

# Coast<sup>TM</sup>

2023 | VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

VALERIE HAZLIN ON  
RAISING GUIDE DOGS

AUTHOR  
PJ CALDAS  
& HIS TECHNO-THRILLER  
NOVEL

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CANNES FILM FESTIVAL  
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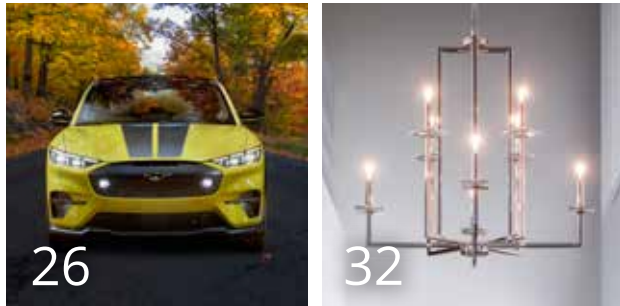
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## PUBLISHER'S GUEST

**CHRIS LOMBARDI**  
Writer for Coast Magazine™



The phrase "no" does not exist in my dictionary and I think that I disproved that old phrase that a 'jack of all trades is a master of none.' I feel like I have mastered just about anything I have set my mind to. One of my newest endeavors

is writing for Coast magazine. I have dubbed myself the arts and entertainment writer. I really am thrilled for the opportunity and challenge of writing for a tactile, printed magazine, where the goal is to publish a physical copy.

My passion is filmmaking, and my most recent short film is now available to stream on many platforms, including Tubi. The film is called "Generation Gap." I wrote my fascination for analog devices into this film, include a typewriter, film camera, records and turntables and even a rotary phone. The film takes place in 1988 and explores the tensile relationship of a mother and son. I also wrote, produced and directed "The Reluctant Detective" which will be receiving a deluxe physical and streaming release next year. If you've read this far, I'd love to hear from you, please drop me a line at: [chris.lombardi@coastct.com](mailto:chris.lombardi@coastct.com). I'd love to hear from my 'public.'

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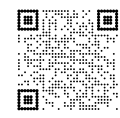
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# Guiding Your Eyes With Theirs

BY KARENA GARRITY



## GUIDING EYES FOR THE BLIND PUPPIES

**I**magine seeing the world through another being's eyes! That's exactly what individuals who are seeing impaired surrender themselves to doing when they sign up for a seeing-eye dog. They agree to put all of their trust, well-being and safety into the highly trained, ultra-professional, care of a K-9 graduate of Guiding Eyes for the Blind. But before that can happen, there is a multitude of other steps that need to happen. First and foremost, the amazing seeing eye dogs at Guiding Eyes For The Blind must be born and raised, which is a very select and meticulous task. Approximately 92 percent

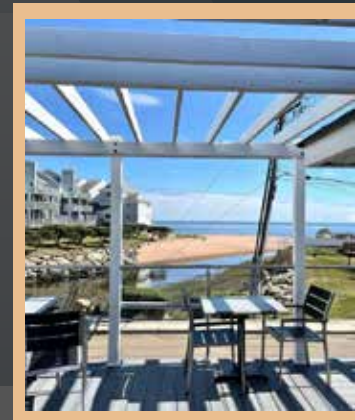
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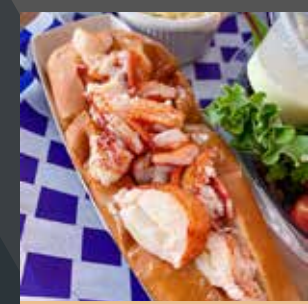
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# NEIGHBORS

of the puppies are Labrador retrievers and the remaining eight percent are German Shepherds.

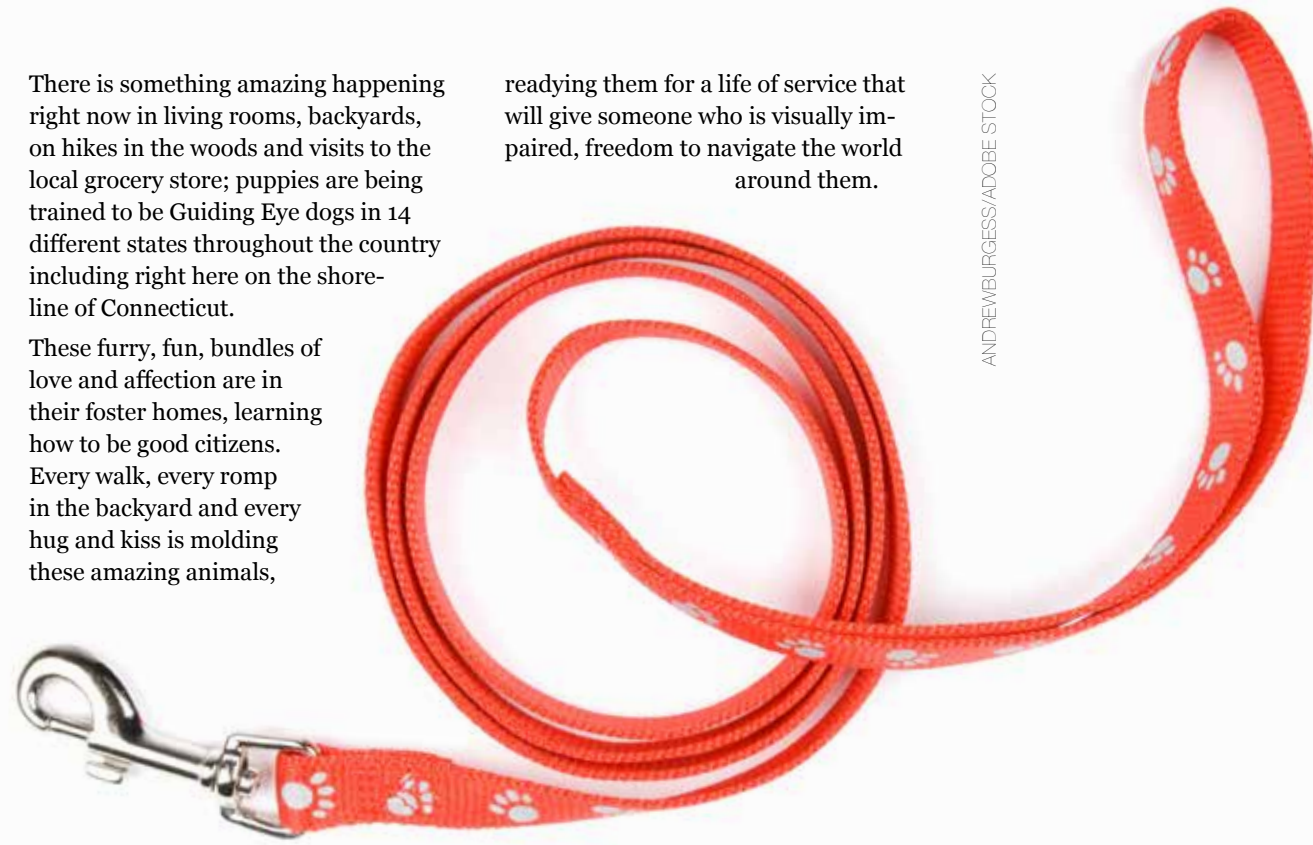
Guiding Eyes For the Blind is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Yorktown Heights, New York, with a specialized Canine Development Center in Patterson, New York and it is an accredited member of the International Guide Dog Federation, which establishes worldwide standards for the breeding and training of guide dogs. Annually, approximately 500 rolly, polly, possible eye dog pups are born, from a very select, breeding program, which "purpose breeds" Guiding Eyes dogs who have proved to be most successfully suited for this specific vocation, as well as for their health and temperament.

