

WE ARE WINCHESTER

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BRADLEY REID

Winchester Book Gallery Recommends:



Authors June Hayward and Athena Liu were supposed to be twin rising stars. But Athena's a literary darling. June Hayward is literally nobody. Who wants stories about basic white girls, June thinks.

So when June witnesses Athena's death in a freak accident, she acts on impulse: she steals

Athena's just-finished masterpiece, an experimental novel about the unsung contributions of Chinese laborers during World War I.

So what if June edits Athena's novel and sends it to her agent as her own work? So what if she lets her new publisher rebrand her as Juniper Song—complete with an ambiguously ethnic author photo? Doesn't this piece of history deserve to be told, whoever the teller? That's what June claims, and the New York Times bestseller list seems to agree.

WinchesterBookGallery.com | 3 N. Loudoun St

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This month, we celebrate both our rich history and vibrant new additions to our community. From the French and Indian War Foundation's preservation of Fort Loudoun to the revival of classic Winchester traditions by Snow White Grill's new owner, there's much to appreciate in our town's past. While newcomers like Lion + Ram Fashion Boutique continue to expand options in Old Town, February also brings a special focus on Black History Month, with events celebrating local talent and culture, from art pop-ups to spoken word performances, and more news from Friends of Old Town.

We hope you'll join us in honoring these contributions and supporting the creators who help shape Winchester into the dynamic place it is today.

We'll see you in Old Town!



Misty Weaver
& Katie Jordan

**WE ARE
WINCHESTER**

SNOW WHITE GRILL

When we walked in for lunch, Snow White Grill owner Danny Turner warmly greeted us as friends though we'd never met. He was busy cooking the first batch of burgers of the day, carefully assembling each patty with a pickle, onion, and cheese. The aroma of the sizzling burgers was heavenly. We took his recommendation and ordered the double with fries and birch beer. The tang of the pickle and sweetness of the onion pulled together the flavors and quickly made Snow White Grill my favorite place for a burger.

As we chatted, Danny told us that he bought Snow White Grill earlier in 2024 because he couldn't imagine a Winchester without the iconic establishment. His first call after purchasing the business was to former owner Dave Grim, who owned Snow White Grill from the 1980s to 2006. Danny wanted to bring back the beloved recipe and allow customers to experience the restaurant as



they had in Grim's time. Danny was the sixth person to own Snow White Grill since Grim, yet was the first to use the original recipe. Grim honored Danny with a Certificate of Hamburger Authenticity, which proudly hangs above the entrance, for getting it right. Customers agree!



The wall behind the eleven bar stools portrays the history of the establishment, further emphasizing the connection to its roots and desire to bring its tradition of delicious, simple food to a new generation. You can visit Snow White Grill and try it for yourself Wednesday-Monday on the walking mall at 159 N Loudoun St. Winchester, VA 22601.

LION + RAM FASHION BOUTIQUE



Lion + Ram Fashion Boutique has quickly become a beloved destination for locals looking to refresh their wardrobes with chic yet affordable pieces. Co-owners and sisters-in-law Jillian McGehee and Molly McGehee-Hanson have created a space that radiates creativity, warmth, and a sense of community. During our chat, the dynamic duo shared their journey, inspiration, and vision for their boutique.

The boutique's story began when Jillian moved to Winchester four years ago, joining Molly, who had already lived in the area for about seven years. "We were just talking about possibly opening a store together when this space became available," Jillian shared. With Jillian's experience running boutiques in California and Molly's background in personal training, the timing felt serendipitous. "Our families are rooted here," Molly explained. "My parents met at Virginia Tech in the '70s and retired here, which brought us closer so our kids could grow up together." This family-first ethos is a cornerstone of Lion + Ram.

Deciding on a name was no easy task. "We tried everything—favorite flowers, different themes," Molly laughed. Inspiration struck during a fashion show they attended before opening the boutique. "We saw Zodiac-inspired designs and realized it was perfect. I'm a Leo, and she's an Aries—Lion + Ram was born." Local designer Meredith Hancock of Hancock Media, helped transform their vision into a logo that represents their fun, approachable vibe.

Transforming their historic space into a stylish boutique was a labor of love. "We worked on the space for four months—blood, sweat, and tears went into it," Jillian said. From the stunning natural light to the charming old floors, the boutique has an inviting aesthetic that mirrors the approachable ethos of its owners.

"We both believe clothes are art, and fashion should be fun," Molly added. Their curated selection emphasizes quality and affordability, allowing customers to update their wardrobes without breaking the bank.

The boutique offers a mix of everyday essentials and playful statement pieces. Denim is a particular passion for the pair. "A great pair of jeans can last decades," Molly said. "We love that it's timeless, yet constantly evolving."

Their commitment to the community extends beyond style. Many of the products they carry are from local women-owned businesses, including candles from Bold Buffalo and apparel from Milk and Mamas.

Looking ahead to 2025, Jillian and Molly are excited to grow their business and expand their reach. "We've taken things slow, focusing on our families while building the store. Now we're ready to dive into marketing and let more people know about us," Jillian shared.

