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[A Census Message from Mayor Sidney A. Katz](#)

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*Kentlands® – Lakelands – Gaithersburg – all Maryland 208** zip codes*

Maryland 20878® magazine began as [Kentlands Dot Us](#) which focused on Kentlands. We rapidly acquired both readers and contributors from Lakelands and added both the Market Square area as well as Lakelands to our coverage areas. As we have now added Gaithersburg city news, we have expanded.

Kentlands® is now registered in the United States Patent and Trademark Office, owned by the Kentlands Citizens Assembly, Inc.

Kentlands is a neo-traditional, or new urbanist, community. The community design is based on the concept that the most pleasant living environments were nineteenth century villages in which homes were grouped around a town center with shops, community buildings, and schools. New urbanism has developed architectural communities going back to this design.

Lakelands is a similar, and neighboring, community built on

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- [Gaithersburg Announces Winter, Spring Schedule of Indoor Flea](#)

property which was also once owned by Otis Beal Kent. Lakelands has its own distinct character. Both communities are within walking distance of restaurants, grocery stores, and shops.

Kentlands and Lakelands were built on the estate of Otis Beall Kent. His mansion is now the cultural arts center for Gaithersburg, Maryland. The barn, which is now the Arts Barn, houses a rich center for community theater and artists' workspace as well as offices and a pleasant shop selling the works of local artists. The former barn loft is now a 99-seat theater for the performing arts. Kentlands is thought to be the largest and most successful neo-traditional project in North America.

Kentlands Dot Us focuses primarily on Kentlands, while [KentLakes](#)[®] adds Lakelands, and *Maryland 20878*[®] is the over-all publication with city news and information for the area covered by the 20877 and 20878 zip codes. We thank our readers and advertisers for their interest which has led to our expansion.

- [Features Sculpture, Lithography, Paintings at Gaithersburg Arts Barn](#)
- [Gaithersburg Receives Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 8th Consecutive Year](#)
- [Gaithersburg Releases Results of 2009 Citizen Survey](#)
- [Residents Can Now Register for City of Gaithersburg Summer Camps](#)
- [“I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change” A Romantic Musical Comedy at the Arts Barn](#)
- [Gaithersburg Announces Fourth Quarter 2009 Employee, Team Awards](#)
- [Gaithersburg Provides Economic Incentives to Keep GX5 in City](#)
- [Second “Princess Tea” Added to Spring Schedule at Kentlands Mansion](#)
- [Gaithersburg to Host Region-Wide Book Festival](#)
- [Gaithersburg Again Named Best Place in Maryland to Raise Your Kids](#)

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- [City of Gaithersburg Names 2009 Employee, Team of the Year Award Winners](#)

CITY OF GAITHERSBURG ACTIVITIES

- [Mayor and City Council Adopt Resolution Regarding Gaithersburg West Master Plan](#)
- [Upcoming Events and Activities – April 2010](#)
- [Master Gardner to Speak at Gaithersburg Community Museum](#)
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EDITORIALS

A Census Message from Mayor Sidney A. Katz

You should receive a mailing from the United States Census during the week of March 15, 2010. Please keep an eye out for this very important envelope.

It is important that we count every single person living in Gaithersburg. The Census only happens every ten years, and the results are used to establish our representation in Congress and in the Maryland General Assembly.

Federal funding for many essential education, transportation and human services are set by the population counted in the Census. Our community will lose thousands of federal dollars for every resident we fail to count.

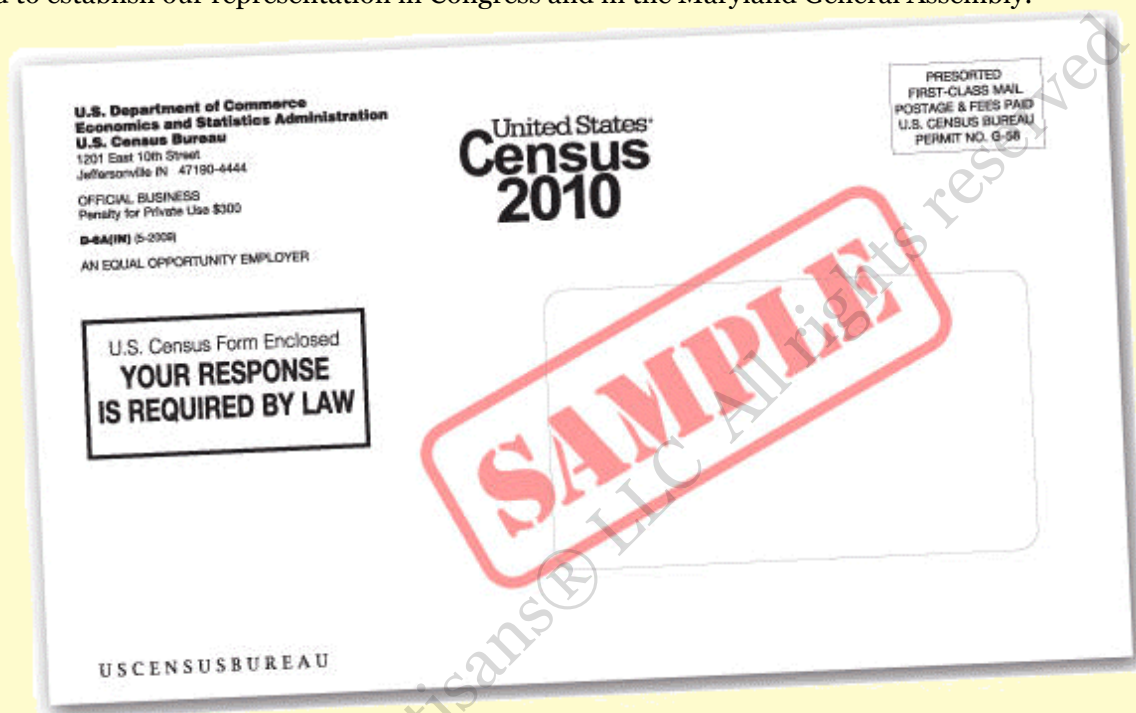
Please remember that the information you provide to the Census cannot, by law, be shared with anyone else, not even another government agency. Your information is safe!

