

### House Hours

Monday 8a–6:30p  
 Tues–Thurs 8a–12a  
 Friday 8a–1a  
 Saturday 10a–1a  
 Sunday 10a–3p

### Dining Hours

Monday 8a–3p  
 Tues–Thurs 8a–9p  
 Friday 8a–10p  
 Saturday 10a–10p  
 Sunday 10a–3p

### Reservations

To make a dining or program reservation give concierge a call or email:  
 concierge@commonhouse.com  
 (434) 566-0192

ISSUE NO. 6

THE COMMON HOUSE GUIDE & JOURNAL

MAY 2019

# The Commoner

## The Commoner

MAY 2019 — ISSUE NO. 6



COMMON • HOUSE  
 206 WEST MARKET STREET  
 CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA 22902



GENIUS

IS

PATIENCE

ISAAC NEWTON

May

- WED, 5/1 **Bridge Room Session: Erin McKeown** 8pm
- SAT, 5/4 **Queen of Chess: Susan Polgár** 10am
- FRI, 5/10 **Shop Like a Mama!** 10am
- SAT, 5/11 **\*Rosé Fest** 4pm
- SUN, 5/12 **\*Mother's Day Brunch** 10am
- WED, 5/15 **North American Sake Takeover!** 7:30pm
- WED, 5/15 **Boar's Head Open House** 3pm
- THURS, 5/16 **Sometimes We Cannot Be With Our Bodies** 6:30pm
- TUES, 5/21 **Women's Networking Cocktails** 6pm
- WED, 5/22 **Film Club** 7pm
- THURS, 5/23 **Performing History** 5pm
- SAT, 5/25 **Community Brunch** 10am

– Recurring –

**Music on the Rooftop**  
w/ rotating artists  
Every Wednesday, 7–9pm

**Games Club**  
May 1st and 15th, 7–9pm

**Friday Night Social**  
w/ the Analogue DJs  
Every Friday, 9pm–late

📷 common\_\_house  
f facebook.com/commonhouse



– Every Week –

**Tasting Tuesday**  
5:30–7pm, Tea Room  
Free revolving tasting presented by wineries, sommeliers, and retailers

**Half-Off Wednesday**  
All Day, Dining  
Half price wine bottles from the menu

**No Corkage Saturday**  
Grab a bottle from the downstairs rack and sip away your Saturday

All events are at Common House unless otherwise noted.  
Visit [charlottesville.commonhouse.com](http://charlottesville.commonhouse.com) for updates, current menus, and hours.

# Closing Credits

## A personal documentary w/ Forrest and Zaynah

“NAPOLEON, DON’T BE JEALOUS ‘cause I’ve been chatting online with babes all day,” character Kip Dynamite famously says in the cult classic film *Napoleon Dynamite*. The quoted line suddenly takes on a whole new dimension when considering the coming together story of the Pandos.

Enter: Forrest and Zaynah Pando. They are two smart, kind, quirky creatives (Ravenclaws, obviously) who have been together since the eighth grade. Film-makers by trade, it is only fitting that they would unite in a cinematic-like fashion.

After meeting through mutual friends, one day, the two were AIM-ing back and forth, talking movies, school, friends, and probably (given their introspective personalities) the nature of reality. Eventually, Forrest worked up the courage to ask Zaynah out. They went to the then Regal Theatre on the Downtown Mall to see the indie classic *Napoleon Dynamite*.

Maybe it was something Kip or Napoleon said. Maybe it was the popcorn, script, ambience, or being enraptured in each other’s company, but that date has led to a 15 year relationship, from young love into marriage, from marriage into something ineffable: A friendship that is as vast as it is deep.

The two have a realness about them that extends beyond their fairy tale union. They have a grit that is refreshing and beautiful. Film, for Zaynah and Forrest, isn’t about Netflix and chill-ing. It is a mode to communicate, provoke, and illuminate.

“We are living in a time of adversity but film is a way to connect people,” Zaynah shares, “It gives you the chance to see what it’d be like to be in someone else’s shoes, which creates a deep sense of empathy.”

The Pandos gravitate toward international cinema with Bon Joon-ho’s *Mother* being high on their list. The story traces the simple life of a mother whose world get turned upside down when her only son, Do-joon, is accused of murder. They explain that unlike Hollywood productions, South Korean films often have a twist, but not for the mere sake of a twist. There is a reason, a motive.

