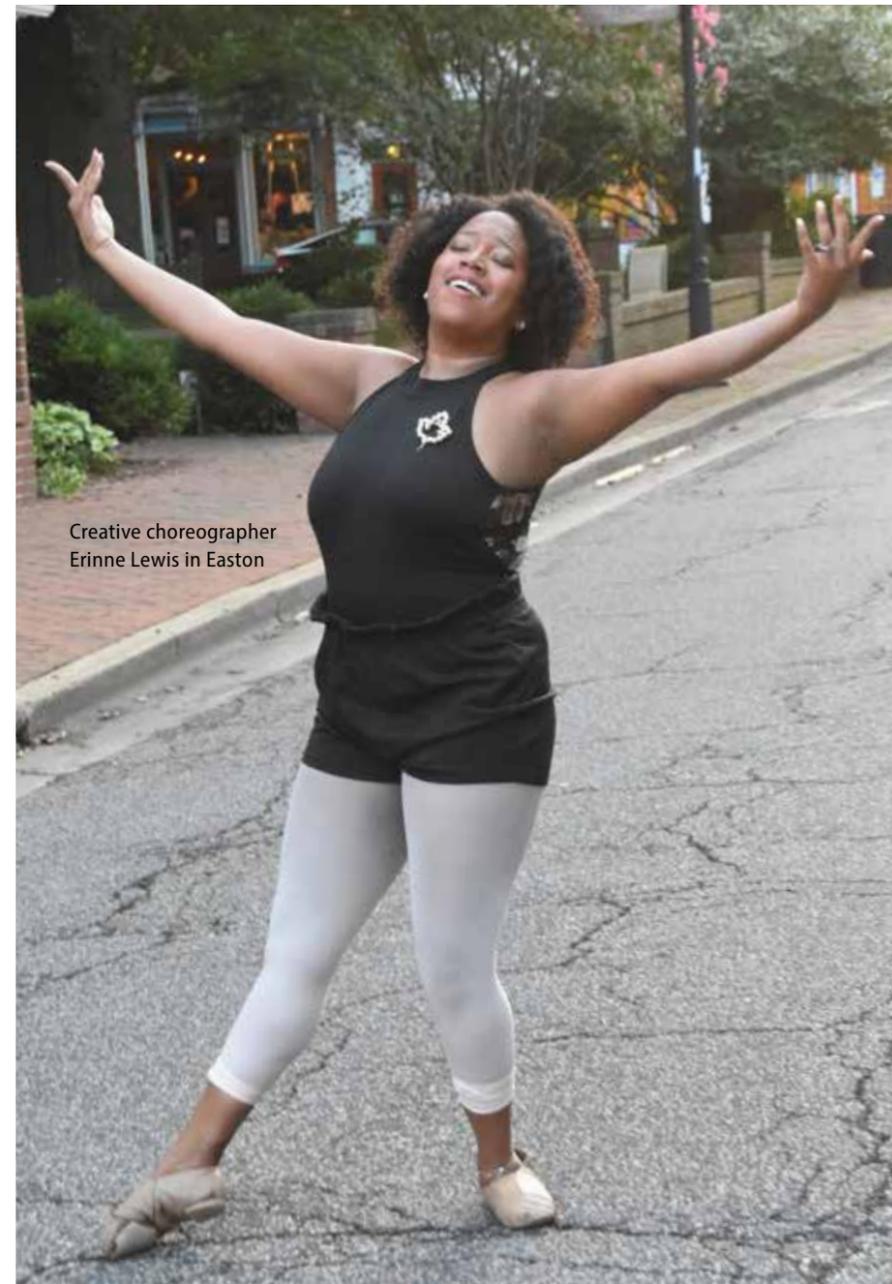
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Creative choreographer Erinne Lewis in Easton

PHOTO BY RANDY BACHAND

(Erinne Lewis)

DANCIN' IN THE STREET

Easton native choreographs new possibilities for Mid-Shore youth

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

ATMOSPHERE

When Erinne Lewis of Easton stepped on the stage for the first time as a child, she knew she could sing. What she didn't know then was that dancing and eventually, choreography would become the passions of her life. Lewis, now 32, has choreographed and performed with a variety of prestigious companies and troupes across Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., hoping to instill in the next generation the love that she shares for performing arts.

Lewis's foray into the performing arts began when she enrolled as a singer in the Avalon Theatre's Cricket Theater and Summer Fame productions in Easton.

"I didn't know I could dance. I liked to dance but didn't see myself as a dancer. It wasn't until Debbie Beasley of Dance Harrison Street also used me as a dancer in Summer Fame when I was in eighth grade that I realized I had a gift. She said to me, 'I want you to come dance for me because you are a star,'" Lewis recalls.

She says that opportunity had a tremendous impact on the rest of her life. She then received a scholarship to attend classes at Beasley's Dance Harrison Street for grades nine through 11 and later received a scholarship to Eastern Shore Dance Academy in Cambridge so she could dance in her senior year of high school. Lewis went on to attend Bowie State University. In 2011, she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in theatre arts with a concentration in musical theater and a minor in dance.

"I knew I wanted to be a musical theater major in college, but my senior thesis on Alvin Ailey's *Revelations* fueled my desires even more. I went to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater in New York City and danced and

ATMOSPHERE



Erinne Lewis and Mike Sousa rehearse for their dance scenes for *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, presented by the Groove Theatre Company in Cambridge.

PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

“I want to keep learning and I want to share my love of dance and expand that gift on a larger scale with my community.”

—Erinne Lewis

that someone who gave them a chance that might otherwise not be given,” Lewis says.

In 2013, Lewis came back to the Eastern Shore, where she began teaching at Mid Shore Dance Academy in Easton and teaching special needs children in Dorchester County. She later served as the arts curriculum coordinator for the Dorchester County Public Schools’ Summer S.T.E.A.M program.

Lewis says her passion for dance compels her to share her gifts and unique style with her community. This has included choreographing and performing with various companies and troupes, including Crashbox Theatre, Pure Gold Dance Team and the Harriet Tubman Performing Arts Center, and most recently the Talbot County Public Schools’ musical theater productions, Tred Avon Players in Oxford, and The Groove Theatre Company in Cambridge. She also worked with For All Seasons’ “Heart & Music,” and Kappa Theta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.’s “Pearls of The Eastern Shore.”

“To be able to be a musical theater performer, you need more than the ‘triple threat’ (a theater term for singing, dancing, and acting),” she quips. “You need that extra something special to set you apart from everyone else.”

“Even before I was a choreographer, I was able to grab the attention of an audience and get them interested in whatever I was doing,” she says. “Knowing what visually captivates an audience, I can take my experience as a performer and choreograph a piece with the same appeal, passion and respect when showcasing someone else’s work.”

As a former president of Continuum Dance Co., an inaugural member of Allegra! Women’s Choir, as well as a board member of the Talbot Arts, Lewis continuously strives to create original and intriguing opportunities for song, dance and performance on the Mid-Shore.

“I want to keep learning and I want to share my love of dance and expand that gift on a larger scale with my community,” she says. “To come back to Talbot County and help elevate the next generation so that they can exceed what I have done is a special gift and opportunity.”



Clockwise from above: Erinne Lewis with Elizabeth and Katie Doestch, post-recital 2019 at Todd Performing Arts Center; Hip Hop class; and Erinne with Natalie Haddock, during African dance class at Midshore Dance Academy



PHOTOS COURTESY ERINNE LEWIS

interviewed people continuing his work. We discussed how his piece, *Revelations*, a modern dance classic which pays homage to and reflects African-American cultural heritage, changed choreography forever,” she says.

Between 2008 and 2013, Lewis worked as an award-winning competition choreographer at C and N Dance Studio in Charles County, Maryland, and with Capital Kids in the Washington, D.C., metro area, a performing arts group for youth that spread the messages about anti-bullying, health and fitness, and self-confidence through television and touring.

“I wanted to help kids have the experiences I had as a child — to be

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(Tish Fine Art Plus Gallery)

MUSIC AND ART

A Chestertown couple's love for each other fuels their creative process

TEXT BY NIAMBI DAVIS | PHOTOS BY PAMELA L. COWART-RICKMAN

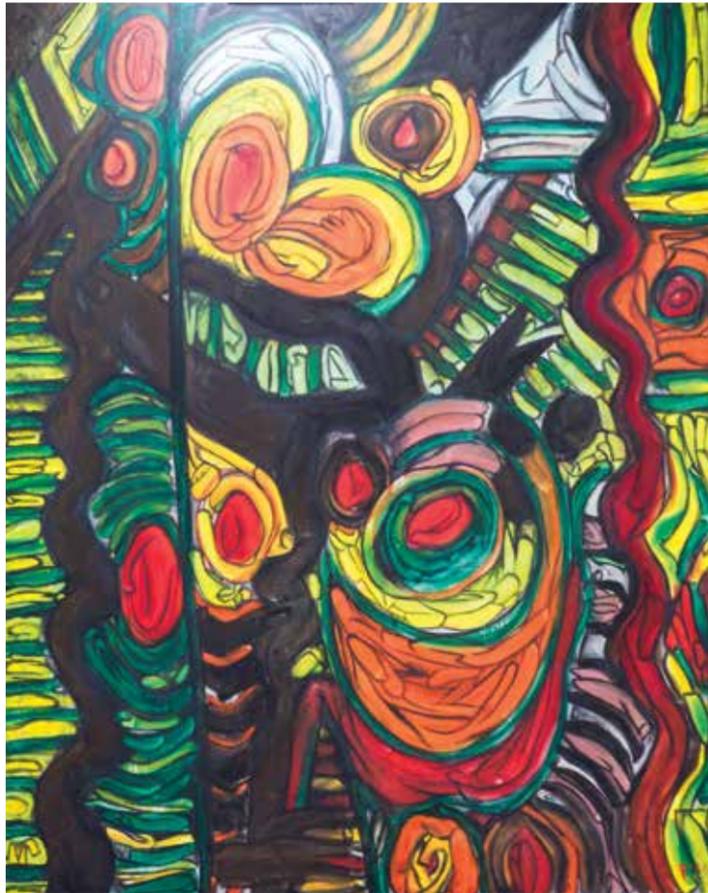
One night in October 2013, Inez Ware ran out of opponents while playing an online Scrabble game. This assistant vice principal at a high school in Chelmsford, England, was randomly matched with Paul Santori, an artist, singer and songwriter who lived in Virginia. Over time, and as she relaxed her “English reserve,” the pair exchanged email addresses and phone numbers. In 2014, Inez flew to Dulles Airport in Virginia to meet Paul. And the next year, in July 2015, the two married on a paddleboat in the Potomac River.