And filling out the form could not be easier. The 2010 Census form is just ten questions and will take you only ten minutes to fill out. That ten minutes will help determine Gaithersburg's future for the next ten years.

When you receive your form in the middle of March, please fill it out, including **every** person living in your residence. Mail the form back in the postage paid envelope by April 1. If you don't, the Census Bureau will have to pay someone to come to your house to collect the information in person.

Please mail your form back so Gaithersburg can move forward!

For more information on Census 2010 use the link from the City of Gaithersburg website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov or visit www.2010.census.gov.



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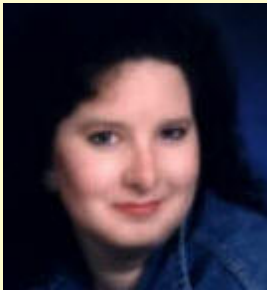
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COLUMNS

Quarterly

Jersey – A Channel to the Past

Quarterly



By *Graceann Macleod*

I recently had a short visit to the beautiful island of Jersey, one of the Channel Islands between England and France. It's actually much closer to France than it is to the UK, and the

advertisements for travelers tout Jersey as being "Europe without the Euro." It's a stunning place, steeped in history and easy to navigate. There is so much to see and do there that I know I'll need to return several times in order to see all that calls to me.

Some Background

The Channel Islands are British Crown dependencies, but they are not part of the United Kingdom in the way that England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales are. The islands have been inhabited in some form or fashion for 250,000 years now. Wars have been fought over who could plant their flag in the pristine sand, and they are the only part of the British Commonwealth to have been occupied by the Nazis during World War II. Reminders of the Occupation still exist all over, and the more senior residents carry memories that make our "problems" seem very minor, indeed. It's very difficult to maintain a sense of outrage over being made to wait at the airport when you are sitting next to someone who came within days of starvation.

The Reason for the Trip

I'm ashamed to say I didn't know anything about the Channel Islands in general, or ... [click to continue](#)

Poachers, Melons, & Crayons

By *Marie O'Donnell*



Kentland was posted, "No Trespassing" and "No Hunting." Once in a while someone would sneak in poaching deer. One evening, not too long before sunset, Uncle Otis called and told my grandfather that he'd heard gun shots in one of the fields. Uncle Otis had purchased an old military weapons carrier, and, this incident was not too long after he got it. My grandfather took a truck started off to see who the intruders were. My grandmother and I went up to the mansion to wait for him. Uncle Otis, not being one to be left behind, and, also not knowing how to drive, talked my grandmother into us all starting off in the weapons carrier to see what was going on. We piled into the vehicle, which was a typical, stripped down military vehicle, and off we went! The seats weren't padded, and, if the darn thing had shock absorbers, you couldn't tell it. This was before the roads were paved, and they would get full of ruts and potholes until my grandfather would use one of the tractors to grade and smooth them out. Unfortunately, our little sojourn happened between scrapings and the road was a mess. To add to that, it's getting dark. So, here we are bouncing down the road, hanging on for dear life to keep from being thrown out of our seats, my grandmother grasping the steering wheel with both hands to keep the thing on the road, and Uncle Otis madly searching the dashboard to try and find the switch for the lights. He found it just about the time we pulled up at the farm truck, where we found my grandfather and Charlie Hughes, who lived at the back gate, and who he had called to help chase the poachers. My grandmother hit the brakes, ... [click to continue](#)

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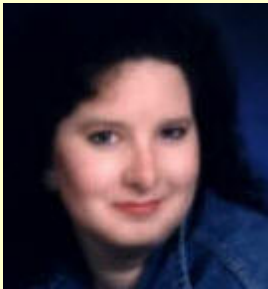
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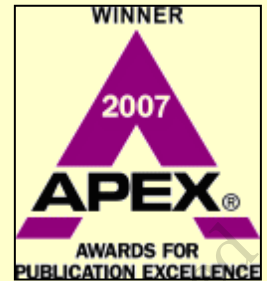
MARYLAND 20878

Graceann Macleod's Past Columns



We are pleased to present columns by Graceann Maciolek Macleod. She is a writer whose greatest loves are her husband David, her cat Spike of dubious intelligence, silent and early sound cinema, and road trips (usually to silent film events or historic sites).

Graceann Macleod is the recipient of the Apex Award of Excellence for her column "Scents Memory" which appeared in [Word Worth in May 2006](#).