So, the puppies are born, now what? At about eight weeks old they are given to puppy raisers and that's where it all begins.

There is something amazing happening right now in living rooms, backyards, on hikes in the woods and visits to the local grocery store; puppies are being trained to be Guiding Eye dogs in 14 different states throughout the country including right here on the shoreline of Connecticut.

These furry, fun, bundles of love and affection are in their foster homes, learning how to be good citizens. Every walk, every romp in the backyard and every hug and kiss is molding these amazing animals,

preparing them for a life of service that will give someone who is visually impaired, freedom to navigate the world around them.



ANDREWBURGESS/ADOBE STOCK

One such puppy, a female, black lab named Waffle, is currently learning all the dos and don'ts of puppyhood from experienced puppy raiser, Valerie Hazlin of Gales Ferry. This is Valerie's 18th puppy that she has trained and she said the experience is amazing.

"This is just a wonderful thing to do," said Valerie who is addicted to the volunteering phenomenon. "Not only is it a wonderful feeling to know you are doing something for someone else, and getting the chance to spend time with these amazing dogs, but I have also met so many great people and made so many friends through this whole experience over the years."

Valerie Hazlin poses with Waffle, the 18th puppy she has raised to be a future guide dog.

(Photo courtesy Valerie Hazlin)



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A guide dog in training hits the streets of New York. (Photo courtesy Guiding Eyes for the Blind)

Valerie has been a volunteer with Guiding Eyes For the Blind for the past 21 years and is now the Regional Coordinator for the Eastern Connecticut Region. She calls the other puppy raisers in her region family.

“More than half of us are repeat raisers,” she explained.

So, what does it mean to be a puppy raiser?

Well, Valerie explained it best by saying, “The number one thing that puppy raisers are responsible for is making sure the puppy has fun!”

She added, “These are puppies so they have to have fun. But we also are here to teach them basic house manners and socialization. Take them places so they can hear all kinds of noises like gardening equipment and garbage trucks. Making sure they know how to go up and down all sorts of different stairs. Having them walk over street grates without their paws falling through and greeting people of all different ages, colors and sexes. We take them around people with wheelchairs and walkers and into grocery stores and other stores and on hikes and walks to as many different places as we can.”

Puppy raisers have to fill out an application, complete a background check, participate in an orientation, go to at least three basic training classes, puppy sit for another raiser and pass a house check before they can take on the responsibility of raising a Guiding Eyes pup. Guiding Eyes pays for all of the puppy’s veterinary expenses and provides a crate and collar.

Once matched into a home, there will be three separate evaluations made by the Regional Coordinator. The dogs are evaluated for confidence and basic house manners.

Valerie explained, “Like if you leave a sandwich on the counter, we have to make sure the dogs won’t take it when you aren’t looking.”

The puppies are returned when they are somewhere between 12 to 16 months old and Guiding Eye’s senior breeding and training staff determine whether the pups are ready for guide dog training or more suited for another career.

Final training is completed at the Guiding Eyes campus in Yorktown Heights. Puppies go for their intensive, In-For-Training (INF) and are then reviewed for their medical history

and progress and evaluated for their practical tests.

“Graduation is wondering closure,” said Valerie who warns other puppy raisers to make sure and bring lots of tissues to graduation. “It’s one of the hardest parts. Saying goodbye.” Valerie’s puppies have gone on to help people who are visually impaired throughout the world. “I had one pup go to Portugal and one go to Israel,” she explained. One of her pups named Teddy is with her owner in Las Vegas who stays in touch with Valerie and sends her photos all the time. “If you



ES SAFAWUTH/ADOBE STOCK

are lucky enough, the new owners stay in touch and keeps you updated. “It’s very nice to know the dogs are doing well and doing their job.”

The dogs that don’t pass the test to be used as a Guiding Eye dogs are found another career, such as being used for other need-based programs such as helpers for people who have suffered from strokes, suffer from Parkinson’s disease, hearing impaired individuals

and autism. Or, as bomb-detecting dogs or drug-detecting dogs. And some are adopted by families. However, reportedly more than half of the puppies raised become guide dogs, service dogs, or join the breeding program.

