



# The Skinnie

VOL 18: ISSUE 02 JANUARY 24, 2020







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# Upfront

You know the ending before the story begins. The trajectory is certain. The conclusion: The same for us all over time. It's unchangeable. It must be as it is; it's an elemental truth. Eventually, you're luck runs out.

What, then, can you hope for in the meantime?

There will be highs. Moments of unrestrained joy. You'll celebrate successes, often with a wide smile.

And there is hope. Especially early on. The sense that anything is possible, because it is.

Disappointments burden your spirit. The truth chips away at optimism, sometimes slowly when it's merciful, like a river carving a canyon; other times, your destiny reveals itself in jarring, sharp relief.

Just as you enjoy good stretches – spans of time during which your results seem nothing-but-awesome – the dark periods come, too. As the end nears, the latter arrive more frequently, and their deleterious effects are harder to shake.

You find yourself praying more with time, your pleas for divine intercession increasing in inverse proportion to the decline of your sustaining stock. Then, there is a moment when dread surrenders to acceptance, and, without significant emotion, you simply play out the string.

Finally, it's quiet, and completely over for you. But the noises that accompany a world that remains in frenetic motion blare all around you, inconsiderate of your fate.

My mom calls them “the penny machines,” and she doesn't like the ones “with all the pictures,” though they all seem loaded with eye candy to me. Granted, the posted denomination is \$.01; but, when you bet 300 units per spin, that's three bucks a pop by my math.

“You play the expensive ones,” she says to me, in a vaguely accusatory motherly tone.

True enough, a quarter is more than a penny, and a dollar is the gateway to paper currency and its associated risks. But a max bet of 3X on the 25-cent machines gets me four bites at the apple to one of my mother's penny-denominated plays.

“You know you're going to lose, right?!” I've heard it countless times

from my fancy, over-educated friends. It's more an insult than a question. “They wouldn't build huge buildings with indoor canals if it weren't so.”

I'm not interested in long-term averages. I'm paying for the idea of a miracle...the chance for an everyday man to be extraordinary, for a fleeting moment, just once.

Where does a 55-year-old man take his mother and two 20-something daughters for Martin Luther King Day? Vegas, of course.

I have “a system.” I'm highly confident that it works. And I'm disciplined: \$300 a day, not a nickel more. When it doubles, I cash out. Alternatively, and less pleasant, when it's gone, it's gone. No digging into the wallet until the following night. I only play the “progressive” machines. The word usage here isn't linked to Medicare-for-all, rather it refers to a potential two-comma jackpot, complete with on-site federal withholding protocol and a photo session with a ceremonially enormous check. So, in classic finance theory, I have “optionality” on my side. Anyway, if my system is flawed – and it's not – I still accrue lots of player points.

My mom and my kids – they haven't thought things through like I have. They make the classic mistake. Drop a 20, burn through it in no time, and move on before the machine's predisposition to pay periodically kicks in.

It's weird, then, the way life isn't fair.

At one seating – on the penny's, of course – my mom hit for \$697.25 in the blink of an eye. I didn't have time to locate my (scientifically-selected) station (no, I'm not telling...some things are too nuanced to share), and she was already done. She pressed “collect” and printed a voucher for the above-stated sum. Her expression of unfettered delight in the photo of her in that moment is worth something closer to a million bucks.

Sofia, true to her innate fiscal prudence, accumulated \$250 in winnings, in small bites, banking each of her micro-wins as they came. Gabby, with almost zero effort and total indifference, turned a 20 into a 50 by the time we checked out.

My system yielded unexpected results. I lost roughly \$500, but saved a little more than that at a big post-Christmas sale at my favorite store. So, technically, I finished ahead, right?

*Scott A. Lawrence*



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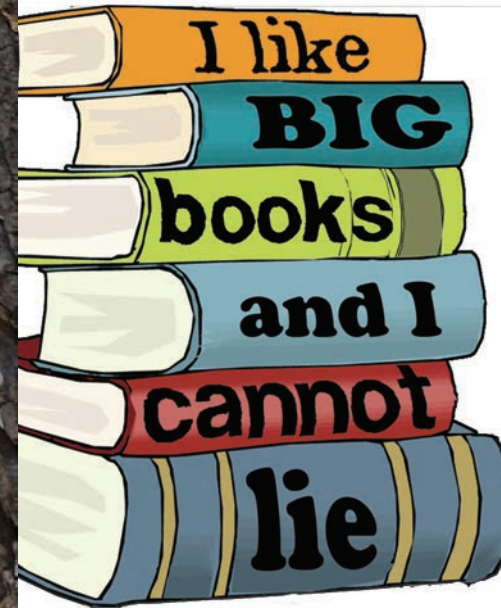
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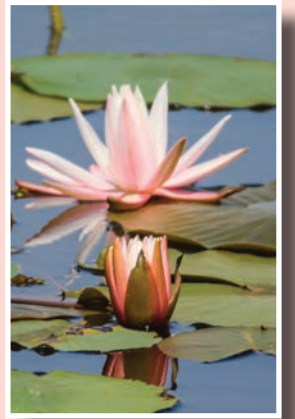
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# AUTHOR! AUTHOR!

By Philip Schweier

John McMahon's debut novel, *The Good Detective*, tells the story of P.T. Marsh, an investigator in the small town of Mason Falls, Georgia. Personal tragedy has led Marsh down a self-destructive path, until he and his partner, Remy, investigate a murder that slowly unveils a local conspiracy stretching back generations. To expose the greater evil in his own community, Marsh must first reconcile his demons and rebuild his life out of the ashes of his grief.

Though his book is set in Georgia, the Bronx-born writer has lived in California since his teens. During his career in advertising, he began visiting the Atlanta area on business. "On weekends between shoots and other projects, I'd drive up north, northeast of Atlanta, and just kind of fell in love with that area," McMahon says. "When I started plotting a book, I thought it would be great setting."

McMahon managed to effectively capture the north Georgia setting, meeting the expectations of his Peach State audience. "When I went on a book tour, there were a lot of readers who said, 'You have to be from Georgia.' I love the state. I find myself looking around

for real estate, but I have a job in California."

Unlike many writers of detective fiction, McMahon discovered the genre as an adult. "I'm not one of those people who grew up reading the Hardy Boys," he explains. "I came upon it in my 20s. At some point I started reading police procedurals and detective fiction, and loved the genre."

In exploring the police investigation genre, McMahon is influenced by several writers. "I think I read different people for different things," he explains. "Michael Connelly is a master of plotting; Cormac McCarthy uses dialogue so sparingly, it's kind of an inspiration. I wouldn't skip the punctuation like he does, though." He cites James Lee Burke as his favorite author.

McMahon has sculpted a unique character from an archetypical mold, someone credible yet flawed. He describes Marsh as someone who lives in this space between right and wrong. "Kind of the good man at the bottom of a swamp, and can't get out," McMahon says of his central character. "On one hand, he's following the law; on the other, he has this exacting sense of justice; but, he almost be-

comes judge, jury and executioner. So there's a bit of a hypocrisy there that I thought was really interesting. He's one place or the other place; that's what I'm trying to build."

As a writer, he begins with tone and voice. "I don't come up with a physical description first. I hear his voice first, waking up in the parking lot of the strip bar at the beginning of the book."

*The Good Detective* is McMahon's first published novel, but is born from a previous effort. His earlier book generated a great deal of interest, but some feedback suggested the story was overly complex. "I've gone back to look at that manuscript again, and it is kind of a mess," he admits. "I hadn't yet learned enough about plotting and organization."

His agent challenged him, saying, "If you're a writer, write another book," which resulted in *The Good Detective*.

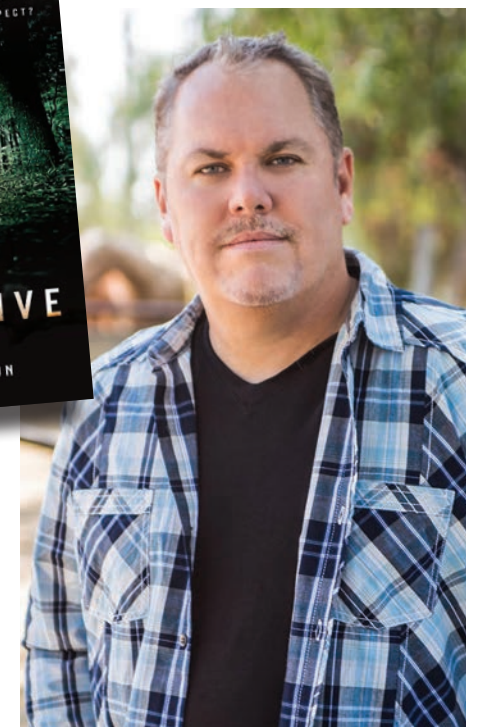
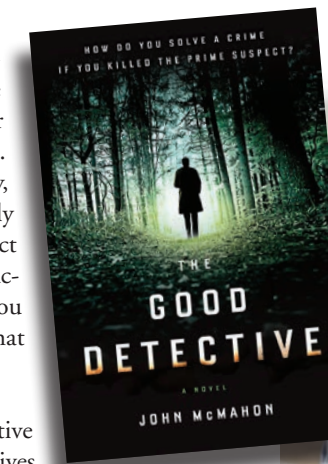
A self-described "10-year overnight sensation," McMahon has appreciated the benefits of regularly attending a writer's workshop for the past decade. Each Saturday, he brings 10 pages to share with other aspiring authors.

