

Holiday 2019

# SALISBURY

t h e m a g a z i n e

## SOMERRY & BRIGHT

• *At Christmas, the Goodmans fill their home with priceless memories*

• *Phyllis Patterson and poinsettias have been a match since 1977*

• *DIY Christmas balls bring a glow to Salisbury streets*

• *Salisbury Swing Band can play Christmas — and everything else*

• *The extended Klutz clan makes the most of Thanksgiving*

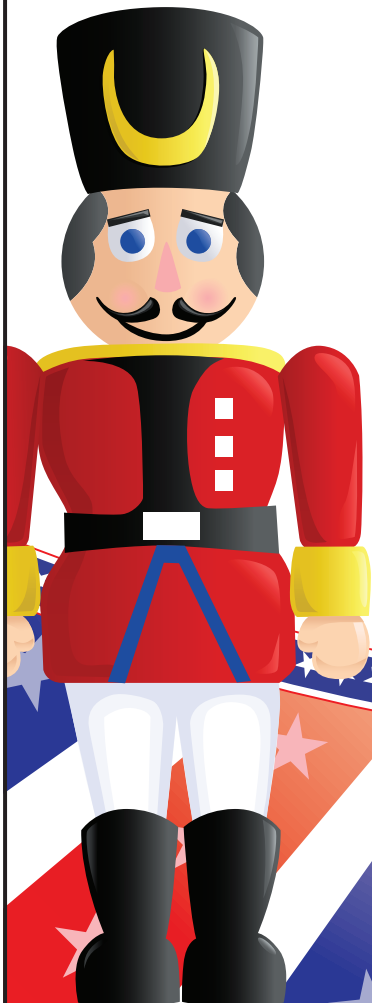


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Members of the Kluttz clan make Thanksgiving a family convention

by SUSAN SHINN  
TURNER

On the cover: Toots Sparger, a longtime nurse in the office of Dr. Myron Goodman, made this ornament with the happy dog face — one of the many Christmas decorations Myron and Mary Goodman cherish. Story on page 24.

On this page: Patterson Farm's poinsettias are a popular Christmas decorating gift.

— Jon C. Lakey photos

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# Dreaming of a white squirrel Christmas

As we were preparing this Holiday (November-December) issue of *Salisbury the Magazine*, my wife and I were having a new deck built off the back of our Rowan County home — and it made me think of squirrels.

This is convoluted thinking, to be sure, as tangled as the Christmas lights seem to be every year when you pull them out of a storage box and try to string them on the tree. But, yes, decks make me think of squirrels.

We have a Salisbury friend who has had three decks at her home over 25 years, all because of the damage neighborhood squirrels have done. They like to chew on her decks and sharpen their teeth, or so she says.

She has tried everything short of shotguns and poison, but they keep coming back and gnawing away. It's pretty funny, only because the squirrels around us do not have this similar taste for wood — they just steal our birdseed.

This talk of squirrels makes me think of Brevard, a mountain town in North Carolina which has embraced the white squirrel. My wife and I discovered the town's odd fascination with white (not albino) squirrels during a day trip there this past summer.

Brevard has a big white squirrel statue on the square. There's the White Squirrel Shoppe on West Main Street that is a "souvenir boutique" store specializing in white squirrel products. Mast arms on the traffic lights have white squirrel figures that light up at night.

The town has a White Squirrel Festival every year.

According to the *Transylvania Times*' archives, the story goes that Brevard's considerable white squirrel population started with a carnival animal truck — in Florida.

"According to Brevard resident Mrs. W.E. Mull," the *Times* documented years ago, "a pair of white squirrels were given to her brother-in-law, H.H. Mull, by Mr. Black of Madison, Florida, in 1949. A carnival truck had overturned near Black's home and the squirrels were caught by Mr. Black when he observed them

playing in his pecan grove.

"Mull gave the critters to his niece, Barbara, who unsuccessfully tried to breed them. In 1951 she married and left home. Eventually, one of the white squirrels escaped and Mr. Mull soon let the other one go. Before long, the squirrels began breeding in the wild and appeared in several areas of town."

By 1986, the white squirrels had become so noticeable and such a conversational topic for residents that the Brevard City Council approved an ordinance establishing a sanctuary for squirrels, especially to protect the white ones.

So this summer when we happened to be in Brevard, my wife and I and some friends of ours were on the alert, looking for the real thing. Someone directed us to a park, where they are known to hang out.

It could have been the midday heat, but we didn't see any white squirrels. We also drove through the Brevard College campus

without seeing one.

I became worried that the whole town had sent us on a snipe hunt, though further reading on the subject tells me there are white squirrel populations in several different places in the United States.

Believe it or not, I hear a rumor that a white squirrel or two live in Spencer. I'm skeptical. Then again, I didn't know squirrels liked to eat decks or were celebrated with statues and festivals.

Have a great Thanksgiving and Christmas. I'll be untangling lights and looking for some of those white "critters" in Spencer.



**Mark Wineka,**  
*Editor, Salisbury the Magazine*

through the lens | by jon c. lakey



*Trees are dressed in fall colors as Joe Heilig reads a newspaper along West Innes Street in the downtown.*



# Make holiday room for Albom, Bryson and more

## "Chika: A Little Girl, an Earthquake, and the Making of a Family"

By Mitch Albom

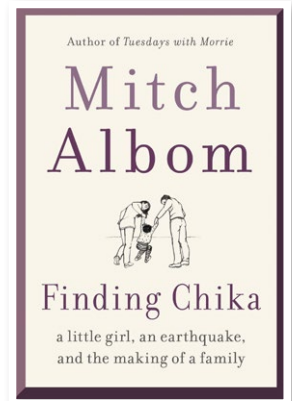
Chika Jeune was born three days before the devastating earthquake that decimated Haiti in 2010. She spent her infancy in extreme poverty, and when her mother died giving birth to a baby brother, Chika was brought to The Have Faith Haiti Orphanage that Albom operates in Port Au Prince.

The 40-plus children who live, play and go to school at the orphanage have become family to Mitch and his wife, Janine, who have no children of their own. Chika's arrival makes a quick impression. Brave and self-assured, even as a 3-year-old, she delights the other kids and teachers. But at age 5, Chika is suddenly diagnosed

with something a doctor there says, "No one in Haiti can help you with."

Mitch and Janine bring Chika to Detroit, hopeful that American medical care can soon return her to her homeland. Instead, Chika becomes a permanent part of their household, and their lives, as they embark on a two-year, around-the-world journey to find a cure. As Chika's boundless optimism and humor teach Mitch the joys of caring for a child, he learns that a relationship built on love, no matter what blows it takes, can never be lost.

Told in hindsight, and through illuminating conversations with Chika, this is Albom at his most poignant and vulnerable. "Chika" is a celebration of a girl, her adoptive guardians and the incredible bond they formed. Coming Nov. 5.

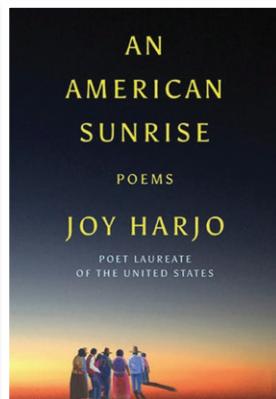


## "An American Sunrise: Poems"

By Joy Harjo

In the early 1800s, the Mvskoke people were forcibly removed from their original lands east of the Mississippi to Indian Territory, which is now part of Oklahoma. Two hundred years later, Harjo returns to her family's lands and opens a dialogue with history. In "An American Sunrise," Harjo finds blessings in the abundance of her homeland and confronts the site where her people, and other indigenous families, essentially disappeared.

From her memory of her mother's death, to her beginnings in the native rights movement, to the fresh road with her beloved, Harjo's personal



life intertwines with tribal histories to create a space for renewed beginnings. Her poems sing of beauty and survival, illuminating a spirituality that connects her to her ancestors and thrums with the quiet anger of living in the ruins of injustice. A descendant of storytellers, U.S. Poet Laureate Harjo continues her legacy with this powerful collection.

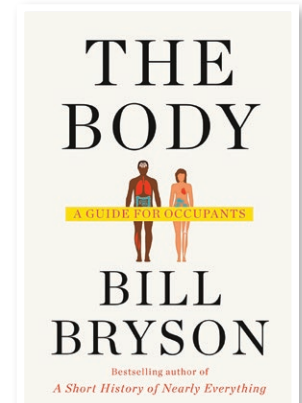
## "The Body: A Guide for Occupants"

By Bill Bryson

In the bestselling, prize-winning "A Short History of Nearly Everything," Bill Bryson achieved the seemingly impossible by making the science of our world both understandable and entertaining to millions of people around the globe.

Now he turns his attention inwards to explore the human body, how it functions and its remarkable ability to heal itself. Full of extraordinary facts and astonishing stories, "The Body" is a brilliant, often very funny attempt to understand the miracle of our physical and neurological make up.

This book will have you marveling at the form you occupy, and celebrating the genius of your existence, time and time again.



## "The Starless Sea"

By Erin Morgenstern

Erin Morgenstern, the author of "The Night Circus," a much loved 2011 novel of magic and madness, has returned with "The Starless Sea."

Preliminary reviews are gushing, talking about the writing, the descriptions and the complex story, saying it's a book about stories, storytelling, myths, fables, symbols and imagination.

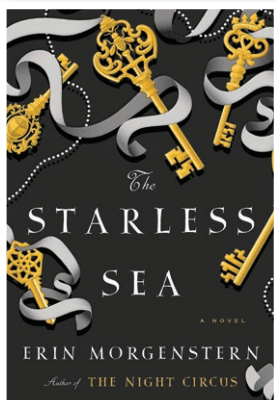
Zachary Ezra Rawlins is a graduate student in Vermont when he discovers a mysterious book hidden in the stacks. As he turns the pages, entranced by tales of lovelorn prisoners, key collectors and nameless acolytes, he reads something strange: a story from his own childhood.

Bewildered by this inexplicable book and desperate

to make sense of how his own life came to be recorded, Zachary uncovers a series of clues — a bee, a key and a sword — that lead him to a masquerade party in New York, to a secret club and through a doorway to an ancient library, hidden far below.

What Zachary finds is more than just a buried home for books and their guardians — it is a place of lost cities and seas, lovers who pass notes under doors and across time, and of stories whispered by the dead. Zachary learns of those who have sacrificed much to protect this realm, relinquishing their sight and their tongues to preserve this archive, and those who are intent on its destruction.

Together with Mirabel, a fierce protector of the place, and Dorian, a handsome, barefoot man with shifting alliances, Zachary travels this magical world, discovering his purpose — in both the mysterious book and in his own life. Coming Nov. 5.



In the last 15 years, Karl and Janice Dahlin have shepherded five different Salvation Army organizations, with Rowan County being the most recent.

The couple relocated from Virginia and succeeded the previous local leaders Capts. Bobby and Nakhisha Carr. The Dahlins met while both were working at a Salvation Army camp in Virginia.

Salisbury the Magazine sat down with the Dahlins (pronounced Duh-Leen) for a quick Q&A. Parts of the interview are paraphrased, not direct quotes, for clarity and length considerations:

Q. *What led you to work for the Salvation Army?*

**Janice:** “A calling from God. I prayed for three years, ‘Lord, what do you want me to do? Where do you want me to go?’ ”

Janice was working at a hotel and says God told her she was going to be a Salvation Army officer. She acknowledges that initially she wasn’t sure.

**Karl:** “I had a counselor at a Salvation Army music camp. He was a counselor who gave of his time for somebody else. ... He gave me the idea that I loved, but yet there was still that calling.”



# Ringing the bell

*Husband-wife Salvation Army leaders look to restore hope for people who have lost it.*

Written by Shavonne Walker | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

***Who or what has been a major influence throughout your career?***

**Janice:** “We couldn’t do this without our faith. Because He cares for me, I care for them.” Karl also credits other senior Salvation Army officers throughout his time with the organization.

***With the Salvation Army, you often move every few years. Tell me how you handle moving?***

Karl says he was raised in a military family who moved often, so he’s used to it. The couple say their children are the biggest concern and challenge when it comes to moving. They have two children — a 15-year-old and an 11-year-old. “You invest in the community and you have to remember, God loves them more than you do,” Karl says.

***You mentioned music was a big part of your life the last time we talked and how you wanted to share that through an after-school program or outreach program. Have you been able to continue in that vein since you’ve been here? If not, what can help you get there?***

Karl says they started last year with a few music classes, where students are fed and taught music, mostly brass instruments. The Dahlins say they hope the organization is able to invest in a number of children so they can attend a five-week summer camp in Denton.

