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VOL 17: ISSUE 03 FEBRUARY 8, 2019

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Upfront

Mushu's missing. Maybe he won't be by the time you read this – I have hope – but, for now, he's gone.

Mushu is a cat, a flame point Siamese. I can't remember precise details, but I think he's roughly 14.

My daughters, little girls when Mushu was born, developed a PowerPoint presentation to advocate for cat-acquisition. It was cute, clever and unconvincing to a cat-curmudgeon like me. I didn't want Mushu, or any representative of his ilk – I had no history with or affinity for cats – but my wife and kids, to my angered surprise, made a clandestine trip to a breeder and brought a faded-ocher fur-ball home, and my vote was rendered moot.

Time passed, and I fell in love. Deeply so.

Mushu makes me laugh. He pays attention to me and he ignores me. He demands that I hold him, until he – almost-cruelly and with icy disconnect – leaps off my lap and pads away. Some nights – most – he nestles on my chest when I finally lie down for sleep, and his purring – loud, throaty and uncontrolled – fills the otherwise-silent darkened space. When my bed was rendered empty, Mushu recognized my pain and reminded me that I'm not alone.

We declared kitten-Mushu to be an "indoor cat." At times, he had a different opinion of himself. At our house on Spring Marsh Lane, he taught himself to open the door to the garage. The first time he went missing, I panicked, until I noticed the door was ajar. Too quick to blame – one of my worst character defects – I chided my wife for carelessness and, eventually, found Mushu curled up underneath our most-recently-run car. Weeks, if not months, passed before we caught Mushu red-pawed. Every inch of his body was stretched as he balanced on his hind legs and pulled down on the lever-handle, releasing the door from its jamb. We were dumbfounded, mesmerized, and wholly amused. The truth was revealed: The culprit wasn't an absent-minded spouse, faulty mechanics, or an unnamed ghost; but a clever, agile and mischievous cat.

The door problem got trickier with time. He



learned to nudge it closed with his nose after sneaking out. On such occasions, we failed to consider that he might be in the garage. When the automatic doors rose from the concrete floor, Mushu would run out into the driveway. Sometimes we noticed. Sometimes not. Several of the not-noticed times led to frantic distress. In hindsight, it feels like I traipsed through neighboring yards, sometimes desperate in the dark, at least once a week for a year.

We never abandoned our searches, cooing "Moooo-shoo," in forced falsetto, as if cats are somehow soprano fans. Once, I found him hiding in a sewer drain. Another time, I spotted an unnaturally light dot against the spring green marsh grass. On the latter occasion, I slogged in quicksand-like mud a few hundred yards, while Mushu waited on a dirt mound, ready to be rescued but disinclined to make it easy on me.

On Super Bowl Sunday, we had a group at my house. When the game ended, Mushu's absence grew conspicuous. As people came in and out, did Mushu dash, undetected, into the street? Please...no.

We hustled up and down the stairs, opening every closet and cabinet, and inspecting the hidden underneath of each bed. No cat. We canvassed the neighborhood until after midnight. No cat. I put food out front and checked through the night. No cat. Monday light, street-by-street. No cat. Posters, social media posts, word-of-mouth requests for vigilance. No cat. It's Tuesday, late morning. There's a litter box out front of my house now. No calls. No cat.

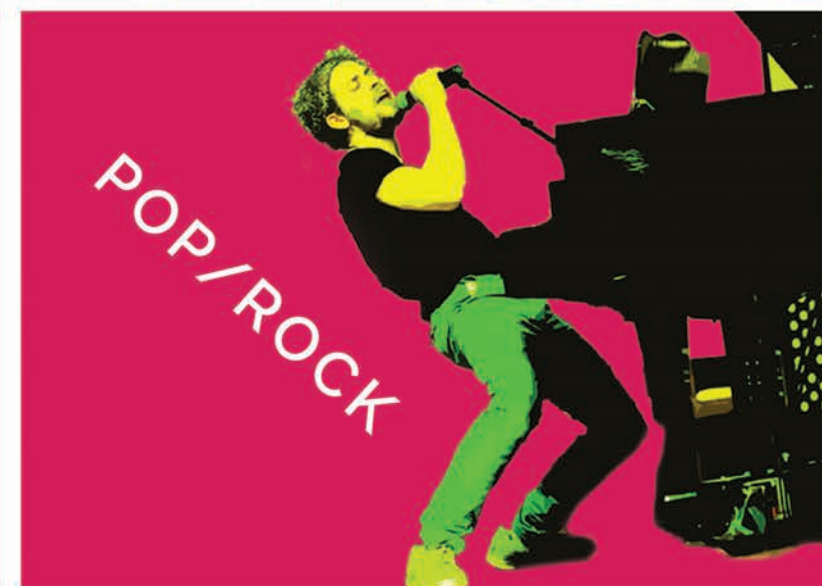
I never quite understood the connection people have to their pets. That was before Mushu. He's a family member, as steadfast and loyal and important as any of the rest of us. I miss him like I would miss air.

I won't give up. We won't give up. We want Mushu to come home. If you see him, send me an email... slauretti@salcompanies.com.

Scott A. Lauretti

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SAVANNAH BOOK FESTIVAL

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on the cover:

The Skinny would like to wish all our sweethearts out there – our readers and advertisers – a happy Valentine's Day. We love you.

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The American Traditions Vocal Competition Gears Up For Its Best Year Yet

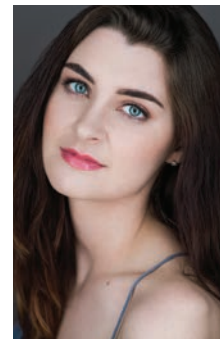
By Kristyn Fielding

The week of February 18 is sure to be an incredible one. The American Traditions Vocal Competition (ATC) will return to Skidaway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC), for its highly anticipated 26th anniversary season. With an outstanding lineup of 28 contestants, three new judges and one new pianist – as well as a new venue in downtown Savannah – the ATC is enthusiastically embracing a new era for this annual event.

New to the ATC board this season is Kellee Haselton, who moved to the Landings from Kalamazoo, Michigan in August of 2017, with her husband, Don, and their dog, Ella Fitzgerald. The Haseltons have four children – Jennifer, Justin, Sarah and Nat – and two beautiful granddaughters – Claire and Anna. Kellee recalls her son, Nat, telling her last year he was coming to Savannah for a vocal competition. His friend, Mikki Sodergren, artistic director of the ATC, had encouraged him to apply. He was one of the 28 quarterfinalists in the 2018 ATC, winning the People's Choice award and performing a song at the finals. The experience opened Kellee's eyes to the caliber of the contestants and the quality of this exciting competi-



Kellee Haselton



Mikki Sodergren

tion. "As a professional musician for much of my life, I couldn't believe that the ATC had not been on my radar at all," she says. "I attended the quarterfinals to hear my son sing and was thoroughly impressed with the accomplished level of talent by – not only – the vocalists, but the pianists as well. I love the 'all-American music' element of the ATC and how it stretched the musicianship of the vocalists, as each has to sing in nine different genres. As a musician with a varied background and a vocal teacher, I completely embraced the surprising virtuosity and diversity of the finalists. What a wonderful way to celebrate vocalists who can sing all styles of music!"

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Kellee grew up in a musical family, and is a classically trained pianist and vocalist. She taught general and vocal music for 30 years at all levels, most recently in the musical theatre department of Western Michigan University, and the Gage School in Kalamazoo. Her first husband – father of Nat and Sarah, Steve Zegree – was a Steinway Artist and internationally known jazz pianist. Kellee has also had her own original choral compositions published.

"I have music directed dozens of shows for community, collegiate and professional Actors' Equity, and continue to teach voice and piano from my home," she says. "I volunteer my piano skills for the Jewish Women's Alliance of the Landings and Chatham County Public Schools. And, of course, I volunteer for the ATC and am thrilled to be on its board."