More than 150 guide dogs are placed with visually impaired owners annually through Guiding Eyes, which provides these dogs free of charge. Although, it costs approximately \$50,000 for

each puppy, after breeding, training, vet care and more. The organization is a non-profit that relies solely on the contributions of our generous donors to fulfill its mission.

For more information on becoming a puppy raiser or to donate to Guiding Eyes For The Blind, go to [www.guidingeyes.org](http://www.guidingeyes.org). □



Hannah and her guide dog, Zora, graduated from Guiding Eyes in 2019. Zora was one of the many puppies raised by Valerie Hazlin for the program.

(Photo courtesy Guiding Eyes for the Blind)

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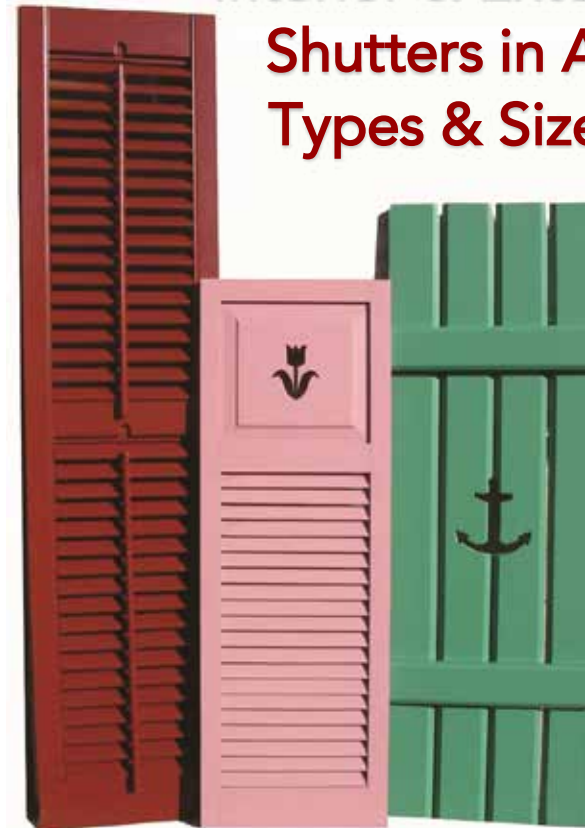
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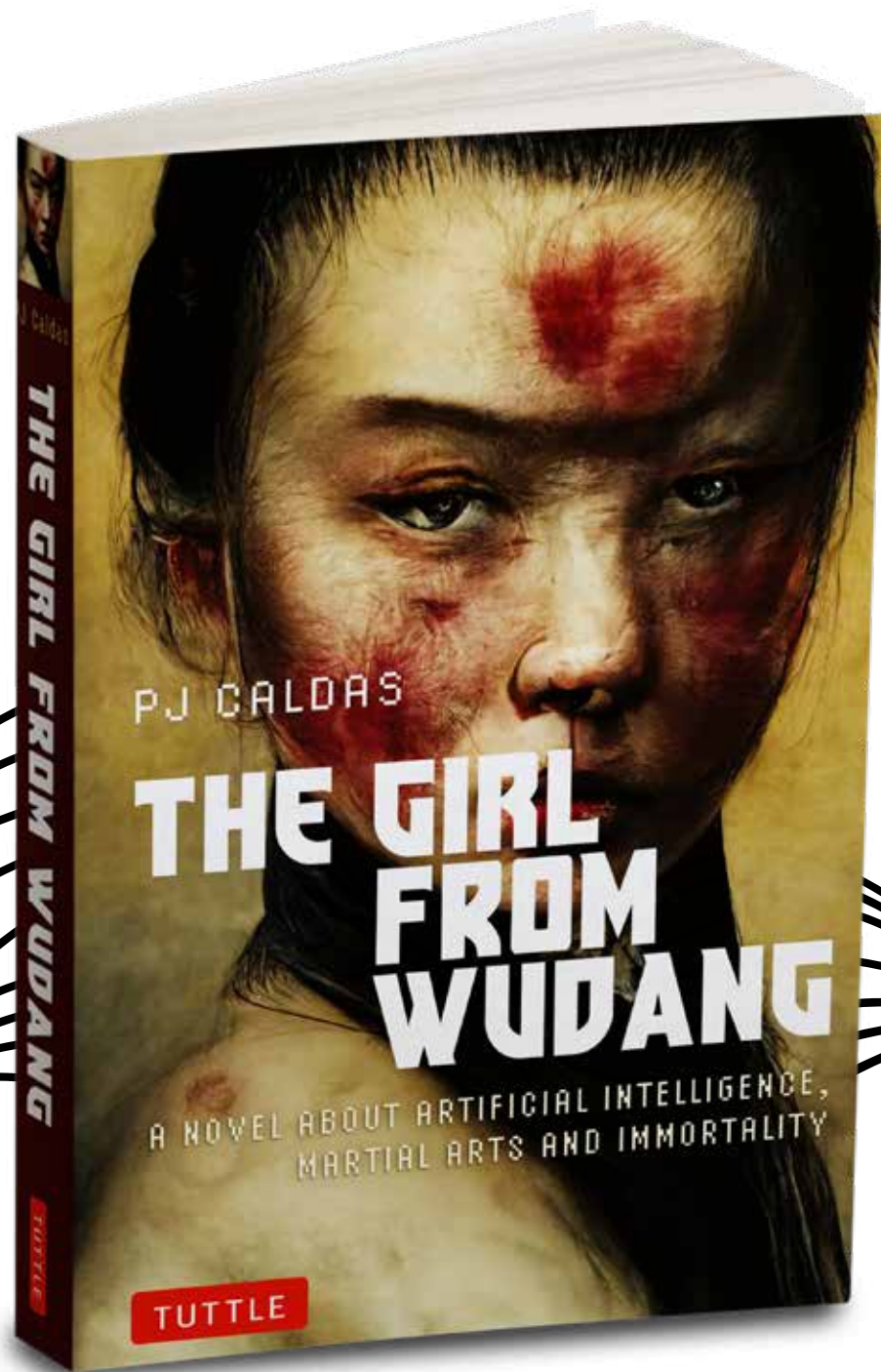
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# GET YOUR TECHNO THRILLS



EMMY AWARD-WINNER  
**PJ CALDAS**  
DISCUSSES HIS LATEST  
NOVEL

They call her Tigress. Headstrong, untameable—a beast—Yinyin defies the warnings of her late shifu, her martial arts master, and carries her ferocity from the kung fu school in the mountains of Wudang to the mixed martial arts fighting cages of California. There, surrounded for the first time by Western technology, she ignores voices of reason when offered an implant that could end her crippling headaches. It could end her pain. It could even make her...more. All she has to do is allow the doctors to implant tiny, super intelligent nanobots directly into her brain.