***What do you think are some of the greatest needs in the community, and how do you think the Salvation Army has tried to meet them?***

**Karl:** Historically, people’s main needs have always been to be clothed, fed and have shelter and that’s still true today, he says. The Salvation Army has been able to take some people who come to the organization for help and go a little more in-depth to see what their needs are on a deeper level, he adds. “A lot of people come in the door and they’ve lost all hope.”

The couple had an instance in which a woman who got out of a domestic violence situation

sought help from the organization. Her daughter had been abused and the mother was trying to get back on her feet. They helped the mother turn a hobby into a source of income and the daughter, who was interested in acting, found an opportunity to do just that.

**Janice:** “Just as important as putting things in their hands, we want to put something in their hearts.” It’s often that during Christmas Happiness, they said, that they hear from people who are truly appreciative of the gifts and food donations that the organization is able to give because of community contributions.



***What’s been the best part of being here in Rowan County so far?***

**Janice:** “The people. We’re so blessed with volunteers and helpers and staff. When you’re surrounded by positive people you have positive experiences.”

Karl says he’s seen how people invest back into the community through Christmas Happiness donations in the Salisbury Post. “There’s some unique stories about why some people give.”

***Tell me about a time working with the Salvation Army that the community exceeded your expectations regarding a community issue or problem? Where was that and what happened?***

**Karl:** “People really rally around Christmas Happiness.”

**Janice:** “This community at Christmas. I’ve never seen it like this.”

***Tell me about a goal you have for the Rowan community that you still haven’t quite been able to do just yet?***

Karl says his wish list includes the purchase of a Ford StarTrans van to collect food and provide transportation for children who participate in the after-school music program. The organization helps with food assistance because it allows people the chance to concentrate on other issues like housing, which in many cases, accounts for 50 percent of their income. Thanks in part to many local restaurants, other organizations and Food Lion, the Salvation Army is able to provide fresh fruits and vegetables through food assistance efforts.

***What are some books or authors who have made the biggest impact on your life?***

Karl lists the New Testament, the Apostle Paul and William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army. “I grew up in the Salvation Army church. It’s the church with its sleeves rolled up.” Karl says Booth realized people couldn’t hear about eternal life if they were starving to death. The organization, which was founded in 1865, has grown into one of the largest distributors of humanitarian aid.

***What is the best piece of advice you’ve ever been given?***

**Karl:** “The ability to roll with the punches. You never know what’s going to happen next because people have personal crises all of the time. Come to Jesus. Everyone needs a savior.”

***What’s your favorite go-to meal or restaurant?***

**Karl:** Taco Bell

**Janice:** Ready rice, kielbasa sausage and diced tomatoes. “It’s a quick meal.” **S**



*Above: The Salisbury Swing Band performs its 'Swing Into Christmas' concert last year at the Salisbury Civic Center. Below: Canned goods were collected for Rowan Helping Ministries. Right: Saxophonist Steve Owens.*





*Vocalist Laura Millspaugh performs with the band.*

## In full swing

*Dedicated members of SSB lend their big band sound to Christmas.*

Written by **Mark Wineka** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

**S**alisbury Swing Band director Dr. Steve Etters could pass for Glenn Miller. As he slides and moves with his trombone, he also sets the pace for the 18-piece ensemble he's a part of.

With her big voice, white flower in her hair, and wearing dark green velvet with white fur accents, singer Laura Millspaugh could easily be the Christmas version of whom? Doris Day? Judy Garland?

"We're going to slow things down a bit with one of our non-holiday tunes," she said to last year's crowd at the Salisbury Civic Center.

"Here's your chance to slow dance," Etters added.

The band, smartly dressed in black-and-white formal wear, then launched into a sweet version of "Georgia on My Mind," while several couples glided to the dance floor.

Salisbury Swing Band's "Swing into Christmas" has quickly become a holiday tradition. This year's fourth edition will be held from 7-10 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Civic Center on South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue.



*The sounds of the Salisbury Swing Band sometime lead you to kick off your shoes and dance.*

And for the fourth year in a row, the Christmas concert has the side benefit of restocking shelves at Rowan Helping Ministries. Admission is \$5 at the door. There are raffle prizes for those bringing canned goods.

Swing into Christmas ends up providing 600 to 700 pounds of food for the shelter.

The raffled items last year included prizes such as a Bath and Body Works set, Tinseltown movie tickets, a movie-night-in package with five Red Box codes, a toaster oven and gift cards from Olive Garden and City Tavern.

“If you win, you dance,” Etters said last year after announcing a winning number for a slow cooker. He then led the orchestra into “Silver Bells,” a song from the Bob Hope movie “Lemon Drop Kid” in 1950.

Over the past dozen years, the not-for-profit Salisbury Swing Band has become part of the cultural fabric of Rowan County. The band performs up to 20 gigs a year, but the average is closer to 10 to 12.

You probably have seen SSB warming up the crowd for

*Will Edmonds grooves on the sax.*





*Laura Millspaugh's vocals lead the way.*



*Friends take in the sounds of 'Swing Into Christmas.'*

Salisbury Symphony's "Pops at the Post." The band always plays at Trinity Oaks' "Harvest Moon Ball." And the orchestra — or a smaller combo that also is available — often is called on to play civic, charity and veterans functions, not to mention private weddings and corporate events.

Carolina Mall in Concord usually asks Salisbury Swing Band to perform at Christmas, and that probably provided the impetus for the first "Swing into Christmas" at the Civic Center.

"We wanted to do something here in Salisbury, just to give back to the community," says Eppers, coordinator for music education at Catawba College and its director of bands.

The standard swing band size is 18 members — five saxophones, four trombones, four trumpets, a piano, guitar, bass guitar, drums and a vocalist. The smaller combo Salisbury Swing Band often sends out includes eight pieces — sometimes with Millspaugh, sometimes not.

Most of the band members live in Rowan County, though a few travel to the weekly practices at Catawba College from their homes in Huntersville, Statesville, Kannapolis and Winston-Salem "because they just enjoy performing in an ensemble like this," Eppers says.

The ages of members range from the 20s to guys in their 80s — a



*Above: Band Director Dr. Steve Eppers keeps pace on the trombone.*

*Below: Saxophonist Robert Keeney.*



## THE ARTS

“60-year age span that I think is really cool,” Etters says. “... We have formed a really nice camaraderie in the group.”

One of the band’s missions is to preserve the swing style of music. A portion of the 300 titles the group draws from come from Catawba College’s music library, but the majority of songs are bought by the band itself.

“Honestly,” Etters says, “most of them don’t just give of their time and talents, some of the members even buy the music.”

The orchestra members aren’t salaried, though they can request mileage to attend gigs. Overall, the band is affordable to hire.

“When we do get a payment, it goes into hiring substitutes or toward the band budget,” Etters says. Salisbury Swing Band has a trailer for all of its equipment, including handsome “SSB” music stands, and it hires help for the loading and unloading.

“Because we’re getting too old for that now,” Etters says with a bit of a chuckle.

The Salisbury Swing Band started in 2007 with Etters and others who wanted to continue some kind of community band, whether it be jazz or swing. Etters guesses about seven or eight of those “founders” are still playing as the core group of the Salisbury Swing Band.

The band began as instrumental only. It eventually added Lonnie Carpenter as its “crooner,” Etters says. When Carpenter’s duties with other bands became too heavy, Millspaugh, an award-winning vocalist whose skills were first honed in Miss Virginia (Miss America) talent competitions, easily stepped in.

Millspaugh loves the swing band era of music and especially enjoys singing for military veterans. Her mother and father are Air Force veterans. “I’ve always liked the music of the 40s and 50s,” she says.

“When she sings for the veterans,” her mother, Ruby Kempley, adds, “there is not a dry eye in the house.”

Kempley says her daughter has a natural, God-given talent for singing, which started as soon as she could talk. By age 3, she sang along with her favorite movie, “The Wizard of Oz.” She often sings “Over the Rainbow” with the



swing band.

Etters stresses that Salisbury Swing Band isn’t a pick-up band, thrown together at the last minute for every show. The Tuesday night practices are taken seriously and members look forward to them.

“This is like their bowling night, this is recreational, this is their release,” Etters says.

The range of music the swing band performs also is surprising.

Sure, it can do “In the Mood” and “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” or “Fly Me to the Moon” or “St. Louis Blues.” But band members also

might throw in “Black Magic Woman,” “I Love Beach Music,” “Car Wash” and “Just a Gigolo.”

The Swing into Christmas show concentrates, of course, on a lot of holiday tunes, but the band’s playlist slips in other standards, such as Irving Berlin’s “Cheek to Cheek,” from the Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers movie “Top Hat.”

“Thank you to the Harris sisters for breaking the ice,” Etters said last year to sisters who danced first, Rayne and Annabelle Harris.


It’s always nice to include one or two Frank Sinatra songs, such as “Come Fly with Me” — the Quincy Jones arrangement — from 1957.

The band might start off one set after a break with the 1940 song, “In the Mood.” But it’s not long at Swing into Christmas before SSB is playing the Michael Bublé version of “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas.”

Then there’s “Almost Like Being in Love.” “Santa Claus is Coming to Town,” “Somebody Loves Me” and the Harry Connick Jr. Orchestra arrangement of “Sleigh Ride.”

“You can sing along if you like,” Etters tells the toe-tapping audience members at Swing into Christmas.

And they do.

To find out where else to catch the Salisbury Swing Band, check out its website at [www.salisburyswingband.com](http://www.salisburyswingband.com) or the Salisbury Post’s TimeOut section on Thursdays. 







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*Pinocchio's is at 518 S. Salisbury Ave. in Spencer.*



*Bruschetta with a balsamic glaze is a popular appetizer.*



*Some of the food at Pinocchio's includes fresh salad, a vegetable lasagna with goat cheese and spinach and specials like osso bucco, at the upper right.*

# Two of a kind

*Pinocchio's new owners have taste, ambition.*

Written by Deirdre Parker Smith | Photography by Jon C. Lakey

**I**t was a late Christmas present, but it was one that Anthony Nero and Amy Ray had worked hard for on Jan. 1, 2019.

Anthony and Amy bought Pinocchio's restaurant in Spencer after being faced with the possibility that the restaurant might close.

Anthony had been the waiter for more than 7 years, working with Tracy Aitken, who owned the restaurant with her husband, chef Giuseppe LoPriore.

*Owners  
Anthony Nero  
and Amy Ray.*

When the chance came for Anthony and his fiancée, Amy, to make the place their own, "Of course we took it. Anthony loves this place so much," Amy says.

They plan to keep the restaurant going "until we retire," Anthony says.

With new specials, new soups and desserts, a new cook and a new focus on fresh and local, the restaurant is keeping its core customers and newcomers happy.

In 2002, Anthony had a pipe dream of owning his own restaurant. That's when Pinocchio's was La Dolce Vita.

When the opportunity to buy Pinocchio's seemed close, Anthony says they did not have a plan. "We had to play catch up and get everything set up."

"We had to hit the ground running," Amy says.

She has a background in hospitality and food service. Her first job was at a pizza joint, which she loved, then she worked in a cafe and learned food could be pretty and that's when she first thought about working in food.

She moved to North Carolina later, and worked her way up to manager at Greensboro Country

*Spaghetti and  
meatballs  
is always a  
favorite.*





*Mike Mutz likes to create dishes with fresh ingredients and complementary flavors.*



*For the holidays, peppermint ricotta pie with chocolate ganache.*

Club. She then ran a bookstore.

She and Anthony knew each other growing up in New York, and when they discovered they were both in the same state in 2016, something clicked and they became a couple.

When Anthony needed help at Pinocchio's, Amy would leave her bookstore job and drive to Spencer to work at the restaurant. She realized she missed food service, and that she has learned a lot along the way.

She had worked at bigger places with multiple dining rooms. At the bookstore, she managed employees, payroll, inventory, scheduling.

"And it was nice to come here to work and to see Anthony. ... We work well together."

They grew up in the same town and went to the same schools. Anthony's sister was in Amy's fourth-grade class. Amy says in high school she had a crush on him — the cross country runner.

Amy calls Pinocchio's a work in progress, working toward "what we think it should be."

They are working with their food distributors to get the freshest foods. Regular customers appreciate that, Anthony says, since they often get the special for their meal.

They're coming up with a new menu, keeping the best of the familiar dishes and adding new ones they've been working on with new cook, Michael Mutz.

Mutz did not go to culinary school, but his father was an executive chef, and he learned a lot by working with him.

Mutz has a natural instinct about what tastes good. He thinks in categories, such

## FOOD



*Left: A traditional Italian Christmas pasta with raisins and nuts. Middle: A meal at Pinocchio's includes a choice of wine from its expanded list. Right: A perfect fall way to start your meal — butternut squash soup.*

as earthy or spice or sweet and uses what works well together.

Amy is reaching out to local farmers so they can support each other. “People who eat here like local products.”