Forrest states: “Movies like *Mother* force you to think about why characters did what they did. And it impacts you for a long time after the showing is over.”

Stories that have impacted them reveal what is unspoken, touching on societal sores, urging audience members to examine then re-examine how they choose to interact with themselves and the world.

They use Lars Von Trier’s controversial *Antichrist* as an example. It’s a very challenging film to watch between its scenes of extreme sexual violence and self-harm. And yet, it communicates what desolation, pain, and grief can feel like. Suffering is unabashedly exposed, which could be a helpful tool to make people feel less alone in what our culture has traditionally glossed over.

Talking with Forrest and Zaynah makes you realize the power of film and the whole scope of material out there. When they speak about movies, it’s like listening to two experts give a TedTalk. And it’s no surprise the medium has always been essential to who they are together and as individuals.

Ever since the first grade, Forrest knew he wanted to make films. He used to doodle pictures of Director’s chairs that his parents hung up. His sketches became a reality when, after studying film at VCU, he began writing and directing. Zaynah always knew she wanted to own her own business but also felt a pull toward the page. All her loves culminated together when she and Forrest started Pando Creative.

Pando Creative is their video production company with an expansive repertoire, ranging from promos for local businesses, to Bridge Room Sessions, to full-length music videos including Wes Swing’s “Mirrors.” At the core of each piece is stunning camerawork, a deliberate sense of time and place, and an authentic voice that evokes and inspires.

Collaboration, too, is essential to their work. Zaynah laughs, “Forrest’s motto is: ‘If we wanted to do art by ourselves, we’d

be painters.” And indeed, this summer, they will be entering a larger pool of artistic collaboration by pursuing their advanced studies in Film at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

For a while, they’ve been eager to continue their education, and it was important to the Pandos that they (1) find a school that has an awesome film program,

and (2) one that looks like Hogwarts. After doing a lot of research, and after an accidental *Outlander* marathon, they discovered St. Andrews. One visit to Scotland later, and they were sold.

This August, they’ll be setting sail to begin their life’s next chapter.

Through their work and their presence, Zaynah and Forrest have made a huge

impact on our community. We thank them for educating us on films, inspiring us with their beautiful partnership, and enriching our world view through a new lens. We can’t wait to see them spread their wings to new heights. This isn’t goodbye, but we wish them good luck and bon voyage. And we look forward to seeing them again soon. «»

**“We are living in a time of adversity, but film is a way to connect people. It gives you the chance to see what it’d be like to be in someone else’s shoes.”**



# A Mother's Day Weekend

## Festivities



## Shop Like a Mama!

FRIDAY, 5/10, 10am

THE HOUSE WILL TRANSFORM into a wonderland of curated pop-ups where, in partnership with Brandshop, moms can peruse through collections of emerging art, fashion, and design companies crafting socially-conscious goods made for everyone. And give your mom the pampering she deserves with a mini-manicure from 10am-12pm, by Red Handed. And from 1-3pm, Hedge Fine Blooms will join us for a floral version of BYOB—Build Your Own Bouquet—using their freshly cut flowers. ▶ *Free entry, guests welcome.*

## \*Rosé Fest\*

SATURDAY, 5/11, 4pm

GIVE YOUR MOTHER'S DAY weekend a swish and a sparkle at Rosé Fest—where we will be pouring pink drinks from around the world. From saignée to press to blended, enjoy a diverse selection of varietals. Pick up a bottle, or a curated case of some of your favorites at a deep member discount and serve up rosé all summer long. ▶ *\$10, guests welcome.*

## Mother's Day Brunch

SUNDAY, 5/12, 10am

THERE IS NOTHING MORE perfect than sharing a mimosa with mama. Chef Matt Greene has prepared a special menu with extra helpings of love, appreciation, and all the mom approved favorites. And, in addition to pink drinks and floral arrangements, we'll also have a special gift for the mothers. ▶ *Dining à la carte, RSVP encouraged, open to all members.*

