

NORTH OF THE JAMES®

JEFF *Bourne*

seems to be on a trajectory that will deliver him to the zenith of the Democratic Party, and his rise has been meteoric. Not yet out of college he spent a summer working for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas in Washington, D.C. After graduating with a bachelor's in economics from William and Mary, Jeff snagged a job with Governor Mark Warner and served as deputy policy director. During law school at his alma mater, he landed an associateship on Capitol Hill with a brilliant young senator by the name of Barack Obama. Under Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring Jeff served as one of five deputy attorneys general. He served one term as Third District representative on the Richmond School Board, and handily won a second term last November. But then the dominos began falling, and suddenly Jeff became the 71st District Delegate to the General Assembly. He is one of a new breed of cagey Democrats who will fight tooth and nail for the preservation of our democracy. *continued on page 14*



TRIMMERS

NO OTHER STRAIGHT
SHAFT TRIMMER IS
MORE FUEL EFFICIENT
THAN THE SRM-225!

21.2 CC PROFESSIONAL-GRADE,
2-STROKE ENGINE

59" STRAIGHT SHAFT WITH
FLEX CABLE DRIVE

i-30™ STARTING SYSTEM REDUCES
STARTING EFFORT BY 30%

RUBBER OVER-MOLD GRIP

DURABLE DEBRIS SHIELD
WITH CUT-OFF KNIFE

SPEED-FEED® TRIMMER HEAD



\$199.99

ECHO
OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT

5 YEAR
CONSUMER WARRANTY
2 YEAR
COMMERCIAL WARRANTY

Arthur's Electric Service, Inc.

8910 Brook Road • Glen Allen, VA 23060 • 804-264-2513

TABLE of CONTENTS

4 ARTS RVA Clay Studio Tour

Early next month during the second annual RVA Clay Studio Tour, you can meet Richmond's gods and goddesses, and the clay vessels they create. More than one hundred clay artists will show their wares in twenty-one different locations.

8 NATION OF IMMIGRANTS Northside's "Little Italy"

For the first time ever, the State Department of Historic Resources has erected a marker recognizing an immigrant community in Virginia. The marker was unveiled May 5, and pays tribute to Northside's "Little Italy".

14 COVER STORY Jeff Bourne

He seems to be on a trajectory that will deliver him to the zenith of the Democratic Party, and his rise has been meteoric. Not yet out of college he spent a summer working for Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas in Washington, D.C. After graduating with a bachelor's in economics from William and Mary, Jeff snagged a job with Governor Mark Warner and served as deputy policy director. During law school at his alma mater, he landed an associateship on Capitol Hill with a brilliant young senator by the name of Barack Obama. Under Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring Jeff served as one of five deputy attorneys general. And now he's in the Virginia House of Delegates.

18 COLUMN Briefs

Richmond SPCA Robin Starr Receives Maddie Hero Award, Bellevue Garden Walk Slated for May 21, Derailing the Seminary's Runaway Development

19 WHAT'S NEW Richmond Waldorf School Returns

A private school with its roots in Northside has returned. Richmond Waldorf School recently purchased the former Luther Memorial School at 1301 Robin Hood Road for \$1.85 million.

20 BOOK REVIEW Pachinko, by Min Jin Lee

In the mood for a good long saga, one that can draw you in so deeply you'll look up with a jolt to realize that you're still right here in Richmond? Such a masterpiece is *Pachinko*.

21 COLUMN Rainbow Minutes

The Rainbow Flag at Half-Mast, Harvey Milk Day, What a Doll

22 HIDDEN HISTORIES The Laffer Curve

One of the fundamental economic principles of the so called Reagan revolution, and now a bedrock of ideological faith among conservative Republicans, was jotted down on the back of a cocktail napkin in 1974.

COVER PHOTO by REBECCA D'ANGELO



Independently owned and operated.

editor/publisher

CHARLES G. MCGUIGAN

art director

DOUG DOBEY at Dobby Design

contributing writers

DALE M BRUMFIELD
BRIAN BURNS
ORION HUGHES
JACK R JOHNSON
ANNE JONES
CATHERINE MCGUIGAN
JUDD PROCTOR
FRAN WITHROW

contributing photographers

REBECCA D'ANGELO

editorial: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com

advertising: charlesmcguigan@gmail.com

NORTH of the JAMES® magazine is published every month. Letters to the editor are welcome, but become the property of **NORTH of the JAMES**® magazine. Letters may be edited for clarity and length. Although we invite unsolicited manuscripts, we cannot be accountable for their return. The publisher is not responsible for errors. Copyright 2017® by **NORTH of the JAMES** magazine®. All rights reserved. Views and opinions by our writers do not necessarily represent those of **NORTH of the JAMES** magazine®. **NORTH of the JAMES** magazine® is not responsible for claims made by our advertisers. For media kits and ad rate information, write or call:

NORTH OF THE JAMES MAGAZINE®

PO Box 9225
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 218-5265

www.northofthejames.com

Hermitage Grill

A NORTHSIDE DINING EXPERIENCE



Bigger & Better Than Ever

Tuesday-Friday 11-11 • Saturday 3-11 • Sunday Brunch 9-3

Carry Out &
Catering Available

6010 Hermitage Road
264-7400

Classic Touch Cleaning

Simplifying Lives

One House

At a Time!

Residential Cleaning

1229 Bellevue Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

(804) 262-6979

E-mail: classicouchcleaning@verizon.net

Website: www.classicouchcleaning.com

RVAClay Studio Tour

A Feast for Hungry Eyes

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

THERE'S SOMETHING about clay, and the art of the potter.

For one thing, it's an ancient form of utility and expression, maybe the earliest of all the plastic arts. The Venus of Dolní Věstonice, a statuette of a nude female figure discovered in the Czech Republic, was molded and fired more than 30,000 years ago. And in a cave in Jiangxi, China, archaeologists unearthed the oldest piece of pottery ever shaped by human hands—a piece of cookware made in China (as all things are, right?) more than 20,000 years ago.

Then there's the clay itself, a unique substance, a blending of earth and its inhabitants. It's created where ancient waters once flowed. Waters which pulverized into powder minerals from the crust of the planet along with the remains of plants and animals, mixing it all together, and under time and pressure, forming a thick, thoroughly coalesced pudding.

And when potters scrape away this malleable fusion of the once living and the forever dead, and shape it with their hands, stretching it to its limits with water, and then fire it with oxygen—bringing together the four essential elements—they infuse this clump of mud with a new life, like mortal goddesses and gods. No wonder so many creation myths have the Deity sculpting human beings out of clay. From the Sumerian Enki to the Greek Prometheus, from China's Nuwa to the Incan Viacocha. And, of course, the god of the Jews, Elohim, who “formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Early next month (June 3 and 4) during the second annual RVAClay Studio Tour, you can meet Richmond's gods and goddesses, and the clay vessels they create.

More than one hundred clay artists will show their wares in twenty-one different locations. Though the vast majority of the studios on the tour are located in Richmond and its contiguous counties,



Works by Carren Clarke-MacAdoo.

several are out in New Kent, Hanover and beyond. “We call them the outliers,” says Leslie Messersmith, a potter herself, who does a lot of the public relations for the Studio Tour.

The works that will be shown at the studios represent every conceivable kind of pottery and every level of expertise. “That includes instructors and their students,” says Leslie. “These are students who are taking pottery classes and are proficient enough to show their work. We probably have about seventy professional artists. It's amazing, and the variety of work is incredible.” This year's Studio Tour is sponsored by The Visual Arts Center of Richmond, 43rd Street Gallery, Rosewood Pottery, Crossroads Art Center, Clayworks Supplies, Inc.

Among those showing their work will be stalwarts of the craft like Robin Cage, Lee Hazelgrove, Scott Meredith, and, of course, Leslie Messersmith. “It's very exciting, and one of the things that it's done for us as potters is it's kind of brought us together,” Leslie says. “Potters are very supportive of

one another.”

She recommends that people interested in attending the Studio Tour visit the website, and check out the map. “It's interactive,” she says. “And when you go there and select a number, it will tell you the name of the studio, and you can see who's showing there.”

Woodland Heights Studio is on that map, and on a cool and rainy Sunday in late April as night falls, I visit this studio, and the showroom, which is located in the adjacent house, and get a chance to listen to three clay artists—Kay Franz, Nga Nguyen-Weaver, and Carren Clarke-McAdoo.

Nga and Carren, sisters of the art, work out of Woodland Heights Studio. “Nga and I have known one another for about twenty years,” says Carren.

As a matter, it was Nga who taught Carren the rudiments of clay art.

Two decades ago, Carren happened to be watching Virginia Currents, then hosted by May Lily Lee. One of her guests that night was Nga, who, at the time, owned Richmond Pottery. Car-

ren was instantly drawn in, and signed up for a class.

Carren, who is also a culinary artist with a degree from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island, had an inspiration about bowls as she watched Nga throw clay.

“I'm going to make all of these bowls to correspond with food,” Carren thought. “Because people eat with their eyes.”