Yinyin's journey is told in the propulsive techno-thriller *THE GIRL FROM WUDANG: A Novel About Artificial Intelligence, Martial Arts and Immortality*. We sat down with the author and now Connecticut resident, PJ Caldas.

**COAST:** What inspired you to write this book?

**PJ CALDAS:** I grew up watching those Kung Fu movies from the 70s and 80s. Since I started my writing career, fifteen years ago, writing a story about that world has always been part of my plan. Not only the action side, but also the philosophy behind it. The idea of balance between yin and yang, soft and hard...

**C:** What led you to write this protagonist as a powerful woman?

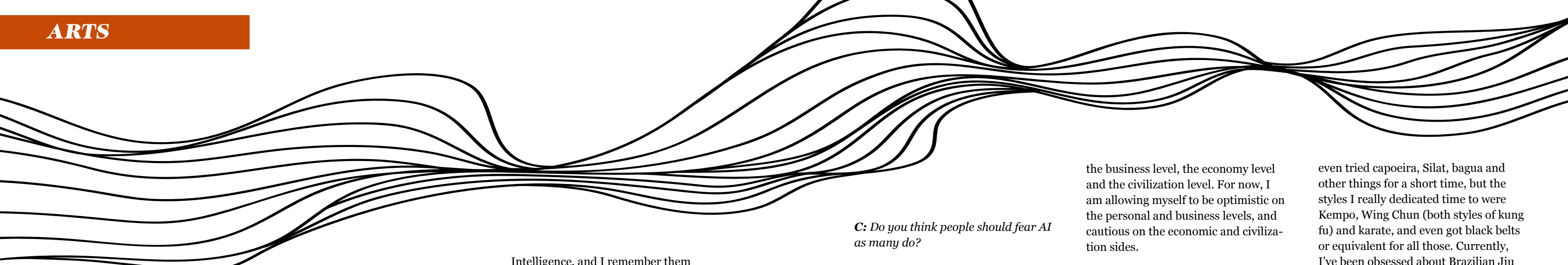
This is a story about that balance. Between yin, the soft energy of the universe, and yang, its aggressive counterpart. Since fighting is an activity often associated with men, choosing a woman added more tension to it, especially because she is a very aggressive woman. The same with the choice of Tai Chi as the core style she learned — in the West, Tai Chi is seen as a health activity for the elders. This dynamic contrast between so many forms of soft and hard is a big metaphor to everything I learned in fighting. But it was only while I was writing this story that I realized all that had a deep religious background in



PJ Caldas was picked by the Dictionary of Literary Biography as one of the most important Brazilian writers of the 21st century. He has published four books inspired by the mythology carried to Brazil by the African diaspora, and reached the top five bestselling titles multiple times. Caldas is also a martial artist with 40 years of experience in combat sports, including kempo, karate, wing chun, tai chi, boxing and Brazilian jiu jitsu. He currently works in New York City and lives in Connecticut. (Photos left & right courtesy Meryl Moss Media Group)

GINA/ADOBE STOCK





Daoism, which gave me a much deeper philosophical base for the entire story, including the choice of its starting place and the title of the book, the sacred mountains of Wudang, birthplace of Tai Chi and Daoism.

**C:** Do you have a background in AI and, if so, how did it factor into the book?

**PJC:** My first job was as a programmer, and following what's happening in the tech space has always been a passion of mine. Eight years ago, I attended an MIT event in the Bay Area and all they talked about was Artificial

Intelligence, and I remember them talking about how AI agents needed a clear goal to optimize toward. Around that time, I was already working on the first draft of *The Girl from Wudang*, and I was intrigued by that, because at the core of Daoism there is this idea of balance but also the idea of relinquishing control to the universe. Throwing a technology that relied on goals against a religion based on letting go of goals seemed like an interesting idea.

**C:** Do you think people should fear AI as many do?

**PJC:** The problem with AI is that it has a big potential to accelerate incredible progress, but carries a much smaller risk of causing catastrophes. It may find the cure to cancer or solve the climate crisis... but can also mean humans may eventually lose our place as the smartest creatures on the planet. What usually helps me with that anxiety is looking at it from four different angles: the personal levels,

the business level, the economy level and the civilization level. For now, I am allowing myself to be optimistic on the personal and business levels, and cautious on the economic and civilization sides.

**C:** What sparked your interest in martial arts and what disciplines have you done best with?

**PJC:** My father was a Judo black belt, and my oldest memories with him are of us wrestling, trying to imbalance each other, trying to throw each other... so I got into fighting when I was 6 or 7, and never stopped. I've done some boxing, Muay Thai, Tai Chi... and

even tried capoeira, Silat, bagua and other things for a short time, but the styles I really dedicated time to were Kempo, Wing Chun (both styles of kung fu) and karate, and even got black belts or equivalent for all those. Currently, I've been obsessed about Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, which I started to train when I moved from California to Connecticut — I currently hold a purple belt in it, which is about halfway between a white and a black belt.

**C:** Have you sparred with many female martial arts partners and, if so, what have they taught you about the differences between male and female approaches to fighting?