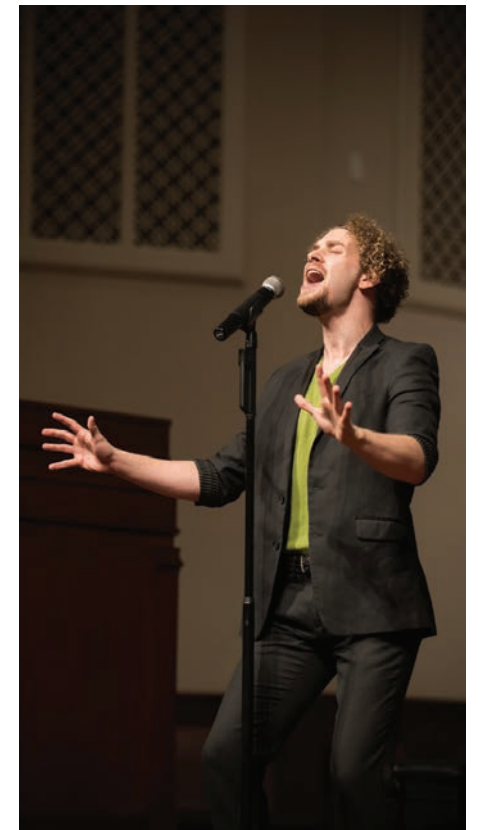
The ATC is lucky to have the Haselton family as enthusiastic supporters. Don works as CEO for the 600 Group, a London-based multinational, and is currently its director of mergers and acquisitions. This year, the family is housing Hannah Zazzaro, a New York-based vocalist and friend of Nat's. "We are so excited to get to know her and cheer her on," Kellee says.

The ATC celebrates and preserves all styles

of classic American music. The non-profit organization promotes these songs by producing an annual vocal competition in Savannah, awarding \$35,000 in cash prizes. Committed to serving the greater Savannah community, the ATC provides musical education, exposure and performances for Savannah locals of all ages. Singers are required to prepare three rounds of three different songs, all written by American composers, in order to span nine different genres of music – exposing singers to the history, roots, key players and stylistic nuances of each. The ATC recognizes these a wide variety of American music: opera, musical theatre, Hollywood, jazz, folk, country, pop/rock singer-songwriters (1980-today), art song, gospel, songs of Johnny Mercer, blues, religious music, popular music of 1950-1980, Great American Songbook, and cabaret.

"The ATC operates at the highest level of musicality and it is all right here for our community," Kellee says. "I love that the ATC partners with the Savannah Voice Festival as well as the Savannah Philharmonic, and that the ATC is branching out in new areas. Our ATC on Tybee Concert series was a fun collaboration with the Tybee Post Theater."

Kellee is a big fan of the ATC's community outreach, witnessing it firsthand when she and



Nat Zagree performs at last year's American Traditions Vocal Competition

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~ Cary Negley and family ~

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AMERICAN TRADITIONS VOCAL COMPETITION

Monday, February 18: The American Traditions Competition kicks off 7:30 p.m. with a Judge's Concert at Skidway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC). Guests will enjoy an evening of music with performances by all three ATC judges. Tickets to this concert cost \$30 each.

Tuesday, February 19 and Wednesday, February 20: At 4 and 7:30 p.m., at the SIUMC, 28 quarterfinalists perform three diverse American songs. Half of the contestants will compete on Tuesday, and the remaining 14 will perform Wednesday. Day passes for the quarterfinals cost \$25.

Thursday, February 21: The 12 semifinalists will sing their next set of three songs at 4 and 7:30 p.m., at SIUMC. Semifinals passes are \$35.

Friday, February 22: New for 2018, the People's Choice award winner from each round will also perform in the finals, as well as the five shortlisted for the gold, silver and bronze medals, at 8 p.m. at the Trustees Theater, 216 E. Broughton Street. General seating tickets are \$40; premium seating is \$55.

To learn more about the ATC or to see these finalists sing their hearts out to win the coveted medals, please visit www.american-traditionscompetition.com.

Sodergren performed in Chatham County Public Schools. "Introducing young people to the unique musical opportunity provided by the ATC was extremely gratifying," she says.

Kellee is most excited for the first-ever ATC Student Vocal Competition. As part of ATC's mission to provide education for students in the arts, Sodergren and the board will bring back ATC singers to train students in different styles, culminating in a one-day competition. "Stay tuned for more details," she says.

Looking to the future, former ATC gold medalist and current artistic director, Mikki Sodergren, shares some new aspects of this year's competition and plans for more. "We have three new fabulous judges, including award-winning jazz musician, Melba Joyce; American composer, conductor and music administrator, Michael Ching, who is also the Composer in Residence for the Savannah VOICE Festival; and Tony Award-winning Broadway performer, Phillip Boykin."

Returning to the 2019 competition as emcee is Rebecca Odoriso, the talented 2015 ATC Silver Medalist, 2015 and 2016 Ben Tucker Jazz Award winner and the 2016 Johnny Mercer Award winner. Two crowd-pleasing pianists will also return: David Shenton will celebrate 10 years of piano collaboration with the competition, and Wilson Southerland will join the festivities for his sixth year. Accompanying contestants for his first time will be accomplished pianist, Andrew Sotomayor.

The accomplishments of some of the singers from each round – each selected from among applicants worldwide – conveys the caliber and diversity of this year's contestants.

Round One: Chloe Legrand is a soprano bluegrass musician from Sparta, Kentucky. At 14, she formed a bluegrass band called Kentucky Sassafras. In 2008, the band was chosen by the International Bluegrass Music Association to represent bluegrass music on a tour in Japan. Legrand formed another bluegrass band called Blue Belles, and is now a student of voice performance at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music.

Round Two: Cyrille-Aimée Daudel ventured from sneaking out to sing in gypsy encampments and on street corners in Europe, to dazzling audiences at the world's most prestigious jazz festivals and performing on Broadway. She then braved the notoriously tough audiences at New York's Apollo Theater, and was described a "rising star in the galaxy of jazz singers" by the New York Times.

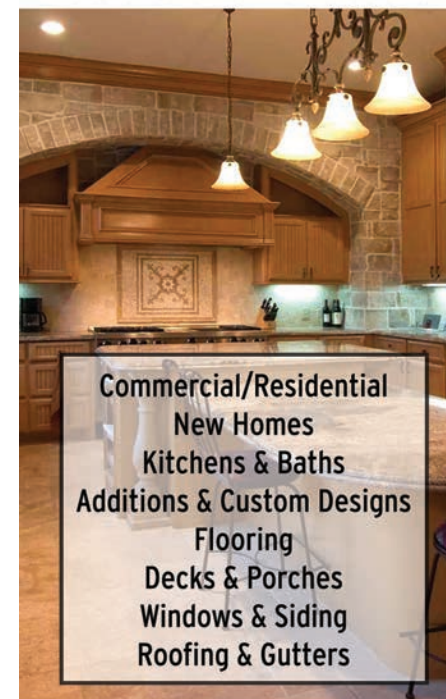
Round Three: George Lovett is a recording artist and performer. He's been seen on Fox's "Showtime at the Apollo," and was among the top 10 in season 13 of "American Idol." Currently, he is finishing his MFA in performing arts at SCAD.

Currently, he is finishing his MFA in performing arts at SCAD.

Round Four: Jacob Keith Watson is an actor/singer, Arkansas native and avid Notre Dame football fan. Some of his favorite credits include the Tony-nominated/winning revivals of "Carousel," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Violet." Watson has also been seen on Broadway in "Amélie," "The Phantom of the Opera," and the acclaimed Encores! revival of "1776," and the international tour of "Chicago."

A Week Pass to all performances – starting at \$154 – is the best value available to ticket buyers. With a Week Pass, any unused tickets can be donated daily for students to enjoy concerts. "I can promise that all who attend any part of the ATC will leave inspired, with their musical cup overflowing," Kellee Haselton says. "I believe that the arts stimulate creativity within a community and help it find common connection. Skidaway Island and the Landings are full of successful, polished, artful people and creative thinkers who will appreciate, applaud and enjoy the talented musicians of the ATC. The vocalists come from all over the world and leave the ATC experience savoring our Savannah and Southern hospitality."

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SEALing the Deal

Author Jack Carr visits the Savannah Book Festival

Almost 100 years ago, former-Pinkerton man, Dashiell Hammett, turned his experiences as a private investigator into fascinating tales that captured the imaginations of readers everywhere. Today, former-Navy SEAL, Jack Carr, follows the same tradition, bringing his military experience to the printed page.

Carr spent 20 years in Naval Special Warfare, from an enlisted SEAL sniper specializing in communications and intelligence, to leading special operations teams in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Philippines. Last spring, he released his debut novel, *The Terminal List*, a fast-paced, action-packed thriller. Carr will be among the featured authors at this year's Savannah Book Festival.