But to get the clay to rise out of a formless mass into a bowl or other vessel was much more daunting than Carren imagined.

“I cried a couple of times the first year,” Carren remembers. Try as she would, the bowls, in their moist state, would simply collapse in upon themselves, or fold outward.

And then one day, a year into it, Carren had a Eureka! moment. “All of a sudden it clicked,” she says. “You have a ball of clay, and you put it on a wheel, and you're spinning it around. But all of that clay is not going in the same direction. It's all over the place until you

Fin & Feather
Pet Center, Inc.

Established 1959



www.fin-feather.com

OPEN 7 Days a Week

RICHMOND
 5208 LAKESIDE AVE
 (Convenient to I-64, Powhite & I-95 interchange.
 Just off Exit 80, across from Franco's)

262-6681



Professional Pet Grooming by The Barking Lot

All Breeds Of Dogs And Cats

SHOP LOCALLY, BUY LOCALLY!

Cute Dogs & Cats For Adoption

Through Area Rescue Groups

Check out our website or facebook page for adoption stands.

Pond Center Open Year Round

ALL PONDS AND POND SUPPLIES
\$50 OFF

\$50 OFF any purchase of \$300 or more
 \$25 OFF any purchase of \$199 to \$299.99

For use in Pond Center only. Not valid with any other discounts, with other coupons, discounts, sale items, cat litter and dog or cat food. Expires 6/10/17



Dog & Cat Food



\$2.00 OFF Dog or Cat food up to 8 lbs.
\$3.00 OFF Dog or Cat food of 12 lbs. to 25 lbs.
\$5.00 OFF Dog or Cat food of 26 lbs. or more

Valid for Precise, Eukanuba, Natural Balance and Iams brands, only. Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 6/10/17

\$4.00 OFF GROOMING



(New Customers Only)

With Coupons Only. Not Valid With Any Other Offer. Expires 6/10/17



FREE PARAKEET

With Purchase Of Parakeet Set-Up

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 6/10/17

FREE TROPICAL FISH



Buy One at Reg. Price, Get One of Equal or Lesser Value Free

Limit \$5.99 value.

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 6/10/17



15% OFF

REPTILE SUPPLIES

With Purchase Of A Reptile

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts. Expires 6/10/17

SAVE ON PET SUPPLIES

\$10 OFF

\$10 OFF any purchase of \$60 or more
 \$5 OFF any purchase of \$35 to \$59.99
 \$2 OFF any purchase of \$15 to \$34.99

Not valid with sale items, other coupons or discounts, cat litter, dog or cat food. Not valid on Frontline or Advantage. Expires 6/10/17

NorthSide Grille

Chart a course to Richmond's finest family neighborhood restaurant in the heart of Bellevue

Monday through Saturday: 11am till closing*

Sunday: 10am till closing*

Join us early for brunch or dollar tacos later in the day

*limited menu after 10 pm

Your Family Friendly Neighborhood Restaurant
Join Us for Happy Hour Specials 3-6pm, Mon-Fri

1217 Bellevue Avenue • 266-4403

ARTS



Works by Nga Nguyen-Weaver.

start pushing and pulling, until it all starts going in the same direction.”

Once that happens a potter can lead the clay like a piper.

Since that day, Carren's affair with the medium has become deeper and deeper. “I'm in love with clay,” she says. “Nga started to look at how I was crafting my work, and how to fine tune it.”

And Nga kept pushing her. “Once I learned how to make a bowl, or a cup with a handle, she said, ‘Go bigger and bigger, stretch yourself,’” Carren recalls.

Which is what Carren did. She took classes from Alpha Sow in Senegal, and Masani in Ghana, both renowned potters from Africa. “Regardless what country you're in, clay still speaks the same language, but it speaks differently,” says Carren.

When she returned from Senegal seven years ago, Carren began incorporating faces in some of her work, and her work began taking on a more sculptural quality. “I have the best of both worlds,” she says. “I'm coming from a background of throwing, and now I have the opportunity to slab and create faces, and intertwine function with sculpture. So I always play around with the words function with flair.”

The woman who enticed Carren into the clay arts is sitting next to her at this dining room table.

From the time she was a little girl, Nga possessed that creative spark which set her apart from others. “Throughout my education it was recognized that I had talent in the arts, from elementary school all the way through,” she says.

Nga tried a practical route in the arts, with the notion of becoming an architect. She attended Mary Washington College for two years, studying lib-

eral arts, and then transferred to VCU where she studied interior design, a sort of stepping stone to architecture. “But the immediate creativity satisfaction for me was not there,” she says. “So I switched over to ceramics. VCU at the time was very art-oriented; but I like functional, practical pieces. Pieces to eat from, to use every day.”

Nga is an expert at throwing pottery, and her glazes are incomparable, including one which is like the ocean surrounding Bora Bora. That particular glaze adorns her carved wave mugs, one of her signature pieces.

“I think that people eat with their eyes,” Carren says, again. “You connect with it, and it's all about connection.”

“That's why I do the functional aspect of clay,” Nga says, nodding. “Because I like using it.”

Shortly after graduating from VCU, Nga did a summer-long apprenticeship with a potter up in Maine to learn production work. After spending a couple more years working with another production potter in New Hampshire, Nga returned to Richmond, purchased Richmond Pottery, and began establishing herself as a potter. After marrying and starting a family, Nga sold Richmond Pottery.

Carren's listening closely to Nga's narrative. “And I'm like, ‘Oh my God what am I going to do?’” Carren says. For six months after Nga sold the pottery, the pair, who had worked together side by side for years, were silent. Then Nga said to Carren, “Why don't you just build a studio in the backyard and we can do work there?”

“So I built the studio from the ground up,” says Carren. “We built it, got all the equipment in, and the first three years

COME DANCE WITH US!



(Natalie and Audrey) at

SCOTT BOYER TEACHES DANCE

Ages 3 to adult, priced from \$210.

804-798-9364

scottboyerteachesdance@yahoo.com



Work by Kay Franz

were rough. But then we developed an audience and a following.” That was the birth of Woodland Heights Studio.

“I’ve learned so much from her,” Carren says of Nga. “And I love how we balance each another. You need that outside person that knows you.

I turn to Kay Franz, the third in this trio of clay artists. She grew up down in what was once tobacco country, right on the North Carolina border, in Halifax. She studied ceramics in college, and spent much of her professional career at the Martin Agency.

“I went to school with the intent of going into commercial art so I could be practical, and never took a class in commercial art the whole time I was there,” says Kay. “My first sculpture class was bronze casting, and I did not respond to it. The part I liked was working in the clay, and then I took a pottery course. Once I started hand building I didn’t want to get on the wheel.”

Since that time, Kay has been creating sculptural clay works. “To me it’s a very meditative process,” she says, then recalls the very first piece she made of coiled clay. “It was not the prettiest piece in the world,” she says. “But, I remember looking at it, and thinking, ‘God, I see myself in this piece.’ I could see my energy in the piece. No other art process had responded to my touch the way clay did.”

Kay steered clear of throwing pottery, and instead focused on sculpting clay. “It’s wheel work in slow motion,” she says of her craft. “It’s the pace, that slow deliberate pace. Wheel work felt too fast.” Of her work, she says, “It’s kind of a cross between sculpture and potter. Even though I don’t do functional work, I consider my work bowing and nodding to the functional process.”

And then Kay Franz says this of her chosen medium: “I like to think of it as mud and water, as earth and water. It is tactile and pliable, and responsive to your touch. It is alive, it feels alive. It is the elements in all of us.”

RVAClay Studio Tour

Saturday, June 3, 10-5; Sunday, June 4, Noon-5. More information at rvaclay.com

FREE Admission

MAYFAIRE

2017

Saturday, May 13TH

10AM - 3PM

FUN FOR ALL AGES

children’s arts & activities • pony rides • games of skill
jump rope making • May wreaths • hoop dancing
organic & vegan food options • live music & entertainment

LOCAL ARTISANS & VENDORS OFFERING:

fairy & hobbit houses • wool roving, fiber & art supplies • handmade toys
hand-crafted jewelry • art prints • essential oils • natural skin care
flowers, plants & seedlings • organic vegetables and eggs



RichmondWaldorf.com/mayfaire



Historic Marker Recognizes Northside's "Little Italy"

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN

BRENDA STANKUS'S mother in North Highland Park. We are a commonwealth of immigrants, just as we are a nation of immigrants. And we always will be just that, as long as we refuse to succumb to imaginary fears, and the demons of intolerance and prejudice, the impassioned cries of populism and misguided nationalism. Our power and our glory spring from the diversity our immigrant populations, which continue to enrich our free soil to this day. That's the case with Richmond, too, which is more or less a "sanctuary city," which means it embraces all our new arrivals, and cherishes their contributions.

For the first time ever, the State Department of Historic Resources has erected a marker recognizing an immigrant community in Virginia. The marker was unveiled recently, and pays tribute to Northside's "Little Italy" where about one hundred Italian-American families lived in a tightly woven community just a stone's throw from the historic marker's permanent home at Ann Hardy Plaza in North Highland Park.

