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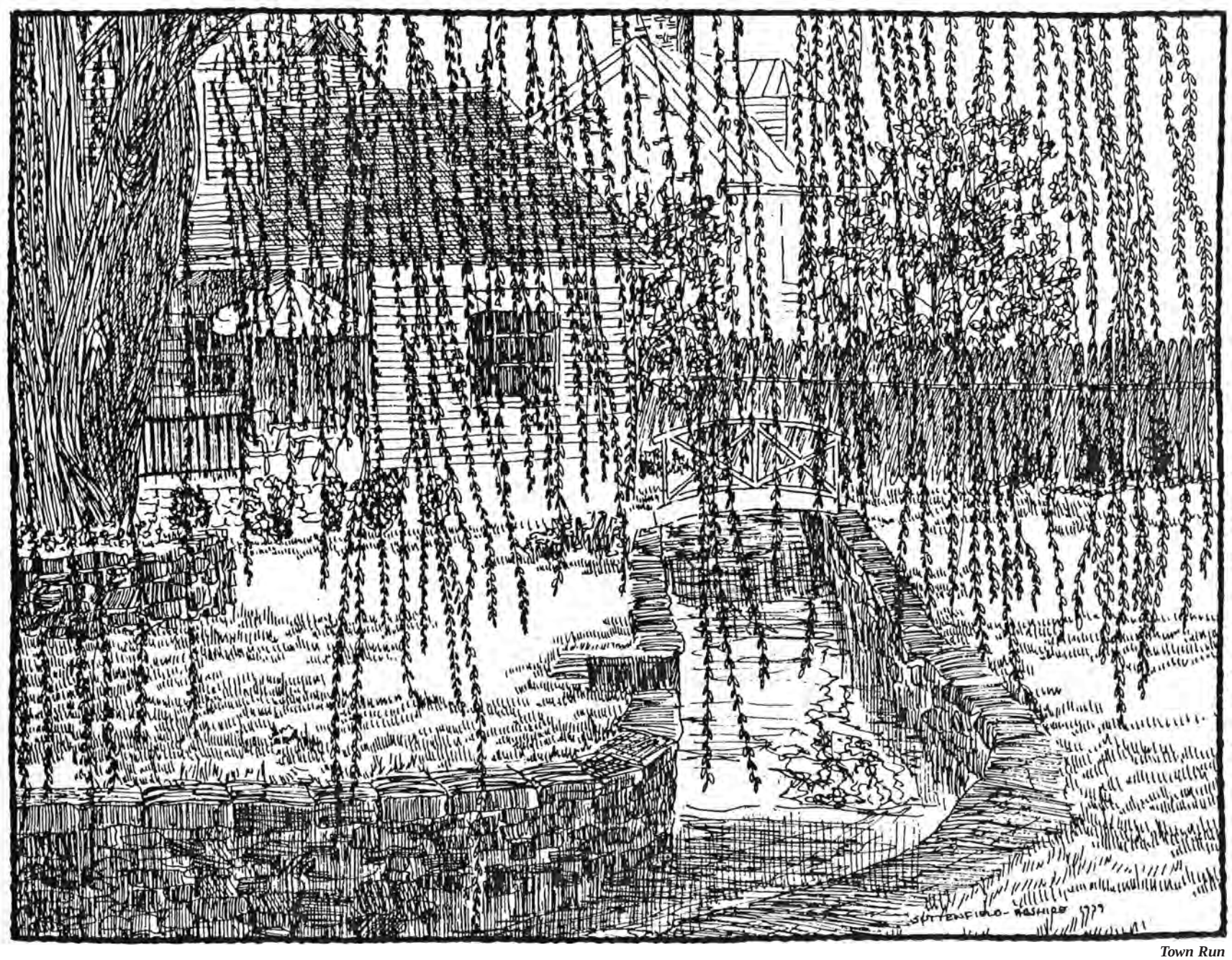

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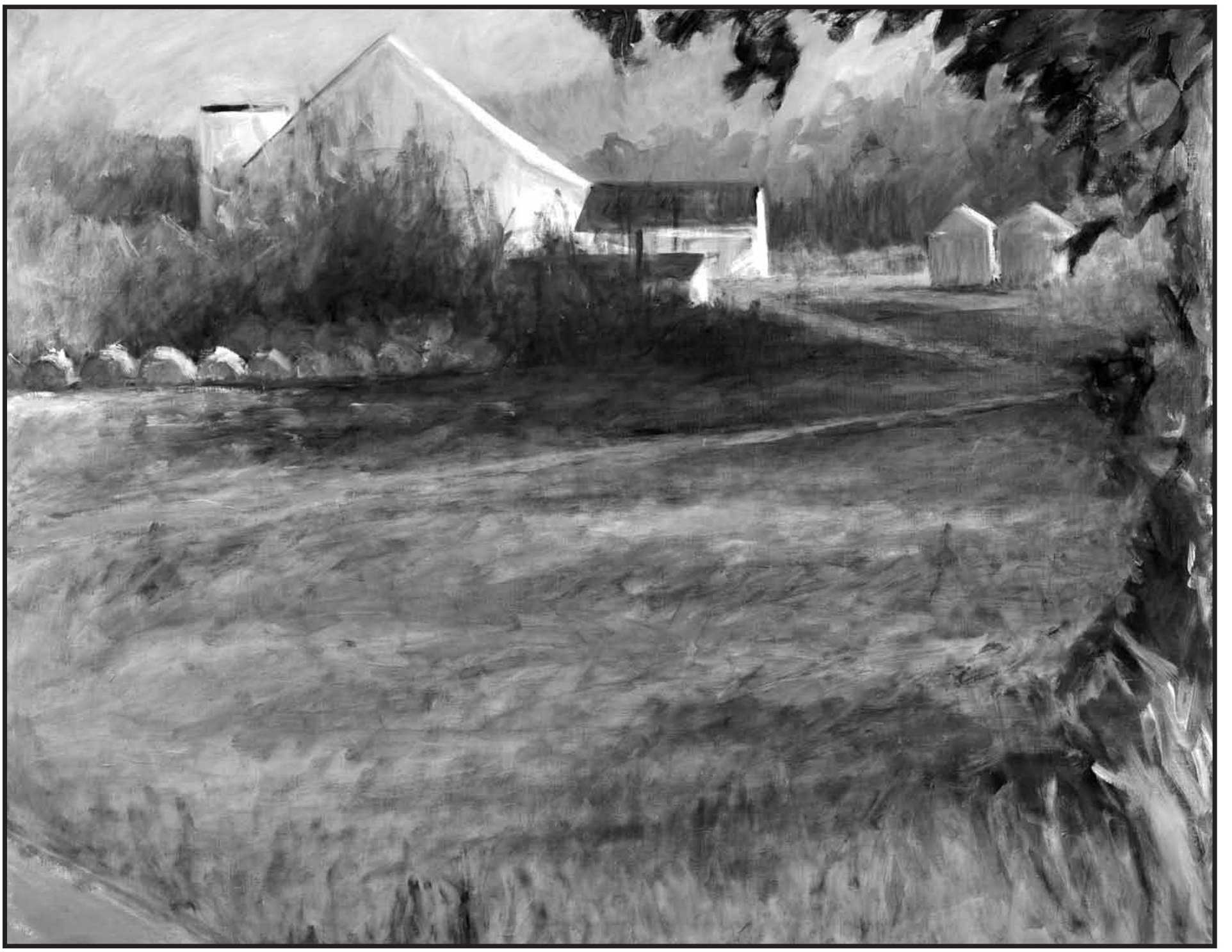

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Cover Artist

Diana Suttenfield celebrates the land and architecture of the place she's called home since 1962 with luminous paintings and intricate drawings. She is also known for her passionate work in conservation and preservation.

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Mighty Be Our Powers

Randall Tremba

I have baptized you with water; but the One who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

—Gospel according to Mark

Recently I met a woman who is a reservist with the international Christian Peacemaking Team. Since 2005 she has spent two months every year working with victims of violence in Iraq, sometimes simply getting in the way of potential violence, unarmed.

That got me to thinking more deeply about the theory and practice of nonviolence. And that took me back 20 years to a place where AK-47 machine guns and machetes ruled the day and ruled the night. In that land, terrified people fled from armed men and boys shooting, stabbing, and hacking bodies into pieces. In that country the powers of hell had arisen on earth.

It was a time and place that I had once fleetingly heard about. But this time I looked closely at it and lingered. This time I saw the bodies strewn along roads and ditches. This time I sat with displaced families huddled in refugee camps with little to eat or drink. And this time I met a woman who in the darkest night heard a voice, saying: *Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare the way for peace.*

Once upon a time as a child this woman had been baptized in water. Little did she know that a baptism more powerful would later overwhelm her. And little did she know that one day she would be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

During the dark days of this past Advent season, I immersed myself in the tragic story of the Liberian people. Few of us heard or paid much attention to the two bloody civil wars that raged there for 15 years. At that time the Persian Gulf wars grabbed our attention.

Yet the Liberian civil war is a familiar story. Civil wars rage on every continent—tribes warring against each other for control of land, resources, and governing power, not to mention inflicting revenge for old offenses and insults. It's an old story but with a modern twist. African tribes came to possess high-powered guns supplied by so-called advanced societies.

And so it was that in the early 1990s war arose in Liberia, a country to which freed slaves from America had come in the 19th century. Those freed slaves enslaved and oppressed the indigenous peoples of Liberia. Over time resentments built up and eventually fueled an uprising of indigenous tribes against the so-called Congo People, or the elite ruling tribe. Once it started, no tribe was safe from attack by another. Chaos and devastation reigned.

At the end of the first civil war, Charles Taylor became president. But peace did not come. Taylor traded blood diamonds for weapons and supplied insurgents in neighboring Sierra Leone. Meanwhile, he robbed and brutalized his own people. Another civil war broke out, and once again tens of thousands were shot, raped, and hacked to death. Chaos and devastation reigned. Again. It was as though the devil himself ruled the land.

Here we go again, cried the women of Liberia. Their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers were off once again to kill, mutilate, and rape—over and over and over again.

It was in that dark and gloomy time that a certain young woman named Leymah Gbowee heard a voice: *Get the women of the church together to pray*.

Who me? You've made a mistake, Gbowee muttered.

Even though she was a baptized child of the church, Leymah had gone badly astray, or so she thought. She felt unworthy to be an instrument of the Holy One. Nevertheless, she obeyed the voice.

And so, Gbowee assembled and addressed the women of the church. They were sick and tired of war and feeling useless and disempowered. After all, men had all the guns. And men held all the power in their land, or so the women thought. They were about to discover a power more mighty, a force greater than the devil's guns.

Among the Christian women that day was a Muslim woman. She came to the podium and there on the spot pledged to rally the Muslim women of Liberia to join the Christian women in praying for and standing up for peace.

And that's what happened.

It was unprecedented.

Gbowee's story is told in the book *Mighty Be Our Powers: How Sisterhood, Prayer, and Sex Changed a Nation at War*, and in an award-winning documentary film *Pray the Devil Back to Hell*.

As it turns out, Gbowee and other women leaders had been inspired by Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr., and Mennonite theologian John Howard Yoder. But they were also inspired by Esther, the woman of Jewish lore who fasted and prayed to save her own people from a state-sponsored massacre.

At first a dozen women, then hundreds, and then thousands forsook their submissive cultural roles, set aside their favored colorful garments, and put on plain white T-shirts emblazoned with the Women in Peacebuilding Network logo. They stood together. They stood tall in the public squares of Monrovia, the capital of Liberia.

The women organized. They trained. They strategized. They kept at it in good times and bad times. They kept at it for years until the warlords and President Taylor were shamed into signing a peace treaty in 2003, which led to the presence of UN peacekeepers, which led to democratic elections in 2005, which led to the first woman president of an African nation, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. In her inauguration address, Sirleaf praised the brave work of Liberian Women for Peace.

Mighty be our powers. We will pray the devil back to hell.

Nonviolent resistance to evil is not easy. It's certainly not easier than violent resistance. It's harder.

When you think about it, armed violence is pretty childish. *Bang, bang. Boom, boom. You're dead.* Violence breeds more violence. Its seeds multiply. Nonviolence breeds nonviolence. Its seeds multiply.

Nonviolent resistance to evil is hard work. It requires grownups with strong hearts, minds, and bodies. Yes, it's harder to wage peace than it is to wage war. But it's worth it. Which is one reason the world still remembers and reveres Jesus 2,000 years later. He was killed while waging peace.

Yes, many armed warriors are brave and should be honored for their bravery and sacrifices. But unarmed warriors for peace are also brave, if not more so. Read Gbowee's story and you'll see what I mean.

Running Long, Running Strong

Wendy Mopsik

Suzy Munnis is a woman who knows herself well. "I have always been a 'fidget' and may have had ADHD as a child. But I knew that running felt good. Throughout my life, it has kept me grounded and sane."

Jefferson High School's cross country coach began her own running career in eighth grade. When her mom wanted company on daily runs in an effort to stop smoking, Suzy was only too happy to reinforce her mother's goal. Two miles down the gravel road through the orchard, passing deer and an occasional rattlesnake, was enough to hook the active adolescent. She soon found her own stride and hasn't stopped running since. Munnis ran when she was pregnant with each of her three children; she ran with baby joggers as they grew. She ran in each of the places where the family relocated, and she ran with injuries that are inevitable over a long period of the demanding sport.

Growing up in rural Afton, Va., Munnis spent her early years living on land that had belonged to her grandparents. The 28-acre apple orchard where her father was a fruit grower provided plenty of opportunity to fall in love with the outdoors, while leaving time for running track in both ninth and tenth grades.