Their upcoming event, the Puppy Love Fashion Show on February 2nd at The Monument, exemplifies their mission to blend style with community impact. Proceeds from the event benefit PetConnect Rescue, featuring adoptable dogs strutting the runway alongside models. "Last year, we raised over \$1,000, and we're hoping to top that this year," Molly said.

Jillian and Molly want Lion + Ram to be more than just a place to shop—they want it to feel like home. "We're here to help you find pieces that make you feel confident," Molly said. "Come in, try something new, and let us help you step out of your comfort zone." Whether you're looking for the perfect pair of jeans or a playful statement piece, Lion + Ram invites you to explore, experiment, and express yourself.

For tickets to the Puppy Love Fashion Show stop by their boutique in Winchester or find them online. As Jillian says, "We're fun, approachable, and here to make sure you love every piece you wear."

[Instagram.com/lionandramboutique/](https://www.instagram.com/lionandramboutique/)



FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR FOUNDATION



Exploring History with the French and Indian War Foundation

Established in 2002, this nonprofit organization was founded when the property at 419 N Loudoun Street became available for purchase. Situated on the original grounds of Fort Loudoun, the site holds significant historical value, including George Washington's well—the sole remaining feature of the fort. This well, which is 103 feet deep, according to George Washington's records, has become a centerpiece of the foundation's preservation efforts.

Before the foundation's creation, the exact dimensions and layout of Fort Loudoun were a mystery to locals. While the area, often referred to as Fort Hill, was known to formerly house Fort Loudoun, its precise location was unclear.

Norman Baker, the foundation's dedicated historian, delved into George Washington's records at the National Archives, uncovering the fort's original plans, including the placement of the well. The design featured five buildings: barracks on the north, west, and east sides, officers' quarters, and a utility building. A 2003–2004 archaeological dig with the Department for Historic Resources confirmed these findings, revealing artifacts and the barracks' foundation. Remarkably, the current house on the property incorporates the barracks' foundation into its wall.

Construction of Fort Loudoun began in May 1756 under George Washington's supervision. As the newly appointed colonel of the Virginia Regiment in 1755, Washington was tasked with defending the western frontier. He chose Winchester as the fort's site, leveraging his familiarity with the area from his early days as a surveyor's assistant at age 16. The fort was never fully completed, yet it remained operational throughout the French and Indian War, which lasted until 1763. The massive timber walls, 16 feet high and up to 18 feet thick at the base, made it a formidable defensive structure, though it was never attacked.

Preserving Winchester's Colonial Legacy

The French and Indian War Foundation is committed to preserving and sharing the history of Fort Loudoun and colonial Winchester. Through reenactments, educational events, and interactive activities, the foundation brings history to life. Visitors can trace the outline of the fort's walls, marked on the streets of Winchester, and explore historic sites.

The foundation also highlights the broader impact of the French and Indian War, including its role in sparking tensions that led to the American Revolution. The British imposed taxes on the colonies to recover war expenses, sowing the seeds of discontent that would grow into a fight for independence.

Community Events and Engagement

The foundation hosts several annual events to celebrate and educate. Fort Loudoun Day in May commemorates the fort's construction, while French and Indian War Weekend at Abram's Delight features an encampment showcasing life on the frontier. The recreation of George Washington's election on the walking mall offers a unique glimpse into 18th-century democracy.

This year, the foundation will celebrate George Washington's 293rd birthday with a special event on February 17 at Winchester Brew Works. The evening includes a presentation on Lord Fairfax's posthumous adventures, Fort Loudoun Lager, pizza, and a commemorative cup. Tickets are \$25 and available on the foundation's website.

The French and Indian War Foundation invites history enthusiasts to become members, subscribe to their newsletter, and attend its events. Together, they aim to preserve Winchester's colonial heritage and inspire a deeper appreciation for the region's role in shaping American history.

Learn more and support the foundation's mission by visiting www.fiwf.org.



SEE *February events* AND BE SEEN

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PUPPY LOVE FASHION SHOW

Cuddle some adoptable pups and help us raise money for animals in need while viewing the latest fashions from Lion + Ram Boutique! [The Monument](#)

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EMBRACE ME: COMEDY SHOW

Dating's tough enough, but try dating when it's also hard to walk. For years, Jack stumbled through life and relationships (literally). [Winchester Little Theatre](#)

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CHOCOLATE ESCAPE

Get ready to satisfy your sweet tooth in the most delicious way! The Chocolate Escape is back for its 12th year, and it's going to be sweeter than ever. [Old Town](#)

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summiteventsco.com

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INFLATABLE SUNDAY FUN DAY

Get ready to bounce into the season of love with an exciting inflatable playground, featuring bounce houses, slides, and obstacle courses. [Winc Parks & Rec](#)

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SPOTLIGHT ON PRESERVATION

Friends of Old Town is hosting pen-forum meetups to share ideas, chat about what's happening in Old Town, and help shape our future together. [Winchester Brew Works](#)

DRUM ORPHEUM REHEARSAL HALL

When Daniel Kelly II was a student at Shenandoah University, he noticed a significant gap in the availability of rehearsal spaces for musicians. Many practice rooms were too small to accommodate more than a couple of people. In response, Daniel founded the Drum Orpheum Rehearsal Hall in 2023, creating a space not only for band practices, but also for performances. Over time, he expanded the venue's purpose, offering an affordable option for the community to host family events.