They have talked with the local food advocacy group, Bread Riot, and hope to get more involved.

Mutz created a special using Fading D Farm's water buffalo sausage, a thin piece of chicken, spinach, portobello mashed potatoes and a fla-

vorful red sauce. It was a hit.

“I considered a mustard sauce for that because of the sausage, but it didn't work,” he says. “I tried it and it just didn't taste right.”

The mustard sauce did work, however, with the mussels special.

Mutz says the art of cooking is being able to mesh things together, like paint. “You mix colors and come up with another great color.”

He works with what food is on hand, but he likes to think outside the box now and then. He

enjoys working with fresh seafood.

Amy and Anthony say the good food foundation was already laid out for them. Giuseppe was known for his authentic Italian dishes, especially seafood. They want to hold on to what people love, with a focus on fresh ingredients. They're going for a bistro feel, where diners can find something they enjoy.

“I really enjoy the feedback from everybody,” Mutz says. “It's a great experience altogether. I love the quaint neighborhood.”



*Guests and regulars have a treat on Thursdays — half-price wine night.*

## FOOD

"I feel like he shares our vision," Amy says.

"And he's passionate," Anthony adds.

They all work well together, tossing ideas around and coming up with good results." He wows us a few times each week," Anthony says.

Giuseppe told Anthony once, "you make the eyes wide, you fill the bellies." Mutz does produce pretty plates.

They try to use sauces fresh to each order. They also make the Alfredo sauce for each order. And they use fish that's delivered fresh in the morning, along with a lot of fresh vegetables. They try to avoid frozen and canned foods.

Ann and Alan Rouzer are regulars who have been going about once a week for more years than they can count. "We enjoyed it when it was Tracy and Giuseppe, and when they decided to move to Florida, we were afraid it would close," Ann says. "Then we found out Anthony and Amy were going to be the owners.

"They seemed anxious at first. They didn't want to copy what it was. They put their own stamp on it. Their specials are delicious, they have a good wine selection, and they're service-oriented. They want you to be happy with their food."

The Rouzers celebrate holidays, birthdays and anniversaries at the restaurant. "People are



*Mike Mutz and Richard Whiby with some of Pinocchio's favorite dishes.*

having fun," Ann says. "It's good to see the regulars and the new folks. I think they've done a remarkable job in a short period of time."

Amy loves making soups and desserts, and has created things like butternut squash and apple soup, carrot and ginger soup and a white bean and sausage soup.

She has tweaked the traditional ricotta pie by

adding strawberries, peaches or butterscotch. And her peanut butter pie with chocolate ganache is a dream.

Amy says she wants "people to be blown away from start to finish."

Amy also changed the vegetable lasagna to goat cheese and spinach, another big hit. Mutz updated the fried calamari with a parmesan cheese crust, banana peppers and cherry tomatoes.

Their wine selection now includes a couple of sweet wines, as well as bolder reds for the season.

Pinocchio's is open 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday, 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and from 10 p.m.-midnight, the restaurant also serves small plates for people who want to come in for beer or wine and a chance to unwind and talk.

They ask for input from customers and friends. Anthony said he really appreciates the support of Gianni Moscardini, Brian Romans, Tracy and Giuseppe and the regular diners.

Anthony says he and Amy will fight to make the most of this opportunity.

"We will succeed," Amy says. "There's no other option."

"I couldn't do it without her," Anthony says with a smile. **S**



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*Above: The 16 hand-painted panels at the base of the Goodmans' tree tell the story of 'A Visit from St. Nicholas.'*

*Right: A playful decoration.*

*Left: Madeline Goodman made a hook rug that depicted the last Christmas card she sent to her mother in 1948.*







*Dr. Myron Goodman and his wife, Mary, surround themselves in Christmas.*

# ‘Priceless’ memories

*The Goodmans’ love of Christmas shines through.*

Written by **Mark Wineka** | Photography by **Jon C. Lakey**

**L**ast year, the monstrous Christmas tree in Dr. Myron and Mary Goodman’s house on South Fulton Street took five-and-a-half hours to decorate, owing partly to its 2,000 lights.

The 16 house-shaped panels that circle the base of the tree every year tell the story of “A Visit from St. Nicholas” — Clement Moore’s poem which famously starts out, “’Twas the night before Christmas.” The panels were hand-painted

by the late Charlyse Waddell, an accomplished artist and great friend of Myron’s mother.

Ornamental balls and snowflakes belonged to Mary’s mother. Others adornments are from Myron’s patients. “They’re priceless, just priceless,” Mary says of what they mean to the couple.

She says the same for all the little ornaments made by their children from years past, going back to pre-school days.

“They’re nothing,” Mary says of the delicate, handmade trinkets on the tree, “but they mean the world to us.”

Toots Sparger, Myron’s first nurse, made the dog-faced ornament on the tree. She also gave Mary a recipe for pecan logs that have become a must-have holiday tradition in the Goodman household.



A nativity on a fireplace mantel near the tree holds a place of honor. It also comes from the family of one of Myron's patients. Myron spent much of one Christmas Day with the father of the family before the man died. Meanwhile, Mary delayed their children's gift-unwrapping that day until Myron could get back home.

Out of love and appreciation, the man's widow would make something every year for the Goodmans and visit them on Christmas Day. After she had passed, her children kept up the tradition. Again, Mary says the nativity is priceless.

"The family was so appreciative, and we're lucky to be involved in their lives," Mary adds. "In medicine, you're involved very intimately in people's lives. People never forget. They just never forget."

The wreath over the dining room mantel is another one of the Goodmans' treasures. Betty Dan Spencer made the wreath in appreciation for Myron's taking care of her mother, Murtis, when she was ill.

*The Goodmans' children purchased the pieces for this handcrafted nativity in the front foyer.*

The wreath includes figures for all five of the Goodmans' children.

"To put the children in there was just so thoughtful," Mary says.

You can't go anywhere inside or outside the Goodmans' rambling 1865 home at Christmas and not find a memory, a story or happy ghosts of Christmases past.

What excites Mary about many of the sentimental, beautiful decorations handed down to her and Myron from parents, aunts, uncles and friends is, "I know they've touched them and used them."

It's like having them share Christmas every year.



Large, handcrafted cedar pieces make up the

front foyer manger, the first thing you see walking into the Goodmans' house during the holidays. It alone is breathtaking. The Goodman kids started giving their parents these manger figures about 15 years ago, beginning with Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus.

"I had wanted a nativity for the outside," Mary says. "When this came, I knew we couldn't put it out there. That is probably my favorite thing — and what Christmas is all about."

You quickly learn Mary Goodman loves nativity scenes of any kind, big or small, and she also describes herself as "an angel freak." Friends know of her love for nativities and often bring her one from their travels.

Barbara Jackson brought her nativity pieces made in Bethlehem. Another nativity used to belong to Mary's late mother, Bernice. She was a teacher in Iowa, and it's the nativity scene Bernice would always set up in her classroom.

It still includes straw from the family farm in

*Story continues on page 29.*



*Clockwise from top left: This simple Christmas tree was fashioned out of slats from Mary's family barn in Iowa; Santas from the late Madeline Goodman's collection; the dining room set for a holiday dinner; a Santa holder for Christmas cards; and a small, precious nativity scene near the tree.*





*Above:* A living room mantel holds 24 stockings representing all the family members, including spouses and grandchildren.  
*Below left:* the Goodmans' front door. *Below right:* an angel heralds the birth of Jesus.



## AT HOME

Iowa and pieces of paper sacks in use back then.

"I still have the box with all her writing on it," Mary says. "It becomes more special as you get older."

Around the corner sits a Native American nativity, complete with a teepee as a manger. Susan Ward gave the Goodmans a nativity made from shucked corn. "You don't see Mary on the donkey very often," Mary says, pointing out another nativity scene.

Mary and Myron Goodman feel as though the Christmas season starts for them on the Friday after Thanksgiving. There's a family tradition of going to the mountains and bringing back a tree.

Last year, the kids went crazy, hauling home the biggest tree the front living room ever had.

But the decorating doesn't start in earnest for Mary until the first week of December, when she likes to have at least the lights on the outside of the house and the glowing Santa Claus looking out the attic window in front.

A lot of passing motorists on South Fulton

Street look for that Santa in the attic. It started out with the family when the Goodmans still lived in Eagle Heights. "He's just kind of got a good spot here," Mary says.

The couple moved to this house in 1977.

Mary goes about pulling out and setting up other decorations with the help of Kim Hardiman of Hardiman Design. In recent years, as a birthday present to Mary, Myron has hired Hardiman to help his wife with the huge task at hand.

"We have had a lot of fun," Mary says. "It's the gift that keeps on giving. She is wonderful — and a friend first. I enjoy it. Kim does the tree and I do pretty much the rest."

"She's the finisher," Myron adds of Kim.



Many Christmas-related things in the house were crafted by Myron's mother, Madeline. "She was extremely talented," Mary says, giving the same compliment to Charlyse Waddell, a good friend and fellow book club member of Made-

line's. "You couldn't imagine her house. It was just a fairytale."

Madeline Goodman collected Santa figurines, which populate the mantel in a middle room downstairs. When she was older, frailer and had to sit on the couch during the decorating, Madeline would still direct the placement of her Santas.

"She was meticulous," Mary recalls with affection. "That's got it, Mary," she would say. "That's got it." The house is filled with Madeline's framed needlepoint, rugs, petit-point bridge tables, and the pillows she crafted — all with a Christmas theme.

She made a hook rug of the last Christmas card she sent to her mother in 1948.

Myron Goodman understandably looks forward to Christmas, given the strong family meanings for him and Mary. "He loves it," Mary says, and they delight in another mantel's display of 24 stockings for all the family members, including spouses and grandchildren.

The Goodman children include Catherine



And I hope you make the most of it. I hope you see things that way. I hope you feel things you have felt before. I hope you meet people with a different point of view. I hope you live a life you're proud of. I hope you are not. I hope you have courage to start all over again.

Scott Fitzgerald

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## AT HOME



*The Goodmans use this big bulletin board to display Christmas cards they received from the previous year.*

Farley, Mary Elizabeth Summers, Myron Joseph Goodman, Michael Goodman and Christopher Goodman. They account for 12 grandchildren for Mary and Myron.

The dining room table during the Christmas season is set for eight, but the Goodmans rarely have just eight people at the house. They've entertained as many as 45 on occasion.

The Christmas china once belonged to Madeline Goodman. The tablecloth features angels. The holiday dining room chairs have needlepoint seats sewn by Mary's Aunt Clara.

On a wall off the kitchen, an expansive bulletin board that used to hold all the kids' school papers is filled every Christmas with the cards from the previous year. When visitors come, especially children, Mary often says, "You're up there on the board. Go find yourself."

Elsewhere in the house, an advent wreath in the kitchen is made of walnuts. Another Advent wreath came from a Sacred Heart Catholic Church bazaar.

There's a gingerbread man in lights that was a gift from George Heinz, a cherished neighbor in Eagle Heights. There's a simple "Popcorn Santa" — two fishbowls joined together to



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*Above: Christmas spreads to every room of the house, including the kitchen.*

*Below: The sled belonged to Myron's mother; the skates were used by Mary in her college days.*

hold popcorn — that the Goodman girls made in Girl Scouts.

The grandchildren always gravitate toward him — and the popcorn.

With all the things on display and 12 grandchildren running about, the Goodmans keep bottles of glue at the ready. And Mary warns you'll see some pieces that have been patched back together.

■ ■ ■

Mary grew up on a farm in Harlan, Iowa. At times, when things were tough, her father, Joe Schomer, would fashion a Christmas tree out of boards with branches of evergreen clipped to them.

"Dad was Mr. Christmas," Mary says. "He always loved it, so he made us love it. I think I loved Christmas because of my father."

Christmas also meant church, attending midnight Mass, and taking in the spiritual part of the holiday.

"That was very important in our family," Mary says.

On their front porch near the door, the Goodmans display an old sled that belonged to Myron's mother. Close by are skates Mary used on an iced-over Mississippi River during her college days.

On the other side of the door is a Christmas tree fashioned out of slats from Mary's family barn back in Iowa. Her sister Kate created that.

Mary likes to keep her decorations up through Epiphany. "It's not fun if you don't leave it up," she adds.

Mary remembers her young grandson Charles visiting the house soon after all the decorations were put away for another year. He was heartbroken.

"Mimi," he said, "where did Christmas go?"

Though Charles was sad, it sounded like music to Mary's ears.

"That makes it worthwhile," she says. "That's why you do it." **S**





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# SPHERES OF INFLUENCE

Light up your neighborhood with these tree orbs.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



*The lights outside Carr and Keith Garner's house reflect off an early snow.*



*Carr Garner shapes the chicken wire for another Christmas ball.*

**W**hat you'll need: chicken wire, strands of Christmas lights, wire cutters, twist ties (optional), string or light rope, water bottles, trees, extension cords and maybe a good throwing arm.