The Terminal List features Lt Cmdr. James Reece, one of two servicemen who survived a catastrophic ambush in Afghanistan. Returning home, the other survivor is found dead under mysterious circumstances, and soon after, Reece's wife and child are killed in a home invasion. Reece is convinced these events are no coincidence, and begins to unravel a conspiracy that stretches from his chain of command to higher levels in the federal government. With nothing to lose, the former Navy SEAL applies the lessons of warfare to his personal mission of vengeance.



Former Navy SEAL Jack Carr now writes political/military thrillers, bringing his combat experience to the printed page.

Carr grew up in Northern California, and wanted to become a published author for as long as he can remember. His mother is a librarian, so a love of books and of reading was instilled in him from a very early age. "My early influences were the authors on my parent's bookshelves: Fredrick Forsyth, Ken Follett, Robert Ludlum, John le Carré and Ian Fleming," he says.

The future author had a second goal for himself – to serve his country. "My grandfather was killed in World War II, so I grew up surrounded by his medals, the silk escape and evasion maps issued to aviators during the war, and old black-and-white photos of his plane and squadron."

But it was the Navy SEALs that captured his imagination, and Carr set his sights on joining their ranks and becoming a sniper. Following his first two deployments, he spent three months at Officer Candidate School, then returned to the SEAL teams as an officer. "I always knew that after my military service I would shift my focus to writing novels," he says.

It was David Morrell's *The Brotherhood of the Rose* where he saw SEALs written about in a fictional context for the first time. "Reading about SEALs the way David Morrell described them in his novel cemented my

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By Mike Broderick

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resolve to join the SEAL teams and write thrillers, just like the authors I loved to read growing up,” he explains.

Carr’s early education in storytelling came through the works of Nelson DeMille, J.C. Pollock, Tom Clancy, Louis L’Amour, Marc Olden, A.J. Quinnell, and the aforementioned Morrell. Later, he found another important influence on his literary development. Says Carr, “I discovered the great Stephen Hunter, who continues to inspire me today.”

While in the service, Carr followed writers like Daniel Silva, Vince Flynn and Brad Thor, all of whom are personal heroes. “I try to have my own voice,” he says, “but I readily acknowledge the influence these masters of the craft have had on me and my writing.”

The impact of those authors, coupled with his academic study of warfare and his experiences in combat, combine to make Carr’s book a visceral read. “I took my feelings from combat and applied them to a fictional narrative,” he says. “That was never part of a grand strategy, rather it was something that happened naturally as I wrote. It actually ended up being a very therapeutic process for me, which is not what I expected at the outset.”

Initially, Carr just wanted to write a good story. As it progressed, it became a way for him to explore some of the emotions he had experienced “behind the scope.” He believes one reason why it has resonated with readers is that, although a work of fiction, the emotions Reece feels in the novel are emotions Carr – and many others in the military – have experienced. “If the emotions associated with the characters in the novel feel authen-

tic,” he says, “that’s because they are.

This includes not only the psychological trauma of combat, but also the emotional shift that occurs upon returning home. “Exploring the emotions surrounding my military experience and transferring that experience into a fictional narrative became a journey that helped me as a human being and as an author.”

He describes his book as a novel of revenge without constraint, but with multiple levels. Reece’s campaign is also a war on a system removed from the consequences of its political decisions. “It’s about frustration with strategic level leaders who send tactical level operators to their deaths from the comfort of their offices in Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia,” he says.

As a serviceman, Carr was obliged to submit his manuscript to the Department of Defense for review, but that didn’t influence the final narrative. “They advertised a 30-day review period and I got *The Terminal List* back in 45 days, which I thought was reasonable,” he says.

Six or seven lines were redacted, but Carr chose to keep those lines blacked out in the novel so that he wouldn’t have to resubmit. It also allowed readers the opportunity to try to figure out what was blacked out. “To be honest,” he adds, “they blacked out a couple things you can find on official government websites.”

The book has been extremely well received by critics and other political/military-thriller authors – as well as Carr’s most demanding audience. He was uncertain how his former SEAL teammates would react. “I have been humbled and a bit relieved to have received nothing but positive feedback from those I fought beside in Iraq and Afghanistan,” the author says. “Those that run to the sound of the guns are constant companions as I write, so their approval and support mean more than I can possibly express.”

A sequel is scheduled for publication this summer. *True Believer* will be the second in what Carr sees as an ongoing series. “As long as readers want to hear about the next adventure and the evolution of James Reece, I’ll be writing stories with him as the protagonist.”



WHO: Jack Carr, author of *The Terminal List*
WHEN: February 16, at 12:30 p.m.
WHERE: Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 120 Bull Street
CONTACT: Visit SavannahBookFestival.org for a complete list of activities and events

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Presented by JE DUNN Construction, with a Gold Level sponsorship by the Mingledorff Family Trust, the 17th annual Candler Clays Charity Shoot and Auction will be held next weekend. The reception and live auction are set for Friday, February 15, followed by the shoot on Saturday, February 16. The annual fundraiser provides cancer patients in our community improved access to clinical trials, research programs and state-of-the-art equipment necessary for the advancement of cancer treatment. All funds stay in the Savannah region and benefit the Nancy N. and J.C. Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler.

The 2018 event raised a record \$176,387. Since its inception, the event has raised more than \$1 million in advancements for local area cancer patients.

GOLDEN TICKET

Not able to attend this year's event? Want a chance to win any of the amazing auction prizes? By entering the Golden Ticket Raffle, participants have a chance to select ANY of the live auction packages for only \$100 per ticket. Visit www.candlerclays.org to purchase your ticket today and select from the impressive lineup of auction packages. The drawing will be held prior to the event's live auction on Friday, February 15, at the Savannah Golf Club. Winners do not have to be present to win.

Here's a sampling of the incredible live auction packages up for auction at this year's event:

- **Fife Plantation Pheasant Tower Shoot:** (English Style) Three stands offered for six people total (each stand can have two guns as long as only one is shooting at a time). Cocktail buffet and full bar post shoot at the plantation house. Shoot in December of 2019, or January or February of 2020.

- **Welcome to New York!:** Includes a two-night stay at the exclusive National Arts Club in New York City; a private tour of the Metropoli-



Participants at the annual Candler Clays Charity Shoot support cancer advancements at the Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion at St. Joseph's/Candler.

tan Museum of Art with lunch for two in the Member Dining Room; \$250 dining certificate to Quality Meats; and \$250 gift certificate for a shopping experience with a private stylist at the WORTH New York flagship studio.

- **AwW Shucks!:** An oyster roast for 40 people with setup, breakdown, wine and beer, provided by the Beasley and Maggioni families.

- **Experience the Awe of Atlantic with Dinner and Drinks for 10:** Begin your evening at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Jules Victor III with cocktails in their fabulous garden and walk across the street to The Atlantic to enjoy an unforgettable dinner with wine pairings.

- **Viva Italia!:** Enjoy a seven-night stay for four people in one of several properties in Manciano, Italy. Manciano is located 90 minutes north of Rome in a small hill town in the southern edge of Tuscany.

- **Game, Set, Match!:** Includes two Promenade tickets to the Men's and Women's Finals of the 2019 U.S. Open Tennis Championship at Arthur Ashe Stadium (September 7 and 8) and three-night hotel accommodation at the Marriott, Hilton, Hyatt or comparable hotel.

- **The Magic of the Masters for 2:** Two badges to the Saturday, April 13 round at the Augusta National Golf Club, with full hospitality including breakfast, lunch, hors d'oeuvres, open bar, round-trip shuttle service to the course, and valet parking at the corporate hospitality site.

- **Man's Best Friend:** If you are looking for a black Labrador puppy

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of the highest pedigree, here's your chance! This male was whelped December 13, and has already been registered with the AKC and UKC, dew claws removed, wormed, and is up to date on shots.

- **Retreat to luxury at the JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort and Spa:** Package includes a three-night stay and a round of golf for four. Revive your mind, body and spirit with a \$200 gift certificate to the Lantana Spa, plus a \$200 Visa gift card.

- **Girls Just Want to Have Fun!:** Food, fashion and fun for four, featuring two one-night stays at the Mansion on Forsyth Park (double occupancy room); four "Pinch of Salt, Cup of Sugar" manicures and pedicures

at Sea Salt and Sugar nail salon; chef's three-course dinner with beverage pairing for four people at Cotton & Rye; dinner for four at 45 Bistro (valued at \$250), plus a \$300 gift certificate to local fashion boutique J. Paige.