Graceann Macleod's past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



- [St. Simons Island – Going Coastal](#) April 2005 [Quarterly]
- [Stepping Into the Past – Gettysburg](#) July 2005 [Quarterly]
- [The New Orleans I Remember](#) October 2005 [Quarterly]
- [St. Simons Island – The First Visit](#) January 2006 [Quarterly]
- [‘Wonderful People Out There in the Dark’](#) April 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Travel Then and Now](#) July 2006 [Quarterly]
- [Mackinac Island–Of Lilacs and Long Ago](#) October 2006 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [HOO-RAY For Hollywood!](#) January 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Two Weeks in London; What a Whirl!](#) April 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Milwaukee – Friendly Folks on a Great Lake](#) July 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Aberdeen, Scotland – The Granite City](#) October 2007 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Amsterdam – Boats and Bikes](#) January 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [The Mississippi – Where the River Runs](#) April 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Jekyll Island – Georgia’s Jewel](#) July, August, September 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Tulip Time at Keukenhof, Holland](#) October, November, December 2008 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [A Rodent-Free Vacation in Florida – it IS Possible](#) January, February, March 2009 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [Land of Lincoln – A Bicentennial Pilgrimage](#) April, May, June 2009 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [The Castles and Estates of Scotland – a Small Sample](#) July, August, September 2009 [Quarterly] in Columns
- [America’s Heartland – Patiently Waiting to be Discovered](#) October, November, December 2009 [Quarterly] in Columns



...continued from the [columns](#) page:

Jersey in particular, before my visit. The reason I found out about them has to do with my love of cinema. Through one of my online groups, I heard about an exhibition of costumes and property belonging to Marilyn Monroe, and I immediately investigated airfares and hotel rates. It turns out that longtime Jersey resident David Gainsborough Roberts has spent the last two decades gathering

what has become the world's largest collection of Monroe memorabilia, and for the first time in one exhibition, they are being displayed at the Jersey Museum. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I wasn't about to miss it. Thanks to my indulgent husband, I didn't have to.

Getting There and Getting Around

Arriving in Jersey is quite stress-free. The airport is small and user-friendly, and public transport is efficient. We first considering hiring a car for our stay, and then realized that doing so was extremely unwise. Parking is at a premium and expensive, and with public transit so close and easy to use, having a vehicle was not only unnecessary, but foolish. Our flight arrived at about lunchtime, and less than an hour later we were settled into our hotel and trying to determine what to do first.

Marilyn

Given how early in the day it was (and how eager I was), we set our sights on the Jersey Museum. I had been looking forward to this exhibition since the moment I'd heard about it, and couldn't wait another moment.

Lillie Langtry was Jersey's most glamorous resident for a long time, and she's laid to rest on that small island. Until December 31, 2009, however, she took a backseat to another icon from another century – Marilyn Monroe. The curators at the Jersey Museum took exquisite care in displaying costumes, personal items, artwork and biographical information devoted to this most womanly of women. I was thrilled to discover that photography was allowed (a rarity), and my shutter finger was given a healthy workout. There was some discussion of the ongoing question "Was Marilyn Fat?", with an insulting comment made by one of today's "stars" repeated, but the information provided was that, while women who look like 12-year old boys are considered attractive now (by someone, don't ask me who), women who actually looked like women were considered attractive in the 1950s. Hence Marilyn's womanly bust and hips. However, no matter what the size tag said on her outfits, her waist was generally a very tiny 22 inches, and



I can tell you from standing there looking at the outfits, they were **teeny**.

A Rainy Day in the Tunnels

We woke on our second day in Jersey to find that it was pouring with rain, and the weather reports indicated that we shouldn't get our hopes up with regard to sunshine. It seemed a perfect backdrop for our visit to the Jersey Tunnels.

As I mentioned previously, Jersey was occupied by the Germans during World War II. They arrived in July 1940 and the residents of the Channel Islands were not liberated until May 9, 1945. At first, their presence was comparatively benign and things didn't change very much. However, as the months and then years passed, things got much worse. Owning a radio (or "wireless") set was illegal, and the punishment was draconian. You didn't know whom to trust, and freedom, such as it was, rested on the whims of the occupying forces. A few managed to escape, but most who made the attempt drowned or were captured. Supply lines were cut off and while it was to the Allies' advantage that the Germans not receive any provisions, this meant the residents of the Island starved as well. By 1944, food was so scarce that people were boiling seaweed from the beaches and prying molluscs up off the rocks. Finally, after extended negotiations, the International Red Cross was allowed to send the SS Vega

with packages of life-saving food, fuel and medications. It arrived on December 30, 1944, and residents who were there to see the boat come into view still glow with the memory.

During the Occupation, workers with the “Organisation Todt” formed a civilian workforce consisting of slave labour, and some volunteers. Most of the work in building the tunnels that became the German Underground Hospital (now known as the Jersey War Tunnels) was done by the Todt, and many died. The Tunnels were started shortly after the Germans arrived and were originally intended to link with other military sites, but became a hospital because the Germans thought it likely that the British would attack the Island.

The brilliance of the Jersey War Tunnels experience is contained in the exhibit “Captive Island,” which takes you through the Occupation, starting with the arrival of the Nazis in 1940 and ending with the memories of those who lived through the War years in Jersey. Given the enormity of the complex, this is an excellent way to inform, educate and maintain interest, while moving guests through the Tunnels in an efficient and understandable way. When you arrive, you are given an Occupation identity card relating to a real-life individual featured in the exhibition, and you are asked throughout to consider what you would have done in various situations. Nothing is black and white here. For instance, if an occupying officer asks you to do his laundry in exchange for getting you extra rations, do you risk the enmity of your neighbours in order to help your family survive? Would you risk the harsh punishments imposed in order to have a crystal wireless set?

At the end of the exhibit, in the cafe where we sat and reflected on what we’d seen, the walls were covered with photos of Jersey residents who were affected by the Occupation, along with text telling us what happened to them. It made for sobering, engrossing reading.

A Walk on the Wild Side

The next day dawned bright and beautiful, and we felt the need to surround ourselves with some natural beauty. We ventured to the nearest transit stop and started out on a long, lovely ride out to the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust, celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year.

