



877.379.6270 | BeYourHaven.org
When health becomes a challenge, we will be your haven.

VIVA! – APRIL 7 AT THE PERRY PLANTATION IN GAINESVILLE



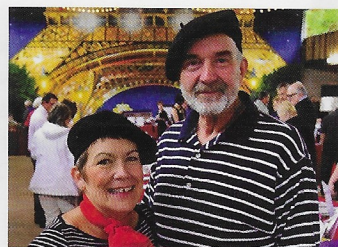
Jon Thomas, Haven Volunteer Coordinator Susie Finfrock, Susan Winslow, Mary Sabatella, Marilyn Gray, Lauren Ferguson, Haven Project Manager Catina Hinson and Haven Director of Development Kim Sovia.



Rain did not stop more than 500 guests from enjoying Haven's fourteenth annual ViVA! event. The Perry Plantation was transformed into the French countryside as guests celebrated with a Parisian theme this year. Live music played while guests were treated to exquisite French-themed cuisine catered by Blue Water Bay, bid on silent auction items, had their portrait drawn by street artist Antwan, enjoyed a wine tasting featuring wines from various regions of France.



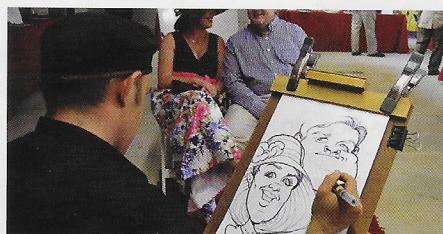
Local artist Robert Ponzio created a one-of-a-kind piece of art during the event that was later bid on and sold to benefit Haven.



Paula and James Turpening dressed the part for ViVA 2018.



Catherine Sibrey and Kelby Carter at ViVA 2018.



Antwan Ramar drawing caricatures of guests at ViVA 2018.



ViVA 2018 featured a French-themed cuisine catered by Blue Water Bay.



Alexis Macaulay with her American Foxhounds.

Macaulays to Host ViVA! 2018 at The Perry Plantation

"Growing up I was a horse crazy kid," said Alexis Macaulay who spent a great deal of time visiting with the neighbor's horse "over the back fence" and taking riding lessons before she had her own horse which she encourages to this day as a best practice for young riders. It wasn't long before Alexis wanted a new challenge and riding English style provided that opportunity. "Once a year, my instructor would take me and another student to a fox hunt in Memphis and that is where I learned about fox hunting and developed a love for the hounds."

The drag-foxhunting club Misty Morning Hounds is just one of the operations at The Perry Plantation which includes a working hay and horse farm as well as horse boarding. "It is a working farm and there is just activity all of the time," said Alexis. The property is also host to a variety of special events and will be the location for Haven's ViVA! 2018 on April 7, 2018. The cuisine, entertainment, music and activities will center around the theme of ViVA! La France and include wine and champagne tastings. For more information, visit www.BeYourHaven.org/viva.

Alexis promises ViVA! 2018 attendees that their experience will be memorable. "After passing the beautiful knotted oaks dressed with Spanish moss and going through the gate, the fields just open up. It is like stepping out from your familiar world onto an English manor." Attendees may also see some of the wildlife that inhabits the property and the surrounding areas such as herds of deer, hawks, owls, sandhill cranes, bald eagles, wild turkey and even the occasional panther. "It is almost like a documentary," said Alexis of the daily sights and sounds of the wildlife. "I still can't believe we live here. It is so wonderful."

Alexis and Walter "Mac" Macaulay bought the 527-acre Perry Plantation property in 1999 which once belonged to the fourth governor of Florida Madison Starke Perry. Originally, this property was the site of the historic Fort Crane, the first civilian fort in the state of Florida which was named after Colonel Ichabod Crane, the namesake for the protagonist in Washington Irving's *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*.

"We didn't know about the history of the property when we bought it, but the neighbors told us all about it," said Alexis whose brother-in-law, an amateur archaeologist, has collected buttons from soldier's uniforms, pottery and other period items using a metal detector on the property.



Alexis, an interior designer, built their 7,500 square foot residence with Mac, who completed all of the custom woodwork himself. Taking 10 years to complete, the residence includes amenities such as an English-style pub "The Flews & Dewlap Inn" with a sailing theme and dining area for approximately 50 to 75 fox hunt club members.

The property also includes a kennel home for a pack of 50 American Foxhounds. "Our hounds are handled from the first day, so they are people orientated. They can be hugged and pet." The dogs are companions but they are also working partners who "hunt" for bags of scrap meat and dog biscuits scented with anise during the drag foxhunting events with hunt club members. "We put some tricks on the line to keep them on their game."

"Most people have a love of riding which evolves into riding for hunting, and that is what happened to me," said Alexis. "When you are on the hunt, you detach from everyday problems and stress. Your focus is in the moment and you are just on sensory overload – admiring a huge spider web reflecting the morning sunlight, the sounds of the ride and the smells of the fresh country air. You are on an adrenaline high because everything is spur of the moment."



Mac and Alexis Macaulay at a recent Downton Abbey themed event at The Perry Plantation

ViVA! 2018
APRIL 7, 2018
5:30 P.M.

at The Perry Plantation