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Dates/time subject to change.  
Details at [pjcaldas.com](http://pjcaldas.com)

**PJC:** I always trained with women, and they have always been a massive inspiration. Women are usually on the smaller side of the class, which forces them to be smarter and more more technical than most. Since I also tend to be on the smaller side, I could always learn a lot from them and how they applied the technique.

**C:** What disciplines are you interested in progressing in and why?

**PJC:** Right now I am 100% dedicated to Brazilian Jiu Jitsu. I practicing kicking and punching my entire life. One day I had a meeting with the UFC

**C:** How did you start your ad agency and what ads are you proudest about?

**PJC:** I had an agency in Brazil. It was one of the most awarded digital shops in the world. But violence got too bad in Brazil and eventually got too close to my family so I sold it and moved to California to work at another agency, where I met my partner. I knew I would start my own business again... and we did. Three years later we started Pereira O'Dell and turned into a very respected shop exactly because of our combination of advertising, entertainment and technology. Among our most famous work there is a feature film about the dangers of the connected world for an internet security company that was directed by the legendary Werner Herzog and

even inspired some parts of this book (*Lo and Behold, the reveries of the connected works*) that won a gold at the Cannes Festival, a series about creativity that won at Tribeca, and a web series called *The Beauty Inside*, which won dozens of awards, including an Emmy.

**C:** What bestseller did you write?

**PJC:** In the meantime, I was writing and publishing my books in Brazil, where most of my books reached best-selling status, sometimes becoming the #1 Brazilian novel published in the country.

**C:** What is your background in Brazil?

**PJC:** I was born in Rio, from an immigrant family from Lebanon. As a kid, I always liked to do creative things by myself, which my parents always incentivized and took pride on. If I wasn't writing or drawing, I was programing my computer or practicing martial arts. So it feels like this book is the combination of all those things together. My entire life on a few pages. I hope people life it. □



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BY CHRIS LOMBARDI

***“You can’t replicate the cinematic experience on an iPhone”***

Sage words spoken by Daryl Tucker, a modest Connecticut businessman with a passion for film and cinema. As a filmmaker myself, as well as a writer, I feel there is a stark difference between movies and cinema. Movies are a business, a product that is created and sold to the popcorn eating public sitting with friends in a dark theatre with comfortable seats. Cinema, on the other hand, is a well-crafted artistic piece of celluloid (film) that is created by masters, who have honed



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their skills for years. They use all the tricks in the filmmakers toolbox to elicit a reaction, making the viewer feel a 'willing suspension of disbelief' that allows them to be transported into the world of the film.

I spoke with Daryl recently where we had a long conversation covering many topics, including our love of film and his recent conception of Lost Lake Productions. Since we are both independent filmmakers at heart, we naturally discussed the current state of indie films and traded war stories on our struggles and successes.

**Start of the journey...**

Daryl was born and raised in Guilford on the coast of Connecticut. "Although I am wary of nostalgia, coming of age on the shoreline during the 1980's does feel idyllic in hindsight. No cell phones. No internet. No social media. Just a pack of tight

friends was all that was needed. I remember we rode our BMX bikes to see *Raiders of the Lost Ark* on the single screen theater in town. During that era of free range parenting the only rule we had was to 'be back before dark'. Although I've lived all over the country, even met my wife Anja in California while working in the film industry, I've still stayed close with many childhood friends from Guilford. In fact, my oldest friend, the literal 'girl next door', who is an accomplished business women is also the chief operations officer of our new production company. The name of the company comes from a lake that bears that name in West Woods where I loved hiking while growing up in Guilford."

After watching *The Road Warrior* on cable—at a much too early age—Daryl fell head over heels for the medium of film. "That film grabbed me in



Daryl & Anja Tucker, Mastercard Interview, Hôtel Barrière Le Majestic, Cannes  
(Photo courtesy Lost Lake Productions)

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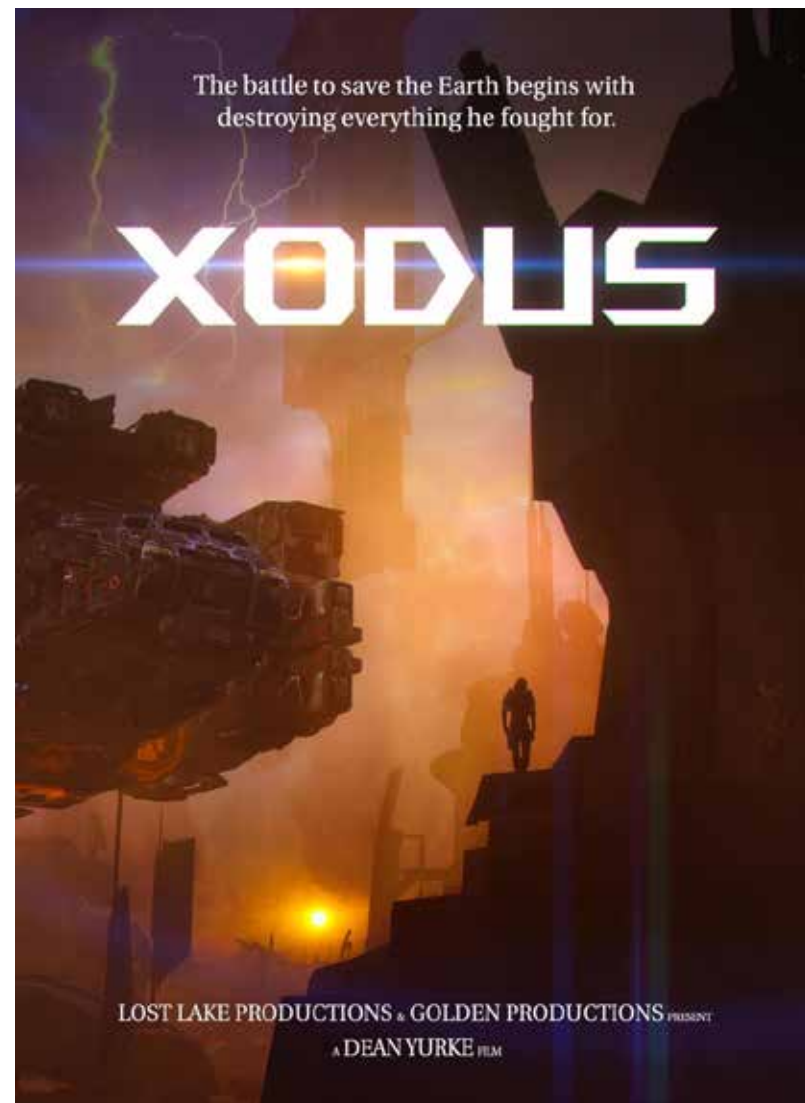
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a way that never really let go.” The power that filmmakers have at their disposal has always fascinated him. This fascination sent him on a journey to Emerson College in Boston, where he graduated with a B.F.A. in Cinematography in 1995. While at Emerson he learned the craft of filmmaking, the science of shooting with a film camera and the power of narrative storytelling. He also forged lifelong friendships that exist to this day. “The majority of co-founders for Lost Lake Productions are accomplished independent filmmakers in their own right, and who also happen to be Emerson Alumni from those college days.”