In her junior year of high school, life changed dramatically when the family decided a move to Florida was necessary. She quickly learned to adjust to the larger, suburban town of Titusville, Fla., home of the Kennedy Space Center, and the relatively huge high school where running was very competitive. Munnis opted for recreational running rather than being part of the school team.

She continued running at Mars Hill College in North Carolina. As a physical education major, Munnis had many occasions to develop the skills needed to become a strong athlete. Her academic path then led her to the University of Central Florida, with an ultimate transfer to the University of West Florida and a bachelor's degree in exercise science.

Long-distance running had become ingrained in her life, and soon after marriage, Munnis ran her first 5K race, a habit that has defined her long career. James, Suzy's husband of 22 years, came to running as his sport of preference after chasing adventure on a bicycle. He has climbed mountains on them, biked across states, and competed in the Savage Man Triathlon. Ultimately he, too, adopted running as his first choice.

The Munnises began their married life in Pensacola, Fla., where James attended Aviation Officer Candidate School, embarking on a 10-year career in the Navy. His specialty of flying top-secret aircraft on missions vital to the United States framed their early married years. The move to Oklahoma after his graduation was the beginning of a trend that would find the family moving 20 times before finally settling in Shepherdstown for the second time.

His highly technical experience in the Navy made James Munnis a prime candidate to be recruited by commercial airlines, and in August 2000, the family had a major decision to consider. Largely influenced by fellow Navy flyer and United pilot John Craig and his wife, Ann, who had already relocated in Shepherdstown from Pensacola, Suzy and James and their three children chose to settle here as well. United Airlines' hub at Dulles International Airport was convenient, and a visit cemented the deal. Suzy zeroed in on the county venues for running and knew she could find all the things she was looking for in the Eastern Panhandle.

Unfortunately, two years later Suzy's husband, a junior pilot, was furloughed. The Munnises returned to Titusville to regroup with their extended family. The experience, which lasted several years, was positive for all. It afforded the children an opportunity to spend quality time with grandparents and the adults to have the support provided by living close to relatives.

Christmas of 2005 brought a much-hoped-for "present," as Munnis described it, when United Airlines called James back to work at Dulles. By July the following year, a house was secured. Schools were sorted out for Jimmy, then in eighth grade, Sam in seventh, and Alison in fifth.

"Coming back was like we'd never left, except the children had all grown so much! Guess mine had too." Munnis described the way they were welcomed with open arms and hearts. "We are very glad to finally have roots and a feeling of belonging," she explained gratefully. And then they discovered cross country running!

On the very day they were unloading boxes from the move, a vanload of boys arrived to welcome them. The group was returning after middle school cross country practice. "That looks like a great sport to try," she unassumingly suggested. "Running is awesome, even your old buddies know that."

And the rest is history—at least at Jefferson High School. In the fall of 2011, Suzy Munnis, as head cross country coach, brought the boys' cross country team to its first state championship. Beginning as an assistant to Scott Biola in 2009, she helped the high school's girls' team win their only cross country title that same year.

PHOTO BY JESSIE SCHMITT

Busy wife, mother, aquatics coordinator, and Jefferson High cross country team coach Suzy Munnis is rarely at a standstill.

Her kids, too, have gone along for the run. Jimmy, now a freshman at Shepherd University, ran on the high school team. Sam, currently a high school senior, is the only four-year letterman on cross country. Alison, a sophomore, is also a Jefferson High School Cougar cross country team member.

While the team's official season is August 1 through October 30, runners train much of the year. Some choose to stay outside, while others use the indoor track. Munnis stresses slow long-distance runs in the off season and late summer, adding more strenuous intervals of speed and hill work later in the season. Another one of her adages is that practice should be fun and social. Training to attain one's personal best gives intention and focus. The structure of running funnels energy, while the level of intensity always presents a challenge. "You battle yourself and the elements—wind, rain, rocky terrain, water crossings. Nothing stops us but lightning."

Team members may practice their running skills off season or decide to slack a bit, but their coach doesn't have that luxury. Since November 2010, Munnis has been the aquatic coordinator for Shepherd University's Wellness Center, where she manages programs and staff and has taught an aquatics class for physical education majors. And as if that weren't enough, she uses her days off, from the end of February to the end of May, to serve as volunteer coach for Jefferson High School's track team under Head Coach Craig Hunter.

On April 21, 2012, the Potomac Valley Audubon Society hosts the Race for the Birds. This run along the trails at the National Conservation Training Center can claim James and Suzy as race directors for their fourth year of involvement.

Other runners in the community can help support the cross country team by participating in the Cougar Challenge held this year on June 23, 2012, at Sam Michael Park. Registration fees from this 5K race on Jefferson's home cross country course assist in deferring some costs for team awards, travel expenses, uniforms, and equipment.

The team will also participate in Freedom's Run on October 13, 2012. They're hoping to man aid stations along the route if time permits between their own races, but they will, undoubtedly, cheer wildly as their energetic, talented, upbeat, and "fidgety" coach runs by, seeking her personal best.

For more information about these or other running events, contact Munnis at suzymunnis@live.com.

Wendy Mopsik, *former mental health professional, remembers those hectic days and is forever grateful to be retired in Shepherdstown.*

Michael Austin is A-Buzz About Bees

Claire Stuart

The old saying, "What goes around, comes around," is often surprisingly true.

Michael Austin was raised on a dairy farm in the apple-producing section of Washington State, so he was always aware of the importance of bees to agriculture. While still in high school, Austin and some of his friends actually thought about going into the bee business and planned what they needed to do.

"But we never got around to the bees," he laughed.

Life took Austin far from the orchards and his teen ambitions. Coming from a family of seven children in a rural area, he was eager to get away from home. A popular recruiting slogan was, "Join the Navy and see the world," so he did. His travels took him to Southeast Asia, and following his service in the Navy, he went on to do international work with NATO throughout Eastern Europe.

Austin explained that after the end of the Cold War, the Western allies were working with Eastern European nations to keep them away from Russian influences. "The poor nations were very hospitable," recalled Austin, "and we spent a lot of time going out into the countryside."

During his travels through rural areas with NATO, Austin was once more reminded of the importance of bees. He observed that the Russians were the most knowledgeable about beekeeping. Everywhere he went, he saw people keeping bees. Each country did it differently, with hives characteristic to the locality.

"Bees have played a seminal role in human culture and enriched the quality of life," said Austin.

He explained that bees have been used by humans throughout recorded history, not only as providers of sweeteners but also for medicine, glue, and wax for candles and lubrication. He noted that the restored mill in nearby Millwood, Va., lubricates its moving parts with beeswax.

He added that during World War II, NATO was sequestering all possible resources to meet wartime requirements, and bee products were among them. Honey has antibiotic qualities and was used in healing wounds. Propolis, a glue-like substance made by bees, was used in surgery for bonding tissues. Wax was used for many purposes. Demands for these bee products fell after the end of the war.

Returning from NATO work in Europe in 1990, Austin settled in the Washington, D.C., area to work with FEMA. He looked for a place to call home away from the city but on the route of the MARC train. The Eastern Panhandle, then still full of orchards, reminded him of his boyhood home.

Austin retired in 2004. He learned of a beekeeping course being given at the Boonsboro, Md., Fire Hall, and he signed up just on a lark. His interest grew and he soon found himself transformed into a beekeeper.

"Beekeeping is a grounding pursuit," he said. "The beekeeper and the bees are attuned to the weather and the position of the sun in the sky. It makes you slow down and look around."

The relation of humans to bees was a destructive one until the mid 1800s, Austin explained. "That's when we started maintaining bees in hive boxes. Before that, humans looked for *bee trees*—wild bees nesting in hollow trees—and killed the bee colony to get the honey. Now we depend on artificially maintained colonies."

Austin said that a strong bee colony has about 60,000 bees. A colony of about 10,000 bees is weak and probably will not survive long. The queen bee, the only egg producer, lays as many as 2,000 eggs per day in spring.

All worker bees are sterile females. The summer bee has an adult life of about five to six weeks, and her job changes with her age. She starts out as a caretaker of eggs and larvae in the hive. When her wax glands develop, she becomes a wax maker. Later she may be an air conditioner—one of the bees that fans its wings to keep the hive cool. Finally she will become a forager and head out to bring home nectar and pollen.

The queen only leaves the hive to mate once, and the sperm she receives from a drone or drones will last her the rest of her life. If she stops laying eggs, the colony will decline.

"It is a challenge to the beekeeper to figure out how long she will have sperm left," said Austin. "This is something the worker bees know. When the queen starts to decline, the workers will start rearing new queens in large wax cells and feeding them ultra-nutritious royal jelly. The beekeeper does not take a chance on a declining queen and brings in a new queen the second year."

PHOTO BY JESSIE SCHMITT

Michael Austin with some of his bees

According to Austin, a bee colony needs about 60 pounds of stored honey to survive winter. In the first year for a new colony, the bees should be allowed to keep all their honey. In the second year, honey production begins.

"A false spring like this year is bad for bees," he said. "They use up their honey and a beekeeper must supplement it." He said that a certain type of commercial cake icing is used.

Recently a lot of publicity has been given to a phenomenon called Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD), where bees simply vanish, with no dead bees found. Many causes have been considered, including parasites, fungus, bacterial and viral diseases, pesticides, or a combination of any of them, but so far there has been no definitive answer.

According to Austin, CCD has been a problem for large commercial beekeepers, but not for the hobbyist or small beekeeper. "Commercial beekeepers push the bees hard," he explained. "They use the bees as pollinators and honey is just a byproduct. They rent their colonies out and they truck them all over the country."

He mentioned globalization as another problem, with bees and their diseases being imported from all over. Monoculture is yet another factor, "but that's what makes money." In nature, bees visit many types of flowers throughout a season, allowing them to get a variety of nutrients.

"I don't have any problem with CCD," said Austin. "Any problems I have are caused by me! I miscalculate, misread."

Austin is active in the local bee club, Eastern Panhandle Beekeepers, and he enjoys sharing his experience and mentoring new beekeepers. The club gives an annual beekeeping course. "About 70 families take the course every year," Austin reported. "The cost is $40 to $45 including the textbook. It teaches enough so that one would be able to work with a package of bees." There are fellowships available for students.

Austin has 19 hives. He has seldom been stung. "When the temperature is 45 or lower or there's wind or rain, bees don't go out. Most of the colony is inside the hive, so a beekeeper disturbing the hive is more likely to get stung then."

It is essential for beekeepers to avoid problems with neighbors, so he advises them to keep a handy water source for their bees. Bees need a lot of water to make honey and to control the temperature in the hive, so it should be close to the hive.

Austin operates a small wholesale honey business under the label of Duchess Honey, sold in local farm markets.

In his spare time, Austin enjoys artwork, particularly drawing with pen and ink. He is a member of the Shepherdstown Friday Painters.

Claire Stuart *enjoys watching bees at work, but she does not wish to take responsibility for their little lives!*

250th Shepherdstown Anniversary Brew
Rumsey Rock Porter

James Luther Maddy

PHOTO SUPPLIED BY AUTHOR

The Rumsey Rock Porter release party drew a crowd.

There was a party on Tuesday January 24 to celebrate the release of Mountain State Brewing Company's new Rumsey Rock Porter. Rumsey Rock Porter is the brainchild of Mary Beth Kilmer, a manager at the Blue Moon Café. When she spoke with the folks at Mountain State Brewery about brewing a beer for the town's anniversary, they took the idea and flew with it.

The opinions of those I talked to mirrored my own assessment of this new brew. Brian, a cook at the Blue Moon, said the porter was full of flavor and heavy, yet crisp. Nick, another friend, thought Rumsey Rock was crisp enough to enjoy on a summer day and thick enough to be a great winter brew. I had two Rumsey Rocks, one pint from the Blue Moon bar (compliments of Nick; thanks again Nick for the research grant) and a delicious snakebite perfectly poured for me by Anna of the Blue Moon staff. (A snakebite is a combination of hard cider and porter.) Rumsey Rock complemented the Woodchuck Cider on tap at the bar really nicely, putting me in a wonderful mood.

For the party, 12 employees of Mountain State brought kegs of the new beer, and stickers and T-shirts for sale. Hors d'oeuvres galore were offered throughout the evening. The Speakeasy Boys, one of Shepherdstown's best-known bluegrass bands, entertained the audience, and young and old soon started dancing. Mary Beth estimated the crowd at about 75 people, and she added, "A good time was had by all."

Rumsey Rock Porter will be available at many fine establishments in Shepherdstown during this anniversary year.

Brewing in Shepherdstown

Rumsey Rock Porter is perhaps the first beer specific to the Shepherdstown area since Shutt's Cream Ale in the 19th century. According to local historian Jim Price, "Philip Shutt arrived in town about 1780. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees in 1797, and again in 1813. The election of 1799 was held at his 'House' [a term that] usually referred to a tavern. He did own property on German Street in 1809. (This may have been the location of his tavern, thought to be the Mecklenburg Building.) The first reference to his 'Brew House' (from the town records) was in 1815. Shutt's Cream Beer was well known and very popular. Later it was in great demand by the laborers building the C&O Canal through this area in the early to mid-1830s, and those building the B&O Railroad in the Kearneysville-Martinsburg area in the early 1840s. Reference to Shutt's Brewery disappeared from our town records in the late 1840s to early 1850s."

Brew Boys Backstory

Traditionally, West Virginia has been an American light beer drinking state. We carefully developed recipes so that all four of our signature ales were easy drinking, yet full of flavor.