"We broke a barrier," says Brenda Stankus. "And it's a shame that barrier wasn't broken earlier." Brenda, along with Ray Gargiulo, did the research and petitioned the DHR, which ultimately led to the placement of the marker in North Highland Park. "It was Ray's idea," Brenda says.

That initial spark may have come from Ray, but Brenda became fired up about it immediately, and the pair began looking for documents and oral histories to support their claims that such a community existed in the not-too-distant past.

Richmond already had an Italian-American community by the 1850s, according to Brenda. Nearly a century before that Thomas Jefferson sponsored some of the first Italian immigrants to Virginia. He brought them here to grow grapes and harvest them and ferment their juices and bottle the wine. Jefferson's grapes shriveled on the vine, but the Italian family that settled in Ablemarle County flourished, and their



Gathering of the Balducci family in North Highland Park.

name Giannini continues to sprout up in Virginia from the mountains to the tidewater. Unlike Jefferson's grapes, they were fruitful and multiplied.

Almost all of the Italians who settled in North Highland Park during the early decades of the last century were from Tuscany. The two gifts they brought with them—a knowledge of food and stone cutting—utterly transformed this fairly provincial Southern city.

There were two men in particular who would ultimately become godfathers of a sort, men who helped and aided the continuing waves of immigrants rippling in from Italian shores. Their

names were Ferruccio Legnaioli and Umberto Balducci, and they came to Richmond during the first decade of the twentieth century.

When they arrived in Richmond, they probably moved to Navy Hill now occupied by VCU's medical campus, either that or to Shockoe Bottom. In those days, that's where the Italian immigrants lived. They may have even taken up temporary residence in one of the apartment buildings owned by Mrs. Pardini, fixtures in Navy Hill.

Not long after his arrival, Umberto asked other immigrants who had already settled in Richmond what sort of

work he should do. When he told them that both he and his wife could cook, they told him to open a restaurant.

"How can I open a restaurant?" Umberto asked. "I can't speak a word of English." "Put up some pictures," someone suggested. "They can order from the pictures."

So Umberto opened his first restaurant in Shockoe, using pictures in place of menus. That first restaurant was extremely successful, so he began opening others—one on Belvedere, one on Broad, another down by the old John Marshall Hotel.

"He got the four restaurants going and he was doing well," says Brenda. "So he became one of the first Italian immigrants to move to Highland Park. They were just building homes there on Florida, Delaware, Maryland and Carolina. Those were the streets that most of the Italians lived on."

Umberto began sponsoring other immigrants, and the Little Italy on Northside began to grow.

On about the same time Umberto settled in Richmond, Ferruccio Legnaioli arrived. He brought with him a different set of skills. As an artist and sculptor who worked in stone, he could, with a chisel and hammer, coax



Brenda Stankus's mother in North Highland Park.

Diamond DOG HOUSE

**Reserve Your Boarding For Spring
And Summer Months.**

Diamond Dog House Does Doggie Daycare
Overnight Boarding, Bath and Nails.

**Treat Your Dog To One Of Our
Hand Made Leashes And Collars**

**All Spring Long
Bring Your Dogs To Us For Daycare...
They Love It!**

Let Your Dogs Come And Play Every Day At Our House



1712 Ellen Road,
Richmond, VA 23230
Across from the Diamond

(804) 254-4101
fax (804) 200-5621
diamonddoghouse@verizon.net

www.diamond-dog-house.com

The Honorable

Chris A. Hilbert

Councilman, Richmond City Council
Northside 3rd Voter District



Northside 3rd Voter District 2017 MEETINGS

All Northside 3rd Voter District Residents invited to attend!

4th Thursday of each month
Locations vary
6:00-8:00 p.m.

May 25, 2017
June 22, 2017
July 27, 2017
August 24, 2017
September 28, 2017
October 26, 2017
November-December TBA

CONTACT

804.646.6055 (tel) or email
chris.hilbert@richmondgov.com

Goals, Updates & Accomplishments

DOT'S BACK INN

4030 MACARTHUR AVENUE ★ 266-3167

Monday thru Saturday
9 am to Midnight
Sunday 10 am to 3

★ NOW SERVING
SUNDAY
BRUNCH ★



13th Annual McShin Foundation Golf Classic

Friday, May 19th

Hanover Country Club
14314 Country Club Drive
Ashland, VA 23005

\$125 / person
\$500 / foursome

DAY OF SCHEDULE

11:30 Registration
12:00 Lunch
12:45 Shot Gun Start
5:30 Dinner & Awards

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

\$150 Hole Sponsor
\$250 Putting Green/Beverage
\$350 Lunch Sponsor
\$500 Dinner Sponsor

For sponsorship, registration
and information, contact
Alden Gregory at aldeng@mcshin.org
or call 804 249 1845

McShin



Foundation



American
Addiction Centers

FEATURE



Above, left: Ferruccio Legnaioli sculpting the Columbus statue later presented to the City of Richmond.

Above right: Umberto Balduccii with his wife.



a human form out of block of marble. Like Umberto, Ferruccio also sponsored Italian immigrants. "They were a group of young men from Italy who were a little higher than craftsmen in their artistic abilities," Brenda tells me.

At one point, Ferruccio employed as many as 35 craftsmen, most of them from Tuscany, at his studio in Scott's Addition. He was the man who would create the statue of Christopher Columbus that stands to this day at the head of the Boulevard in Byrd Park.

But sculpture was a sideline for Ferruccio. The Legnaioli Tile, Cement & Plaster Company offered stone carving along with ornamental plaster and cement. "Legnaioli could make the plaster molds and his employees would do the installations," says Brenda. "These Italian artisans worked on buildings on the Capitol grounds, at downtown theaters such as The Byrd and The Capitol. They did the ceiling work at The Mosque (Altria Theatre), and in downtown churches. The intricate exteriors and interiors of large homes on Monument Ave were also done by these Italian craftsmen."

At the core of Little Italy were several institutions, including the Batini Social Club, Balducci's villa and St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church.

"My maiden name is Giannotti," Brenda says. "And my dad lived in Highland Park as well and my mother's family, too, and they were Italian immigrants."

Brenda tells me the extraordinary story of how her maternal grandfather came to Richmond. In 1906, her grandfather, Angelo Lazzuri, like so

many immigrants of that era, left his family in Italy came here alone to create a new life. Shortly after landing on Ellis Island, he looked for work in New York, but to no avail, so he took a train to Chicago. He didn't like the cold climate and the work was scarce.

Angelo had heard about the community of Italians in Richmond, Virginia, and so he left the Windy City and headed south. On foot. He walked the entire way, working day jobs as a laborer or handyman, anything really, so he could buy food and continue his trek south. He eventually made it, brought his wife and children over to join him, and found a home in North Highland Park.

Brenda's mother was just five years old at the time, and her parents enrolled her in kindergarten at Highland Park Elementary School. Her mom didn't speak a word of English.

"Some Richmonders did not necessarily embrace the Italians," Brenda says. Her mother's kindergarten teacher was one of them. She sent her young charge into what was called "the sunshine room," which was a room in the attic of the school, and the little girl spent her days there alone. It was a place where the school housed children with learning disabilities. "But they didn't call them learning disabilities back then," says Brenda and she chokes up with the memory. "No one in the family knew how to get her out of that attic classroom because they didn't speak English, and couldn't come to the school and talk."

That went on for about six months until a doctor who worked for the school discovered Brenda's mother in the at-

tic. The doctor was not pleased. "Get this child out of this attic," he told the principal. "She can learn."

She was put in a first grade classroom, but things did not improve. "She said the teacher was always mean to her and she would talk about something and everybody would turn around and look at her and point," says Brenda. "My mother thought it was the color of her skin. She thought it was the shape of her nose that they were making fun of. And that she was Catholic."

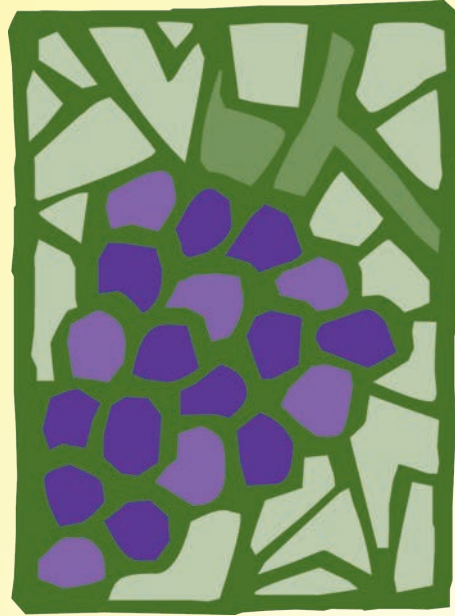
Second grade was a different story. "My mother had a teacher who taught her to speak English all by herself," Brenda says. "That woman taught her to speak English. There was the first grade teacher who had no tolerance, no compassion. Then there was the second grade teacher who loved her, and mom excelled all the way through school." But the girl who would become Brenda's mother had been damaged. "Sometimes you could see that little bit of self-esteem loss coming back from the attic and kindergarten and the first grade teacher," says Brenda, and her eyes are moist.