To sponsor, participate, or attend this year's Candler Clays event, register online at www.candlerclays.org, contact St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations at 912.819.8683, or email candlerclays@sjchs.org. Financial support of the St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations ensures our community has access to the highest quality health-care services, state-of-the-art technology and advanced medical programs currently available. For more information about giving opportunities available through St. Joseph's/Candler Foundations, please call 912.819.8693.

MEET THIS YEAR'S HONOREE

This year's event honors the life and courage of Roddy Beasley. Roddy left this world much like he lived his life, characteristically understated, gently, and in the most dignified manner. Born in Savannah, he grew up downtown, where he attended Massey Elementary School, going on to the Blue Ridge School in North Carolina. Roddy attended Wake Forest University on a swimming scholarship before joining the Marine Corps. He graduated from Armstrong College. Roddy married the love of his life, Angela Maggioni, and they were a team for 50 years. They have two children, Alyson Beasley Spinks (Brad) and Jeffrey R. Beasley, Jr. Roddy owned and operated Maggioni Seafood, Inc., a 150-year-old family seafood and oyster business located in St. Helena, South Carolina. An outdoorsman and dog lover, he was committed to the culture and well-being of the Lowcountry.

Roddy was just as comfortable in khakis as in a tuxedo, and both had pockets full of dog treats. Wherever Roddy was, a dog was never far behind. He loved spending time on his dock among the quiet beauty of the rivers and marshes with family and friends. He was known for his wit, and his friends appreciat-



2019 Honoree Roddy Beasley and wife Angela Maggioni Beasley

ed his sense of fashion. Roddy was authentic, kind and unpretentious. He treated everyone the same way and would go out of his way to help someone in need. He was gracious and loving, hilarious and cool. He was "movie star" handsome, but never vain. He lived his life on his own terms and led by example.



GET IT IN GEAR

WHAT: Get Your Rear In Gear® 5K Walk/Run and Kids Fun Run to support colon cancer awareness/prevention and encourage screenings

WHEN: Saturday, March 2, at 8 a.m.

WHERE: Lewis Cancer and Research Pavilion, on Reynolds Street directly across from Candler Hospital

CONTACT: Visit sjchs.org/gyrig to register, St. Joseph's/Candler's Facebook page, or Get Your Rear In Gear Savannah's Facebook Page

WHAT ELSE: Sponsored in part by St. Joseph's/Candler, Gastroenterology Consultants of Savannah, P.C., the Center for Digestive and Liver Health and the Endoscopy Center, Fleet Feet Sports, WTOG-TV, the Savannah Morning News and 98.7 The River

JOHN PARKER

He Served • By Ron Lauretti

Richmond Hill resident John Parker is a veteran firefighter, with 33 years of saving lives and property. He has also spent 25 (mostly) concurrent years serving his country in uniform.

On December 29, 1941, just a few weeks after America's entry into World War II, Parker was born in Drew, Mississippi, where his father was a sharecropper. Four years later, after the war had ended, factories north of the Mason-Dixon line were in need of workers to meet surging post-war demands. The Parker family was among the many poor Southerners to migrate north in hope of a better life. Parker's father landed a job with the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Illinois. Though far from wealthy, the family enjoyed a better standard of living than their previous hardscrabble days in Mississippi.

When Parker graduated from high school in 1960, he hoped to go to college, but there was no way his family could afford to send him. Instead, he chose "Plan B," and enlisted. He entered the service at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, becoming a "Hollywood Marine" – the standard Jarhead joke for West Coast recruits. Parker was the platoon guidon bearer, standing in front of the unit alongside the commander, creating the rallying point for troops to fall into formation when so ordered. He was the platoon honor graduate, which earned him an automatic promotion to private first class.

Though trained as a radio telegraph operator, Parker served the duration of his enlistment as a crew member of the 2nd 8-Inch Howitzer Battery, 2nd Field Artillery Group, 2nd Marine Division, at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. These big guns could fire three standard high-explosive projectiles every two minutes up to a range of 25,000 meters. Parker was capable of fulfilling any one of the six crew positions. "It was extremely noisy with little hearing protection in those days but overall I enjoyed being a member of the gun crew," Parker says. "Especially if I was the one pulling the firing mechanism."

Because the U.S. was not actively engaged in any foreign conflict during Parker's four-year enlistment, the only overseas deployment Parker made was a "Med" cruise, when combined units of the Navy's 6th Fleet performed defensive military maneuvers throughout the Mediterranean Sea. Parker traveled aboard a landing ship tank (LST), which transported the big howitzers "Living conditions were a little crowded on board, but as a young man I really enjoyed the rare opportunity to visit all the exotic ports of the Mediterranean,"

Parker says, preferring to remember the experience with the glass half-full.

As Parker approached the end of his four-year hitch, he was highly recommended for reenlistment, but instead chose an honorable discharge, August 11, 1964, anxious to resume civilian life back home in Peoria. He found work at the Caterpillar Tractor Company, but soon tired of the dull routine of factory work. Fortunately, an exciting opportunity developed a year later when the Peoria Fire Department expanded with openings for 25 firemen. Parker applied, beginning a challenging but rewarding career. "I loved it from Day One," he says enthusiastically.

Parker remembers that when he began as a fireman in 1965, many fire departments nationwide excluded African-Americans and females from their ranks. As a result of the building Civil Rights movement, opportunities for diverse candidates began to open up nationwide, especially in larger cities. "But," Parker emphatically explains, "I personally earned every bit of my promotions because I had a good attitude, did my job well and faithfully, and passed all the advancement tests."

Parker remained with the Peoria Fire Department for 23 years, including a four-year assignment as an arson investigator. He rose steadily through the ranks, and in 1988 was promoted to chief of the department, in charge of 160 firemen.

During his years in Peoria, Parker was busy outside of the fire station. In 1972, he enrolled in Peoria Central College part-time, carefully scheduling classes so as not to con-



flict with his firefighting schedule. In 1976, he earned an associate degree in arts and sciences, and another in 1979 in applied science. He later taught as an adjunct professor at Illinois Central College, teaching fire science technology. Aside from classroom work, he also served in the Illinois Air National Guard from 1976 to 1990, rising to the rank of master sergeant.

Parker's days in Peoria came to an end when Los Angeles County annexed the city of Pomona, California. When a headhunting firm conducting a national search for Pomona's next fire chief found Parker, he and his wife, Eve, were off to sunny Southern California. The Pomona job, as compare to Peoria, was a big one. As a battalion chief for the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Parker had 5,000 firefighters and paramedics in his charge, operating out of 17 firehouses. He was responsible for several airplanes, helicopters and heavy equipment.

Firefighting is a risky profession, and Parker has had several close calls throughout the years. Once, a roof he was walking on caved in, dropping him into an attic that had just begun to burn. Another time, he was on the top step of a fire ladder leaning against a house engulfed in flames. The window in front of him blew outward with enough force to cause the axe he was holding to severely cut his arm. It was all he could do to keep from dropping the axe on the men on the ground below. Two months of medical leave were required for his arm to recover.

"I don't want to sound like a hero," Parker says, "but another time I was able to crawl through a burning room and rescue a scared and almost burned toddler trapped between a bed and a wall. I'll never forget the screams of the panicky mother, or her relief when we gave the rescued child back to her."

While in California, Parker served seven years in the Air Force Reserve, once more with the rank of master sergeant. That gave the military veteran a total of 25 years of service, 21 as an active reservist and a fulltime firefighter. Time-management and patriotic commitment are obviously part of his DNA.

In 1999, Parker retired, choosing to relocate to the Savannah area, primarily because he was familiar with Hunter Army Airfield. He and his wife wanted to live in a military-friendly area along the Southeast



John Parker, while serving with the Illinois Air National Guard, 1987

coast. Since their arrival, Parker has been very active in civic and military affairs. He has served as president of the 100 Black Men organization and as president of the historic American Legion Post 500. Post 500 needs major renovations, and Parker has been the chief fundraiser for the past 10 years. Parker has been Georgia's 1st District delegate to the Legion's national convention for four years. For his involvement in American Legion activities, Parker was named grand marshal of Savannah's 2018 Veteran's Day parade, a well-deserved honor.

The former firefighter recently stepped down as an officer of the Chatham County Veterans Association, but remains an active member of the Forty and Eight, an organization originally formed by veterans of World War I who were also members of the American Legion. Membership is by invitation only. The name refers to boxcars in France used to transport either 40 men or eight horses to the front lines. Its main purpose is to support several charitable causes, including scholarships to nursing students. For the past eight years, Parker has been instrumental in raising money for scholarships to Chatham County recipients, which has been another iteration in a lifetime of service.