Fast forward to Jan. 2020. That’s when the couple, combining their passion for the arts, realized their vision of helping artists gain exposure by opening Tish Fine Art Plus on High Street in Chestertown. The gallery, which opened on Jan. 23, showcases artists’ work and emphasizes originality — with art represented from all media, in addition to handcrafted jewelry, fused glass, serving accessories and furniture.



This page: Paul and Inez Santori enjoy their time sharing music and art. Left: Their boho-eclectic gallery space on High Street in Chestertown

SHOP TALK



Paintings by Paul Santori include, clockwise from above, "Reflections," oil on canvas; "Still Life with Palette," oil on canvas; and "The Pond," oil on canvas. On the opposite page is Inez Santori's "The Heart of the Matter," an acrylic on canvas.



Three years before they opened their doors, the Santoris were met by both challenge and opportunity. In 2017, Paul was diagnosed with leukemia. The couple had also made an exploratory trip to the Eastern Shore's Kent County, which eventually led to the purchase of a home in Chestertown. They converted the basement of their new home into an art studio and music practice room and, as Inez recalls, "never looked back."

"We were so taken by the scenery and welcomed by our new neighbors and the local community of artists

that we felt we belonged here very quickly," she says.

Getting involved with Chestertown RiverArts, an organization supportive of the arts in Kent County, was a natural progression for both. Paul began to hang his work and perform his music there, while Inez volunteered and after years away from art, began to paint. At the same time, the Santoris felt that local artists needed more opportunities to exhibit and to reach a wider audience. On a wintry walk down Chestertown's High Street, they spotted a building under renovation.

"We were told it wasn't ready,

but neither were we," Inez recalls. Gradually, the building took shape and Tish Fine Art Plus was born. According to Inez, the name "Tish" was a natural choice.

"I grew up a blue-eyed, blonde-haired girl whose aspiration was to be Morticia Addams," Inez says of the character in the 1960s TV show *The Addams Family*. "For a time, I wrote a music and arts column called 'Morticia's Post Mortem.' So, when it came to the gallery it seemed like a good idea for the name."

The Santoris had a specific vision for Tish — they wanted to offer things

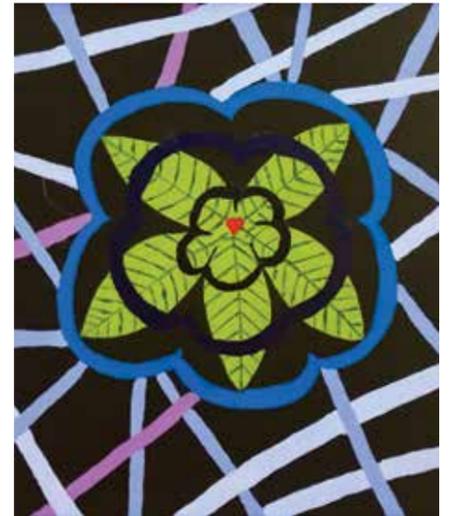
that people perhaps couldn't find elsewhere. Tish opened with an exhibit of a selection of Paul's paintings and the work of five artist friends and a jeweler. By the end of 2020, Tish had shown the work of over 30 artists and artisans, including some from the other side of the Chesapeake Bay. The gallery emphasizes originality; all forms of media are offered, in addition to handcrafted jewelry, fused glass, serving accessories and furniture.

With 2021 came a new set of challenges. Paul became critically ill with COVID-19 and pneumonia. When he returned home after seven weeks in the hospital, Tish artists stepped up and ran the gallery while Inez, relying on the "practical and emotional support of friends," stayed at home with her husband. When Paul was taken off oxygen and Inez was able to return to the gallery, "it was almost as if the gallery sprang to life," she says. "It was a joy to be back."

From April onwards, Inez says it's been an exciting year with new artists and people coming in to show their work and to shop. She has showings scheduled until March 2022, including "Tish Artists Take the Stage" in February, with artists from New York, Chicago and the West Coast expected to hang their work in the gallery.

The Santoris believe their work is "all about the artists." When they hold an open art show, the gallery can hang three or four of an artist's paintings. Inez recalls the words of another painter: "There is nothing more gratifying than someone buying your painting, not for the money but because somebody likes your work enough to say I want that painting in my home."

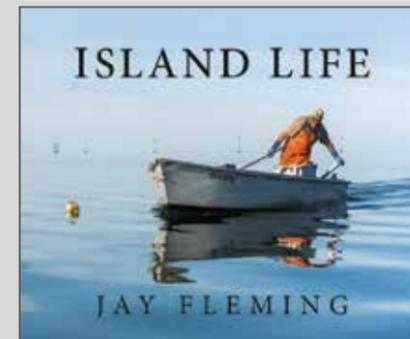
For that reason, the Santoris firmly believe "artists need a place" to show their work. For the couple and the artists they serve, Tish Fine Art Plus is that place. 📍



FOR INFORMATION

www.tishfineart.com
343 High St., Chestertown, Md.
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Facebook: www.facebook.com/tishfaplus
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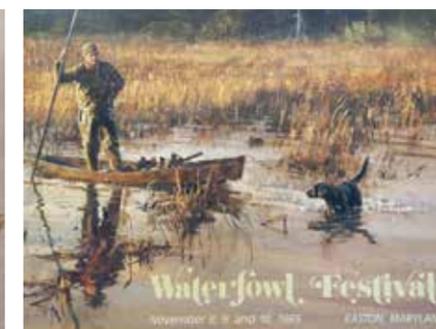
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A RETROSPECTIVE LOOK AT THE

Waterfowl FESTIVAL



Art, hunting and conservation collided 50 years ago to create a festival like no other

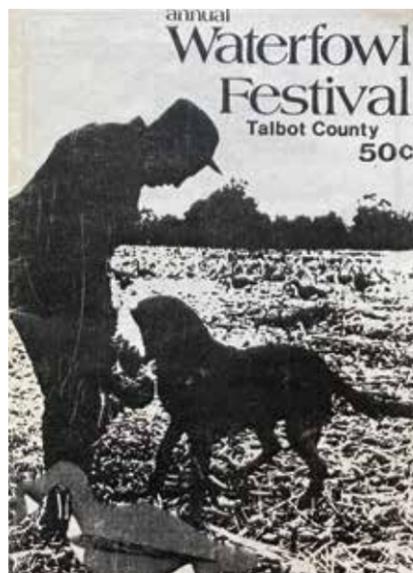
COMPILED BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

A Look Back

A MESSAGE FROM
Margaret Enloe-North,
Executive Director,
Waterfowl Festival

In 1971, the first Waterfowl Festival was a showcase of sporting and traditional 'arts' of the day including decoys, decoy collecting, carving and paintings. It was a coming together of families and friends to fashion an event that would "capture the true romance, the excitement, engendered by the [area's] wild birds and the hunting sport they create." It was an event intended to generate funding to support conservation efforts for healthy duck, goose and swan populations and their habitats. Founders hoped the festival would "grow into something extraordinary." And so it has.

Today's Waterfowl Festival is still firmly rooted in those initial intentions and expectations. The venues and activities have evolved over the decades to engage audiences of all kinds in our Eastern Shore heritage and community. The Festival's fine art galleries have dramatically expanded the range of mediums and subject matter over the years, representing the natural world and wildlife from across the world. While some say this is a departure from the past, it could be said to be part of a larger evolution in both our national awareness of the importance of wild places, wildlife and conservation and also perhaps the next iteration in the long, evolving history



The first Waterfowl Festival program, 1971

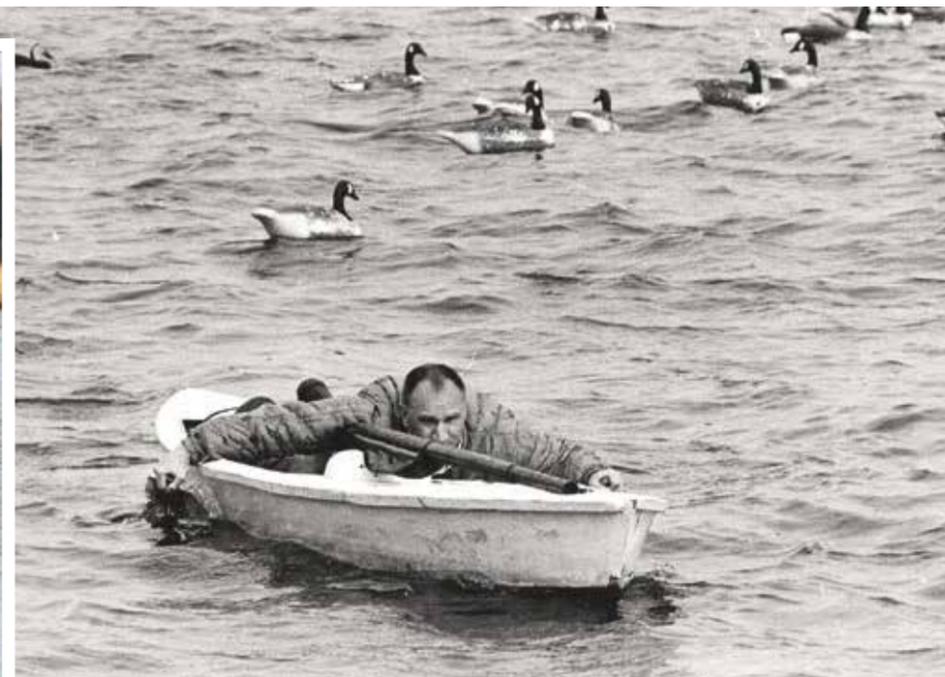
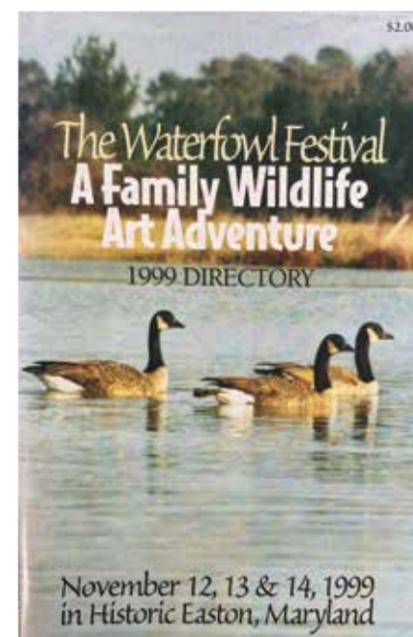
of wildlife-related art.