As natives of West Virginia, originally from Elkins and Helvetia, we have long dreamed of bringing quality, handcrafted beer back to our state. We were raised on easy-drinking beers and homemade wine. Curiosity eventually got the best of us, and we combined the two—our first batch of homebrew was conceived in the early 90s with home-brewing equipment, books, and some ingredients handed down from our parents' home-brewing days in the 70s.

Since then we've learned a lot about brewing professionally. We developed easy drinking and well-rounded beers with our own state-of-the-art brewing equipment. We sold our first beer in October 2005 and now we're distributing throughout the Canaan Valley, Davis, Thomas, Elkins, Morgantown, and Fayetteville.

—Brian Arnett and Willie Lehmann, owners
Mountain State Brewing Co.

A Brew Is Born

We wanted to brew a new beer this fall, so [the idea for a Shepherdstown brew] was the motivation we needed, at the right time. The owners of the brewery, Brian Arnett and Willie Lehmann, have relatives that live in the Eastern Panhandle. Ninah and Ed Arnett, from Martinsburg, came up with the name for us, Rumsey Rock Porter. We went with it and had our artist friend Sean Conroy design the tap stickers and T-shirts.

We were thrilled to have Mary Beth, at the Blue Moon, host our release party. It is the most wonderful little place, perfect for getting out and meeting our customers. And what fun we had, with The Speakeasy Boys jamming out all night for us! Shepherdstown is a lovely town and the people are so kind. We are so happy to be selling our product across the Eastern Panhandle in such great places like the Blue Moon. We are so excited to be a part of Shepherdstown's celebration and are honored to brew a beer for the occasion!

As far as our Rumsey Rock Porter recipe, it took three (seven-barrel) batches to get the batch we wanted. Brew Master Mike Supak and I brewed around the clock to keep up with the demand of our four regular brews. It was a challenge to sneak in brewing a few batches of a seasonal, and still fill all of our regular orders. Our brewery's demand is once again outgrowing its capacity. A good problem to have in today's economy. We're looking forward to some increased capacity in the near future, which will allow us to release some more seasonal brews. Until then, our Rumsey Rock Porter is available for a very limited time and will only be sold in half-barrel kegs. Customers can contact Jefferson Distributing to purchase a keg.

Here is our description: Rumsey Rock Porter — 5.5% ABV. A well-hopped chocolate porter fermented with a clean, English Pub Ale yeast.

—Kate Lane, brewer
Mountain State Brewing Co.

Touring about the Eastern Panhandle
Found Shepherdstown; such a quaint little place
So, in weather for boot, not for sandal
If you thirst for a fresh new beery taste

Shepherdstown has a new brew of its own
A chocolate porter; you'll want a wee nip
Better for me than a dog finds his bone
Delectable beer for to savor and sip

A crisp, dense beer named for our man Rumsey
Who has a monument on Rumsey Rock
Many make one delightfully clumsy
So you'll want to wait till you're off the clock

It's quitting time and a beer would be great
Have Rumsey Rock Porter from Mountain State

—James Luther Maddy

Shepherdstown 250th Anniversary Reflections

Editor's note: *Throughout the anniversary year of 2012 we will print a dozen or so reflections in each issue. Send yours (100 words or less) to: GNP, P.O. Box 1212, Shepherdstown WV 25443.*

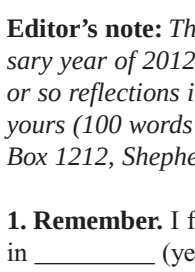
1. Remember. I first saw Shepherdstown in _____ (year). One of my first impressions was.....
2. Celebrate. One feature or part of this town I have come to really like is....
3. Imagine. 25 years from now I would like this town to....

Wendy Strider Ransom

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1964. I grew up here. I have always deeply loved this town and am glad to still be roaming the streets that I roamed as a child
Celebrate: The people and the caring.
Imagine: That in 25 years it will still be the same.

Jack Ransom

Remember: First saw Shepherdstown in 2001. I was just born, but when I was four I knew many people in Shepherdstown.
Celebrate: That you can walk anywhere and not drive.
Imagine: That it will be the same as it is now.



Paul Washington

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1958. Impression: I was 10 years old, don't **remember** much but Shepherd College, and watching Jim Taylor play football.
Celebrate: Watching the football team play at Shepherd University, and talking to friendly people
Imagine: Stay the same

Than Hitt

Remember: First saw Shepherdstown in 2006. First impression: Ice cream with new friends on German Street.
Celebrate: open minds—open hearts
Imagine: Be energy independent (power from peaceful, sustainable sources)

Denise Smith Seaver

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1964. I was born and raised in Shepherdstown. My parents owned the news agency market. I loved the feeling of one huge family that Shepherdstown gave me growing up here all these years.
Celebrate: The closeness and knowing I can raise my daughter here with no fear. She can enjoy the same elementary school that I enjoyed and the special people of this town.
Imagine: I would like this town to always **remember** those who came before them and reflect on all the wonderful times that were spent here whether it was someone who played on the Yankees baseball team that my dad coached or someone who visited Betty's when my aunt owned it. Always **remember**!

Jan Hafer

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1958. First impression was how big it seemed to me as a six-year-old. I accompanied my dad to the history class he taught at Shepherd.
Celebrate: How open and welcoming it is to all who choose to be a part of the community.
Imagine: Remain welcoming to all and not replace the 4-way stop with a stoplight!

Richard Polonchak

bassoon professor, Shepherd University
Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1994 on a day trip visiting land we owned in Harpers Ferry. I was impressed with how old it felt—I **imagine**d generations of people walking where I was walking and seeing many of the same things I was seeing.
Celebrate: For me, "the old" here has a felt sense of being overlaid on "the new" rather than "the new" being overlaid on "the old." Like today, we're playing very old music on rather new instruments.
Imagine: Twenty-five years from now, I hope that this feeling of "our past brings us to the present moment" will still be alive and not be replaced by a "disconnection" attitude. That the historic will live on.

Lou Cox

Remember: I first saw the town in 1990. Impression: A town that time forgot
Celebrate: The history and spirit of the people.
Imagine: The people that move here have the same spirit as our forefathers.

Philip Baker-Shenk

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1976. Impression: Such a tranquil village on the river Potomac! An island of sanity.
Celebrate: It's quiet, picturesque beauty, especially when fresh snowfall covers it.
Imagine: A safe, friendly, diverse place of residence, creativity, and productivity.

Sara Morgan

Impression: I was born and raised in Shepherdstown. I first **remember** Betty's Restaurant. My favorite stores the 5 & 10 candy store and Western Auto, selling little red wagons.
Celebrate: The different stores and all the celebrations we have as a town
Imagine: For people to stay friendly. To be able to walk or drive to town and be able to be safe. My children to grow up and enjoy Shepherdstown as I did when I was growing up.

Betty Snyder

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1994. Impression: It was December Christmas in Shepherdstown and a light snow was falling. We were captured.
Celebrate: The people and the college. The town is so alive, and so welcoming.
Imagine: Not change too much.

Jack Young

Remember: I first saw Shepherdstown in 1988. Impression: Shepherd College. Our son visited the campus, and he subsequently attended and graduated. An important event in his and our family's life. He met his future wife at Shepherd.
Celebrate: The general public's "celebration of life." The people of Shepherdstown are as outgoing as is our town.
Imagine: Continue to offer interesting and challenging roles that its town members can participate in. To offer a sense of belonging.

PHOTOS BY JESSIE SCHMITT

The Lady of Devonshire Arms

Sue Kennedy

Plymouth in Devon, England, was once a small seaside town teeming with historic significance. Located directly across Plymouth Sound from Cornwall, it was from this Plymouth that the Mayflower set sail for the New World in 1620. The centuries-old dock from which it sailed still stands, and Smeaton's Tower, the first stone lighthouse in the world, still looks out across Plymouth Sound from Plymouth Hoe. Today this "town" is a major city filled with 21st-century architecture, but the historic treasure of the land has been carefully preserved.

Carolyn Campbell Lees grew up in Plymouth during the 1950s. The only child of Kathleen Smythe and Morris Lees, she remembers fondly the Plymouth in Devon of those simpler, less hurried times. Carolyn's father died in the late 1990s, but the very elegant Kathleen, now in her 80s, still lives in Plymouth.

Early on, it was discovered that little Carolyn had real artistic talent. She loved to draw and was quite good at it. After high school, this talent took her the Taunton School of Art in Somerset and then to Norwich College for a degree in graphic arts. It was the time when graphics were beginning to supplant pen and ink as the medium preferred in the advertising design world, so armed with her degree, Carolyn went to London and for the next several years created at prestigious design firms such as Edward Advertising, and CRS Designs.

In 1971, she went out on her own and made her mark as an antique dealer and contract designer for everything from medical magazines to *My Story*, a Warner Bros. teen publication. Then, bitten by the travel bug, Carolyn lived all over the world, from Ireland to Iran. In the late 1980s, while living and working in the "colonies," she met and married David Litwack. David, a native of Kansas City, Mo., lived in northern Virginia and worked as an exec with General Dynamics. The couple settled in Fairfax, and Carolyn opened her own shop, Aspen Designs.

In 2000, David went to his high school reunion in Kansas City and renewed a friendship with former classmate Paul Pritchard of Shepherdstown, W.Va. Soon the Litwacks were making weekend trips to visit Paul and Susan at their farm. The Litwacks fell in love with Shepherdstown and eventually decided to invest in the extraordinary little town.

In 2007, they bought the old Carriage House on South Princess Street. The Carriage House was built in 1900 for the construction and housing of horse-drawn carriages. Since the disappearance of the carriage trade, the Carriage House has been home to a variety of commercial endeavors, including an interior design shop, an art gallery, a financial institution, and a café. Today it houses a loft, a townhouse, and the Devonshire Arms Café & Pub.

According to Webster, a "pub," or public meeting house, lives to give patrons a gathering place where they can meet and discuss issues of the day, have a drink and some comfort food, and relax. And that, my friends, is the Devonshire Arms. Less than a year ago, Ms. Carolyn Litwack of Plymouth, Devon, England became sole proprietor of the Devonshire Arms Café & Pub.

In recounting this story, she laughed her wonderfully contagious laugh and said, "Whoever would have dreamed?"

From the moment you enter this small, unpretentious establishment, you feel anything but intimidated. What you feel is welcome, especially if Carolyn is there, and she's always there. Whether you're in for a cup of tea or a full meal, from your first visit, you're an important guest. For Carolyn, it's all about making every patron feel appreciated, and that like-mindedness extends to the staff.

"I look for a personality; it has to fit. Experience is nice, but we're small and I'll train the right person." The right people are Lisa Mills and Rose Pierce, Carolyn's right arms, and their team: Chris Collins, Ashlee Black, Becky Richmond, Chris Geary, Collins McCann, Holly Hartman, Lindsay Gaynor, and Frank Masters.

The Devonshire menu offers "pub food plus." There's Welsh rarebit, fish and chips, bangers and mash, Cornish pasties, cottage pie, and a full bar with the best selection of imported beer anywhere. The "plus" is an offering of standards, including a sunshine breakfast, French toast, Cobb salad, a portabella sandwich, and lean grass-fed beef hamburgers. The baked goods are all homemade and the meat and produce are local.

Let's talk dessert. If you've never had a Bakewell Tart you've missed out. Carolyn, who along with Rose does the baking, creates this melt-in-your-mouth almond and butter thing that is indescribably divine. No pie today? Then how about Sticky Toffee Pudding or Victoria Sponge? Only have time for a cup of tea? Try the Cream Tea with scones and jam and Devonshire cream.

Though she'd always wanted to live in a college town and have a hand in a teashop, Carolyn quickly admitted, "I'm not schooled in restaurant management. But I know what I like. I like cozy, welcoming places that don't rush you, where the patrons are of all ages and the food is comfortable and reasonable. I'd like people to think of us as a home away from home, and I chose a menu with a British flair because that's who I am."

A big believer in cross-promotion, Carolyn said, "The more good places to eat in Shepherdstown, the more visitors we'll have. There are some wonderful restaurants here." But, she adds, "We're unique, and that's a good thing to be." Whether she's speaking of her new friends like Tucker at Bistro 112, or Mary Beth at the Blue Moon, or Deb at the Press Room, she has high praise for them and their successful establishments.

Last June, in celebration of William and Kate's royal wedding, Carolyn invited some good friends to the Devonshire for high tea. "High tea is a dying art, and that's sad because it's such a wonderful way to spend a late afternoon. We're going to be doing a lot more of this. Mothers have told me that they'd love to give their daughters birthday tea parties."

The Devonshire shelves hold a large and delightful collection of teapots (with cozies) and china, and the walls are lined with a revolving collection of the works of local artists. Mike Austin, Pat Donohoe, and Mason Ellsworth are just a few of the artists who have exhibited at the Devonshire.

Open seven days a week, for everything from a breakfast of bangers and mash, lunch of fish and chips, or tea and scones, to the Wings and Lings Happy Hour, The Devonshire Pub is a comfortable place to be. If you're in the mood for live music with a frosty mug of Amber Ale or Miner's Daughter, there's always Friday evening with Mr. Bones (Devon Longerbeam and Josh Bell) or The Second Coming. As the ever-growing company of regulars will tell you, the Devonshire is one of those little places you always hope you'll find in a small town when you're looking to relax, refresh, and meet a friendly face. And aren't we all? Cheers.

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY THE AUTHOR

Owner Carolyn Litwack

Devonshire Arms Café and Pub

Andrew Del-Colle: "I fell in love with the angst…"

Ed Zahniser

PHOTO PROVIDED BY AUTHOR

Andrew Del-Colle

Andrew Del-Colle is a native West Virginian, native Jefferson Countian, native Summit Pointer, and 2002 graduate of Jefferson High School. "I grew up in the house I was born in, in Summit Point," he says.