What you'll get: Envious outdoor Christmas balls of luminosity.

Last year, Carr and Keith Garner's house on Henderson Street had some of the traditional Christmas decorations — wreaths on the doors and candles in the windows.

But what were those things hanging in their front-yard trees that looked like squirrel nests during the day but became glowing, beautiful orbs at night?

For lack of a better, official name, call them tree balls or lighted Christmas balls.

Over the years, you tend to see more and more of these simply crafted decorations in residential neighborhoods, in holiday light shows or as ways to highlight botanical gardens.

Residents of the Sunset Hills area of Greensboro fill their neighborhood trees with hundreds of the balls. The tradition, which started in 1996, attracts bumper-to-bumper nighttime traffic at times, and the residents have used it as a way to raise food and cash donations for needy causes in the city.

Since 2002, the Sunset Hills folks also have held an annual neighborhood workshop to make the tree balls, and Carr Garner ran with that



*Top: The Christmas balls provide an attractive scene at this Henderson Street home.  
Above: A strand of Christmas lights are woven in and out of the chicken wire.  
Left: Tree trunks serve as anchors for tying off and plugging in.*



same kind of idea last year, especially after talking with her daughters, Katie in Greensboro and Sarah in Charlotte.

Katie and Sarah marveled at the neighborhoods in their cities where Christmas balls are plentiful and worthy of drive-throughs. Carr knew what her daughters were describing.

*The balls of Christmas lights work well in small trees as well.*

“I just always thought they were so pretty,” she says.

So with the help of a Facebook post last November, a neighborhood e-vite and word-of-mouth among friends, Carr Garner held a Christmas ball-making, backyard workshop one Sunday afternoon before Thanksgiving.

“We ended up with about 100 people,” Carr says. “It was just so much fun. I really did think just 20 or 30 would come.”

It became a party with barbecue, chili and a couple of fire pits going, DJs played Christmas music. S’mores were made. Carr and Keith also put out a collection box for people who wanted to donate canned goods for Rowan Helping



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*Lighting up the balls requires a simple plug in.*

Ministries.

Most importantly, the Garners set up tables for their neighbors and friends to sit down and assemble their own tree balls.

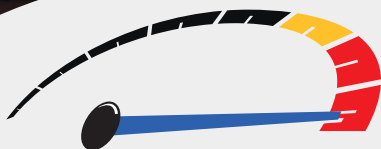
Before people arrived, the Garners cut enough chicken wire for Christmas balls of two different sizes. "I just didn't know how it was going to go," she says.

The attendees brought the strands light for each ball they were going to make. The Garners gave each family wire for at least five balls. Tutorials were available at the various tables, and Katie and Sarah were in town to help in the explanations. "You had to be a little bit organized," Carr says.

The process starts with making cylinders out of the sheets of chicken wire and bending the wire to keep the ends fastened. Then you push, bend and sculpt the wire into circles.

The 12-inch lengths of chicken wire made little balls; the 24-inch sheets, the bigger ones.



  
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There were 50-light strands woven into the little balls; and 100- to 150-light strands for the bigger versions. The lights are wrapped around and in and out of the balls, making sure the “male” plug is exposed and convenient for plugging in later.

“They are very simple, and you can make so many,” Carr says. “Even the little kids can do it. And you don’t have to be good at crafts.”

Some people prefer balls with all white lights or one solid color, while others prefer mixing up the colors. They’re all pretty.

The Garners also gave folks tips on how to hang the Christmas balls in trees at their homes.

About two days before the party, Carr and Keith made their own balls and hung them from limbs of their front-yard oaks, just to be sure they knew what they were doing.

Keith tied a water bottle for weight to one end of a long string. The other end was attached to the newly fashioned Christmas ball. It was a heave, but once Keith’s throw of the water bottle cleared a limb and fell to the other side, it hoisted the ball into the tree.

Keith then removed the water bottle and tied off that end of the string to hold the suspended ball in place. Then, it was throw and repeat for the other balls.

*Chicken wire provides the basic structure.*



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Carr heard some people used bricks instead of water bottles for getting the strings over their trees and lifting the balls into the air. Others resort to fishing poles, slingshots and potato guns. In Greensboro, many of the higher balls are put into the trees with cherry-pickers.

You can pick up chicken wire at local hardware or farm supply stores, or even order it online, Carr says.

At home, trees tend to be the best places for the balls, and often it seems the more random the placement, the better. The Garners had 12 tree balls out front last year, which required a pretty good-sized plug-in outlet and a long extension cord to the laundry room.

The Garners also have a son, Sam, in the Navy.

The family members come by their great love for Christmas honestly. Since he can remember, Keith Garner has been deeply involved with his father's "Project Santa" at First Baptist Church in Denton — and so has his own family. The program, providing gifts for children at Christmas, has been going on close to 65 years.

Needless to say, Salisbury neighborhoods, especially the homes on the Garners' street, sported more tree balls last year than ever before.

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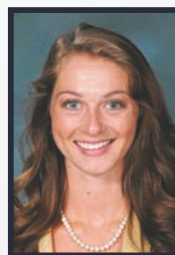
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# COLORS OF THE SEASON

Phyllis Patterson's poinsettias have brightened up  
the holidays since 1977.

Story by Mark Wineka | Photography by Jon C. Lakey



**CHINA GROVE** — You likely associate Patterson Farm Inc.'s farming operation with vast fields of tomatoes, strawberries, peppers and other produce.

Or you think about the Patterson Farm Market off Caldwell Road and taking educational tours, buying ice cream, seeing the farm animals and attending fun days.

But over the holidays, Patterson Farm becomes known for poinsettias, that weirdly beautiful tropical plant the Pattersons sell in nine different colors.

And it all started with Phyllis Patterson. For almost half a century, she has sold poinsettias at Christmas, first carving out that niche in 1977.

Of the Pattersons' 10 greenhouses off Millbridge Road, two are dedicated entirely to poinsettias, and they are a wondrous sight to see when everything is in full bloom.

Today, Patterson Farm sells about 10,000 poinsettias within a roughly six-week selling period, from the day

after Thanksgiving to Dec. 22. In peak years, the farm has sold as many as 17,000. One reason: They're getting more popular as a wedding flower.

The poinsettia varieties come in 4-, 6- and 8-inch baskets and hanging gardens. The Pattersons also feature Wolfpack baskets, owing to the family's strong loyalties to N.C. State University. "I like the white ones in the center," Phyllis says.

Many faithful customers return to the greenhouse location at 3060 Millbridge Road every year. The poinsettias also are sold for fundraisers and delivered to churches, schools, businesses and florists. Yes, Patterson Farm delivers.

The family always pulls poinsettias out of a greenhouse for its own reunion over the holidays.



*Zack Russell checks the leaves on a hanging garden.*



*Of 10 greenhouses, two are devoted to poinsettias.*

The whole poinsettia operation began in a small greenhouse on the other side of the barn off Millbridge Road. Carl and Frank Patterson were jointly operating what the family called Twin Oak Farm then. Phyllis (Carl's wife) paid them \$100 to rent the greenhouse and also for the fuel to heat the hothouse.

That first year, she traveled to Jacksonville, North Carolina, in an old yellow station wagon and picked up 1,000 ruby red poinsettia cuttings. She spent the night, drove back and planted the cuttings in 8-inch pots.

"I made a little profit, and I had a good time," she says.

One curious thing she noticed with her new enterprise — it cured her sinus problem.

What led her to poinsettias?

"I guess the beauty of it — and tomato plants aren't all that pretty," says Phyllis, now 85 with nine grandchildren and a great-grandchild. Plus, her own kids were growing up back then, she says, and "I was looking for something to do. I sort of needed an outlet."

She enjoyed tending to flowers, but never thought she did very well with the flower beds around her house.

"It was a controlled environment, and I liked that," Phyllis



*Patterson Farm has nine different colors of poinsettias. The flowers of poinsettias are the cluster of berries in the center.*

says of growing poinsettias in the greenhouses.

Ray Ritchie and his brother were in the poinsettia business at the time, as was Doug Carrigan of Carrigan Farms. “I just loved to go there at Christmas time,” Phyllis says.

By herself, she fertilized, watered, pruned and managed the temperatures and periods of darkness required of poinsettias. That first year, she placed only one advertisement in the Salisbury Evening Post, and she called some churches to let them know she was growing poinsettias.

“It wasn’t something that was overwhelming” she recalls, and she found that the Ritchie brothers and Carrigan didn’t mind sharing information on how to grow and take care of the plants.

“We had a small greenhouse Carl had built for Doug (a son), and that’s what I used,” Phyllis says. “I sold the bulk of them.”

And by the next year, she had added hanging baskets.

Phyllis spent about three years total in the little greenhouse, doing it all herself. There was snow that first year. Carl, Phyllis and their four children — Lisa, Randall, Doug and Michael — had to loosen the plastic making up the greenhouse roof to allow the snow to slide down.

Mike the youngest, had a wagon and he caught the snow as it fell, loaded it up and carried it away.

As Carl Patterson looked to expand the poin-

settia operation, Phyllis recalls, “I said, I can’t do all that, and Carl said, ‘We’ll get you some help.’”

Barbara Graham on Caldwell Road helped Phyllis for many years, as did Jim Corriher’s twin daughters.

After a while, the Pattersons ordered their cuttings from California. They arrived at a freight terminal in Charlotte where Phyllis would pick them up. Today, Patterson Farm buys its cut-

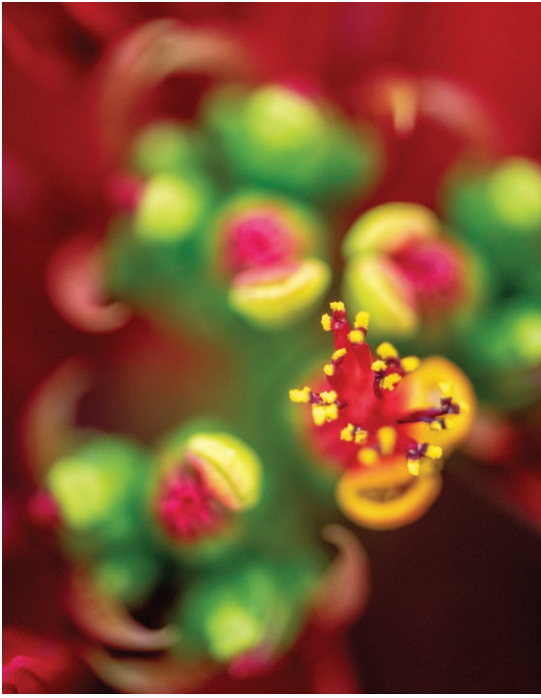
tings from Baucom’s Nursery in Charlotte.

To put it simply, Phyllis’ little poinsettia enterprise grew.

Ever since those humble beginnings in 1977, Phyllis says, she had good luck with the plants, and she eventually worked harder to get more customers. She was deeply hands-on with the poinsettias until about 1990, and she has been a constant supervisor of the operation since then.

As the whole Patterson farming business grew,





*Plenty of Christmas decorations are mixed in with the poinsettias, which are pretty tough tropical plants.*

she devoted more time to bookkeeping, payroll and the telephone. “I just ran out of time and energy,” she says.

Phyllis came to rely on a native Mexican family whose son had specific training in greenhouses. Victor Hernandez has been the greenhouse manager since 1994 and has worked at Patterson Farm since 1988. Another key man in the operation, Carlos Amezcuita, has been on the job 30 years.

The two poinsettia greenhouses today measure 80-by-150 feet and 60-by-120 feet.

The growing and taking care of poinsettias can be a little tricky. For a good month, usually something like Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, the outside light to the poinsettias must be limited, giving them about 14 hours a day of uninterrupted darkness.

Their maintenance also involves a lot of potting, pinching and watering.

“We space ours out so they grow full, and each plant receives individual attention,” says Nora Patterson, secretary for Patterson Farm Inc.

If a fungus invades, the growers have to employ bombs of anti-fungicide. “We’d set them off in the middle and run!” Phyllis says.

Poinsettias have become an important “crop” for the Patterson operation. They provide good off-season work for the year-round employees. Growers also







*Phyllis Patterson stops by one of the greenhouses for an update on how the season is going.*

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tend to make more money off poinsettias than other potted plants, even though they are marketed over such a short time span.

Now Patterson Farm spreads its word about poinsettias through Facebook, Twitter, word-of-mouth, repeat customers, brochures and road signs. Some poinsettias are for sale at the Patterson Farm Market off Caldwell Road.

For the record, the available colors are red, white, pink, marble (creamy white and soft pink center), cinnamon star, jingle bell (red bracts with white splatters), winter rose, burgundy and ruby frost.