"Everything is constructive and people get to know your characters," he says. "People might say, 'This doesn't really work, because in Act 1, your main character did this,' and you realize 'Oh, crap, that doesn't work.'"

The constructive criticism he receives has made him a better writer. "The workshop teacher and the other writers are really good," he says. "Everyone gets their knife out and they cut you pretty hard. Learning is everywhere if you're ready to get cut."

The success of *The Good Detective* has spawned a sequel, *The Evil Men Do*, to be released in March. "The plot of the murder is very dark in *The Good Detective*, but I think there's a darkness to Marsh when he realizes what he's up against," McMahon explains.

The second installment continues to de-



John McMahon will discuss his book at the Savannah Book Festival on Saturday, February 15 at 3:25 p.m. in the Baptist Church Sanctuary Hall, 223 Bull Street.

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velop Marsh's world. "In the first book, you're world-building, building in more classic structure. Then, as you go forward, you can build all that context around characters, and have them be inconsistent, but in a consistent way, which makes sense if you know them."

He cites Marsh's police partner, Remy, as an example, saying her character development allowed Marsh's vulnerability to have greater context as in real life. As McMahon's favorite character, Remy represents the best of what law enforcement is. "I think she becomes a strong character that I don't see out there in detective fiction."

A number of elements to Marsh's backstory will wrap up in the third book, of which McMahon just completed a first draft. "I think Book 3 is the best work I've done on plotting," he says. "I feel there are so many things I learned in Book 2 that made Book 3 easy."

McMahon is uncertain how many books the series will entail. The plan is to alternate using Good and Evil phrases in the titles. "I don't know if we'll run out of things to say about good and evil," he adds. "I've only thought about up to six, but I've talked to mystery writers who have said, 'I looked up and I'm on book 21.' That's kind surreal for me, I can't imagine that."

Currently, McMahon is working on a television pilot for *The Good Detective*, to capitalize on early interest in his novel. "It's tough because I still work full time in advertising, so it's stressing every hour just to write books."

# Beverly Willett: Disassembly Required

By Jeff Garrison

Writer Beverly Willett is thrilled to be chosen as a presenter for this year's Savannah Book Festival. I am also excited for the opportunity to discuss her book, *Disassembly Required*, with her. We met earlier this month at local coffee shop, Cutter's Point, but as I began to ask questions, she threw up her hands.

"I haven't had my coffee yet," she exclaimed. "I am not sure how this interview will go."

We both got coffees.

"I'll drink fast," she promised.

The framework of Willett's story is rather simple: A chronicle of the year preparing for the sale of her Brooklyn brownstone and moving to Savannah. But, as anyone who has moved knows, it's never simple. This was not just any house; it was her home. With its many unique stairwells and 120 steps, it was filled with good and bad memories of her 16 years living there.

"Intellectually, I know things change," Willett explained. "The order of the universe is change, and if you can't find a way to deal with it or control it, you're stuck."

But knowledge doesn't prepare us for coming face-to-face with change, as Willett was forced to do. The house and neighborhood had been a place where Willett had established her identity as a mother and a wife. Her marriage had ended a decade earlier. Her children had grown, one in college, the other a high school senior preparing to leave for college. Even the neighborhood had changed through gentrification.

Homes have so many layers of meaning for us. As the time to leave one approaches, it's necessary to set free so much. In Willett's case, there was the outdated art deco furniture and extra dishes that

had to go, despite no market for such things. The cleaning out of files, a basement filled with children's toys, and stuff left behind by an ex-husband resurrected memories and conjured dreams that needed to be released.

*Disassembly Required* is more than just a recount of how Willett sold her house. It's a spiritual journey as the author struggles to come to term with her relationship to items and attachments. Many possession were linked to past issues and pain she believed she had worked through – her ex-husband's affair, his abandonment, and measuring her worth by what others thought all came to the forefront during that year. Willett realized she could no longer bury her feelings and needed to deal with them head-on.

Looking back, she realizes it was one of the best years of her life – a time of change. As she divested herself of material goods, Willett realized happiness doesn't come from holding on to things or clinging to the past. "The fear of letting go caused me more pain than actually letting go," she explained. "Instead of pain, letting go helped me feel free."

For others who are going through similar changes in life, Willett advises, "Start by letting go or giving away small things. When we realize that letting go or giving away allows us to experience peace, we can move on to larger things and issues. It's a process of



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learning to trust ourselves, and that our happiness is not tied to stuff or to other people.”

After selling her house, Willett moved to Savannah, where she set out to reinvent herself as a writer. Since her arrival, she has become involved in the arts and is an advocate for the homeless. “Homes provide the stability needed in order to deal with many other issues facing the homeless,” she said.

Willett finds meaning in both her volunteer work and her writing. “If I tell stories of how to recover and lead a happy life, it’s a way of helping others.”

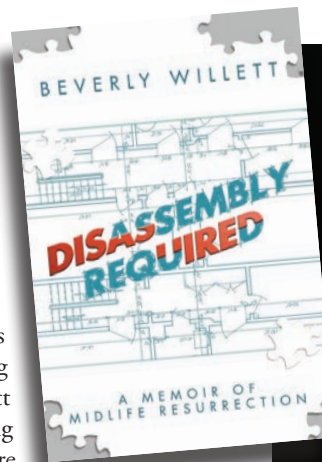
Willett’s book explains the role her faith plays as she comes to depend on it more and more. She grew up a Southern Baptist and married a secular Jew. She later became active within an Episcopal congregation while also spending time learning the wisdom and meditation practices of Buddhism. More recently, she converted to Catholicism. She finds the Mass comforting because it doesn’t change, a reminder that while change is part of the human experience, God does not change.

Readers will identify with Willett as she

makes the transformation that eventually led her to her new life in Savannah. The audience will also benefit from the wisdom Willett gains on her journey.

The interview was delightful, during which time Willett confessed to having once prayed that there would be no more pain. But there always seemed to be more pain. Then her meditation teacher rejoiced over her suffering, saying that she has an opportunity for great growth. Though painful, the hard work of dealing with issues that arose allowed Willett to recreate herself. Those going through difficult mid-life changes will find this book helpful and encouraging.

*Jeff Garrison is pastor of Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church. He blogs at [www.thepulpitandtheopen.com](http://www.thepulpitandtheopen.com).*



Beverly Willett will discuss her book at the Savannah Book Festival on Saturday, February 15 at 9 a.m. at First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 102 W. McDonough Street.



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## Helping Children Heal

By Kathryn McLearn and Lynn Wolfe

“Sarah” told a relative about inappropriate touching by her mother’s boyfriend.

The relative contacted the Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFCS) to report the abuse, resulting in a detective from the Special Victims Unit bringing Sarah to Coastal Children’s Advocacy Center (CCAC) for a forensic interview. A trained professional conducted the interview to avoid the child from experiencing coercion or additional trauma. This interview would later be used in criminal proceedings against the offender. Due to the nature of the abuse, DFCS placed Sarah in foster care, and enrolled her in counseling and trauma-focused therapy at CCAC. Reviewing the case, the Juvenile Court judge concluded it was in Sarah’s best interest to remain in foster care. A Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Chatham County/Savannah volunteer was assigned to Sarah’s case.

When Sarah’s foster placement changed, her CASA volunteer fought for her weekly therapy at CCAC and transportation to CASA to continue. Additionally, CASA worked closely with her therapist to stay abreast of Sarah’s progress, updating the judge at the next hearing. The efforts of CASA and CCAC enabled Sarah to deal with her trauma. Her therapy and the intervention by trusted adults made her feel loved and protected.

Kate Blair and Rose Grant-Robinson, executive directors of CASA and CCAC, respectively, agree that Sarah’s story illustrates how effectively the volunteers and professional staffs of CASA and CCAC serve Savannah’s abused and neglected children in overburdened foster care and juvenile justice systems.