"But a nice thing that happened to my mother was that Father Rowan who was at St. Elizabeth's back then rode a horse through the neighborhood," Brenda says. "After mom got put back into the regular class, Father Rowan started coming after school to pick her up, and he would take her home on his horse. It kind of made it special; it made her feel good. What a beautiful thing for a priest to come and try to help a child that he heard might need some attention."





Brenda, from her own childhood, remembers the smell of Italian bread baking in the industrial ovens at the Nolte Bakery on Meadowbridge Road. "We bought our bread there," she says, closing her eyes. "The crisp hard crust and the soft stretchy insides."

For two years, Brenda and Ray gathered information and photographs. And they interviewed more than ten people who had grown up in North Highland Park's Italian section. With documents, photographs and oral histories in hand, they brought their findings to the Valentine. "William J. Martin (director of the Valentine) had the biggest smile on his face when we left," says Brenda. "He was the one who directed us to the Department of Historic Resources."

Brenda Stankus considers Richmond today, and the way in which immigrants are invited to the table of American democracy. "We have grown a lot," she says. "But we haven't finished growing." **NJ**



Once Upon a Vine

-  Wine Tastings Every Friday Night!
-  One of the most extensive wine and beer selections in Richmond... something to fit every wallet.
-  Nostalgic candies for the kids.
-  Selection of cheeses, crackers, chips and sauces.

13th Anniversary Party
May 13, 1-5 pm
 Food, Wine, Beer, Music, Contests, Raffles

An Additional Discount For Wedding Parties
 Ask About A Wedding And Reception In The Country

Cigar Wine and Beer Pairing
May 20, 3-7 pm
 \$25 in advance, limited to thirty

Order Your Kegs For Summer Parties

Free Friday Night Movies
 (Requests For Your Favorite Movies Encouraged)

Summer Beers Have Arrived

Beer & Wine Tastings Every Friday 5-8 pm

Open 7 Days A Week

Sunday - Thursday 11 am - 9 pm | Friday & Saturday 11 am - 11 pm.

4009 MacArthur Avenue Phone: 726-WINE (9463) FAX: 726-VINE (8463)

To get on our e-mail list log on to onceuponavine@aol.com

Look For Us On Trinkin, Follow Us On Twitter



NorthSide

NEIGHBORHOOD
 ... RETAIL ...
 ... RESTAURANTS ...
 ... SERVICES ...

LEWIS GINTER
 BOTANICAL GARDEN

HERMITAGE ROAD



Hermitage Grill 6010
 Fine dining with a laid-back atmosphere.
 Catering available. 264-7400.



Lakeside Farmers' Market 6110
 Henrico County's permanent farmers' market.
 Open Wednesday and Saturdays.
 Plus, Lakeside Farmers' Market Too. 262-6593.
www.lakesidefarmersmarket.com

LAKE SIDE AVENUE

The Cane Connection

6941 The Cane Connection
 Professional caning and chair repair. Come take a caning class! 261-6555.
www.thecaneconnection.com

consignment connection

5517 Consignment Connection
 4,500 square feet of fun! Exceptional values everyday. A great opportunity to earn money. Stock changes daily. 261-3600



5115 Axelle
 An old-fashioned service station, family owned and operated for 62 years. Full automotive service & repair. 266-3574



5511 A Sharper Palate
 Personalized menu and event planning. Haute cuisine to comfort food. Imaginative boxed lunches and drop off platters. 553-0495

HILLIARD ROAD

LAKE SIDE

DUMBARTON ROAD



Appliances on Lakeside 5418
 Appliances, Built-In Appliance Installations and Parts For All Major Appliances. The people you know. The Richmond family you can trust. 266-7621.
www.Appliance.Solutions.VA.com



Fin & Feather 5208
 Special values on fish, birds, reptiles and small animals. 262-6681.



The Water Garden Center 5200
 We have the area's finest and largest selection of water garden products, plants and fish. 262-6681.

BRYAN PARK

1229 Classic Touch Cleaning
 Weekly, biweekly, or monthly housecleaning to suit your needs. 262-6979.

1217 NorthSide Grille
 Delicious family dining in the heart of Bellevue. Open every day with brunch on Sundays. 266-4403.
www.northsidegrille.com

BELLEVUE AVENUE

**NorthSide
Grille**

**Classic Touch
Cleaning**



4031 Decatur's Garage
Bellevue's full-service general auto repair for 25 years. Integrity and quality service. Bobby Shore. 262-7582



4023 The Mill on MacArthur
Dine in, take out. Serving locally farmed produce, poultry and meat with vegetarian and vegan options. Open 11am-10pm Mon-Fri; 9am-10pm Sat & Sun. 716-1196. www.themillnva.com



4015 Stir Crazy
24 locally roasted gourmet coffees, specialty drinks including frappes & smoothies, full line of teas, fresh baked scones, hearty sandwiches. 864-0264



4013 Rich's Stitches
Your source for embroidery, imprinted sportswear and advertising specialties. www.richsstitches.com, 262-3477



4009 Once Upon A Vine
700 varieties of wine, 300 types of beer, imported cheeses, fresh deli meats, kegs available on order, wine tastings every Friday. 726-WINE (9463)



Dot's Back Inn 4039
Your neighborhood restaurant. Serving the great folks of Northside since 1990. Family-friendly food and prices. 266-3167



1600 The Hermitage
The Hermitage has been caring for seniors for over 60 years. Offering independent living, assisted living, memory care, health care, rehabilitation and respite care. 474-1800 www.hermitage-vumh.com



Kitchen 64 3336
Great menu with family fare for lunch and dinner. Brunch on weekends. Enjoy the covered patio. Sweet95 right next door - serving scrumptious ice cream and shakes to beat the heat. 358-0064.



1712 Diamond Dog House
We provide no-cage doggie day care and boarding and offer grooming and lots of love. 254-4101

ELLEN ROAD

HERMITAGE ROAD

THE DIAMOND



2519 Richmond SPCA
Founded in 1891, the Richmond SPCA offers pet adoptions, a pet wellness and spay/neuter clinic, gift shop, fun programs for kids, pet training and more! 643-6785 www.richmondsPCA.org

MACARTHUR AVENUE

HERMITAGE ROAD

BELLEVUE

LABURNUM AVENUE

WESTWOOD AVENUE

BOULEVARD

BROAD STREET

© 2017 NORTH OF THE JAMES Magazine. Map not to scale. **NORTH OF THE JAMES**

Jeff Bourne

JEFF BOURNE SITS ACROSS THE TABLE FROM ME

in the conference room of Stir Crazy on MacArthur Avenue. This coffee shop is a frequent haunt of his where he works the crowd as they wait in line for their morning pick-me-ups. He has a natural rapport with people, listens carefully to their concerns, and speaks authoritatively, and from the heart. On his finger is a thin, silver wedding band, on the opposing wrist an enormous watch. Jeff wears a navy blue blazer over a crisp white shirt, a fashionable tie pulled tight at the neck. Pinned through the left lapel of his jacket is a brass circle from the Virginia General Assembly, a badge of honor that he wears as the 71st District representative on that august body of governance that traces its roots back to Jamestown, well before the American Revolution, distinguishing it as “the oldest continuous law-making body in the New World.” He pushes back from the conference table. “My dad always told me, ‘It’s better to be lucky than good,’” Jeff says. “And I think I’ve been pretty lucky.”

JEFF was born in Hartford Connecticut and lived in Middletown until he was ten years old, and then the family moved to one of the most rural reaches of Virginia. “I grew up in Wytheville, a small Southwest Virginia town,” says Jeff. “It was the summer I was ten years old, and my Dad’s mother died and she lived in Wytheville, which is where my father grew up.” Jeff, his brother and parents traveled down to Wytheville to make funeral arrangements and to close out the estate. They stayed there for three weeks, and during that time Jeff and his brother did things they would never have thought of doing in Connecticut. They rode their bikes through town to attend a minor league baseball game. They roamed through the neighborhood, made their way over to the community pool, strolled down Main Street to wolf down a couple of Skeeter’s world famous hotdogs. The family returned to Connecticut, but before the school year began, they travelled back to Wytheville to a new life. “My parents recognized while we were there that it was probably the best decision to raise their kids in Wytheville,” says Jeff.

His mother Maria, Italian-American, had worked twenty years as a school teacher; his father, John, African-American, had spent two decades as police

officer. They were both committed to their respective careers, but they gave it all up for their children.

“My dad tried to get a job with the local police,” Jeff remembers. “But he came to learn that in a small town like Wytheville the budgets are very small. And so if you’re hiring a police officer or a teacher with twenty years’ experience it costs a little bit more than hiring a teacher right out of college. They had priced themselves out of the Wytheville market.”