Besides delivery, the Pattersons offer custom wrapping, complete with bows.

Pots are wrapped in foil with bow colors that match best. Foil colors include green, gold, pink and silver. Bow colors come in red, white, pink and burgundy.

The individual poinsettias range in price from \$5 for a 4-inch pot to \$22 for an 8-inch pot with foil and bow. There is free delivery on orders over \$300 within a 25-mile radius. Fund-raising packets are available.

Four-inch pots yield four to six blooms; 6-inch pots, six to eight blooms; and 8-inch pots, 10 to 12 blooms. The poinsettia gardens have nine poinsettias with yields of 45 to 50 blooms in a 10-inch basket.

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On poinsettias, the flowers — or cyathia — are the yellow cluster of berries in the center. The leaves or colorful petals are called bracts.

What's one of the biggest misconceptions about poinsettias? "You don't put them in a dark closet and forget them," Phyllis says.

And on watering, Phyllis advises, you don't want to drown them, but you don't need for them to be totally dry, either.

What about the temperature?

"If you're comfortable, they're comfortable," Phyllis says.

She knows her poinsettias.

Hours at the Patterson greenhouses at 3060 Mill-bridge Road, China Grove, are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-noon Saturday. **S**

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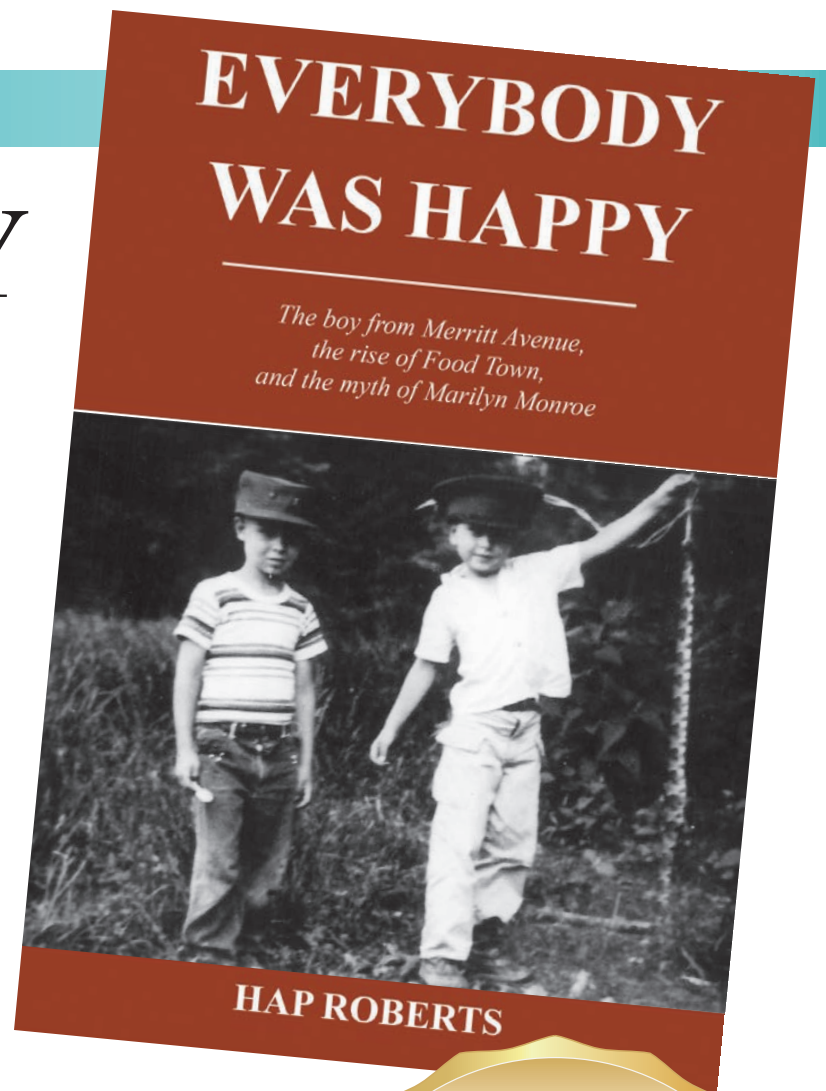
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*Above: From left, Kristen Moore, Liz Harry, Mary Ann Gray, Lila Harry, and Laurel Harry enjoy snacks in the kitchen. When Margaret Klutz redid her kitchen she made sure to have three ovens specifically for the Thanksgiving house party. Right: Jay Dees dances with his niece, Clare Thompson.*





*You don't really realize how many Kluttz family members come to Thanksgiving until they all gather next door for a photo at the Wallace House.*

— Submitted photo

# HOUSE PARTY

When the Kluttz clan gathers for Thanksgiving,  
it's all about love, memories and traditions.

Story by Susan Shinn Turner | Photography by Zach Stevenson and Jon C. Lakey



*From left, cousins Millie Thomson, Clare Thomson, Tyler Neidlinger, and Reese Gardner chow down on Thanksgiving dinner. — Submitted photo*

For those of us with small families, the idea of hosting more than 60 family members for Thanksgiving dinner is downright intimidating.

George and Margaret Kluttz host a house party that begins the Saturday before the holiday and ends the Monday after. Ten days. We are not making this up. The first clue that something may be going on at their South Fulton Street home are the seven cars parked in the circular driveway all cattywampus. Nobody plans to leave anytime soon — nor could they.

There are family meals, outings, the Christmas parade with seating for 45 in front of the Crawford Building, games, dancing, poker night, dress up ...

To the uninitiated, it may seem exhausting, but

the Kluttz clan loves it.

Margaret sums it all up quite beautifully.

“It’s about welcoming people to the table and giving thanks,” she says. “It is the love of gathering and being with families and memories and traditions.”

James Luther Fisher, George’s great-grandfather, owned the gorgeous, two-story dwelling that George and Margaret call home. It serves as base.

The Kluttzes’ older daughter, Meg Dees, and her cousin, Colie Neidlinger, are in charge of sleeping arrangements. They rely on a spreadsheet which utilizes a number of homes around town — folks





who are out of town graciously lend their homes — and other family members stay across the street at Turn of the Century bed and breakfast.

“The family has been staying with me for years,” says owner Karen Windate of the Atlanta contingent. “They basically take the whole house in one fell swoop. We joke that this is the neighborhood’s extra guest room.”

If you’re not at the bed and breakfast or a hotel, you may have to change accommodations, depending on who’s coming in when. But everyone just rolls with it.

“First of all, it’s not gonna be perfect,” Margaret says. “But Meg and her cousins have just instilled in us how important this is.”

The Kluttzes’ younger daughter, Earle Thompson, comes from Raleigh with her twin girls, Millie and Clare, bringing with her an unbelievable amount of dress-up clothes. Husband Bo will come later on the train.

At first, only the Kluttz family gathered to celebrate the holiday. Then Margaret’s side, the Harrys, joined them at some point in the 1960s. Since then, it has kind of become a free-for-all. More on that later.

“We used to do it every year, but then all of us got married,” Earle says of her generation. “So we had to scale it back.”



**Top:** Margaret Kluttz, Ree Edwards, Kirstie Harry and Leo Grunau wait for other members of the Kluttz and Harry families to arrive for the annual Christmas parade in Downtown Salisbury. **Above:** Before the Christmas parade, Margaret Kluttz and Ree Edwards wait for family members to arrive. Ree is married to Margaret’s husband’s cousin.



***Above:** In the garage (aka clubhouse) watching sports are from left, Archie Dees, Brian Moore, Jay Dees, and Andrew Hoffman. **Below:** Friday features poker night with the little kids: Mike Edwards and Ree Edwards against the wall, and Meg Dees shuffling cards for Millie Thompson, Katie Sorensen, Nolah Neidlinger, Lillie Neidlinger, Clare Thompson, Maddie Hoffman and Reese Gardner.*



The family now gathers every other year. Today is Wednesday, which means it's barbecue day, and Earle is digging in the fridge to find something to feed her girls, who aren't into barbecue. Besides the Thanksgiving meal, the family will enjoy a shrimp boil on Friday, with restaurant meals the rest of the week and leftovers during the weekend.

Meg's husband, Jay, a local attorney, takes care of getting the barbecue. It's from a client, he says. "I can't tell you. I'd have to kill you."

His father, John, is here from Goldsboro, as well as his kid brother, Charlie, who's just 10 months older than his son, Archie.

"The in-laws and the outlaws all converge," Margaret notes.

"No matter how spread out our family gets, we get together and stay in touch," Archie says.

Before long, Jay is set up and tells everyone it's time to "start grazing."

Margaret rings a bell.

"Dinner is served," she says.

Someone's phone rings. A blond toddler, likely suffering jet lag from the long trip from California, has had it.

"He is so done," says his dad, Andrew Hoffman, traveling with wife Katey from San Francisco.

Everyone else fixes a plate and gets going with the meal.

Besides eating together, they're a family who does things en masse.

Some 30 family members have traveled to Italy together. They've been to Costa Rica twice, where Meg and Earle's cousin, Kevin Harry, and his wife, Laurel, lived. The Harrys have been in Salisbury about 6½ years now. This summer, 37 family members trekked to Yellowstone.

Jay and Meg's daughter, Maggie, likes all the family togetherness.

"I think it's really cool," she says. "My friends say, oh yeah, some of my family is coming for

Thanksgiving, and it'll be 20 people. And I'll say, we have 60-something coming, and their eyes get real big. It's crazy to think about how many family members come."

But come they do.

Along with Atlanta and California, they come from Colorado, Florida and New York City. Leo Grunau, a German exchange student who stayed with Zeb and Liz Harry 12 years ago, is here from Switzerland, a bottle of French wine in hand.

The Harrys are also in town now. Zeb is Margaret's brother, and the couple recently moved from a Virginia farm into the home that had belonged to the late Addie Ketner.

George and Margaret and Zeb and Liz and some of the other older family members eat in the dining room where it's a bit more sedate, while the rest of the family eats outside under a huge white tent. Margaret has

*From left, Ralph Edwards with his cousins, brothers Jim Kluttz and George Kluttz (house party host), get into the party spirit on Friday night.*



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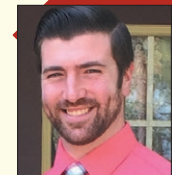
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learned over the years to layer tablecloths on each table depending on the theme of each meal. She still insists on lace tablecloths, china and silver for Thanksgiving day, although she has a caterer who comes and brings the main dishes — two tenderloins, two hams, two turkeys — and does dishes afterward.

Margaret also insists on making individual butter pats shaped like turkeys, and asparagus casserole, a family recipe. Last time, she made four.

Meg and her cousins, mostly, are in charge of the other side dishes: mashed potatoes, deviled eggs, brownies, lemon squares, sweet potato casserole, cranberry salad, pies, dressing, corn soufflé, green bean casserole, green beans, plain sweet potatoes, and plain asparagus.

“We have lots of allergies,” she notes, so there are gluten-free choices on the menu, too.

Friday night is dance party night, complete with a dance floor, DJ, and a shrimp boil for supper.



*Parade attendees include Earle Thompson, Clare Thompson, Maggie Dees, Lillie Neidlinger, Nolah Neidlinger, Reese Gardner, Maddie Hoffman, Ree Edwards, Ann Marie Hoffman, Peter Hoffman, Tyler Gardner, Ralph Edwards, Andrew Hoffman and Kirstie Harry.*



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*Friday night always features a dance party with costumes. From left, Lila Harry holding Clare Thompson, Meg Dees holding Millie Thompson, Liz Harry, Earle Thompson (holding camera) Aditya Rao dressed as Superman, Andrew Hoffman and Samantha Ring, and Tyler Neidlinger (in green).*



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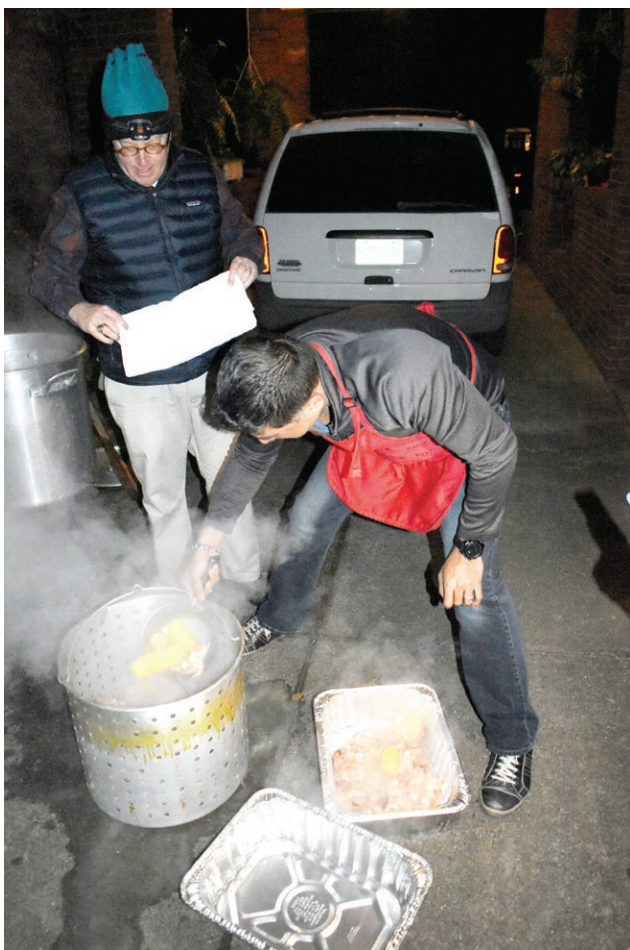
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It's also the night of the infamous test.