To make a reservation:  
concierge@commonhouse.com  
(434) 566-0192

### HOME & RETAIL

#### Alton Lane

Free dress shirt with purchase of blazer, suit, or tux

#### Ashby

10% off jewelry and new merch items

#### Blanc Creatives

15% off handmade cookware

#### Clementine

10% off jewelry and new merch items

#### Clover

10% off new gifts and accessories

#### Criquet

20% off shirts and accessories

#### Darling Boutique

20% off clothing

#### e.g.

15% off boutique clothing

#### Hart Studio

20% off handmade jewelry with free shipping

#### In Vino Veritas

10% off curated wine; free personal tasting

#### Melody Supreme

10% off new vinyl

#### New Dominion Bookshop

10% off new books

#### Quattro Tizi \*NEW

15% off men's urban fashion

#### Rider Boot Shop

15% off luxury leather boots

#### Rockbridge Guitar Co.

20% off base model guitars

#### Shockoe Atelier

15% lux denim and personal fitting

#### Verdigris

20% off of one item

### EXPERIENCES

#### The Albemarle Angler

10% off fly fishing and supplies

#### Monticello Wine Tours \*NEW

10-15% off wine tours, private airport shuttles, and corporate transportation

#### Rivanna River Co.

10% off any rafting trip.

#### Virginia Discovery Museum

10% off children's birthday parties

### LODGING

#### Fort Lewis Lodge

15% off stay: Thursdays through Sundays

#### Oakhurst Inn

10% off rooms and a \$30 Food & Beverage credit

#### Quirk Hotel

10% off reservations and a \$25 food credit

### SERVICES

#### Aqua Hand Car Wash

20% off monthly membership; 10% off any drop-in service

#### J.W. Townsend Landscaping

10% off any landscape cleanup

#### Lifeview Marketing and Visuals \*NEW

10% off all services

# House Perks

As a member, these businesses have shared discounts specifically for you. Visit [charlottesville.commonhouse.com/house-perks](http://charlottesville.commonhouse.com/house-perks) to learn how to take advantage (the password is "206member").

### HEALTH & WELLNESS

#### Boar's Head Resort

Discounted initiation fees for any membership

#### NUA Medical Spa \*NEW

10% credit from any treatment in April and May

#### M3

20% off 4 & 8 class passes; \$75 first month rate

#### Patcha Thai

Free hot stone add-on with any massage

#### Posture Studio \*NEW

10% off all pilates and yoga classes

#### Pürvelo

15% off all 5, 10, & 20 cycling class packages

#### Pure Barre

20% off 20 class pack; \$89 first month unlimited

#### Smooth Skin Laser

10% off any package for permanent hair removal

#### Tread Happy

20% off 5 & 10 class running and training packages

# Making a Genius

## Grandmaster Susan Polgár

BUDAPEST, 1973. Four-year-old Susan Polgár sits at eye-level to a chess board, her mind calculating her opponent's next move. Around her is smoke and men five decades older than she, but that doesn't distract Susan from her goal. "Check Mate," she says to a tight-lipped man.

"Guys in those chess clubs used to say, 'Oh, I didn't sleep well,' or 'Oh, I have a cold,'" she laughs recounting her earliest winnings in the documentary *My Brilliant Brain*, "Jokingly, it was said I never beat a 'healthy' man."

When her peers were learning their ABCs, Susan was hard at work, pioneering an unprecedented path of repute. Through her childhood, she dominated chess championships, racking up awards, laurels, and ten Olympic medals. She broke world records and broke gender barriers at a time when only men played the game. An unrivaled, unstoppable force, Susan exceeded expectations when, at the age of 21, she received the highly coveted title: Grandmaster.

As a star rises to unimaginable heights, it is only human nature to ask, "How?" How is a genius created? Is prodigious talent something god-given to only a select few? Or can it be developed over time through diligence and discipline?



↑ Susan at age 4

Susan's father, László Polgár, believed geniuses were made, not born. A trained psychologist, he wrote extensively on how a specialized education was the determining factor to creating a child prodigy. Often, he cited Mozart as an example. Mozart's father, Leopold, was an accomplished musician who provided rigorous training for his prodigious son. Inspired, László set out to do the same for his children.

Chess came by accident. He intended for Susan to specialize in mathematics, but her fate quite literally dropped on the floor when she was searching for a toy in the closet. Curious by the all chess pieces, she brought them to her mother who told Susan she was afraid she didn't know how to play but to wait until her father got home. He would happily show her.