But Jeff’s parents were determined to keep their children in Wytheville. “Fortunately for us, my mother and father were very committed to my brother and I, so they did whatever they had to do to make ends meet,” says Jeff. “My mother went to work at a truck stop at the intersection of 81 and 77 as a waitress. I remember her coming home and we would count the money from her tips. My dad bounced around from odd job to odd job. He was a short order cook at Bob Evans one time. He worked for a private trash collection business. Ultimately through hard work and determination my mom rose to a management position for the entire truck stop. And my dad landed a job at a local community services board, and ultimately became the maintenance supervisor.”

From almost the moment they moved there, Jeff became aware of the subtle and not-so-subtle specters of racism. “My brother and I did pretty well in school,” he says. “And so when we started school in Wytheville, they hadn’t received our records yet, so

they put both my brother and I in remedial classes. My mom, always the fighter for us, said, ‘Look the kids are in advanced classes,’ and so ultimately it all got worked out. I can’t prove it with hardcore factual evidence, but I suspect it was because of my color and my brother’s color. Things like that happened throughout my school career.”

In high school, Jeff and his friends would do what kids do on a Friday or Saturday night, particularly in rural settings, where there’s not much night life. They would drive along the main drag, pull into a parking lot, talk with friends, and then move on.

“There were plenty of occasions when we were parked in the grocery store parking lot, and we would see pickup trucks with Confederate flags riding through the parking lot, and the driver and passenger yelling racial epithets at us,” Jeff says. “I had never experienced that before. You know, the racial tension was still very much there. I can remember, when I was thirteen or fourteen, the KKK marching down Main Street in Wytheville. It’s almost like it is today in certain areas.”

In high school, Jeff excelled both academically and athletically. He was a letterman in football, basketball, soccer and track. “There were a group of us African-American students,” he says. “We were doing well in school and we were the heart and soul and the A-list players on all the sports team.”

Despite the rabid racism of the parochial minds of some of Wytheville’s inhabitants, Jeff always persevered, and he attributes much of his success to the encouragement of his parents and an English teacher.

“My mom and dad had always taught me that I could do anything I wanted to do,” says Jeff. “And I had an eleventh and twelfth grade English teacher, Rhonda Simmerman, and she really inspired me and pushed me. She even stoked some of that pushback against the norm and the status quo, and she had me hone that and channel it in the right way. So she allowed me, through term papers and writing assignments, to express the frustration that I felt and that I was experiencing.”

We fast forward for a moment to this year’s unprecedented presidential election. “Until this past November the only president my kids have ever known was Barack Obama,” Jeff says. “This last election for president was so prominent and so loud and so hateful and divisive, the kids just picked it up.”

On election night the kids were put to bed at a rea-

BY CHARLES MCGUIGAN
PHOTOS BY REBECCA D'ANGELO



sonable hour. But the following morning, rubbing sleep from her eyes, Jeff's daughter was anxious to know the outcome. "And this moment will never leave me," Jeff says. "She asked, 'Did Hillary win?' And when we told her, 'No,' she literally cried."

When Jeff's wife, Anedra, took the girls to school that Wednesday morning, it was as if a national tragedy had occurred. "Anedra recounted to me the scene at school that morning," says Jeff. "The kids, the parents, the teachers were all devastated with the election results." That afternoon, Jeff's daughter asked a question about one of her friends and classmates, a little girl of Asian origin. "Are they going to send her back to China?" Jeff's daughter wanted to know. "Is Donald Trump going to send her back to China?"

Jeff was speechless when he heard his daughter's perfectly formed words, and his throat thickened. "It really crystalized for me the sheer uncertainty that his presidency has brought, and continues to provide for every American," says Jeff. "My hope was that when he was elected, the weight of the office, the responsibility of the office of the president, would temper him. In hindsight, I know that was naïve of me."

"There are a lot of dangerous things about our president, and the policies he advocates for," he says. "And I think the most dangerous thing of all is the unknown. We just don't know what is next." His words massage back into being the angst that has been with most of us since that dismal morning last November, which only worsened on the day of the inauguration.

But then Jeff begins talking like the naturally gifted statesman he is, and with words he restores faith, resurrects hope, and resuscitates a deep will to fight and to resist.

"Fortunately in raw politics, the one silver lining in this is that he has ignited an unprecedented movement of people who have never been more so engaged in doing their civic responsibility," Jeff says. "Now you've got folks knocking on doors, running for office, lobbying their representatives, being outspoken. And that is a great thing. I just pray our country continues

to stay engaged like that, because, at the end of the day, this will make our democracy stronger."

He invites me to consider an army of four million civil servants—the men and women who make the government work. "These are good, hard-working people who just want to do the right thing," Jeff says, and then he mentions Virginia's senators. "It gives me great comfort to have Tim Kaine and Mark Warner at the forefront of a movement that is protecting what is sacred about our democracy. It's not going to be easy, but if we've got to battle, I'm ready to go to battle. And I'll put our two senators against any other senators in the country. I've been inspired by the work that he (Mark Warner) is doing on the Russia probe."

After graduating from Wytheville High School, Jeff went off to William and Mary with every intention of becoming a pediatrician, but he was young and mercurial. "I took my first lab science class preparing to go down the pre-med track and I quickly realized science was not for me," he says. "And then I thought I was going to be an investment banker, and I ultimately graduated with a degree in economics."

But even before he graduated, Jeff realized investment banking wasn't for him. One summer he did an internship at Merrill Lynch and could not feature himself doing that kind of work for the rest of his life. The next summer he finagled another internship, and it would seal his fate.

"I got hooked up with a guy who was chief of staff to Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee from Houston Texas," he recalls. "After the interview, I was blessed to be able to secure a congressional black caucus internship in DC. After a week of being immersed in that world of creating public policy, of service to the greater good, I knew what I wanted to do. I started trying to soak up as much as I could, talking to everybody, pestering people. I met some really great people, and I noticed that everybody was a lawyer, so I knew I had to go to law school."

Just after receiving his bachelor's, Jeff took the LSATs

but didn't do that well. Instead of trying again, he decided to take a couple years off to prepare himself for adulthood. He moved to Northern Virginia, but the only job he could find was in management training for First Virginia Bank. During that time, he sent out scores of resumes. Six months later he was offered a job as a legislative policy writer with the Sierra Club. "It was in their global warning and energy shop to do policy and legislative stuff," he says. "And so I did that, and it was great because one of the things the Sierra Club does at times is rather than give money to campaigns that they endorse or that they support they'll send folks to help. And so I got to go to New Jersey and New York and work on these great campaigns."

When Mark Warner ran for governor, Jeff worked on his campaign, and, after the election, became Warner's deputy policy director for three years.

After that he returned to his alma mater to study law. He loved the rigors of the law, and the way instructors nurtured their legal eaglets. "They prepare their lawyers to be citizen lawyers," says Jeff. During the summer between his second and third year at law school, Jeff was given the opportunity of a lifetime.

"It was one of the most exciting and humbling and unique experiences I ever had," he says. "I was afforded an opportunity to go work in then-Senator Barack Obama's office in Washington, D.C. He talked with us regularly, and was extremely down to earth, and had a wonderful outlook on the world, and his worldview was optimistic and pitch perfect. That was in 2006, and there was the hype and anticipation of him running for president. I was just happy to be there."

After law school, Jeff went to work for a small law firm called Morris and Morris where he learned how to try cases, and fine-tuned his oratory skills. When Dwight Jones first ran for mayor of Richmond, Jeff helped him organize his campaign. "A year after he was elected he called me and said, 'I want you to help me run the city, and I served as his deputy chief of staff,'" Jeff says.

Jeff wanted to serve in other capacities, and because he had one daughter already and a son on the way, he turned his attention to the Richmond School Board. After being elected as the School Board's Third District representative, Jeff left the mayor's office and went to work for the Richmond Housing Authority where he did policy and government affairs work.

"I went there because I thought one of the biggest things we can do to eradicate poverty is to change and transform our public housing," he says. "Unfortunately, the leadership there at the time was in turmoil and transition, and so it became not exciting for me."

During the statewide elections of 2013, Jeff became a firm supporter of Mark Herring, who was running for attorney general. After the election, the victorious Mark Herring invited Jeff to work for him. "That January I was running a division of about thirty lawyers as one of five deputy attorneys general," he says. "To this day it was the most rewarding, interesting and enlightening professional experience I've ever had. As you recall, most of my professional life has been spent somewhere in around public policy and the law, and if there's a place where all of my interests converge—policy, politics and the law—it would be in the attor-



This page: Top left, Bourne with Sen. Tim Kaine; top right, with Gov. Doug Wilder; bottom, with Sen. Mark Warner.

Opposite page: Being sworn in at the State Capitol; bottom, with Gov. McAuliffe.

ney general's office. Policy is what you should do, the law is what you can do, and politics is what is possible."

Jeff considers himself fortunate for having served under Mark Herring. "I was proud to be part of the Herring administration because he was so courageous when he changed the state's position on the marriage equality lawsuit," he says. "And when he fought to make sure students could get instate tuition who were legally here. And when he fought for the environment."

