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UP front

On Saturdays, particularly this time of year, the square that I describe as "mine" bustles. Visitors linger. Locals detour a few blocks out of their straight-line ways to pass under its majestic oaks and by a proud, unwavering James Oglethorpe. Outdoor seats at the corner coffee shop and the nearby ersatz English pub don't remain empty for more than a few minutes after they come free.

Musicians busk, their guitar or banjo or violin cases open to donations. Artists paint, with intentions to send tourists home with impulse purchases inspired by vacation-bliss that, unfortunately, is harder to preserve than it is to hang a picture on a wall.

Last Saturday, one of the "regular" painters was sporting a new, royal blue smock-vest. Big blaze orange letters dominated the garment's back. "NO BENCH QUESTIONS," it demanded. Which bench, you wonder? Forrest Gump's. It was in my square – Chippewa – that Forrest sat, waiting for a bus, and narrated his life story, making the surrounding acre (ish) famous.

Some of the Chippewa painters are...eccentric...either moderately annoying or charming, depending on my mood. The vest guy? He's different. He's not a colorful character. He's a man on a merchant mission. I've never seen him smile.

His new vest suddenly amplified my distaste for him, to something that felt like hate. I thought, "Does he not recognize the hypocritical irony of his new catchphrase?!" It's BECAUSE of the bench-that-shall-not-be-discussed that he erects his easel a pitching wedge from my front door. Thanks to the bench, he has a self-replenishing and undrainable pool of potential marks to whom he can peddle his unremarkable landscapes. Unlike the aforementioned coffee shop owner and pub proprietors, not to mention my neighbors and me, he pays no rent, mortgage, property taxes or utilities, for his prime location. He just parks his minivan nearby, seamlessly sets up shop, and pockets unreported cash. But don't disturb him with your troublesome Tom Hanks inquiries, he's busy brushing an egret into a 12-by-16 marsh.

I thought of these things, with the vitriolic tone you infer, and then I felt ashamed. "Sure, he's a hypocrite," I began my internal monologue with self-indulgent qualification, "but so are you ('you,' in this case, meaning me)." Like the vested painter, I don't have claim to the park or its surroundings, yet I benefit from it in many ways. I'm in the middle of everything. My world is within walking distance. The same things that attract the tourists and the painters and the moviemakers make me happy every day. I didn't create the square nor do I maintain its lush and varied flora...others do that work for me. Granted, some days, unprompted, I ask map-readers where they're headed; but there are many times when I offer them little more than a dirty look.

So, the smock-man is a hypocrite (and a bit of a creative hack), but so am I. So are we all, actually. That's the theory that began to coalesce in my head.

Typically, when being superfluously cerebral, I examine my words. Etymology. What did the ancients choose to call a thing, how did the thing's name evolve, and how does that choice and evolution impact our ability to communicate today?

The word-history of HYPOCRITE, per Merriam-Webster: "...came into English from the Greek, hypokrites, which means "an actor" or "a stage player;" the Greek word itself a compound noun that literally translate as "an interpreter from underneath." Actors in ancient Greek theater wore large masks to mark which character they were playing and interpreted the story from underneath their masks. The Greek word came to refer to any person who was wearing a figurative mask and pretending to be someone or something they were not. This sense was taken into medieval French and then into English. In 13th Century religious texts, it refers to someone who pretends to be morally good or pious in order to deceive others. In the 1700s, it morphed into the usage familiar to us today: "a person who acts in contradiction to his or her stated feelings or beliefs."

So, a hypocrite is a liar, of sorts, holding the rest of the world to more rigorous standards than he holds himself. Sadly, pointing out hypocrisy has become the currency of modern debate. Consider opinion commentators...so much of the "substance" of their arguments can be reduced to highlighting their opponents' hypocrisy. Same for politicians and policy-makers. Same for academics. Same for you and me. Why? Because it's easy. It's intellectually lazy. Research and suasion...these can be tiresome and hard. Logic and the vision to project a decision's long-term impact...these are barriers-to-entry to the realm of true intelligence, hurdles that a keyboard or a megaphone or a cable show or support of a sympathetic and/or manipulative super-PAC enable opinionistas to run around. Explaining why someone else is an idiot is a lot easier than convincing someone that you yourself are smart.

When might we approach the best version of our society? When we return to advocacy-based dialogue, where we argue *in-favor* of ideas, rather than focus on our opponents' positions' imperfections, which likely exist in similar numbers to our own.

Back to the original BENCH QUESTIONS...there's irony in their answers, too. The truth: The Forrest bench isn't in Chippewa Square anymore. It hasn't been there for almost 30 years. And then, it was nothing more than a movie prop. Manufactured for a particular purpose, like so much outrage is today.

And, paraphrasing Forrest quoting his Mama: This column is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you're gonna get.

Scott A. Lauriat

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Congratulations, CLASS OF 2021!

The annual rite of spring that has become The Skinny Graduation Issue is fast approaching.



Send us those high school senior photos and a sentence or two about your plans for the future, where you plan to attend college, what high school you are graduating from, and we will be happy to include them as part of our salute to the Class of 2021.

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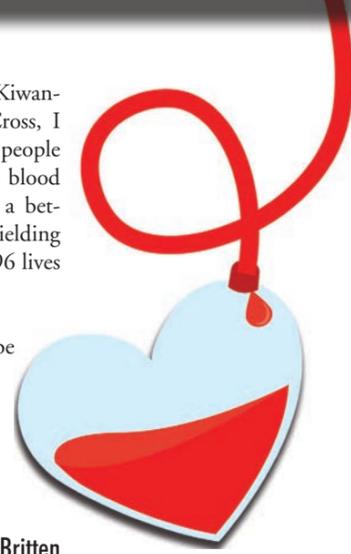
VEIN GLORIOUS

On behalf of Skidaway Kiwanis and the American Red Cross, I would like to thank all the people who came out to our recent blood drive and donated. We had a better-than-expected turnout, yielding 32 pints, which helped save 96 lives in the Savannah area.

Our next blood drive will be Monday, August 9, from 2 to 6 p.m. Again, we thank everyone, as well as Skidaway Island United Methodist Church, for its support.

Chris Britten

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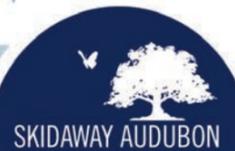
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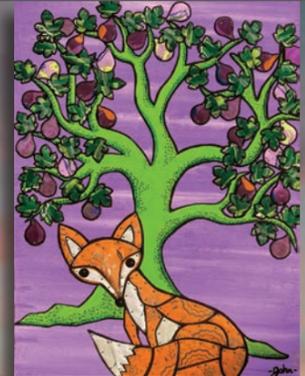
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on the cover
The work of John Newton will be on exhibit beginning May 2. See page 26 for more information.