For more than 25 years, CCAC has provided children forensic inter-

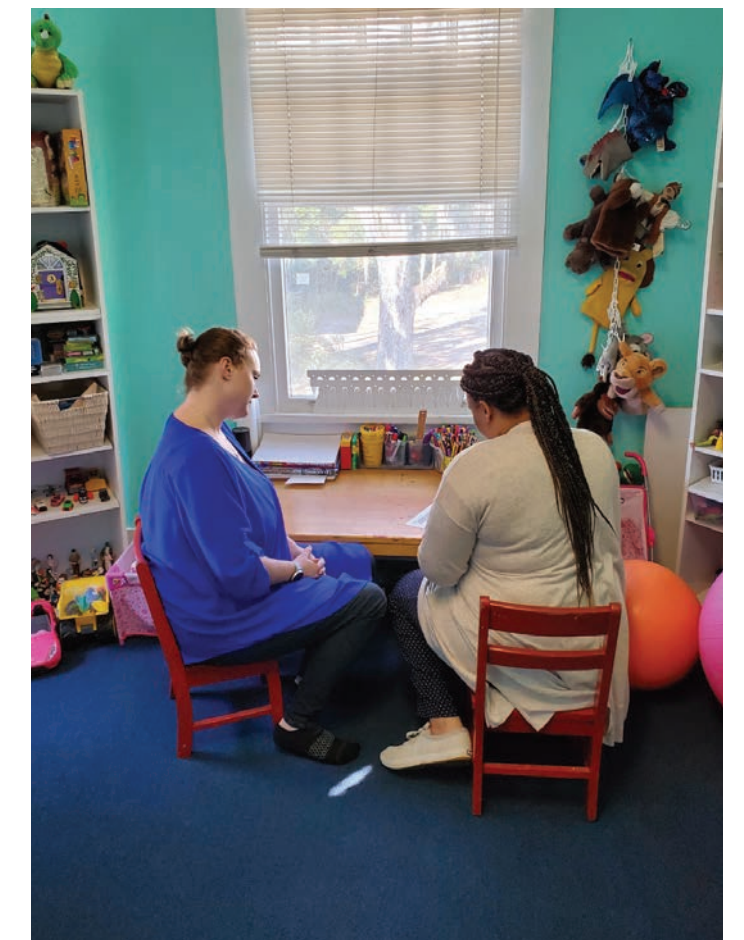
**CCAC counselor Samantha Platta (left) conducts a therapy session with a client.**



views, crisis intervention, assistance navigating the juvenile justice system, counseling and referrals. CASA recruits and trains volunteer citizens to serve as independent voices for

children by providing objective information to juvenile court judges.

The two are the only organizations in Chatham County that provide comprehensive services to promote child and family healing, in





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the hope a child who benefits from their interventions will be less likely to re-enter the foster care and juvenile justice system. All services are available for as long as necessary, and are provided at no cost to children and families.

In 2019, CCAC provided services to 276 children, and CASA served 280 children of the 441 children in foster care.

Beth Holmquist, co-chair of the Market at 3 West Ridge, says "With Market support this year, CASA will be able to recruit and train enough CASA volunteers to serve 100 percent of the children in foster care by 2021, and CCAC will be able to continue the therapy-based counseling services needed for each child's healing."

St. Peter's fundraising events have donated more than \$1.2 million during the past 22 years, helping to provide a bright future for Savannah's most vulnerable children and families. It takes a year of planning and 120 volunteers to bring the three-day Market Shopping Boutique and Spring Plant Sale to life.

**WHAT:** The Market at 3 West Ridge  
**WHEN:** Feb. 11, 5 - 7:30 p.m.; Feb. 12, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Feb. 13, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**WHERE:** St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Skidaway Island  
**HOW MUCH:** \$5, good for all three days  
**CONTACT:** Visit [www.stpeterssavannah.org/the-market-at-3-west-ridge](http://www.stpeterssavannah.org/the-market-at-3-west-ridge)  
**WHAT ELSE:** Complimentary wine-and-cheese opening night. Lunches available for purchase Feb. 12 and 13.

Twenty national vendors will offer unique clothing, jewelry, garden and home items at the Market. Enjoy the festive atmosphere. Shop, knowing your purchases will help abused and neglected children. Bring a friend and treat him or her to lunch while you select some beautiful spring plants for your home or garden. The \$5 admission donation, 15 percent of vendor sales, and all plant sale proceeds go directly to CASA and CCAC.

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## WHO'S AT RISK OF ALZHEIMER'S?

The largest sub-population of dementia sufferers are those with Alzheimer's disease. An estimated 5.7 million Americans have the disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association. Alzheimer's disease affects the brain and nervous system. It happens when nerve cells in the brain die. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time.

Increasing age is the biggest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease. It's estimated that one in 10 people age 65 and older has Alzheimer's disease, the Alzheimer's Association reports. Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's are women, and older African-Americans are about twice as likely to have Alzheimer's or other dementia conditions than older whites. That doesn't mean people in their 40s and 50s can't experience symptoms of Alzheimer's. Approximately 200,000 Americans under the age of 65 have early-onset Alzheimer's.

## ARE DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S TREATABLE?

There's no single test for dementia. A diagnosis is typically based on a patient's history of present illness, a neurological exam, brain imaging and lab tests. Patients are asked to do a screening questionnaire, which includes basic questions and tasks like simple math. A physician may find memory loss is not due to dementia but other factors such as medications, thyroid disease and deficiencies of vitamins like B12. There is no cure for Alzheimer's disease, but medications can lessen symptoms. Pursuing intellectual, physical and social activities can help a patient maintain cognitive and physiological functions. If you or a loved one are concerned about dementia or Alzheimer's disease, talk to your physician. To learn more about St. Joseph's/Candler Physician Network please visit [sjchs.org](http://sjchs.org).

# The Signs of Dementia

## St. Joseph's/Candler Neurologists On Caring for Elderly Loved Ones

As their parents age, many "children" may find their relative roles are reversing. The adult child is now making sure bills are paid, medications are taken, and doctors' appointments are kept. Becoming a caregiver to your parents may not be easy. Knowing signs of common illnesses like dementia and steps you can take to prepare for such conditions may make caregiving more manageable.

"Being a caregiver is very, very difficult, especially for an adult child, since traditional parent/child roles are reversed," says Dr. Jill Trumble, a neurologist with St. Joseph's/Candler Physician Network – Neurology, and medical director of the St. Joseph's/Candler Movement Disorders Program. "It can be very stressful."

Trumble treats many conditions that increase in likelihood with age, including stroke, Parkinson's disease and dementia. Stroke and Parkinson's often are associated with some kind of physical symptom. However, dementia is often harder to recognize, because symptoms are typically mental and start slowly and gradually get worse.

## DEMENTIA AND ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Dementia is not a specific disease. It is a general term that describes a group of symptoms and has many subtypes, of which Alzheimer's is the most common. The World Health Organization estimates more than 50 million people worldwide have some type of dementia, and nearly 10 million new cases are diagnosed each year. Alzheimer's disease accounts for nearly 70 percent of all demen-



Jill Trumble, MD and Ryon Poston, MD

tia cases. While all Alzheimer's patients have dementia, not all dementia patients have Alzheimer's, even though the two terms are often used interchangeably. However, while they are related, they are not the same.

"People diagnosed with dementia often have issues with memory loss and other impairment to their intellectual abilities," says Dr. Ryon Poston, a board-certified neurologist with St. Joseph's/Candler Physician Network – Neurology. "Their thinking and, sometimes, their behavior is affected, and it's serious enough to disrupt or interfere with their activities of daily living."

Cognitive issues developing from dementia can include trouble with language or the ability to communicate, difficulty focusing on a task or maintaining attention, or problems with higher executive functioning like reasoning and judgment.

After Alzheimer's, the second most com-

mon type of dementia is vascular dementia. These patients have a history of cerebrovascular disease and may have suffered multiple strokes or could have a condition called microvascular ischemic disease, which is often seen in patients with longstanding hypertension or diabetes. There's also mixed dementia, in which patients exhibit features of both Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia. Some patients may be diagnosed with pseudo-dementia, which may present like dementia but is untreated or undertreated depression, causing poor memory and reasoning.

## SIGNS OF DEMENTIA

"The problem with dementia is that the patients themselves, a majority of the time, are not aware they have a problem," Trumble says. "That's part of the disease process and, to them, they are normal. It can be very challenging for children to be able to step in and help because that parent keeps saying they don't have an issue."

It may be especially challenging for children who do not frequently see their parents to recognize symptoms of dementia. A phone conversation about the weather or a relative may seem normal but the child may not realize the parent is not taking medications or forgetting to pay the bills.

The Alzheimer's Association lists 10 early warning signs of Alzheimer's disease:

- Memory loss disrupting daily life
- Difficulty solving problems
- Inability to do familiar tasks
- Confusion about what day or time of the year it is
- Difficulty reading or judging distance
- Struggles with verbal or written communication
- Inability to retrace steps to find lost things
- Poor decision making, such as with finances
- Withdrawal from hobbies and social activities
- Mood or personality changes

"Some of this is going to be normal aging, but that is something you still want to look into by talking to their doctor to see if this is normal aging or the early signs of dementia," Trumble advises.