When we first arrived, we thought the venue seemed rather small. First impressions are incredibly deceiving, however. We spent a very full day there and I’m still not sure we saw everything. We planned our day around the informative talks given by the staff. Their utmost concern is the preservation and care of the animals entrusted to them, and the home provided for these rare creatures is a splendid one. Naturally, I gravitated to the meerkats, as I always seem to do, but I was also fascinated by the silverback gorillas. We were warned that the male sometimes got naughty and would fling “doo” at visitors, and that he had extremely good aim, but he was very well behaved on the day of our visit. He was actually very relaxed and happy to be admired.

As an amateur photographer, I found myriad opportunities at Durrell to practice my craft. Zooming, framing action shots, catching animals in natural moments; all these chances to hone my skills were on offer in this gorgeous setting.

Only due to the ticking clock were we compelled to leave



Durrell. We opted for the longer, but more scenic journey back to the hotel through all the winding back roads of the Island. As we looked out the windows while the driver expertly navigated the impossibly narrow roads, we expressed gratitude once again that we decided against hiring a car.

Reluctantly, a Departure

All too soon, it was time to leave Jersey. We had time for breakfast and one last ride on the Trolley, which offers a narrated tour describing the history of the island, and attended a craft fair where we bought some items made right there in Jersey. After enjoying a break at a harborside cafe, we unenthusiastically gathered our belongings and made our way to the airport for our return home.

So Much Left to Do

There are so many other sites that require our attention on future visits. There are castles, forts, villages and shops, all patiently awaiting our return. I'm already looking into it.

Suggested Reading:

- Jersey <http://www.jersey.com/English/Pages/default.aspx>
- The Marilyn Monroe Exhibition <http://www.jersey.com/english/discoverjersey/marilynmonroe/pages/default.aspx>
- Jersey War Tunnels <http://www.jerseywartunnels.com/>
- Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust <http://www.durrell.org/>

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Marie O'Donnell—The First Kentlands' Child

Marie O'Donnell was the first child to play in Kentlands after Otis Beal Kent gave the land that name. In the picture on the left, the Arts Barn is visible, and the child stands in front of the house which is now white with black trim and stands at the entrance to the Old Farm district of Kentlands. The house was doubled in the early nineties before it became one of the early properties of what we now know as the present community. Kentlands was then a part of Rockville and was not annexed into Gaithersburg until the plans for the current community were under way. Marie rode the school bus to school in Rockville.



Ms O'Donnell called Kent "Uncle Otis," and he referred to her as his "granddaughter." She moved to Kentlands at approximately the age of two and has fond memories of sitting on Kent's lap while he played *Beautiful Dreamer* for her.

Marie O'Donnell now lives in West Virginia.

- [Life as the First Kentlands' Child](#) March, April, & May 2008 in Columns
- [Building the Kentlands Lakes](#) June, July, & August 2008 in Columns
- [Mud and Swimming](#) September, October, & November 2008 in Columns
- [Ruby and Emerald Rings](#) December, January, & February 2009 in Columns
- [Kentland Blue](#) March, April, & May 2009 in Columns
- [Uncle Otis and Taxes](#) June, July, & August 2009 in Columns
- [Violet Ice Cream](#) September, October, November 2009 in Columns



Continued from [Columns](#)

and the engine on the weapons carrier died with a sickening moan. The men were laughing so hard they were almost falling over. It seems he and Charlie had seen the poachers and were getting ready to get their license number to turn over to the police, when the sound of our approach startled them and they drove off in a big hurry. Guess they thought the Army was on its way!

One of the other things I always looked forward to was Fourth of July. About three or four days ahead of time my grandfather would buy a big watermelon and take it down to the springhouse that was located on one of the terraces of Inspiration Lake. I'd tag along. He'd put the melon into the cold water running from the spring and leave it to chill for a few days. Then, on Fourth of July my grandmother would start early in the morning frying chicken and making potato salad and other side dishes for our picnic. We'd pack everything up and take it up to the mansion where we would "picnic" in the dining room. (I guess that's why, even today, my idea of "roughing it" is a 40-foot motor home with a microwave and satellite TV.) After we had all eaten our fill, my grandfather would go down to the springhouse and get the watermelon. I don't know if you've ever had a watermelon chilled in cold spring water, but, it is so cold all the way through, but, it's colder that you can get it in a refrigerator. The watermelon was sweet and juicy, and wonderful.

It's funny how strong the bond between our senses and our memories is. There is one memory that still comes back to me over 50 years after it happened. It was my first day of school, and, among the other school supplies, my grandmother had gotten me a new box of crayons. Since I considered myself an artist, I was always drawing, but only had some old pencils and colored pens at that time. I begged to open the crayons before school started, but, she was adamant. The crayons would not be opened until I got to school. They were the big crayons, made to be easier for little hands to hold. But, they weren't the ones that were flat on one side, like the ones at school. These were "real" crayons...Crayola crayons...in the dark yellow and green box. Finally, the big day arrived and off I went. I can still close my eyes and see the classroom. For a child who had spent her life surrounded by adults and with little contact with other children, school was paradise. I couldn't believe I was really there. I remember looking around the room...at the desks and the other children; at the lights in the ceiling; at the green "blackboard"; at the teacher standing at the front of the classroom. Then, it was time to draw a picture of what we did during the summer. It was time to open my new crayons! To this day, when I smell a box of new crayons, I can close my eyes and see that classroom just as clearly as if I was sitting there. That is something that I don't think will ever leave me.

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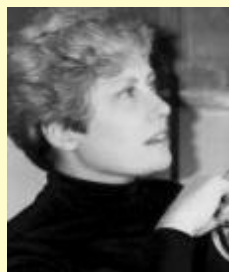
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COMMENTARY

Quarterly

Growing Up In Gaithersburg

Snow



Snow was a very special thing when I was growing up in Gaithersburg. I remember one day when schools were closed because it was snowy early in the

morning, but we were playing basketball in the driveway by noon with not a flake of snow in sight. Snow at Christmas time was the exception, not the rule. I really like that kind of weather: Winter just enough to make you love Spring all the more.