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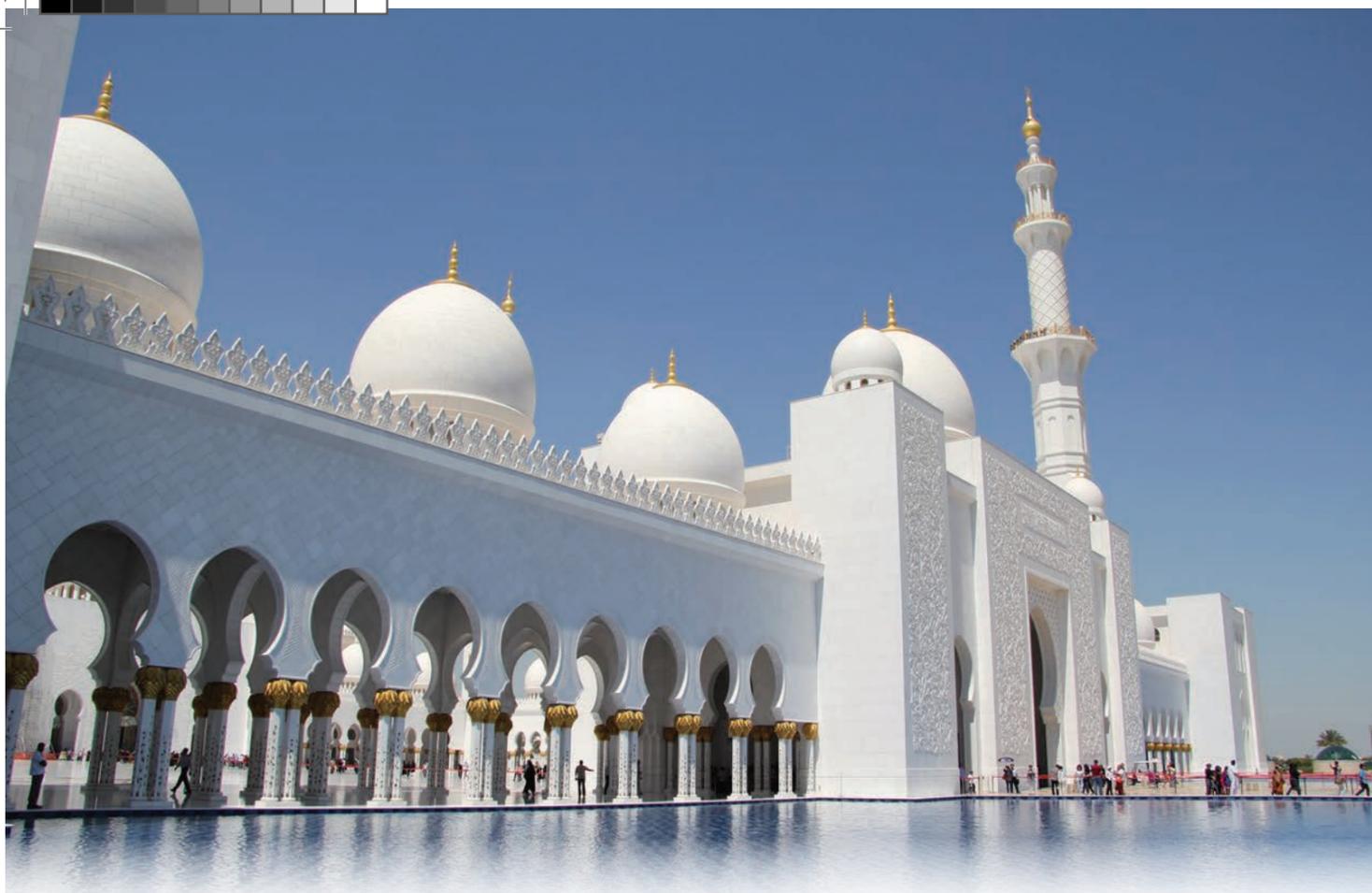
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Background photo by Don Hodges



Just prior to the pandemic, with no knowledge that COVID-19 was lurking just around the corner, my husband and I embarked on an especially memorable cruise to...

the Arabian Peninsula

By Heidi Wohler

The best way to get there without being totally jetlagged is to fly from Atlanta to London, stay overnight, and continue the next day to Mumbai, our first destination. Breaking our flights up by nine hours each day accomplished my goal, arriving in Mumbai just a little after midnight.

Mumbai (formerly Bombay) is home to India's second largest airport and a beehive of activity at all hours. It can be a bit of a challenge to find "your" man among the hundreds of waiting drivers. Ours was holding up a sign with our name on it. With only three days in Mumbai, we arranged for an English-speaking driver for six hours each day.

A mandatory photo stop, the Gateway of India – sometimes referred to as the Taj Ma-

hal of Mumbai – is the city's top tourist attraction. Another must-see is Marine Drive, also referred to as the Queen's Necklace because of its row of sparkling lights. The Prince of Wales and Gandhi museums were both fascinating. There is such disparity between the very rich and the very poor in the city, and we wanted to explore both. We toured the Dhava slums with a local resident, a humbling experience. Equally so was the private home (actually a small skyscraper) of the richest Mumbai citizen. What a contrast.

We bid farewell to the amazing city and boarded our ship to sail the Arabian Sea towards the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The first port-of-call was Muscat, capital of the Sultanate of Oman, a country on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Oman

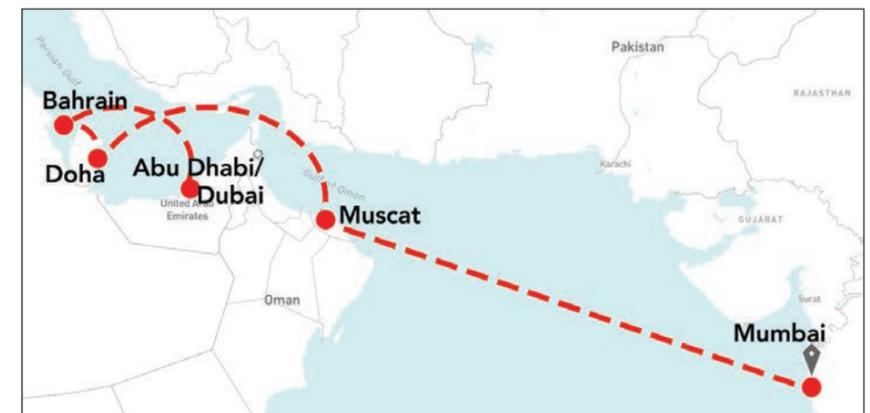
has a total area of 309,500 square kilometers, and Arabic is its official language. Muscat – often referred to as the "walled city" – is made up of three smaller towns that have grown together over time. Upon entering the port, the stunning natural beauty of the harbor revealed itself.

Oman is known for having a remarkably peaceful modern history despite being located in a region that has seen so much conflict. From our ship, we saw the Ash Sharqiya Fort that has guarded Muscat for centuries. It has a long history of battle and conflict with the Portuguese, the Ottomans, and the Persians. It eventually became the primary prison for the Omani people. Today it is used for royal and government meetings and events and hosting foreign dignitaries.

Our first visit was to the exquisite Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque, a sprawling, white sandstone structure. Its outside grounds are gorgeous and pristine. To enter, it is mandatory to cover ladies' legs, arms, hair and neck. Luckily, I had one long-sleeved blouse. Men also must wear long trousers and cover their chests and necks. Shoes had to be removed. Inside, we were awed by the breathtakingly ornate prayer hall featuring one of the world's largest hand-woven carpets. The mosque serves as a scientific and intellectual hub for the Islamic world. The three-story library holds 20,000 volumes of science and cultural works.

The Royal Oman Opera House serves as the main focal point of cultural exchange in the country. It rivals the internationally acclaimed venue in Sydney for its dramatic visage. We wished we could have enjoyed a performance by Placido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli or Renee Fleming, who are among the notable singers who have performed there.

As much as we enjoyed these impressive sites, we were even more excited about our visit to the Muttrah Souk, a covered maze of gold shops, souvenir stalls and bric-a-brac vendors, filled with heavy frankincense



The route from Mumbai through the Gulf of Oman to the Persian Gulf
Left: The front of Sheikh Zayed Mosque in in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates.

smoke. The shopkeepers appreciated the opportunity to practice their English and did not pressure us to purchase anything.

Gold and silver are excellent buys here, but the people-watching is world-class. Almost all the women were wearing traditional clothing: a hijab (head scarf) with cotton dress and trousers. In Muscat, the dress can be black or colorful and ornate. Men wear the traditional dishdasha, a full-length white garment topped with a turban. We were amazed how

friendly everyone was toward us. Total strangers saw us sitting a little wilted from the heat and brought us ice cold water. We could not communicate verbally but were able to view pictures of their homes and their children. We proudly showed our iPad pictures from our home and beautiful Savannah. It was a highlight of our day and a wonderful and everlasting memory of Oman.