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This portrait of John Parker was painted during his Marine Corps service by an unknown artist in Athens, Greece

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EGYPTIAN ODYSSEY (PART 2)

STORY AND PHOTOS BY PHILIP SCHWEIER

After three days enjoying a Nile River cruise aboard the *Farah*, we arrived in Luxor. The city is built upon the site of the ancient city of Thebes, which became the capital of Egypt around 1700 BC. Luxor stretches to both sides of the Nile, including the richest and most famous necropolis in the world.

DAY 8: THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS

Deir El Bahari, one of the most splendid temples in Luxor, lies to the west of the Nile, at the base of a small mountain. It was built around 1500 BC, by Queen Hatshepsut, whom Egyptologists regard to be one of the most successful female pharaohs. She ascended the throne of Egypt in 1478 BC, ruling for 20 years as regent on behalf of Thutmose III, her husband's infant son by a secondary wife. On the other side of the mountain, further west, lies the Valley of the Kings, the principal burial place of the major royal figures, including Ramesses III.

Egyptian royalty had abandoned pyramids in favor of underground tombs. After the mummified bodies of the pharaohs were laid to rest, the passages were sealed and covered with rock and rubble. With the entrances totally obscured, the pharaohs were confident that their tombs, unlike those of their ancestors, would be safe from thievery. They were mistaken. Almost all of the tombs were pilfered over the centuries, but they still give visitors an idea of the opulence and power of the pharaohs.

The tombs are decorated with scenes from Egyptian mythology, and offer clues as to the beliefs and funerary rituals of the period. Exploration, excavation and conservation continue



in the valley, with the discovery of two additional tomb entrances as recently as 2008. To date, the valley is known to contain 63 tombs, ranging in size from a simple pit to a complex tomb with more than 120 chambers. It is best known as the location of the tomb of Tutankhamun (c. 1332–1323 BC).

Theories strongly suggest that Tutankhamun is the son of Akhenaten (also known as Amenhotep IV), who is noted for abandoning the traditional practice of worshipping multiple gods in favor of a single god, Ra. However, these religious shifts were not widely accepted, and after his death, traditional practices were gradually restored. Akhenaten was discredited, his monuments dismantled and hidden. He and his immediate successors – including Tutankhamun – were excluded from the official dynastic lists. Tutankhamun was not a particularly noteworthy ruler due to his young age and short reign. Evidence suggests his tomb was robbed soon after his death. When many of the tombs from the Valley of the Kings were dismantled (c. 1100 BC), it is believed his was overlooked due to his family's fall from grace.

As a result of this oversight, his tomb was nearly intact when it was discovered by Howard Carter in 1922. More than 5,000 items were found in the tomb, which took 10 years to catalog. Many of the treasures are on display in the Egyptian Museum of Antiquities in Cairo, including Tut's ceremonial gold burial mask. It is perhaps the most impressive piece in the collection, comprised of 25 pounds of solid gold, inlaid lapis lazuli, carnelian, obsidian, colored glass, quartz and turquoise.

The museum, constructed around 1902, contains many important



pieces of ancient Egyptian history, including the famed Rosetta stone, a stone tablet measuring approximately 52 inches long and 30 inches wide. On it is carved the same writing in three scripts – Hieroglyphic, Demotic Egyptian and Greek. Because Greek was well known among scholars, the stone became the key to deciphering the Hieroglyphics. During the Egyptian Revolution of 2011, the museum was broken into, and several artifacts – including two mummies – were damaged.

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The Temple of Karnak features the largest hypostyle hall in the world, consisting of 134 columns representing the papyrus flower. The hall was built by King Seti I (1313-1292 BC) and was completed by his son Ramesses II (1292-1225 BC).

Around 50 objects were lost, but since then about half have been recovered. A new state-of-the-art museum is currently under construction in Cairo. At a cost of \$790 million, the Grand Egyptian Museum will occupy 5.2 million square feet, and is slated to open in 2020.

DAY 9

On the west bank of the Nile is one of the most visited historical sites in Egypt, the Temple of Karnak. Construction of the temple complex began c. 1500 BC, and continued for several centuries. Approximately 30 pharaohs contributed to the buildings, enabling it to reach a size, complexity and diversity unlike any other in the world. One famous feature of Karnak is the hypostyle hall – 50,000 square feet, with 134 massive columns arranged in 16 rows. There are also a few smaller temples and sanctuaries that connect to the nearby Luxor Temple, a large complex constructed approximately 1360 BC. The earliest structures were erected by Amenhotep III, and he and Ramesses II were responsible for most of the temple's huge colonnades and courts. Luxor Temple suffered some damage in the reign of Amenhotep's son, Akhenaten, when the name and figure of Amon were erased, but it was reconstructed in the reigns of Tutankhamun and Horemhab (1306 -1292 BC).

While in Luxor, we stayed at the Hilton Luxor Resort and Spa, a luxurious hotel that offers every amenity one might expect. Its pool deck overlooks the Nile, where we enjoyed a comfortable climate averaging about 80 degrees. The adjacent dining area features a broad menu of both Middle Eastern and European/American selections.

DAYS 10 AND 11

For our final two days in Luxor, we were joined by Amr Elsharkwy, an Egyptologist who shared much of his professional insight into the culture of the ancient Egyptians. Many of the sites we visited were less frequented by tourists, and free from heavy crowds. Thanks to Amr, we had a virtual private tour among the tombs and temples of Upper Egypt.

For several thousand years, Abydos flourished as a cemetery for the people of Egypt. The most famous building at Abydos today is the Temple of Seti I. This temple was begun by Seti I and completed by his son, Ramesses II. It is elegantly decorated and uniquely well-preserved, one of the masterpieces of Egyptian art and architecture. The temple features the Table of Abydos, listing many dynastic pharaohs of Egypt. Though some names were deliberately omitted (such as Akhenaten and Tutankhamun), it has been compared to the Rosetta Stone for its archaeological significance. Within the temple are seven chapels built for the worship of the pharaoh and principal deities, being the "state" deities Ptah, Re-Horakhty, and (centrally positioned) Amun-Re; the remaining three chapels are dedicated to the Abydos triad of Osiris, Isis and Horus.

The Dendera Temple complex is one of the best-preserved temple complexes in Egypt. The main building is Hathor temple, and on the rear of the temple exterior is a carving of the well-known Cleopatra and her son by Julius Caesar, Ptolemy XV.

The next day, we returned to the east bank of the Nile to visit the Valley of the Queens. Amr and Osama took us to the Tomb of Nefer-

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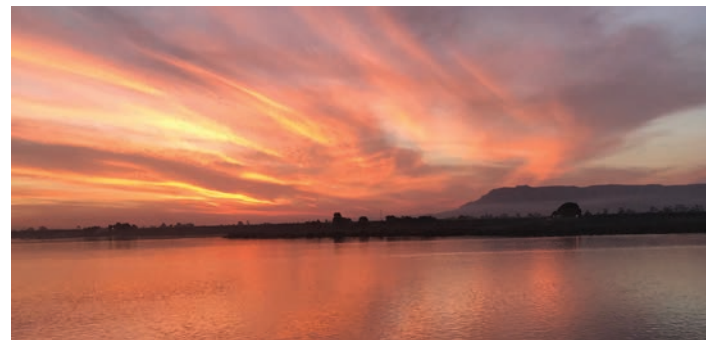
Discovered in 1902, it has been called the Sistine Chapel of Ancient Egypt, and for good reason. It features 5,200 square feet of wall paintings. (Photo courtesy of Wikipedia)

tari, Ramesses II's favorite wife. It is considered the best preserved of any Egyptian burial site. The astonishing reds, blues, greens and golds remain as vibrant as if they were painted yesterday.

Adjacent to the Valley of the Queens is Deir el-Medina, an ancient Egyptian village that was home to the artisans who worked on the tombs in the Valley of the Kings, c. 1550–1080 BC. The village may have been built apart from the greater population due to the secretive nature of the work carried out in the tombs. The site spans almost 400 years of ancient Egyptian culture, providing one of the most thoroughly documented accounts of community life in the ancient world. There is no comparable site in which the organization, social interactions, working and living conditions of a community can be studied in such detail.

That evening, just prior to our final full day in Egypt, we visited the Luxor bazaar for shopping. Souvenirs of all types can be found, from t-shirts to jewelry to miniature replicas of Egyptian monuments, and the prices are fair, depending how much one is willing to bargain. The vendors expect their customers to haggle, until both are satisfied with the price.