During his time on the Richmond School Board, Jeff changed the notion of what an education system really is. "We have 26 percent of our people living in poverty in Richmond," he says. "We have 40 percent of our students who are at or below the poverty line, and roughly 80 percent of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch. Now when I talk about education system, I don't just mean pre-K to twelfth grade. It's got to be an educational system for everyone because we can only go so far if we focus on fixing the kids. We've got to fix the families, too, and part of that is preparing people who are uneducated, underedu-

cated or undertrained, and really providing them with skills, knowledge and the ability to go out and get a job and be prepared for the work force so that they can provide and make a better way for their family."

When this past election cycle rolled around, Jeff considered several options. A number of people wanted him to run for mayor, or city council. He opted instead to continue his work on the School Board, and he secured the seat handily.

Then, of course, the domino effect kicked in. Donald McEachin won his race for Congress, leaving his state senate seat open. Delegate Jennifer McLellan was the heir apparent to that seat, and she won the contest easily. And that's when Jeff decided to run for Jennifer's seat in the House of Delegates. He won almost 90 percent of the vote.

"This was a difficult decision because I really care about the school system in Richmond," he says. "But ultimately I decided that while I wouldn't be on the school board if I were elected to the House of Delegates, I could have an impact on Richmond Public Schools



VENUS RISING

GOLD MEDAL - DOUBLE IPA
2016 Virginia Craft Brewers Cup

FIRE STATION 5

GOLD MEDAL - AMERICAN AMBER ALE
2016 Virginia Craft Brewers Cup

THE MESSAGE

BRONZE MEDAL - DOUBLE IPA
2016 Virginia Craft Brewers Cup

DOPPLER EFFECT IPA

1ST PLACE & PEOPLE'S CHOICE
RVA Blind IPA Challenge

IRISH GOODBYE

SILVER MEDAL - STOUT
2016 Virginia Craft Brewers Cup

FINAL GRAVITY BREWING CO.

6118 Lakeside Avenue Richmond VA 804-264-4808 www.OGGRAVITY.com

Tasting Room Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday, 11-7 Thursday, 11-9 Friday and Saturday, 10-9 Sunday, 11-6

in a different way, which is why I decided to run.”

Jeff was sworn into office on February 8, 2017. “It was a very quick turnaround time,” he says. “And though I got in for only the last two weeks of the 2017 session, I learned a lot and I saw a lot and I don’t regret the decision one bit.”

In that short time, it became clear to Jeff that conservatives and liberals often worked together collegially. “There are a few issues that Democrats and Republican are just not going to agree on,” he says. “But on the vast majority of issues we can find common ground. There’s no clearer example of that than the budget. So the budget we passed gave raises to state workers, teachers, state police, and it added some protections for the environment. It was a good document. That budget process showed me that when there are real problems the Commonwealth faces, the General Assembly can come together and compromise and find solutions for the people we represent. There are a lot of good people in the General Assembly that want to do the right thing.”

Jeff describes the width and breadth of the 71st District which encompasses Bellevue, Ginter Park, the Fan, Jackson Ward, Carver, Highland Park, the East End, most of Church Hill and Downtown Richmond. “It’s a very diverse and exciting district,” our representative tells me. “It has some of the most abject poverty in the region, but it also has some pretty significant wealth. It’s a microcosm of America; it’s a microcosm of Virginia. Young, old, black, white, rich poor, Hispanic, immigrant. And this is what makes representing this district extremely fun and challenging. The problems we face are complex, but we live in a very engaged district, so people are not shy about offering suggestions, telling you where they stand on issues, and probably on 95 percent of the issues I’m right there with the rest of district.”

When I ask Delegate Jeff Bourne if he has further political aspirations, he says, “My philosophy in this is I’ve never said I want to be elected to this and then that. My faith teaches me this is not my plan. I don’t order my steps, my God orders my steps.” **NJ**



alzheimer's  association® Presents

A Navigator's Guide for the Journey of Memory Lost

For family caregivers and those who love someone
with Alzheimer's or signs of dementia.



- ▶ **June 5** *The Basics of Alzheimer's Disease*
- ▶ **June 12** *Dementia Conversations*
- ▶ **June 19** *Legal and Financial Considerations*

All dates start at 6pm.

Contact Susan Cantrell at **(804) 474-1850**
to reserve your spot today!



Hosted by The Hermitage, 1600 Westwood Avenue
Attendance is free, but seating is limited.
RSVP by June 1st. Light dinner will be offered.

Professional Advice and Support from friends with
The Hermitage | SeniorBridge | Morgan Stanley

The
HERMITAGE

1600 Westwood Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227

hermitage-vumh.com



Wonderful food, best
brunch in Richmond.
— Urban Spoon

Serving locally farmed
produce, poultry, and
meat with vegetarian,
vegan, & gluten free
options available.

OPEN 11am-10pm Mon-Fri
9am-10pm Sat & Sun

DINE IN • TAKE OUT

ENJOY BRUNCH
Sat & Sun 9am-2pm

Weekly Specials:
Sun • Specialty Burgers
5pm-close

Mon • Vegetarian & Vegan
Specials all day

Tues • Family Style Pasta Night
6pm-close

Wed • Wing it Wednesday
with \$5 wing specials

Happy Hour • Mon-Fri 3-7pm

Located in Richmond VA's
historic Bellevue District at
**4023 MacArthur
Avenue**

804 716 1196

www.themillrva.com

BRIEFS

Richmond SPCA Robin Starr Receives Maddie Hero Award



Above: Richmond SPCA CEO Robin Starr.

Robin Starr, who heads up the Richmond SPCA, is one of fifteen animal welfare leaders nationwide to receive the prestigious Maddie Hero Award, which comes with a \$10,000 grant. The award recognizes and honors the “top dogs” in communities that are not only advancing the welfare of companion animals in the United States, but are leading the way with their innovative ideas, progressive thinking and lifesaving actions.

Robin wins this award as she celebrates her twentieth year as CEO of the Richmond SPCA. In those two decades, Richmond’s approach to animal welfare has been transformed thanks to her leadership in bringing the no kill model to Central Virginia. Under her leadership, the Richmond SPCA has developed and delivered the crucial programs and services needed by our community to reach a citywide live release rate now in excess of 90 percent.

“Robin epitomizes the very best of no-kill leadership,” says Mary Ippoliti-

Smith of Maddie’s Fund. “She has successfully led the Richmond SPCA to unprecedented levels of lifesaving and works tirelessly to expand that safety net of care throughout the Richmond Metro area. Not content to rest on her accomplishments, Robin continues to challenge herself, her team and her community to champion the cause of all pets.”

The award was made to Robin by Maddie’s Fund®, a family foundation created in 1994 by Workday® co-founder Dave Duffield and his wife, Cheryl, who have endowed the Foundation with more than \$300 million. Since then, the Foundation has awarded more than \$187.8 million in grants toward increased community lifesaving, shelter medicine education, and pet adoptions across the U.S. The Duffields named Maddie’s Fund after their miniature schnauzer Maddie, who always made them laugh and gave them much joy. Maddie was with Dave and Cheryl from 1987 - 1997 and continues to inspire them today.

Bellevue Garden Walk Slated for May 21



Get a look at your neighbors’ gardens without trespassing.

The annual Bellevue Garden walk will be held 2 to 6 pm on Sunday, May 21. Brochures with maps highlighting featured gardens will be delivered to every home in Bellevue just prior

Left: Edible garden on a previous Bellevue Garden Walk.



Architectural drawings for high-density housing on the Westwood Tract.

Derailing the Seminary’s Runaway Development

Residents of Ginter Park and Sherwood Park recently filed suit in Richmond City Circuit Court to stop the building of a 301-unit suburban-style apartment project on one of the few remaining green spaces in the city’s North Side. The development, to be called the Canopy, will be located on a portion of the Westwood Tract, across Brook Road from Union Presbyterian Seminary.

The suit claims that the city has misstated the zoning on the tract, which was enacted in 1953 to permit student housing, but to prohibit commercial residential development. The Northside residents cite 1953 zoning documents, which the city claimed were not available when they gave permission for the massive project.

The suit claims the Westwood Tract is subject to a 1953 rezoning ordinance which states, “that use of the entire Westwood Tract is limited to ‘institutional’ uses, [and] that the proposed Canopy at Westwood use is not an ‘institutional’ use.” Therefore, the complaint says, the building permits for the multi-family project “should be enjoined both preliminarily and permanently.”

to the event. Watch for them on your front porch.

Bellevue residents love their gardens, and love exhibiting them in their full and naked glory. Resident there have been hosting this garden walk for more than twenty-five years, and as always it’s free. **NJ**

WHAT'S NEW

Richmond Waldorf School Returns to Northside

by CHARLES MCGUIGAN



Katie Adams Parrish, chair of Richmond Waldorf School's Board of Trustees, at the podium, addressing guests at the school's recent dedication ceremony. Faculty, staff, board members, Waldorf families and students, and Northside neighbors were among the 200 guests. The School will host summer programs in the new space this summer, and will welcome its 2016-17 students this fall.

