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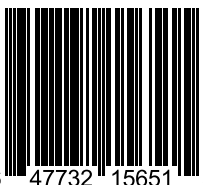
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## JUST FUN AND GAMES

**H**ighly accomplished people often have hobbies, that is things about which they are passionate but do not directly relate to the careers for which they are best known.

President Barack Obama played basketball even while he was in the White House. Former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, besides being an accomplished pianist, plays golf. Anna Wintour, longtime editor of Vogue, reportedly rises at 5 a.m. every day to play tennis before ruling over the world of fashion publishing. Richard Branson, billionaire founder of Virgin, in addition to his many sports, plays chess.

How is it that these highly accomplished, busy people make time for games? And why?

Here on the Shore, people not only make time for games, they create opportunities for others to play, such as the Caroline County Gamers and the Talbot Kickball League. We have an annual jousting tournament, and, a short drive away, a croquet match full of whimsy.

In this issue of Shore Monthly, we explore how games influence and enrich our lives. Game on.

Sarah Ensor  
Editor

### Correction

*In the article "Creature Comforts" in the February edition of Shore Monthly, the name of the dog who passed away should have been Raisin. Raisin was 18 months old, and her death was unexpected. Our condolences to her owners, Barb and Rusty Jefferson, and to their dog, Rosie.*



EASY-LIVING, CASUAL ELEGANCE

# SHORE MONTHLY

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I recently had a very interesting telephone conversation with a woman concerning cremation. Her opening comment to me was how it fascinated her that funeral homes “now offer ‘Direct Cremation,’” as if this was a new offering that had just come about in recent months. After our discussion and much needed clarification, she became very aware of what exactly this method of disposition is and how the industry has gotten extremely creative in offering it at a variety of price points. What can I say? When you give me a chance to educate on cremation, I pounce on the opportunity!

To start at the top, let's first understand that Direct Cremation (for those who choose to cremate a loved one) and Immediate Burial (for those who want to bury in the ground or place their loved one in a mausoleum) are two offerings that have long been required to be included in the General Price List of all funeral homes. Like most things within the funeral industry, they have never changed. These two offerings are required to be available and designed as a minimal service for those in financial need. Neither includes any body preparation (like embalming, dressing, or cosmetics), use of facilities for a ceremony (visitation/viewing, funeral or memorial services), nor do they include any merchandise (casket, urn or the required cremation container to house the body for cremation). These minimal service offerings typically include transportation and securing of legal paperwork for the human remains only. Often not even the fees associated with the cremation process and typically never any cemetery expenses.

What most people don't realize is that by simply asking the cost of “Direct Cremation,” the answer they will receive doesn't necessarily account for all fees associated. That goes for both what they want and for what they need. For example, with direct cremation the family will often times still need to purchase a cremation container (the required receptacle to house the body and is cremated with the body), extra mileage or additional staff required for transport, any courier service to secure copies of the death certificate and the stickler of them all – the crematory's cost to carry out the cremation process, called the ‘crematory fee’.

A great example is a business that offers “direct cremation” at a price under \$900. Sounds like a deal, right? Let me pause here for just a moment and explain the numerous expenses that go into this procedure. The crematory, in its fee for cremation, must recover the cost of gas, 24/7 oversight, maintenance and continuing certification/licensing for its staff. This does not take into account the licensed funeral directors' expenses, which include the cost of the staff to transport the deceased at the time of passing or the securing of legal paperwork with the State of Maryland and family members. The transport staff alone is paid on average \$75 to \$100 flat rate to transport an individual, and if death occurs at home it would require two individuals and therefore total \$150 - \$200. With all this considered, does it mean that this business is losing money every time it is called upon? Obviously not. The key is that this business is not disclosing up front ALL expenses that will be required. Many of these companies that promote such a low price when called upon ended up being \$1800 - \$3000 depending on where death occurs, how many people are needed for the transport and you guessed it, the actual crematory fee as well. Why? That's because a majority of cremation providers do not own a crematory. They utilize a business park warehouse to shelter the remains until cremation can be carried out and unfortunately, use third party associates and companies to complete nearly all the tasks requested, whose charges will be passed along to you, the consumer. Overall a very disheartening approach to an industry that is solely based around service, integrity, moral principles and most importantly - Trust.

In closing, I explained to the caller on the phone that as a consumer we needn't get caught up in all the key words that others outside the industry advise us to use, such as: “Direct Cremation” and “Immediate Burial”. These are not necessarily inclusive services, and it can be extremely difficult to accurately compare complete pricing. Ultimately, the best solution is to simply reach out to a family owned funeral home that owns and operates a crematory and does not employ outside parties. Instead of immediately asking “What is the cost of cremation?”, openly talk with them about exactly what you do and do not expect of them. You'll walk away from your conversation knowing exactly what pricing to expect. Trust me when I say, the average family run funeral home today truly does want to help. Ultimately areas of savings will be uncovered that would never have been discovered if an open and honest discussion was never held.