In all, our tour of Egypt was the trip of a lifetime. The Egyptian people appreciate American visitors to their country. Osama and his team at JourneytoEgypt.com/en provided every accommodation we could ever need and their attention was invaluable in making this an unforgettable journey.



Sunset on the Nile, as seen from the patio of the Hilton Luxor Resort

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Please email content to mail@theskinnie.com.
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THE NEW YOU

WHAT: Are you a New Neighbors member?

CONTACT: To join, go to the website and click on Membership, or contact Deb Werner at nnnewmember@gmail.com or 912.660.0174

WHAT ELSE: New Neighbors is a very active club open to any individual who lives at The Landings on a full- or part-time basis, is over the age of 21 and has never belonged to the Landings New Neighbors. The club offers more than 250 different activities, tours and events for you to enjoy. Go to www.landings-newneighbors.com to see more examples of how exciting New Neighbors can be.

GOTTA LOVE IT

WHAT: Join Landlovers

CONTACT: Landlovers Membership Chair, Lynn Stephens at Landloversmembership@gmail.com or 912.228.5383

WHAT ELSE: Landlovers Club is open to all Landings residents, and offers both social and philanthropic activities. To learn more about our activities and fundraisers, visit Landingslandlovers.com and click on "The Happenings" tab on the left.

PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

WHAT: Gail Wickstrom Exhibit, Artist in Residence at The Landings Company

WHEN: Jan. 1 to Feb. 28

WHERE: The Landings Company Real Estate and Welcome Center, One Landings Way North

CONTACT: 912.598.0500

WHAT ELSE: M – F, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

BE A DECENT DOCENT

WHAT: Davenport House Museum Docent Training Program

WHEN: February 2019 (4 dates)

WHERE: Davenport House Museum, 324 E. State Street, Savannah

HOW MUCH: Free of charge

CONTACT: Sheena Fulkerson, 912.236.8097; sfulkerson@davenporthouse-museum.org, davenporthousemuseum.org

WHAT ELSE: Davenport House volunteer docent/tour guide training is offered in Feb-

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ruary. This is a four-week training program. Docents lead tours and assist with programs for people from around the world who visit the historic house.

WHERE FOR ART THOU?

WHAT: The Art of Harriet Zabusky-Zand
WHEN: Feb. 1-28; Reception on Feb. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m.

WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St.

HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Vicky Lunick, 912.355.8111

WHAT ELSE: Harriet Zabusky-Zand received a BFA from the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, and her MFA from Massachusetts College of Art. Her work has been exhibited in the U.S. and in England, and is included in the Gillette Corporation collection, the Sonesta Sonnabend collection, the Westin Hotel, Accenture, Mohegan Sun Casino, Marriott Hotels, the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in New York, and many other corporate and private collections.

THUMBS UP

WHAT: Landlovers Green Thumb Club

WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 6, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church

HOW MUCH: Open to members of Green Thumb Club and Landlovers, \$5 guest fee

CONTACT: Kate Kastner, 912.999.6564 or katekastner@icloud.com

WHAT ELSE: Guest speaker from One Hundred Miles non-profit organization

TAG, YOU'RE IT

WHAT: Telfair Academy Guild (TAG) coffee reception, member meeting with guest speaker
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.

WHERE: Jepson Center, Neises Auditorium

WHAT ELSE: TAG Members and their guests are welcome to attend. Guest speaker: Celeste-Marie Bernier, Personal Chair in English Literature, Professor of Black Studies, University of Edinburgh, will present "Suffering, Struggle, Survival: The Lives and Works of the Frederick Douglass Family in the Walter O. and Linda Evans Collection." Bernier specializes in the literatures, histories, politics, visual cultures, and philosophies of the African Diaspora over the centuries.

TO MARKET, TO MARKET

WHAT: The Market at 3 West Ridge

WHEN: Feb. 12, 5-7:30 p.m.; Feb. 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

WHERE: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Skidaway Island

HOW MUCH: \$5, good for all three days

CONTACT: Please visit www.stpeterssavannah.org/the-market-at-3-west-ridge

WHAT ELSE: Wine and cheese opening night, and lunches available for purchase Feb. 13 and 14.

DONATIONS ACCEPTED

WHAT: Landlovers Flea Market Intake

WHEN: Saturday, March 2, 9 a.m.-

3:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 3, noon -

3:30 p.m.; Monday, March 4, 9 a.m. -

3:30 p.m.

WHERE: Landings Association parking lot

CONTACT: landingsfleamarket@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Now is the time to search your closets, garages, and attics for unloved and unused treasures. The key to the Landlovers' Flea Market success is lots of merchandise. Please donate generously during intake days. Your donations are tax-deductible.

FLEA FOR YOUR LIVES

WHAT: Landings Landlovers Flea Market

WHEN: Saturday, March 9, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church at 1 West Ridge Rd., opposite Publix

HOW MUCH: Free admission

CONTACT: landingsfleamarket@gmail.com

WHAT ELSE: Cash sales only. Check out at each table venue. Come early for the best bargains.



NOTEWORTHY SINGING

WHAT: Grammy Winner, Kurt Ollmann, Baritone
WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 10, at 5 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, 54 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: SIUMC at 912.598.8460
WHAT ELSE: Renowned baritone in recital, accompanied by instrumentalists Marc Ches- now (bass), Jonathan Murphy (piano) and Bill Smith (guitar).

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

WHAT: Landlovers Photography Club
WHEN: Feb. 12, 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church
HOW MUCH: The annual photo club fee is \$20. Participants must be members of Landlovers.
CONTACT: landloversphotoclub.wordpress. com
WHAT ELSE: Novice, expert or anything in between, are welcome to join our fun and sup- portive group of shutterbugs! Howard Hack- ney will speak on “Expanding Your Photogra- phy with Events and Workshops.” With years of experience photographing the wonders of the world, he will share his insights and show us that no matter your level of experience, there are great ways to learn something new.

MEN OF ACTION

WHAT: Landlovers Men’s Action Movie Night
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 12
CONTACT: Al Stiles, 349.9977 with any questions; Email: boating20@gmail.com to be added to the email distribution list
WHAT ELSE: This is a fun gathering of men who want to see movies in a proper theater then grab a bite to eat. The second Tuesday of the month we attend a 4 p.m. matinee showing at a local movie theater and then eat at a local casual eatery. About five days in advance you will receive an email with 3 movie choices loosely meeting our criteria and restaurant selection. Not everyone has to go to the same movie. RSVPs are appreciated so we know whether to expect you. Carpool from the Methodist Church, no dues, wear your name tag.

SEE FOR YOURSELF

WHAT: Bright Eye-deas Low Vision Group
WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island United Methodist

Church
HOW MUCH: Free to all including family and friends
CONTACT: Kay Higby 912.598.9634
WHAT ELSE: This month’s presentation will be from Sam Adler of the Humanware Com- pany. Among the products he will be bringing, are a portable CCTV with distance reading and a battery, the Victor reader (an audio reader), and other visual aids. We welcome you all to join us in learning about this company’s latest developments. If you need a ride, call Kay Higby.

PLAYERS CLUB

WHAT: Landlovers Bridging the Gap Bridge
WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m.
WHERE: Game will be held in the Oakridge dining room.
CONTACT: Roslyn Brown, 598.0618 or e-mail spdster91@comcast.net to sign up or with any questions.
WHAT ELSE: Must be a Landlovers and Landings Club member to join.

IT’S NOT ABBY

WHAT: Skidaway Abigails Meeting
WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 14, 3:45 p.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Rd.
HOW MUCH: Meetings are open to mem- bers (free) and their guests (\$5)
CONTACT: Martha Welsh, 734.646.5372 or marti.welsh@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Guest speaker will be Latrell Gulotta, Family Treatment Court Coordinator of the Chatham County Juvenile Court.