A PRIVATE SCHOOL with its roots in Northside has returned. Richmond Waldorf School recently purchased the former Luther Memorial School at 1301 Robin Hood Road for \$1.85 million, and will offer its summer programs there beginning July 10. It's currently accepting applications for the 2016-17 school year.

For the past 14 years, Richmond Waldorf School has been renting space from Westover Baptist Church. But before that, the Waldorf School operated in Richmond's North Side. It all began in a private home on Laburnum Avenue with a kindergarten class of 14 students. It later morphed into the Spring Meadow Waldorf School.


The mission of the Waldorf School has always been to provide a learning environment that promotes independent thinking, cultivates creativity, builds confidence, and develops practical skills. Their holistic approach to education lays the foundation for a life full of meaning and purpose.

The Richmond Waldorf School currently has a student body of 131 from pre-K through 8th grade. With the 30,000 square foot building on Robin

Hood Road enrollment is expected to double in the coming years.

Funds to purchase the Robin Hood Road facility were raised by the Richmond Waldorf School in short. They began raising the funds last November, and by February they had met their goal. Financing for the school was provided by Virginia Community Capital.

The Richmond Waldorf School will be hosting its May Faire on May 13 at the new facility.

Waldorf Education dates back to 1919 and comprises one of the largest independent school systems worldwide. There are more than 1,000 Waldorf schools, 200 of which are located in North America. While each Waldorf school is independently formed and operated, all are based on the insights, teachings, and principles of education outlined by the world renowned philosopher and scientist, Rudolf Steiner. The principles of Waldorf Education evolve from an understanding of human development that address the needs of the growing child. 

To learn more about Northside's newest private school, call (804) 377-8024, or visit richmondwaldorf.com



Thinking about selling your home in Northside?

Contact me for a FREE market analysis.

I have expertise in Market Valuations, Negotiations, Advertising, Home Staging, Inspections, Appraisals, Investing & Mortgage Financing.



Chris Hollister REALTOR®

Hollister Properties

5407 Patterson Ave., Suite 101 Richmond, VA 23226

804.240.9415

chris@hollistersales.com

www.HollisterSales.com



Berry's Produce

SPRING'S IN FULL BLOOM!
Fresh Vegetables, Flowers, McCutcheons Jam, Jellies and Pickles, Montana Gold Breads

Everything You Need for the Garden
Seeds, Vegetable Plants, Flowers, Potting Soil and Bagged Mulch

9592 Chamberlayne Road, Mechanicsville, VA 23116
804-569-9005 • Open every day 10-7

MAIN STREET LAW

John G LaFratta

**Criminal Law
Traffic Violations
Estate Planning
Family Law**

EDUCATION:

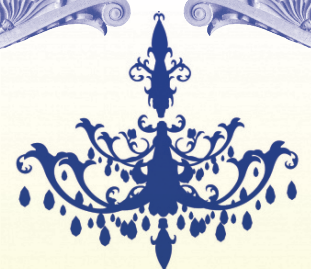
University of Richmond,
TC Williams School of Law, JD
University of Richmond, Robins
School of Business, MBA
North Carolina State
University, BA

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

Richmond Criminal Bar
Association
Virginia Bar Association
Richmond Juvenile Bar
Association
Caroline County Bar
Association

john@mainstlaw.com

804.355.1800



Paul's Place

**Antique Lighting
and Furniture**

1009 Overbrook Rd.,
Richmond, VA 23220

Thursday-Saturday 9-5pm
Sunday 12-5pm

Closed Monday-Wednesday

Architectural Salvage for
Repairs and Renovation
Iron Gates and Fencing
Bricks, Slate and Stone

**Lighting Repairs and
Restoration**

804-228-9999

www.paulsplaceonline.com
email info@paulsplaceonline.com

The Cane Connection

*Professional Caning
and Chair Repair*



Sign up for a caning class!

Class Saturday mornings

Open Tuesday-Saturday, 10-6

*Specializing in fine antique and
your everyday furniture*

**6941 Lakeside Avenue
Richmond**

261-6555



AXSELLE

*An
Old-Fashioned
Service Station*

**Family Owned And
Operated For 65 Years
Full Automotive Service
And Repair**

**266-3574
5515 Lakeside Avenue**



Zorba's EXPRESS

Pizza - Pasta - Subs

FULL ITALIAN MENU

N.Y. Style Pizzas
Baked Spaghetti
Fettucini Alfredo
Lasagna - Manicotti
Ravioli - Tortellini
Veal Marsala
Chicken Marsala
Veal Parmigiana
Chicken Parmigiana
Eggplant Parmigiana
Calzone - Stromboli
Selection of Subs
Selection of Salads
Tiramisu - Canoli
And Much More!

FREE DELIVERY

Monday-Thursday, 11am-10pm;
Friday & Saturday, 11am-11pm;
Sunday, Noon-10pm

**4026 MACARTHUR AVENUE
264-5370**

DECATUR'S GARAGE

Round the Car Service

Bellevue's Full-Service
Auto Repair for 25 Years

Bobby Shore

**4031 MacArthur Avenue
Richmond, VA 23227**

(804) 262-7582

Pet Sitting Services



DONNA DUFFIELD

(804) 397-6720

*Loving Care where your
pet is most comfortable-
their own home!*

BOOK REVIEW

Four-Generation Saga Of a Korean Family

by **FRAN WITHROW**

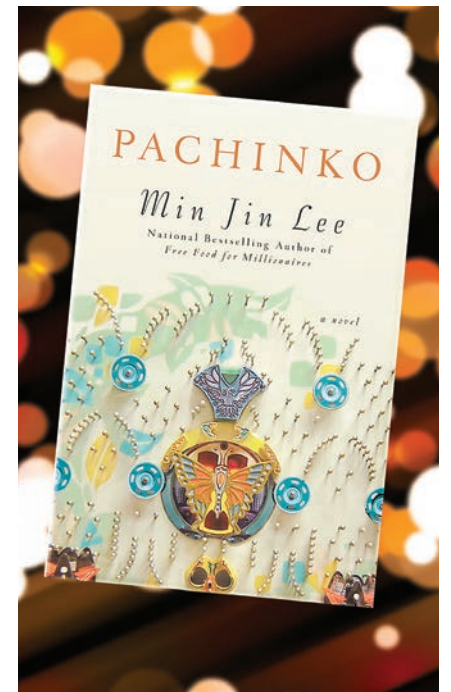
SOMETIMES I AM IN the mood for a good long saga, one that can draw me in so deeply I look up with a jolt to realize I am actually here in my house in Richmond rather than in the setting of the story. Such a masterpiece is "Pachinko." Though a hefty tome at 480 pages, I tore through it, waking up in the night to read more, and I turned the last page with a sigh of regret.

"Pachinko," which was 30 years in the making, chronicles the lives of four generations of a Korean family during the years 1910-1989. The book is rich in history: Lee obviously did a huge amount of research, weaving the political and cultural climate of the area seamlessly into a fascinating account of the lives of this family.

The story begins with Hoonie, born with a cleft palate and a clubfoot in Korea (no North or South back then). He marries, and dotes on his beloved daughter, Sunja. Though the family is poor, they are content. In 1932 Sunja becomes pregnant by Hansu, who is rich but married. The tubercular Isak, a compassionate minister who is traveling through town, kindly marries her. He takes Sunja with him to Japan, and raises her son as his own.

Japan annexed Korea in 1910, and the Koreans who fled to Japan to escape the hardships of their own land during this time faced deep discrimination. Sunja and her husband Isak end up living with her husband's brother and his wife. There they are persecuted not only for being Koreans, but also for their religious faith.

Throughout the next 50 years, Sunja and her family face hardship, intolerance, and disaster. They struggle to find their way in this harsh and unforgiving environment. Sunja's boys, Noa and Mosazu, are vastly different in temperament and in interests, but Sunja's fierce love for them keeps her determined to do anything she can to support them and the rest of her family.



Sunja eventually, and with displeasure, reconnects with her oldest son's father, Hansu. He is a wealthy, shady businessman who runs a gambling empire based on pachinko, a Japanese pinball game. Hansu desperately wants to help support their intellectual son Noa, but Sunja is a proud woman and refuses. Their relationship is complicated, and their tangled past is eventually revealed to Noa, altering the course of his life. Can he find it in his heart to forgive his parents for keeping this secret from him? How does this news affect his younger brother, Mosazu? You'll have to read the book to find out.

In addition to being a darn good tale, this story will make you ponder more about racism, about what makes us different and how we are the same, and about the meaning and limitations of love and forgiveness. It will make you think about the sacrifices we make to save face, to save our families, and to save ourselves.