**For more information, including pre-planning and other options, please call your nearest FH&N Funeral Home.**

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# GET YOUR KICKS

**THE TALBOT KICKBALL LEAGUE TAKES THE  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GAME TO A NEW LEVEL**

Story and photos by Caroline J. Phillips







CC

**No one has to win to have fun...For most, playing kickball is a chance to be active, have fun and meet new people.**

R

remember those games from gym class, the thrill of escaping the confines of a classroom and competing against classmates?

In Talbot County, the Talbot Kickball League has become a new tradition among adults wanting to relive those gym-class days. Dr. Erik Higginbottom and Garrett Thrift started the kickball league in 2013 as a way for the community to get together and have fun. Higginbottom had the idea after playing in a kickball league in dental school and wanted to bring the childhood game back to his hometown of Easton.

Why kickball? Erik says it's a fun game that "you haven't probably played since 5th grade." The game is co-ed, competitive, and you really don't need to be "the best" in order to play. It's all about inclusion, with player ages ranging

from 21 to 70 years old. The league is 21 and older, but many players bring their young families to watch and cheer them on.

The season starts the first week of April and runs 8 or 9 weeks. There are roughly 14 teams, depending on the year, and about 250 people participate. Teams are formed by groups of friends, families, and colleagues from local businesses. For businesses, it's an opportunity to get employees out of the office for fun, a change of scenery, and team building (literally).

Higginbottom said no one has to win to have fun. One year, he said, a team lost every single game but the team members were always extremely happy to play. For most, playing kickball is a chance to be active, have fun and meet new people.

The Talbot Kickball League is supported by local sponsors, enabling the Talbot Kickball League to have team shirts for every player and a playoff season at the end of May. The big prize is a large trophy given to the winner of the playoffs.

"It's all about the experience, meeting people, getting exercise and getting out of your comfort zone – just having a good time," said player Brad Hastings.





# MEET THE PLAYERS



*Shore Monthly All-Stars*

**Mike Kirby**

**Team:** Just 4 Kicks

**Fun Fact:** Has been a part of the league for all 6 years, since the beginning, loves the family atmosphere and the camaraderie



*Shore Monthly All-Stars*

**Patrick Hambelton**

**Team:** Optimal Fitness

**Fun Fact:** Loves how many people come out every year and join the community.



*Shore Monthly All-Stars*

**Dr. Erik Higginbottom**  
Co-founder and kickball enthusiast

**Team:** Just 4 Kicks

**Fun Fact about the league:** "The one thing that a lot of people don't know is that we have some players participating in their mid-60s ... which I think is amazing!"



*Shore Monthly All-Stars*

**Brad Hastings**

**Team:** Just 4 Kicks

**Fun Fact:** Has seen it all since the start; he loves the experience, meeting people, getting exercise and getting out of his comfort zone. Just having a good time.



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## HIGH SPIRITS




# CASA CARMEN WINERY

*The Pallares brothers' journey from professional polo to winemaking*

Story by Daniel Divilio | Photos by Caroline J. Phillips





Brothers Enrique and Felipe Pallares are combining the competitive drive that led them to become professional polo players with the entrepreneurial spirit passed down by their pioneering predecessors in an effort to create world-class wine on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

The duo, both in their early 30s, are the driving force behind the Casa Carmen boutique winery based just outside of Chestertown. Joining in their efforts are sister Maca Olsen and Enrique's wife Laura.

Then, there's Casa Carmen's winemaker John Levenberg. The Pallares brothers describe Levenberg as more than just a consultant, he is a partner in Casa Carmen whose picture tops the winery's leadership listing on the website.

"The only way of making world-class wine," said Enrique in an interview at his home and

the base of Casa Carmen's operations, "is by having world-class knowledge."

"That's what John brings," Felipe added.

And top quality offerings are just what the Pallares brothers seek to produce in a venture that is the realization of their long-shared dream, turning their love of wine into a business. Producing wines just like the others already occupying shelf space in stores is not what they have in mind for Casa Carmen.

"One of the things that we always talk about, I think, is that we grew up drinking really, really good wine. And if we were going to make wine, we were going to make that quality of wine. Otherwise, honestly for us it would be better to just work in something else and buy good wine," Enrique said.