Since then, however, snow has been a much bigger part of my life. I made the dubious decision to attend college in Wisconsin, graduate school in Iowa, and have actually lived the majority of my life in the



snow-notorious Buffalo area. I lived through the *Blizzard of '77* during which houses were covered with snow and there was a driving ban in the city for days. I've walked by dog beside snow piled so high by the curb that when he climbed on top, his feet were at the level of my shoulder.



By Marien Helz

Aurora Artisans® 2009 High School Photography Contest

Sponsored by Maryland 20878® with additional sponsorship provided by Main Street Café



- Dr. Armin W. Helz 1st Place Award: Vanessa Berruetta, [A Glimpse of Fall](#). Judges comments—Good composition and use of light. Nice mood and atmosphere Nicely printed.
- 2nd Place Award: Lanyi Zhao, [Yesterday](#). Judges comments—Good use of depth of field; makes subject pop.
- Honorable Mention: Sabrina Szymczak, [Midnight Orchids](#). Judges comments—Nice use of depth of field and light to enhance the subject.
- Honorable Mention: Miranda Johnson, [Doggy Days](#). Judges comments—Creative angle, wonderful to get down to the subject's level and wait for an expression that reveals so much personality.
- Honorable Mention: Jessica Konecke, [The Benchwarmers](#). Judges comments—Nice job layering; captures depth with different layers of action. Nice composition with four players.
- Honorable Mention: Sharon Kim, [Heart Shadow](#). Judges comments—Nice interplay. Use of shadow is creative and adds interest.
- Honorable Mention: Katerina Prodromon, [Piano Lessons](#). Judges comments—Nice detail shot. Interesting composition, adds interest to shoot at an angle; eye travels nicely through photo.

When I went to graduate school in Iowa, the biggest problem was cold rather than snow. It took me decades to learn and internalize what dressing for winter was. I had a comparatively thin coat which my mother had gotten me for the winter—but that was far superior to anything else I had. The first year, I was staying in the dorm—back in the time when women’s dorms were locked at night, but graduate students could stay out until 2 am. I studied in the library where it was quieter than the dorm. One night I left just in time to get back to the dorm before it was locked. Everything ... [click to continue](#)

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Judges Rachael Spiegel and Stan Alster

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Marien Helz's Past Columns

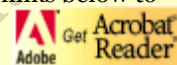


Marien Helz is originally from Gaithersburg and began writing the *Growing Up in Gaithersburg* column for an HOA paper in 2003.

She holds a Master's degree in English and American literature from the University of Iowa, a Master of Fine Arts degree from the world renowned Iowa Writers' Workshop [the only organization to receive the National Humanities Medal, presented by the U.S. government in 2003], a Master's degree from the University of Buffalo Reading Specialist Program, and a PhD in English Research from the University of Buffalo.

She splits her time between Kentlands and a classic village in the Buffalo-Niagara region of Western New York state where she is a college professor—a profession she began at the age of twenty-two.

Marien Helz's most recent past columns are available here in Adobe files. Click on the underlined links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



1. [Happening](#) September 2005
2. [Wedding](#) October 2005
3. [Figurine](#) November 2005
4. [Gifts and Giving](#) December 2005

5. [Names](#) January 2006
6. [Moving to Gaithersburg](#) February 2006
7. [Children and Safety](#) March 2006
8. [Grave Danger—for Jonathan](#) April 2006
9. [Sugarloaf Mountain](#) May 2006
10. [Gardening](#) June 2006
11. [Mothers](#) July 2006
12. [Fathers](#) August 2006
13. [Real Class—True Grace](#) September 2006
14. [Harvest and Halloween](#) October 2006
15. [Trouble](#) November 2006
16. [Santa Claus](#) December 2006 in Commentary



Winner of the 2007 Grand Award for Writing

The Apex judges say this about Helz's work: "Marvelously told stories of growing up—poignant, and written with passion and clarity. Vignettes are filled with beautifully detailed word pictures. A storyteller's tour de force."

17. [Treasures](#) January 2007 in Commentary
18. [Paperboy](#) February 2007 in Commentary
19. [The Final Snow and The Follies](#) March 2007 in Commentary