As Alzheimer's progresses, the symptoms become more severe and go beyond memory and cognitive functioning. Physical symptoms can appear, including difficulty speaking, walking or swallowing. Alzheimer's patients can be unaware of their surroundings and are vulnerable to infections such as aspiration pneumonia. They may be unable to communicate their pain or the worsening of their condition.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

One of the most important pieces of advice Trumble offers patients and their families is to discuss aging before any conditions become an issue. It is helpful to all parties involved if a child knows a parent's medical wishes, especially if the parent is unable to communicate. Trumble recommends both a durable power-of-attorney and a medical power-of-attorney. A durable power-of-attorney puts someone in charge of finances, and a notary is required for the paperwork to process such a document. A medical power-of-attorney does not require a notary and typically can be done online. If there are multiple children in the family, Trumble suggests sharing responsibilities to limit any future confrontations.

"If you can do this while the parent is of sound mind, it makes it much easier down the road," Trumble says. "The earlier you get involved and have this set in place, the better. That's the best advice I can give."

If you are starting to notice early cognitive issues, it's not too late. Elder attorneys can offer legal help.

Trumble encourages children to attend doctor's appointments with their parents. As mentioned, dementia patients feel normal and often don't realize there's a problem.

"If the doctor asks them, 'Are you having difficulty keeping up with your meds or paying your bills?' they are going to say no because they think everything is fine," Trumble explains. "It's always good to have another person there to back up that story."

One final piece of advice Trumble offers caregivers is to take care of themselves. There are caregiver resources in the community and online that physicians can recommend. "A caregiver needs to realize how stressful it is and get the care he or she needs."



# COMPANIONS FOR HEROES

More than a Pet Project for David Sharpe

By Ron Lauretti

*According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 6,139 former military personnel committed suicide in 2017. The American Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) estimates approximately 1.5 million shelter animals are euthanized annually. And these numbers have been on the rise. Companions for Heroes (CFH), headquartered in Brunswick, Georgia, is working hard to reverse these trends.*



Above: Army veteran Angie Holbrook and AJ  
Left: Dave Sharpe with Darby, a service dog

It all began with Cheyenne, an almost magical pit bull puppy. Wagging her tail, she looked up with sympathetic eyes to calm her distraught master. As she jumped into on his lap and began licking his cheeks, the man put down his loaded pistol to pet his little friend. In that moment, David Sharpe chose not to surrender to his personal struggles. Since that day, CFH has helped many people in need of emotional support.

Sharpe originally intended to become an Army Ranger like his dad, but his persuasive father talked him out of it. The senior Sharpe did not want his son to experience the same rough-and-tumble, often dangerous, life he had endured. Instead, young Sharpe opted for the Air Force when he enlisted in 1989.

"We were in a shooting war in the Middle East and I wanted more involvement with providing actual security and protection against a dangerous enemy than the average airman would personally experience," Sharpe says.

But Sharpe got far more than he anticipated.

He was assigned to security duty at the Prince Sultan Airbase in Saudi Arabia, the headquarters for Operation Enduring Freedom. One day, he and three others, including a Saudi soldier, were performing vehicle safety checks at their assigned gate entrance. Entering the guard shack, Sharpe found the Saudi inside, waiting. Revealing himself as a Taliban sympathizer, the man went on a hate-filled rant and reached for his pistol. Sharpe struggled to subdue him. Though no physical harm was done, the up-close threat of death was very disturbing.

Sharpe's anxiety led to sleepless nights and increasing depression. Contributing to Sharpe's despair was the loss of two close buddies – both canine handlers – who committed suicide when they returned from the Middle East. The second suicide led to survivor's guilt for Sharpe. "Why him instead of me?"

In 2005, Sharpe was discharged with the rank of E4 senior airman and returned home to Brunswick. His emotional turmoil manifested

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into angry and, sometimes, violent episodes. He was often unpleasant around family and friends, and found it almost impossible to explain his nasty behavior to them. Adding to his bad-boy persona, he adopted a pit bull mix named Cheyenne, who often witnessed Sharpe's volatile behavior. In 2010, Sharpe was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and severe depression.

Despite the pit bull breed's reputation for aggression, Cheyenne grew into a good-natured dog. Her gentle display of affection eased Sharpe's anguish. As Sharpe's mood improved, he began to search for a way to help others. In 2009, Sharpe saw a TV documentary about service dogs, explaining how the canines help people in need of constant, reliable assistance and companionship. Sharpe realized that is exactly what Cheyenne, his adopted "soul partner," has provided for him.

When Sharpe researched the process for service dog adoptions, he quickly discovered it was an expensive proposition. The cost of a pedigree dog could reach as high as \$50,000, and required two years of professional training. There must be a better way, he thought.

Committed to helping others, especially fellow veterans, Sharpe



Veteran Jimmy Childers and his service dog Lexi

crafted a more practical solution. Why not the person-in-need adopt an animal from a local animal shelter, and the training costs be covered by a non-profit, which Sharpe would organize and maintain?

The determined veteran emptied his savings account and borrowed \$2,500 from his father to launch Companions for Heroes. CFH has become a genuine success story. For the past decade it has placed more than 4,000 canines – and a few cats – with grateful veterans.

To serve as many people as possible while minimizing expenses, CFH sponsors two types of adoptions – companion dogs and service dogs. Companion dogs are easier and less costly because they don't require specialized training for specific tasks. They simply provide good, loving companionship and comfort. Sometimes, they do require some basic training, which can cost up to \$2,500. Service dogs are more complicated, requiring significant time and money before placement. CFH

works with the ASPCA to locate suitable animals in shelters nationwide. The veteran pays the adoption fee, which is reimbursed after a successful two-week trial period. Most selections are successful, with a low rate of return – only 2 percent. The significant expense is the

training, which usually costs \$5,000 dollars or more. The dog must be trained to protect its human and retrieve specific items. Sometimes, the dog must provide adequate support for its human to maintain balance. To do so, a service dog must be large enough and strong enough, depending on the size and dexterity of the veteran companion. It is also important for a service dog to ignore distractions – other animals or the excessive attention of an overly-friendly human.

Matching a service or companion dog to a needy individual is helpful in other ways, too. The veteran often becomes more engaged in his or her community, because the animal needs to be fed, watered, groomed, exercised. Tending to the animal's needs often helps the human regain a sense of purpose.

For Sharpe and his small staff, funds can be tight. One of the organization's more successful fundraisers is a sporting clays tournament, with four-person teams.

Sharpe is a dynamic public speaker, and he is pleased to share his informative presentation with any organization. A strong selling point that he emphasizes is that donors are supporting a cause that helps people who have sacrificed on behalf of others. And the adoptions save pets' lives. It's a win-win.

For more information, visit [www.CompanionsForHeroes.org](http://www.CompanionsForHeroes.org) or call 760.519.7774.

Larsen Musician  
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## CINEPHILE DU JOURS:

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JESSICA MESSARE cello  
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## BUFFET AND BRIDGE

**WHAT:** Landlovers Second Sunday Night Buffet and Social Bridge  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb. 9, 5:30 to 9 p.m.; Please RSVP by Feb. 3.  
**WHERE:** Plantation Club  
**HOW MUCH:** \$24 for the buffet, charged to your TLC account  
**CONTACT:** Carol and Al Stiles at 912.349.9977 or Gwen and Tom Gissendan-ner 912.598.9623.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Email to sign up: LLSunday-bridge@gmail.com. Attendance is limited. To participate, you must be a Landlover and Landings Club member.

## CAN YOU CANASTA?

**WHAT:** Landlovers Lucky Canasta  
**WHEN:** Friday, Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28, 9 to 11 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Plantation Club, Hill Room  
**CONTACT:** Leanne and Jean, LLCanastacards@gmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** Instructions offered for experienced and new Canasta players. If you are new to the game, please attend three instructional sessions. Must be a Landings Club member (in accordance with Landings Club policy) and a Landlovers member to participate.

## BUILDING BRIDGES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Bridging the Gap  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 12, 1 p.m.; the second Wednesday of each month  
**WHERE:** Oakridge dining room  
**CONTACT:** Susan Schneider, susan.schneider629@gmail.com or 912.433.8711.  
**WHAT ELSE:** This activity is for women who enjoy social bridge. All participants must be members of Landlovers and a member of The Landings Club, in accordance with Landings Club policy. Level of play is from advanced beginner to intermediate. Due to limited space, sign up is required.

## BUNCO SQUAD

**WHAT:** Landlovers Bunco  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6 to 8:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Meeting room at TLA offices  
**CONTACT:** Questions or RSVP to landloversbunco@gmail.com  
**HOW MUCH:** \$6 in singles to be used as prizes and to cover the room fee  
**CONTACT:** landloversbunco@gmail.com.  
**WHAT ELSE:** Club membership is not required. TLA reserves the right to reschedule us since TLA business takes precedence. Participants must be a Landlovers member.

# island hopping

Please email content to mail@theskinnie.com.  
Deadline is the Friday prior to publication.