After college, he moved to California where he worked in the “industry”



Daryl Tucker, XODUS Pitch, Marché Du Film, Festival De Cannes  
(Photo courtesy Lost Lake Productions)



XODUS film poster (Dean Yurke) Golden & Lost Lake Co-Production  
(Image courtesy Lost Lake Productions)

for many years. He worked on big budget studio films and small independent pictures. Eventually earning a spot at Industrial Light & Magic where he worked in the visual effects department for films such as *Star Wars: Episode I* and *What Dreams May Come*.

“PEOPLE ARE STARVED FOR ORIGINAL AUTHENTIC CONTENT”

Daryl now resides in a CT river town with his wife and children, helps run a successful family business and still works on film projects on the side. Using his passion for film, he recently helped start a production company called Lost Lake Productions. One of the main reasons he chose to found a production company with a consortium of indie filmmakers is that he believes “people are starved for original authentic content.” This writer couldn’t agree more!

**Road to Cannes...**

In May of this year, Daryl was one of only fifteen independent film producers worldwide who was invited to the Cannes Film Festival (in France) to pitch his new film project XODUS directly to film industry professionals. “It was an honor, albeit a stressful one, to have the chance to pitch your film in under



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three minutes”. There were about four hundred industry executives attending this pitch at the Marché du Film. That pitch session afforded him a rare opportunity to gain exposure for Lost Lake when he was selected to be interviewed by Al Jazeera TV. That interview was broadcast globally. He was asked to speak on the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in film. Daryl took this opportunity to “speak truth to power” and did not pull any punches about the pros and cons of AI. Coincidentally, one of Daryl’s favorite films is *The Matrix*, which he said “is a cautionary tale about the path our civilization is on”. Daryl added “AI is on everyone’s mind but at the core of the issue, AI is just a tool. How we use that tool will be the question of our age. The jury is still out”.

**Road to XODUS...**

Daryl witnessed the transition from purely analog (recording on tape or



Tribeca Film Festival, Several Lost Lake Founders: Daryl Tucker, Anja Tucker, Cinema Wood, Joe Mclashovski, Mark Raskin (various other members not pictured here)  
*(Photo courtesy Lost Lake Productions)*

film) to the digital revolution first hand. There were a lot of “growing pains” as he put it, as the technology of filmmaking changed at “a dizzying pace.” The one thing that doesn’t change though is the “power of a story.” From storytelling around the campfire to modern day, humans still have the ability to tell impactful stories. “If I didn’t see the possibilities, I wouldn’t be on this quest I’m on”. *XODUS* is a joint project with Dean Yurke, who has worked on some of the biggest franchise films of all time—he is a digital effects guru. “It is possible to make an independent film with high quality graphics that will have a fighting chance to earn a profit for investors & the filmmakers.” Dean and Daryl have proven that they have the ability to bring these types of projects to fruition. Thanks to the current digital VFX tools at filmmaker’s disposal (like Unreal Engine 5) both Daryl and Dean will have an opportunity to produce

a high caliber Sci-Fi film for far less than it might have previously cost when the duo first started in the film industry. For more details on how they are accomplishing this feat, checkout the *XODUS* trailer on the Lost Lake website.

**Road to Chasing Mary...**

“Lost Lake is endeavoring to create indie cinema that spans genres, from sci-fi to historical drama.” Currently in pre-production, Lost Lake has put serious production value into a teaser trailer for the film *Chasing Mary*. The style pays homage to the filmmaker Ken Burns. Screenwriter Jack Teague has adapted a screenplay from Mary Welsh Hemingway’s autobiography *How It Was* into a polished feature film script. Mary Hemingway was a power player in her own right well before meeting Ernest. Teague’s connection with stage actor Brian Gordon Sinclair allowed

Lost Lake to gain extraordinary access to a rare location to gather footage for the trailer. “It’s not every day you get to film at Hemingway’s former Cuban estate.” Historical research for the project allowed Daryl to access the world’s largest collection of documents and memorabilia at the Hemingway exhibit at the JFK Presidential Library in Boston. “Lost Lake’s direction with *Chasing Mary* is to elevate Mary’s story above a pure biopic. By including both a contemporary female co-narrator, and using the narrative device called magical realism (as seen in films such as *306 Hollywood*) our goal is to connect Mary’s extraordinary life story with today’s audiences.”

If there are any aspiring filmmakers out there, maverick investors or patrons of the arts, you can “visit the campfire” at Lost Lake Productions and support filmmakers keeping the flame of independent cinema alive. □



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# Electrify Your Drive

EV CAR SHOWS ARE MORE POPULAR THAN EVER

BY JASON J. MARCHI



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PLUS: GAME-CHANGING EV MODELS HITTING THE MARKET IN 2024

For the fifth year, a car show featuring electric vehicles (or EVs for short) was held on Saturday, September 24 at Saybrook Point Pavilion in Old Saybrook. The show, called Electrify Your Drive! was started in Connecticut by cosmetic surgeon Dr. Robert Langdon and his wife, Beva Nall-Langdon, as part of the National Drive Electric Week event, which takes place across the country each September.