Enrique said that while the family members involved all hold titles, it's really more about all

of them working together. That holds especially true for the two brothers, with older brother Enrique leading the company, heading up planning, and younger brother Felipe overseeing the operations and agricultural side.

"It's funny because the winery is a little bit just like a reflection of how our personal relationship is, with Felipe and me. For us, it's very natural to have this kind of relationship where we know which one does certain things better. We grew up playing a lot and fighting a lot. We know exactly what the other's strengths are," Enrique said.

The Pallares family hails from Ecuador. They moved to the United States about 15 years ago.

Felipe said he has spent half his life at this point in the states.





“But the accent won’t go away,” Enrique quipped.

They have moved and traveled quite a bit, during their time as polo players and as they began to transition into winemaking.

They also launched a polo business, Pallares Polo Inc. in Florida in their early 20s, providing training, logistics, equipment, players and horses.

Not surprisingly to wine connoisseurs, they went to California’s Sonoma Valley and worked in a vineyard. Felipe studied viticulture there. Enrique’s education came more from maintaining vines, pruning and pulling leaves — “just learning the dirty part of the job in some ways,” he said.

So how did these two former polo players with thousands of miles under their feet land in Kent County on a historic property just outside of Chestertown?

“The answer for us is kind of like

everybody. Kind of serendipitously,” Enrique said. “One of the cool things about this area is how there really are people from all walks of life who have somehow ended up here.”

Residing in Annapolis, Enrique and Laura were considering a move to Ecuador unless they could, as Enrique described it, continue living in the United States “in a really special way and a really special place.”

In late 2016, the couple found nearly 6.5 acres with a historic home and a partially restored two-story brick structure in the back — the old almshouse — half of which remains in ruins. For Enrique, this was the opportunity for him and Felipe to realize their dream.

“I was all onboard with it,” said Felipe, who was living in Florida and had already been mulling a move. “So, it was kind of like the right time as well when we found the place and decided to go through with

**Casa Carmen is named in part for the farm on which the siblings grew up in Ecuador and from the architectural style of homes in Granada.**

the project we had always talked about.”

This was not the first site they scoped out. The brothers had looked at launching a winery in California. They also spent endless hours looking for properties in Argentina and Spain.

Enrique said they started to learn more about Maryland’s wine industry. For him the entrepreneurship among wineries here felt akin to the pioneering spirit passed down from his father’s side of the family.

“His grandmother was the first women to have a textile factory in Ecuador, and this was when women didn’t work,” Enrique said.

Through their research of the Maryland industry, the Pallares brothers learned about fellow entrepreneurs like Black Ankle Vineyards in Mount Airy and Crow Vineyard and Winery, like Casa Carmen located in Kent County.

Their efforts also led them to Levenberg.

“We were really encouraged by some of these more pioneering pioneers,” Enrique said. “I eventually found John’s name and then it was a little bit love at first sight. When we met, we just really agreed with

the perspective of what wine should be and what kinds of wines we wanted to make together.”

Levenberg spent nearly a decade in wineries in California, France and New Zealand, according to the Casa Carmen website.

“He is responsible for the first L’Absolut de Quinault (Bordeaux, France), rated by Wine Spectator as one of the three best wines in Bordeaux for the 2002 vintage. As former winemaker at Paul Hobbs Winery in California, John produced 23 wines rated 90+ points by Robert Parker, including a 100-point wine,” the website states.

A 2017 profile in Palate Press speaks to how Levenberg’s efforts over the past 12 years or so have shifted to crafting great wine on the East Coast.

“It’s interesting though because I think that there’s no doubt that growing grapes on the East Coast is a challenge — that it is more challenging than in California in the same way that growing grapes in Bordeaux is much more challenging than in southern France,” Enrique said. “But what’s amazing about it too is that despite the difficulty, the type of grape that you can





get is kind of profoundly complex — a really, really wonderful fruit.”

He said their efforts at launching a winery on the Shore have always been quality-oriented.

“It was like, we are here in Maryland because we truly believe that the really world-class wines can be made here, not because, say, we already have a farm here or work here,” he said.

Enrique said the soil quality for growing grapes varies in Kent County. Some areas have troublesome heavy clay and others have more sandy and gravelly soils with better drainage.

“What is truly essential I think for growing high quality grapes on the East Coast of the U.S. in general is to have well drained soils,” Enrique said. “If the water is still sitting there after 24 hours, you start running into trouble.”

Casa Carmen’s base of operations has that all-important drainage. Enrique spoke about finding dry soils and large gravelly pebbles while conducting perc tests on the property at a time of the year when the water table is usually high.