## WHO NEW?

**WHAT:** New Neighbors  
**WHEN:** Visit www.landingsnewneighbors.com to see our calendar  
**CONTACT:** Visit our website or contact Milli at nnnewmember@gmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** The club offers more than 250 different activities from biking, golf, pickleball, walking groups or fishing to Mahjong, Bridge, Needle-arts and Canasta. We have exciting military tours and special events for you to enjoy right here on Skidaway Island.

## GOTTA LOVE IT

**WHAT:** Landlovers membership now open to all island residents  
**HOW MUCH:** Each \$30 membership fee covers one household of one or two adults  
**CONTACT:** Cec Calcaterra, Landloversmembership@gmail.com or 803.309.5883  
**WHAT ELSE:** Landings Landlovers is a philanthropic and social organization now open to all island residents. More information and details can be found at www.landingslandlover.com. Our membership year runs from Sep. 1, 2019 through Aug. 31, 2020.

## HORSE SENSE

**WHAT:** Pegasus Riding Academy volunteers needed  
**WHERE:** Old Roberds Dairy, 2500 Tennessee Ave., Savannah  
**CONTACT:** For information and directions, visit www.prasav.org or call 912.547.6482  
**WHAT ELSE:** Pegasus Riding Academy is a therapeutic riding program providing safe, professional and ethical equine-assisted activities for individuals with physical, mental and emotional disabilities. Volunteers are needed to assist these special children. Horse experience not necessary.

## WHERE FOR ART THOU?

**WHAT:** Special Landings Art Association Exhibit at The Landings Company  
**WHEN:** Thursday, Jan. 2 to Saturday, Feb. 29, during office hours  
**WHERE:** Landings Welcome Center, 1 Landings Way North  
**WHAT ELSE:** Island wildlife and landscapes in oils, watercolors, mixed media and photos by more than a dozen of the Landings Art Association's most talented artists.

## ARTS AND LETTERS

**WHAT:** January Art Show at the JEA

**WHEN:** Jan. 2 through 31  
**WHERE:** JEA, 5111 Abercorn St.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free and open to the public  
**CONTACT:** Vicky, 912.355.8111  
**WHAT ELSE:** Nae'Keisha Jones is an illustrator and writer from Colorado, now living in Savannah. She earned a B.F.A. in illustration from SCAD, and is the author and illustrator of Anonymous as a Hippopotamus: The Tales of Ida.

## TICKET MASTERS

**WHAT:** Skyway Capital Markets Pro-Am Scramble Raffle Tickets  
**WHEN:** On sale now  
**CONTACT:** Jack Welch or Yvonne DuRoss, treasureroflandlovers@gmail.com.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$150 per ticket  
**WHAT ELSE:** The 2020 raffle winner will field a threesome of golfers who will play in an 18-hole scramble accompanied by two of the Korn Ferry Tour pros (on each nine) to round out the team's foursome. Each golfer in the Pro-Am threesome will receive two tickets to the Eagles Nest, two tickets for the entire Korn Ferry event, and merchandise.

## PERFORMING ARTS

**WHAT:** Leitmotif exhibit by Bud Green to benefit the Savannah Philharmonic  
**WHEN:** Friday, Jan. 24, 5 to 8 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Location Gallery, 417 Whitaker St.  
**HOW MUCH:** Free  
**CONTACT:** show@locationgallery.net or call 912.604.6250  
**WHAT ELSE:** The Leitmotif exhibit marks the opening of Location Gallery's 2020 season, and profits from the show will be donated to support the mission of Savannah Philharmonic to inform, instruct and enrich the community through orchestral and choral performances, and to promote and increase community knowledge and appreciation of the arts.

## MIND YOUR BUSINESS

**WHAT:** Savannah SCORE's "Business Launchpad" workshop  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Jan. 25, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Small Business Resource Center, 111 E. Liberty St.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$49, includes lunch, beverages and all workshop materials  
**CONTACT:** Call 912.652.4335 or email score-sav70@gmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** This informative and entertaining workshop, taught by a team of expert SCORE

business mentors, will teach you everything you need to know about how to start, manage, and grow a successful small business. More information available from Michael Siegel at michael.siegel@scorevolunteer.org.

## JANUARY JAM

**WHAT:** ATC Seasonal Salon Soiree concert  
**WHEN:** Sunday, Jan. 26, 6 to 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** The home of Daniel Rizzo and Silvio Trioni  
**HOW MUCH:** Tickets are \$100 and include the concert, drinks and appetizers, with a FMV of \$45 per person  
**CONTACT:** americantraditionscompetition.com/donate-and-buy-tix/jimwann or call 803.702.0305 or e-mail msodergren@american-traditionscompetition.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** Jim Wann will perform a private concert as part of the seasonal salon soiree fundraiser for the American Traditions Vocal Competition, with special guest Bill Smith, Savannah guitar virtuoso.

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

**WHAT:** Landings Garden Club General Meeting  
**WHEN:** Monday, Jan. 27, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church Parish Hall, 1 West Ridge Rd.  
**CONTACT:** Please visit thelandingsgardenclub.com for more information  
**WHAT ELSE:** Tim Drake, landscape enhancement designer at the Greenery on Hilton Head Island, will share tips for using new and under-used plant materials to add color, texture, and drama to your garden.

## LADIES' NIGHT

**WHAT:** Landlovers GTO (Girls Time Out) Music Night Out  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7 p.m.; Please RSVP no later than Jan. 15  
**WHERE:** Dueling Piano Bar, 314 Williamson St.  
**CONTACT:** llgirlstimeout@gmail.com or eileenyrn@gmail.com or Jfaraklas@comcast.net  
**WHAT ELSE:** Meet at the Methodist Church at 6:30 p.m. to carpool. The Dueling Piano Bar offers a limited bar food menu.

## SEA FOR YOURSELF

**WHAT:** Youth Ocean Conservation Summit 2020, for students grades 6-12  
**WHEN:** Feb. 15, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Register and pay online by Jan. 31  
**WHERE:** UGA Marine Education Center and Aquarium, 30 Ocean Science Circle, Skidaway Island  
**CONTACT:** 912.598.2354 or fish@uga.edu  
**HOW MUCH:** A \$20 registration fee includes lunch and all materials  
**WHAT ELSE:** The summit is limited to 50 students on a first-come, first-served basis. Register and pay at gacoast.uga.edu/education/schools-

and-groups/youth-ocean-conservation-summit/.

## DINNER PARTY

**WHAT:** Landlovers Food, Friends and Fun Cocktail Party  
**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 8. Deadline to sign up is Jan. 31.  
**WHERE:** Members' homes  
**CONTACT:** Hannah Burtnik, 404.579.4718 or hburtnik@gmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** Group meets at members' homes for either a sit-down dinner where host prepares an entree for fellow Landlovers with each attendee bringing part of the meal, or for cocktail parties where guests bring a dish to share and their own beverages.

## GETTING YOUR PHIL

**WHAT:** "An Evening of Tango," presented by the Savannah Philharmonic  
**WHEN:** Friday, Jan. 31, 6 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Victory North, 2603 Whitaker St.  
**HOW MUCH:** General admission - \$150 from the Savannah Box Office at 912.525.5050 or savannahboxoffice.com  
**CONTACT:** Katherine Poss, katherine@savannahphilharmonic.org or 912.232.6002  
**WHAT ELSE:** This event is the orchestra's major fundraiser for the year, with proceeds supporting the Philharmonic's mission of informing, instructing and enriching the community through orchestral and choral performances, as well as promoting and increasing community knowledge and appreciation of the arts.

## BATH AND BODY WORKS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Community Service Toiletry Collection  
**WHEN:** Feb. 1 through 8  
**WHERE:** Landings Welcome Center/Real Estate Office, 1 Landings Way North  
**WHAT ELSE:** If you have any unused personal-sized soaps, shampoos or lotions, please consider donating them. (No mouthwash or larger sized toiletries, please.) We will be taking them to Social Apostolate, which works with poor, homeless and disabled people, including providing showers for those in need.

## BOTTOMS UP

**WHAT:** "Potable Gold: Savannah's Madeira Tradition"  
**WHEN:** Fridays and Saturdays Feb. 1, 7, 8, 14 (7:30 p.m.) and Feb. 15, 21, 22, 28, 29 (5:30 p.m.)  
**WHERE:** Davenport House Museum, 324 E. State St.  
**HOW MUCH:** \$22 + tax; Reservations recommended  
**CONTACT:** 912.236.8097, info@davenport-housemuseum.org; www.davenport-housemuseum.org  
**WHAT ELSE:** Must be 21 years of age. Patrons are oriented to the long and rich tradition of

Madeira (wine) as it relates to the history of Savannah, followed by a Madeira party. The performance requires that guests be able to walk up and down stairs and maneuver in candlelit rooms. The experience lasts 75 minutes.