And it will make you hope fervently that Lee doesn't wait 30 years to publish something else. **NJ**

Pachinko
by *Min Jin Lee*
480 pages
\$27.00
Hatchette Book Group

by BRIAN BURNS and JUDD PROCTOR

The Rainbow Flag at Half-Mast



ARTIST AND GAY rights activist Gilbert Baker, creator of the Rainbow Flag, died in his sleep at his home in New York City on March 31, 2017. He was sixty-five.

In 1978, while living in San Francisco, Baker created his first Rainbow Flag for the city's pride event. It had eight colors, each with a symbolic meaning. Hot pink was for sex, red for life, or-

ange for healing, yellow for sunlight, green for nature, turquoise for art, indigo for harmony and violet for spirit.

In 1994, Baker moved to New York City where he created the world's largest flag to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. At the time, it was deemed the world's largest flag.

Today, the flag is modeled after Baker's 1979, six-color version, and is internationally recognized as the Gay Pride Flag.

Harvey Milk Day

In 1977, Harvey Milk became one of the first openly-gay elected officials in the U.S., but was assassinated a year later. A dynamic and outspoken advocate for the gay community, he's revered as a gay martyr.

Milk was commemorated on May 22, 2008, as a bronze bust of the hero was unveiled during a ceremony at the San

Francisco City Hall building. Just days earlier, the California Assembly had designated May 22nd as Harvey Milk Day, as it was his birthday.

It was fitting that the bust of Harvey Milk was first displayed in San Francisco City Hall's Ceremonial Rotunda – the most coveted space in the building for same-sex wedding ceremonies.

What a Doll

Said to be the world's first gay doll, Gay Bob joined the world of straight toys in 1977. Inventor Harvey Rosenberg of New York made 10,000 of the dolls and sold them through mail-order ads.

Gay Bob stood twelve inches tall, was anatomically-correct, and had frocked blond hair and gorgeous blue eyes. He also wore a neck chain, an earring, and an over-the-shoulder satchel bag. While a few dolls of the time were

closeted, Gay Bob came with a closet box so he could step out of the closet with pride.

Today, Gay Bob is a collector's item, worth as much as \$100 in mint condition.

Gay Bob was eventually joined on the toy shelf by Boy George, as well as Gay Billy - the U.K.'s first openly-gay doll **NSJ**



STIR CRAZY CAFÉ

4015 MacArthur Avenue
Richmond, VA

Monday - Friday
7am - 5pm

Saturday - Sunday
7:30am - 5pm

Now Offering Breakfast and
Lunch Catering, and Space Rental

Contact Stephanie at
stephanie@stircrazyrva.com
or 804 864 0264

804 864 0264
jordan@stircrazyrva.com

facebook.com/stircrazyrva
instagram.com/stircrazyrva

Thinking of moving? Call Rebecca

Creating Community One Home At A Time



Rebecca D'Angelo
Real Estate Agent
Licensed in the State of Virginia

Clients receive a
complimentary photo session

804.709.7707 (office)
703.407.6043 (cell)
RDAngelo@GoHTR.com

www.hometownrealtyservices.com
www.dangeloRVarealtor.com
FB @dangeloRVarealtor

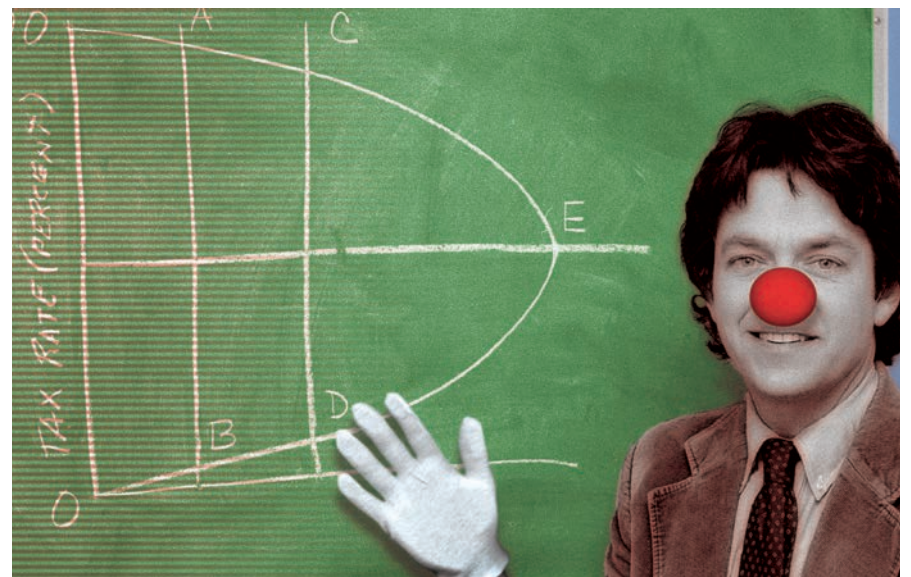


3027 W. Cary St. RVA

HIDDEN HISTORIES

The Laffer Curve No Laughing Matter

by JACK R. JOHNSON



ONE OF THE fundamental economic principles of the so called Reagan revolution, and now a bedrock of ideological faith among conservative Republicans, was jotted down on the back of a cocktail napkin in 1974. As legend has it, the infamous Laffer Curve was first drawn by economist Arthur Laffer on a cocktail napkin during a small dinner meeting at a Washington Hotel attended by Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld.

Although at first skeptical, Dick Cheney became intrigued when Arthur Laffer explained the gist of the curve, that increases in taxes could conceivably lead to a reduction in overall revenue. If increases in tax could reduce revenue, surely the reverse was also true. Decreasing the tax rate could conceivably increase revenue! With great excitement, the Republican establishment latched onto this idea, arguing counterintuitively that decreases in tax rates would actually increase revenue because so called “wealth producers” would be willing to create “more wealth” through job growth stimulated by tax cuts. In short order, the notorious concept of Supply Side economics was born, with Arthur Laffer’s curve serving as its foundational principle.

But many economists have questioned the utility of the Laffer Curve in public discourse. According to Nobel prize laureate James Tobin, “the ‘Laffer Curve’ idea that tax cuts would actually increase revenues turned out to deserve the ridicule with which sober economists had greeted it in 1981.” It would only “increase wealth” to a very limited degree, and based on a fairly precise understanding of what level of taxation would actually deter economic growth, a fairly high rate, as it turned out.

Taken to an extreme, the concept has proven to be highly dysfunctional causing massive deficits when base rates were cut to the bone under George W. Bush’s tenure. Conventional economists acknowledge the basic notion of the Laffer curve, but argue that the peak tax rate could be as high as 65%. Well above Ronald Reagan’s and George W. Bush’s tax cuts—and well above the highest current tax rate of 39.6% for couples making around half a million dollars a year. As a result of Laffer’s much abused idea, the US economy lost billions of dollars in taxes during the Reagan and George W. Bush era, and stand to lose billions more if Donald Trump and the Republican Congress aggressively cut taxes once again; making Arthur Laffer’s infamous curve... no laughing matter. **NJ**

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION by DOUG DOBEY

like the way NORTH of the JAMES magazine looks?



text **804 980 5604** call

contact DOBEY DESIGN for all your graphic needs

"Don't throw it away!"

WANTED

old postcard posters magazines
calendars scrapbooks catalogues
photos advertising sheet music maps

BUY SELL APPRAISE

**WHITING'S
OLD PAPER**

746-4710



**WILLARD
PAINTING**

Quality Painting
Guaranteed Results
Free Estimates

GREG WILLARD

743-8237



FARMERS' MARKET

Open Year Round

More Info at www.LakesideFarmersMarket.net


WELCOME TO THE TENTH SEASON AT LAKESIDE TOWNE CENTER
6110 LAKESIDE AVENUE | HENRICO/RICHMOND VA 23228

OFFERING FARM RAISED PRODUCTS, BAKED GOODS, FRESH SEAFOOD,
AND PLANTS AND FLOWERS

YEAR ROUND FARMERS' MARKET

OPEN Saturday mornings and all day Wednesday



Visit us on FACEBOOK for the latest seasonal hours 

Beautiful homes are created at the Corner of Lakeside & Dumbarton.



NOW PROUDLY
OFFERING
Winndom
Mattresses



See us on
houzz

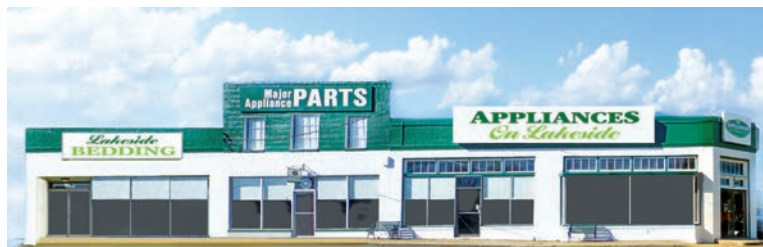


Voted Richmond's
Best
Appliance Store.

From Appliances On Lakeside to Lakeside Bedding, our consultants will work with you to create your beautiful home. And, we're all under one roof! 5418 Lakeside Avenue in Richmond. Parts for all major brands, too! **(804) 266-7621**



LakesideBedding.com



AppliancesOnLakeside.com