For those who missed this year's show, Dr. Langdon sat down with *Coast* to offer insights into what it's like to own and operate an EV today and discuss trends in the electric vehicle industry.

Moving the family car down America's roadways and highways with a battery-powered electric motor seems simple enough, especially since the first electric car in America made its debut over one-hundred and thirty years ago, around 1890, in Des Moines, Iowa.

According to a history of the electric car published by the U.S. Department of Energy in 2014, electric vehicles soon began appearing from different automakers and by 1900 became most popular in urban areas because they did not pollute the air with smoke from coal-fired steam engines and gasoline powered internal combustion engines. That concern about air pollution,

over a century ago, fell by the wayside, after Henry Ford mass-produced the Model T in 1908 with a gasoline engine, making cars widely available and affordable for the average American.

The rest is history, as they say, and gasoline powered vehicles hogged the roadways, superseding the early EVs.

Fast forward to the 21st Century, and the electric vehicle is back; it's better than ever, and it's much needed if the world is serious about mitigating climate change by sharply reducing global carbon emissions.

"Transportation is a very large percentage of the source of CO2 emissions,

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30 to 40 percent of the total,” stated Langdon. “In Connecticut I believe transportation [is] the number one source [of CO2 emissions]. Individuals can make a difference. And one of the best things you can do is electrify your drive, and that’s very painless. You’ll have a car that’s better than what you were formerly driving, more liable, more innovative in design, and the technology is only getting better.”

Langdon became interested in electric vehicles when he began driving a Toyota Prius several years ago and grew concerned with the increasing news reports about increasing CO2 emissions and the long-term effect on the global climate.

“This was true of a lot of the early adopters of EVs,” Langdon said. “I was a Toyota driver for 30 years at least, and as soon as I could, I got a plug-in hybrid, the Prius, around 2012. It had a very limited range on the electric versus the combustion engine, and I was hoping for a bigger range from the Prius. They finally had an improved version called the Prius Prime, which is still sold. But to my disappointment, the range went from about 13 miles on pure electric to 25 miles.”

That limited range only covered the average daily round trip commute between home and work for some drivers, but Langdon’s commute was 40 miles a day. “The Prius just couldn’t cut it on electric alone,” stated Langdon.

Thanks to continued technological advancements in EV development and production, it was not long before Langdon was able to purchase an EV, the Chevrolet Bolt, that met his expectations and served his needs.

Once Langdon and his wife had years of EV experience under their hoods, they organized the Electrify Your Drive! show as part of National Drive Electric Week, to help introduce EV technology to those unfamiliar with EVs.

EV owners/operators attended this year’s show with their vehicles, and described their experiences, shared their knowledge, and answered questions face-to-face with the public.

“The most important part of the National Drive Electric Week events is the participation of EV drivers,” stated Lang-



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PHOTOS TOP-BOTTOM: GMC, LOTUS, VOLKSWAGON

don. “They bring their own vehicles, so you can think of it as a car show, and the interaction of people who are curious and actual EV owners will give insights into what it’s like to drive an EV vehicle and how it’s charged in everyday use. By and far that’s the number one value of the show.”

Attendees also learned about the federal and state tax credits through DEEP and PURA to help with the purchase of EV vehicles. “Both Eversource and United Illuminating have a program where they give a \$500 rebate on the charger you would use in your garage for your electric vehicle,” noted Langdon. “And another \$500 is available if you need an electrician to install the charger. Both of these credits largely cover the full cost, so you can almost get a free charger right now with those two rebates.”

It is that kind of knowledge that’s shared between EV owners and the curious public seeking to make the switch from gasoline powered transportation. At the show the Langdon’s also handed

out information from the Union of Concerned Scientists, information that states how driving an EV is much greener than driving a vehicle with an internal combustion engine.

“IN CONNECTICUT I BELIEVE TRANSPORTATION [IS] THE NUMBER ONE SOURCE [OF CO2 EMISSIONS]. INDIVIDUALS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

“The theme is that the grid itself, because of the wide adoption from renewables, from wind and solar, the grid itself has gotten green,” explained Langdon. “So, no matter where you are, if you’re driving an EV, you’re doing better than someone who is driving an internal combustion engine car, as far as [measuring] carbon footprint.” This calculation about reduced carbon footprint extends throughout the entire manufacturing of an EV, according to Langdon, including the often talked-about manufacture, lifespan, and

recycling of the batteries. Besides the decreased carbon footprint of EVs over gasoline powered vehicles, the simplified drivetrain saves owners at the repair shop.

“The cost of ownership is much lower because there is very little that can go wrong,” Langdon explained. “The moving parts of an EV are maybe one-tenth of the moving parts of a combustion vehicle. There’s no tune-ups, no oil and oil-filter changes, and it’s great not having to go to a gas station just to fill your tank.”

The EV charges at home, which is the ultimate in convenience, and Langdon stated that battery technological breakthroughs continue each year. Batteries charge faster than when EVs were first present to consumers, “and the chemistry of batteries continues to improve,” noted Langdon. “Within a few years you’ll have double the range and lighter weight batteries than what we have now, and much faster charging. Toyota’s battery charges in 10 minutes for a

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**Jeep Recon EV**  
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400- to 500-mile range, which is much faster than what we used to do.” Car dealers were also in attendance at the show, to display EV vehicles they offer for sale, and hand out marketing materials.

“They even offered test drives by the dealers,” noted Langdon, and added, “and test rides in which EV owners offered to introduce the operation and feel of their EV to participants. While driving, the owners explained how the vehicle accelerates, and how the concept of regenerative braking works in the EV, a system by which braking captures energy to recharge the batteries.”

