



*Unison Preservation Society*

# NEWSLETTER

*Working to Protect and Preserve our Historic Countryside*

ISSUE TWO • 2016

• FALL •

UNISON, VIRGINIA

## Unison Heritage Day *Saturday, October 29 ~ 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.*

### **Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

As a newly elected member of the Unison Preservation Society Board of Directors, and Chairperson of our annual Unison Heritage Day Auction Committee, I am pleased to invite you and your family to Heritage Day on Saturday, October 29, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Unison Community Center (better known as the Unison Store) and Village Green.

This year we are featuring activities that highlight our heritage as residents of Unison and the surrounding community. There will be guided walking tours of the village home exteriors, an encampment of Civil War re-enactors, and a visit from the Piedmont Fox Hounds who are kenneled just down the road. We'll listen to Bluegrass music played by Willow Branch while we enjoy fine local barbecue, freshly shucked Chesapeake Bay oysters, a glass of wine or beer and too many homemade desserts to count.

Our Auction Committee has been working diligently to ensure this year's Live and Silent auctions offer over 100 items that will be our most popular ever (see list on page 2 mentioning just a few of these finds). The Silent auction will run from 1:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. and the Live auction will begin at 3:00 p.m. We will be showcasing a fantastic weeklong stay for five in a Paris, France apartment in our Live auction!

And for the thrill seekers in the crowd, we're including an Empower

Adventure tree top zip line tour for

two at the Salamander Resort combined with a three-course dinner for two at the Ashby Inn. There will be a chauffeured drive in a 1957 Rolls Royce with a picnic luncheon from Hunter's Head Tavern, a fly fishing trip on blue ribbon trout streams in central Virginia, a Shenandoah River canoe trip and lunch for 12, fine artwork from our local painters and sculptors, tastings from area vineyards, overnight stays from the best B&Bs and many generous donations from our wonderful local merchants.

Tickets are \$30 per person, \$25 in

advance (visit our web page [www.unisonva.org](http://www.unisonva.org) for more information regarding online advance ticket sales), children 12 and under are free. Tickets purchased by mail must be ordered by October 21 by mailing checks to the Unison Preservation Society, P.O. Box 606, Middleburg, Virginia 20118. Admission includes all food



## Live Auction Feature!

### *We Will Always Have Paris...*

The featured item in the Live Auction during Heritage Day on October 29 will be a week-long stay in an apartment in Paris, France! This luxury apartment is on the second floor of a beautiful building at 33 Rue Paul Valery just off of the Avenue Victor Hugo in the posh 16th Arrondissement. The bi-level, two bedroom, two full bathrooms and one half-bath apartment has very high ceilings, a separate eat-in kitchen, and a beautiful roof terrace. The apartment can accommodate up to five guests with the sleeper sofa in the living area.



It comes fully equipped with bedding and towels and the kitchen has modern appliances and small items such as coffee maker—though you'll likely want to pop downstairs and grab a café from one of 50 or so establishments on the Avenue Victor Hugo.

The apartment location is outstanding—a five minute walk to the **Arc de Triomphe** and the **Avenue des Champs-Élysées**, a 15 minute stroll to the Eiffel Tower and banks of the Seine. Paris Metro stations and bus stops are steps out of the main entrance.

If you are interested in bidding on the Paris apartment but won't be able to attend Heritage Day on October 29, you can submit a bid to Carol Beckman at [brookcliffe@gmail.com](mailto:brookcliffe@gmail.com). The opening bid will start at \$2500.



and drink as well as a “green” reusable stadium cup with the Unison logo as a reminder of a great afternoon spent with friends and family in the village.

Proceeds from Heritage Day will go towards the continued restoration of the Unison Store Community Center, in addition to other UPS work supporting our neighborhood. This event is a critical source of funding for our organization, so please join us on October 29 for a wonderful time and support a worthy cause!

