

WE ARE WINCHESTER

JANUARY 2023

OLDTOWNIST.COM



KEEP IT SIMPLE

Less is more in 2023

Cover artwork by Bradley Reid

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

The New Year is upon us, and rather than make a list of all the things we want to change about ourselves and our lives, we decided to dedicate this issue of the Old Townist to keeping things simple.

We've learned over the years that a simple life allows us the time to enjoy what we have earned, and spend time with those important people in our lives. We find more quiet time to reflect on matters when we don't pack every minute of our day and every available space in our homes.

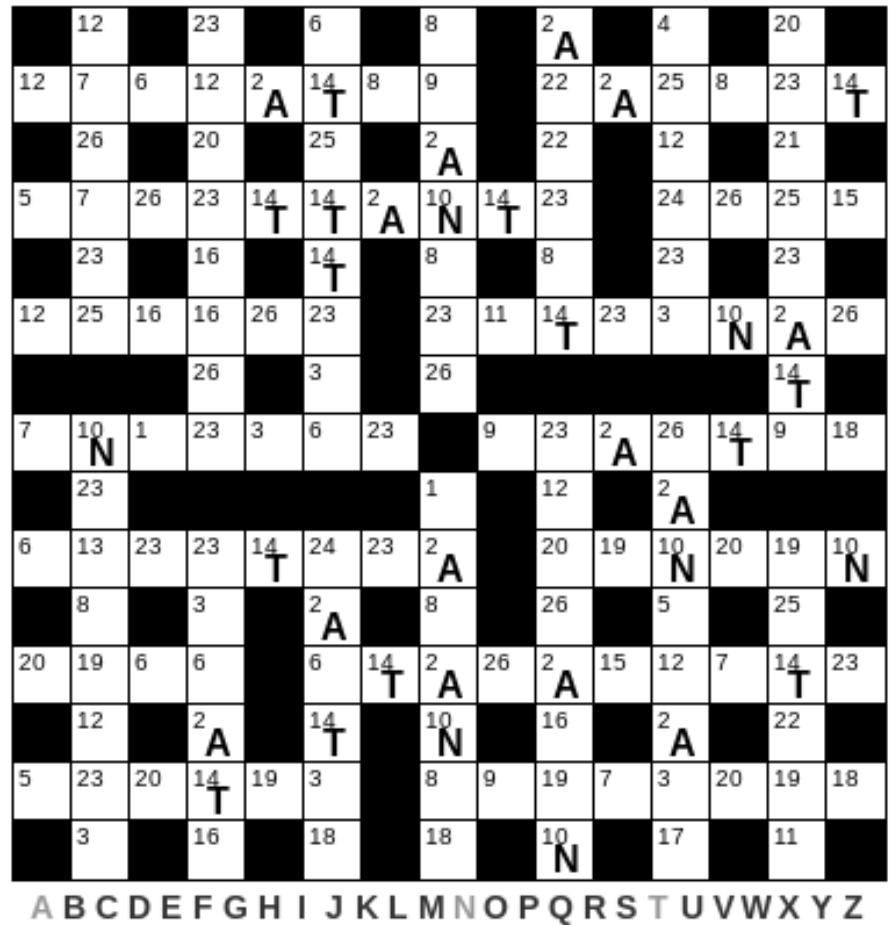
We encourage you to sit in the quiet this January, to slow down and pinpoint the things that bring you pure joy, and then fill your life with those things. Books, art, good food, and the best people are high on our list for 2023.



*Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan*

**WE ARE
WINCHESTER**

GATHER & GAME



CLASSIC FAMILY GAMES

As the cold weather sets in, we find ourselves huddled inside looking for things to do and family game night, even if the kids are adults now, comes to mind. We are drawn to the classics, bustled by the memories of our kids crying over their first loss and then sheer excitement the first time they legitimately beat the pants off some parental figure. We grab our favorite mugs and fill them with cocoa, bring out the cheese platters, and lay down the gauntlet. They are adults now after all!