Boarding our ship, we waved goodbye to our new friend, driver/guide Mahmud, with

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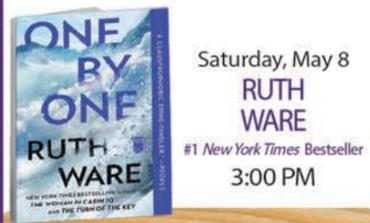
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Falconry plays an important role in the Qatar culture, and is treated with the utmost respect.

hopes that someday we will meet again. We sailed the Gulf of Oman via the Strait of Hormuz and Persian Gulf to Doha, the capital of Qatar. Entering the harbor, we were astonished by the skyline emerging right out of the sea. After disembarking, we were greeted by traditionally dressed falconers with their prized falcons. It was thrilling to hold one of these beautiful creatures.

Souk Waqif is a vibrant complex and one of the more traditional marketplaces in the region. This is the place to find national Qatari dress – including the beautifully embroidered bukhnoq (girl's head covering) – as well as spices, perfumes and oud (incense made from agarwood). Indigenous Qatari people are a minority in their country. Most of its residents are expatriates from Europe, America, elsewhere in the Middle East, and Asia.

Our time was short, so we hired a taxi driver to show us some highlights of this impressive city. The streets looked as if they had just recently been pressure-washed. We could not find a single piece of litter anywhere. It is noteworthy that there is no dress code for foreigners other than modesty.

Our next port was Bahrain. We knew little about it, but quickly learned it is an unpretentious yet confident country bearing all the hallmarks of a modern, wealthy Gulf nation. This multi-layered and multi-cultural destination is often overlooked by travelers, as witnessed by the fact that we basically had the place all to ourselves, other than the locals. We had only a few hours in port to explore,

mixing with the locals and realizing that people are the same worldwide – enjoying their families, eating at restaurants and, of course, shopping.

Back on the ship, we sailed along the Persian Gulf to Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE, where authentic culture blends with a very modern lifestyle. The exotic way of life, tall buildings, and lavish mansions make Abu Dhabi a “City of Dreams.” From the ship, it was difficult to absorb its immensity. We quickly disembarked to meet our private driver and guide outside the customs area. The tour operator suggested we make our first stop the Heritage Village, a model of an Emirati village exhibiting the Bedouin lifestyle and history. The contrast with modern Abu Dhabi was very obvious.

Our guide coaxed us to visit the most famous structure in Abu Dhabi – Sheik Zayed Mosque, a beautiful white marble structure. We've seen many mosques, but this was, by far, the most impressive. Once we viewed the magnificent interior, it made complete sense that absolutely no food, gum, candy or liquids are allowed inside. Each mosque has a very specific dress code. At this one, women must wear long, loose clothing with their arms and legs fully covered; heads must be covered at all times. Men are prohibited from showing bare skin above the knee and must cover their shoulders. Failure to conform will result in refusal of entry.

Standing on the world's largest hand-woven carpet, we were awestruck, gazing at the

largest chandelier in the world hanging from the dome of the central prayer hall. There remains some dissension as to which is truly larger, this one or the one we saw at the Sultan Qaboos Grand Mosque in Muscat.

On to the new Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum, a masterpiece of architecture consisting of 55 buildings and 23 galleries – all surrounded by water. The dazzling 180-meter-diameter dome contains 8,000 metal stars set in a geometric pattern. Because of time constraints, our visit was brief, but one could easily spend days among the exhibits, from modern to ancient art.

As we sailed into the port of Dubai, the iconic luxury hotel, Burj Al Arab, greeted us, resembling a billowing sail and dominating the coastline. It is difficult to believe that barely 30 years ago it was little more than a desert-strewn wilderness where nomadic tribes roamed the sands and a cluster of settlers crowded around the banks of Dubai Creek. The gleaming metropolis of Dubai rendered us awestruck. The amazing skyscrapers seemed almost unreal, with the buildings appearing as if the architects were vying for the most unusual and magnificent designs they could create. The tallest building in the world, the Burj Khalifa, stands 825 feet tall – 160 stories. We ventured as high as the 124th floor (it has 163) where the highest outdoor terrace in the world is located. What an unbelievable view with the other tall buildings and ground below resembling a miniature Lego Land.

No visit to Dubai would be complete without stopping at the Dubai Mall next to the Burj Khalifa. For us, it was not a shopping venture; we were much more interested in the architecture and also enjoyed the gigantic aquarium with a huge collection of sharks, rays and much more.

A private driver took us to the palm-shaped artificial island, Palm Jumeirah. Upon arrival, the most stunning architectural piece of art, Atlantis the Palm, was in full view. This is a site that is often associated with Dubai.

We had just enough time to peek in at the Mall of the Emirates, to view the indoor ski resort. It was 114 degrees outside that day; but, inside, the Alpine Retreat was at freezing temperature with amazingly realistic snow. The Chalet sat next to the slopes.

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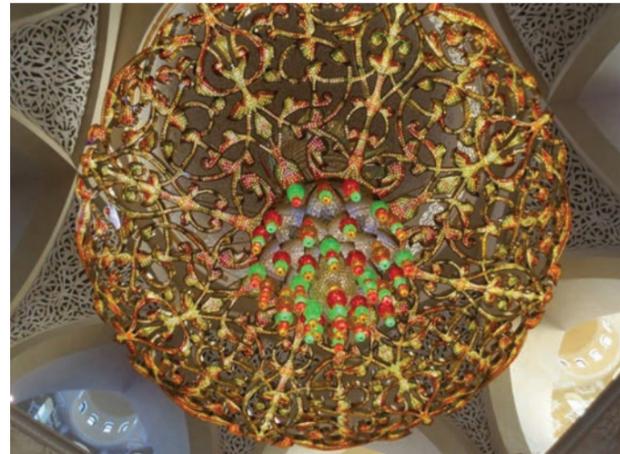


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The largest chandelier in the world hangs from the dome of the Sheik Zayed Mosque. Made of gold-plated copper, it measures a staggering 10 meters in diameter, 15 meters in height, and weighs nine and a half tons.

derful memories of the Arabian Peninsula. The cultural difference between the UAE and the West is what impressed us most; but, we found that people are the same all over the world – hospitable and kind, just different, which we happily embraced. It brings to mind the quote, “Travelers make the best ambassadors of peace.”





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MYTHBUSTING The COVID-19 Vaccine

There's a lot of inaccurate information on websites, social media and through word-of-mouth, about the COVID-19 vaccine. Let's see how the myths stand up to the facts.

MYTH: Researchers rushed the development of the COVID-19 vaccine, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.

FACT: Studies have found that the two initial vaccines are both about 95 percent effective and have caused no serious or life-threatening side effects. There are many reasons why the COVID-19 vaccines were developed so quickly, while adhering to safety and efficacy standards:

- The COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna were created with a method that has been in development for years, so the companies were able to begin the vaccine development process early in the pandemic.
- Chinese scientists isolated and shared genetic information about COVID-19 promptly so Western scientists could start working on vaccines.
- The vaccine developers didn't skip any testing steps; but, they conducted some of the studies concurrently to gather data quickly.
- Vaccine projects had plenty of resources, as governments invested in research and paid for vaccines in advance.
- Messenger RNA (mRNA) allows a faster approach than the traditional way that vaccines are made.
- Social media helped companies find and engage study volunteers, and many were willing to help with COVID-19 vaccine research.
- Because COVID-19 is so contagious and widespread, it did not take long to determine if the vaccine worked for the study volunteers who were vaccinated.
- Companies

began making vaccines early in the process – even before FDA authorization – so some supplies were available when authorization occurred. Normally, a vaccine is not produced until after authorization is obtained.

MYTH: The vaccines weren't tested on diverse groups of people.