SWEETHEART DANCE

WHAT: Valentine Dance and Vow Renewals
WHEN: Feb. 16, 7-11 p.m.; Cocktails at 6, heavy hors d’oeuvres at 7, dancing at 8
WHERE: Elks Lodge, 183 Wilshire Blvd., Savannah
HOW MUCH: \$20 per person; Advance reservations only; Call 912.927.2183
WHAT ELSE: Music by DJ Jeff T-Bone Taylor. Casual attire (wear red). Proceeds to benefit Elks Scholarship Fund

AW, SHUCKS

WHAT: Hospice Savannah Oyster Roast on Isle of Hope
WHEN: Sunday, Feb. 17, 2 to 6 p.m.
WHERE: Isle of Hope Marina, 50 W. Bluff Dr.
HOW MUCH: \$40 before Feb. 1, \$50 afterwards

CONTACT: Ophelia Rodriguez , Hospice Savannah Foundation, 912.629.1027
WHAT ELSE: Tickets available through Eventbrite on Hospice Savannah’s Facebook page or from the front desk of Hospice House. Enjoy locally harvested oysters, chili, beer, bev- erages, desserts, a silent auction, and live music by the Midtown Pickers. All proceeds support Hospice Savannah’s life-enriching programs and services. The oyster roast is in memory of Isle of Hope resident Sammy Moore, who died under Hospice Savannah’s care on New Year’s Day, 2018, leaving the non-profit a generous bequest. The silent auction will include three of his stunning photographs.

NOT FAKE NEWS

WHAT: SIRC Presidents Day Dinner – Guest Speakers Corey Lewandowski and David Bossie
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 18, 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Plantation Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: \$150 per person, includes three-course dinner with wine
CONTACT: Dan Huffer, 2 Westshell Court, 598.9986 or Salingolf@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Speakers co-authored a best- seller, Trump’s Enemies: How the Deep State is Undermining the Presidency. Each guest receives a free, autographed copy of the book. Both authors were key figures in the Trump campaign.

THE COAST WITH THE MOST

WHAT: CCA of Skidaway February Meeting – Fly Fishing in the Savannah Area
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter’s Church
HOW MUCH: No charge
CONTACT: Dave Devore, 330.329.6457
WHAT ELSE: Fly fishing in the Savannah area will be the topic of the CCA of Skidaway’s February meeting and seminar. The featured speakers will be Chad Dubose of Orvis Rivers & Glen Trading Company and dedicated fly disherman John Parish. A fly rod and reel from Orvis Rivers & Glenn will be the CCA’s February raffle prize.

A STITCH IN TIME

WHAT: Landlovers Stitchers and Beaders
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 19, 3-5 p.m.
CONTACT: Please contact Jayne (JM- Rogers341@gmail.com) or Kathy (Kathysil- bert@gmail.com) to be on the contact list.
WHAT ELSE: You will receive an email with place of the next meeting and a request to RSVP if you attend. Bring your project and

enjoy a couple hours of good company while you stitch or bead!

DOMINOES DELIVERS

WHAT: NOGTOB’s Mexican Train Domi- noes and Lowcountry Boil Dinner
WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Plantation’s Azalea Room
HOW MUCH: \$32.74 including tax and gratuity
WHAT ELSE: You must be a Landings Club member (or guest of a member) in order to re- serve a seat. RSVP to Toni Floyd at tfloyd13@aol.com with your name, club number, number of people, whether you can bring a Dominoes set, and if so, how many players it accommodates. Mexican Train Dominoes is a fun and easy game to learn. If necessary, we will provide instructions proper to play.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

WHAT: American Heart Association’s Go Red for Women, Red Dress Fashion Show
WHEN: Wednesday, Feb. 20, 11 a.m.; reception, 12 p.m. lunch, 12:30 p.m. speaker, fashion show at 12:45 p.m.
WHERE: The Plantation Club, The Landings
HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$50 per person; Tables of 10/12 Heart tables - are \$600
CONTACT: Kathy Levitt 912.598.0839
WHAT ELSE: To purchase tickets, call Flor- ence Anderson – 912.657.6640. Dr. Marianne Fleming will present key factors on heart disease as the number one killer of women. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Associa- tion, tax deductible as permitted by law.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

WHAT: Friends of Skidaway Audubon presen- tation on “The Birds of Skidaway Island” by noted ornithological photographer Russ Wigh
WHEN: Thursday Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m.
WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Road
HOW MUCH: 5\$ or free to members of Friends of Skidaway Audubon
WHAT ELSE: Be prepared to learn about the birds on the island. It will inspire you and leave you in awe!

AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER

WHAT: “Preventive Engagement: How Ameri- ca Can Avoid War, Stay Strong, and Keep the Peace”

WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 21; Social - 7:30 p.m.; Program - 8 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, 50 Diamond Causeway
HOW MUCH: Open to the public and free for members, students and their accompanying family members, educators, and active duty military and their dependents; \$10 charge for non-members; annual individual membership is \$40 and family membership is \$60
CONTACT: www.savannahcwa.org
WHAT ELSE: Co-sponsor: United Commu- nity Bank. The Savannah Council on World Affairs, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-profit organization. Its purpose is to make available information, analysis and strategic thinking about important international issues.

PET PROJECT

WHAT: SAVE-A-LIFE at Abercorn Street PetSmart Charities Adoptathon Event
WHEN: Saturday, Feb. 23, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30-ish p.m.
WHERE: PetSmart Store, 111320 Abercorn St.
HOW MUCH: Free to meet the rescued pets
CONTACT: Please give a Save-A-Life rescued and vetted pet a chance to steal your heart. For more information, please leave a message and your telephone number at 912.598.SPAY.

POTLUCK PEOPLE

WHAT: SIBC annual “Tall Tales” potluck dinner
WHEN: Thursday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island State Park
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: siboatingclub@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Skidaway Island Boating Club’s annual Potluck Dinner will be held around the cozy fireplace in the park’s group shelter building. Attendees must BYOB and RSVP to siboatingclub@gmail.com with your name(s) and what dish you’ll bring (appetizer, entree, veggie/salad/side or dessert). To become an SIBC member, go to skidawayislandboating- club.org. Boat ownership is not required.

REEL FUN

WHAT: Jewish Women of the Landings Movie Club
WHEN: Monday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.
WHERE: Member’s home
CONTACT: annettecarnow@gmail.com to

reserve a place since seating is limited
WHAT ELSE: The selection for February is “Three Identical Strangers,” a documentary of the joyous, Improbable story of identical triplets separated at birth and how they found each other. It also reveals the dark secrets behind the well-respected Jewish Adoption Agency responsible for their placements.

OPENING NIGHT

WHAT: Skidaway Rotary presents “The Best of Savannah Theatre at the Plantation Club”
WHEN: Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 26 and 27. Buffet 6 p.m.; show 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Tickets: \$125 includes buffet and show
CONTACT: Susan Kleine, 598.4234 or sava- nahsue@bellsouth.net
WHAT ELSE: Benefits Hesse School. For sponsorships, contact dsnuggerud@me.com.

PRETTY AS A PICTURE

WHAT: Art show featuring the works of Car- men Maria Aguirre
WHEN: March 1-31; Artist’s reception - March 7, 5 - 8 p.m.
WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St. Savannah
CONTACT: Vicky Lunick 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: Aguirre is a figurative painter working in oil on canvas and/or panel. She spent her formative years in Miami, where she received her BFA from Barry University. She pursued post-graduate work with the Spanish classical painter, Amadeo Roca Gisbert. Re- turning to Miami, Aguirre developed a career as a graphic artist, becoming the editor of the magazine section of Diario Las Americas, one of the most important Spanish newspapers in the U.S. dedicated to the Hispanic communi- ty. She moved to Savannah in 2016 to concen- trate on her career as a painter.

THE BRAT PACK

WHAT: Wisconsin Club Annual Brat Bash
WHEN: March 13, 2019, 6 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island State Park Pavilion
CONTACT: John Otjen, 349.0752 or email: jotjen@verizon.net
WHAT ELSE: Open to all Wisconsin club members and guests. If you have lived, worked, played, gone to school, rooted for Green Bay Packers, in Wisconsin, you qualify. We have fun! Join us!

Complete Island Hopping listings are now online! Just visit www.theskinnie.com and click “Read.”