Wildlife has been depicted for centuries in various artistic manners across the globe — from ancient cave art to John James Audubon's beautiful scientific studies. What we today call "sporting art" arose as its own genre in the mid-nineteenth century, largely as a result of the Industrial Revolution, which spurred the rise of a middle class with time for leisure pursuits such as hunting and fishing and the technical advancements that made wide-scale production of images possible. During roughly the same time,

the writings of authors such as Ralph Waldo Emerson encouraged Americans to find solace and spiritual growth in nature. The subjects and scenes of today's sculptures, paintings and photographs — and how we view them — traces not only to this period in American history but far beyond.

Although there have been many advocates and activists for the natural world over the decades, the 1970s was the dawn of what many might say is the modern conservation ethos. In that decade alone, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay were born. In Talbot County, the Waterfowl Festival was born from a deep love and concern about changing landscapes and habitats for migratory birds.

Now in our 50th year, our Festival and the range of artistic offerings is indeed extraordinary. It is the Mid-Shore's "homecoming" for thousands of waterfowl and people every fall. It is a celebration of art, nature and heritage; "... a community-wide undertaking, planned and conducted by residents whose objective is the preservation of the wildlife environment of the Eastern Shore." (1971 Festival Program "Welcome")



EXCERPT FROM THE 1999 WATERFOWL FESTIVAL BOOKLET

The Festival's Hunting Heritage

From its beginnings in 1971, the Waterfowl Festival's heritage was built around hunting, once a mainstay of the Eastern Shore's economy. After World War II, when ducks were still prolific, the Canada goose began to visit this region. As farming practices changed from growing animals to growing grain for the expanding poultry industry, the geese began to winter on the Shore. Early on, their food source was greater and the hunting pressures less on the Eastern Shore than they were in North Carolina.

Following the years of the "outlaw gunners," as Harry Walsh, M.D., a local physician and outdoor enthusiast, depicts in his book, *The Outlaw Gunner*, hunters and conservationists alike began to focus on wildlife conservation in the Mid-Atlantic region. By the early '70s, most knew that the number of geese and ducks that blackened the skies on the Eastern

Shore would not last forever without serious conservationist efforts locally.

Aware of the need in 1969, Dr. Walsh and Bill Perry, an outdoor writer, journalist, photographer and longtime director of the Maryland State Fishing Tournament, came up with the idea to hold a festival honoring the Canada goose. During this time, Easton had been the site of an art show featuring waterfowl paintings sponsored by the local Lions Club. Bill Corkran, a member of the Lions Club and organizer of the art show, remembers the Gold Room of the Tidewater Inn hosting the art show for a few years. The show featured local painters, as well as those from outside the area.

Perry and Walsh followed this event with the first Waterfowl Festival in November 1971. It was no coincidence that the Festival coincided with the arrival of the Canada goose and the beginning of



Top from left to right: The Waterfowl Festival program, 1999; Dr. Harry Walsh hunting; Above; Bill Perry

hunting season. Its origins were founded on the hunting heritage that made the Eastern Shore a mecca for hunters and sportsmen of all kinds. During the early years, hunting provided the backdrop for the Festival's focus on artwork and conservation.

Waterfowl Retrospective

REPRINT FROM THE 2000 FESTIVAL BOOKLET

Remembrances: Our 30th Year

The following is an excerpt from a letter the Festival Board received in 2000 from the late Tan Brunet (1938-2019), a five time world carving champion and a beloved Festival Carving Gallery exhibitor for over 25 years.

“Easton is a Feeling”

Mine eyes have seen the glory the likes I may never see again. I have witnessed a quarter of a century of Easton Waterfowl Festivals. We are older and wiser now, with larger clothes and wrinkles to spare. We walk the same old streets of yesteryear and visualize the good times we share with friends.

I think back and remember the snow drifts and rosy cheeks as folks would hustle and bustle for shelter in the Tidewater Inn. The ember glow of the hickory logs would cast a luring light on the centerpiece carving as we sat by the fireplace on those cold November nights. In the morning, you hear the distant call of the wild goose and feel that crisp Canadian air. That is the Easton I know.

Easton’s Waterfowl Festival weekend is a feeling of excitement, like your first Saturday night dance... butterflies in your stomach as the anticipation of the weekend becomes reality. The familiar faces of friends dressed in leather or tweed, kicking sycamore leaves as they shop for treasures along the quaint little streets of Easton. The mystique of Old English

charm and the bay windows fits somewhere between Brigadoon and Shangri-La. Treat yourself to an event that almost feels religious in a sense, where husband and wife feel an equal lure to belong. That is the Easton feeling. The time of year, the warmth of friends, the great art and the aroma of Eastern Shore cooking all add to your weekend.

What makes it the blue ribbon of festivals? Who knows? It could be the memory of having a cup of soup with the girls while shopping or maybe the time we met at the Crab Claw in the snow drift. Could it be the Saturday night we danced to “Old Cape Cod” in the Crystal Room — “As Times Go By?” Music by the Shoremen made us all “Great Pretenders.” We danced the night away to the “Tennessee Waltz” the whole “Enchanted Evening.”

That is the Easton I preach about. The wild deer, the flocks of geese. Those cold, crisp Canadian winds when the moon lights the way to Oxford and St. Michaels to feast on the bounty of the Chesapeake.

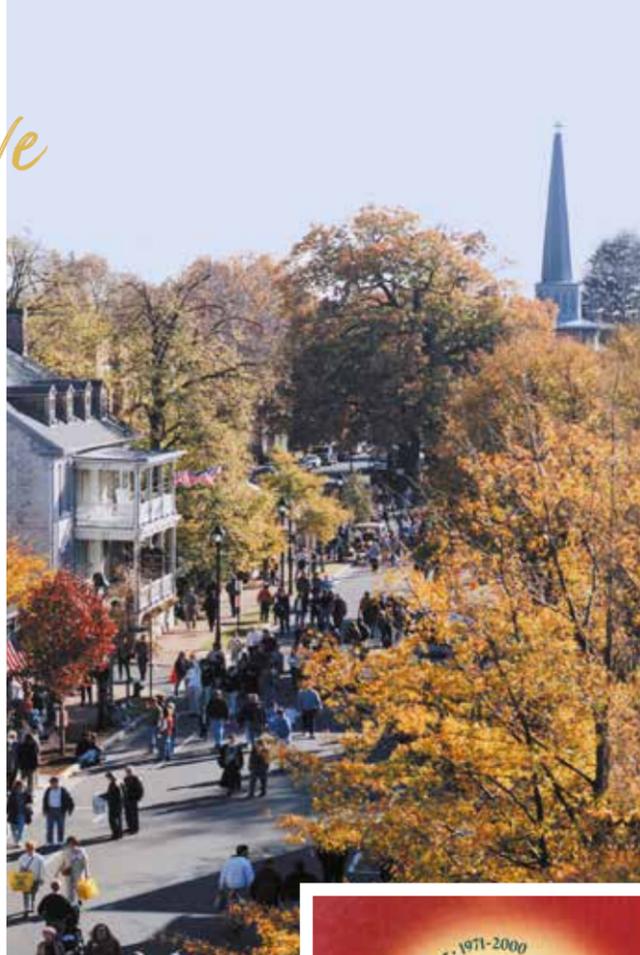
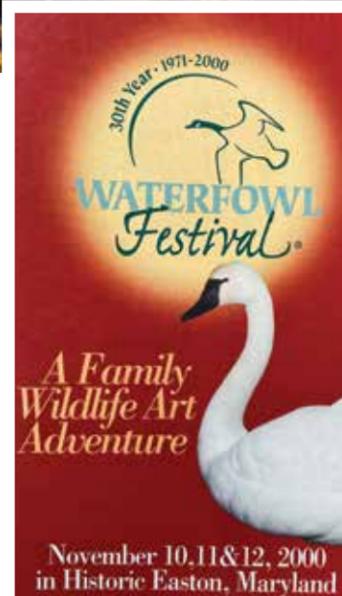


PHOTO BY MELISSA GRIMES-GUY / COURTESY WATERFOWL FESTIVAL



EXCERPT FROM THE 2010 WATERFOWL FESTIVAL BOOKLET

A Vision Fulfilled

The introduction of the first event program describes an event that will “capture the true romance, the excitement, engendered by the wildbirds and hunting sport they create.” Those early expectations were that the event would “grow into something extraordinary.”

Few would argue that the vision has not been fulfilled over the past four decades. The Waterfowl Festival has grown from three small exhibits in downtown Easton to more than a dozen venues throughout the town.

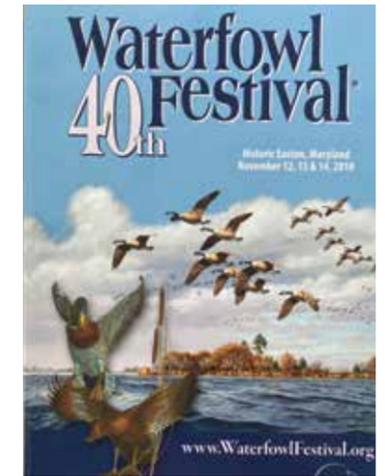
The event’s first exhibits were Carvings,

Paintings and Artifacts. Ten years later, there were 11 exhibits and two events, the Decoy Auction and Calling Contest, with buses already introduced to get people around town to all the venues. By the time of the 20th Waterfowl Festival, the number of exhibits had grown to 15, with four events, including the immediately popular Retriever Demonstrations. Food, music, kids’ activities and more special events went along with the growth of the Festival, broadening its appeal to families and those simply looking for a fun weekend getaway.

The nonprofit organization’s benefits

to conservation have grown from initial proceeds to \$7,500 donated to Ducks Unlimited to a total of \$5 million to conservation grants to hundreds of projects by more than 50 organizations.

Going beyond its original strategy of investing event proceeds in other organizations’ conservation and education projects, the Waterfowl Festival now actively partners with some grant recipients in collaborative efforts. Direct participation allows it to enlist multiple organizations and agencies to larger-scale projects with greater environmental significance. 🌱



Retriever demonstration



A carver shows his skill.