FACT: The clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines included minorities (about 25 percent of participants for Pfizer and Moderna and 35 percent for Johnson & Johnson), older age groups (about 25 percent for Pfizer and Moderna and 34 percent for Johnson & Johnson) and people with conditions such as obesity, diabetes and heart and respiratory conditions.

MYTH: The messenger RNA technology used to make the COVID-19 vaccine is brand new.

FACT: The mRNA technology behind the new coronavirus vaccines has been in development for almost 20 years. Vaccine makers created the technology to help them respond quickly to new pandemic illnesses, such as COVID-19.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine was developed to control the general population either through microchip tracking or "nanotransducers" in our brains.

FACT: There is no vaccine microchip, and the vaccine will not track people or gather personal information into a database. This myth started after comments made in a video interview about a digital certificate of vaccine records. The technology that was referenced is not a microchip, has not been implemented in any manner, and is not tied to the development, testing or distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

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MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine enters your cells and changes your DNA.

FACT: This statement most commonly comes up related to the first two COVID-19 vaccines available, which are designed to help your body's immune system fight the coronavirus. The messenger RNA from two of the first types of COVID-19 vaccines does enter cells, but not the nucleus of the cells where DNA resides. The mRNA does its job to cause the cell to make protein to stimulate the immune system, and then it quickly breaks down – without affecting your DNA. The CDC recommends that you be vaccinated even if you've already had COVID-19. The vaccine offers better protection for coronavirus than natural infection.

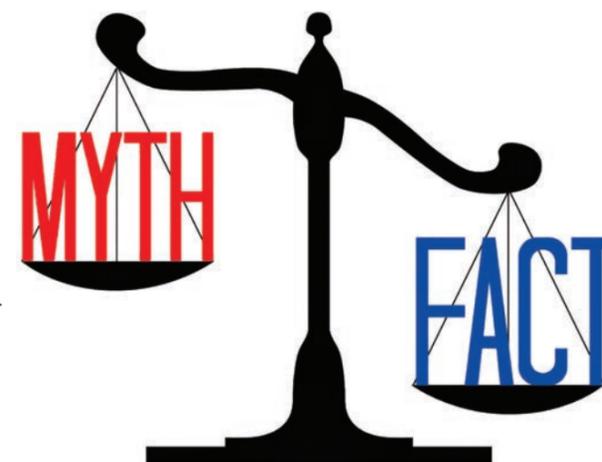
MYTH: Once I get the vaccine, I'm good for life.

FACT: Truthfully, nobody knows at this time. Experts continue to evaluate the long-term efficacy of the vaccine. The protection someone gains from having an infection (called natural immunity) varies depending on the disease, and from person to person. Since this virus is new, we don't know how long natural immunity might last until more data is collected. This vaccine might become an annual vaccination similar to the flu vaccine, but it is simply too early to tell.

MYTH: The COVID-19 vaccine can affect women's fertility.

FACT: Currently there is no evidence the COVID-19 vaccine will affect fertility. Confusion arose when a false report surfaced on social media, saying that the spike protein on this coronavirus was the same as another spike protein called syncytin-1 that is involved in the growth and attachment of the placenta during pregnancy. The two spike proteins are completely different and distinct, and getting the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect the fertility of women who are seeking to become pregnant, including through in vitro fertilization methods. During Pfizer vaccine tests, 23 women volunteers involved in the study became pregnant, and the only one who suffered a pregnancy loss had not received the actual vaccine, but a placebo. Getting COVID-19, on the other hand, can have potentially serious impact on pregnancy and the mother's health. St. Joseph's/Candler encourages women to reach out to their medical providers to

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discuss any concerns regarding COVID-19 as it relates to fertility or pregnancy.

MYTH: Women who are breastfeeding should not receive the vaccine.

FACT: Preliminary research shows no evidence that women who are breastfeeding should not receive the vaccine. If you have issues about getting the vaccine, we recommend that you consult with your physician prior to receiving.

MYTH: I can't receive the vaccine due to preexisting conditions.

FACT: The CDC notes that adults of any age with the following underlying conditions are at an increased risk of severe COVID-19: cancer, chronic kidney disease, COPD, Down syndrome, heart conditions, obesity and severe obesity, sickle cell disease, smoking, and type 2 diabetes. The list also includes people with a weakened immune system from solid organ transplantation, poorly controlled HIV or any autoimmune disorder, and pregnancy. Anyone with these conditions is encouraged to get the vaccine to control the risks. However, you should always seek the advice of your primary care physician.

MYTH: If I've already had COVID-19, I don't need a vaccine.

FACT: While having COVID does give you some protection, the amount of time varies significantly and there is not enough information yet to determine how long after the infection someone is protected. Some people might only have immunity for a few weeks, while others might have immunity longer. Unless you are regularly tested for antibodies, you have no way of knowing when you are no longer protected.

MYTH: Getting the COVID-19 vaccine gives you COVID-19.

FACT: The vaccine does not carry any live or weakened virus, which means you cannot contract COVID-19 from the vaccine. It also means that you are not contagious from receiving the vaccine, even when experiencing the side effects. However, if you are experiencing side effects other than soreness at the injection site after 72 hours, you should contact your physician. You may have contracted COVID-19 prior to receipt of the vaccine and may need to be tested.

MYTH: The side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are dangerous.

FACT: The COVID-19 vaccine can have side effects, but most are not serious or dangerous, and very short term. Some people experience pain where they were injected; body aches; headaches or fever, lasting for a day or two. These are indications the vaccine is working to kick your immune system into gear. If symptoms persist beyond two days, you should call your doctor. If you have allergies – especially severe ones that require you to carry an EpiPen – consult your doctor before getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

MYTH: I won't be able to donate blood if I get the vaccine.

FACT: The vaccine is not in the blood; only the antibodies that are produced show up in your blood as a result of being vaccinated. In fact, people are encouraged to donate blood so that their plasma can be used for the treatment of patients with active disease.

MYTH: Getting the COVID-19 vaccine means I can stop wearing my mask and taking coronavirus precautions.

FACT: Getting a vaccine does not mean that you should stop wearing a mask or social distancing. No vaccine is 100 percent effective. Vaccines do not stop the virus from entering your body; they only prevent you from developing moderate to severe COVID-19. It's not yet clear if people vaccinated for COVID-19 can still carry and transmit the virus, even when they themselves don't get sick. Until we have reached "herd" immunity, it is important we all continue taking precautions to keep our friends, family and community safe.

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All assertions to the contrary, life truly begins when, as a kid, you rummage around in the back of a musty closet or a cobwebbed corner of a garage and come upon a set of long-abandoned golf clubs. You seek out the owner of these magical implements and ask how and for what purpose they are used.

It is likely that you will be told about the Vardon grip, or the interlocking grip. Do not listen! It is unfounded cant propagated by a cult of unquestioning acolytes. They assert that the left thumb of a right-handed golfer should be touching the shaft of the club. Don't let them put you under their thumb. These very same sages probably sucked that thumb until the age of seven. To their misguided minds, the left thumb is a pacifier, a security blanket, a crutch. They believe they can't do without it, but in reality they have their thumbs up their butts. Thumb your nose at these buffoons. A left thumb in contact with the club shaft is anathema to a full, flowing, instinctual golf swing. If you had to choose a digit to be amputated, a golfer can lose the left thumb and never miss it. Having opposable thumbs is thoroughly over-rated as a sign of intelligence.

Much of sports psychology is focused on the concept of "flow" in athletics. Golf is perhaps most ill-suited to the application of flow psychology since the golfer is stationary, the athletic movement is brief, and the prosecu-

tion of the game is continually discontinuous. Making things more difficult is the fact that your game is stuck in the middle of those of your playing companions, and behind the snails up ahead. Yes, you can do a Ben Hogan and say hello on the first tee, goodbye on the 18th green, and nothing in between, but you will soon be playing by yourself. Recreational golfers have to look for the errant shots of others, praise good shots, commiserate over bad ones, tend the pin, and shoot the breeze while walking down the fairway, or we will be ostracized. How can I play with flow with all this ancillary commotion to deal with?