Currently there are 900 vines on one acre at the property, with plans to double that planting density to 1,800 plants per acre. The brothers also are continuing renovations on the almshouse building. The partially restored half is an office and shipping area, with some experimental batches currently sitting around. The other half — currently ruins — is planned to be a tasting area and event space.

Casa Carmen’s grapes are not all homegrown. The brothers also manage the vineyard at the historic Thornton Estate outside Chestertown. They also are working with vineyards in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

“Our motto with that is we always want to be as local as possible insofar as the grapes are top quality,” Enrique said.

Jennifer Laucik Baker stocks Casa Carmen at the Chester River Wine and Cheese Co., a shop she owns with her husband John, in Chestertown. She praised both the wines and the family producing them.

“We feel that Casa Carmen has developed an exceptional collection of wines. Not only for our region, but when we compare them against our national and international selections. They are well balanced, flavorful, and easily enjoyed with and without food,”



Baker said in an email. “In addition to their wonderful wines, they’re great people. Their family has put their heart and soul into building a sustainable Kent County business. It is exciting to see more ‘young entrepreneurs’ moving to Kent County to raise a family and build their business.”

Casa Carmen is currently producing three wines. The red is a blend of 60 percent merlot and 40 percent

cabernet sauvignon. The rosé is blended via a 60-40 split of same types of grapes. The white is 100 percent Grüner Veltliner.

“We focus mostly on very traditional Old World varietals,” Enrique said. “We like blends more than single varietals. The blend is the original way of making wine.”

He said the really old vineyards in France and Spain

did not separate their grapes by variety. The single-varietal model, he said, is a New World invention.

“The great thing I think about blends is it brings out the different characteristics of each varietal to make one product. There is more complexity and nuance to it,” Enrique said. “It’s almost like managing ingredients in cooking. They feed off each other and kind of illuminate each other’s best attributes.”



Neyah White is the owner of the LTO bar in Chestertown, which sells Casa Carmen in its bottle shop. As a bar, LTO is a work in progress, with White having grand designs while the property undergoes a multi-phase renovation effort. In LTO's iteration late last year, the Pallares brothers were pouring Casa Carmen for customers in a wine bar area set up in the building.

"What do I think of their wines? In short, I love them," White said in an email.

"In the case of their white, I'm a big fan of Grüners in general. Just discovering one from Maryland was a small thrill itself," he continued.

"Their rosé is a gem too. Not over the top at all and it happily pairs with all sorts of food," White added. "I haven't told them to their faces yet, but this is a wine I like to make cocktails with at the bar. It's a perfect base for low-alcohol drinks when treated like gin."

As for the red, which was not listed for individual sale on the Casa Carmen website earlier this year, White wrote that the sneak peak he received showed a young wine that is full of potential, just like the Pallares brothers.

"This wine, frankly is the beginning of a story, and a pretty long story if I see it right," he wrote. "When I think about the Pallares family I find strong parallels to this wine. While the brothers are young, they are part of a strong family. While the red is still integrating, this family is learning what it means to make wine here in Kent County and becoming a part of our farming heritage," White said.

The main avenue for purchasing Casa Carmen's offerings is through its online wine shop or by joining its wine club. Membership provides access to early release wines and members-only selections and invitations to special events like dinners and workshops.

Enrique said the wine club establishes more of a direct relationship between the winemakers and their customers.

"Part of our idea with the wine club is that we have a big family. We already have over 50 members and we are just in the beginning of organizing some special events and private dinners for wine club members, which will take place at Thornton Estate," said Enrique, adding that they hope to host events at the Casa Carmen property as well.

As they talk plans for expanding Casa Carmen, the brothers speak about how growing grapes is kind of counter to the traditional agricultural model of the last four decades or more calling for large swaths of acreage.

"You can have a really wonderful operation with just a few acres. In fact, some of the best operations in the world are just a few acres," Enrique said. "If you have two acres and you are farming your two acres, then you're a farmer."

Felipe spoke about the important role agriculture plays in society, how when small farms are not doing well, the whole country is not doing well. He sees what they are doing at the winery as very much tied to the idea of what it means to eat and drink locally and to revitalize rural communities.

"I think that so much of the charm for us coming here was just how agricultural it is," Felipe said of Kent County.

The area also would be good for polo, according to the brothers, who still like to pick up mallets for fun with their friends who also played or still play professionally. Noting all the flat land and already strong presence of horse farms, they said the Shore is not unlike Argentina, where the best polo players come from.

"They're not coming out of English palaces that have a polo field in the back. They're coming out of a land that looks a lot like this, which is wide open, mainly agricultural — where ... your young boys and girls are riding since they're tiny and they can just pick up a polo mallet and start hitting the ball in any open field of grass," Enrique said.