A toddler interacts with duck decoys.

COURTESY WATERFOWL FESTIVAL

Waterfowl Retrospective

Festival Scrapbook



IMAGES BY TIM MILLER, CINDY MILLER/COURTESY WATERFOWL FESTIVAL



1. Streets are closed for crowds of festival attendees on the second weekend of each November for the last 50 years. 2. Friendly volunteers are stationed throughout the festival. 3. A couple decides which tent to visit next. 4. Artist Steve Rogers converses with visitors at his booth filled with working boat paintings. 5. Conservation experts share valuable information with passersby. 6. An expert carver and his son whittle ducks in the booth. 7. Food offerings are bountiful throughout the festival, especially locally-sourced oysters. 8. Exciting retriever demonstrations are crowd favorites. 9. Onlookers get an upclose look at raptors that are handled by experts. 10. A contestant participates in a duck-calling contest.



Waterfowl Festival
November 12-14, 2021
Easton, Md.
410-822-4567
waterfowlfestival.org

IMAGES BY TIM MILLER, CINDY MILLER/COURTESY WATERFOWL FESTIVAL



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS

a fresh new VIBE



Above: Graphic depictions of the types of arts projects in Talbot County that are supported by Talbot Arts. Mural background by Shelton Hawkins. Fifth photo is of singer Loreal Lewis.

Talbot Arts is movin' and shakin'!

BY TRACEY F. JOHNS

With the goal of celebrating the rich diversity in the local arts community, the Talbot County Arts Council has adopted a new name — Talbot Arts — along with a new logo and website designed to better represent what it helps to bring to the county's artists and audiences, according to organization officials.

Launched in April, the new name and website, which features lively color photographs of local artists, were strategic choices to emphasize that Talbot Arts supports a local arts community that broadly spans all ages, communities, and creative mediums, according to Executive Director Joan Levy. Throughout "Talbot Arts" new branding are stunning artistic examples of simple and complex compositions and frames that invite audiences to seek more and learn more.

"We need a brand that inspires, and the community needs to get to know who we are, and what we are about," Levy says of the

decision that she and the group's board of directors made to rebrand the group. "The board made a wise investment in supporting our new brand, which has been received with overwhelmingly positive feedback."

Levy says the board of directors represents all aspects of the arts and various geographical areas of Talbot County. Each member brings a strong commitment to improving equitable access, diversity and inclusion in the arts for all Talbot County residents.

Talbot Arts provides funding for art programming and distributes funds provided by the Maryland State Arts Council, Talbot County, local foundations and the towns of Easton, Oxford and St. Michaels to area nonprofit and government-related organizations for arts programs and projects.

"Talbot Arts especially wants to expose our children and young adults to art because we feel we have more of an opportunity to influence what role art plays in

their lives now and in the future," Levy says. "Reaching young people helps to keep programming relevant to today's audiences."

Talbot Arts relied on a local team of artists to create its new look. The backdrop for the artists' portraits on its website, for example, features vignettes from a large mural painted by Easton's Play in Color basketball court artist Shelton Hawkins. Kate Livie and her Alosa Communications team took charge of overhauling the branding along with Levy and the board, while local photographer and videographer Caroline J. Phillips captured new imagery that resonates with today's audiences.

Levy became executive director of the Talbot County Arts Council in August 2019 when Gerry Early retired after serving 20 years in the role. She grew up in Catonsville and lived in the Baltimore area while pursuing a marketing and communications career at Johns Hopkins Medicine before moving to Oxford with her husband and

WHAT TALBOT ARTS SUPPORTS



PHOTO BY CAROLINE J. PHILLIPS



PHOTOS COURTESY SMAL, ALLEGRO ACADEMY, JAZZ ALIVE, TILGHMAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION



Clockwise from top left: St. Michaels Art League Show and Sale on Labor Day weekend; The scholarship winner 2020 and 2021 from Sts. Peter and Paul High School is Elizabeth Snapp holding a self-portrait; a Jazz Alive concert; a Tilghman Area Youth Association art class; and an Allegro Academy singers' performance



three dogs in 2014. She worked on the 2016 exhibition of artist Ruth Starr Rose's work with Dock Street Foundation in Easton before taking the arts council job out of a strong desire to join an organization to affect change.

"This organization is small enough that you can make changes efficiently and effectively. Here we were able to transition the idea of rebranding to a re-launch in less than one year. That's the beauty of working with a small organization, and within a tight-knit community that's home to some incredibly talented people," Levy says. "Gerry is a wonderful, kind, generous mentor, and I'm still learning. He and our board members have created an incredible foundation for Talbot Arts to now take on this new branding to support our thriving arts community."

The rebranding opportunity coincided with the Maryland State Arts Council's redirection to embrace more diversity and inclusion in its funding and impact. "This new logo and name reflect the ways Talbot Arts is looking to the future. As our arts communities change and grow, we need to reflect that, and provide the tools and resources necessary to create a rich arts environment for our county," Levy says.

More than \$2 million in grants have been awarded since 1987, with the largest annual funding achieved this past year when Talbot Arts provided \$110,000 to 24 diverse, inclusive and accessible programs for county residents.

Talbot Arts is also stretching its outreach by increasing partnerships with organizations and programs whose missions are tightly connected to its own. The group recently teamed up with the Cherry Tree Young Writers'



This photo: Joan Levy, executive director of Talbot Arts; Below: Front row: Peggy Ford and Victoria Gomez Lozano of Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. Middle row: Janet Adams, Joan Levy, Amy Steward, Patrick Rogan. Back row: Carl Tankersley, Bill Peak, Josepha Price of Cultural Crossings and Mary Ann Schindler

PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER



PHOTO BY PAT GILLEN

Conference and Washington College to provide scholarships to Talbot County high school students, with each student eligible to receive a \$1,000 Engagement Credit to help pay for the first year of college tuition.

Levy says in the past, students were required to provide 50% of the funding for tuition to receive the scholarships, which had been

a barrier for some families who could not pay.

"Now, we've eliminated that barrier by offering full-tuition scholarships, so that we can expand the pool of art candidates who can apply for funding," she adds.

Talbot Arts provides three other areas of funding opportunities in addition to its summer arts

Our vision is that every person in Talbot County will feel connected to a sense of place through art.
—Joan Levy

scholarships, including mini-grants, Community Arts Development grants, and Arts and Education grants. The grants are awarded based on how well applicants, such as schools, arts organizations and start-ups, meet certain criteria.

“Our Community Arts Development grants help fund programs at large organizations, spanning in size from the Avalon Theatre to the Bay Country Chorus, for example,” Levy says. “Our Arts and Education grants go directly to schools to help bring in artists to directly work with children or do performances for arts enrichment for the schools, both public and private. And our mini-grants are used for pilot programs and new ideas.”

“Art is integral and essential for a healthy, vibrant, and equitable community,” she says. “Talbot Arts has a particular interest in supporting the underserved, including people in healthcare settings, seniors, racial and ethnic minority groups, the economically disadvantaged, and those with special needs.”

Every three years, the Maryland State Arts Council requires all county arts organizations to undergo a rigorous planning process to make sure they understand and address their communities’ future wants

and needs. Using surveys, focus groups and in-person interviews, Talbot Arts plans to reach out to its community to determine the best way to develop and shape programs and award grants to serve all.

“Local art connects us in a way that nothing else does,” Levy says. “Our vision is that every person in Talbot County will feel connected to a sense of place through art. Art connects us through beauty, thoughtfulness, a sense of community and identity. You identify with it because this is your place. Most people long for feeling connected to a place, and that’s even more evident in today’s world.”

Talbot Arts funding is available to organizations serving county residents and guests that are designated as a Maryland nonprofit corporation with IRS tax-exempt status, or government-related entities such as a school or a parks and recreation department, according to the organization. Grants must be matched on at least a one-for-one basis in cash. All activities supported by Talbot Arts grants must be open to the public and accessible to persons with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information, check out talbotarts.org.

ARTS COUNCILS ON THE MID-SHORE

TALBOT ARTS
215 Bay St.
Easton, Md. 21601
410-245-5195
talbotarts.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Joan Levy
jlevy@talbotarts.org
Phone: 410-822-2747

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NANCY'S

Nancy Tankersley teaches on Wednesdays in her natural light-filled studio on Aurora Street in Easton, which is located within the Arts and Entertainment District.

Easton's Arts & Entertainment District offers artists, like Nancy Tankersley, live-in workspace options

NEW DIGS

BY AMELIA BLADES STEWARD

Although Nancy Tankersley of Easton is known as one of the founding members of Easton's Plein Air Festival, the nationally known artist began her art career as a portrait painter. Her painting career came full circle two years ago when she was chosen as the Featured Artist of the 49th Annual Waterfowl Festival for her studies of watermen in Eastern Shore landscapes.

For two decades beginning in the 1980s, Tankersley focused on painting people on the beach. As her paintings gained popularity in galleries across the country, she was known as the "figures on the beach" painter. She then entered the gallery scene with figurative paintings of people at work and leisure, focusing on restaurant and bar workers, gardeners and police officers.

"I like humans because I am an observer," Tankersley says. "I like to study gestures and human interactions."

Although Tankersley started painting as a child and majored in art in college, she didn't graduate as an art major. "I became a social worker where I learned so much about community and interaction," she says. "I've done a lot of community projects and of course, Plein Air is the one that I'll sure be remembered for. But I think my degree in sociology gave me the skills to do that and to understand communities and how communities react to change and how you can turn that into a positive."

Tankersley's foray into landscapes came after joining the Washington Society of Landscape Painters in 2001. This was also her

PHOTO BY MAIRE MCCARDLE



MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
July 17-24, 2022

PLEIN AIR EASTON

Nancy Tankersley painting during the Plein Air festival

COURTESY NANCY TANKERSLEY

Plein Air Easton takes over the town when 58 juried artists arrive to paint the natural beauty of the Eastern Shore during the nation's most prestigious juried plein air painting competition. There is something for everyone from buying and creating art, learning more about techniques, or getting the kids involved in art activities.