The very few times that I've played alone – without anyone in front of me to slow me down – were always times when flow and total immersion came easily and of their own accord. With others, on a crowded course, it's hardly possible. When it's our turn to play, the best one can do is seek a state of mindlessness, leaving the body free to do what it knows how to do.

My maternal grandmother inherited the hoarder gene from her mother, and took it up a quantum level or two. She was a pack rat on steroids. She saved Christmas cards, string, paper and aluminum foil. Secure in the upper middle class, she wanted for nothing, yet saved everything, on the off chance that it might be needed one day. The Great Depression certainly reinforced her proclivities, but she was set on that course years earlier.

Notes From the Deep Rough by Peter Searle

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My mother followed the blinkered path blazed by her mother, as evidenced by 40 years of magazines that my brother and I had to clear from her basement when she moved to assisted living. She had actually paid movers to take them from one house to another, and then another. Why? Well, there was a gardening tip in one and a recipe in another. And 30-year-old financial advice in that one. Not until very late in life did these dear women reach the point where their hoarding encroached upon living space, thanks to ample attics and cellars, but they were clearly on the spectrum.

For those left to deal with the detritus of a lifetime, a certain amount of exasperation and cursing may be expected. However, there is one huge benefit to the indiscriminate preservation of life's ephemera. In my possession are hundreds and hundreds of letters and photographs that have been key to my learning about and understanding the lives of my ancestors as far back as 1825. Even the most trivial item can provide a connection across the years.

In sifting through my mother's undisciplined accumulation, I happened upon three

Me to my partner: "Nice drive."
My partner: "It didn't go very far."
Me: "It never does."

scorecards from my hometown municipal golf course. The earliest card was dated 1 July 1967, when I was 21 and my brother was 15. On that day, "P" shot 83 and "N" shot 90. We had played our first round together in the summer of 1965, when I was back home after my first year of college. Not much has changed in 53 years; Peter still beats Neil like a rug.

Fast forward 52 years from the summer of 1967, and we are sitting in a golf cart at Rolling Green Golf Club, my brother's home course in Springfield, Pennsylvania. Designed by William Flynn, it hosted the 1976 U.S. Women's Open, won by JoAnne Carner. When we drove to the course that day, what occurred to me was the real possibility that this was the last time I would ever play there, given my age and aversion to flying.

As we waited for the 6th green to clear, I

looked over to the cart's steering wheel where the scorecard was attached, and saw the initials P and N. I was instantly reminded of the card that our mother had saved 52 years earlier. It's difficult to put into words how that connection across five decades affected me at that moment, but it was quite overwhelming.

Obviously, my only sibling and I have a unique shared experience, and he knows me better than anyone else. It's a heavy burden that he has shouldered with aplomb. I suppose the scorecard was simply a reminder that all good things come to an end, and what a supremely sad realization that is.

Not to get lachrymose, but as it turned out, that round was the last I will ever play at Rolling Green. As such, my birdie on the 18th hole holds a special significance. No, my brother didn't die and I haven't had a debilitating stroke, my articles in The Skinnie aside. In fact, he has resigned his membership of 42 years and is moving to Skidaway Island. Golfers beware! The feral pack will soon double.



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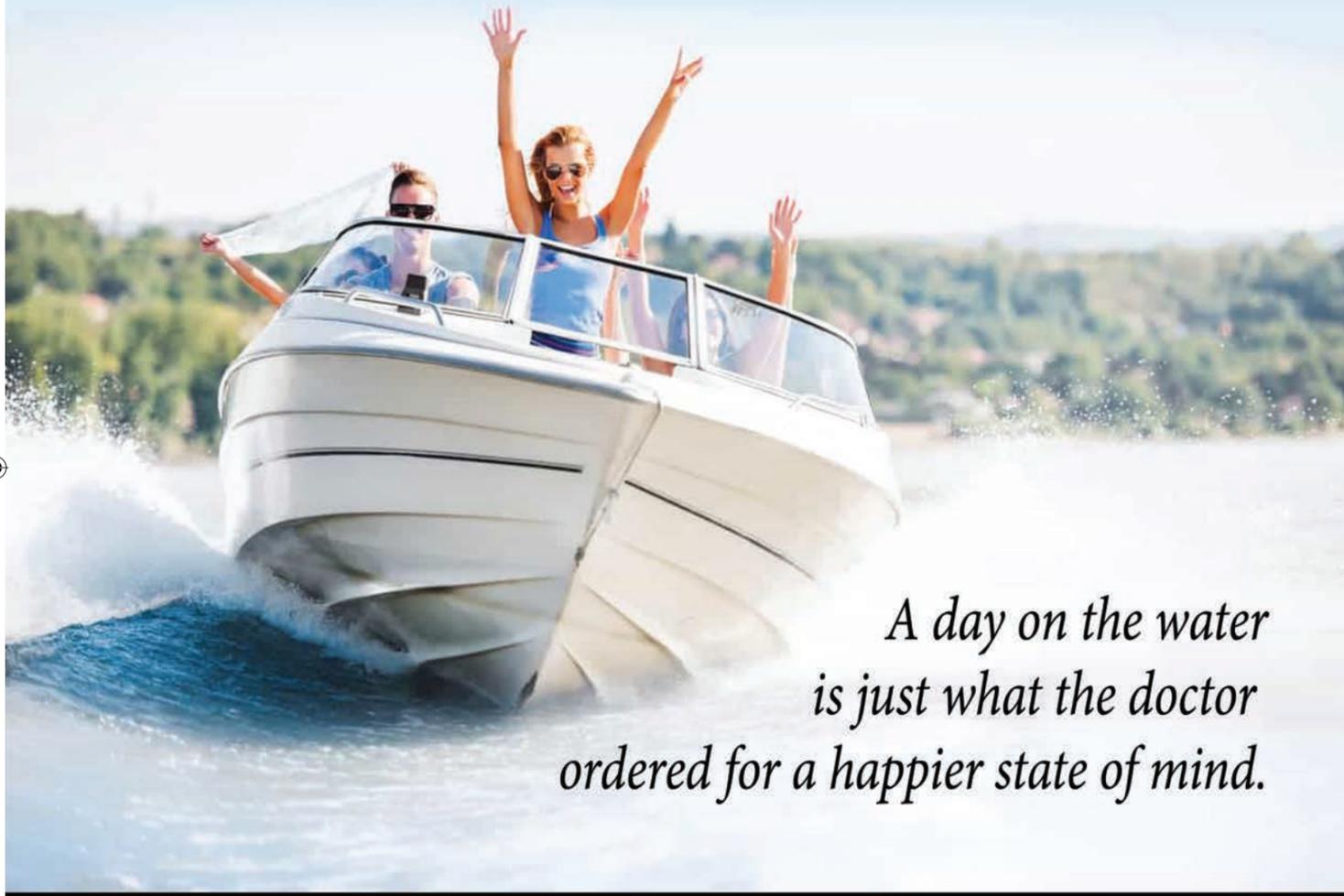
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The History of the U.S. Merchant Marine

by Ron Laretti

The Merchant Marine was established out of necessity and convenience in the 18th century. In Colonial times, shipping by sea was the only conduit between America and Europe. The colonists needed tools, livestock and manufactured goods, while agricultural products such as tobacco, rice and cotton were especially welcome in England. To meet the increasing traffic, shipping became a thriving industry in the colonies. In fact, one out of every four signers of the Declaration of Independence was a ship-owner or had been a ship captain.

Before the American Revolution, American merchant vessels enjoyed the protection of the British Navy. But during the war, an organized and armed Merchant Marine preyed on enemy ships, interrupting the British supply chain to America.