By contrast, he now lives and works in New York City, the Big Apple. How he got there was by car, driven by his father. "When we got to New Jersey and I first saw the New York City skyline," Del-Colle says, "it suddenly hit me: That's big! It hadn't sunk in that I was moving to NYC for the summer until that moment."

That was two summers ago, to finish his master's degree project as an intern on the Rodale magazine *Men's Health* and its sub-brand *Eat This, Not That!* He didn't know then he would return to live in New York City.

Another account of how Del-Colle got there doesn't invoke the mere mechanics of transportation. He studied, he wrote, he worked his way there, and along the way networking played a role. The journey has to do with advertising and then with journalism more broadly. Andrew Del-Colle is an assistant editor of *Popular Mechanics* magazine. "I deal mostly with the electronics in cars there," he says.

But that's a jump ahead in the story of his journey.

"My interest in journalism started at an early age," he says. "I was always a reader and my family had many magazines around the house. I've been told all my life that I was a good writer."

After graduating from Jefferson High School, Del-Colle did his undergraduate work at West Virginia University in Morgantown, where he majored in advertising. "I was raised a Mountaineer from age seven," he says. "In my last year at WVU, in the last semester I took a class in which we created a magazine, and I was the managing editor," he says. "I fell in love with the angst that comes every night with trying to get something down."

After WVU he traveled around Europe some and lived in North Carolina for a time. Del-Colle then enrolled in the University of Missouri's School of Journalism to study and work toward a master's degree in that discipline.

"At Missouri it wasn't all about theory," he reports. "The entire time you're at Missouri you are doing things that will end up in a newspaper or a magazine. When I was in high school, in English classes or writing classes, people encouraged me in my writing, but I didn't put it together that this was what I was going to do."

Del-Colle was a teaching assistant, an editor for *Vox* magazine, and a reporter and columnist for *The Columbia Missourian*.

Del-Colle's first New York City stay two summers ago was to finish up his master's degree project. *Men's Health* covers all aspects of men's fitness, sex, women, workouts, weight loss, health, nutrition, and muscle building. He did research and fact checking, primarily for *Eat This, Not That!* as well as website maintenance, newsletter compilation, and online production. He also wrote content for *Men's Health* and its blogs The Cache and Guy Gourmet.

Defending his project and getting his degree, he would end up landing a temporary job and, after about six months was named an editorial assistant at *Men's Health*.

"One of the benefits of the University of Missouri journalism school is its big network of people in positions in New York City," he says. "At *Men's Health* I was doing well and enjoying it."

He worked on newsletters that went out in e-mails three times a week. But then opportunity arose—unbeknownst to Del-Colle at first—waited six months, and then materialized. It was the journalism school network at work again.

"I was having drinks one night with a Missouri grad and he had a another Missouri grad friend with him." Del-Colle says. "Some months later his friend e-mailed me to let me know of a job at *Popular Mechanics*."

He sent his resumé and clips. That led to a four-month hiring process, and in June 2011 he was offered the job at *Popular Mechanics*.

"I jumped at the opportunity to get a better title. I'm not a car expert," he says, "but they asked me if I was willing to learn about cars and the auto industry as a whole. I do more than that, but the magazine has no automotive editors in New York City. I edit small features for the Jay Leno column we run every couple of months. I also edit online stories and edit for the iPad.

"At *Popular Mechanics* we have a really great iPad app"—an application that lets readers get the magazine's content on their iPad. "You think about how an article looks on the print page but also on the iPad. You think about multiple publishing platforms for each story."

As print publications cope with the changing ways that consumers get information, finding multiple ways to publish the same or similar content has become more and more important. The traditional advertising-supported print publication has taken big hits in the new marketplace as advertising dollars go into other media and formats.

When I was e-mailing with Andrew about arranging a time to interview him, it turned out he was in Las Vegas, Nev., at the annual Consumer Electronics Show (CES). It turns out that many innovations in electronics end up not only in our home entertainment center but in our "auto-mobile" entertainment center.

Asked about the future, Del-Colle allows that he might be interested in writing a book. "But right now I'm pretty much concentrated on everything I'm doing on the magazine. I'm generating content and coming up with ideas. *Popular Mechanics* is always looking for new ideas. With the recession and advertising dropping off, there are new ways to think about how you are doing journalism," Del-Colle says. "There are book projects spawned by the magazine, sponsorships of projects, and co-branding."

Especially with the iPad, there are many opportunities to rethink how to do journalism. "Before I came here I had only picked up *Popular Mechanics* a few times," he says, "but I had no idea just how design-driven it is. This is a great experience because we cover so many topics." He adds that it's "so wild to think that I get to do what I love every single day."

Del-Colle is glad that he studied advertising at West Virginia University. "I value that for the really good understanding of how you support publishing," he reflects. "I couldn't have planned it better."

New York is still big for this Summit Point man who describes himself as "raised as a Mountaineer from age seven." "I like art," he said, "I like museums. I like food, and I'm having a blast."

The Big Apple may be a world away from Jefferson County, but you can get there from here much more quickly than you can get to West Virginia's capital in Charleston.

Ed Zahniser *has worked on the GOOD NEWS PAPER since before its first issue came out. He is a Shepherdstown poet with a day job.*

Good News Goes Digital!

Anna Taylor Discusses the New GNP Website

Claire Stuart

On January 25, 2012, without any fanfare, the Shepherdstown GOOD NEWS PAPER (GNP) officially entered the Digital Age. On that date, the GNP debuted its brand new website, featuring Winter 2011 as the premier issue. Getting an online presence has been the dream of the editorial staff for years, and it has finally come to pass.

The digital GNP looks just like the print issue you have been accustomed to seeing for the last few decades, and you can leaf through it like a paper. However, it is even better because, at last, you will be able to see the work of the featured artists in color. Ironically, the black-and-white photography of Benita Keller was the artwork featured in the Winter 2011 issue, but future featured art will be in color (unless, of course, it is black and white).

The GNP came online under the talented and skillful hands of local web designer and photographer Anna Taylor, who has created websites for a host of local and regional businesses and organizations. You can visit her website at annataylordesign.com.

Taylor is a native of Jefferson County, and she grew up on her family's farm, Fruit Hill, on Shepherd Grade. "The farm has been in my family for many years—over 100," she says. "I'll probably be here forever."

She attended Shepherd College (now University), and then transferred to the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, where she graduated with a fine arts degree in photography. Photography is Taylor's art form as well as part of her business. She enjoys landscape photography and has produced a series of note cards with Shepherdstown scenes. She also enjoys occasional portrait photography, but, she smiles, "I am better with inanimate objects."

In 1997, while still a student at Shepherd, she took a summer photography workshop at an art college in Ireland. Upon her return, the Arts and Humanities Alliance of Jefferson County awarded her a grant to hang a show of her photographs of the people and landscapes of Ireland. Some of this work appeared in the Fall 1998 issue of the GNP.

In interesting contrast, some of Taylor's commercial photography projects have featured automobiles—from antique roadsters to high-performance cars, draped with sexy models. "My dad is a car enthusiast," she says. "Cars were always part of my life."

While in art school in Baltimore, Taylor became involved in helping some friends design a website about cars. This led her into a period in which she did a lot of automotive photography.

After finishing college, Taylor decided to expand her horizons abroad. She headed to England, where she had some distant relatives. There, she connected with a publishing company that produced specialized consumer automotive magazines, and she soon found herself photographing cars for articles and covers of international car magazines.

The firm also published in the United States, so Taylor eventually returned home. She went on to freelance and produce graphic material for many area firms. She worked for a time for Studio 105 locally, but notes that her personal work increased enough that she needed to dedicate her time to it.

Taylor said that the work on the GNP website has gone pretty quickly, so far. "It was a shockingly painless project," she says. "Actually, it was especially miraculous because it was committee-based." (The independent-minded Taylor admits that she usually isn't very good at working with committees.)

The website will be updated with the newest issue as soon as it comes out each quarter. The printer (HPB, Inc.) will send each issue to Taylor, and she will convert it to a downloadable form.

Archives of past issues will become available in the future, "But we're not there yet," says Taylor.

She explains that in recent years the paper has been assembled from digital copy, so archiving should go fairly quickly, but older issues will probably have to be scanned in. She has enjoyed working on the GNP website and hopes to continue.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY ANNA TAYLOR

Anna Taylor

A local artist has always been featured in each print issue of the GNP, but unfortunately the cost of reproducing the artworks in color exceeds the paper's budget. Now, although the print issue will continue to be all black and white, the online issue will include a gallery of the featured artist's work in color. There will also be links to the artists' personal websites, giving them a chance for additional exposure. A small, color version of the cover art, traditionally by a different artist, will also appear on the site.

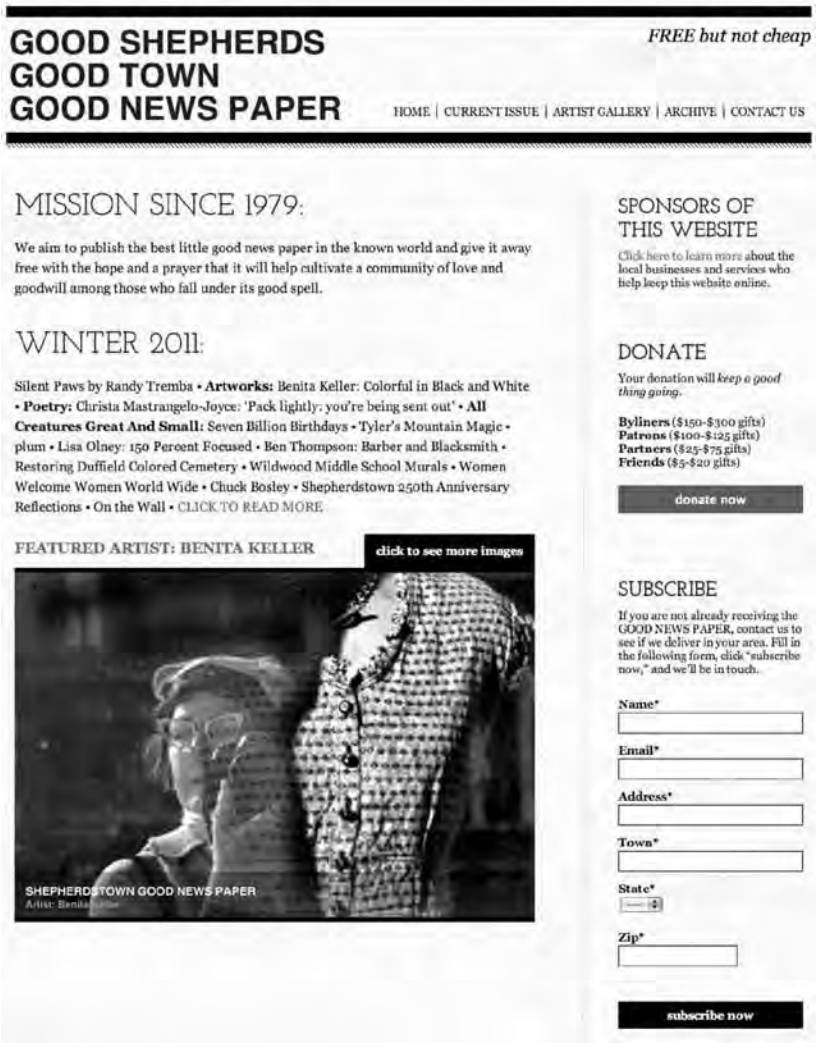
Artists interested in being featured and people wishing to contribute to the paper or submit a letter to the editor may use the "Contact Us" form, and someone will respond.

In addition to the bulk mailings around the local area, the GNP is also mailed to hundreds of homes around the country. Hopefully the availability of the online edition will allow some savings in postage. The Home Page provides a place to "subscribe." As always, the GNP is free, but if you wish to make a donation, now you will be able to do it securely on line through PayPal. This is a possible new revenue source for the paper.

The local businesses, organizations and individuals who want to be sponsors of the website will be shown in each issue, together with links to their own websites. Member churches of the Shepherdstown Ministerial Association will all be listed with contact information and links to their websites.

The GNP welcomes you to visit the new site. If you are already reading this online, you know that the address is: www.shepherdstowngoodnewspaper.org/

If you are reading this on paper, hurry to your nearest computer and check it out!



Diana Suttenfield: Affirming Life with Sunlight and Shadows

Nan Broadhurst

Diana Suttenfield's paintings lead us to consider rural and domestic subjects with new eyes, reveling in the luminous shapes of light and shadow.

Suttenfield was born in Washington, D.C., and in her early years, her family divided their time between the city and a Fairfax County farm. Her father, a medical doctor, loved the country and became a "gentleman farmer," raising Herefords and horses. Thus was born Suttenfield's penchant for caring for animals. Her mother was an early artistic influence, loving to sew and decorate any surface with paint and decoupage.

When Suttenfield was in first grade, her mother and grandmother made her an angel costume for the school play. She tried out the wings from an upstairs window—a prediction of her adventurous spirit. Happily, she wasn't seriously hurt. Suttenfield doesn't remember much about art classes in the early school years, but she does remember drawing a grand Cinderella mural.

When she was eight years old, her father rejoined the army. The family moved to Bayreuth, Germany, very near the Festspielhaus, the opera house devoted exclusively to the performance of Richard Wagner's operas, which became a regular part of their lives during the next three years. After his post in Germany, Suttenfield's father opted for temporary retirement, and the family spent the next three years traveling around Italy, Spain, and the Canary Islands with a Dutch governess named Yetti. During this time, Suttenfield received an excellent education from her mother and Yetti with the Calvert System of home schooling and, of course, exciting insights from their travels.

