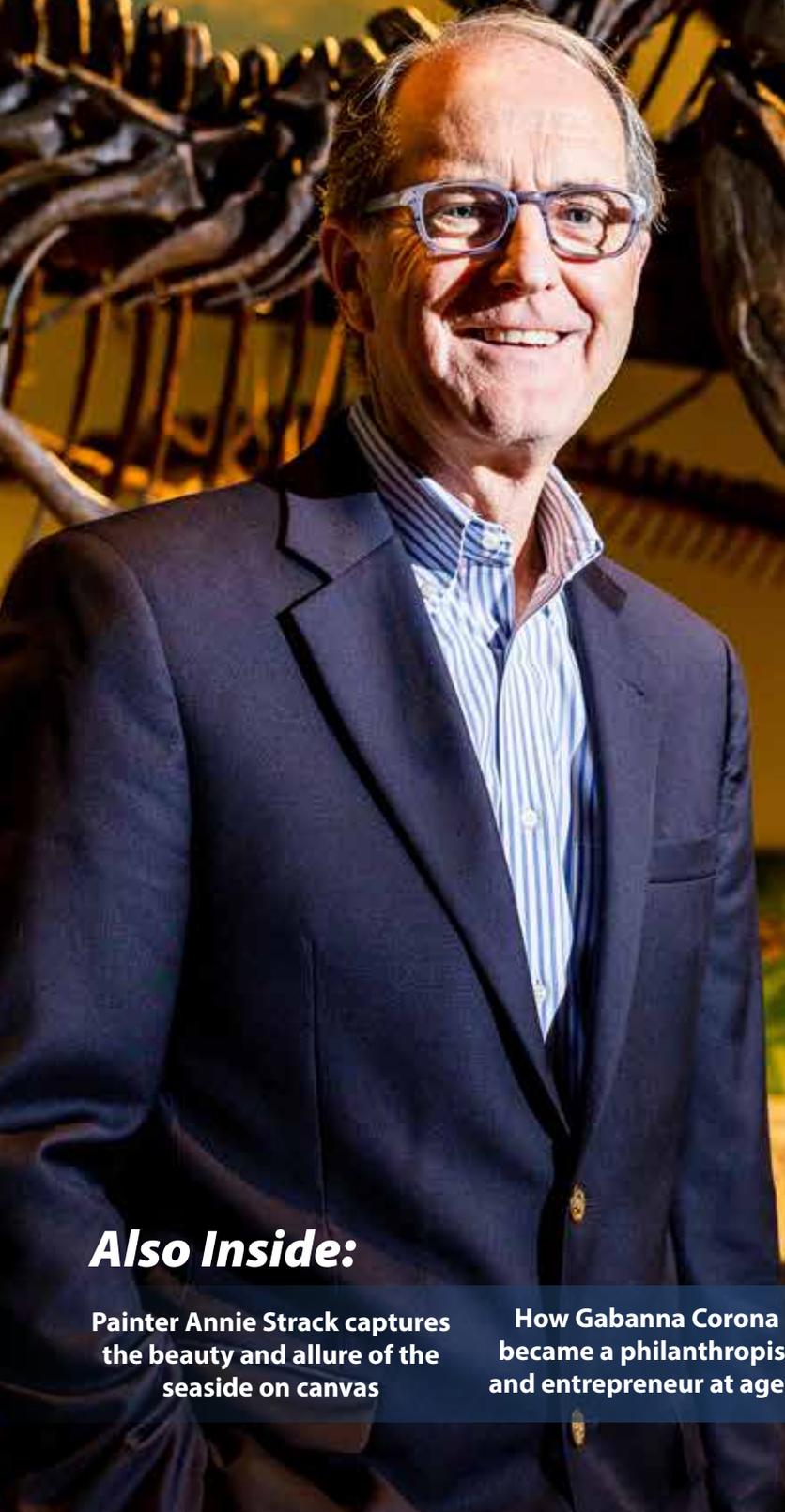


CHADDS FORD

JUNE 2022

# JUNXION

FOR RESIDENTS, BY RESIDENTS



## Good Bones

Behind the scenes of the newly renovated Delaware Museum of Nature & Science with Director Halsey Spruance

### Also Inside:

Painter Annie Strack captures the beauty and allure of the seaside on canvas

How Gabanna Corona became a philanthropist and entrepreneur at age 5

Throw an elegant, flower-filled garden brunch with designer Patricia Maristch's tips