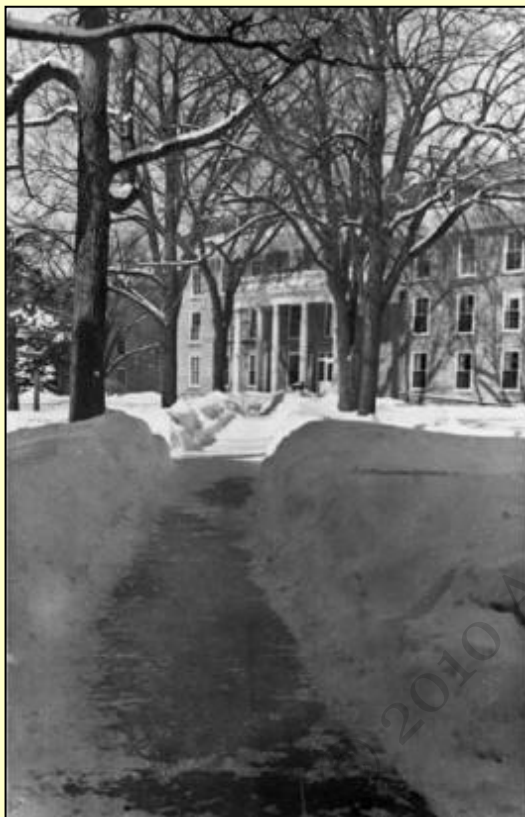
20. [Renewal](#) April 2007 in Commentary
21. [Scouting](#) May 2007 in Commentary
22. [Trains](#) June 2007 in Commentary
23. [Woods](#) July 2007 in Commentary
24. [Dogs and *I'm-so-Fine-the-Law-Doesn't-Apply-to-Me* People](#) August 2007 in Commentary
25. [Magic Soil](#) September 2007 in Commentary
26. [Mean Teachers](#) October 2007 in Commentary
27. [Sound](#) November and December 2007 in Commentary
28. [Childhood Friends](#) January 2008 in Commentary
29. [Nosy Neighbors](#) February 2008 in Commentary
30. [Science Fair](#) March, April, & May 2008 in Commentary
31. [Wisconsin in August](#) June & July 2008 in Commentary
32. [Weeds: Annoying to Disastrous](#) August, September, & October 2008 in Commentary
33. [Charlie](#) November, December, January 2009 in Commentary
34. [Memories from My Mother](#) February, March, April 2009 in Commentary
35. [Movie Houses](#) May, June, July 2009 in Commentary
36. [Labor Day Parade](#) August, September, October 2009 in Commentary
37. [Moving Back](#) November, December, January 2009-10 in Commentary



...continued from the [Commentary](#) page:

had been coated with a thick sheet of ice. Cars could not move without spinning. I walked very, very gingerly back and got all the half mile back without falling, and then slipped as I just reached the dorm. I grabbed the railing, but it was coated with ice, and I slid all the way down.

The second year at Iowa, I lived in a room more than a mile off campus. There were no cooking facilities, and I had no car. If I wanted one meal a day, I had to walk more than a mile to a diner and then more than a mile



back once a day. The temperature was twenty below zero for several weeks. They didn't measure wind-chill then, but there was a strong wind. It was not too bad on a weekday because I could warm up in a classroom before making the long trip back. One weekend day when I was going to get my one daily meal, I got so cold that I could barely breathe and scarcely move. In spite of my Goldilocks story lesson about not going into places you don't belong, I ducked into a private building and waited in the hall until I was warm enough to make the rest of the trip.

While I was in college in the dead center of Wisconsin, it usually snowed from November to April. One Spring evening, I had gone to a literary event, and was dressed the way one was expected to at the time: heels and skirts, no blue jeans or slacks of any kind. The snow was cut neatly right at the edge of the sidewalks making a four foot wall on either side. It had been above freezing during the day, but cooled at night so that the snow, which had melted in the day, formed a river of ice all down the sidewalk at night. The shoveling had been done well enough that there was no side of the walk where one might have gotten some traction. Warily, I looked at the incline up to the dorm and proceeded very carefully. But I slipped. I landed on my knees, and then to my horror, I slid down the hill. I hadn't even made any progress after all the effort! After several repeats of that, some girls who were standing at the dorm entrance and were

wearing sneakers, came down and each took one of my arms and got me all the way up the hill.

It is, of course, a cosmic irony that after living in Buffalo, New York, for decades I was in Kentlands for what was labeled as the worst snow in a hundred years on January 7, 1996. I am grateful to have missed the storms of the '09-'10 season, although January 7 and 8, 1996, still holds the record for most snowfall in a one and two day



period for this area.

We were once thinking about a vacations place and looked at Deep Creek Lake. The realtor bragged that they usually got 200 inches of snow a year.

“Some winters we get 400 inches,” a builder trying to sell his properties with her crowed.



Now, Buffalo gets more snow that most places in the lower 48, and the worst winter on record was 199.5 inches of the '76-'77 winter. I checked the facts on-line, and the Deep Creek area doesn't get a quarter of the what the builder claimed. None-the-less, we were amused at how wrong the realtor read us despite all the information we gave her. We were interested in escaping snow, not chasing it.

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VIEWPOINTS

Monthly

Transmission of Personality Traits

by *Louis P. Solomon*

I am stumped. I don't have an answer to this problem, and I solicit my readers to answer some of my questions.

I am a physical scientist by training and inclination. I know very little about the biological sciences: those sciences which involve life of all kinds. It is clear to me from my casual acquaintance with the science of biology that physical traits are transmitted through our DNA. It is possible, and has been shown in practice, that if we have a complete DNA molecule from a living thing (a sheep comes to mind) it is actually possible to create a perfect clone. The two sheep will be identical in all their physical characteristics. This same type reproduction also occurs with maternal twins; they are identical in every physical aspect. They actually have the same DNA. Modern science has provided us with wonderful insights into how living things reproduce. But, I found myself musing about how non-physical traits are passed along from one generation to the next. I don't have an answer.



During our interactions with others we make some observations. Many of these observations are about physical characteristics. We meet someone who is tall and thin, and wonder about that. Then we meet their children and find that they all are tall and thin. That is clearly genetics. The noun geneticism is defined to be the belief that all human characteristics are determined genetically. Studies in genetics and biology provide answers how such traits are transmitted from one generation to another. DNA, genes, etc., all provide explanations. While I am not conversant with the biological science, I do have a sense of how ... [click to continue](#)



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Louis Solomon's Past Columns

We are pleased to present viewpoint columns by Louis P. Solomon.

Most of Louis Solomon's career was spent in the military-industrial community working on anti-submarine systems. He has also taught at the university level and founded the firm, Planning Systems. His current interests include co-authoring books of fiction and non-fiction. Solomon holds an MS degree in Aero/Astro from MIT and a BA and PhD in Engineering from UCLA.