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THE STAGING FAIRY'S TIPS TO "KEEP IT SIMPLE"

By Carrie Greynolds, TheStagingFairy.com

A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

Once you bring a new item into the home, it should have a designated spot within 24 hours. Having a designated home for everything prevents you from wasting time looking for things you need or want. This also allows you to know when to stock up and prevents overbuying at the same time, which saves you money.

KEEP A RUNNING GROCERY LIST

This simple trick will keep you stocked up and cut down on trips to the grocery store.

KEEP A RUNNING TO DO LIST

Keep the list to 5 or fewer items and make 2 of them easy tasks to complete. Cross off the tasks on the list once you have completed them. Both of these actions will help you see progress quickly and motivate you to continue the list. Once all 5 items are completed, start a new list and repeat the process.

DISPOSE OF PACKAGING IMMEDIATELY

Boxes, tissue paper, plastic wrap, etc. take up a great deal of space, and you don't need them. Removing this clutter from your visual field will immediately make your room look larger and make you feel more organized. This is especially important now that the holidays are over and packaging may still be lurking.



ORGANIZE YOUR CLOSET LIKE A RAINBOW

You won't regret it. A rainbow closet takes a bit of time to put together in the beginning, but will save you so much time later on, like when you're late for work and need to pull together an outfit quickly. Plus, the rainbow closet is really easy to maintain. When hanging up your clothes, just put them back according to color.

KEEP SEASONAL CLOTHING UNDER THE BED

This really frees up space in your closet for the clothes you are currently wearing. Having fewer items in the closet makes it easier to see your options when searching for the perfect outfit of the day.



DECORATE WITH YOUR FAVORITE THINGS

Home should make you happy, so display those mementos from your travels, your family heirlooms, and photos of your friends. This frees up space in drawers and closets where these items might otherwise be stored, but the best part is: everywhere you look, there will be good memories to make you smile.



STAY THE COURSE ON LAUNDRY DAY

Commit to completing all 5 steps of the process each time, the: sorting, washing, drying, folding, and putting away. Finishing the job is key to avoiding the clean laundry pile up.

LABEL EVERYTHING

Labeling allows you to see at a glance what is being stored, which saves so much time. Labeling also helps every member of the family know where things are kept. This greatly increases the chances of items being returned to their homes after use, so they are available for the next family member.

DECORATIONS IN ONE PLACE

Store them in the order in which they appear during the year, starting with January. If possible, use clear, plastic totes to store decorations, so you can easily see what is in each tote. Also, labeling is key to grab and go access to decorations.



1) Soldiers laying wreaths at Winchester National Cemetery 2) Andy Gail presenting Bonnie Landy and Holly Redding with a Literacy Volunteers award 3) Amber Koehler, Dillon Holland, and Ben Savory collaborating at Twice is Nice 4) The Dream Weaver Team at Old Townist Magazine launch

Submit a social photo to otw@oldtownist.com

Gringo Gordo
empanadas



EMPANADAS ARE LIFE

I cannot stress my love for Gringo Gordo empanadas enough. The strong yet delicate crust surrounding the most flavorful centers, ranging from Argentinian beef, brisket and chicken, to caprese, mushrooms, cheese and onion, and don't miss the dessert options! Brilliant combinations of melted cheese topped with options like apples and caramel, yum! Visit all their locations, including the new Purcellville shop!

Gringogordo.com

SEE *January events* AND BE SEEN

2 ROBOTICS CLUB

Lego robotics club to turn your passion for gaming into true skills! [Code Ninjas](#)

19 PATE A CHOUX

Learn how to use Pate a Choux in recipes from cream puffs to eclairs, and more! [Nibblins](#)

21 APPLE BLOSSOM CASINO PARTY

Over \$6,800 in cash prizes, open bar, dinner, silent auction, & more!