If you missed this year’s National Drive Electric Week show in Old Saybrook on September 24 (and in North Haven on Saturday, September 30) keep this article handy and gear up to attend the show in 2024 where you’ll learn, first-hand, about EVs, their past, their place in the current consumer marketplace, and their future. □

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Here's what they had to say, "Simple designs but effective lighting seems to be the trend, along with low maintenance," says Carla Snowdon, owner of Tidewater Lighting. These past two years the kitchen and the living room have been the main areas where people spend the most time. Homeowner's expenses have evolved around these two rooms. Purchases include new lighting pendants above the kitchen island and under the cabinet lighting, as well as new living room paddle fans or chandeliers and table and floor lamps. Many people are also upgrading recess lighting. Now that the holidays are approaching, Tidewater is seeing shoppers on the hunt for dining room chandeliers. Carla states, "Careful attention to detail, but not a fussy look—plain, clean designs are in demand and the finishes are leaning towards the brushed brass finish or two toned finishes still, as they have been popular for a few years now. Of course good ole black is a staple color we are seeing in the home. Also, organic is popular such as wood tones,



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*“ Simple designs but effective lighting seems to be the trend, along with low maintenance ”*

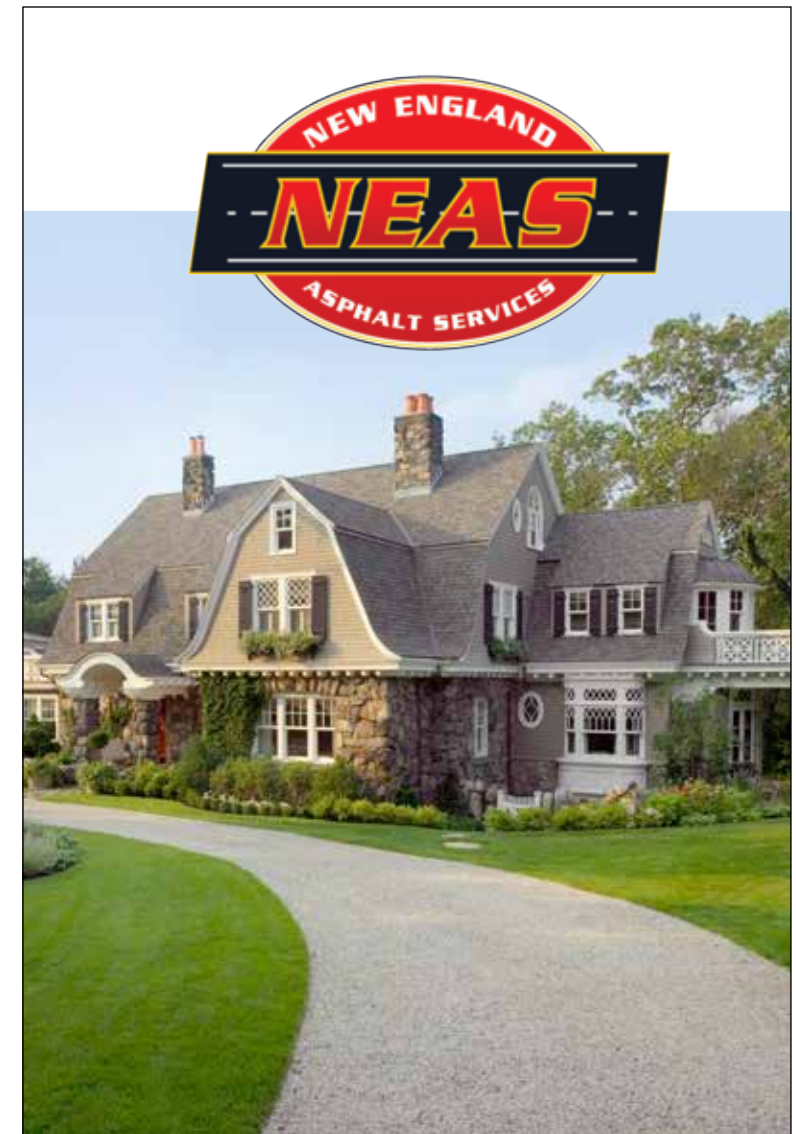


string fixtures, wicker and ratan—[they are] all very hot right now.” Additionally, Carla says, oversized is in. The bigger the better, making the light a focal point of the home.

It doesn’t take much to transform the look of a room, and while doing so, let the lighting in your home be an extension of who you are. With so many different styles and finishes available in today’s market, you are sure to find the perfect fixture. Pairing the lighting to match the hardware on cabinetry in the kitchen and bath is not necessary but many consumers want everything to match. Tidewater says stop, break it up, be more eclectic. Too much of the same metal

finish can be overwhelming and not to mention difficult to find perfect finish matches. With so many hues of finishes such as brass, there is soft brass, brushed brass, modern brass, aged brass, rubbed brass, burnished brass, etc. it is virtually impossible to have light fixtures be an exact match to hardware or faucets in baths and kitchens. An example of a bathroom remodel you may want cabinet knobs to match the light, the faucet to match the accessories like the toilet paper holder and towel bar as well as the mirror frame. This allows for a few finishes in the bath. Time to make your check list for the Fall season for things to do around the home, let changing out your lighting be one of the “to do’s”

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on your list. Not only the interior but the exterior could use a tune up. Think about landscape lighting, lets replace the old oversized landscape fixtures and venture into the smaller integrated LED designs. Light should be seen outside accenting the home and landscape and the fixtures should not be seen.

Disguise the light fixture and notice the light. Tidewater can assist you with your landscape lighting. To understand your lighting options is the first step and then the purchase becomes simpler. Once you become acquainted with what are the latest trends in lighting and all the new

technology behind it then shopping for light fixtures is an easier task than you realize. *For more information about lighting you can contact Tidewater Lighting & Design in Madison CT at info@tidewaterltg.com and view their website to learn more at tidewaterltg.com.* □



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