In 1959, the family took a ship from Portugal, returning to the United States. Suttenfield's father joined the medical staff at various hospitals, moving the family to several states before coming to the Martinsburg VA Hospital in 1962. Her parents bought the historic estate, Falling Spring, near Shepherdstown.

Suttenfield attended Shepherd College (now Shepherd University) and the Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in Baltimore, obtaining a BFA in calligraphy. In 1976, she took a part-time job at the Martinsburg Public Library as the public relations coordinator, initiating many programs and monthly art exhibits. She left the library in 1999, when the transition to computers was in full swing. She had—and still has—a love of holding paper, the real thing.

While at the library, Suttenfield continued her art on the side as a hobby. From 1975 to 1992, Jefferson Security Bank commissioned her to do a series of drawings of local sites for their annual calendars. These beautiful detailed drawings of regional architecture were published in *Shepherdstown Sketchbook*, *Martinsburg Sketchbook*, and *Harpers Ferry, Pen and Ink Drawings*.

In 1979, she decided to methodically pursue a professional career in art by submitting her work to juried shows and joining art groups, such as the Maryland Pastel Society and the Baltimore Watercolor Society. She illustrated a book called *The C & O Canal; An Illustrated History*. In 1982 she became an Artist in Residence at Sunrise Museum in Charleston, W.Va., working in watercolor, pencil, and pen and ink to produce 108 paintings for her final exhibit in 1984.

While in school at MICA, she had enthusiastically focused on abstracts, but after she graduated she found herself inclined toward realism, appreciating the anchor to life around her. She became inspired by the lush rural countryside, which drew her into landscapes, architecture, and domestic still lifes. However, her experience and skill in abstraction is always evident in her work.

This love of the countryside also drew her into passionate conservation and preservation activism. She describes herself as a "hands on" person, not afraid to roll up her sleeves and do what needs to be done. She wrote the National Register nominations for the Falling Spring/Morgan Springs Historic District and the Morgan's Grove Historic Districts. She also cares for many needy animals, both domestic and wild, naming them all for famous artists or performers. After her mother died in 2009, Suttenfield became the trustee for her parents' property, and it was in November 2011, that a tree at Falling Spring received the award for the biggest sugar maple in West Virginia.

Suttenfield remembers certain key moments when she was transfixed by light. At an early age, seeing the sunlight on a beautiful saffron sari, began her lifelong love affair with the color yellow. A similar moment happened when she was driving by a group of hay bales, a previously unnoticed subject on her daily commute to work. The light glowed on the tops of the bales, creating lovely mysterious shadows and shapes. Another time she was stopped in her tracks when she observed the compelling geometric shapes and myriad colors appearing in the lights and shadows on the sides of a barn. Seeing these familiar subjects with new eyes transformed all her work.

In 1981, she bought some pastels to enhance a watercolor, and over the years she would play with them. She never had a teacher for pastel techniques, so gaining skill was a slow process. Someone gave her black paper to try. One day she was feeling depressed, so she used it for some dark paintings to match her mood. But to her amazement, the colors of the pastels sung on the black support! She was hooked, and for the next 22 years this was her medium of choice. She bought black paper on huge rolls from France to produce many large landscapes of luminous colors. Her works were included in the beautiful book *Blackberry Cove Herbal* by Linda Ours Rago in 2000. She produced a book of her pastels called *Elegy for Barns* in 2002.

Then, in 2008, Suttenfield went through another transition. She had begun to feel limited by pastels, and coincidently her main galleries (Mary Bell Gallery in Chicago since 1991 and AIIA in Shepherdstown since 1996) closed. Suttenfield decided that it was a good time to reinvent her artistic self, and in a bold move gave away or sold all her pastels and papers. She began to paint with oils and acrylics, which she continues to this day. She does miss the beautiful display of colors that pastels provided, so she is searching for clear tubes for her paints so she can enjoy a similar visual stimulation.

Suttenfield always prefers to work in series, and many are ongoing.

PHOTO BY NAN BROADHURST

Diana Suttenfield

Some of her favorites are "Hay Bales," "Dumbarton Oaks," "Looking Ahead" (people looking out upon a landscape), "Tafel Musik" (sunlight on a bright orange tablecloth in a garden, representing music), "Reflections," "Interior/Exterior" (landscapes through windows with interior still lifes).

Suttenfield's artwork has been exhibited in regional, national, and international venues, in group or one-person shows. The U.S. Department of State, Arts in Embassies, selected her work to represent the United States. Suttenfield has received many honors and awards throughout her career. The West Virginia Women's Commission honored her as Woman of the Year in Art, and West Virginia Public Television included her in a documentary about artists in 1994. In 1974, Suttenfield helped to set up a co-op, the German Street Gallery, in Shepherdstown, and in 1984 she also helped to start the Boarman Art Center (now the Art Center) in Martinsburg. Her work resides in collections all over the world.

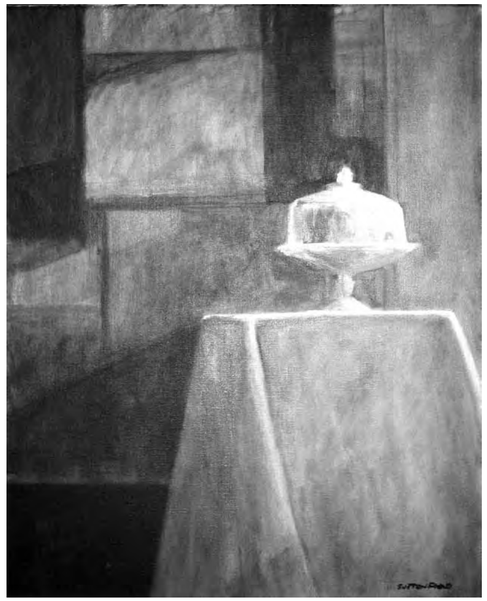
Locally, Suttenfield's work has been exhibited in many venues. The well-known interior designer, Keith Knost, featured her work in his design studio, which led to many major commissions. She has exhibited in several Shepherdstown venues, including the Gallery at Matthews and Shank, the James Cooper Gallery, Dickinson and Wait, and the Bridge Gallery.

Nan Broadhurst *is a graphic designer and artists living in Shepherdstown and learning to be grateful for all life's lessons.*

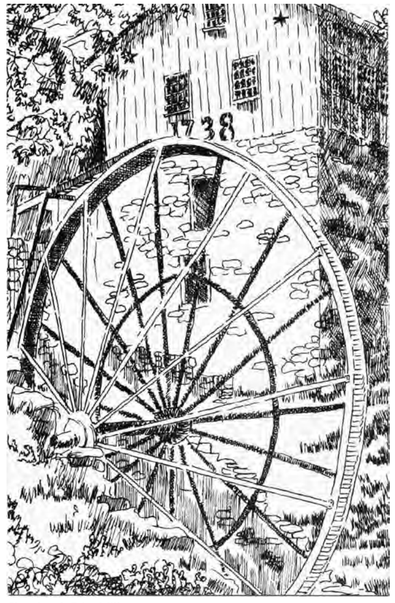
Artwork →

ARTWORK BY DIANA SUTTENFIELD

ARTWORK PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY THE ARTIST
PEN & INK DRAWINGS COURTESY OF JEFFERSON SECURITY BANK

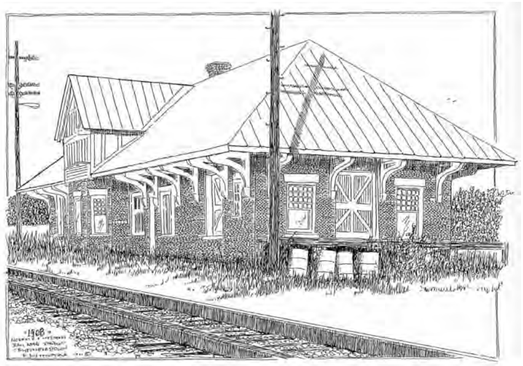


Sweet Shoppe Nocturne



Shepherd Grist Mill

The Rumseian Experiment



N&W Railway Station, Shepherdstown

Opera House and Independent O ce

Ridge Road Nocturne

Maryland Back Road—series #17

Hay Bale Series, 8am

Halltown Road Nocturne

Leeks and NPR

‘letters grow wings, fly’

Poems by Eric Quinn

Sun Prayer

Burn me.

Drench me in
a film of sweat broken
only by rainbowed
sand;

Shout and ring and
holler like
a siren in the sky.

My throat goes dry
at your touch.
My eyes dance like Lazarus
at your arcing limb.

My blood screams
in your deepest
heart.

The clouds—your
little girls—
skip and jump and
consider the lazy
hills like their crinkled knees

or the mystery of
shoestrings.

Turn my skin to colors
only these dark and musical
people dream of:

drink me.

Take my body’s mist and fling
it to places

Night
never comes.

T’ang China

1.

flying
exquisite

CAUGHT
on one

hoof

2.

OUTRAGED
he burnt a

Y EAR’ s

Tribute in

Silk!

3.

what’s this, Tu Fu?

you old devil, you

is that

WINE

at the bottom of

your cup?

Failing to Reach the Temple of Treasured Fragrance

By Wang Wei, version by Eric Quinn

Though I’ve never been there
I set out anyway
climbing for hours among
cloudy peaks—

no room for a path
not even a footprint.

Overjoyed, I hear a temple bell
strain to guess its direction:

a torrent’s proud song disappears
behind ominous rocks and
the streaming sunlight breaks coldly
on bruised, blue-green pines.

In the half-light I stumble
beside a dark lake
gathering myself,
I begin to meditate—

banish the watery
dragon.

West Virginia Spring

1.

the sun had only
one purpose–to make the field
visible. the mist

had man

to
make the field
worth

watching

2.

the bird flew its sharp
shot of color cross the grass–
vigil’s fleet flower

3.

dandelion’s rank

majesty subdued the stones
and gravel-rich soil;

trailing tender purple bells

campanula reposes.

The Bean’s

deep in the shadow of
azalea, rhododendron,
the ivy skein of summer,

we tumble loose between
trees, down hills,
running, looking
for that place we’ve almost
forgotten

Swap with me! Swap!
to find out who holds out
the longest, king of cunning,
gap-toothed, scraggly-maned
and

their pool, curled inward
like memory, fringed in slate,
cradled in concrete, sleek water

erupts around us as
we cannonball through its
perfect green shadow

PHOTO PROVIDED

Eric Quinn

Eric Quinn *is a writer and editor living in Martinsburg. He recently published a chapbook,* Amassunu, *on Lulu.com, and he publishes a poetry blog, The Rag Tree, on WordPress.com (at http://cathay12.wordpress.com). Last but not least, he is working on a version in verse of the Epic of Gilgamesh.*

The Serpent and Eve

I.

Leaves blur,
edges
sway—

no god this.
Only the lazy
looping serpent

eyes fixed on
some elusive
bliss:

voice
raw, sticky
like blood,

gathering
like
thunder.

And her:
brown,
narrow-hipped

hearing
the shush and
shuur of

a half-given
garden
lullaby

untrammeled
hair
trailing.

She knew the
tree:
mask leafed,

cat tongued,
purring
secrets.

But not
the lightning
slender

snake;
she saw
its

green flash
smelled
the

bruised air
of its
strike.

Its suggestion
distant, caught
in the

green storm
of Eden,
almost

unheard.
the fig
yes

wet-paper skin,
flesh smooth
purple

peacock preening,
oblivious,
sweet.

to be
split-tongued
as

the maker:
dreaming more
than

waking purposes
beyond pleasure
deceiving

the expected
unknown into
being.

Such
soft
power.

He knew
her strangely
balanced

body
and
yet…

some
unspoken
craving

for fullness
that would
ruin

that
perfection,
wrinkle

the sky
with
tears,

bulge and
tear
the

earth:
hissing
fiery

sword. She
took
and bit off

quivering…

II.

Taste arriving
unannounced,
serene

shy
guest bearing
fragrant

tribute shining
seeds in her
mouth

flaming stars
of cold rushing
outward

and down
through
her flesh

no longer
merely
lovely.

No garden
more radiant
than this

sheen nipples
ripened eyes
waving, streaming

the ingenuous
curve of
forever.

Blind in
the mirror of
the serpent’s

gilt eye
she
saw only

the blank
promise
living

not even
pausing to
mourn

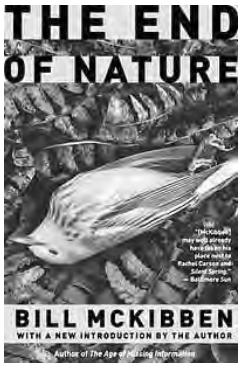
a death
remembered
guessed

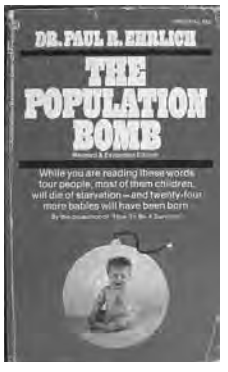
only by
those who
never

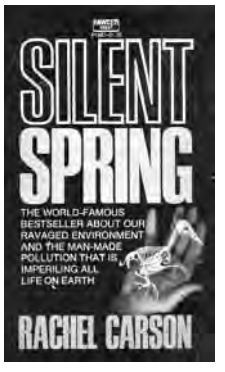
chose it.