Casa Carmen is named in part for the farm on which the family grew up in Ecuador and from the architectural style of homes in Granada, one of the old polo stomping grounds, called "carmenes," which Enrique described as typically having a little central patio and a vineyard and an orange grove in the back.

Enrique said the etymological root of the word "carmen" is the biblical Mount Carmel.

"And the name 'Carmel' means 'God's vineyard,' so I thought that's really, really perfect," said Enrique, adding that Mount Carmel is where the prophet Elijah brought his people to realign themselves with God. "So, in the terms of the history of the world, the significance of Mount Carmel is it's a place where the people that are there are in line

with nature and the divine."

Felipe said launching Casa Carmen has brought their family together. The siblings' parents moved to Chestertown late last year.

"It's the first time since we have been living in the U.S. that we are all in the same place," Felipe said.

The brothers agree that there were easier life choices than moving to the Eastern Shore and launching a vineyard, yet it is the culmination of their dream and who they are as people.

"This is truly a way of life," Enrique said. "This project really expresses our love of nature and our love of family and community and what it means to do things right."

To learn more about Casa Carmen, visit [www.casacarmenwines.com](http://www.casacarmenwines.com). 🍷



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FISHERMAN'S INN CHEF DENNIS WALZ SHARES A SHELLFISH STEAMPOT TO SAVOR



Photos by Caroline J. Phillips

## CHEF DENNIS WALZ

Chef Dennis Walz of Kent Island is executive chef at Fisherman's Inn in Grasonville. As a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, NY, he went on to a career spent with several corporations including Host International, Marriot, WR Grace, and Gilbert Robinson. He opened and ran Maxfield's Grill in Rosslyn, Va., for 20 years before opening his own restaurant, Windows on the Bay, inside the White Rocks Marina in Pasadena. Walz is also the preferred caterer for weddings at Maria's Love Point Bed and Breakfast on the Chester River in Stevensville.



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6 easy-peel Gulf shrimp  
(16-20/pound count)  
6 Prince Edward Island mussels  
6 middleneck clams  
1 tsp minced garlic  
½ c white wine  
¼ c – olive oil  
1 c – clam or chicken broth  
1 tsp – chopped parsley  
pinch red pepper flakes  
2 tsp cornstarch

### METHOD:

Pre-heat medium size sauté pan, rinse and clean shellfish and add to sauté pan with olive oil and garlic. Cook over medium high heat. As shrimp begin turning pink, add white wine and cover pan. Look for mussels to start to open and add broth, parsley, and red pepper flakes. Cover pan once again until clams open. Mix cornstarch with a small amount of cold water to make a slurry. Stir slurry into pan of now boiling broth until it thickens. Remove from heat and pour entire contents of pan into a covered bowl or decorative pot. Serve immediately with a side of your favorite toasted bread for dipping.



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# JOUST DO IT.

*A look into Maryland's  
curious state sport: Jousting*

Story by Kristina Gaddy | Photos by Caroline J. Phillips

Mary Lou Bartram mounted her horse and eyed the path in front of her: 80 yards, with three wooden structures each dangling one key-ring sized trophy. She let her horse know it was time. They were a team on this one. The horse had to run steady, and she had to keep her eyes on the rings. Bartram leaned

forward as the horse galloped down the track. Tucked under her arm was a stick about nine feet long, with a pointed tip. She needed to spear all three rings in one go. Sometimes she wore a helmet, sometimes her short-cropped curly blonde hair fluttered in the wind. In less than nine seconds, it was all over.







This was a jousting competition, and Bartram was one of the best riders in the state. She was continuing a Maryland tradition, and in 1953, became the first woman to win the Maryland State Jousting Championship. She was one of the instigators to making jousting the official sport for the state of Maryland.

Jousting mostly lives in our collective memories as the medieval clash between two mounted knights on horseback. Clad in full armor, the riders and horses careen toward each other, lances out, with the goal of striking the other rider. If the audience is lucky, the loser is thrust backward and topples like a doll to the ground, with a crack and a clang. These competitions originated in the Middle Ages as training for knights, and then transformed into a spectator sport.

While the Maryland Renaissance Fair and Medieval Times Dinner Theater re-create these tournaments for enthusiastic onlookers, this type of jousting is not Maryland's state sport.

The clash of knights fell out of favor by the mid-1600s, while the ring-tilt joust appeared at Renaissance-era tournaments. This is the jousting that Bartram and other Marylanders championed. Instead of being a contest of brute force, ring-tilt jousting challenges the rider to a task of skill. With a horse at full speed, the rider nestles the spike of their lance into rings the size of a ping-pong ball or smaller.