Whenever someone marries into the family, they must take a test. It could be questions about the Kluttz family tree — which is pretty complicated because they tend to use a lot of the same names over and over — or it could be something even more obscure.

Jay and Bo don judges' robes and preside over the family court. We could tell you the name, but we'd have to kill you.

"The minute it came out of my mouth, I couldn't get it back," Margaret says, laughing and shaking her head.

*Jay Dees and Aditya Rao prepare the shrimp boil.*

On this particular night, the person being tested is Rob Ring, who's engaged to Samantha Haspel. He delights the family by showing up in a hazmat suit.

Samantha and Earle are only two months apart in age, and her sister, Ashley, and Meg also grew up together, as did their moms.

They've always been with the Kluttz family during holidays, she says. "If you're lucky enough, you're adopted in."

Last year, Sam was diagnosed with lymphoma and underwent grueling treatment, both at Duke and later in Philadelphia.

"Bo came to every single doctor's appointment," Sam says. "I've stayed with Earle and Bo. They're my family. Meg calls every week. Jay got my affairs in order, just in case. This has been the best worst year of my life, and the Kluttz-Dees-Thompson clan is a huge part of that."

Thankfully, Sam recovered, and she and Rob were married Sept. 14 in Salisbury. Meg and Earle were both there.

Cousin Colie travels from Atlanta to the house party with her husband, Brince, and their three daughters.

"Honestly, I feel like I don't get to be myself until I get around these people," she

says. "I go home with a smile on my face. It feeds my soul."

Her cousin Mary Anne Zacek agrees.

"This is my favorite thing in the whole world," says Mary Anne, who lives in Boulder, Colo. "I look forward to this."

Mary Anne has been single for three years.

"It's a little weird," she says. "This family gets married and stays married. But I've never felt anything but welcomed and loved. It's exhausting, but then you get your second or third or 45th wind."

"We'll definitely keep this all going," Meg says. "This house will stay in the family."

"It's a lot of expense and we're all spread out," George says, "but it all works out."

"I think I take it for granted," Meg says, "but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

The party is never long enough for this family. Earle and Mary Anne remember being 7 years old — they're a day apart in age — and standing and looking at Mary Anne's dad's VW bus, trying to figure out what they could do to disable the vehicle so Mary Anne wouldn't have to leave. They wanted to pull the spark plug — never mind they didn't know what it was.

"We didn't want her to leave," Earle says. "It wasn't long enough!" **S**

*Anne Overstreet and Brian Sorensen chat in the kitchen.*



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*Above: Hap Roberts, in his movie/TV room in the Roadhouse, relaxes in his favorite chair for movie watching with photographer Cecil Beaton's portraits of Greta Garbo and Marilyn Monroe behind him. Below left: Roberts gets a new style of Panama hat each year to add to his collection.*

# 'I love life'

*Hap Roberts finds writing his memoir was a cathartic process.*

Written by Susan Shinn Turner | Photography by Wayne Hinshaw





## REMINISCE

Hap Roberts is in a good mood. He's hanging out in what he calls "The Roadhouse," otherwise known as a man cave.

The Roadhouse is a part of the campus of Statewide Title Inc., the company Hap and his wife, Annette, founded in 1984 on Merritt Avenue. The company works with attorneys throughout North Carolina to provide title insurance when homes are purchased.



Built originally as a garage, the Roadhouse is divided into three sections or "phases," as Hap likes to call them. Phase 1 is where he sits and does paperwork in the afternoons. Phase 2 is where folks eat whenever there's a gathering there — and there are frequent get-togethers with family and friends. Phase 3 is where Hap likes to sit and watch old movies with Sunday School buddies. The room is filled with a dozen comfortable club chairs scattered about.

Hap settles into one chair, situated beside a photograph of Marilyn Monroe, and lights up a cigar — despite the fact he stopped smoking them in 1996. (Now, before you go tattling to Annette, we twisted his arm a little because to be honest, cigar smoke makes some cool photos.)

We've just completed a tour of the Roadhouse, which Hap

is always happy to show off. He's got any number of signed football helmets and jerseys.

"So you like football?" photographer Wayne Hinshaw asks him.

"I like everything," Hap says. "I love life."

Hap is a collector. The Roadhouse has a 1937 Coke machine like the one his father had in his cotton office. Chilled water kept the drinks cool.

"It's a Coca-Cola machine but we keep Cheerwine in it," Hap notes.

There's a 1947 Seeburg jukebox. There's a blue marlin Hap caught off the coast of Cuba in June 1992. It weighed 360 pounds on the dock.

"I wanted to catch a big fish," Hap says.



*Above: Hap Roberts stands in the Roadhouse in front of a wall of his collection of football helmets, 1947 jukebox and 360-pound Blue Marlin that he caught off the coast of Cuba in June 1992. Below: Roberts stands next to his 1937 Coca-Cola cooler that cooled 6½-ounce drinks in cold water. His father had a cooler like this in his cotton office. Roberts keeps Cheerwine in it.*



Indeed he did.

Everything is a story to Hap, and he has a lot of stories — so much so, that he’s publishing a memoir later this month.

“Everybody was Happy: The boy from Merritt Avenue, the rise of Food Town, and the myth of Marilyn Monroe” will be released Nov. 25. Locally, it will be available at South Main Book Co. and from Amazon.

Geographically, Hap says, he’s spent nearly his whole life on North Merritt Avenue. His parents’ house was here, and his aunt’s house was here. Those dwellings are now both part of the Statewide campus, as is an apartment house his parents built. His grandparents lived where Krispy Kreme is now.

Growing up in the baby-boomer era, there were always a lot of kids in the neighborhood for Hap, an only child, to play with. He’d ride his bike to see his “best friend for life” Locke Long, Jr., and his good friend Kee Kirchin. He’d avoid the girls who’d try to yank him off the bike and sit on him. He’d try his best to avoid the neighborhood bully — but he wasn’t always successful. These were the days kids could roam the neighborhood and play ball and play behind the pond at Rowan Dairy and tote around dead copperheads.

It was a great time to grow up, he says, relishing every memory.

From North Merritt Avenue, Hap went just down the street to attend Catawba College. He graduated with a degree in account-

## REMINISCE

ing in 1972 and worked for Sherrill and Smith for only a couple of months before being asked to work for the new grocery store in town, Food Town.

Hap ended up being the company's first controller. He had to retire 10 years later, however, because of health reasons. He'd been diagnosed with ulcerative colitis at age 13. His last year with Food Town, he was hospitalized three times.

As he told Mark Wineka in "Lion's Share," excerpted in his own book: "I knew I couldn't keep on going like that and keep my family, my health and my sanity."

When he left Food Town, Hap felt like he had lost a spouse. But he had learned well from the men he calls "The Mavericks," and he was ready to take the next step in that career.

He took a year off and studied for the CPA exam. He

*Roberts points to the attic where he played as a youngster.*





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**Above:** Hap Roberts has a collection of autographed football helmets. **Left:** Hap's uncle Ralph Roberts worked with Marilyn Monroe and is in the Catawba Blue Masque Hall of Fame.



spent time with Annette, and with their daughter, Heather, who had been born in 1977. In 1983, he formed an accounting firm H.K. Roberts, and Statewide Title followed in the next year. That's where he and Annette have been ever since.

Oh — and about that picture of Marilyn Monroe.

It turns out that Hap's uncle, Ralph Roberts, was Marilyn Monroe's masseur the last several years of

her life.

Hap idolized Ralph, and calls him “the uncle everybody wanted to have.”

Like Hap, Ralph went to Catawba College, but didn't graduate. He decided to go into acting instead, and became a masseur to supplement his income.

“God, I loved him,” Hap says. “He was a neat guy. He'd come to Salisbury three or four times a



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**- Tamara Sheffield**

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## REMINISCE

year. I'd see that 1957 Corvette and I would run over there. It was hard on me when he passed away. He spent the last three years of his life in Salisbury, and he was very well thought of."

His uncle passed along a lot of papers and memorabilia related to Marilyn Monroe. In the Roadhouse and his office, Hap has photographs of the actress. It's a connection he's proud of.

Hap admits it's "sort of a relief" to get his book done. Dementia runs on his mother's side of the family.

"I don't plan on getting it and I hope I don't," says Hap, 68, "but every time a person dies, a library burns to the ground."

He adds, "I do know some neat stuff. And writing the book was cathartic, too. There were some things I had tucked back there that I was able to pull out and address. It's really good to get that off my plate."

Hap says that his wife of 45 years has been his biggest supporter.

"Hap and I are blessed with a wonderful relationship and just being around each other is fun," Annette says.

She notes of the book project: "It has been a labor of love and lots of fun. It's been nice to



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see Hap recall these cute stories of his youth. I have heard them before but they never get old. I'm happy that he is pulling these stories together in book form for others to enjoy, and especially as a feel-good read for our grandchildren, Bell and Graham."

There's been excitement among their friends about the book's publication.

"Our early readers have been very encouraging," Hap says. "It's not 'War and Peace' and it won't put you to sleep. But you will want to keep reading when you want to go to sleep."

He adds, "I hope it's a feel-good book for people. There's nothing in there that's negative."

Charles Church, Hap's facility manager, brings Hap's 1982 Datsun 280ZX Turbo around for a photo.

"Charles keeps it right," Hap says of the vehicle he bought for himself when he left Food Town.

When asked to describe his boss' book project, Charles answers in one word: "Exhausting!"

"But I think he's enjoyed it," he adds. **S**



Hap Roberts stands next to his collection of 1958 Baltimore Colts photos and a Johnny Unitas Baltimore Colts autographed helmet from 1979.

Freelance writer Susan Shinn Turner served as Hap Roberts' editor for "Everybody was Happy."

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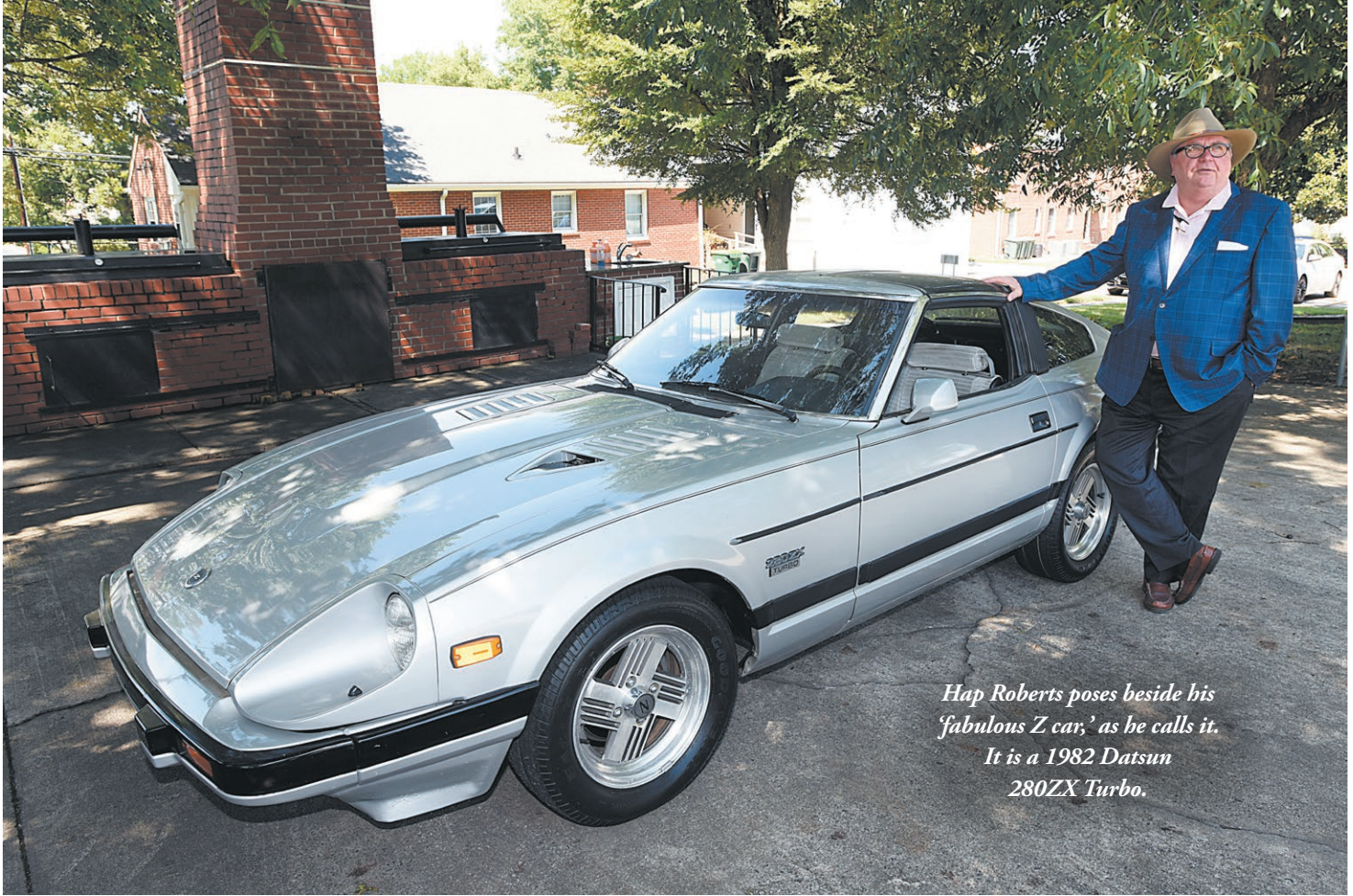
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*Hap Roberts poses beside his 'fabulous Z car,' as he calls it. It is a 1982 Datsun 280ZX Turbo.*