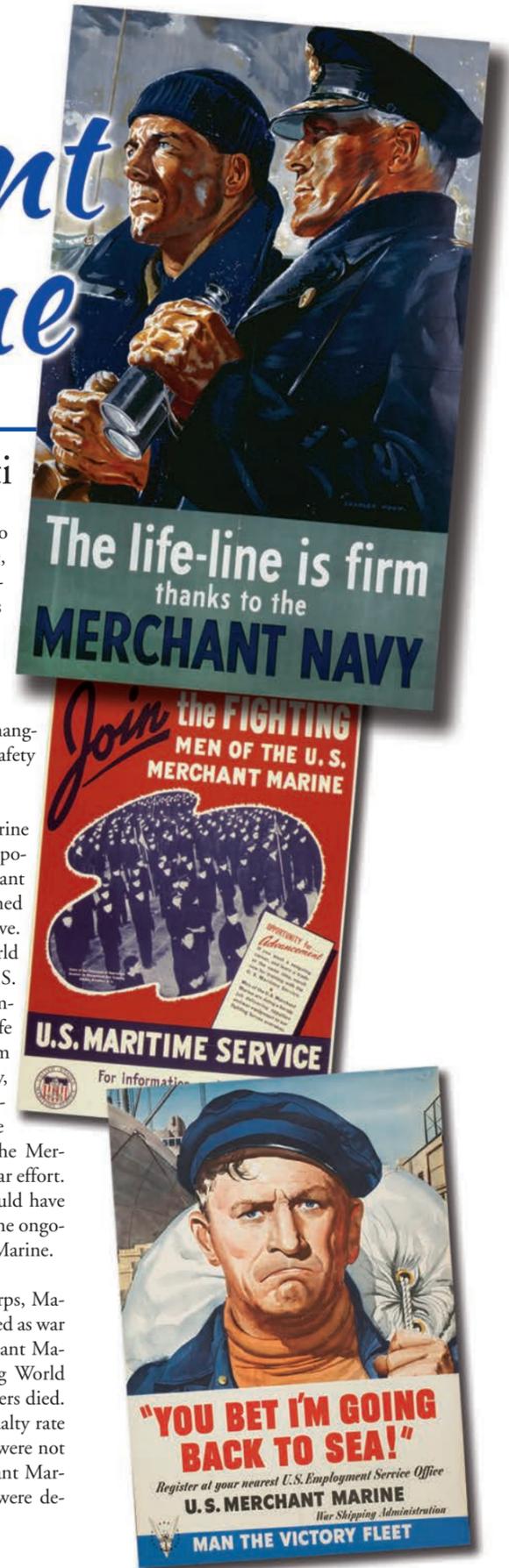
The Merchant Marine is considered an auxiliary branch of our armed forces. The first wartime role of an identifiable Merchant Marine took place in June of 1775, near Machias, Maine, when colonists captured the British schooner HMS Margareta. Following the War for Independence, Merchant Marine vessels sailed at their own peril, with no American Navy to protect them from pirates.

In 1784, Boston-based navigators sailed to the Pacific Northwest, facing stormy weather and rough seas on long journeys. Meanwhile, America became the center of the world's whaling industry, with New Bedford, Massachusetts, and Nantucket Island the primary domestic home ports for the lucrative, perilous industry. Life at sea was hard.

The first legislation pertaining to seamen's rights was enacted in 1790, followed by federal legislation regarding Seaman's Protection Certificates nine years later. In the decades that followed, various laws fundamentally changed the regulation of American merchant shipping, ending common practices of flogging and shanghaiing, and improving shipboard safety and living standards.

In times of war, the Merchant Marine can be designated an auxiliary component of the Navy, and senior Merchant Marine officers can be commissioned as sealfit officers in the Navy Reserve. During the early stages of both world wars, enemy submarines sank U.S. Merchant Marine vessels with alarming regularity, causing tragic loss of life from the cold North Atlantic to warm Caribbean waters. Even in convoy, Merchant Marine ships were easy targets. During those times of peril, the general public failed to recognize the Merchant Marine's contribution to the war effort. Truth be told, Allied war efforts would have been dangerously deficient without the ongoing efforts of the unsung Merchant Marine.

Publicly, the Army, Navy, Air Corps, Marines and Coast Guard were recognized as war heroes, while the valor of the Merchant Marine was frequently ignored. During World War II, 1 out of 26 Merchant Mariners died. Shockingly, this was the highest casualty rate of any of our armed services. Many were not paid unless on sea duty, and Merchant Mariners who served in World War II were de-



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nied benefits and privileges extended to other branches.

The cities of Savannah and nearby Brunswick both have historical associations with the Merchant Marine. During World War II, more than 80 Liberty ships were built by a wartime work force of 15,000 in Savannah. More than 2,000 Liberty ships were launched, all manned by courageous merchant mariners. The SS James Oglethorpe was the first Liberty ship built in Savannah, launched in November of 1942. It was sunk four months later, torpedoed by an enemy U-boat. More than half of the 74 men on board perished. In all, 13 Merchant Marine cargo ships in that convoy were lost to submarine attacks, the biggest single maritime loss of the war. By 1945, it took only 44 days to build a Liberty ship; from the time of the first casting until the vessel slid from the dry dock into the water.

The Merchant Marine supported American forces in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East. It is a versatile organization, moving cargo and passengers around the world. Oil is perhaps the most valuable commodity the present Merchant Marines transport worldwide. Without the services of the Merchant Marine, much of the world would be without a host of essential items and commodities.

The Merchant Marine service is governed by more than 25 international regulations to promote safety and prevent pollution.

The Merchant Marine Academy is located at Kings Point, New York, charged with training officers to carry on the same maritime duties as their predecessors. A typical merchant ship has a captain, three mates, a chief engineer and three assistant engineers, six or more unlicensed seaman, plus cooks or food handlers known as stewards.

When ships approach port destinations, experienced harbor pilots guide ships through confined waterways, a mandatory function with no margin for error. Savannahians and visitors can view large cargo vessels as they pass daily on the Savannah River to and from one of the busiest ports on the Eastern Seaboard. Merchant Marines make their way in and out of town on those ships during peacetime, ready for the call-to-action in the event of war.

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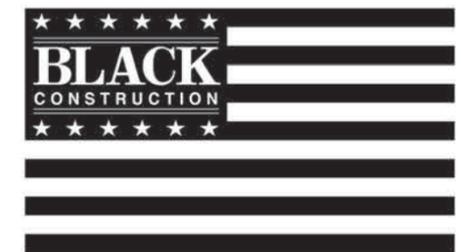
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LET US PRAY

WHAT: The National Day of Prayer
WHEN: Friday, May 7, 7 p.m.
WHERE: Online at messiahsi.org and follow the link to YouTube. To attend in person, call Messiah Lutheran Church at 598.1188. Seating is limited due to social distancing.
CONTACT: messiahsi.org
WHAT ELSE: Join your neighbors and fellow Americans in prayer. The theme is "Lord, Pour Out Your Love, Life and Liberty." Clergy from island churches and St. James Catholic Church will participate in the service.

WEEKEND WORSHIP

WHAT: Community Prayer and Praise Service
WHEN: Sunday Evenings, 5 to 5:30 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Community Church, 50 Diamond Causeway, in the back parking lot
HOW MUCH: Free to all
CONTACT: PrayerPraiseSIGA@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Sing along with Sabin Flare in a casual environment, bond with neighbors and friends. Dress for the outdoors. Use golf carts or folding chairs. Social distancing is easy. Plenty of room for kids and dogs. Always some goodies to share. Bring masks for your comfort.

BODY AND SOUL

WHAT: Skidaway Island United Methodist Church (SIUMC) Exercise Classes
WHEN: Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays, times are below
CONTACT: For more information or to register for January session, visit siumc.org/exercise or call 912.598.8460
WHAT ELSE: Mat Pilates from 9:15-10:15 a.m.; and Sit-Fit from 10:15-11:15 a.m. Classes are led by Elena Bennett, an ACSM-certified exercise instructor. SIUMC has added Friday classes to its offerings for church- and non-church members alike.

island hopping

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

WHO NEW?