Daniel's passion for drumming began at the age of 2, sparked by the vibrant sound of drums at the gospel church his family attended every Sunday. Growing up in a family of talented musicians, he was encouraged to explore music from a young age. Though he didn't receive formal drum training until middle school, his natural talent flourished early. By high school, Daniel was performing professionally. His impressive career includes off-Broadway performances, engagements with Princess Cruises, playing for the Washington Commanders, and serving as a member of the Virginia Army National Guard 29th Infantry Division Band. His role with the Army Band has taken him across the U.S. and abroad, performing for presidents and foreign dignitaries.

Today, Daniel channels his wealth of experience into teaching drum set lessons and coaching other musicians to secure paid gigs. Since our interview together, I enrolled my daughter in drum set lessons with Daniel. My daughter has played percussion at Daniel Morgan Middle School for the past three years, but hasn't felt inspired despite her passion for music. Having personalized lessons with Daniel has given her new perspective on her craft, and has forced her to work harder. There's no hiding in the background when you're the only student. While hesitant at first, my daughter soon embraced the lessons and is learning quickly.

Daniel's vision for the Drum Orpheum is to serve as "the people's venue," providing a platform for emerging and diverse artists. Daniel sees entertainment as a vital economic driver for Winchester, and he is committed to enriching the city's cultural landscape with a variety of genres and performance spaces. For him, the goal is not just to put on a show but to craft a memorable experience. The Drum Orpheum's events are designed as true listening rooms, fostering an intimate connection between performers and audiences. This dynamic energy enhances the quality of performances and creates a shared sense of excitement.

The space can be used by non-artists as well. It's been utilized by a church group and yoga studio, for example. Daniel likes to say that if you can imagine it, you can do it at the Drum Orpheum!

DRUM ORPHEUM
REHEARSAL HALL
BY M. E. OPUS

As of January 1, the Drum Orpheum has a new home at 28 W Hart St, Winchester, VA 22601. While the space is still being developed, it is already open for lessons and performances. Daniel's inspiring vision for the venue is set to bring new vibrancy to this corner of the city, making it a hub for creativity and connection.

Learn more at DrumOrpheum.com



Warm coffeehouse with an authentic selection of espressos plus light snacks, soups and sandwiches.

STOP IN TODAY
OLD TOWN WINCHESTER
165 NORTH LOUDOUN STREET
(540) 686-7209

CONNECT WITH US ON

The area's premier pole + aerial studio is transforming into Fly Fitness! Fly Fitness will expand offerings like bungee fitness classes and more!

FLY FITNESS - open Jan 2025
234 Hope Dr, Winchester
DazzlingDivaFitness.com



THE HISTORY OF US

Friends of Old Town is thrilled to unveil *The History of Us*, a free, self-guided walking tour celebrating the vibrant history of Old Town Winchester. This unique program invites residents and visitors to uncover the stories of our buildings, businesses, and the people who helped shape our community.

Using QR codes placed on participating buildings, you'll embark on a journey through time—learning about Winchester's rich history, one stop at a time. With research sourced from local archives and the help of dedicated volunteers, this initiative ensures every story is accurate, engaging, and accessible to all. By connecting the Primary and Secondary tax districts, *The History of Us* strengthens our community's shared sense of pride while preserving its remarkable past.

Want to learn more about *The History of Us*? Join us for our next Community Meeting on February 19th at 3 PM at Winchester Brew Works, where we'll share exciting updates about the program in collaboration with our partners at Preservation of Historic Winchester (PHW).



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Celebrate Black History Month in Old Town!

This February, Friends of Old Town is proud to partner with the NAACP to bring you a month-long celebration of Black history, culture, and creativity. Mark your calendars for these exciting events:

- **February 6:** Artist Pop-Up in collaboration with Arte Libre at Dividing Creek. Celebrate local talent and creativity with an inspiring showcase of art.
- **February 13:** Spoken Word Night at The Hideaway Café. Experience the power of words with performances that uplift and inspire.
- **February 17:** Author Book Signing with Arthena Roper at Winchester Book Gallery. Meet the author and discover her incredible work.
- **February 25:** Comedy Night with Ace Jackson at Old Town Ciderhouse. End the month with laughter as we celebrate joy and unity!

Want to get involved, volunteer, or sponsor a building? Visit FriendsOfOldTown.org/ for more details. Let's celebrate our past, our present, and our future together!

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WE ARE
WINCHESTER



**517 W CLIFFORD ST
JUST SOLD - \$506,000**



**UNDER CONTRACT
104 GADWELL LN**



**JUST SOLD - \$598,000
109 STARBURST ST**



**JUST SOLD - \$377,500
104 DOGWOOD DR**

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REACH OUT TODAY



Katie Jordan



Misty Weaver

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