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-Author Unknown

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Left: Drew Bitzer, left, with Andrew Prater.



Right: The Moonglows paid a lovely tribute to the late Foster Owen, Salisbury's longtime assistant city manager.



The Hall Sisters from Raleigh

## 'Bury Home Companion

This year's 'Bury Home Companion, the flagship fundraiser for the Salisbury Symphony, took place June 24 in downtown Salisbury at the Meroney Theater. The event — fashioned after "Prairie Home Companion" and other old-timey radio shows in the "theater-of-the-mind" tradition — featured afternoon and evening performances. The Hall Sisters from Raleigh joined local musical performers Sarah Claire King, Eli Yancinthe, and Jacob Kluttz. Also on the slate were the Moonglows and the Radio Players. The Silver String Band from Gold Hill served as the house band. Put together by Kent Bernhardt and Kay Peeler with David Whisenant as emcee, both shows included a tribute to the late Foster Owen, Salisbury's longtime assistant city manager.

— Photos by Susan Shinn Turner



Left: Ushers Anne Saunders and Beth Cook.

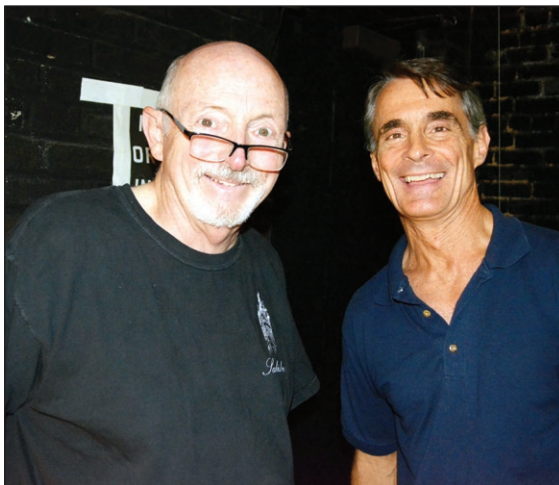
Right: Eli Yancinthe, center, returned by popular demand.







Left: This year's 'Bury Home Companion' once again drew appreciative crowds to the Meroney Theater.  
Right: The Silver String Band from Gold Hill served as the house band.



Left: Randy Overcash, who worked backstage, stands with sound-effects man Dan Mikkelson.



Right: Jacob Klutz is a gifted pianist who received a warm welcome at this year's show.



Left: Clyde, the artist, designed 'The Bury' T-shirts to raise extra money for the Salisbury Symphony.

Right: Good friends Kay Jones and Deanie Jones



Dan Mikkelson's items for sound effects.

## the Scene



Janet Parker and Linne Wallace



Dr. Wink Cline, center, stands with Novant Health Rowan's medical students from Campbell University.



Dr. Vishwan Pamarthi, Dr. James Johnson and Dr. Cuong Nguyen

## Patrons' Ball

On Sept. 7, the Novant Health Rowan Medical Center Foundation celebrated its 30th anniversary with the 2019 Patrons' Ball at the Country Club of Salisbury. Mecklenburg Radiology Associates was the presenting sponsor. Guests enjoyed an evening complete with cocktails, dinner, dancing and music by "The Entertainers Band." Proceeds from the evening went toward the new linear accelerator in the Wallace Cancer Center. The Patrons' Ball Committee included Mary Goodman, Joyce Goodwin, Fran Misner, Dianne Scott, Tracy Smith, Traci Williams, Kristen Trexler, Dari Caldwell and Rick Parker.

— Photos by Joe Finney of Tre-J Photography



Above: Guy and LeeAnna Hoskins with Tracy and Kenan Smith. Left: Kyle and Kim Davis with their daughter Sierra. Right: Bill and Shari Graham.





Dr. Trevor Allison, Megan Allison, Deirdre Blabon, Ann Caulkins and Kelly Anderson



The Novant Health Rowan Radiation Oncology team of Sarah Kearney, Dana Correll, Heather Thrower, Connie Cutright, Angela Atnip, Rebecca Smith and Dr. Gregory Nitro



Fred and Alice Stanback sign a beam that will go into the Wallace Cancer Center.



Brad and Heather Brady, Lee and John Cowan, Jacque Jenson, Fran Misner, Dr. Gavin Misner, Dr. Erin Grey and Dr. Matt Storey.



The crowd enjoys the check presentation of \$100,000 to the Rowan Medical Center.



Beth Benedetto, Julie Manuel, Karen Wood, Wib Manuel, Vince Benedetto and David Wood

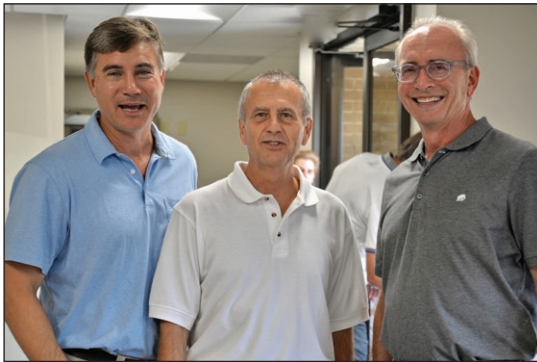
**the Scene**



Jessica Yelland and Enid Rodriquez at the Healthy Rowan food demonstration.



Community Care Clinic staff members Deborah Bailey, DeAnna Turner, Debbie Hill, Cathy Teat, Kristin Woolly, Teen Aron, Judy Currin, Donna Blake, Dr. Amy Wilson and Jessica Yelland.



Danny Fisher, Alex Bost and Luke Fisher

# Community Care Clinic open house

The Community Care Clinic of Rowan held an open house drop-in to show the public recent renovations at the non-profit clinic. The \$188,000 project led to a new security system, revamped reception area, new floors and ceilings, LED lighting, fresh paint and some reconfigurations allowing for a better flow among the treatment rooms, offices and pharmacy.

— Photos by Nancy Shirley



Luke and Lori Yang



A good-sized crowd fills the reception area during the clinic's open house drop-in.



Above: Deborah Bailey mans the reception desk. Left: Lauren Henson with Dr. Efthimios Koveos. Right: Mr. and Mrs. Reid Leonard with Community Care Clinic Executive Director Krista Woolly.





Dr. Frank Eason and Cathy Teat



Dr. Amy Wilson, Bud and Betty Mickle and Dr. Randy Lassiter



Julie Fuller and Tabitha Myers



Dr. Rachel Ross and Judy Currin



Donna Blake



Nealeigh Whitley, right, with Krista Woolly



Shawn Edman and Teen Aron



Pat Roos and Revonda Nance



Jennifer West and Debbie Kilgore



Above: Felicia Ruffin, left, and Lisa W. Tranumn led the parade by carrying the Dunbar Mass Reunion's 'Welcome Home Tigers' banner. A color guard with the North Rowan High ROTC followed close behind them. Here, they pass folks watching from Shady Grove Baptist Church.  
Left: Sonya Roberson, Gary Roseborough and Beverly Hairston.



Rob Donnell, right, and Rashad Sherrill ride on two of the four horses in the parade.

## Dunbar Mass Reunion Parade

As part of the Dunbar School Mass Reunion weekend, a Saturday morning parade with more than 45 entries traveled down Long Street in East Spencer. The weekend included a picnic at Royal Giants Park after the parade and a Gala Banquet that same evening at the West End Plaza. At least 14 different classes from the mid 1950s to Dunbar High's last school year in 1969 were represented at the banquet, sponsored by the Dunbar School Alumni Association.

— Photos by Mark Wineka



The North Rowan High ROTC color guard goes through some pre-parade inspections.



This car carried Doug Holmes of Holmes Iron & Metal Inc., who served as the parade's grand marshal.



North Rowan High School cheerleaders lead the North Rowan High Marching Band down Long Street during the parade in East Spencer.

North Rowan High's Army ROTC unit marches in the parade.



East Spencer Mayor Barbara Mallett greets some of the parade crowd as her car moves down Long Street.



*Rebecca Robertson hands out beads with bells to the children during last year's 'Tis the Season Spectacular Holiday Parade. This year's parade is Nov. 27. — Jon C. Lakey photo*

## NOVEMBER

**2 5k Run/Walk for Clean Water**  
**Nov. 2: Grace Lutheran Church, 3020 Grace Church Road, Salisbury — 8 a.m.**  
 Fun Run and 8:15 a.m. 5k run/walk. Runners and walkers will enjoy a 3.1-mile road course starting at the church and going through the gently rolling neighborhood of Grace Ridge. A fun course also will be available on the church property. Proceeds will benefit the ELCA Global Clean Water Ministry. Check [salisburyrowan-runners.org](http://salisburyrowan-runners.org) for more details.

**2 Photowalk**  
**Nov. 2: Catawba College — 10:30 a.m.-noon.** Sponsored by Rowan Public Library, this event invites you to take a walk on the campus of Catawba College and bring your digital camera or phone to take photographs with the rest of the group. For information, call 704-216-7737 or contact [Paul.Birkhead@rowancountync.gov](mailto:Paul.Birkhead@rowancountync.gov).

**2 Waterworks' Big Chili Cookoff**  
**Nov. 2: Waterworks Visual Arts Center/F&M Trolley Barn, 123-125 E. Liberty St.**

# Holiday 2019

## Upcoming events in the Salisbury-Rowan area

— 6:30-11 p.m. Enjoy the art of chili-making and the best recipes at this 11th annual Waterworks event. Chili-tasting from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Raffle. Dancing until 11 p.m. Tickets, \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Tickets can be purchased online at [www.waterworks.org](http://www.waterworks.org), at 704-636-1882 or in person during normal gallery hours. This is a fundraiser for Waterworks and its outreach programs.

**4 Meet Your Neighbor**  
**Nov. 4: East Rowan Branch of the Rowan Public Library — 6 p.m.** Pictures and stories from David Freeze's most recent bicycle adventure from Nevada to Alaska. Also Nov. 18, 7 p.m., at the South Rowan Branch of Rowan Public Library.

**7 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike'**  
**Nov. 7-9 and Nov. 14-16: Lee Street theatre — 7:30 p.m.** Winner of the 2013 Tony Award for best play. Middle-aged siblings Vanya and Sonia share a home in Bucks County, Pa., where they bicker and complain about the circumstances of their lives. Suddenly, their movie-star sister, Masha, swoops in with her new boy toy, Spike. Old resentments flare up, eventually leading to threats to sell the house. Also on the scene are sassy maid Cassandra, who can predict the future, and a lovely young aspiring actress named Nina, whose prettiness somewhat worries the imperious Masha. For information on tickets, go to [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org) or call 704-310-5507.

## calendar

**8 Rowan Museum Antiques Show**  
Nov. 8-10: West End Plaza Event Center, 1935 Jake Alexander Blvd. West — 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. This 66th annual show features a full range of fine antiques, including furniture, porcelain, art, jewelry, linens and silver. Crystal and glass repair available, along with porcelain and painting restoration. Proceeds benefit Rowan Museum. Free parking. Admission, \$7. Lunch available.