[Millwood Banquet Hall](#)

21 SILENT MEDITATION RETREAT

Explore silent and walking meditation during the day long retreat! [Mindful Shenandoah Valley](#)



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21 LEARN THE ART OF BOOKCRAFT

Learn how to publish and bind and trim a blank journal! [Valley Makers Association](#)

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SEE MORE EVENTS ONLINE....

[Old Town Events](#)
[Visitor Center Event Listings](#)

SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Email your events to otw@oldtownist.com with date, title, URL, and location, to be considered for our event calendar each month!

Less is more...



As blankets of snow deaden the sound of traffic and cover the ground in a beautiful coat of fresh white paint our minds turn inward to our homes, hoping to recreate the peace and tranquility we see outside in our spaces within. In this month's column we focus on attainable minimalism.

I have a limited budget, how would you suggest I prioritize my selections?

Regardless of if you have the most modest or scandalous budget we always suggest you begin by determining the experience you want to have in the space. Once you know how the space is to be used, select the forms necessary to fill that function. It is better to purchase fewer higher quality pieces than to have a lot of pieces that may have to be

replaced when they eventually fail. Additionally from an aesthetic standpoint a single quality piece draws a lot of attention away from less impressive pieces that surround it. Selecting neutral pieces will also allow you to swap out accessories such as pillows or candles seasonally which can allow you to change your look without consuming much space or money.

How do you know if a particular pattern will work in a room?

If we are talking about wallpaper or window treatments most companies have memo samples or swatches that you can order to take back to your space. If you want to check a specific dye-lot then potentially you can get a "CFA" (cutting for approval); however for many people attempting to visualize a

completed space from a small piece is difficult. If that is the case some companies have "AR" (augmented reality) tools that serve as visualizers, or you can hire a designer or artist to create a rendering for you. That being said we always feel confident that you will achieve striking results by using beautiful materials simply. Limit the number of patterns you will use and reserve them for items you wish to draw visual attention to.

How do I make my home look like the ones I see in magazines?

While we don't recommend judging your home or yourself against the curated images presented in magazines or social media, we do recommend eliminating clutter. Store items in the space they are going to be used in and especially make sure to maintain clear paths for traffic flow around a room. It is always easier to keep items organized if they have a clearly defined space where they belong as well. In general once you have that done our next tips would be to make sure your rugs are large enough for your furniture to fit comfortably on; and that your drapery rods are hung roughly four inches from the ceiling with the drapes hanging to approximately half an inch off the floor.

Yaron Linett is the Principal Designer of Formal Traditional, a full service commercial and residential Interior Design Firm headquartered in Stephens City. Have questions you would like to see answered in a future column? He can be reached at yaron@formaltraditional.com


CONGRATS BRADLEY REID

Bradley Reid has been chosen as one of the recipients of the Mayor's Excellence Award for 2022 for his dedication to showing the beauty of Winchester through his photography. We are proud to partner with Bradley for this month's cover image!




The Mayor's Excellence Award was created to recognize and honor individuals, businesses, groups or organizations whose efforts in the community have showcased the City of Winchester, VA as a great place to be; helped others in the community without hesitation or motive; made contributions or shown commitment to the betterment of the community; thought outside the box in response to societal needs; etc. [Submit your nominations for 2023 online!](#)

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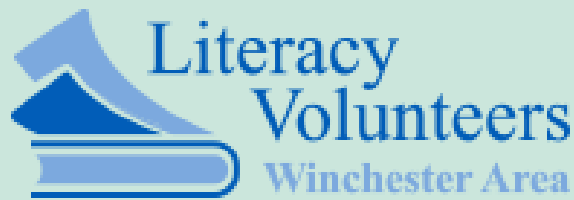
True Value Facebook



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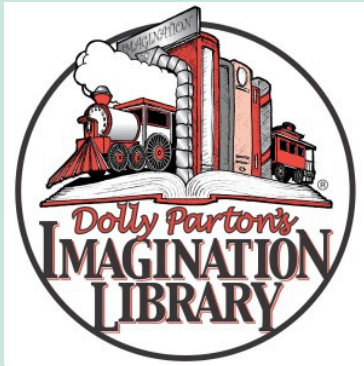
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Literacy Volunteers Winchester Area is proud to partner with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library to support early childhood literacy in the City of Winchester, the County of Frederick, and the County of Clarke, VA. As a program under the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading, sponsorships finance the cost of books and mailing, conducts registration for eligible-aged children, and orders books monthly from the Dollywood Foundation.