NOT-TO-MISS: Meet the Artists Event, Collector's Preview Party, Quick Draw,

Next Generation (for ages 18 and under), Small Painting Sunday

THE AVALON FOUNDATION

Plein Air Easton
40 East Dover St.
Easton, Md.
410-822-7297
info@pleinaireaston.com
www.pleinaireaston.com

first introduction to painting plein air, or outdoors, when the group painted together once a month.

"It was all pretty new to me because I'd been a studio painter for 20 years at that point, starting with portraits and then exhibiting in galleries. I really hadn't gone outside to paint — and now was that a humbling experience," she says. "Plein Air is an experience and a tool. It does good things for a painter like teaching us how to condense a scene and to edit. There is nothing more enjoyable on a beautiful day."

In 2004, Tankersley, who had been living, painting and teaching in Solomon's Island, decided to move to Easton with her husband, Carl.

"At that point, my work was in South Street Art Gallery in Easton. The owner of the gallery

notified all the artists that she was going to sell her gallery and she approached me about it. It seemed like a crazy idea, but I took the idea back to my husband and we started coming over here and researching the town. The more we learned about Easton, the more we liked it. It seemed like a real community where we could see ourselves spending the rest of our lives," she recalls.

The couple bought a house in Easton and became the new owners of the South Street Art Gallery. Becoming businesspeople was a new venture for them. "Moving to Easton took my career to a new level," Tankersley says. "It's a welcoming environment for artists. That's what I love about the Eastern Shore."

That same year, Tankersley and a friend traveled to a plein air

event in Carmel, California. The trip proved serendipitous, she says, as she realized that her new home might be a perfect East Coast location for a similar event. She introduced the idea to Al Bond, who was the head of Easton's Main Street Program at the time.

"He liked the idea because it would bring people to downtown during the summer. I presented him with a proposal and he called together a group of business owners and artists and the Academy Art Museum for a few planning meetings," she says. "There was some resistance at first. But because of my training in social work, I kind of knew that we were going to have to win them over."

"One of the founding principles of Plein Air Easton was including local artists to be juried in. So that's how 'Local Color' started and it was always a big part of Plein Air Easton and I think that [it] helped a lot in getting support for the event, which started in 2005. I thought [that] once it got a foothold, it would keep going, but I didn't think it would grow as it did. After the third year, I applied as an artist and over the years have won some awards. Plein Air Easton has become a steppingstone for artists trying to make it — it's one of the preeminent plein air shows in the country."

Tankersley's husband, a retired naval aviator, supports her and the arts in Easton by serving with Talbot Arts and volunteering for Plein Air Easton and the Waterfowl Festival.

In addition to owning the gallery in Easton, Tankersley also rented studio space in 2010 on Dover Street and started Easton Studio & School, which eventually became Nancy Tankersley Studio,



PHOTO BY MAIRE MCARDLE

Carl and Nancy Tankersley, with their dog Gizmo, enjoy the natural light in their living quarters above Nancy's downstairs studio. Their custom build-out, handled by Easton-based contractor, Bay Choice Builders, includes this open-rise staircase, an elongated galley kitchen, and a secluded "Juliette" terrace.

a workshop facility where she teaches and mentors aspiring painters.

"Teaching allows me to challenge myself and learn new things. Outside influences grow us and collectors want to see growth in artists," she says.

While she mainly focused on realist work during her career, her painting began to evolve and today Tankersley is known as a contemporary impressionist — moving between landscape, figures and still life.

"I have learned from artists in Easton and from nationally known guest artists at my studio, as well as teaching students across the country," she says. "I started being braver and more experimental. My association with Plein Air Easton also influenced my style."

In recent years, Tankersley has won both national and

international competitions. From 2018 to 2020, she was invited to be an instructor and demonstrator at the Plein Air Convention in Santa Fe and released two instructional videos with Lilledahl Art Instruction Videos. In 2016 and 2017 she was invited to exhibit at the prestigious American Masters Exhibition at the Salmagundi Club in New York City. Recent honors include Best of Show at the 2018 Parrsboro International Plein Air Festival in Nova Scotia, Best of Show at the 2017 Lighthouse Artcenter Plein Air Festival in Florida, second place at En Plein Air Texas in 2020, and the Dickinson Signature Member Award from the American Impressionist Society in 2016 during its 17th Annual National Juried Exhibition.

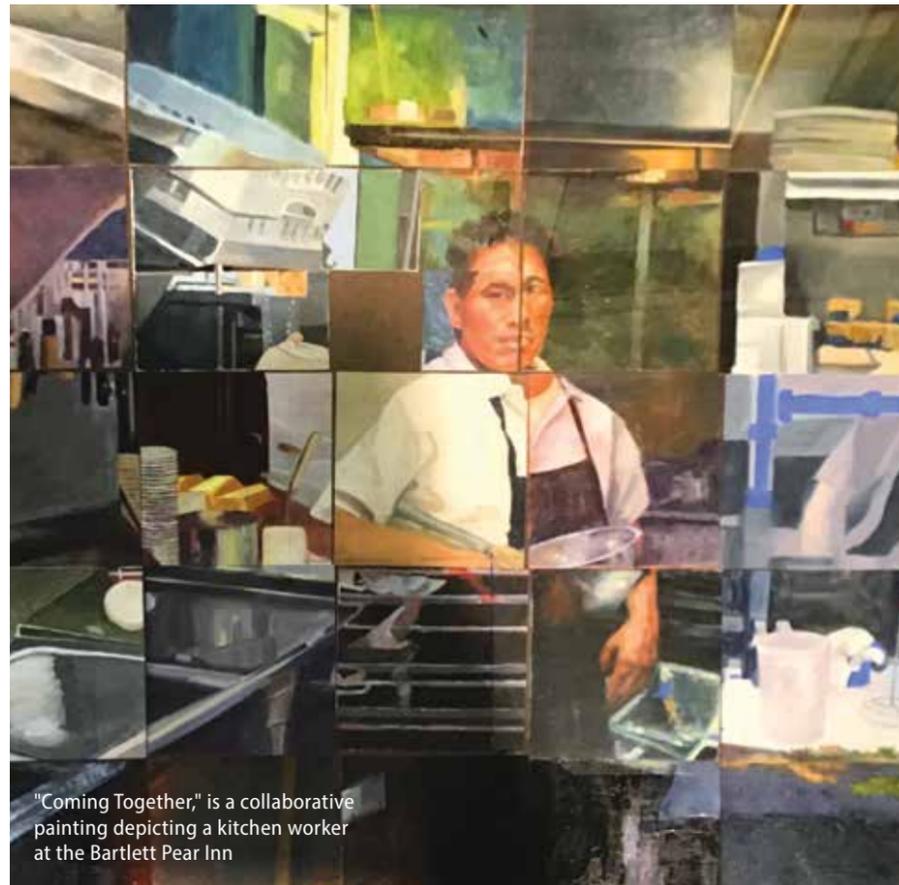
Reflecting on the honor of being selected as the Waterfowl

Festival's featured artist in 2019, she says, "I never considered myself a waterfowl artist. I got a commission to paint a waterman and then I began amassing a body of work in this genre, so I applied to the Waterfowl Festival in 2015 and got in."

"This goes back to an earlier theme in my work from the 1990s — people at work. Watermen at work are an interesting theme. I believe we should paint what interests us — you paint it and they will come," she quips.

In 2016, the Tankersleys sold South Street Gallery and then sold their home in Easton — feeling the nudge to do something new.

"I just started feeling that maybe having a studio in the home would work. I saw a 'For Sale' sign on the building on Aurora Street that had previously housed Atelier 11 Architecture and I thought



"Coming Together," is a collaborative painting depicting a kitchen worker at the Bartlett Pear Inn

COURTESY NANCY TANKERSLEY

I wonder if that could work because I always liked the building," she states.

"It seemed perfect for me because I've been teaching and wanted to continue that. The building offered a large first-floor studio and the foyer also offered a place to show private collectors my work. It is the ideal spot for a home business," she adds.

The couple purchased the building knowing that being in Easton's Arts & Entertainment District allowed them to take advantage of an income tax subtraction for Tankersley's studio. Qualified artists residing in Maryland that perform or sell their art within an Arts & Entertainment District don't have to pay the state sales tax on the art that they sell.

"The Arts & Entertainment

District certainly made the property more attractive to us. Buying property where we can both work and live has economic advantages. The first floor houses our studio and teaching space while we live on the second floor. It has the best light for painting of any studio I have ever had," Tankersley says. "In addition to the large studio, which spans both the north and south sides of the building, there is a room for framing and supplies, and an office next to a small kitchen, which can be used by students. This will be the first time in many years that everything is in one location."

Since moving into the newly renovated building in March, Tankersley has resumed hosting weekly clinics for local artists. In addition, she continues to host

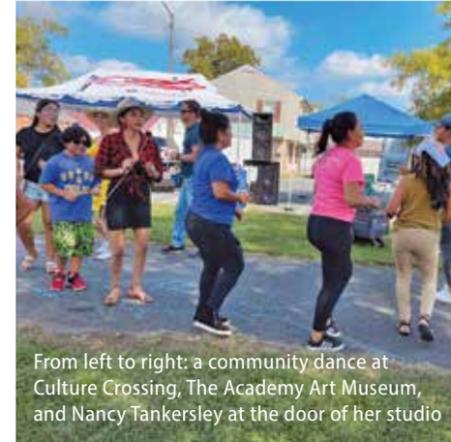
critiques and teach classes by Zoom that she began during the pandemic. Also during that time, Tankersley originated a community exhibition, "Black Lives Lost," held in her property's courtyard on Aurora Street, which generated a lot of interest.

"I went to the first protest march and was overcome by the response of our community. I asked myself, 'How could I do more?'" she says. "I realized art is what I know. I went to my students first and then to local artists and got 25 people to create works of Black men, women and children who have died due to racial injustice and who wanted to share these works with the community. It kept students painting during the pandemic, too."

The exhibit had a second showing at the Dorchester Center for the Arts in Cambridge. In addition, Tankersley organized a group of Easton artists who created a group painting, with the sale proceeds donated to people affected by the pandemic. Titled "Coming Together," the collaborative painting depicted a kitchen worker at the Bartlett Pear Inn.

"We are enjoying the courtyard and plan to plant a garden here where artists can paint. It's a quiet location on a busy street and was great for the exhibit. I want to continue doing this type of community art project in the future," Tankersley says. "I would love to see this area of town really grow. Artists are living in this area and we hope to create interest in people moving to the East End as we did. I plan to stay here and paint here as long as I am able."