## MALE CALL

**WHAT:** Landlovers Men's Lunch Group  
**WHEN:** Monday, Feb. 3. (first Monday of each month).  
**WHERE:** Various restaurants around Savannah  
**HOW MUCH:** Each person pays for his meal  
**CONTACT:** Dick Hughley, 912.657.9585, dickhughey1@att.net; Jim Smart, 787.234.3040, smartsville@aol.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** This is the eighth year of this activity. Participants must be members of Landlovers.

## STITCHIN' TIME

**WHAT:** Landlovers Stitch and Bead Group  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 4 and 18, 3 to 5 p.m., the first and third Tuesday of each month).  
**WHERE:** Host home announced the weekend before by email  
**CONTACT:** Jayne Rogers, 203.273.9776 or jmr-rogers341@gmail.com or Kathy Silbert, 598.9566 or kathysilbert@gmail.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** Meet with your fellow Landlovers who bead, knit, crochet or needlepoint in members' homes twice a month. Be inspired by others, learn a new stitch, teach a new stitch, but do come and enjoy the good company and conversation.

## THUMBS UP

**WHAT:** Landlovers Green Thumb Club  
**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.  
**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church  
**HOW MUCH:** Annual dues are \$25 individual or \$30 family.  
**CONTACT:** Kate Kastner, katekastner@icloud.com  
**WHAT ELSE:** This month we learn about Garden Renovation. John L. Glenn, ASLA, will discuss how to meet your preservation and design goals. Participants must be members of Landlovers. Guests are welcome for a \$5 fee.





## SWISS MISSES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Ladies Swiss Pairs Dinner Bridge

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 5, 5:15 p.m.

**WHERE:** Plantation Ballroom.

**HOW MUCH:** \$20 per team (one-time fee); Approximately \$25 for dinner (member bar)

**CONTACT:** Bobbi Erwin at berwin234@aol.com; Karen Sellick, ksellick@bellsouth.net; or Carol Young, chsy@comcast.net

**WHAT ELSE:** Must be a Landlovers member and Landings Club member to participate. Limited to 24 teams.

## GENUINE ARTICLES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Magpies Ladies

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 6, 1 to 3 p.m.; first Thursday of each month

**WHERE:** Member's home

**CONTACT:** Send any questions or RSVP to lldaymagpies@gmail.com

**WHAT ELSE:** Bring an interesting MAGazine or newspaper article on any topic (politics are ok but nonpartisan is a rule) to share/possibly present, to a very interested and interesting group of women. PIES and coffee will be served. New members always welcome, but participants must be members of Landlovers.

## TASTE THE RAINBOW

**WHAT:** 9th annual "Color x Twelve" exhibition and sale

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 6, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Azalea Room at the Plantation Club

**CONTACT:** Patty Frothingham, pbroth@gmail.com or Martha Hough, mchough1@gmail.com

**WHAT ELSE:** Features original work by contributing artists to the 2011 LWGA Beautification Project, bringing together a wide variety of art in an intimate setting. Member/cash bar available with complimentary fruit-and-cheese platter.

## KITCHEN SYNC

**WHAT:** Landlovers Lip Sync Dinner and Dance Party

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 6, 6 to 10 p.m.

**WHERE:** Plantation Ballroom

**CONTACT:** landingslandlovers.com and click on "Socials"

**HOW MUCH:** \$47 per person includes dinner, dancing and lip-syncing

**WHAT ELSE:** We'll have "fake" microphones, because you are NOT singing. Our DJ plays the song, and you (and/or your group) mouths the words. Bring some props or use ours. You do not have to perform to attend.

## THE NEW CLASSICS

**WHAT:** Savannah Philharmonic: "Modern to Majestic" concert

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Johnny Mercer Theatre, 301 W. Oglethorpe Ave.

**HOW MUCH:** Tickets start at \$25

**CONTACT:** savannahphilharmonic.org, 912.232.6002, or e-mail info@savannahphilharmonic.org

**WHAT ELSE:** Modern to Majestic pushes the boundaries of what we consider "classical" music, with pieces from Márquez, Gilliland and Tchaikovsky. Modern to Majestic will be conducted by Enrico Lopez-Yañez with Thomas Gansch on the trumpet. To purchase tickets, visit savannahphilharmonic.org.

## MATCHMAKER, MAKE ME A MOVIE

**WHAT:** Jewish Women of The Landings Reel Time

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Member's home

**CONTACT:** Seating is limited; To reserve, contact annettecarnow@gmail.com

**WHAT ELSE:** The documentary film, *Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles*, will be shown. With the help of archival footage, this film tells the tale of how the stories of Sholem Aleichem made his way to Broadway to become one of the most beloved musicals of all time. Significant others are welcome.

## PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**WHAT:** Landlovers Photography Club

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 11, 3:45 to 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Skidaway Island United Methodist Church

**HOW MUCH:** Annual dues are \$20; Must be a Landlovers member

**CONTACT:** landloversphotoclub@gmail.com or Amy Collings, 598.9745, or visit www.landloversphotoclub.wordpress.com.

**WHAT ELSE:** Holly Markovitz Goldstein, Ph.D., a SCAD art history professor focusing on photography, will conduct an interactive workshop on historical and contemporary printmaking. Participants must email a high-contrast, very simple B&W image to landloversphotoclub@gmail.com by Jan. 20.

## SEEING IS BELIEVING

**WHAT:** Bright Eye-Deas Low Vision Group

**WHEN:** Wednesday, Feb. 12, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, Diamond Causeway

**CONTACT:** Kay Higby, 912.598.9634

**WHAT ELSE:** Those with vision challenges and their caregivers are invited to join us. Optometrist, Dr. Erika Morrow, MS, OD is very knowledgeable in many low vision conditions and the corrective measures for maximizing these vision challenges. If you need a ride, call Kay Higby.

## RED IS IN THIS YEAR

**WHAT:** Fashion Show

**WHEN:** Feb. 13, Social hour and silent auction - 11 a.m.; Lunch - 12 noon; Fashion show - 1 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Plantation Club

**HOW MUCH:** \$50

**WHAT ELSE:** Reservations required by Feb. 5. Sponsored by Savannah Area Republican Women. Fashions by Belk and Soma. Tickets may be purchased online at sarw.org/fundraiser/, or contact Nancy Holscher, holscher@gmail.com or 912.547.4152.

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

**WHAT:** Skidaway Audubon meeting

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 13, 6:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Messiah Lutheran Church, 1 West Ridge Rd.

**HOW MUCH:** Admission is free for members of the Friends of Skidaway Audubon, and \$5 for guests

**CONTACT:** www.skidawayaudubon.org or Friends of Skidaway Audubon Facebook page

**WHAT ELSE:** Utilities Inc. regional manager, Ron Medders, will discuss Skidaway Island's water use, conservation requirements and other water supply issues. Memberships will be available at the meeting. Family memberships begin at \$35.

## JUST MARRIED!

**WHAT:** Valentine's Day Wedding in the Davenport House Garden

**WHEN:** Friday, Feb. 14; Ceremonies will be offered every 10 minutes between 5 and 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Davenport House Museum, 324 E. State St.

**HOW MUCH:** Museum donation of \$100, a confirmed reservation is highly recommended

**CONTACT:** 912.236.8097, info@davenport-housemuseum.org; www.davenporthousemuseum.org

**WHAT ELSE:** Get married in the museum's beautiful courtyard garden and make it a Valentine's Day to remember. (Rain location: Kennedy Pharmacy at 323 E. Broughton St. or on the back porch of the Davenport House Museum.)

## INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

**WHAT:** Landlovers Marco Polo International Group

**WHEN:** Feb. 18, March 18, April 15, and May 18 at 6:30 p.m., third Monday of each month through May).

**WHERE:** Members' homes

**CONTACT:** Deb Wilson and Sue Souls at llmarcopolo100@gmail.com

**WHAT ELSE:** Anyone born or having lived for at least a year (an academic year counts) outside the U.S. is eligible to join. We ask group members to host, bring an appetizer to share and to bring their own beverages.

## PICTURE THIS

**WHAT:** Jorge Gojman Photography Program at LAA

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.; Meet-and-greet with refreshments at 6:30

**WHERE:** Skidaway Island Presbyterian Church, 50 Diamond Causeway

**WHAT ELSE:** World traveler, award-winning and published photographer, Jorge Gojman, shares his landscapes, portraits, wildlife and lifestyle photos with Landings Art Association members and guests.

## SEW WHAT?

**WHAT:** Landlovers Material Girls

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 20, 3 to 5 p.m. (meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month).

**WHERE:** Presbyterian Church

**CONTACT:** Janet Smart, maxwellsgal@aol.com or 757.334.3907; Sandra Grant, sandragrant07@comcast.net or 912.349.0616

**WHAT ELSE:** All skill and interest levels welcome. join us for some handwork, conversation, and networking. Bring a project you are working on, show and tell, or just plan to socialize. Learn about quilt shops in the area and local quilt guilds. All members of Landlovers who are interested in quilting are welcome.

