



Tedesco's

Olde Virginia Home Journal

All the news that fits the page!

2013 -14 "Special Double" Edition

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Fundraising or Fun-Raising?

In May of 2014, HRH Rachel Anne, the Princess of Tedescovia graduated from Penn State Suma Cum Laude with a degree in Public Relations. Leveraging her internships, she secured a "dream job" as an Assistant Director of Development (Major Gifts Officer) with Penn State's College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. As best the Editor



can tell, this means she gets to travel all over the country to meet with 1%er Alumni to discuss gifts and endowments while quaffing fine wines, attending cultural events, or sampling country club cuisine. Tough, right? No wonder why she is enjoying it so much! When Rachel is home in State College she enjoys a massive office a mile from her apartment and the ongoing largess of her indulgent Grandparents Tedesco. In an effort to turn her home into something out of *Architectural Digest*, Rachel has embraced her inner-Martha Stewart-ness turning old furniture, junk and just about just about anything else in to lovely décor. Clearly this skipped a generation because it baffles her parents.

New Grandkitten Threatens Cat Job Security

After the failed launch of the "Biggest Kitty Loser" program in 2014 and the previous collapse of Feline Health Care Reform, pundits questioned the viability of cat life in the Tedesco household. How could these non-productive (except in the litter box), out of shape, lounge-about-the-house life forms remain viable and withstand the never-ending prodog propaganda coming from the Canine-stream media? The solution - a new grandkitten - was eminently



predictable but also fraught with danger for Cat Generation 2.0. Rachel adopted Little Lion (aka Lilly) after an unnecessarily complex and thorough adoption process. This little tortoise shell tabby is a bundle of energy with pink lips. She also has teeth – something of an innovation in this family. Lilly quickly stole her grandparent heart and earned the undying enmity of Heather (big surprise). Hushed talk of a cat upgrade has been heard late at night in the Tedesco household, prompting Heather (and to a much less extent) Twix to remain vigilant lest their sweet deal end pre-maturely.

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Shocking Revelation: I married Tom Cruise!

To hear Lianne tell it, her life is like that of Tom Cruise's character in the 2014 movie, *Live Die Repeat: Edge of*



Tomorrow. She gets up in the morning, runs, goes to work, comes home, goes to sleep and the pattern just repeats day after day with minor changes. Some have suggested this is perfectly normal, others that she is having some kind of existential mid-life crisis now that her only child is out of the nest and fully independent. The Editor promises to monitor this

situation closely and keep you informed in the unlikely event that anything changes. In sporting news, 2013 saw Lianne's marathon destinations include Gettysburg, PA (a near death experience) and a very fun Chicago. In 2014, she made a repeat appearance at the VA Beach Shamrock and her debut at the enjoyable Richmond Marathon. Her travel agent/marathon minion dreams of a west coast or European trip in the coming year.

Half Century Plus a Century

The *pater familias* of our micro-clan reached an important milestone in 2014; he turned 50. As much as he wanted to use this occasion as justification to purchase a new BMW M235i X Drive coupe, the Editor's plans were throttled by the fiscal prudence of the Lady of the Manor. So early in the year, VJ



set the ElliptiGo aside and took up road cycling with the goal of riding a Century (100 mile bike ride in a single day) before his birthday. At some expense (albeit exponentially less than a new BMW) and after much training (aka practice suffering), he achieved his goal by completing the Backroads Century in the Shenandoah on 21 September. A surprise benefit of all this was a refreshed respect for Lianne's marathoning and dozens of new discussion topics: gels vs. bars, optimizing hydration, chaffing mitigation, recovery strategies, etc.). It also gave VJ something to do on those long lonely Saturday mornings while Lianne was out running. Other VJ news over the past two years included a failed, but invigorating bid to win a seat on the Penn State Board of Trustees – a hopelessly inept, Soviet-style governing body if ever there was one.

Merry Christmas & Joyous Festivus to all of us!

Please remember our Fallen, the wounded and their families as well as the men and women who remain "in the fight" while we go about our daily lives.