- Carol Beckman



*Above: The Piedmont Driving Club will once again do a drive-by in their well turned-out antique carriages.*

*Center: A visit from the Piedmont Hunt hounds is always a special treat; Unison resident Carol Beckman on zip line at Salamander Resort. Zip line tour for two will be part of the Heritage Day Live Auction.*

*Below: Come out and enjoy great food, sit on a straw bale, and listen to bluegrass music from Willow Branch.*



*Michael Zuckerman photo.*



*Dara Bailey photo.*

## Heritage Day Live & Silent Auction Preview of Items



- Six Weeks of Oil Painting Classes
- Framed Oil Painting from Local Artists
- Gourmet Wine and Cheese Baskets
- Restaurant Gift Certificates for Lunch and Dinner
- Voice Lessons
- Pet Portraits
- 16 Weeks of Pick-Your-Own Veggies and Flowers from a Local Farm
- Tastings and Tours at Local Vineyards
- Rounds of Golf from Area Clubs
- Certificates for Yoga, Pilates, Therapeutic Massage and Barre Classes
- Jewelry Appraisal
- Music Performance in Your Home
- Honey from Unison's Own Bees
- Hermes Scarves and Designer Clothing
- Organic Turkey for Thanksgiving
- Passes to the Trinity Church Annual Stable Tour
- History Walk of Your Property

## Unison's Little Free Library

By Caroline Nash Helmly



You might have noticed a cute little addition to the front porch of the Unison Store. It's actually a "Little Free Library" that looks kind of like the Unison

Store, only in miniature.

My dad, Paul Koestner and his lovely wife, Jan, designed and constructed the Little Free Library, then drove it to Unison this Spring, all the way from Hickory Corners, Michigan. They generously donated their time, creativity,

*Above: Carolyn Helmly with her father Paul Koestner and his wife Jan standing in front of Unison Little Free Library. Next time you're in "downtown" Unison, loan a book, borrow a book.*

skills and materials to our community center for the enjoyment of our village and surrounding area.

Where did this idea come from? Last year, I saw a Little Free Library in Rock Hall, Maryland on the Eastern Shore. It was adorable and I thought it was a fantastic idea for book sharing. It occurred to me that Unison should have one. I took a couple of photos of it and sent it to my father. My father, a master wood craftsman, and his wife regularly build wooden boats in their barn as a hobby. I had hoped that they would be up for the project and they graciously accepted the challenge.

What is a "Little Free Library," you ask? It is an actual global movement. The Mission, according to their website, littlefreelibrary.org, is: "To promote literacy and the love of reading by building free



book exchanges worldwide and to build a sense of community as we share skills, creativity and wisdom across generations." There are nearly 40,000 Little Free Library book exchanges around the world bringing curbside literacy home and sharing millions of books annually, the website says. The Unison Little Free Library is now officially registered on that website.

Since Unison and its surrounding area is a community of neighbors that already share things and ideas, it seemed like the perfect fit for the Unison Store. The idea is take a book or two and/or donate a book or two. So the next time you are looking for a book to read or want to donate a couple of books, stop by the Unison Free Library.

A special thanks to Paul and Jan Koestner for their generous donation! ■

# UPS Needs Neighborhood Support



## *A Message from President Steve Chase*

Fifteen years ago the proposition was simple; take steps to protect one of Loudoun's oldest villages, recognize the importance of the historic countryside, and preserve an iconic fixture in the village, the Unison Store. These actions became the foundation of the Unison Preservation Society (UPS). Today--in large part due to the efforts of the UPS--our village is at the center of a handful of historic preservation designations, including the Unison Village Historic District, The Unison Battlefield Historic District and the unique Beaverdam Creek Historic Roadways District. The Unison Preservation Society worked with our neighbors to ensure that this special place would be intact so our grandchildren would be able to see it as we do and as residents did generations ago.