For further information, visit nancytankersley.com. 📍



From left to right: a community dance at Culture Crossing, The Academy Art Museum, and Nancy Tankersley at the door of her studio



EASTON'S ART AND ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT

In 2019, Easton became home to one of two new arts and entertainment districts in Maryland, joining 28 existing districts in the state that offer marketing and tax-related incentives to help promote community involvement, tourism and revitalization. Easton Arts & Entertainment District, which comprises 110 acres, overlaps with the town's Main Street District.

The Maryland State Arts Council manages the state Arts & Entertainment District (A&E District) program. Currently, there are 29 A&E districts throughout the state, and at least one in all counties of the Eastern Shore, which includes Denton, Easton, Cambridge, Chestertown and Historic Stevensville.

Easton, as one of the state's preeminent arts destinations, has long been known for its vibrant mix of fine art galleries, performance venues, museums and artists' studios, as well as a burgeoning artisan scene. According to Holly DeKarske, who oversees the Easton Art & Entertainment District as the director of Downtown Development for the Easton Economic Development Corp. (EEDC), the town hopes to build upon its already longstanding history with more opportunities for artists and arts organizations within the town's borders. Receiving this state designation incentivizes arts-related development in Easton's core downtown district, including residential property rehabilitation and development for

artist residences. It also encourages arts and entertainment events within the historic downtown and investment from nationally recognized artists.

DeKarske shares that developers and arts organizations within an Arts & Entertainment District can benefit in three ways by receiving:

- A 100% property tax abatement for 10 years for the owners of a manufacturing, commercial or industrial property within the proposed A&E district property who make artistic-related improvements to their structures;
- An income tax subtraction from the state for all art created and sold by qualified residing artists living within an A&E district; and
- An exemption within the A&E district to admission and amusement taxes imposed by a qualified-residing artist or arts and entertainment enterprise.

In addition to the tax incentives, the newly designated district will feature new and existing arts-related events, from the world-class Waterfowl Festival and Plein Air Easton to the new Easton Arts District Culture Crossing, a monthly artisans market along the Easton Rails-to-Trails.

"The East End is an opportunity to improve and transform that area as people enter Easton. Properties

are starting to be renovated here since the pandemic," DeKarske says. "Arts & entertainment districts have a huge impact on the economy and employment. It is a real selling point to anyone who wants to invest and open a business in Easton. The arts are a great way to redevelop towns. One of the benefits of the district is that it congregates neighbors with the same efforts and they can collaborate in marketing and advertising."

Easton's Culture Crossing is an artisan showcase celebrating the diversity of Easton's neighborhoods. An open-air style market, Culture Crossing features art made or performed by residents of different cultures, ethnicities and backgrounds.

"Culture Crossing events are held four times a year by EEDC at the train station on Rails-to-Trails. In September we celebrated Hispanic heritage with [the] Chesapeake Multicultural Resource Center. There were bands, ethnic food providers and artists set up and demonstrating. In October, there were artists and music and nonprofit resource tables," DeKarske says.

For further information on the Easton Arts & Entertainment District, contact Holly DeKarske, Director of Downtown Development for the Easton Economic Development Corporation, at 717 -226- 0422

THIS PAGE FROM L-R: COURTESY INGRID DIAZ LOPEZ, ACADEMY ART MUSEUM; RICHARD DORBIN

The Tred Avon Players kicks off their season with a challenging rendition of *The Great Gatsby*

TAP IS BACK!

BY DEBRA R. MESSICK

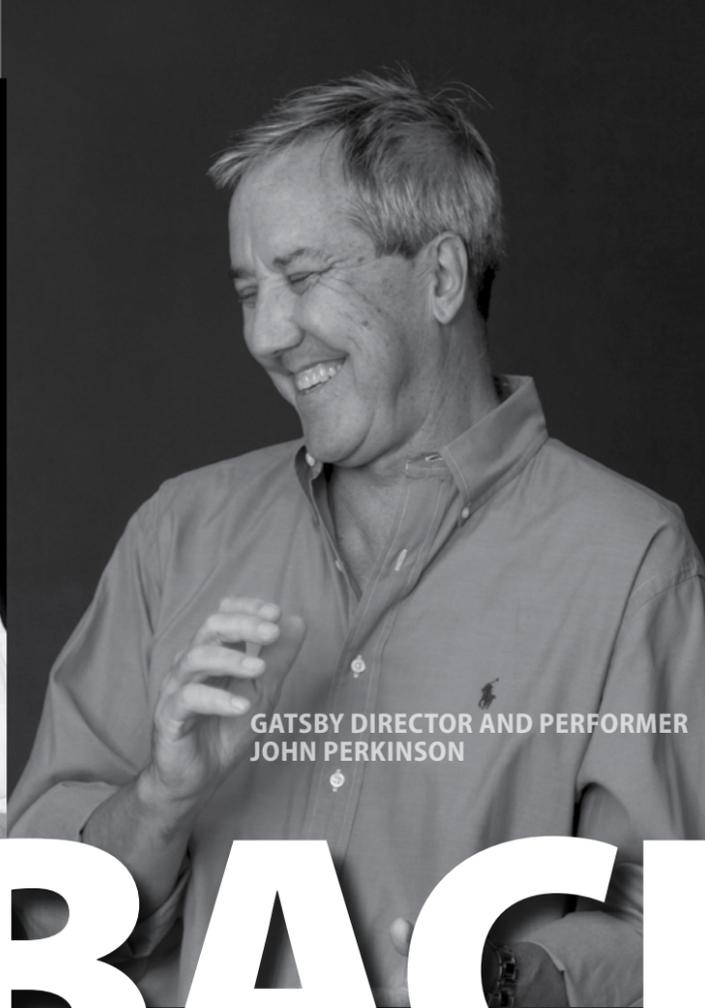
After weathering the cancellation of indoor performances due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Tred Avon Players returned this fall with a new website, refreshed logo, updated ticket portal and a full slate of scheduled shows.

The theater troupe, which will mark its 40th anniversary next year, reopens its doors at the Oxford Community Center with a production of *The Great Gatsby*, which runs from Oct. 28 through Nov. 7. The show will be followed in 2022 by *The 39 Steps*, Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, *Camelot*, and *The Savannah Sipping Society*, according to TAP president and *Gatsby* producer John Norton.

While the pandemic forced a halt to indoor performances at its longtime home of the Oxford Community Center for much of 2020 and 2021, even COVID-19 couldn't keep TAP shows from going on. Ed Langrell, the troupe's president at the time, heard from supporters pining for entertainment and performers yearning to get back onstage. In spring 2020 he contacted Liza Ledford



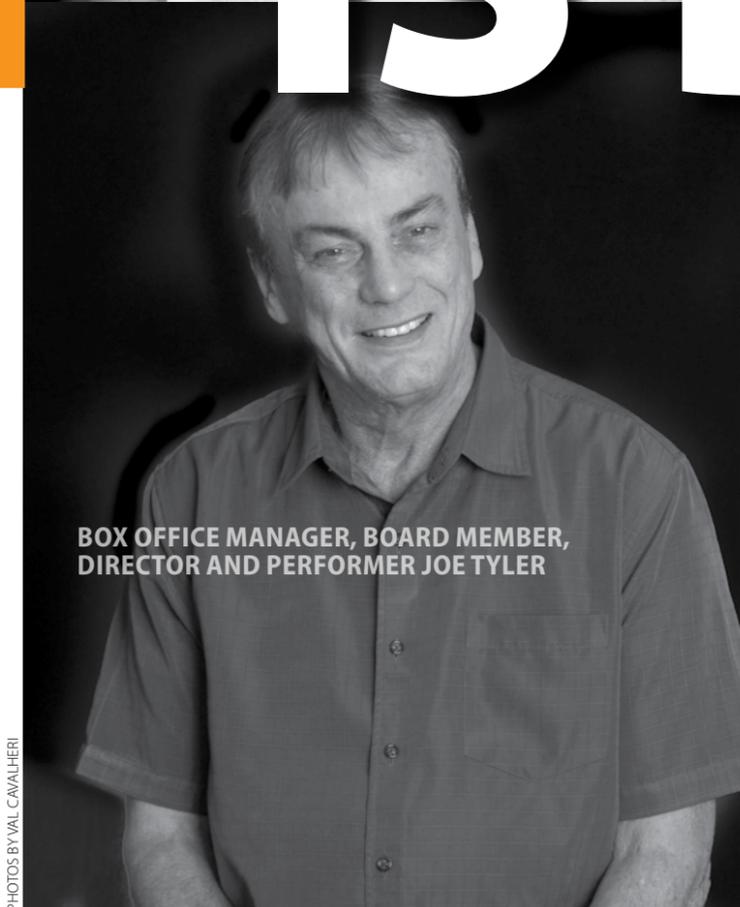
TAP PRESIDENT, DIRECTOR, PRODUCER AND PERFORMER JOHN NORTON



GATSBY DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER JOHN PERKINSON



BOARD MEMBER, SECRETARY, AND STAGE MANAGER KIM WILSON



BOX OFFICE MANAGER, BOARD MEMBER, DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER JOE TYLER



BOARD MEMBER AND PERFORMER LYNN SANCHEZ



PAST PRESIDENT, BOARD MEMBER, DIRECTOR AND PERFORMER ED LANGRELL

PHOTOS BY VAL CAVALIERI



Above: Scenes from two TAP plays in 2019, *Four Weddings and An Elvis* and *Prisoner of Second Avenue*.

the Oxford Community Center executive director, asking to partner on a free outdoor production.

“Liza and OCC were a true joy to work with. I picked three smaller shows we had already produced, reuniting original directors and casts. That allowed social distancing and a quick window for opening. There was also a musical revue featuring solo singers, again, due to COVID,” Langrell added. About 100 people, carrying lawn chairs and picnic baskets, flocked to OCC’s spacious patio perimeter for several Sunday shows.

TAP’s longstanding relationship with Oxford Community Center originated with former Oxford postmaster Bill Tull, OCC’s first manager and creator of a

community theater program to perform there.

In spring 2021 additional outdoor performances were added, and audience members requested the alfresco offerings continue. Norton followed through and added outdoor performances to the fall calendar.

While monitoring the federal government’s ongoing COVID safety protocols that had also been adopted by other performing venues, *The Great Gatsby* cast and production members, and loyal TAP audiences, optimistically await the upcoming staging of the show, originally set for 2020.