The Green Library

The Ten Most Important Environmental Books in History







Mark Madison

The history of our environment is written in our landscape—but also in our literature. Although we tend to think of our environmental history in visual terms (for example, oil-soaked pelicans, smog over Los Angeles) most of our ideas about the environment have traditionally come from the written word. Having taught environmental history from a variety of texts for the last 18 years, I thought it would be interesting to select a top ten list of environmental books.

1. *The Book of Genesis* (circa 6th C. BCE), author unknown

Genesis has easily been the most influential environmental book ever written. It was the accepted source for environmental knowledge for over 2,000 years and it continues to shape the way millions of people understand the natural world. So any list of great environmental books has to (fittingly) begin with Genesis.

Selected quote: *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.*"

2. *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* (1789), Gilbert White

First published in the year of the French Revolution, *The Natural History of Selborne* has remained in print ever since. The curate and natural historian of this rural English village lovingly chronicled the local, well-adapted animals and plants, and in the process, created the modern nature essay. This new literary genre proved tremendously popular and everyone, from Thoreau (see below) to E. O. Wilson, owes a debt to this literary pioneer.

Selected quote: *Sounds do not always give us pleasure according to their sweetness and melody; nor do harsh sounds always displease.…Thus the shrilling of the field-cricket, though sharp and stridulous, yet marvelously delights some hearers, filling their minds with a train of summer ideas of everything that is rural, verdurous, and joyous.*

3. *Walden* or *Life in the Woods* (1854), Henry David Thoreau

Thoreau's gift for pithy quotes, thoughtless misanthropy, and rebellious experiment affect readers differently at different stages in their life. Disgusted by the overpopulation and consumerism of mid-19th century America, Thoreau deliberately tried an experiment in simplifying his life. Spending two years in a small cabin in the Boston suburbs, Thoreau successfully tapped into the American reverence for nature and independence. It is the one book all American undergraduates should read—alas they no longer do.

Selected quote: *I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.*

4. *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859), Charles Darwin

The most important book ever published in the life sciences. Although best known for his evolution revolution, Darwin also made important revolutionary contributions to the ecological sciences, biogeography, and diversity. Darwin describes intricate food chains. (How does the cat population affect red clover abundance in rural areas? You have to read the book to find the answer.) He explains adaptation as largely a response to environmental differences and change. This is the fountainhead book for all ecologists.

Selected quote: *There is grandeur in this view of life, with its several powers, having been originally breathed into a few forms or into one; and that, whilst this planet has gone cycling on according to the fixed law of gravity, from so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.*

5. *Man and Nature* (1864), George Perkins Marsh

Written in the midst of the American Civil War, *Man and Nature* is the first recognizable American conservation book. Marsh, a Vermonter who spent much of his career in Europe, had a unique perspective on America's rapidly declining wildlife, forests, and soils. This early clarion call was in many ways the inspiration for what became our national forests, parks, and wildlife refuges. Marsh's Victorian prose is convoluted and flowery, but his message remains timeless.

Selected quote: *Man is everywhere a disturbing agent. Wherever he plants his foot, the harmonies of nature are turned to discords.*

6. *The Fight for Conservation* (1910), Gifford Pinchot

Pinchot, first chief of the U.S. Forest Service, helped popularize the new term *conservation* at the very beginning of the 20th-century conservation movement. He shaped the federal government's role in conservation and is largely responsible for the hundreds of millions of acres of public lands set aside for conservation. As this very small book reminds us, he was also a fierce fighter against those who would destroy and despoil these lands.

Selected quote: *The conservation issue is a moral issue, and the heart of it is this: For whose benefit shall our natural resources be conserved—for the benefit of us all, or for the use and profit of the few?*

7. *A Sand County Almanac* (1949), Aldo Leopold

The most eloquent book ever written on environmental ethics. The only book I read cover to cover every year to inspire me.

Selected quote: *A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.*

8. *Silent Spring* (1962), Rachel Carson

Just as Pinchot's book signals the beginning of the American Conservation Movement, Carson's plea signals the start of the modern Environmental Movement. With its focus on toxins, endangered species, environmental destruction, and human indifference, it lists the environmental ills we have yet to resolve and remains a dire warning.

Selected quote: *The "control of nature" is a phrase conceived in arrogance, born of the Neanderthal age of biology and philosophy, when it was supposed that nature exists for the convenience of man.*

9. *The Population Bomb* (1968), Paul Ehrlich

Paul Ehrlich's bestseller spawned a movement (Zero Population Growth) and reinforced a notion that humans were the destroyers of the planet. Although bluntly written and often overblown in its predictions, Ehrlich was prescient in claiming that without some type of human population limits we may never find solutions to our other environmental ills.

Selected quote: *It is fair to say that the environment of every organism, human and nonhuman, on the face of the Earth has been influenced by the direct population explosion of* Homo sapiens.

10. *The End of Nature* (1989), Bill McKibben

Well before Al Gore, McKibben warned us eloquently and alarmingly about the dangers of global warming and our total transformation of the planet. With a provocative metaphor and a journalist's touch, McKibben has done more than any other writer to predict our 21st-century environmental challenges.

Selected quote: *The important thing to remember is that the end of nature is not an impersonal event, like an earthquake. It is something we humans have brought about through a series of conscious and unconscious choices: we ended the natural atmosphere, and hence the natural climate, and hence the natural boundaries of the forests, and so on.*

Mark Madison *teaches environmental history, environmental ethics, and environmental film at Shepherd University. If you have suggestions for the list (and he is sure you do) please contact him at: mmadison@shepherd.edu.*

Basil and Bathing Suits

Hannah Cohen

It's a rare sight to see your shorts-sporting neighbor barbequing hamburgers on the patio while you shovel snowdrifts away from your doors. Our choice of clothing and outdoor activities depends on the weather and the season. How many of us also base our food choices on the seasons? Furthermore, how many of us do so without realizing it? Eating seasonally can be as joyful as rediscovering your flip-flops and throwing back the grill cover.

The traditional American supermarket does not have definitive seasons, leading me to believe that many of us have little idea as to what is growing during each month of the year. We no longer rely on our personal gardens and farms to feed us, so we can live our whole lives without needing to know that asparagus comes in April, berries begin to ripen in May, or many leafy greens grow even as snow falls. Knowing what the earth provides and patiently waiting for the weather to shift in its growing favor produces an excitement and appreciation for eating wholesome foods at their peak flavor.

Compare waiting for seasonal foods to saving coins in a piggy bank. With each passing day, small change deposited in the bank amounts to larger savings. Saving your appetite is like saving change. What if we are saving for the sweetest, juiciest cherry tomato? Sun-kissed summer tomatoes picked in season when ripe taste very different than those available year round. Small savings in fall, winter, and spring mean reaping the tasty rewards in summer.

Barbara Hartman, M.D., R.D, L.D., the chief of Nutrition and Food Services at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Martinsburg, believes saving your taste buds for foods plucked fresh from the earth is a form of seasonal compromise with a big payback. To her, the anticipation that builds in waiting for each season's special produce compares to waiting for Christmas. There are eleven other months full of their own special occasions, so leaving the holiday season for December maintains its charm. Corn on the cob is one example that we already eat seasonally, so let's explore more.

Seasonal foods create fond childhood memories. Maybe your family or your elementary school class took a trip to the pumpkin patch or went apple picking. In our memories, those foods still linger on our taste buds. I think you can agree that berries taste better when personally picked from the vine—an entirely seasonally dependent food-gathering and eating activity. This past June, my good friend invited me to pick berries. We spent an entire morning weaving our way through the bushes and eating the berries straight off their vines. With full buckets, we went straight to the kitchen to prepare pastry crusts, christening my new tart pans. What spring adventures await your exploration?

Exploring the seasons promises culinary discoveries; for example, my berry tart. Get adventurous, Hartman recommends; you will enjoy being in your kitchen. Think of your kitchen as an artist's studio, rather than a place of labor. Cooking is adventurous and fun, especially when cooking with friends or family. Hoards of seasonally inspired recipes are printed in cookbooks, magazines, and newspapers, adding to the infinite number posted on recipe databases, televised on cooking segments, and the numerous networks entirely devoted to food.

Last spring, when asparagus became my supermarket's weekly special, I tested a recipe for roasted asparagus with lemon. Thirty minutes after I popped the green stalks into the oven, my coworkers and I were devouring roasted asparagus like chocolate cake. Yes, I am telling a story about asparagus not chocolate cake. When in season, food is at its prime flavor. When you find that perfect recipe, you too will want to savor as much as you can before the season ends. Only one door is closing though. One season's end is just the beginning of another season's door to open. Are you salivating for spring yet?

Another of seasonal foods' best aspects is their superb flavor. At their prime, fruits like raspberries, blueberries, peaches, and cherries need no preparation but a water rinse. Whole fruits are the inspiration for cherry pies, peach cobblers, applesauce, and of course, berry tarts! Take Hartman's advice and make cooking a social activity. Have friends or family help prepare fruit preserves, each bringing a jar home. (They also make great gifts!)

When picked at their peak, vegetables require very little preparation, as their subtle flavors explode with little effort. A little olive oil, salt and pepper go a long way. Savor steamed green beans, grilled zucchini and summer squash, steamed or grilled corn on the cob, spinach salad with a homemade balsamic vinaigrette, and roasted Brussels sprouts. A personal favorite is tomato, basil, and mozzarella sticks with balsamic vinegar—the tomatoes from the farmers market, mozzarella from a local artisan, and the basil from my grandmother's yard.

Accessing seasonal foods is quite simple and may be close as your own backyard garden. Without having to green your thumb or do any research, the simplest way to eat seasonally is eating from the farm. Farmers markets guarantee a reliance on Mother Nature. More information on Jefferson County's local food production and farmers markets can be obtained at www.jeffersonfarms.org. Joining a Community Supported Agriculture group, where members pay cash up front and then receive produce throughout the growing season, also guarantees culinary pursuits in your weekly box of produce, which depends on what grew and matured that week. Supermarkets also provide seasonal foods, though you will need to know what is in season before purchasing. A great two-for-one resource for seasonal foods and recipe ideas is www.epicurious.com, where users can select a state and a season on an interactive national map.

Because today's farms can feed many more mouths than those working the land, we non-farmers never have to plant a seed, but we will eat at every meal. Anticipating and appreciating each season's gifts is our connection to the earth. Some of us purchase from farmers, some of us delight in the produce section of the supermarket, some of us grow gardens, and some of us are progressively working to incorporate more seasonal foods into our purchases wherever we shop.

In *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*, Barbara Kingsolver and her family challenge themselves to eat entirely seasonal for a year, growing the majority of their food. (Throughout the book her daughter adds seasonally inspired recipes and menus, for those searching culinary adventure.) Both Barbaras (Hartman and Kingsolver) agree that seasonal foods are a celebratory treat. Kingsolver's philosophy is like Hartman's:

"Our gardening forebears meant watermelon to be the juicy, barefoot taste of a hot summer's end, just as pumpkin is the trademark fruit of late October. Most of us accept the latter, and limit our jack-o'-lantern activities to the proper botanical season. Waiting for a watermelon is harder. It's tempting to reach for melons, red peppers, tomatoes, and other late-summer delights before the summer even arrives. But it's actually possible to wait, celebrating each season when it comes, not fretting about its being absent at all other times because something else good is at hand."

As my stew and winter jacket days wane, I dread not, awaiting the arrival of basil and bathing suits.

Recommended Books:

Gold, Rozanne. *Eat Fresh Food: Awesome Recipes for Teen Chefs*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2009.

Kingsolver, Barbara. *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

Hannah Cohen *taught health and wellness to high school students through Dr. Oz's nonprofit HealthCorps. Her fondest memories stem from her cooking club.*

Roasted Asparagus with Lemon Drops

1 ½ pounds medium asparagus
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 small garlic clove
1 lemon

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees. Snap off the bottom 2 inches of each asparagus spear and trim the ends with a small knife to make them neat. Put the asparagus on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with the olive oil. Push the garlic through a press, and using your hands, rub the oil and garlic over the asparagus. Sprinkle with salt. Roast for 15 minutes until just tender and browned in spots; shake the pan twice during roasting. Squeeze drops of lemon on the asparagus and sprinkle with salt.

Keeping the Wind in Our SAILs

Sarah Soltow

An elder…sees the spirit and soul of young people and is not threatened by them. An elder has access to "blood memory," which in Native American thinking is connected to tribal memory, language, song and spirituality. An elder sees ahead and back to the beginning, noting politics and history, but seeing beyond them to what is really at life's core: love, suffering, joy, community, old age, and death.

—Jory Farr, *Columbus Monthly,*
Columbus, Ohio

The common cultural concept that being young is "where it's at" is being challenged as the approximately 77 million baby boomers move through the rigors of aging. As Mae West admitted, "Aging ain't for sissies," but, as my father would have added, "It's better than the alternative." A website called AgeSong.com provides some very positive spins to becoming an elder. Along with a tagline that says, "Freedom To Be," they begin with a quote from Hafiz, a 14th-century Persian poet: "Even after all this time the sun never says to the earth, 'You owe me.' Look what happens with a love like that. It lights the whole sky."

With an attitude of creative aging, we can begin to join the growing chorus of "changing aging." We can join together to ask questions such as:

- Who or what frames the debate on aging?
- What are the opportunities to create our lives as we age?
- How do we learn to listen to our "inner elder"?
- How do we re-vision our usefulness throughout the seasons of our lives?

Shepherdstown Area Independent Living, or SAIL, is in the vanguard of providing space and opportunity to answer these questions. It has already begun the work of answering a very important first question: How do we become the author of our lives in the context of community? Answer: By helping each other keep the wind in our SAILs.