## BIRDS OF A FEATHER

**WHAT:** Hawks, Owls and Eagles on Display

**WHEN:** Saturday, Feb. 22, 1 to 3 p.m.

**WHERE:** The Landings Athletic Field, 600 Landings Way

**HOW MUCH:** Free

**CONTACT:** www.skidawayaudubon.org or Friends of Skidaway Audubon Facebook page

**WHAT ELSE:** Come explore the wonderful world of raptors as Georgia Southern's Wildlife Education Center brings its fine feathered friends

to the Landings. Cameras are permitted. Pets and food are prohibited.

## MOVIE MUSIC

**WHAT:** Savannah Philharmonic "Cinephile du Jour"

**WHEN:** Sunday, Feb. 23, 5 p.m.

**WHERE:** Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 120 Bull St.

**HOW MUCH:** \$25; Tickets available at www.savannahphilharmonic.org or call 912.232.6002

**CONTACT:** www.savannahphilharmonic.org or 912.232.6002

**WHAT ELSE:** Flutist Jeana Melilli, pianist Ben Warsaw, and friends, will perform Copland's "Duo for Flute and Piano" (featuring music from "The Heiress"), as well as works of Miklos Rozsa, Nino Rota, Ennio Morricone and others.

## IN THE CHIPS

**WHAT:** 2nd annual Royal Flush Casino Night, benefiting Habitat for Humanity

**WHEN:** Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

**WHERE:** Savannah Station, 601 Cohen St.

**HOW MUCH:** Individual tickets - \$60; couples - \$90

**CONTACT:** Shantina Waldburg at swaldburg@rotosavannah.com

**WHAT ELSE:** Casino game tables, live music, dancing, drinks, heavy hors d'oeuvres and great prizes. Visit https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-second-annual-rotorooter-plumbers-of-savannah-royal-flush-casino-night-tickets-89887964321.

## FLEA FOR YOUR LIVES

**WHAT:** Landlovers Flea Market and Intake Days

**WHEN:** Intake Days, Feb. 29 through March 2; Saturday, March 7 is the Landlovers Flea Market

**WHERE:** Landings Association Parking Lot

**CONTACT:** landingsfleamarket@gmail.com

**WHAT ELSE:** Mark your calendars now for the Flea Market and Intake dates. Many volunteers are needed to make this amazing annual event a great success. Start cleaning out those closets and the garage! Don't want to wait to donate? No problem, email fleamarketintake@gmail.com to schedule pre-intake.

## HARVEST HELP

**WHAT:** Landlovers Second Harvest Packing

**WHEN:** Friday, March 6, 9 to 11 a.m.; Sign up now until the meeting date

**WHERE:** America's Second Harvest Volunteer Center. Meet at the Methodist Church at 8:15 to carpool

**CONTACT:** Rebecca Walling, llcommservice@

gmail.com with questions or to volunteer

**WHAT ELSE:** Four times a year, we meet to volunteer packing boxes for needy families at our local food bank. No skill required, just a caring heart.

## EN GARDE

**WHAT:** Savannah Fencing Club

**WHEN:** Monday and Wednesdays, 6 to 9 p.m.

**WHERE:** Susie King Taylor Charter School Gym (formerly Sacred Heart), 1709 Bull St.

**CONTACT:** Patricia Wilkens, 843.816.0756

**WHAT ELSE:** Beginners and experienced fencers welcome. We are a USFA member club.

## STUCK IN BETWEEN

**WHAT:** Middle Aged Tweens of Skidaway (MATS).

**WHERE:** Usually in private homes.

**CONTACT:** matskidaway@gmail.com or call Ann Nash at 203.856.8927, or visit www.matskidaway.com

**WHAT ELSE:** MATS was formed to create social activities for people in their 'tween years. There are monthly socials, book club groups, business group, Ladies Night Out, Men's Poker Night and more! Many of us are empty nesters or semi-empty nesters. We may find ourselves in the later stages of our careers, working part-time or navigating issues of early retirement. Some of us are still responsible for raising children.

## THE GREAT ESCAPE

**WHAT:** Landlovers Girls' Time Out Escape Room experience and dinner

**WHEN:** Friday, March 27; Meet at the Methodist church at 5 p.m. to carpool

**WHERE:** Escape Experience, 30 Montgomery St.; Dinner - Toasted Barrel, 150 Montgomery St.

**HOW MUCH:** \$32 for Escape Room;

Dinner will be individual checks

**CONTACT:** Eileen Yost,

eileenyrn@gmail.com; Judy

Faraklas, jfaraklas@comcast.net

GTO at llgirlstimeout@

gmail.com.

**WHAT ELSE:** Limited to 30

people. Please

reserve a spot by Feb.

27 by confirming via email

and sending or tubing a check

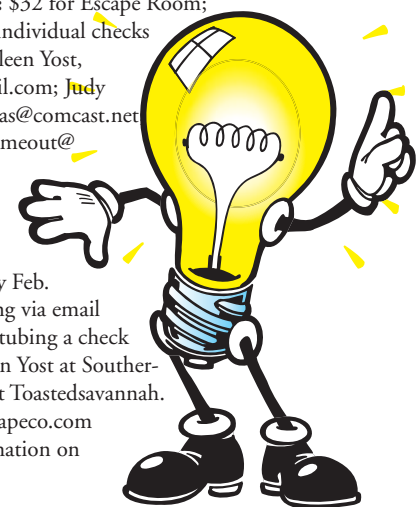
for \$32 to Eileen Yost at Southern

land Road. Visit Toastedsavannah.

com and theescapeco.com

for more information on

the venues.



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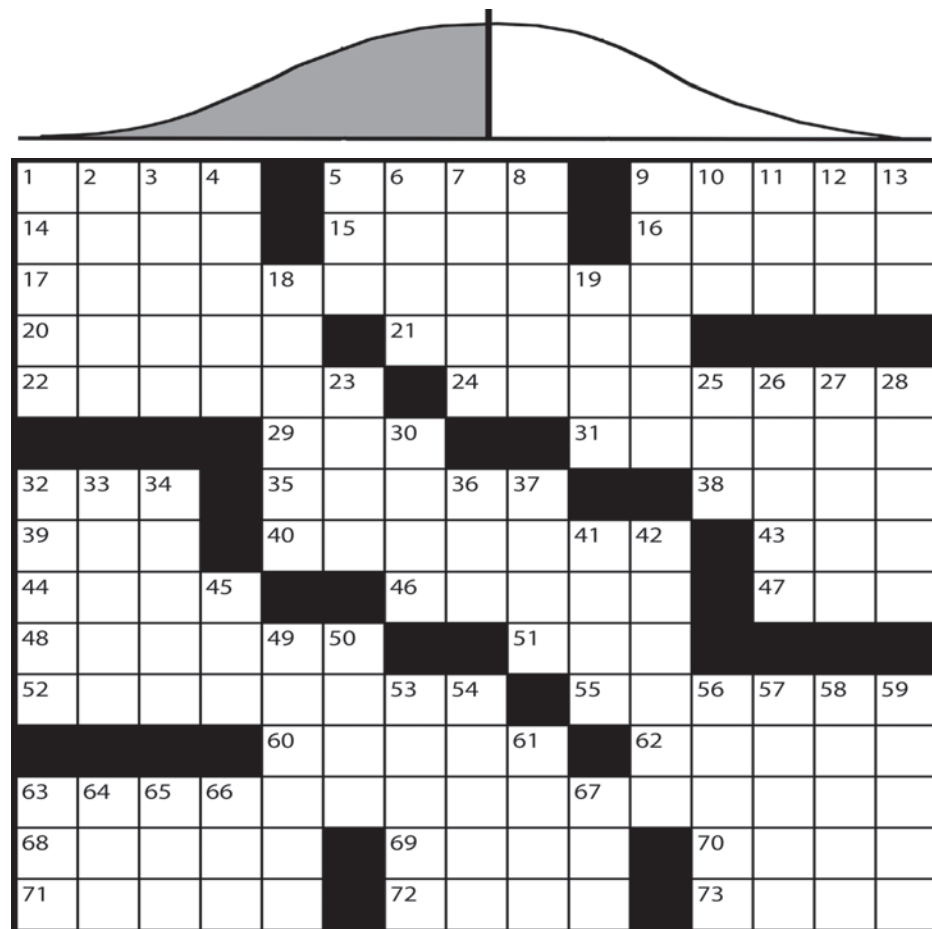
STANDARD CLUES\*