This jousting crossed the Atlantic to British colonies. Maryland: A Guide to the Old Line State, created by the WPA-era Federal Writers' Project, noted in the 1930s that in

**The photos on these pages were taken August 1, 2018, at the 150th Annual St. Joseph Jousting Tournament & Horse Show at St. Joseph's Church in Cordova.**





“

**While jousting  
is an old sport,  
it only became  
Maryland's state  
sport in 1962.**

the southern part of Baltimore County near the city line, estates “are owned by Marylanders of British descent, who carry on the traditional pastimes and customs of English county families,” including tilting tournaments, another name for ring jousting.

Since the 1700s, jousting went in and out of favor with Marylanders. In 1868, *The (Baltimore) Sun* covered a competition in Anne Arundel County, but most tournaments don't show up in newspapers again until the turn of the 20th century. The Federal Writers' Project book noted, “In the early part of the twentieth century, baseball and automobiles diverted rural sportsmen from this traditional riding sport, but in recent years the tournament has again come to the fore among country folk and is held in connection with horse shows and county fairs...”

From 1899 until the 1960s, Marshall Hall (now part of Piscataway Park) hosted jousting tournaments. Thousands of spectators would trek to the banks of Potomac to enjoy the gardens, gazebos, park concessions, and watch the tilting contests. Like the medieval contests, winners were often allowed to crown the Queen of Love and Beauty. A dinner and dance might round out the evening's activities.

In the early to mid 20th century, the sport grew, and soon competitions cropped up across the state. Tom Lowman told the Carroll County History Project it was a pastime around the Mt. Airy area. As a child, he used an old pitchfork and took some prongs off to make his first lance. He'd practice on the farm, and quickly learned some basics: “The first time I did it, you're leaning ... and if

**In tilting tournaments, or ring jousting, jousters do not try to knock down an opponent as seen in period films.**

you don't move, the iron rod that you've taken the ring from will hit you [right in the head].” He'd ride in carnivals in the area, a popular Saturday activity across the state.

Bartram also started riding as a kid. At age four, she'd jump on the back of a smaller horse and ride with a pool cue. By age ten, she was winning competitions. Her older brother George was also a champion jouster, and they often faced each other in contests. According to the Maryland Jousting Tournament Association (MJTA), Bartram was the first woman to win the state tournament in 1953, and then went on to win again in 1956 and 1960.

She is the only woman to win the National Jousting Championship.

These contests were possible because of Bartram and her brother George. Different fairs and tournaments had different rules, and there was no statewide organization. In 1950, the Bartrams formed the Maryland Jousting Association, which adopted rules to be observed throughout the state. Bartram went a step further: she wanted jousting to be Maryland's state sport.

While jousting is an old sport, it only became Maryland's state sport in 1962. According to the MJTA, Bartram wrote the bill and lobbied for it in Annapolis.

Delegate Henry Fowler (D) from St. Mary's County introduced the bill in the late spring of 1962. He also happened to be the president of the MJTA. *The (Baltimore) Sun* noted that the Maryland seal depicts Lord Baltimore in armor mounted on a horse. At the time, there was little fanfare or debate about adopting jousting as the state sport.

That didn't last. Every number of years, jousting faced a challenge of whether it should be the Maryland state sport. Why not lacrosse? It has a longer history in the state. Or if we're going for something unusual, why not duckpin bowling? Finally, in 2004, lacrosse received the honor enthusiasts believed it deserved, but with a caveat. It is now the Maryland Team Sport.

Bartram was inducted into the Maryland Athletic Hall of Fame in 1993. She and her brother, who was inducted after her, are the only jousters in the Hall of Fame. She passed away in 2016, after leaving an indelible legacy on sports in Maryland. 🍷





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# YOUR GUIDE TO THE *Annapolis Cup*

Story by  
Katie Willis  
Photos by  
Arden Haley



The Annapolis Cup, a nine-wicket croquet tournament between the St. John's College "Johnnies" and the U.S. Naval Academy's Midshipmen, has been ongoing since 1983. Although the hosting location has changed a few times, it now rests as an amenity of the victor. St. John's College has won 29 of 36 matches, the most recent being the 2018 Annapolis Cup.

Although tickets sell out early, there are some things you should know if you're one of the lucky ones who were fortunate enough to get tickets early.

This event is a whole thing. We're talking sports, music, food and drinks. We're talking a solid event that draws roughly 8,000 people a year. If that's your thing, great. If you're not a fan of crowds, you might want to reconsider attending.