Langrell loved Los Angeles playwright Simon Levy’s innovative updated 2016 script and style



PHOTO BY VAL CAVALHERI

Liza Ledford, executive director of the Oxford Community Center

of presentation. He was also inspired seeing Andrew Lloyd Webber’s New York production of *The Woman in White*, which incorporated video scenery, and hoped TAP could try something similar. Langrell contacted John Norton, the producer of the TAP production, who called John “Perk” Perkinson to direct. “They loved the idea and have run with it,” Langrell noted. “I can’t wait to see what they do.”

Both Norton and Perkinson bring extensive backgrounds in television and film production, along with an abiding love of live theater. New TAP president John Norton, who’d been bitten by the acting bug in high school but found himself unable to earn a living in the profession, worked behind the scenes for 44 years, starting out as a producer for Baltimore TV stations WBAL and WJZ before being transferred to California to oversee syndicated television program *Evening Magazine*.

“In 1979, while doing a story on the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, I fell in love with St. Michaels,” Norton recalled. After moving back to the area 11 years ago, he accompanied a friend to a TAP show, which revived his theatrical interest. Retiring from professional TV production in 2018, he’s now “back in production” overseeing *The Great Gatsby* and charting the group’s forward course



PROMOTIONAL PHOTO BY CECE STORM

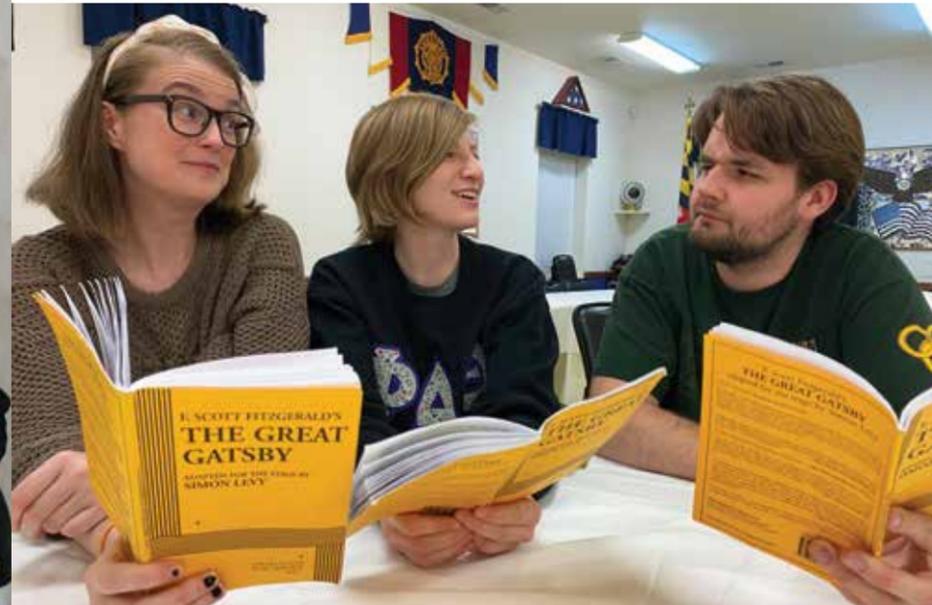
Actress Cavin Moore in her Roaring Twenties costume plays Jordan Baker in *Gatsby*.

as TAP president.

“Being involved with community theater is just a great experience. About 40 people, including actors, director, producer, stage manager, prop, costume people, and lighting people — all volunteers — willingly undertake a huge labor of love to produce quality shows,” he stated. “And our audience patrons have kept on buying seats, and making critical donations keeping us alive, for which we’re so grateful.”

Perkinson worked as a film cameraman at Italian film producer Dino De Laurentiis’ Wilmington, North Carolina, studio for 17 years. Relocating to Talbot County six years ago, he’s enjoyed operating a commercial drone photography business and exploring community theater.

When *The Great Gatsby* production was postponed last year, he immersed himself in studying the story and time period, a plus for undertaking his first TAP directing role. He’s been impressed at the actors’ level of skill and dedication. And he loves the exhilarating feeling of bringing a new show



REHEARSAL PHOTOS BY MAIRE MCARDLE

Above, from left to right: Cavin Moore as Jordan Baker, Iz Clemens as Daisy Buchanan and Matt Rovine as Chester McKee/Policeman rehearse at the American Legion Hall. Left standing: Weston Anderson as Tom Buchanan and Greg Allis as Nick Carraway Seated: Alex Greenlee as Jay Gatsby

to life, which he calls ‘tennis shoe excitement,’ in reference to the feeling of having new shoes at the start of the school year.

Box office manager Joe Tyler has been an enthusiastic member of the troupe and a director since he performed in a 1987 TAP production of *Oliver* after college. In 2018 he “led the charge” to integrate digital ticket purchasing. This year he upgraded to a more user-friendly interface, enabling easier online interaction with ticket purchasers, season subscribers and donors.

“The first day the relaunched website went live, five people

purchased tickets,” he noted. “We’ve stayed in constant communication with patrons, getting plenty of feedback that they can’t wait, and we can’t either! We’ve survived COVID so far because they hung in there supporting us, and we’re eternally grateful to them.”

A bonus addition to the original TAP calendar includes a musical revue, *All Together Now*, with two shows scheduled for Nov. 14. The program, designed to help local theater companies around the world reintroduce live, indoor performing, features copyright-free songs to be performed that weekend only, according to Langrell, the program’s producer. 🎭

For tickets and more information, visit www.tredavonplayers.org, call 410-226-0061, and follow TAP on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

FAMILY FOOTLIGHT LEGACY

Fiona Foster has been fond of the footlights throughout her life. Growing up in Philadelphia, Foster's parents took her to see many major shows prior to their Broadway premieres. Enchanted with the character of Fiona in *Brigadoon*, she later adopted the name. Having earned a degree in journalism, she wrote theater reviews for a New Jersey newspaper.

In 1982, embarking on a personal mid-life second act, Foster moved to Oxford from the Delaware Valley area. Her love of and involvement with theater was destined to remain on the bill.

She recalled her first Saturday night in town when she attended TAP's productions of *Wait Till The Sun Shines*, *Nellie* and *Dirty Dan's Last Bow* with daughters Leigh and Gillian. She noticed performer Skipper Marquess, who later became her son-in-law. Over the years, Marquess has contributed upscale lighting and sound

expertise to numerous TAP shows. In September, Leigh was set to direct him in an outdoor production of Neil Simon's final play, *Rose's Dilemma*. The Marquess' daughter Galen has been a TAP participant as well, adding her flair with stage make-up artistry.

Foster's late husband, David, who had a distinguished career in the public sector fighting for fair housing, was also a theater devotee. He directed stepdaughter Gillian Duncan and 18-year-old future TAP president Ed Langrell in Easton High School's 1982 production of *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown*. During TAP's early years and until his passing in 2013, David was a dedicated actor, director, producer and writer for the group, also serving as its president and lawyer. He notably authored a popular parody of *Annie* titled *Grannie* and created a local theater scholarship that

now bears his name.

The talented couple delighted in often working in tandem, often directing each other, and tackling a variety of behind-the-scenes roles, often helping select the upcoming season's productions. Fiona has copied and framed the programs from each season's productions, which are proudly displayed at TAP performances.

While treasuring the Tred Avon Players' history and what it's meant to her family, Foster also looks forward to the arrival of each new show, and embraces every new member, helping keep the tradition alive and flourishing.



Fiona Foster and her daughter Leigh Marquess

PHOTO COURTESY LEIGH MARQUESS



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Clockwise from top left: a vanilla cupcake with sprinkles; Libby Leary in her kitchen; a pumpkin roll; and hot chocolate bombs. Center image: a fall-inspired baby shower cake.



(Libby Leary's Bakery)

SPRINKLES OF MAGIC

A young entrepreneur adds artistry to her delectable desserts

TEXT BY NIAMBI DAVIS | PHOTOS BY PAMELA L. COWART-RICKMAN

Before Libby Leary opened her bakery in 2019, she contemplated names that reflected her background both as an emergency medical technician/paramedic and a baker. For a week, the proposed name “Lights, Sirens and Sugar” was the top contender. But her love for rainbows, unicorns, sprinkles and sparkles won out. Soon she settled on the name “A Sprinkle of Magic, Cupcakes and More.”

Libby creates A Sprinkle of Magic, Cupcakes and More out of the Centreville home she shares with her husband, Justin Leary; their two children, Alexandra and Sammy; and housemate Andrew Banks. She isn't the only family member with an emergency services background. Her husband is also a paramedic and her grandfather, the late Robert Moore, was active in the effort to create the first 911 dispatch system in Kennedyville, Maryland. Libby

became a licensed paramedic in 2017 through a program offered at Chesapeake College after completing the emergency medical technician program at West Virginia's Fairmont University. “The difference between an EMT and paramedic is the ability to perform basic vs. advanced life support,” she says.

She opened her baking business because she's “always been into cooking and baking.” One of her fondest family memories to this day is baking sugar cookies from a recipe that's over 100 years old. Her most popular items are custom cakes and cupcakes, she says. Bagels are also in high demand—when she has time to make them. In the fall, hot chocolate bombs top the list of requested items. When the spheres of chocolate filled with hot chocolate and marshmallows, crushed candy canes, or salted caramel are dropped into hot milk,

they're the equivalent of a decadent bath bomb for your mouth.

“I get requests for anything and everything under the sun. But for me it's all about what my customers want,” she says. She loves creating gourmet cupcakes and cookies based on creative cues from her customers. “I love it when they're specific and come to me with pictures, ideas, flowers, everything,” she says.

Every creation from A Sprinkle of Magic, Cupcakes and More is made from the same basic recipe, Libby says. “I tweak, add, subtract and substitute ingredients,” she says. “Sometimes I feel like the Count from Sesame Street in the way I come up with things: ‘One tablespoon of vanilla abstract—ah, ah, ah!’ ”

Her most memorable failure involved a fondant topsy-turvy cake made with multiple, slanted layers.

TASTE BUDS

“I pulled an all-nighter and ended up hating what I produced,” she says. Libby offered the cake free of charge to the customer, who insisted on paying the full price.