ACROSS

1. So this guy walks into \_\_\_\_ (two words)  
5. October birthstone  
9. Drab and dowdy woman  
14. Enameled or lacquered metalware  
15. Blaze  
16. Alfa \_\_\_\_ (automobile)  
17. Statistical Certainty-Part 1 (four words)  
20. Twig used for wickerwork (anagram for ROSIE)  
21. \_\_\_\_ bleu! (French cry of surprise)  
22. Breastbones, to a zoologist  
24. One grand  
29. Omelet fundamental  
31. Amazonian web crawler  
32. Professional snoop  
35. Rowdy public uprisings  
38. Popular TV digital recorder  
39. Stalemate  
40. Statistical Certainly-Part 2 (two words)  
43. Moray, e.g.  
44. "\_\_\_\_, Poor Yorick, ..." ("Hamlet" 5:1)  
46. \_\_\_\_ de Jouy patterned fabric (anagram for ELIOT)  
47. W.W.W. address  
48. Country music star, Dolly \_\_\_\_  
51. Casual top  
52. Ten of these equal 24-Across  
55. Tarzan, e.g.  
60. Trojan War epic poem  
62. Greek goddess of peace  
63. Statistical Certainty-Part 3 (three words)  
68. Element #54  
69. Editor's 'remove'  
70. Took too much Fentanyl  
71. Laud  
72. Revise a manuscript  
73. Depend on

DOWN

1. One of three Musketeers  
2. Brag  
3. "Kate & \_\_\_\_" (1980's TV sitcom)  
4. Cite, with to  
5. Switch position



6. Cherrystones, e.g.  
7. Buddhist who has achieved Nirvana (anagram for RATHA)  
8. Worm used for medicinal bloodletting  
9. Unshackle (two words)  
10. Down-under hopper  
11. One who's the boss at home plate  
12. Ott or Blanc  
13. Author of "The Raven"  
18. Cantankerous  
19. Players in the NFL or NBA  
23. Money exchanger's fee  
25. Plop down  
26. Parisian farewell  
27. At no time  
28. Whimsically humorous  
30. Painful affliction caused by excess uric acid  
32. Infection risk in hospitals  
33. Turkish rice dish (anagram for PAUL I)  
34. Long for

36. Boxing referee's decision (abbr)  
37. Foul mood  
41. Olive in Caesar's salad  
42. Any movie that's a real tearjerker  
45. Norm (abbr)  
49. The Far East  
50. Dudley Do-Right's girlfriend  
53. Part of L.E.D.  
54. Used a two-man crosscut  
56. Mistake  
57. General who defeated Lee at Gettysburg (1863)  
58. Winged harpist  
59. Indigent  
61. Noted Spanish surrealist  
63. Hatchet  
64. Tyrannosaurus \_\_\_\_  
65. Bambi's mother-in-law  
66. Neighbor of Braz.  
67. Horse doctor

Puzzle answers, page 29

\$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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**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](http://www.peacefulpetssavannah.com).

## REAL ESTATE

**Landings resident, agent** • Island Life@UberRealPhil. Rides and real estate networking offered by Phillip Williams, Landings resident since 2007. Trusted private driver for landings residents since 2014, Architectural designer that served on the ARC and now pursuing an additional career as a real estate agent. I like to stay busy. Rides to and from downtown, also to the airport and back during regular hours is \$45, before 6am or after 11pm it's \$65. 912.224.0619 checkout my recommendations on Nextdoor.

## 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

**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 23 years experience. Shadow boxes, mirrors, stitch art, diplomas, specialty matting, portraits, paintings and coastal maps. 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

**Behavioral Health Services** • Advanced Counseling Solutions. Are you or someone you know having trouble adjusting to new or changing circumstances, stress or recent loss? Is stress interfering with your happiness? Are you experiencing anxiety, panic or depression? Talk confidentially with an experienced Behavioral Health Counselor who is objective and non-judgmental. I am a Georgia Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 25 years of counseling experience. Private office in mid-town. Most insurances accepted. Call Landings resident, Anne Lewis-Nash, LCSW, 706.993.5531 to schedule a consultation.

**Phone/iPad Classes** • Need help with your iPhone/iPad? Want to become more confident using your mobile devices? Learn at a comfortable pace in a relaxed environment. Small class size for personalized attention. Next Skidaway classes begin in October.

Call 912.421.9058 or email [dhornsby@techwisetutoring.com](mailto:dhornsby@techwisetutoring.com) for schedule. Private lessons/tech support available.

## 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.



**Evergreen Tree Service** • Looking for a prompt and free consultation from an ISA Certified Arborist? Since 1984, our family owned business has been the most well trained and professional tree removal, pruning, and stump grinding service on Skidaway Island. Call us today to schedule your arborist at 912.455.5041. [www.evergreentreeservicesav.com](http://www.evergreentreeservicesav.com) Fully bonded and insured.

**Registered Landscape Architect** and ISA Certified Arborist with Tree Risk Assessment Qualification is available to consult with property owners of The Landings on important topics such as mitigating site-specific hurricane vulnerability, tree protection, and mitigating tree damage during construction. Former FL Certified Building Contractor. Over 18 years of civil engineering practice management. Contact me for more information at [thuckley1954@comcast.net](mailto:thuckley1954@comcast.net). Landings owner and resident.

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The Skinnie Classifieds listings are now online! Just visit [www.theskinnie.com](http://www.theskinnie.com) and click "Classifieds."



# WILDTHINGS

## GRAB YOUR CAMERA!

You live in a photographer's paradise. Keep those local nature snapshots coming our way. The bigger the photo, the better, so we can really show you off.



The family that eats together stays together. Mother, Father and two fawns shared breakfast one morning in the front yard of the Rechtiene home on Pennystone Retreat.

*"Wild Things" is a regular feature in The Skinnie, featuring your photographs of our beloved island. Email your high-resolution photos to [production@theskinny.com](mailto:production@theskinny.com). Please include your name and a little info about where the photo was taken.*

# CUTTERS POINT COFFEE CO.



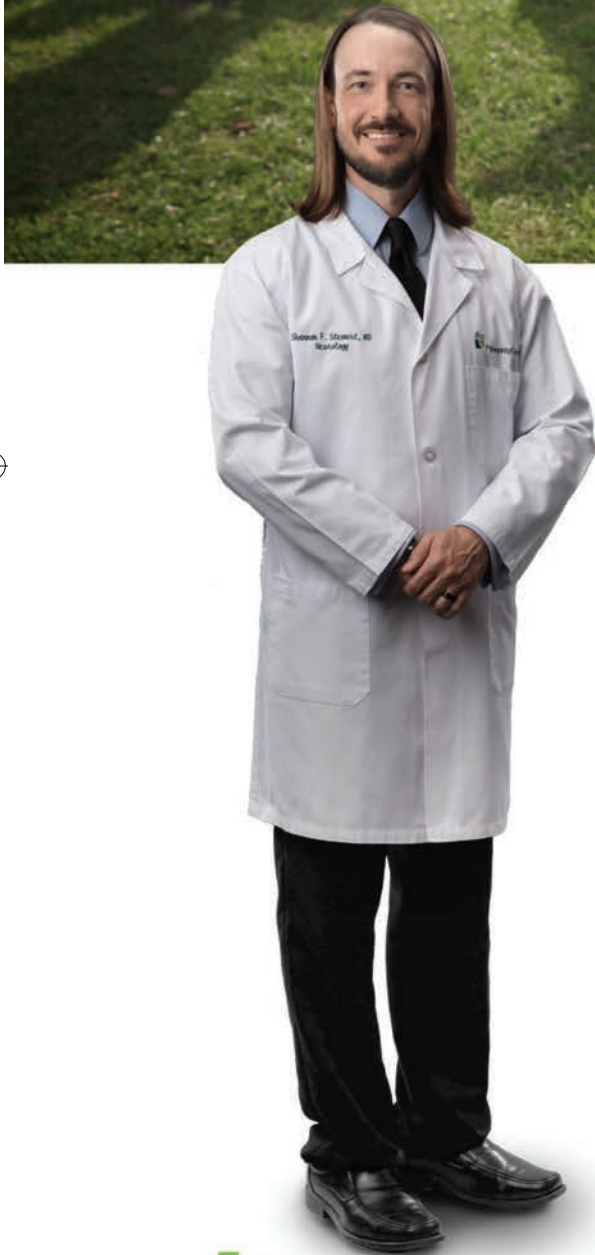
Lattés • Smoothies • Pastries • Mochas • Frappés • Teas  
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**7360 Skidaway Road, in Sandfly • 912-355-2118**

Open Monday-Friday, 6:30 am-8:00 pm • Sat. 7:30 am-8:00 pm  
Sun 7:30 am-6:00 pm



ALTON GODWIN – Newington, GA



## OUR STROKE TEAM MADE EVERYONE HAPPY.

### EVEN SOME COWS.

Alton woke up for his usual routine on the hobby farm, but he didn't feel right. It started with bad sweats and soon he couldn't feel his left side. After some tests, it was determined he had a stroke. Alton was out of the acute therapy window and there was no evidence that there was a clot that could be treated. So, Dr. Stewart determined the best treatment was prevention and identifying future risk factors along with optimizing his medication. With his doctor's orders on how to prevent another stroke, Alton was back to serving lunch on the farm. Learn more about our stroke team at [sjchs.org](http://sjchs.org)



**THAT'S WHY I CHOOSE  
ST. JOSEPH'S/CANDLER**

Shannon Stewart, MD – Neurologist