CHALLENGER CLUES*

ACROSS

- 1. Sith enemy
- 5. Type of bull
- 10. Platoon, e.g.
- 14. Master of 58-Across
- 15. Form a gully
- 16. Prefix meaning 'quadrillion'
- 17. **Black OR White**
- 19. Crawled, in a way
- 20. General Mills introduction of 1937
- 21. Like hair that's straight and limp
- 22. Fabric often used in underwear
- 23. Type of caterpillar
- 24. Stringbean, e.g.
- 26. You get them coming and going
- 29. Arnold Palmer ingredient
- 30. Youngest child in "Peanuts"
- 31. Levels
- 32. Outfielder's throw
- 35. Sat around waiting to get drunk
- 36. **Black THROUGH White**
- 37. Super ____
- 38. Expression of disappointment
- 39. "That's ____" (1953 Dean Martin hit)
- 40. Blood line
- 41. With cunning
- 43. Brawny clam?
- 44. Disease that killed Tchaikovsky
- 46. Arrange, in a way
- 47. Disparaging Hawaiian term for a non-Hawaiian
- 48. Longfellow's bell town
- 49. Fruit in a pod
- 52. Sorts
- 53. **Black AND White**
- 56. Relief center?
- 57. Owl in "Harry Potter"
- 58. See 14-Across
- 59. Units of measurement
- 60. Hangover?
- 61. Breck rival

DOWN

- 1. Soda dispenser
- 2. Pre-college
- 3. M minus CDXLI
- 4. John, in England
- 5. Tall hickory trees

Shades of Gray?

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
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47								48				49	50	51
52						53	54				55			
56						57					58			
59						60					61			

- 6. Ain't right?
- 7. Smithfield Foods specialty
- 8. ____ Annie in "Oklahoma"
- 9. "____ Girls" (Cole Porter)
- 10. Positive aspect
- 11. **Black ON White**
- 12. Mussolini heir-apparent, ____ Balbo
- 13. What Petruchio did
- 18. Brand of olestra
- 22. "I'm game!"
- 23. Cousin of 'whump'
- 24. Public display of anger
- 25. Minute
- 26. Bedouin, e.g.
- 27. Toy brand with its own amusement parks
- 28. **Black AROUND White**
- 29. **White THROUGH Black**
- 31. Deadly viral disease named after a river
- 33. Prominent Art Deco icon

- 34. Aim
- 36. Islamic chieftain
- 37. Throng
- 39. "The African Queen" screenwriter
- 40. First name of 007 nemesis, Goldfinger
- 42. Ready to start
- 43. Personnel department concern
- 44. Sitting Bull or Red Cloud
- 45. Composer Handel's German birthplace
- 46. Tool for Sweeney Todd
- 48. Part of an incantation
- 49. Rodent called a 'gibnut' in Belize
- 50. All the rest
- 51. In re
- 53. Dr. Seuss creature that needs a haircut every day
- 54. Bollix up
- 55. Oldest city in Kyrgyzstan

Puzzle answers, page 31

\$20 each, with a maximum of 50 words • \$5 for each additional 10 words • Contact Teri Grayson at 598.9715 or email classifieds@theskinnie.com

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Gracious Moves • Landings Resident/Realtor® / Move Manager, Brooke Bass has been assisting families since 1985. Moving simplified from A to Z: Prepare home for sale, list and sell, sort, pack, organize, floor plan, stage, unpack, setup, hang art, remove boxes on moving day! NAR® Outstanding Service Award! www.GraciousMoves.com; Brooke@GraciousMoves.com; Call Brooke, 912.655.9299.

PAINTING/POWER WASHING

Peterson Custom Works, Inc. • For highest quality interior/exterior painting, wood-rot repair, pressure washing, window and door replacement. Licensed and insured. Georgia license #RBQA004670. Ten years experience on Skidaway Island. References available. 351.0716 or 656.8842.

Islands Painting • Proudly serving the Landings for over 20 years. We specialize in custom interior and exterior painting. We also do pressure washing of homes, sidewalks, driveways, etc. Wallpaper removal and much more!! Thank you for your consideration. Please see my reviews at TLA. Call Tommy Rigdon: 912.308.4601 or email: tjrigdon@yahoo.com.

KCD Pressure Cleaning/Window Washing • Our team provides exceptional service! Pressure Cleaning, Soft Wash & Window Washing – Houses, driveways, roofs, decks & more. Residential and commercial properties. Call Keith Kilgore today at 912.660.3179 or email us at kcdpressurecleaning@gmail.com Find out our monthly special and set up a free estimate.

Motley Crew Power Wash • Locally owned and operated. We offer: Soft wash cleaning of exterior; pressure washing of driveways, walkways, concrete patios, and wood decks; Safe, Soft Roof cleaning; . Landings. Strong work values and professional etiquette. Jobs are always kept neat and clean. FREE

estimates and our work is always guaranteed. Call Josh at 912.675.6293



LUKSCOLOR PAINTING SERVICES • Licensed & Insured. Quality painting at an affordable price done by someone you can trust! No job too small. References available...Creating beautiful homes in the Savannah/Chatham County area for over 13 years. Call Andrey Ribeiro for free estimates, 912.713.9578. Email: andrey.lukscolor@gmail.com / Website:www.lukscolorpainting.com

Island Painting • Small projects or entire homes. Free estimates. Call 912.665.7299

PETS

Peaceful Pets • Planning a trip out of town? Or do you work long hours and need someone to take your pet out for a restroom break? Peaceful Pets is a Pet Sitting Service that can do this. I offer affordable rates and overnight visits. Call 912.707.1707 for pricing, www.peacefulpetssavannah.com.

The Cat's Meow and Dogs 2 • We offer daily visits, dog walking and overnight stays in your home. Let a reliable, responsible and caring person take care of your pet while you are away. Reasonable rates and Landings residents! For cats call Teri @ 598.9901 or 655.5210 and for dogs call Greg and Kaye @ 429.5329.

Susan's Faithful Friend • Let me care for your furry friends when you cannot. We offer daily visits and overnight stays. Responsible Landings resident since 1998 and dog and cat owner since forever! Call Susan Moore 912.604.8790. Check out my website for rates and services at www.susansfaithfulfriend.com

The Hipster Hound • Yappy Hour, Every Friday 5-7:30 pm. \$7 Self Serve Dog Washes. 15% of bakery and chew bar items. 1 Diamond Causeway, Kroger Shopping center next to Pizza Hut. 912.349.7640.

SENIOR CARE

Comfort Keepers • Comfort Keepers of Savannah, GA differs from most at home health care providers by offering more home care options and a team care approach to providing services to the people we care for. Our expert caregivers provide customized care plans, and we provide the next level of care through private duty nurses who make it possible to keep your loved one at home. Contact Comfort Keepers:

912.356.0111, savannah-605.comfortkeepers.com

SERVICES

The Original Guy Friday with Truck • Need help moving, cleaning your garage or attic, rearranging furniture or hauling away unwanted items or yard waste? When you need a hand, call me, George, I can help! 912.660.0432 or 912.598.1661.

Sandfly Custom Framing • We are a full service custom frame shop with over 2,000 mouldings to choose from. All work performed in house to ensure quality control. Owned and operated by Judi Weaver with over 20 years experience. Shadow boxes, mirrors, stitch art, diplomas, specialty matting, portraits, paintings. Original art and prints from area artists also available. Consider Sandfly Custom Framing: "When Quality Matters." 8413-B Ferguson Ave. 912.691.1333.

Island Property Management & House Sitting • 10 years an island resident. Short term or long term. No job too big or small, we handle them all. 598.9901 or 655.5210

TREE SERVICES

Treemaster, Inc. • We offer these services for all of your tree needs: trimming, pruning, and removal. We also offer stump grinding. We're bonded and insured. 24-hour emergency service. We accept all major credit cards except Discover. We are the sister company of Grassmasters, owned by Landings residents, Mike and Diane Schuman. Call us at 912.598.0140.

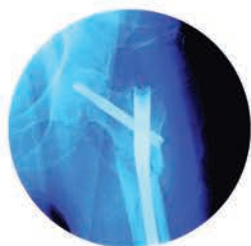
WINDOW CLEANING

Clearview Coastal • We are Savannah's oldest window and pressure washing company and we've been exceeding expectations for over 25 years. Savannah Magazine readers voted us "Best Pressure Washing Company." We offer window cleaning, pressure washing, window restoration, and gutter cleaning. Excellent references available upon request. Professional, motivated staff. We also offer commercial services. Call 351.9960 or www.clearviewcoastal.com.

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IRVING VICTOR - Savannah, GA



VIC'S RECIPE FOR A QUICK RECOVERY?

**ONE PART ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER.
ONE PART SKILLED SURGEON.**

Vic had an accident in his home that left him with a serious injury – a broken femur. He was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital where our team quickly assessed the injury and called in the expertise of Dr. Hope. He determined that Vic needed surgery immediately, inserting a metal rod to help physically reconnect the bones. A few months later – Vic is back doing what Vic does best – serving up southern hospitality, fine food and a quick smile “on the River”.



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