The National Park Service has called our area one of the best preserved areas of eighteenth century landscape in the country. Over the past 15 years, UPS has worked to bring our community together to learn about and act on the threats that we face; celebrate the important heritage of village living; and bring conservationists, planners, government leaders, and historians to Unison to help us preserve our village and spread the word about its history. A core group of neighbors has done much over this decade and a half, and the community has always responded with help and support.

As we head towards the end of our second decade, UPS continues to stay focused. The generous gift by Dr. Betsee Parker of the Unison Store in 2013 has allowed us to develop a village green, and begin the process of creating a community center for Unison. This has been a big task for us. Maintenance work on the store has provided some significant financial challenges, which we continue to meet with your support. You can see our latest annual report online to learn more about our accomplishments. Read it here: [http://www.unisonva.org/Documents/2016/UPS\\_Annual\\_Report\\_2016\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.unisonva.org/Documents/2016/UPS_Annual_Report_2016_final_web.pdf).

As we move forward, we are looking to our friends in the community to again support our activities and programs. This year we are offering UPS membership levels to foster a sense of identity and community and expand "ownership" of the UPS mission beyond our core board members. A remittance envelope is included with this newsletter, please give us your support by joining UPS.

We hope to see you at the Unison Store on Wednesday, October 5 for "A Conversation about Preservation," with speakers Ashton Cole from The Land Trust of Virginia, Jane Covington from Jane Covington Restoration, and Lauren Murphy from the Loudoun County Planning Department; on October 29 for our annual Unison Heritage Day, and in early December for our Christmas Music Jam and Cookie Swap." ■



**SPECIAL EVENT**  
**WEDNESDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 5, 2016**  
**FROM 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**  
**UNISON STORE**

*The Unison Preservation Society invites you to learn more about how Preservation can benefit both you and our community*

**Conservation Easements**  
**Historic Districts**  
**Restoration Tax Credits**

**FOR MORE INFO VISIT**  
**WWW.UNISONVA.ORG**

## Brewery License Denied - Catesby Application Pending

The Unison community has been concerned about the prospect of multiple event, entertainment and drinking establishments coming to our tranquil landscape. Neighbors and concerned area residents have organized to resist, or put reasonable limits, on activities at these facilities.

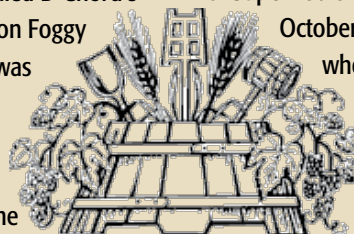
A proposal for a brewery on Foggy Bottom Road and an application for an event facility at Catesby Farm on Welbourne Road have been of particular concern for many Unison residents. Here is a brief update on these two projects:

In response to strong community action, the Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) has denied B-Chord's application for a brewery on Foggy Bottom Road. The ruling was based on "the quietude of the area". The ABC stated in its opinion; "The Board cannot ignore the will of the

citizens and residents of the community". B-Chord has since identified another property on Williams Gap Road and has applied for a permit at that location.

The Catesby Farm owners have applied to the County to be permitted to hold up to 24 events a year on their 167-acre property, each with up to 200 attendees, at any time during the day up until midnight. They are currently planning to use the entrances to Catesby on the narrow and historic Welbourne Road for the many guests, caterers and staff for these frequent events.

The Catesby application is scheduled to go before the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors at their public hearing on October 12th at 6:00 p.m. Those who have an opinion on this issue should contact their Supervisor before that date and plan to attend and even speak at the meeting. ■





## Unison Preservation Society Newsletter

Published by

The Unison Preservation Society  
P.O. Box 606  
Middleburg, VA 20118  
www.unisonva.org

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### How to Support the Unison Preservation Society (UPS):

UPS depends upon contributions from people living in our community who want to preserve our historic village and the countryside surrounding it. Since the UPS is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation registered in Virginia, all contributions are tax deductible. Contributions should be made to the Unison Preservation Society and sent to the post office box listed above.

