



Williams Park

MEMO

PUBLISHED BY AND FOR WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS

Back issues of this newsletter are available at www.williamsparkneighbors.org

WILLIAMS PARK NEIGHBORS — P.O. BOX 813811, SMYRNA, GA 30081-8811

MEMO NOTES

Happy Holidays To All
no matter which or how you celebrate

The deadline for the next issue is February 15 for the March issue.

Send contributions to Emily at eldevane@gmail.com or Marie at lambremont@mac.com



Every year around this time WP neighbor families come together to welcome the winter holidays. The event includes lighting up the decorations on Williams Park's pergola and cooking over open fires. The pergola lights were lit very conventionally by plugging into electrical service. The fire pits were another story. Those were lit this year by Robert Harrison wielding a home-made flame thrower, the nozzle of which is a hot air balloon burner producing a no-f fooling big flame.

Join us on facebook—Williams Park Neighbors.

Our mission is to promote community among neighbors through social interaction, emphasizing the unique character of Smyrna's oldest neighborhood.

WPN lights up the night!

PHOTOS BY JEANNIE DAVIS



WPN's Chili Contest — by Chandra Kenyon-Hill DC

The annual WPN chili contest took place at Robert Harrison's firehouse on October 20th, 2018. Full bellies and fun were had by nearly everyone in attendance including judges Smyrna Fire Chief Roy Acree, Smyrna Elementary Assistant Principal Shanti Ventura, and Cafe Lucia's David Jackson. The fire chief represented well with a few of Smyrna finest firefighters and, most excitingly, the fire engine!

This year brought a new format for our annual food drive for MUST Ministries. To encourage donations, each item earned a raffle ticket to be entered into drawings for great prizes generously donated by Porch Light Latin Kitchen, Cielo Blue, Grateful

Bread Company and others. "WP neighbors did not disappoint," said Kristy Barker, who ran the raffle, "as the collection bin was overflowing! Thanks to all who donated to help feed our local community."



1

MAGGIE MOSER
"DOG BREATH" CHILI

2

JUDI KESSLER
"SWEET HEAT" CHILI

3

PAULA FOWLER
"TOMAHAWCK" CHILI

A big thanks to the social committee: Leanne Fey, Liz Davis, Kristy Barker, Chandra Kenyon-Hill, Daniker Floyd, Kendall Wells, Lauren Anderson, Emily DeVane, Evan Barker, Jared Hill, Rob Allen, Leon McElveen, Keith Bentley, Robert Harrison, Jeannie Davis and Susan Bentley, as well as Casey Clavin (event signs), Gavin Carpenter (hay bales), Todd Magill and Chuck Bagdy (grill men).

2018 - '19 CALENDAR

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Dec 21, 7 pm
Catherine Bowen
2583 Old Roswell Rd
cbowenO@hotmail.com

WPN BOARD MEETING
Wed, Jan 16, 7 pm

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Jan 18, 7 pm
Details TBA

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE
Sat, Jan 26, 9 am
Williams Park pergola

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Jan 27, 3 pm
Leanne Fey
1496 Spring Street
Once Upon a River
by Diane Setterfield

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Feb 15, 7 pm
Details TBA

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Feb 24, 3 pm
Susan Bentley
2651 Gilbert Street
Book: TBA

WPN MEMBERSHIP
RENEWAL
Begins March 1

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Mar 15, 7 pm
Jane and Fred Krenson,
1578 Spring St
jasarajian@yahoo.com

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Mar 31, 3 pm

WPN BOARD MEETING
Wed, April 10, 7 pm

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE
Sat, April 13, 9 am
Williams Park pergola

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, April 19, 7 pm
Whitfield Parc - Rob Allen
roballen51@gmail.com

WPN EGG HUNT
Sat, April 20, 4pm
1315 Roswell Street

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Meet Your Neighbor, Eli Fine —by Kristy Barker