The American baby boom began in 1946, when 3.4 million babies were born in the United States. The explosion continued until 1964 with a total of 77 million people added to the population under the title "baby boomers." By 2015, those aged 50 and older will represent 45 percent of the American population. Even though baby boomers have been unconventional in many realms of life, it is not surprising that they (we) are growing older in a most conventional sense. The retirement wave is under way, and the next questions become how this generation of up-and-coming elderly folk will deal with issues of health, housing, and caretaking.

According to *CBS Healthwatch*, death rates from heart disease have dropped 60 percent, and from stroke, 70 percent. One Brookings Institute prognosticator suggests there is evidence that "people are healthier mentally and physically than they used to be." This is all good news. Staying healthier to the best of one's ability is a huge key to aging well.

Other issues that must be addressed are housing and caretaking. According to the *New York Times*, 80 percent of the nation's elderly have the goal of staying in their own homes as they "confront advancing age." In the year 2030, the first boomers will reach age 84, and at that point 20 percent of the American population will be over 65. Currently community-based models for "aging in place" are being designed and implemented throughout the nation. Some experts say these are the wave of the future. In spring 2007, Shepherdstown resident Jean Neely, Captain USN Retired, looked into her own future and saw a need for this kind of community-based model in Shepherdstown. Drawing on an aging-in-place model called Beacon Hill Village in Boston, Mass., Neely began the conversation with whoever would listen about a new way to help local residents stay in their familiar surroundings as they grow older. Her glimpse into the future sparked interest among the community, and the organizing group got to work. SAIL was incorporated by the state of West Virginia in November 2010 as the very first aging-in-place village in the state.

The vision and mission of SAIL is stated clearly on the brochure as, "a non-profit, member-supported organization of Shepherdstown area residents seeking to sustain the quality of their lives and independence by remaining in their own homes for as long as they are able. SAIL will provide access to a variety of needed and vetted fee-based services, resources, and social and educational opportunities for its members." The idea is fairly simple. The members of SAIL form a kind of co-op for services that range from yard maintenance, home repairs, and housekeeping to chiropractors, nutritionists, and exercise, and can include assistance with transportation, bill paying, and computer skills. SAIL stays in touch with members through an interactive website, emails, newsletters, and telephone. Members pay a fee to belong to this community of services, and SAIL will also be supported by corporate partners, patrons, benefactors, supporters, and grant funding as it is available.

The concept of SAIL is that of a village. It is an organization whose members establish relationships, socialize, and help each other in times of need. "In other words, we are creating a system in which we can rely on support from our neighbors and friends and receive referrals to professionals, all in one place." (*SAIL brochure*) Trinity Episcopal Parish House hosts the newly opened SAIL office where volunteers monitor the phones daily and a recently employed director is setting up members' files. Services are to be member driven, that is, based on what the members request and will work to provide.

SAIL is a member of the Village to Village Network, which helps communities establish and manage nonprofit organizations like this. SAIL is also engaging other kinds of partnerships in order to solidify and expand services. A strategic partnership recently arranged by Judy Moore and Vicky Thomas with Home Instead Senior Care of Martinsburg will result in phone answering services through the night in exchange for posting their link on the SAIL website. Shepherd University will also be a partner with SAIL through Lifelong Learning courses offered there. SAIL will support and coordinate other activities, such as trips to metro area galleries and concerts.

More information on SAIL:
shepherdstownSAIL.org
(304) 870-SAIL (7245)
info@shepherdstownSAIL.org

The process of reinventing "old age" is now under way. To borrow a headline from the *Huffington Post*, "For Baby Boomers, Aging is the Next Frontier." This is, after all, the generation who have essentially "done things their way" from the time they were teens. Now this huge bulge of population is moving through their 50s, their 60s, and certainly further. Last November, the first annual conference on "The Poetics of Aging" was held in San Francisco. A 97-year-old Holocaust survivor demonstrated the Rosen Method of emotional release through movement and conscious massage. A 73-year-old writer and theater artist performed a one-woman play based on her chosen experience of living as a homeless person for several years. A series of themes emerged:

- Sustain vibrancy and awareness of the body through movement.
- Stay connected to other people and community no matter what the family circumstances.
- Maintain activities that stimulate creative growth.
- Do whatever it takes to nourish and express a full range of human emotion.

Sounds a little bit like what goes on in Shepherdstown, doesn't it?

Sarah Soltow *is enough of a baby boomer to want to think about these issues…soon.*

A Brief History of Shepherdstown

Edited by Jim Price and Harold Snyder

PHOTOS SUPPLIED BY THE EDITORS

Colonial settlers began their migration into the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley in the early 1700s. Many crossed the Potomac River at Pack Horse Ford, about one mile downriver from the modern site of Shepherdstown. There, Native American tribes once clashed at what was then part of the Warrior Path.

The colony of Virginia began issuing Valley land grants in the 1730s, but settlers in the area of what became Shepherdstown had arrived earlier, perhaps before 1720. In 1734, Thomas Shepherd took up a tract of 222 acres on the south side of the Potomac, along the Falling Spring Branch, now known as Town Run. For a brief time the settlement there was called Pack Horse Ford or Swearingen's Ferry. In 1762, the Virginia Assembly established the town as Mecklenburg. As the sole trustee, Shepherd retained chief responsibility for its government. Later, 18th-century enactments granted self-government, enlarged the town limits, and changed the name to Shepherd's Town. After the Civil War, the name became Shepherdstown.

More than twenty natural springs feed Town Run before it enters the south end of town. The run rarely floods and never runs dry; it meanders through backyards, under houses, across alleys and beneath five streets before it rushes down to the Potomac. To early settlers, the stream provided water for domestic purposes and fire fighting as well as fish for the table. Most important, it powered the shops of millers, tanners, potters, smiths, and other artisans. As a result, on the eve of the American Revolution, the town thrived. A busy waterfront on the Potomac and workshops on Town Run complemented growing farms beyond the town. Mecklenburg had grown to a thousand inhabitants and had a ferry crossing the river to Maryland. Being near Pack Horse Ford gave the town a strategic location on a main north-south wagon route. With the official blessing of the Virginia Assembly, Mecklenburg residents celebrated two annual fairs, "for the sale and vending of all manner of cattle, victuals, provisions, goods, wares, and merchandise whatsoever."

First St. Peter's Site Graveyard

Reynolds Hall

In the summer of 1775, the Continental Congress issued a call for volunteer rifle companies from Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania to come to the aid of embattled Boston. Captain Hugh Stephenson filled the ranks of his 100-man company from around Mecklenburg. The troops departed in mid-July. This famous "Beeline March" covered 600 miles in 24 days as the marchers hastened to help fellow colonists threatened by George III's redcoats.

The town contributed liberally to the cause of American independence. Its cemeteries contain at least thirty-eight Revolutionary veterans, a measure of the town's military involvement. Citizens also supplied clothing, wagons, saddles, and other items for military use. After the Revolution, the little river town continued to flourish, though the war left many widows and orphans, and some veterans moved west to take up land grants.

On December 3, 1787, a historic moment during the critical days of the early republic, James Rumsey conducted a successful trial of a steamboat. A large gathering of townspeople and notables witnessed the event from the banks and bluffs of the Potomac River. A few months later, Abraham Shepherd provided riverfront land and facilities for the Mecklenburg Warehouse, a tobacco inspection facility approved by the Virginia General Assembly in 1788.

In addition to Rumsey's ingenuity, Shepherdstown's early records reveal impressive examples of wit, learning, and culture. West Virginia's first newspaper (*The Potowmak Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser*) and first book (*The Christian Panoply*) were published here in the 1790s. A number of schools had been started before the Revolution, including an English school and a German school, and the first academy in what became West Virginia opened shortly afterward. As the late-19th-century educator Joseph McMurran would say, Shepherdstown "had its classical academies, its female seminaries, its boys' schools, and its girls' schools—from time immemorial." The free school movement in Virginia led to the establishment of two free schools in town in 1848. One still stands on the southeast corner of Princess and New streets. The first school for black students is believed to have operated from about 1867 to 1883 on Brown's Alley, between West High and West German streets.

Because Shepherdstown provided a convenient stopover for wagon masters and other sojourners, many taverns and inns sprang up. In addition to providing food, drink, and lodging, these establishments offered horseracing, gambling, cockfighting, and other entertainments for weary travelers and interested townspeople. Possibly in one of the taverns, on July 12, 1791, "M'Grath's traveling company of comedians" presented Royall Tyler's *The Contrast*, the first American comedy, just four years after it had opened in New York. Taverns also provided places for local government and organizations to meet.

The 1790s brought many changes. The first post office in what became West Virginia opened in 1793. By 1794, Welsh's brickyard operated along Town Run on the south side of Washington Street between Princess and King. Because of the brickyard, between 1790 and 1840, many of the wooden structures of pioneer Shepherdstown were torn down to make way for brick homes and shops favored by a new generation of businessmen and industrialists.

Above: Shepherd Little House
Below: Old Market House

Left: Mecklenburg Inn
Above: Entler Hotel

Billmyer Building

Community Building and Fire Hall

Train Station

Stone Row

obsolete and prevented its planned projection into western markets. The canal passed its peak in the 1870s. Limited to seasonal operation and damaged periodically by floods, it continued into the 1920s, primarily as a hauler of coal from the Cumberland coalfields.

In 1879 the Shenandoah Valley Railroad arrived in Shepherdstown, introducing a powerful new dynamic of development that turned the town away from the river. The Norfolk and Western Railroad succeeded the Shenandoah Valley in 1891. Over the course of the mid-19th century, western wheat shipped by rail to eastern markets brought to an end local wheat cultivation. Apple growing became a new specialty of the area.

The coming of canals and railroads in the 19th century lowered shipping costs and brought the nation closer, but the Civil War tore it apart. As a border town on the Potomac shaped by the culture and institutions of the Old South, including slavery, Shepherdstown faced trying and tragic times during the war. In October 1859, Shepherdstown's Hamtramck Guard joined units dispatched to Harpers Ferry to help subdue John Brown's raid on the Federal Arsenal. At the outbreak of the war, this group became Company B, 2nd Virginia Infantry, Army of the Confederacy, part of the famous Stonewall Brigade. Many local young men fought on the side of the Confederacy, and some fought for the Union. Families and neighbors divided, and slaves anticipated a new day.

Above: Sheetz Building
Below: Town Run Waterpower and Tobacco Warehouse

After the Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862, General Robert E. Lee's infantry retreated south across the Potomac at Pack Horse Ford. In one of the most consequential moments of its history, Shepherdstown provided care for 5,000 to 8,000 casualties. The wounded and dying filled nearly every house, building, church, alley, and street. The Battle of Shepherdstown, September 19–20, added to the carnage, leaving 162 men dead, including 63 Confederates and 99 Federals and many additional wounded. Most of the Confederate dead were buried on private property that became Elmwood Cemetery in 1868. Elmwood's hallowed ground contains the graves of 285 Confederate veterans.

In the postwar period, Shepherdstown served as the county seat because of changing political fortunes and war damage to the courthouse in Charles Town. A large building on the northeast corner of German and King streets provided to the town by Rezin Davis Shepherd as a town hall (and now known as McMurran Hall) housed the courthouse until, in 1871, Charles Town political forces succeeded in restoring the county seat to its former site.

Though Shepherdstown lost the county seat, it found a new future as a college town, a role in keeping with its long-standing devotion to education. In 1872, Rezin Shepherd's town hall building was chartered as a "classic and scientific institute." Soon thereafter trustees leased it to the state to house Shepherd State Normal School (the general term in those days for teaching colleges). At first, Shepherd provided primarily secondary education, but gradually collegiate courses were added. From this seed Shepherd University grew. From its beginning, the school helped shape the town, providing educational and employment opportunities and cultural attractions. Today, the East Campus occupies about one-third of the town proper, and the West Campus takes up a large area just northwest of the corporate limits.

The Opera House

Shepherdstown has attracted national attention from time to time since the Civil War. In 1900, a large and enthusiastic annual fair at Morgan's Grove welcomed Democratic presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan with "deafening applause," according to the *New York Times*, but he lost the election to William McKinley. A hundred years later, President Bill Clinton chose Shepherdstown to host peace talks between Israel and Syria. During the several days of the conference, the president, members of foreign delegations, and an extensive international press corps took time from the deliberations to stroll German Street. Delighted townspeople, many of whom hung peace signs in their windows, welcomed the guests.

Most of the town has been designated as a Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places. From time to time (notably in 1912), fire destroyed important buildings, but the rows of 18th- and early-19th-century houses remain remarkably intact, likely the best-preserved assemblage of buildings of this vintage in the state. The many fine homes and buildings, as well as surviving examples of humbler dwellings, reflect Shepherdstown's varied and distinguished history in architecture, education, religion, transportation, politics, and commerce.

In the 1920s and after, Shepherdstown's growth took place beyond the historic district, reflecting both the mature nature of the town and the impact of the automobile age, which enabled people to live farther from commercial centers. In 1924, the C&O Canal closed, and the state road commission built a new road through the town, signaling the arrival of the Good Roads Movement and the advance of the automobile. The canal enjoyed something of a 20th-century renaissance after it became the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park in 1971.

During the early automobile age, the town no longer was the important stopover site it had been during its earlier days. As the proverbial sleepy college town surrounded by farms and orchards, Shepherdstown maintained its rich heritage but lacked the wealth to sweep away the old buildings, as happened in so many towns and cities. The "boom" of the 1920s took place just beyond the town's southern boundary. New growth in later decades followed roads radiating from the downtown district.