**JunXion’s own education specialist, Perk Musacchio, reminisces on happy childhood memories and bids farewell to readers with a list of fun activities to do with your kids**

As a young girl, I lived on Woodland Avenue in Media, PA. Originally a forest and adjacent to my grandparents’ property, the land was cleared of trees to make room for the home that my parents built in 1951. Every summer, my brothers, cousins, and I spent hours in the woods behind our house. We were the only kids around to enjoy the property, as the only other neighbors were the Snyders who landed in Media when “Uncle Guy” retired from the PA Railroad. He and “Aunt Lucille” chose a lovely duplex apartment on my grandmother’s property, which was next door to our house, as their “forever home.” Their daughters and grandchildren lived in Chicago, so my family became their adopted family. Over the next 30 years, they were surrogate grandparents, as well as neighbors.

Every day, Uncle Guy could be seen walking across our yard as he cut through my grandmother’s property on his way to Klenk’s little store to buy his morning paper. Klenk’s was a little market that was near the Media train station. Eventually, Uncle Guy would return and disappear to his porch or dining room table to read the paper before he ventured out to the yard to rake, water his beautiful gardens, or fill the many bird feeders and birdbaths in his backyard. He was not a man to sit around doing nothing for very long.

Our summer fun included running through and diving into big piles of leaves and constantly raking a multitude of paths through

the woods that always ended by the stream. Our paths became runways for playing army, tag and gateways to forts that we built amongst the trees. Despite that every day was basically the same, we never grew tired of playing in those woods or exploring the treasures found in the stream. However, one summer was different. It started with a white envelope that we found in a tree along one of our many paths. It was from the Shadeland Avenue Mob (hmmm ... the Snyders’ address was Shadeland Ave.) to the Woodland Avenue Gang. We were hooked.



Fishing at Hibernia Park

Over the course of the next three months, letters went back and forth from the rival gangs. Every morning we ran into the woods to look for the next communication from the dreaded mob members. We ran back to the house and read the letter to my mom, who kept a straight face. How? I will never know. All of the letters were the same. They were composed from cut-up comics that featured the members of the Shadeland Avenue Mob, and each letter introduced a new mob member or “AKA” a well-known cartoon character at the time. We had no idea who they were other than the dreaded, mysterious forest dwellers. I think the adults had just as much fun that summer as we did as they watched our reactions to each letter and then the hours we spent composing our responses. It sure kept us busy, and I’ll bet Mom and Dad bought the Snyders a nice bottle of wine for entertaining us that summer. That summer has never left my memory because it was that special.



Teaching Aquafit



Unionville Park

Those are the kind of memories that I love to create with my grandchildren. Life is too short, and I don’t want to miss one minute with them, so this article will be my au revoir to this monthly column in *JunXion*. I’ve loved the three and a half years that I have been a contributor to the magazine, and hope that you found the articles enjoyable and helpful. I’ve always said that it takes a village. Thank you for letting me be part of *your* village.

Here are some of the fun activities that we have done with our older grandchildren and now plan on doing with the younger grandchildren, as well as some things I plan to do for myself! Maybe some of these local spots might be fun for your children, too! *Au revoir! A bientot!*

...



Feeding the Goats at Bailys



The Elmwood Zoo



Adventure Aquarium



The best swimming pool

•••

1. Walks at Unionville and Pocopson Parks, Longwood Gardens, and Winterthur
2. Fishing, kayaking, and hiking at Hibernia Park, Marsh Creek, and Octoraro Lake
3. Feeding the goats at Bailys Dairy farm or the giraffes at Elmwood Zoo
4. Teaching Aquafit
5. Traveling with friends and family
6. Finding "pirates' treasure" at the Jersey Shore (a priceless memory)
7. Ice cream/gelato any day with friends and family (D'Ascenzo's Gelato, Woodside Creamery, La Chispa, and La Michocana are some of my local favorites!)



Winterthur



Ice cream with friends



Traveling with friends



Longwood Gardens

*Perk Musacchio is a wife, mother of three adult sons, and "Mimi" to six grandchildren. She is looking forward to spending more time with family and friends, traveling, and teaching aquafit. She is also the co-author of "No Manual, No Problem: Strategies and Interventions to Help Your Child Thrive in Today's World" and "A Student's Guide to Communication and Self-Presentation" and the originator of the PeaceWalk®. For more information, visit her website at [skillstosoar.com](http://skillstosoar.com).*



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