It's a community lawn party, and one of the biggest in the area. So, bring your family, bring a picnic, and bring your dancing shoes. A swing band will provide tunes during the day, and guests are welcome to bring food, sealed nonalcoholic beverages, camping chairs and blankets. Leave your furry family members at home, however, unless they are service animals. You'll also want to leave coolers and weapons at home.





You're going to want to go all out on your attire for the day. Many guests say the event has a Great-Gatsby feel, and attendees often dress in pre-Depression era, roaring '20s attire. Others prefer to follow the "Spirit of the Spring" theme, with flowy sundresses and seersucker suits. Others yet prefer to follow the beat of their own drum, with one family

consistently showing up in full Victorian-era attire. One thing is for sure, you're encouraged to let your personality shine and have fun with your ensemble.

Although guests are encouraged to bring food, food trucks are on site throughout the day, selling specialty food items. There also will be champagne and beer for sale. Bring cash because not all vendors accept

credit cards. An ATM is available for guest use, but the line can get long.

There are a couple things you'll want to bring to make the event fun and comfortable, including sunblock, bottled water and your camera. If you want to post selfies or photos of the croquet match or the band on social media, use #AnnapolisCup2019 so you can get the lowdown

on how others are enjoying their day, as well.

This long-standing rivalry is serious, having lasted for more than 30 years — but it's all in good fun. Winning is not what makes it fun.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [sjc.edu/croquet](http://sjc.edu/croquet) or email [Annapolis.event@sjc.edu](mailto:Annapolis.event@sjc.edu).



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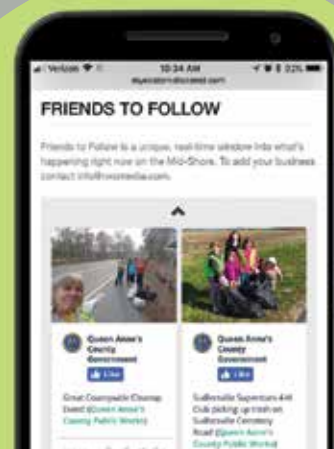
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# HOW TO RULE YOUR OWN GAME NIGHT

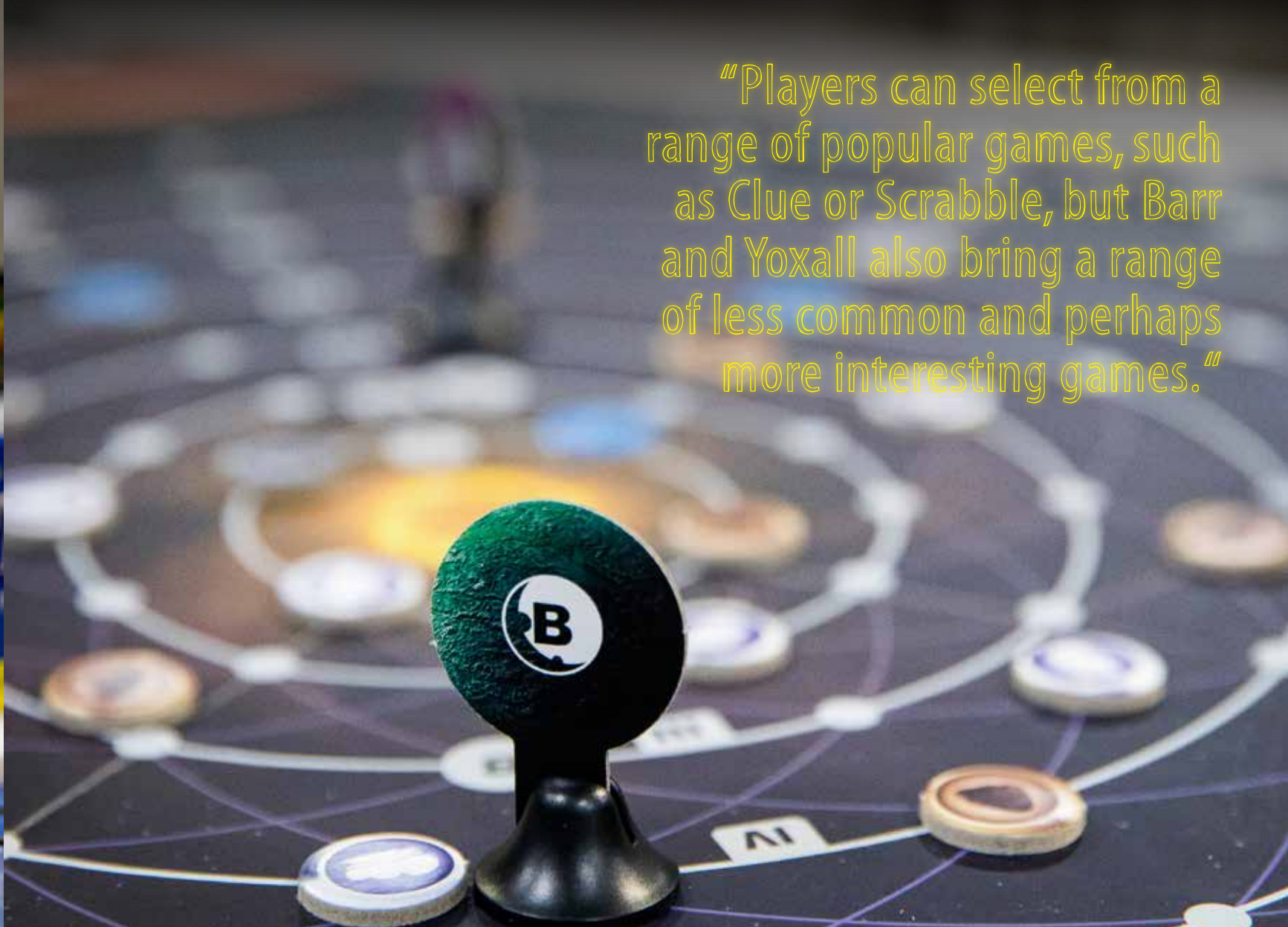
*Tips and tricks from some local game night pros*