Solomon is an avid amateur small boat sailor and cruises his sailboat, *Dream Maker*, on the Chesapeake Bay and up and down the East Coast. He lives in the Kentlands with his wife, Leslie Marks.



Selected past columns [underlined> by Louis Solomon are available here in Adobe files. Click on the links below to access the Adobe files. If you do not have Adobe on your computer, you can download a free copy here:



1. [The Birth of a Column](#) June 2005
2. [Concepts of Responsibility and Courtesy](#) July 2005
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4. [The Rise and Fall of Organizations](#) September 2005
5. [The Real Issue in Dealing with Katrina](#) October 2005
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13. [Alternative Power Sources](#) with Dick Van Orden June 2006
14. [The Energy Problem](#) with Dick Van Orden July 2006
15. [Nuclear Power \(Fission\)](#) with Dick Van Orden August 2006
16. [Hydrogen and its Uses](#) with Dick Van Orden September 2006
17. [Fuel Cells](#) with Dick Van Orden October 2006
18. [The Ultimate Automobile](#) with Dick Van Orden November 2006
19. [Nuclear Power \(Fusion\)](#) with Dick Van Orden December 2006 in Viewpoints
20. [Global Warming: True or False?](#) with Dick Van Orden January 2007 in Viewpoints
21. [A Potential Partial Solution to our Oil ...](#) with Dick Van Orden February 2007 in Viewpoints
22. [Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders \(ADRD\)](#) with Dick Van Orden March 2007 in Viewpoints
23. [To the Hilt](#) April 2007 in Viewpoints
24. [A Bittersweet Trip](#) May 2007 in Viewpoints
25. [Musings on Old Age](#) June 2007 in Viewpoints
26. [The Language Corps and the National Security Education Program](#) July 2007 in Viewpoints
27. [The Language Corps—Reprise](#) August 2007 in Viewpoints
28. [The Michael Vick Incident](#) September 2007 in Viewpoints
29. [Mighty Oaks from Little Acorns Grow](#) October 2007 in Viewpoints
30. [I Don't Get It](#) November 2007 in Viewpoints
31. [What Shall we Do?](#) February 2008 in Viewpoints

32. [Some Ideas on What To Do](#) March 2008 in Viewpoints
33. [Random Thoughts](#) April 2008 in Viewpoints
34. [What Is Going On?](#) May 2008 in Viewpoints
35. [Our Veterans](#) June 2008 in Viewpoints
36. [Liberals and Conservatives: Who is Who?](#) July 2008 in Viewpoints
37. [Fear for the United States of America](#) August 2008 in Viewpoints
38. [Priorities and Decision Making: Energy in the U.S.](#) September 2008 in Viewpoints
39. [Some Comments on a National Energy Policy](#) October 2008 in Viewpoints
40. [More thoughts on Energy Issues](#) November 2008 in Viewpoints
41. [Some Observations about Politics](#) December 2008 in Viewpoints
42. [My Naïve Elation](#) January 2009 in Viewpoints
43. [Live the Dream: Write Your Book!](#) February 2009 in Viewpoints
44. [The Future of Humanity](#) March 2009 in Viewpoints
45. [Greed and Its Solution](#) April 2009 in Viewpoints
46. [Finally, the Light Dawns](#) May 2009 in Viewpoints
47. [A Glimmer of Hope](#) June 2009 in Viewpoints
48. [May You Live in Interesting Times](#) July 2009 in Viewpoints
49. [Time for Speaking Up](#) August 2009 in Viewpoints
50. [Technology for Seniors](#) September 2009 in Viewpoints
51. [In Praise of Expertise](#) October 2009 in Viewpoints
52. [Comprehensive Health Care Reform](#) November 2009 in Viewpoints
53. [The War in Afghanistan](#) December 2009 in Viewpoints
54. [Rational Behavior](#) January 2010 in Viewpoints
55. [Anger with Criticism](#) February 2010 in Viewpoints



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the physics works. So far, so good. But, what about the nonphysical characteristics? Are there such things? Of course, but they need to be defined.

Consider the concept of honesty. In my travels through life, and throughout most of the earth, I have met many people. I have watched how they deal with their fellow human beings. Some people are as straight as a die. They don't tell a lie. They make a concerted attempt to always tell the truth: plain and unvarnished. They don't even use shading in what they say, and they take pains to make sure that the listener is not misled. It is true that some people will never get it right, and refuse to listen. But the tellers really try hard to make sure they tell the clear, precise truth. But there are others who lie as a matter of course. They not only lie when they wish to mislead; they also lie as a matter of course, even about things that don't matter to them or to their listener. Why do my two examples have such a different view of life? Are their views inherited, or are they learned? How?

You say that the people I describe are different because they come from different families, and lived and grew up in different environments. Maybe. But, what about families that you know where the children, come from the same genetic stock, and grow up in the same general environment, yet have different views and methods on how to deal with their fellows? And further, how about the differences you see between maternal identical twins?

Now the discussion becomes a little less precise. If you assume that all the characteristics, physical and nonphysical, are transmitted by genes, or some other physical mechanism, then why are siblings, in particular maternal twins different in their behavior? Well, you say, such things as nonphysical characteristics are not transmitted but each child is born with a (metaphorically) a clean slate. Their environment provides them examples on how to behave, and these lessons are absorbed. But, for those siblings who have similar, virtually identical environments, they grow up sometimes with almost identical personality traits, and sometimes with different personality behavior traits? Why?

Is it possible that tiny experiences which are unique for each person, even in ostensibly identical environments, have life-long consequences. My observations suggest to me that such tiny unique experiences have minimal effects. In order to have an effect on a person, experiences need to be major, even shattering. Am I wrong?