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

GOTTA LOVE IT

WHAT: Landlovers Membership
HOW MUCH: Each \$30 membership fee covers one household of one or two adults.
CONTACT: Cindy Altman, Landlovers Membership Director, at Landloversmembership@gmail.com.
WHAT ELSE: Landlovers is a philanthropic and social organization. More information and details can be found at www.landlovers.com. Membership year runs from Sep. 1, 2020 through Aug. 31, 2021.

PET PROJECT

WHAT: Linen drive for the Humane Society of Greater Savannah
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Humane Society Adoption Center, 7215 Sallie Mood Dr.
CONTACT: Call Rosemary Longueira at 598.2875 or drop donations at 22 Long Island Road, Oakridge
WHAT ELSE: Donate old towels, washcloths, pillowcases, sheets, dish towels, pet beds, and chair cushions. Please bring them to the front of the Adoption Center, not the Thrift Shop donation area.

LET'S FACE IT

WHAT: "Let's Face it," an art exhibit of faces and figures by Daryl Nicholson
WHEN: Now through May 4
WHERE: The Palmetto Club, the Landings
HOW MUCH: Free
CONTACT: darylnicholson.com
WHAT ELSE: Millions of Americans are out of work and face hunger due to the pandemic. Nicholson will donate 50 percent of all sales to Feeding America. If you are looking to fill an empty space on a wall at your home or office, please consider the work, knowing that a purchase will also fill an empty stomach.

GENERAL MOTORS

WHAT: Skidaway Island Open Car, Truck and Motorcycle Show
WHEN: Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
WHERE: Skidaway Island Baptist Church, 2 W. Ridge Road
HOW MUCH: Early registration - \$20; After April 24 - \$25
CONTACT: Show chairman, Brian Murphy, 912.445.1241 or SavannahMustangClub.org
WHAT ELSE: All makes, models of cars and bikes are welcome. Join us for music, fun, food, a 50/50 drawing, and live and silent auctions.

PLANTING SEEDS

WHAT: Spring Festival
WHEN: Saturday, May 1, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
WHERE: Savannah Botanical Gardens, 1388 Eisenhower Dr.
HOW MUCH: Free admission and free parking
CONTACT: 912.355.3883 or sacgc1388@botanical.comcastbiz.net
WHAT ELSE: The Savannah Area Council of Garden Clubs and the Savannah Botanical Gardens host this fundraiser to benefit the Savannah Botanical Gardens. Many plants for sale, plus a rummage sale. "Ask a Master Gardener" interactive sessions, speakers on birds and propagation of plants, local artisans, a food truck and children's activities.

WHERE ART THOU?

WHAT: the Works of John Newton
WHEN: May 2 through May 31
WHERE: JEA Art Gallery, 5111 Abercorn St. Savannah
CONTACT: Vicky Lunick 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: John Newton is a self-taught artist who lives in Effingham County. Fascinated by the vivid colors associated with Hispanic culture, he combines acrylic paints with aluminum cans and bottle caps to create his mixed media works.

WATER PURIFICATION

WHAT: Coastal Conservation Association of Skidaway May Meeting - "Protecting, Preserving, and Improving Water Quality throughout the Ogeechee River Basin"
WHERE: St. Peter's Church and Via Zoom
WHEN: Monday, May 10, 7 p.m.
CONTACT: Paulette Hamilton, 610.509.0279
WHAT ELSE: Damon Mullis, the Ogeechee Riverkeeper/Executive Director, will speak. Registration is required and available at ccaskidaway.org. A link to the Zoom feed will be sent prior to

the meeting. Each meeting attendee will receive a free raffle ticket to win a fishing excursion from Marshland Inshore Fishing Adventures. Additional tickets are available for purchase in support of CCA programs.

CROWD FUNDING

WHAT: Food for Thought
WHEN: Thursday, May 13, 1 p.m.
WHERE: Sign up: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9123456789>
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Sunny Nayberg, programming@savj.org, 912.355.8111
WHAT ELSE: Every Thursday at 1 p.m., the Savannah Jewish Federation hosts different speakers for the Savannah community. On May 13, the speaker will be Jonathan Medved, founder and CEO of OurCrowd, a global venture investing platform that empowers institutions and individuals to invest and engage in emerging companies.

FORE THE BIRDS

WHAT: Skidaway Audubon Golf FUNdraiser
WHEN: May 23; registration deadline - May 17
WHERE: Terrapin Point and Palmetto Courses
HOW MUCH: \$150 registration fee; To register, pick up entry cards at the pro shop
CONTACT: friendsofskidawayaudubon@gmail.com, or visit skidawayaudubon.org
WHAT ELSE: Entry fee includes raffle tickets. Proceeds help bring monarch butterflies back from the brink of extinction and support other projects to protect the island environment. Hole sponsorships available.

SALT LIFE

WHAT: Evening @ Skidaway virtual presentation
WHEN: Tuesday, May 18, at 7 p.m.
WHERE: UGA Skidaway Institute YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/Skidaway>
HOW MUCH: Free and open to the public
CONTACT: Michael Sullivan at 912.598.2325
WHAT ELSE: University of Georgia Skidaway Institute of Oceanography researcher Adam Geer will examine the challenges and some new, high-tech solutions for studying marine animals.

TEA TIME

WHAT: "Tea and Thee" Ladies on the Right Celebrating Wonderful Women: "Our Mothers and Others"
WHEN: May 26, 2-4 p.m.
WHERE: Palmetto Club Ballroom
HOW MUCH: \$30/person; Friends welcome
CONTACT: Frances Dotson, 716.573.8905 or visit LadiesOnTheRight.org for more details
WHAT ELSE: Enjoy a delicious tea and menu, wear your favorite hat (optional). Don't have one? Rent one at our fundraiser for Park Place Outreach Youth Emergency Shelter ([\[eyes.org\]\(http://www.parkplac-eyes.org\)\). Award given for Best Hat.](http://www.parkplac-</p></div>
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THE COAST WITH THE MOST

WHAT: Coastal Conservation Association of Skidaway June Meeting - "The Incredible Biodiversity of Our Coastal Area"
WHEN: Monday, June 14, 7 p.m.
WHERE: St. Peter's Church and via Zoom
CONTACT: Paulette Hamilton, 610.509.0279
WHAT ELSE: Registration required at ccaskidaway.org. John "Crawfish" Crawford, popular coastal area ecologist, will discuss how our coastal area developed, and will include hands-on time with local flora and fauna, such as snakes, turtles, lizards, horseshoe crabs, and other marine life. Each attendee will receive a free raffle ticket for a half-day inshore fishing charter from Saltwater Charters. Additional tickets available for purchase to support CCA programs.

AMERICAN ENGINE-UIITY

WHAT: Skidaway Island Corvette Club
WHEN: Third Thursday of each month
WHERE: A visit to a superb custom car display in a showroom off Mall Blvd, followed by lunch at the Palmetto Club
HOW MUCH: No dues at this time, however an \$8 name tag fee may be forthcoming
CONTACT: Clayton Scott, 912.658.3116
WHAT ELSE: Skidaway Island now has a club for owners of Corvettes, already 25 members strong. Its goals are camaraderie and to share the enthusiasm for this classic American auto.

FERAL FRIENDSHIP

WHAT: Skidaway Cat Alliance Team
WHEN: Ongoing
WHERE: Skidaway Island and surrounding
CONTACT: skidawaycats@gmail.com or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/skidaway-catallianceteam
WHAT ELSE: The Skidaway Cat Alliance Team is a group of dedicated animal lovers who provide food, population control (spay/neuter), medical care, and shelter for free-roaming cats in the Skidaway area. We have cats and kittens currently being fostered that are available to new, loving homes.

