



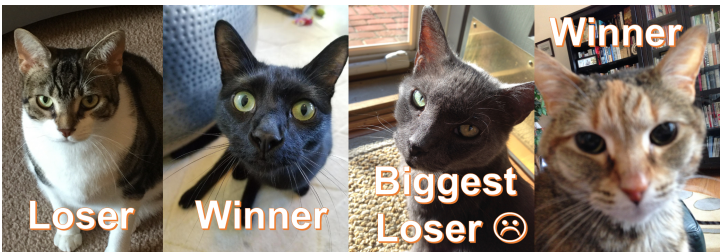
## PSPGW2BNY Elevated to Crown Prince Charming!



The biggest news out of Tedescovia this year is certainly the long anticipated royal engagement. In late August after months of rumors and media speculation, the Queen Mother and her Consort finally announced the engagement of HRH, Rachel, the Princess of Tedescovia to Mr. Charles "Chas" L. Carson, until recently known as "Mr. Penn Stater & Pittsburgh Guy Who Won't Be Named, Yet" (PSPGW<sup>2</sup>BNY). Chas was selected after a rigorous interview process that scored candidates on among other things their interest in a military career (less is better), their vertical reach (higher is better), their willingness to become a "cat person" (non-negotiable), their tolerance for strong-willed, career-minded women who don't hesitate to speak their minds (essential) and, of course, their collegiate and sports allegiances. Though his MBA from Florida put him at some risk, Chas scored well in all other areas and clinched the deal during multiple rounds of family and friends' interviews. The Queen Mother and her Consort are reportedly delighted by the match and looking forward to hosting an early Fall wedding in Austin. Planning and preparations for the blessed event are well underway and the Royal Treasury is adapting to the demands of the Wedding Industrial Complex.

### Biggest Loser Furry Friends Edition

This was a tumultuous year within the feline population of Tedescovia. In our Austin domain, Lilly aka "The Grandkitten" saw her perfect world turned on end. HRH who clearly has a HUGE soft spot for cats with "issues" chose to expand her family by adopting Leonardo DiCatrio aka "Nards." Nards is a special needs kitten whose back half operates independently but thanks to HRH he now lives an idyllic life in his forever home. Chas wisely agreed with HRH's decision although I am sure there was the only the illusion that he had some say about the adoption. Meanwhile in our Virginia lands, Heather aka "Bubby" departed for "the Great Litter Box in the Sky" thus making Twix the officially the Happiest Cat on Earth. No more sisterly abuse and no sharing food, human attention, or the spot in front of the bathroom space heater on a cold winter morning.



### Related: Lianne joins the MoB. Stress Ensues

One consequence of the Royal Engagement is that Lianne must now become a Mother-of-the-Bride (MoB) and meet all the social and family expectations of that syndicate. This has revealed some cracks within the domestic Female Coalition, as HRH has articulated wedding attire requirements that the Queen Mother seems unwilling and perhaps unable to embrace. Your Editor has overheard extended debates using words and phrases such as "matronly," "sack of bread," and "pants suit." He doesn't fully comprehend these things but they must hold tremendous mystical significance among females. An outside mediator is being considered as we seek to resolve what is apparently an existential crisis for a certain member of the Royal Household.

What Rachel Has in Mind



What Lianne Sees

### Patriarch Survives Assassination Attempt

Just when he thought he had reached a point in his life when he could peaceably relax in his home after a day toiling in the salt mines of the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Cost Assessment and Program Analysis, your Editor was nearly injured in a brazen terrorist car attack. Fortunately, the VBIED did not function, the domestic barrier plan saved the day and no one was seriously hurt, yet....



### In Other News...

- Lianne celebrated her 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the Breast Care Navigator at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She ran the Pittsburgh and Richmond Marathons this year bringing her total to 19 since 2008.
- V.J. entered his 6<sup>th</sup> year working as defense contractor ever hopeful for an opportunity to move on to something more satisfying.

### 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.