An amateur player of the game himself, László was only able to teach Susan the basics. However, he could see the earnestness she had for chess, which he knew was the foundation for mastery in any field. The rest would be easy—the hours of specialized study and practice. Fueled by passion, so she began.

For six or more hours a day, Susan poured over chess books that lined the shelves of the family's small apartment. Hung on the walls were newspaper clippings of championship games and detailed analyses of their winnings. Alongside her two younger sisters, Susan was homeschooled to focus on chess. And their hard work has paid off in dividends.

**Susan broke world records and gender barriers—at a time when only men played the game. An unrivaled, unstoppable force at the age of 21, she received the highly coveted title: Grandmaster.**

Currently, Susan and her sister Judit are ranked among the top chess players in the world. There's no doubt the game is complex. The number of possible positions is comparable to the number of atoms in the observable universe. But there is a secret to finding order. It's a pattern recognition technique called "chunking."

For example, a friend gives you his phone number. The area code is the same as yours so it's easy to remember. The first three digits are your dad's birthday 124, and the following four are the same as your address 2487. Thus, you process information not as individual units but as "chunks" to enhance memory.

Much the same, after playing game after game of chess, certain formations begin to commonly emerge. Over the years, Susan has memorized those common patterns in order to intuit her opponent's next move with lightening speed. It's a form of highly educated guessing, rooted in previous experience and analysis.

Another reason behind her brilliance is best explained in an adage: No man is an island. And it is true. Her mastery didn't

rise in an incubator, for human ingenuity is not a solitary act despite the enduring myth of the reclusive genius.

Consider: Jacopo de Pontormo. A contemporary of Michelangelo, Pontormo was commissioned to paint the ceiling of Florence's San Lorenzo church. It was there he sequestered himself for over 11 years to his detriment. What was expected to be his magnum opus ended up being a composition without coherency. Proportions were distorted. Scenes, confused. Ultimately, his isolation handicapped his ability to see a bigger picture that only human connection can provide.

And so the question arises: Had Susan been born to a different family whose father didn't have an active role in her development, how different would she be? Without her chess-playing sisters, without a support system, perhaps her mastery would have remained untapped.

What Susan's story points to is this: We all have the potential to excel. Nature seems to be secondary to what is nurtured over time. Susan and her sisters are living proof of their father's theory: Geniuses are made, not born. By getting to know their backstories, we can see that mastery really isn't elusive, it's a collaborative act that requires tremendous focus and discipline. But, more importantly, mastery comes from existing in the world—for what good is a vision without a community?

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Grandmaster Susan Polgar joins the *Common House* community on May 4th, at 10am. Susan will share her unrivaled path from her humble beginnings to becoming the international chess sensation she is today. Learn the secrets to unlocking hidden potential—who knows, perhaps there is another grandmaster among us? Then watch Susan at work as she plays 20 games—simultaneously. Free, guests welcome; RSVP required.



↑ spring pea salad w/ spinach/sugar snaps/english peas/preserved lemon —&— ny strip w/ grilled wild spinach/romesco sauce/potato tortilla

## Springtime Synesthesia

IT ONLY LASTS FOR A MOMENT—a single breath by the earth that overwhelms our senses with sensation of growth. Nothing else smells or tastes like the beginning of Spring, and somehow by the mere sight of buds breaking you can taste the crispness of bright green shoots; the smell of earth being overturned by the forceful uptake of energy is palpable on the tongue. You can anticipate the crunch and incomparable freshness of a season. A season that lasts only for a moment until the delicate gives way to something else entirely. ∞

To make a reservation:  
conciierge@commonhouse.com  
(434) 566-0192

The Control  
of Nature →  
\*a springtime  
bloody mary



Rochfish w/ →  
morels/cremini/oyster mushroom/  
ramp pesto/pickled ramps

All of our menus  
have a palette of  
fresh blooms  
for the season.

But, nothing lasts  
forever—least of  
all flavors made  
for the month  
of May.



← a lunch spread (cw from bottom)  
C.H. Chicken Deluxe,  
Spinach Salad,  
Red Oak Salad,  
Chicken Breast