The beginning of 2020 brought an unexpected set of challenges to her family. Libby was 30 weeks pregnant with her son, Sammy, when the country was trying to get a handle on the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Ultimately, she left her paramedic position. The biggest challenge of 2021 was adding the job of homeschool teacher to her already full roster of responsibilities as a mother, wife and baker. She’s grateful that the support of her customers and the community has allowed her to stay at home with her children since April 2020.



Everything and plain bagels, right out of the oven.

“I’m content where I am at this point. But if the right situation arose, I’d love to take A Sprinkle of Magic, Cupcakes and More to a new brick-and-mortar bakery in Centreville,” she says. “It’s still a ways down the road, but you never know.”

To order desserts:

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FUNERAL HOME, P.A.

Helping Families Heal

By: Ryan Helfenbein

A silence came over the guests as the widow approached the podium. Her husband was resting peacefully in a closed wooden casket surrounded by flowers showcasing the tremendous number of people he had touched during his life. The widow pulled out a tissue to dab her eyes before organizing her papers in what appeared to be notes to help navigate through the memories shared with the love of her life. She opened with a general thank you to all in attendance. As she looked down to her notes to begin reading, she began fidgeting with her phone. Looking at it, putting it down, and then looking at it one more time a bit longer than the first. She politely excused herself for a minute before placing it up to her ear. “Hi honey....Yes, everyone is here to honor your life.” The widow continued with this ‘phone call from the beyond’ sharing stories of the guests in attendance and what her husband was now doing to showcase the loves of his life. Activities, past family members and friends and even highlights the two shared together were discussed while emotions flooded the church. She closed the conversation with a declaration of love for one another and their family and how he will be waiting for her upon her arrival later in the future. As she put the phone away, she again thanked everyone who attended and then quietly stepped down, returning to her seat.

This stunning example of an extraordinary eulogy will remain as a comfort to those in attendance long after the service is over. Let’s face it, a well shared eulogy can be some of the most moving moments during a final farewell. We learn that these terms of endearment date back to the 15th. They are designed to showcase a life lived and allow friends and family to travel through memories shared together. Most importantly eulogies provide, for those at the time of a loss, something to hold onto as they cope with their grief.

Too many times undertakers have witnessed officiants at funeral ceremonies get this all wrong. While I could never disclose some of these cringing moments, I can say that there are many officiants who do get it right. These officiants who are well rehearsed in eulogies often begin with honesty in stating how they wish they knew the individual because of the memories shared. Even better is when the master of ceremonies cues a family member or close friend to come forward and give a personal testimony to the one all



Ask the Undertaker

in attendance loved. The key behind these moments is to include memories that many can relate to, events people remember and stories that all told to one another too many times over again. Share a taste of their unique personality and most importantly pretend as if they were in the audience listening to every word.

Often times great eulogies include jokes, poems and even the individual singing a song (prerecorded of course). One that stands out is of a woman who stood in front of all in attendance and began describing her late husband’s sleeping habits. The sounds and odors that would be emitted from his body as he slept and the frustration she would have during these moments. It was then all tied together with the love they shared and how she will now miss those silly moments.

Eulogies can also be very moving, create life lessons and leave us with a feeling as if time completely came to a standstill. A friend of mine recently lost his mom and wow did he ever nail the eulogy to showcase her life. Most importantly it left an impact on not only those that knew her well, but even gave my staff members goosebumps. Dean navigated us all through his mother’s life using funny moments, her love of animals and adventures shared with others. But it was in his closing where he used a song lyric from Chris LeDoux that not only gave a clear insight of his mother’s strong will, but offered a creative approach to learning one last lesson from the life his mom lived:

“Sit tall in the saddle, Hold your head up high. Keep your eyes fixed where the trail meets the sky. And live like you ain’t afraid to die. And don’t be scared, just enjoy your ride.”
“Thank you all for sharing mom’s ride with her.”

After all, isn’t life all about creating memories, sharing them with one another and making our individual mark here on Earth? Regardless of the personality, we all have memories to share. Take the time to tell the story of someone you love and leave a lasting impact for generations to come. It is up to us to continue sharing the stories of the lives lived and take comfort from the memories they left behind.



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(Constance and Rosario Del Nero)

CREATIVE PASTA-BILITIES

An Easton couple share a life filled with art and cooking

BY REEN WATERMAN

An English language class in Milan, Italy brought Easton residents Rosario and Constance Del Nero together decades ago, but it is their shared passion for art and Italian food that has inspired them ever since.

Constance grew up in New York City and Rosario grew up in Argentina and Italy. Visiting Italy between her junior and senior years in college, she loved it so much that upon graduation she moved to Milan to teach English as a second language. Rosario met Constance when he attended the language school where Constance taught. “When I met Rosario it was love at first sight — for him, it just took a little longer,” Constance says with a sparkle in her eye.

Living now in Easton, where they moved 10 years ago, the couple continues to pursue their passions. Constance is the Director of Children’s Education and Community Programs at the Academy Art Museum in Easton. “Visual arts have always captivated my heart. An artist’s job is to notice and record that noticing in



Opposite: Constance taping an educational video for the Academy Art Museum's "Learning Through the Museum's Permanent Collection" series and Rosario presenting his Cavatappi Primavera during a video for sharethepasta.org. This page: Constance and Rosario Del Nero.

COUPLE PHOTO BY MAIRE MCARDLE; SCREEN GRAB STILLS FROM YOUTUBE



SHORE PROFILE

meaningful ways,” says Constance, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in fine art and a Master of Education degree in fine art education.

Rosario is a culinary artist with a passion for creating gastronomic masterpieces. He is a research and development chef who in his professional-grade gourmet kitchen (one of their requirements in a new home) creates products for retail and wholesale distribution. He also is a spokesperson for the National Pasta Association.

“We are both artists — we just work in different mediums,” Rosario says. “Respecting ingredients is just like respecting art materials. Both culinarians and visual artists learn how to use their materials to connect with others and build on their craft to improve their message.”

After a brief period during which Rosario served as a petroleum geologist in Italy, the couple moved to the United States. Seeking a career change, and with no formal culinary training, they opened and then ran a restaurant in Ipswich, Massachusetts, for the next 30 years. In 1987 they received *Boston Magazine’s* Super Food Award for restaurants north of Boston. After selling their restaurant, Rosario became a corporate chef and later vice president for Bertucci’s Brick Oven Pizza and Pasta.

The couple moved to Easton for a job opportunity. Though the job for Rosario did not work out, they decided to stay. “After surviving decades of brutal New England

ACADEMY ART MUSEUM

This accredited museum is located in Easton’s historic district. Its permanent collection includes important paintings by the likes of Gene Davis and Anne Truitt and it has an especially strong works on paper collection by many modern American and European masters. The museum also holds drawings, photographs, and prints by artists such as Pierre Bonnard, Robert Rauschenberg, and Martin Puryear.

Welcome to the new director Sarah Jesse, new curator Mehves Lelic and new Board chair Nanny Trippe. The museum’s reach continues to expand with over 50,000 visitors and participants annually. National and regional exhibitions plus concerts, lectures, educational programs, and visual and performing arts classes for adults and children are all under one newly renovated space.

Academy Art Museum

106 South St.
Easton, Md.

410-822-2787

academyartmuseum.org

Hours: Monday: Closed; Tuesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Wednesday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursday: 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Free Day); Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

winters, seeing friendly people strolling around town in light coats and sipping coffee outdoors in February really appealed to us,” Rosario says.

Shortly after moving to Easton, Constance walked into the Academy Art Museum seeking a position as an art educator. To her delight, she was hired shortly thereafter. “I’ve always loved museums and the whole idea of coming up with a theme and displaying objects of interest for others to see is very rewarding,” she says.

Closely aligned with Constance’s love of museums and displays is her passion for exposing children to art. She designs programs based on the museum’s exhibits and gives tours to school groups. “I try to light the fire of possibility

in students, wanting them to realize that creativity springs from making observations and then experimenting in translating those observations into visual arts,” she says. “The arts instill elasticity of mind, which is essential to succeed in any field.”

Constance and Rosario are a couple with unbridled enthusiasm for finding new ways to expose people of all ages to art, lighting a creative spark in new students, or creating the next amazing epicurean delight for restaurants. They mirthfully describe their current phase in life as “having a blast without worrying so much.” As Constance concludes, “The kids are through college, we’re not ready to retire, we still have plenty of energy, and our curiosity is undying.”



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(Tim Boyle)

DUST JACKETS

Taking book collecting to a new level

BY MANNING LEE | PHOTO BY STEPHEN WALKER

Tim Boyle, a lifelong collector of books, owns Vintage Books & Fine Art directly across from the Talbot County Courthouse in Easton. Vintage Books & Fine Art is a bookstore and art gallery specializing in used, rare and antiquarian books on scholarly topics, antique maps, historic documents and newspapers, and fine art by Eastern Shore artists. The store offers items covering a range of interests from Maryland and Eastern Shore lore, history, medicine, philosophy, travel and exploration to antique maps or historic newspapers.



Tim Boyle, owner of
Vintage Books & Fine Art

In addition to selling books, Boyle also is an avid book collector with his own collection of tomes about the Revolutionary War and Talbot County history. He says his love of books has shaped his life and career choice.

WHEN DID YOU START COLLECTING?

I've always been interested in books since I was a kid. I used to read science fiction. One of my favorite authors was Robert Heinlein. I built my own bookshelves in my bedroom over the top of my desk. I filled the bookshelves up with all my favorite books.

WHAT DO YOU ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO COLLECT?

I think serious collecting is a kind of a misnomer. I advise all my clients to collect what you love. Whatever your passion is, collect those things. Buy the best thing that you can get, but also that you can afford right now. It may not be the best of the best, but it doesn't have to be expensive or rare. Collect what you love.

WHAT ARE YOUR FAVORITE THINGS IN YOUR COLLECTION?

I personally collect Eastern Shore, Revolutionary War, and 18th-century books. Most collectors would laugh at what I have. My favorite is a two-volume set that has been rebound. The two-volume set details Talbot County history from 1661 to 1861, written by Samuel Harrison and edited by his son-in-law Oswald Tilghman. When Harrison died, Tilghman edited his papers and bound them. It is a great history book of Talbot County. Each volume is signed and inscribed by the editor Oswald Tilghman. He presented this to his daughter on her wedding day in 1915. ●

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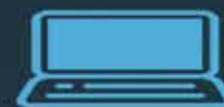
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