Today's Shepherdstown retains the ambiance of an earlier time, but local folks are not content to live in a museum. They make the most of the town's historic heritage, preserving the old buildings by adapting them to new uses, including many shops, restaurants, and venues for artists, craftsmen, and musicians. Shepherd University's rich program of cultural events, including an innovative summer festival of contemporary plays, adds to the attraction that makes the town a tourist destination.

Editor's note: *This brief history of Shepherdstown is a 2011 revision by the Historic Shepherdstown program committee of the 1999 edition prepared by Jim Price and Harold Snyder.*

A Personal Word from Bob Snipes

Shepherdstown Ministerial Association President, 2012

PHOTO BY JESSIE SCHMITT

Bob Snipes

I am honored to offer my views on the Shepherdstown Ministerial Association (SMA) and its role in the community as well as share a little about Christian Science and myself. In my comments at the SMA's recent Thanksgiving service, I said how struck I was by the enthusiastic support of the ministerial association and the GOOD NEWS PAPER (GNP), which the SMA publishes. Now, following in the footsteps of other SMA colleagues, I find myself *president* of this interdenominational group I had admired from a distance. Because of my fondness for both Shepherdstown and the SMA, I am especially pleased to lead the organization as we commemorate Shepherdstown's 250th anniversary.

Last fall, I had the privilege of facilitating an SMA retreat; out of that came the following statements of purpose:

Vision Statement: *Our vision is that all faith communities serving Shepherdstown work together to foster the spiritual life and well-being of all individuals within our community.*

Mission Statement: *Our mission is to promote interfaith worship and service among the congregations serving Shepherdstown and to advance ministry to and with the community.*

My sense is that, as Shepherdstown's Ministerial Association, we want to be inclusive—not just of members of faith communities but of the larger community as well. And we want to be a force—a catalyst—for good in Shepherdstown. We invite all of you who are looking for opportunities to do some good for Shepherdstown to bring your ideas and your talents to the table! If you have ideas we can promote and champion as part of our mission, let me know: Bob.Snipes@gmail.com or (304) 261-9024.

The spirit we want to carry forward is much of what attracted my family to Shepherdstown. It also made possible the emergence of a "Christian Science Society," as we're known, in this special town. In reflections I offered at the SMA's community Thanksgiving service, I related how I was first introduced to the SMA in 1988, back when they ran the Visitors Center. I called the center from coastal Maine to find out more about a commuter train I had read about—one that would enable me to commute from Shepherdstown to my federal government job in D.C. The attendant couldn't answer my questions but suggested I call the ministerial association. That was my first clue that this was no ordinary town; neither was it an ordinary ministerial association.

With Shepherdstown being the church-oriented town it is, it seemed natural for my wife Joan and me to think about establishing a presence for our own faith community. In 1990, a few of us who had been members of Christian Science churches some distance away began holding services locally. We eventually established a church home at the historic Entler Hotel, where services and Sunday school are still held Sundays at 10 a.m.

Having spotted the church page in the GNP, we asked, "What does one do to be able to advertise there?" The answer came, "One joins the SMA!" We were the first nonmainstream church to seek membership. But in a spirit typical of Shepherdstown, we were welcomed in 1991, and we proudly submitted to the GNP the Entler greeting card to depict where we held services.

For over 12 years, my wife, Joan, served as our lay representative to the SMA. Joan was best known for her involvement with the Community Bible School (CBS). For over a decade, until her passing in 2008, Joan served on the CBS planning committee, headed by Kathy Blue. Author of *That Ye May Teach the Children,* a book about teaching the Bible to children, Joan loved teaching in Bible school. She rejoiced not only in the young lives touched by Bible school but also in the community's acceptance she felt in being able to give of her talents in that way.

Some readers may know of our denomination through the *Christian Science Monitor.* It is a nondenominational, international newspaper published by our church since 1908, respected for its balanced and nonsensational reporting. In 2009, as the daily *Monitor* print edition was phased out, a weekly print edition took its place, in addition to a daily online edition (csmonitor.com).

To tell you a little about Christian Science (you can find more at christianscience.com), I have borrowed from a Summer 1991 GNP article written soon after our society joined SMA.

Originally, Christian Science was not a religion but an interpretation of scripture that founder Mary Baker Eddy thought might be adopted by other Christian denominations. When this did not occur, she organized the Church of Christ, Scientist in 1879 "to commemorate the word and works of our Master which should reinstate primitive Christianity and its lost element of healing." Services are conducted by two lay readers elected from the membership. (I am our current First Reader.) Christian Science churches throughout the world follow the same order of service that includes hymn singing by the congregation, silent prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer, and a solo. The reading of the week's Bible lesson serves as the sermon. The lesson is a combination of selections from the King James Version of the Bible and correlative passages from the Christian Science textbook, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, by Mary Baker Eddy.

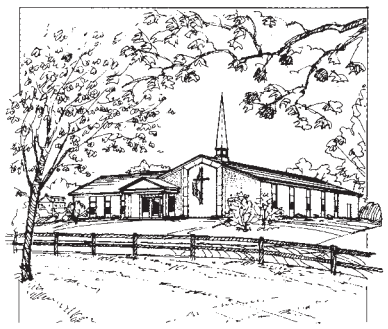
In addition to holding services, our society supports an audio program–podcast about Christian Science and its application in daily life. The program may be heard Sunday mornings at 6:30 a.m. on WMZQ 98.7FM, on the Internet at www.christiansciencedc.org/radio, or by calling (202) 658-7855.

We also sponsor a Christian Science Reading Room—a combination bookstore and library. The public is invited to take advantage of many Bible resources as well as books, magazines, and CDs on a variety of topics related to making the Bible's teachings practical. After almost seven years at 203 South Princess Street, our Reading Room has moved back to the Entler so that we can use the space for Sunday school as well. It is open before and after our church services and by appointment, arranged by phone: (304) 261-9024.

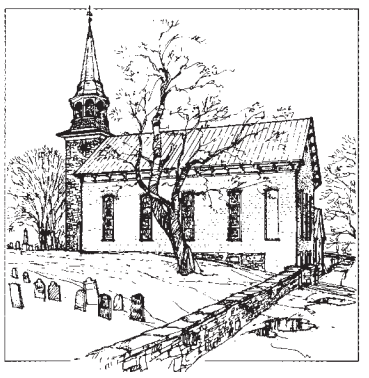
Our Shepherdstown services and reading room are listed in the *Christian Science Journal* and online. Also listed there are folks who are in the full-time practice of Christian Science, supporting the general public—as well as churchgoers—in addressing issues through prayerful application of the truths Jesus taught. In 2006, in gratitude for all the good that my family and I have experienced through Christian Science, I entered the full-time practice.

As we celebrate Shepherdstown's 250th, it is fun to note that there was a Christian Science presence here at the last turn of the century. Old editions of the *Journal* in our reading room show Eugenia Kemp (Ayers) Pierce listed as a Christian Science practitioner in Shepherdstown (and initially the only practitioner listed in West Virginia) from 1897 to 1921. Eugenia and her husband, Capt. John S. Pierce, who taught at Shepherd College for 10 years before the Civil War, lived in a property called Ayrlie in or near Shepherdstown.

Religious Worship and Education Schedules



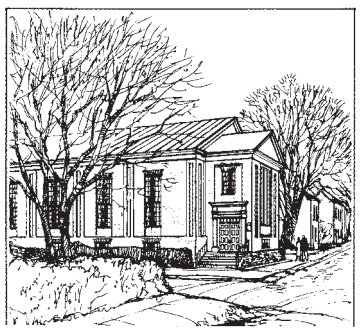
Asbury Church
4257 Kearneysville Pike
Rev. Rudolph Monsio Bropleh, Pastor
Telephone: 876-3112
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Family Fun Nite: Wednesday, 6:45–8:00 p.m.
E-mail: info@4pillarchurch.org
www.4pillarchurch.org



Christ Reformed, United Church of Christ
304 East German Street
Br. Ronald C. Grubb, OCC, Minister
Telephone: (304) 876-3354
Bronson Staley, Minister Emeritus
Telephone: (301) 241-3972
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
www.christreformedshepherdstown.org

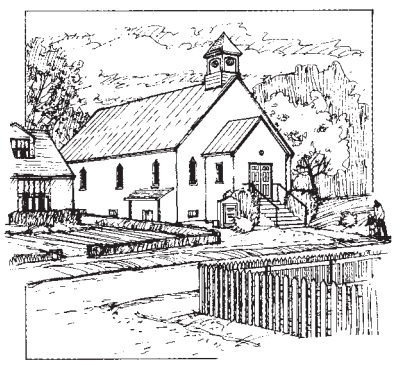
Christian Science Society
Entler Hotel—German & Princess Streets
Sunday Worship & Sunday School 10 a.m.
Reading Room is in Entler Rm. 210,
open before and after the service and
by appointment. Call to confirm Sunday
school and child care: (304) 261-9024
All are welcome.

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Shepherdstown Preparative Meeting
Worship in silent expectant waiting
Sundays at 10:30 a.m.
Four Seasons Books (thru the side gate)
Contact: Neal Peterson (304) 582-0852
http://shepherdstown.bym-rsf.net/about-2-2/

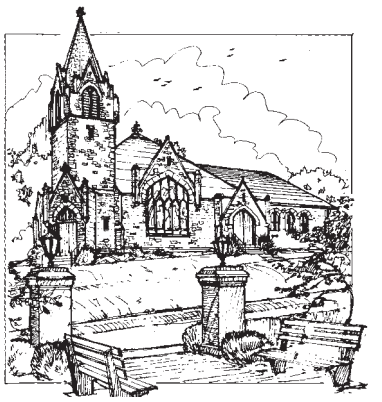


New Street United Methodist
Church & New Streets
Dee-Ann Dixon, Pastor
Telephone: (304) 876-2362
Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Adult Sunday School: 11:15 a.m.
www.newstreetumc.com

St. Agnes Roman Catholic
South Duke Street
Father Mathew Rowgh
Telephone: (304) 876-6436
Sunday Eucharist: 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
Saturday Eucharist: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.



St. John's Baptist
West German Street
Rev. Cornell Herbert, Pastor-Elect
Telephone: (304) 876-3856
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.



St. Peter's Lutheran
King & High Streets
Fred A. Soltow Jr., Pastor
Telephone: (304) 876-6771
Sunday Worship: 11:00 a.m.
Children/Adult Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.
(located in grey house adjacent church)
www.Shepherdstownlutheranparish.org

Shepherdstown Presbyterian
100 W. Washington Street
Randall W. Tremba, Pastor
Telephone: (304) 876-6466
Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:45 a.m.
Nursery year-round
www.spcworks.org

Trinity Episcopal
Corner of Church & German Streets
The Rev. G. T. Schramm, Rector
The Rev. Frank Coe, Priest Associate
The Rev. Susan McDonald, Priest Associate
Telephone: (304) 876-6990
Sunday Worship: 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
www.trinityshepherdstown.org

St. James' Lutheran Church, Uvilla
Rt. 230 Uvilla
Fred A. Soltow Jr., Pastor
Telephone: (304) 876-6771
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Children's Sunday School 1st Sunday of month

Highlighted Spring 2012 Events Celebrating Shepherdstown's 250th Anniversary

For more details and events throughout the year, go to shepherdstown250.com/events

Cultural Diversity Celebration | March 25, 3 p.m.
Asbury United Methodist Church, 4257 Kearneysville Pike
Asbury is sponsoring an international food expo and celebration of long-time residents from the Shepherdstown community. Free and open to the public.
Contact: Ginger Medley at info@4pillarchurch.org
More information: www.4pillarchurch.org

Stubborn Advocates: How Shepherdstown Came to Carry a Torch for James Rumsey | March 29, 7 p.m.
Entler Hotel, 129 E. German Street
The Shepherdstown Historic Commission will host a presentation by Nick Blanton, a long-time president of the Rumseyan Society, who will trace Rumsey advocacy in Shepherdstown from A. R. Boteler to Jay Hurley.
More information: info@historicshepherdstown.com OR www.historicshepherdstown.com

Left of the Bank: Shepherdstown Stories | April 13, 7 p.m.
War Memorial Building, 102 E. German Street
Invited storytellers will present original stories related to Shepherdstown, in the "Moth" format. This Friends of Shepherdstown Library (FOSL) program includes music and light refreshments.
Cost: $35; benefits FOSL
Contact: Edwinna Bernat at edwinnab@citlink.net

Town Run: Economic Heartbeat of Early Shepherdstown | April 26, 7 p.m.
Entler Hotel, 129 E. German Street
A talk by Dr. Keith Alexander, historian, director of Historic Preservation Program and Byrd Center Archivist at Shepherd University, and a leading historic preservationist and oral historian in the area. Sponsored by the Historic Shepherdstown Commission.
More information: info@historicshepherdstown.com OR www.historicshepherdstown.com

Commemoration | May 5, 1 p.m.
Historical Cemeteries, 340 East German Street
Plaques will be installed at the historical Lutheran and Reformed Church cemeteries. A reception follows the ceremony. Open to the public. Sponsors: Pack Horse Ford Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolutions (DAR) and the General Adam Stephen Chapter of the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolutions (SAR)
Contact: Cheryl Brown at frankk5600@aol.com

Birthday Party for Shepherdstown | May 8, 7 to 9 p.m.
Canterbury Center, 80 Maddex Drive
Free and open to the public.
Contact: Kim Bowman, (304) 876-9422

Back Alley Tour | May 19 and 20, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day
A walking tour of Shepherdstown's gardens, historical points of interest, and businesses. In addition to organizing the tour, the Shepherdstown Community Club will host an art show on the first floor of the War Memorial Building and a tea party on the upper floor.
More information:
gardentour@SCC25443.org OR www.smc25443.org

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