Story by Sarah Ensor | Photos by Caroline J. Phillips

**THE** Caroline County Board Gamers each month host a board game night at the Denton branch of the Caroline County Public Library. For the past four or five years, Chrissie Barr has hosted the event, which attracts anywhere from 10 to 20 people.

Barr and her friend Elizabeth Bradley cofounded the group, which has an active Facebook group for those who want to post game-related information, recruit people for game nights, and engage in conversation about board games. The group is open to the public and can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/CCBoardGamers/>





“Players can select from a range of popular games, such as Clue or Scrabble, but Barr and Yoxall also bring a range of less common and perhaps more interesting games.”

Barr’s event at the library is open to the public (including children), and admission is free. Barr, her boyfriend, Dustin Yoxall, and some of their game-loving friends are regular attendees. Yoxall said lately, a few groups of kids have started attending on a regular basis.

While Yoxall and Barr typically bring a selection of about 25 games, they will bring easy-to-learn, fast-start games if they know kids will be attending.

Players can select from a range of popular games, such as Clue or Scrabble, but Barr and Yoxall also bring a range of less common and perhaps more interesting games. Other players

are welcome to bring games, as well. Some have brought games they bought by donating to Kickstarter campaigns.

The game group at the library normally hosts games that can be completed in a few hours and rarely host games that run over to the next event. Some gamers have tried starting Dungeons and Dragons groups at the gaming night but if some players cannot make it every week, those groups lose energy and stop meeting.

If someone sees a game on the table that looks fun, normally another gamer knows the game and can jump in to explain the rules.





# GAME NIGHT TIPS

courtesy of Dustin Yoxall

## PLAYERS.

No need to have a large party to enjoy a game night. Three or four people make a solid game night. Time. Most games run about 45 minutes if everyone is familiar with the rules. Schedule a game night for at least a couple of hours so those unfamiliar with the rules can learn. Yoxall said smaller, shorter games that take five to fifteen minutes to play can also be fun. He recommended a card game called Fluxx that has about 25 variations. Schedule more time for more intricate games or if trying out a new game.

## SPACE.

Consider the size of the game, length of game play, and player comfort when selecting a table and chairs. While a round of UNO might work around a folding card table or a family room coffee table, a dining room table or other solid surface will better hold a board game or a game with dice.

## MUNCHIES.

Finger food is the best option for game night. It allows people to nibble in between turns. Whether it's comfort food like pizza, potato chips, or chicken wings, or the slightly more elegant cheese and charcuterie platters, olives, and fruit, provide plenty of napkins to keep greasy fingers from grubbing up games.

## GAMES.

Third Eye Games in Annapolis has an expansive selection of board games, a knowledgeable staff, and a games open to try in the store. Yoxall said Target in Easton often has an interesting selection of less common games.





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## ABOUT THE COVER

Dr. Erik Higginbottom and Garrett Thrift founded the Talbot Kickball League in 2013 to unite the community with fun. The two-and-a-half-month season starts the first week of April. The cover shot was taken at Idlewild Park in Easton. The photo on this page was taken at the Easton Family YMCA, part of the YMCA of the Chesapeake. The YMCA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit social services organization dedicated to Youth Development, Healthy Living, and Social Responsibility.

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