SAFE AND SOUND

WHAT: Women's support group for people going through or having experienced domestic or family violence
WHEN: Third Wednesday of every month, 12 noon - 1 p.m.
WHERE: SAFE Shelter Center for Domestic Violence Services Outreach, 7373 Hodgson Memorial Dr.
CONTACT: Outreach office, 912.651.0004
WHAT ELSE: SAFE Shelter's mission is to prevent domestic violence, protect victims and promote change in lives, families and our commu-

nity. This is an opportunity to meet with women experiencing similar challenges. Light refreshments will be served.

KEEP 'EM FLYING

WHAT: The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force
WHEN: Tuesday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m.
CONTACT: For more information call 912.748.8888 or visit www.mightyeighth.org
WHAT ELSE: New guidelines are in place to protect staff and visitors. Visitors are strongly recommended to wear facemasks. Hand-sanitizing stations have been established throughout the museum. Some areas will be capacity-controlled.

HOCUS POCUS!

WHAT: Landings Magic Society
WHEN: 7 p.m., second Thursday of the month, Oct. through May
WHERE: Plantation Club card room
CONTACT: Jim Ruhl, 912.856.3948, jsruhl@gmail.com or Bill Sickels, 912.598.9123 or whsickels@gmail.com
WHAT ELSE: Anyone with an interest in magic is welcome. Every meeting is instructional, entertaining and enlightening.

NOW HEAR THIS

WHAT: Music Academy Online Free Instruction
WHEN: 7 days a week
WHERE: Via Zoom
HOW MUCH: Free, courtesy of St. Peter's Church
CONTACT: Dr. Timothy McKee, tmckee@saintpeterssav.org
WHAT ELSE: Learn and cultivate music skills.

CAUSEWAY CLEAN-UP

WHAT: "Shine Bright like a Diamond (Causeway)," litter pickup along Diamond Causeway
WHEN: 1 or 2 times per month, as trash amount deems necessary
WHERE: Meet in the parking lot of Butterbean Beach
CONTACT: Courtney Fowler, causewaycleanup@gmail.com or 912.313.6040
WHAT ELSE: Please bring work gloves and a safety vest if you have one; a trash-picker works wonders as well. We will provide trash bags. Water is recommended to avoid dehydration.

CERVUS WITH A PURPOSE

WHAT: Bingo at the Elks Lodge
WHEN: Sundays at 7 p.m. and Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.
WHERE: 183 Wilshire Blvd
WHAT ELSE: \$1,500 in prizes. All proceeds benefit Elks charities.

Complete Island Hopping listings are now online! Just visit www.theskinnie.com and click "Read."

CHALLENGER CLUES*

ACROSS

- 1. How to steer a bull
- 5. Use LSD
- 9. Set to go
- 14. Stink
- 15. India's Taj Mahal honors one
- 16. Founder of America's first museum
- 17. CAVEAT EMPTOR (part 1)
- 20. Cat-___-tails
- 21. Small bomb for breaching walls
- 22. Seeded
- 24. Wood used for Maori war clubs
- 25. Mt. Hood locale
- 28. K-5 maker
- 30. Where to find an anther
- 32. Cathedral section
- 36. "___ homo!" (Pontius Pilate)
- 39. "Horse Capital of the World"
- 40. CAVEAT EMPTOR (part 2)
- 43. Fordham University locale
- 44. Paris fashion house since 1946
- 45. Light shade of bluish-grey
- 46. They go through eyelets
- 48. Setting for "Platoon"
- 50. Amphitrite's realm
- 51. Whiffenpoofs
- 54. Subject of a 1636 Dutch mania
- 59. Negative battery terminals
- 61. Ennead

62. End of CAVEAT EMPTOR

- 66. Type of acids in proteins
- 67. U.S. Congressional rep from Minnesota, Ilhan ___
- 68. "I Loves You Porgy," for one
- 69. Intrepidity
- 70. Priests in Zoroastrianism
- 71. Heroine of Dickens' "The Old Curiosity Shop"

DOWN

- 1. Have a crush on
- 2. Minneapolis suburb of crossword fame
- 3. Open your email, e.g.
- 4. Gulped
- 5. Crowd in Vatican City?
- 6. Kind of berry
- 7. "___ Sanctum Mystery" (old radio show)

Careful out there!

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
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				59					60		61			
62	63	64								65				
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

- 8. Only work ever signed by Michelangelo
- 9. Lily Tomlin lampoon
- 10. Goober
- 11. 1959 Soviet world chess champion
- 12. Center for healing?
- 13. Micturate
- 18. Stink
- 19. Where antibiotics are aged
- 23. Carpe ___ (seize the day)
- 25. Operation Overlord beach
- 26. Chill
- 27. Growing out
- 29. Nailed a test
- 31. Fifth book of the N. T.
- 32. Coptic bishops
- 33. Extirpate
- 34. Roman garment similar to the Greek chiton
- 35. Ballyshannon's river
- 37. LIII times XVII (GO FIGURE)
- 38. Like onyx
- 41. Tricep, but not bicep
- 42. Cicero's 'was'
- 47. Curtail
- 49. 1936 Oscar winner for his portrayal of Louis Pasteur
- 52. 'Cold feet', e.g.
- 53. 2014 film about a civil rights march
- 55. Largest airport in Massachusetts
- 56. Harden
- 57. Menace
- 58. Go stealthily
- 59. "The New Yorker's" greatest cartoonist
- 60. Dross
- 62. John
- 63. "___ Loser" (Beatles)
- 64. Annoy
- 65. It comes every wk.

Puzzle answers, page 31

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O	D	O	R	R	A	N	I	P	E	A	L	E		
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V	A	L	O	R	M	A	G	I	N	E	L	L		



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After having three lovely children, Allyson was struggling with chronic bladder leaks. She went to see her gynecologist and was diagnosed with having urinary incontinence, a result of childbirth. Allyson's gynecologist told her further treatment may be necessary and referred her to Dr. Joseph Stubbs, a urogynecologist.



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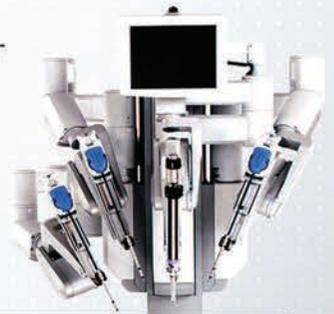
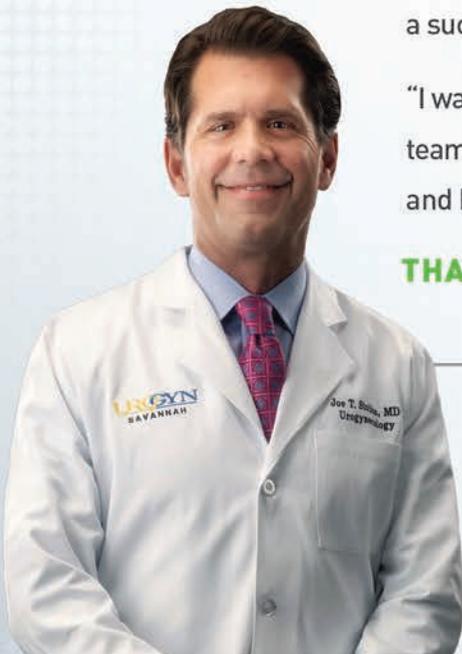
Allyson Gatlin - Savannah, GA

After a pelvic ultrasound and urodynamic testing at St. Joseph's/Candler, Dr. Stubbs discovered Stage 3 Uterovaginal Prolapse, Stress Urinary Incontinence and Adenomyosis. He recommended a minimally-invasive surgery via da Vinci robotics. The surgery was a success, and Allyson is back to crafting custom wreaths for her family and friends.

"I was very thankful for Dr. Stubbs and the St. Joseph's/Candler team at the Pelvic Floor & Continence Center. Their experience and knowledge made the process smooth and comforting."

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