### Ideas for Newsletter Articles:

We are particularly interested in gathering material about Unison for future UPS newsletters. If you have ideas for newsletter stories, please e-mail us at [unisonpreservsoc@unisonva.org](mailto:unisonpreservsoc@unisonva.org).



Follow Us!

### Newsletter Design:

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# Oh, Deer! *Plant and Animal Wars in Unison*

Story and Photo by Tara Connell



Sigh. It's another stinking hot day on Woodtrail and I'm watching a herd of does and fawns make their way across my back yard, eating my acorns and every other damn thing in sight.

They are beautiful. They are a French tapestry. They are evil. They are the serial killers of my dream garden. I am at WAR.

I know there are lots of ways to fight this war:

- Weapons: I won't go to murder and mayhem, but will use spray. More about that later.
- Encirclement: Fencing, effective for some but not for me.
- Retreat to the city: The topic is cockroaches and rats vs. stinkbugs and deer. Discuss.

My weapons of choice have been more cerebral. Books, the Internet and Kim Labash. What? Who?

Kim is a Unison resident and gardener whose knowledge of plants rolls off her tongue in waves too fast to capture with pen and paper. She's British and speaks plant in Latin, mostly, as head of the Nomenclature Committee for the Herb Society of America, for which she is a former Chair of the Potomac Unit.

She also is owner of Loudoun Valley Herbs, ([LoudounValleyHerbs@yahoo.com](mailto:LoudounValleyHerbs@yahoo.com)) a craft business, and runs the juried craft aspect of the Bluemont Fair. You caught the word aspect, which is her British influence creeping in here.

After my herd sauntered through—plowed really—the other morning, I dropped in on Kim to ask this question: "What can be planted in the Fall that the deer won't eat?"

"There is nothing that's completely off limits except 'Planters Plasticus,'" she said, smiling. Since it was said with that accent it took me a couple of minutes to be totally disappointed. She then said the only plant she knows that deer really don't like is lavender, but that is not something to plant in the Fall. True of most herbs.

But, good news, almost all other plants absolutely should be planted in the fall, she said, cau-

tioning: "Water it in with a five-gallon bucket of water." I've heard her say this multiple times, so it's important. It keeps the plant hydrated as it acclimates.

Then, off the top of her head came the "What Deer Hate" list that she recommends (keeping in mind she doesn't do evergreens): Iris. Boxwood. Lily of the Valley. Sweet Box. Russian Sage. Tall Aster. Hops. Witch Hazel. Caryopteris (Kim note: "It's pretty. Cut it back in March."). Figs.

For Texture: Ostrich fern, Japanese painted fern, Wood fern, Fiddlehead fern. Lambs ear. Leather-leaf Mahonia. Holly.

I interrupted. My deer used my brand new Witch Hazel for toothpicks, I said. And stripped my Forsythia, which they are supposed to shun. And my Holly, which looked like a lollipop when they were done.

"The little buggers," she said. And so came this disclaimer: Deer have a regular path. You can disrupt it (fencing), but they are likely to find a way around it. So try not to plant things you really like along their regular path. Or spray the heck out of those plants when you do. Often.

And when they are starving in the middle of a blizzard they will eat anything and everything. And I will want them to have it because I actually really love these country rats.

So much for "The Art of War." ■

### For more information (a starter selection):

- "50 Beautiful Deer-Resistant Plants" by Ruth Rogers Clausen
- Every state has an online cooperative extension with information for their area. Virginia Cooperative Extension has lots of deer and plant facts at [www.ext.vt.edu](http://www.ext.vt.edu). New Jersey's extension (<https://njaes.rutgers.edu/extension>) is wonderful and their information applies to our region as well, for the most part. Oregon ([extension.oregonstate.edu](http://extension.oregonstate.edu)) has a great section on deer although many of their plants are not right for Virginia. You get the idea.
- If you really need to talk to someone, Loudoun County Master Gardeners has a Help Desk at 703-771-5150 or email at [www.loudounmg.vt.edu](http://www.loudounmg.vt.edu).

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