**8 'Hymns for the Fallen'**  
Nov. 8 and Nov. 10: 7 p.m. Nov. 8 at Millford Hills Methodist Church; 4 p.m. Nov. 10 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Choral Society's Fall Concert. A collection of vocal works devoted to those we have lost too soon, whether through war, mass shootings or illness.

**9 'Elegance, Charm & Drama'**  
Nov. 9: Keppel Auditorium, Catawba College — 7:30 p.m. A Salisbury Symphony concert featuring Anthony Trionfo and the first installment of the symphony's new "Young Concert Artist Series." Trionfo will perform Ibert's charming and challenging "Flute Concerto." Concert will include Tchaikovsky's elegant "Serenade for Strings" and Beethoven's dramatic "Symphony No. 1." Go to [salisbury-symphony.org](http://salisbury-symphony.org) for information or call 704-216-1513.

**15 'Stinky Cheese and Other Fairly Stupid Tales'**  
Nov. 15-16 and Nov. 22-23: The Norvell Theater, 135 E. Fisher St. — 7:30 p.m. shows Nov. 15, 16, 22 and 23; also, 2:30 p.m. shows Nov. 16 and Nov. 23. A children's theater production of Piedmont Players. If geese had graves, Mother Goose would be rolling in hers. "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales" retells — and wreaks havoc on — the allegories we all thought we knew by heart. Though the characters may be familiar, each of your favorite storybook fables is uproariously derailed in this adaptation of Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith's quintessential children's book of fractured fairy tales. Go to [PiedmontPlayers.com](http://PiedmontPlayers.com) for tickets, or call 704-633-5471.

**15 Polar Express**  
Nov. 15-Dec. 22: N.C. Transportation Museum, Spencer — Inspired by the hit movie, this holiday favorite brings on-screen characters to life as families take a ride on the

Polar Express. Passengers will enjoy singing and dancing upon arrival at the North Pole, where Santa will present the first gift of Christmas. Tickets, dates, times available at [www.nctrans.org/Events/Polar.aspx](http://www.nctrans.org/Events/Polar.aspx) or by calling 704-636-2889.

**16 Concord Hops & Heat Beer and Chili Festival**  
Nov. 16: downtown Concord — For more information, call 704-784-4208 or go to [info@concorddowntown.com](http://info@concorddowntown.com).

**21 Friends of RPL Concert — The Trailblazers**  
Nov. 21: Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St. — 7 p.m. The Trailblazers, the 2018 International Bluegrass Music Association Momentum Band of the Year, perform a blend of bluegrass, American, folk and jazz music.

**21 Scrooge's Christmas Trolley Tour**  
Nov. 21-Dec. 21 (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights): starts at Rowan County Convention Bureau, 204 E. Innes St. — Scrooge's Christmas Trolley Tour will run four times every night at 6, 6:45, 7:30, and 8:15 with additional 9 p.m. showings every Friday and Saturday. The trolley tour is a dramatic retelling of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol," featuring both laughter and serious moments. Passengers will travel back in time by trolley with Scrooge on his well-known journey. Tickets are \$22 for adults and \$15 for children ages 6-12 and \$17 for seniors 65 and older. Kids 5 and under ride free. Go to [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org) or call 704-310-5507 for tickets.

**22 Kids in America Totally 80s Tribute Band**  
Nov. 22: Lee Street theatre — 7:30 p.m. Ready to be blasted into the past? Kids in America is a high-energy, power-packed, ultra fun, six-piece band paying tribute to the totally awesome 1980s. Kids in America covers all genres from this timeless decade: new wave, pop, dance and rock, rock ballads and more. Kids in America specializes and takes pride in recreating all of your favorite 80s hits. Part of Lee Street Live series. Tickets, \$25. Go to [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org) or call 704-310-5507.

**23 Cards for a Cause**  
Nov. 23: South Rowan Branch of Rowan Public Library — 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Create holiday cards for service members and veter-

ans while enjoying the film, "White Christmas." Free. Participation in Cards for a Cause is not required to see the movie.

**23 Lighting of the Fall Fires**  
Nov. 23: Historic Gold Hill Village, St. Stephens Church Road — 5:30-9 p.m. check out [www.goldhillnc.com](http://www.goldhillnc.com) for more information on this unique event.

**23 Kannapolis Tree-lighting/Fireworks**  
Nov. 23: Village Park, Kannapolis, 700 W. C St. — 6 p.m. The annual tree-lighting ceremony and fireworks at Village Park.

**23 Winterland Express/Celebration of Lights**  
Nov. 23-Dec. 30 (closed Dec. 24-25), Village Park, Kannapolis, 700 W. C St. — 6 p.m. daily.

**26 Southern Rowan Christmas Parade**  
Nov. 26: Landis and China Grove — 3 p.m., Landis; 4 p.m., China Grove. Check [chinagrove.gov](http://chinagrove.gov) for more information.

**27 'Tis the Season Spectacular Parade**  
Nov. 27: 2 p.m. Spencer and 3 p.m. Salisbury — The traditional holiday parade for Spencer and Salisbury. The 'Tis the Season Spectacular will present musical acts, floats and more. The community is invited to participate and enjoy the parade by filling the sidewalks and celebrating the beginning of another holiday season in Rowan County. Go to [visit-salisburync.com/holidayparade](http://visit-salisburync.com/holidayparade) for details on viewing and entries.

**28 Butterball 5k**  
Nov. 28: Salisbury — 8:30-11:30 a.m. Thanksgiving Day run. Check [salisburyrowan-runners.org](http://salisburyrowan-runners.org) for more details.

**29 Downtown Salisbury Holiday Night Out**  
Nov. 29: downtown Salisbury — Live music, hot cocoa and visits from Santa Claus and the Grinch. Sponsored by Downtown Salisbury Inc. Go to <https://www.downtownsalisburync.com> for more information.

## DECEMBER

**1 Gingerbread House Workshop**  
Dec. 1: Rowan Museum, 202 N. Main St., Salisbury — 1, 2 and 3 p.m. This family friendly gingerbread house-building event supplies all the materials. Cost is \$45, and ad-



vance registration is required. Call the Rowan Museum at 704-633-5946 or email office@rowanmuseum.org.

**5 Dance selections from 'The Nutcracker'**  
**Dec. 5: Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St.** — 6:30 p.m. RPL and members of the Salisbury Symphony present dance selections from Piedmont Dance Theatre's "The Nutcracker" ballet. Free. Call 704-216-8234 for information.

**5 The Living Christmas Tree**  
**Dec. 5-9: First Baptist Church, Salisbury** — Performances at 7 p.m. Dec. 5-6 and Dec. 9; and 5 and 8 p.m. Dec. 7-8. Involves more than 100 church and community choral members. Tickets are free, but required. There is a suggested donation of one canned food per ticket to benefit Rowan Helping Ministries. Limit of 10 tickets per household.

**6 The Arc Festival of Trees**  
**Dec. 6-8: F&M Trolley Barn, 125 E. Liberty St.** — The 16th Annual Festival of Trees is the signature event of The Arc. It showcases a collection of beautifully decorated Christmas trees and is another wonderful kickoff to the holiday season. Trees in the festival are sponsored by anyone interested in supporting this important agency. Visitors to the Trolley Barn can view the trees from 7-9 p.m. Dec. 6, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Dec. 7 and 1-5 p.m. Dec. 8.

**6 Christmas in the Village**  
**Dec. 6-9: Historic Gold Hill Village, St. Stephens Church Road** — Check out times and dates at [www.goldhillnc.com](http://www.goldhillnc.com).

**7 RoBoJo Holiday Theatre**  
**Dec. 7: Rowan Public Library, 201 W. Fisher St.** — 2 p.m. The RoBoJo Theatre Troupe returns to RPL for the 22nd annual presentation of their holiday theatre for kids. call 704-216-8234 for information.

**7 Town of China Grove Tree Lighting**  
**Dec. 7: Hanna Park, Main Street, China Grove** — 7 p.m. Join the Town for the 4th Annual Lighting of the Town Christmas Tree. The mayor flips the giant light switch during the festivities. Sing Christmas carols with the China Grove Middle School chorus and town staff will be serving hot chocolate.

**7 'Swing into Christmas'**  
**Dec. 7: Salisbury Civic Center** — 7-10 p.m. The Salisbury Swing Band covers classic holiday tunes from the 1920s to today in this fourth annual benefit concert for Rowan Helping Ministries. Under the direction of Dr. Stephen Ethers and featuring award-winning vocalist Laura Millspaugh, the 18-piece ensemble will have your toes tapping to the sounds of Gershwin, Sinatra, Count Basie and more. Admission is \$5 at the door. There will be a canned food drive, too, for raffle prizes.

**12 'Cinderella'**  
**Dec. 12-15 and Dec. 18-21, Meroney Theater, 213 S. Main St.** — 7:30 p.m. Dec. 12-14 and 18-21; 2:30 p.m. Dec. 15. A Piedmont Players production. With a wicked stepmother and two jealous stepsisters who keep her enslaved and in rags, Cinderella stands no chance of attending the royal ball. When her fairy godmother appears and magically transforms her reality into a dream come true, this adaption brings new life into the classic tale. Go to [PiedmontPlayers.com](http://PiedmontPlayers.com) for tickets, or call 704-633-5471.

**13 'The Nutcracker'**  
**Dec. 13-14, Kannapolis Performing Arts Center, 415 E. First St., Kannapolis** — 7 p.m. Dec. 13 and 2 p.m. Dec. 14. A Piedmont Dance Theatre production. For more information, go to [piedmontdancetheatre.com](http://piedmontdancetheatre.com) or call 704-971-2011.

**14 Santa and the Grinch**  
**Dec. 14: downtown Salisbury** — Meet Santa and the Grinch and get to ride in antique firetrucks during this annual event sponsored by Downtown Salisbury Inc. For information on times and place, go to <https://www.downtownsalisburyinc.com>.

**14 Christmas in the Grove**  
**Dec. 14: Main and Swink streets, China Grove** — 5-9 p.m. Join the town of China Grove for a night of Christmas celebration. Sledding on Swink Street! The town is having real snow blown in on the hill beside the Police Department. Bring your family and friends and grab a sled for a fun night of sledding. Plastic sleds only. Hot chocolate, hot dogs and drinks will be available. Warm up by one of the fire pits or roast marshmallows for your s'mores. Santa will be in Hanna Park. Kids also can visit


the petting zoo and get their faces painted. Listen to some caroling on the front porch of the China Grove Roller Mill or go inside for a kid friendly activity. Hop aboard the horse-drawn wagon at the roller mill and take a ride down Main Street.

**14 Kannapolis Christmas Parade**  
**Dec. 14: downtown Kannapolis** — 6 p.m. The annual Christmas parade in Kannapolis.

**14 'It's a Magical Moonglows Christmas'**  
**Dec. 14: Lee Street theatre** — 7:30 p.m. This variety special is a mixture of music, comedy and that special holiday magic that graced our TV screens in Christmas specials of years gone by. Hosted by the vocal group The Moonglows, "It's a Magical Moonglows Christmas" is a show for the whole family that promises you'll experience the joy and warmth of Christmas, right down to the fresh-baked Christmas cookies and hot chocolate that will be served in the lobby during intermission. Tickets, \$25. For information, go to [www.leestreet.org](http://www.leestreet.org) or call 704-310-5507.

**21 'The Nutcracker'**  
**Dec. 21-22: Keppel Auditorium, Catawba College** — 6:30 p.m. Dec. 21 and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 22. Piedmont Dance Theatre's 17th annual production of the Nutcracker with the Salisbury Symphony. Be prepared to be delighted by "visions of sugarplum fairies" and the sounds of the Salisbury Symphony as dance and music unite to bring you this very special holiday treat. Go to [salisbury-symphony.org](http://salisbury-symphony.org) for information or call 704-216-1513.

**23 Nutcrackers at Noon**  
**Dec. 23: East Rowan Branch of Rowan Public Library** — noon-2 p.m. An afternoon of crafting and a movie showing of "The Nutcracker and the Four Realms" from 2018, rated PG (99 minutes). Call 704-216-7842 for information.

**28 Old Christmas at the Michael Braun House**  
**Dec. 28-29, 770 Old Stone House Road** — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 28 and noon-4 p.m. Dec. 29. Experience German traditions of Christmas and take tours of the Old Stone House. Cost, \$5 adults; \$3 students. 



*‘OFF RIVER ROAD’*

By Marshall Stokes

Oil

Artwork for Salisbury's the Place may be submitted to [mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com](mailto:mark.wineka@salisburythemagazine.com)

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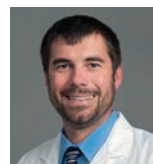
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