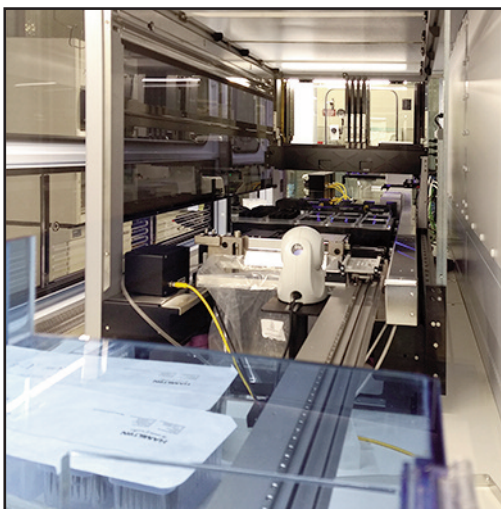
We have some truly fascinating folks here in Williams Park and for this edition of "Meet Your Neighbor," I had the privilege of getting to know Eli Fine and his wife, Laura. They warmly welcomed me into their home on Spring Villa Lane where they have lived for about two years. They will soon be a family of three, as they are expecting a little girl in January. Join me as I discover more about how Eli is creating

safer and more accessible pharmaceutical drug testing with robotics. I guarantee you'll learn something.

Eli works for Coyne Scientific, a local start-up, and usually bikes the few miles from home to his lab, where his typical day includes programming "Needle" (the lab robot he designed and built from component parts), working with drug companies to analyze and understand the results of his latest study, and creating presentations for potential investors.

And just what does his study entail? Well, normally testing on human cells from multiple people doesn't occur until the clinical trial (with live humans!), but Eli's team runs tests in their lab on heart cells from over a dozen different people to find drug side effects before getting to human trials - making the trials safer and less expensive for everyone. Another benefit of running these tests in a lab, is that as the company grows they will be able to take on other projects

Looking through an end window, we see Needle's 16 foot long interior where cell line maintenance is aided by automation.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ELI FINE



Laura and Eli visiting the 64-gun warship Vasa (1628) in Stockholm.

like testing specific sub-populations that are often under-represented in traditional human trials, leading to more informative and safer outcomes for patients of minority backgrounds. Where Coyne currently maintains 15 heart stem cell lines, they plan to grow that number to 30 next year. Ultimately they hope to maintain hundreds of heart cell lines, then expand into liver and brain cells.

While Eli really enjoys his job, science doesn't follow a typical 9-5 schedule; a few days ago, he received a 1am call from Needle. Needle runs overnight on some routine tasks and alerted Eli that something was amiss. Turns out a door was stuck open on one of the machines that keep the cells warm, so Eli had to make the trek to the lab to shut the door. All ended well, and while Eli did not appreciate being woken up, it served as good practice for the upcoming new addition to their family.

Eli has always had an interest in science and began computer programming at the ripe old age of nine. Laura (who grew up in Atlanta) met Eli (from north of Seattle) in graduate school at Emory. They certainly have a love for science and education in common. Eli received his PhD from Georgia Tech in biomedical engineering and Laura has a Master's in Neuroscience from Emory. The couple married in October of 2016 and love the walkability and neighborhood feel of Williams Park, plus its close proximity to a great library.

When Eli's not busy working in the lab with heart stem cells, he and Laura can be found most Thursday nights at Mexico Lindo playing trivia with the Williams Park team. He specializes in science and geography, while she balances out with pop culture and keeping the team disciplined in their points wagers. But their favorite Smyrna restaurant is Porch Light Latin Kitchen, closely followed by Swapna Indian Cuisine. No surprise they favor global cuisine, as they love to travel. One of their favorite trips was a six week adventure to South America where they visited Peru, Argentina and Brazil.

So next time you see Eli and Laura out and about, be sure to say hello!

2018 - '19 CALENDAR

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WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, April 28, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, May 17, 7 pm
Brenda and Flip Varney
2584 Highland Ave
bgvarney@gmail.com

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, May 26, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN GOES TO THE
BRAVES GAME
Sat, June 16, 1:30 pm

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, June 21, 7 pm
Ryan Judge
1611 Walker St
rjjudge@gmail.com

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, June 30, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, July 19, 7 pm
Patrick & Cara Thurman
2711 Gilbert St
cararyanthurman@gmail.com

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE
Sat, July 20, 9 am
Williams Park pergola

WPN BOARD MEETING
Wed, July 24, 7 pm

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, July 28, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Aug 16, 7 pm
Ryan & Elizabeth Hester
1444 Mimosa Circle
79gators@gmail.com

WPN/BRYAN'S BLOCK
PARTY
Sat, Aug 24, 4 pm
1510 Spring St

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Aug 25, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN BOARD MEETING
Wed, Sept 11, 7 pm

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News in and around Williams Park

KEITH BENTLEY PHOTO

STOLEN HOLIDAY CARD

Near the end of 2011, Vic Koch finished fabricating and installing the monument sign he designed to mark entry into our neighborhood from Atlanta Road. With holidays approaching, he decided to make a gift tag to serve dual purpose: 1. to commemorate the monument as a gift to the neighborhood, and 2. to provide a holiday greeting as a gift from our neighborhood to all passers-by. Vic's joyful message of goodwill has been on display each year since then, from early December until the New Year.