What about large environments? What about the effects of the culture of a country? Would people who develop their persona in one culture have a different persona if they grew up in another country? There are anecdotal stories how identical twins, separated at birth for a multiplicity of reasons, grow up with similar persona independent of the country in which they grow up. Is such anecdotal data true? People who are prototypes of perfect behavior in one country are outcasts in another country. Does this happen? How does this happen?

This brings me back to the crux of the question. How are human characteristics: honor, duty, dealing with your fellow human beings, among others, transmitted from one generation to another, or for that matter, how are they developed in a human being? I simply don't know, and what is worse, I don't even have an idea on how it occurs.

So, I request information from people who know, or think they know the answer. Tell me. Enlighten me. I await your answers with eagerness.

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NEWS

Police Arrest Man for Thefts from Autos

On February 17, 2010, the Gaithersburg Police Investigative Section arrested 25-year-old Nelson Clemente Sanchez of the 400 block of Girard Street in Gaithersburg. Sanchez was charged with thirteen separate counts related to six separate



American Family Theater Brings "Little Mermaid" to Gaithersburg

The City of Gaithersburg and American Family Theater present the *Little Mermaid*, live on stage at Gaithersburg High School, 314 South Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, MD. Two performances will be held on Sunday, March 14, one at 2:30 p.m. and one at 4:30 p.m.

Mera, the Little Mermaid, falls in love with a charming prince when she visits dry land for the first time on her sixteenth birthday. She must return to the sea, but her love for the prince drives her to seek out the powers of the Sea Witch, who can give her the ability to walk and breathe as a human, but only if she wins the love of the prince. Mera must find the prince and win his heart before he marries Lady Angelique.

Tickets to this enchanting show are **FREE** but must be picked up in advance. Resident tickets are available starting on Monday, **March 1**. Nonresident tickets will be

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incidents of thefts from autos.

On February 8, 2010, an unknown Hispanic male was observed breaking into numerous vehicles in the 100 block of Olde Towne Avenue. During the course of the investigation Sanchez was developed as a suspect.

An arrest warrant was obtained for Sanchez, who is currently being held at the Montgomery County Detention Center on unrelated charges. Sanchez was served on February 23, 2010. He is being held on a \$7,500.00 bond.



available on Monday, **March 8**. Visit the Activity Center at Bohrer Park Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., or **send a self addressed stamped envelope to:** Little Mermaid, Activity Center at Bohrer Park, 506 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg, MD 20877.

Those attending are asked to bring a donation of non-perishable food items, which will be distributed to local food banks and those less fortunate. Last year, 20 overflowing tubs of food were collected at this program, with hopes of even more this year.

The American Family Theater (AFT) is the nation's leading theater for family audiences, and is celebrating a distinguished 37-year tradition. Its preservation in quality entertainment both enriches and educates.

For more information please call the City of Gaithersburg at 301-258-6350



mail.

[Get your very own!](#)

Gaithersburg Announces Winter, Spring Schedule of Indoor Flea Markets

Turn your attic treasures in to cash, or find some great bargains at the City of Gaithersburg indoor flea markets this winter and spring at the Montgomery County Agricultural Center, Building #2, 16 Chestnut Street. The Saturday dates are February 20, March 20, and April 17, 2010, all from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Admission to the Flea Markets is free.

Vendors are sought to sell gently used and new items. Registration for residents selling used items is \$17 per space. The cost for nonresidents is \$22. Residents selling new items may register for \$22 per space. The cost for nonresidents is \$27.

Application forms are available online at www.gaithersburgmd.gov through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. For more information please call 301-258-6350.

City of Gaithersburg Names 2009 Employee, Team of the Year Award Winners

At the City of Gaithersburg's annual employee recognition breakfast on January 21, 2010, Mayor Sidney Katz, Council Members Jud Ashman, Henry Marraffa, Mike Sesma, and Ryan Spiegel, and City Manager Angel Jones presented the 2009 City of Gaithersburg Carl Webb Employee of the Year Award to Alex Wright and the Team of the Year Award to the Olde Towne Youth Center Technology Team. They were selected from a pool of quarterly winners reviewed by the City's Employee Recognition Committee, made up of peers from each department.

The 2009 Carl Webb Employee of the Year award, named for a former Public Works employee

who exemplified the ideals of hard work, integrity, honesty, and enthusiasm, was presented to Alex Wright, a Maintenance Worker II with the Parks Maintenance Division of the Department of Public Works. Alex was nominated for his exceptional performance maintaining the City of Gaithersburg's athletic fields as part of the Athletic Field Maintenance team. This team is responsible for preparing the fields used for sports programs, which involves checking the fields daily for safety hazards and performing maintenance tasks to keep the athletic fields up to the highest standards. Wright was recognized for not only performing all of the assigned tasks, but for showing initiative in looking for other tasks to pursue. His positive attitude, his willingness to do what was asked of him and his drive to find fast and efficient ways to accomplish assigned tasks also factored into the award.

The Olde Towne Youth Center Technology Team, made up of Andrew Barnes, Pete Cottrell, Guy Goodenough, Brian Helms, Kevin Helms, Evan Janis, Dustin Roman and Roderick Smith, was nominated for its exceptional performance in providing the Olde Towne Youth Center with superior technology services during the construction and start up phase of the facility. The new Center has complex technology components, including music stations, a music studio, student computers, staff computers, a paging system, an integrated solar display, and facility monitors. The team went to tremendous lengths to ensure that all equipment was operating and fully functional for the facility grand opening and their continued support and dedication has helped ensure optimum customer and community service at the Olde Towne Youth Center facility.

For more information on the awards program and the individuals recognized, please contact the Gaithersburg City Manager's Office at 301-258-6310.

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