From the day they are born, children who are registered for the program receive a book every month until their fifth birthday. Preschoolers currently living in the City of Winchester, the County of Frederick, or the County of Clarke may enter the program at any time and begin receiving an age-appropriate book every month until their fifth birthday. Register your child at LVWA.org



The Dream Weaver Team agents have donated funds to sponsor 8 local children through the Dollywood Foundation in January. We hope you will sign your child up or sponsor one or more children in our area!



Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:

It was one of the most searing images of the twentieth century: two young boys, two princes, walking behind their mother's coffin as the world watched in sorrow—and horror. As Diana, Princess of Wales, was laid to rest, billions wondered what the princes must be thinking and feeling—and how their lives would play out from that point on.

For Harry, this is that story at last.

With its raw, unflinching honesty, Spare is a landmark publication full of insight, revelation, self-examination, and hard-won wisdom about the eternal power of love over grief. Available Jan 10, 2023.

WinchesterBookGallery.com


7 N. Loudoun St




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WINCHESTER REAL ESTATE 2022 Market Recap

\$397,977
Average
Price Sold

UP FROM \$354,118
IN 2021

24
Avg Days on
Market

UP FROM 18
DAYS IN 2021



FIND YOUR
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IRISH TEA

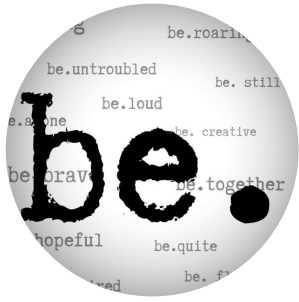
- 1.5 oz Irish whiskey
- 6 oz fresh brewed Irish black tea
- 3 whole cloves
- 3 whole allspice berries
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 2 tsp honey

Combine into your favorite mug and
garnish with a lemon slice and freshly
grated nutmeg.



141 S Loudoun St Winchester VA





Be. Studios



*I just wanted
a place to
be... together,
alone,
inspired.*



Amber Koehler's energy is always infectious, and we were not disappointed as we caught up while sitting around the Twice is Nice shop floor, toasting to her newest endeavor BE. Studios. An ode to the art of carefree crafting, the joy of art without the formality, the studio offers classes and the ability to rent the space for your own needs starting at just \$15 an hour.

Looking at the classes and gatherings that were offered in December we enjoyed seeing not only a nice variety with projects we would actually want to keep after the class, but affordability, and a community supporting and sharing with each other. From felting ornaments to women painting with their boobs, to garland and wrapping paper crafts for kids.

Amber brought on Dillon Holland to help her grow BE. Studios with her background in teaching art and her connections in the artist community. Dillon is excited to bring an even wider array of classes from jewelry to an upcoming anime illustration class. Amber and Dillon want the classes to remain organic and approachable, and look forward to hearing from the community on what they would like to see available and what they can teach and share. Top of their wish list are series of classes where you build your skills over time such as sewing basics, with completed projects along the way.

The space is perfect for renting for small gatherings, birthday celebrations, or even popup shopping events for your small business. You can reach Amber and Dillon on Facebook or in person at Twice is Nice 12 W Gerrard St, and Be. Studios located at 813 South Loudoun St.





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THE PROGRAM

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- EMT and first responders
- Firefighters
- Active military and Veterans
- Police department
- Non-profit employees



GET STARTED

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