This year Keith Bentley and I installed it on Friday, November 30th so it would be present for the pergola lighting that evening. Less than 48 hours later it was gone. This theft is particularly heartbreaking because, since Vic is no longer with us (he died in 2017), it silences his quiet but sincere statement of love toward friends and strangers alike.

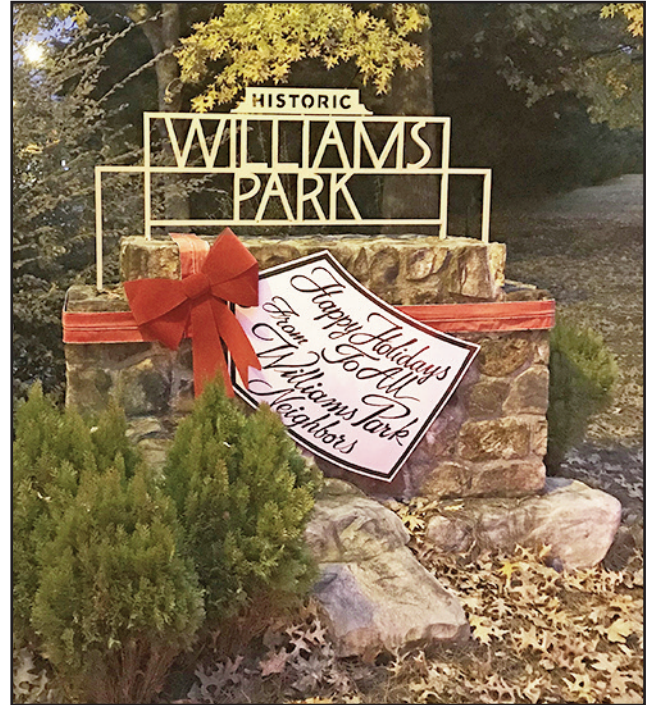
PLEASE, if you know anything that might help WPN retrieve this symbol of holiday spirit, say something. You may contact any member of the WPN Board of Directors listed on page six of this issue. We would be so grateful to have it back — no questions asked.

— Casey Clavin

WPN YARD SALE

Saturday, October 27th was a clear but very cold day to have a yard sale. Williams Park Neighbors persevered, nonetheless! Over a dozen households participated, each identified by balloons marking their locations, as well as printed maps listing other family sales. Sales were brisk, and I know, as well as others, that we made a bit of cash. If nothing else, we cleaned out some clutter and maybe met a new friend or two. Any interest in a spring sale? Let's wait until warmer weather!

— Linda McElveen



WHO'S YOUR NEIGHBOR?

Kristy Barker has stepped forward to write our "Meet Your Neighbor" column going forward. Her first shot at the task, on page three of this issue, is based on a subject of my own choosing because I was so struck when I learned of Eli building, programming and operating the multi station robot he affectionately calls "Needle."

The question now is this: who shall she interview next? And we want you, our readers, to help answer that. Subjects need not be involved in high-tech, high-finance, or haute cuisine — they just need to be interesting in some way.

So, drop us a line about somebody in WP whom you find fascinating: name a neighbor with a personal passion for a craft, selfless dedication to a cause, extraordinary business acumen — whatever. You give us the names and we'll take it from there. Send your thoughts to Emily DeVane at eldevane@gmail.com.

— Casey Clavin

SUPPLY DRIVE FOR SMYRNA ELEMENTARY

We're doing this differently this year. Where previously WPN donated supplies at back-to-school time, this year we're supporting Smyrna Elementary with a mid year school supply donation.

Items requested by teachers include copy paper (white or color), #2 pencils, crayons, glue sticks (any size), dry erase markers (no neon please),

continued on next page

2018 - '19 CALENDAR

continued from page 4

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Sep 20, 7 pm
Wendy Amundson &
Tony Graves
1335 Marston Street
wendyamundson@att.net

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Sep 29, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Oct 18, 7 pm
Russell & Kimberly Currie
2794 Morris Circle
wrightkimberlyj@gmail.com

WPN ADOPT-A-MILE
Sat, Oct 19, 9 am
Williams Park pergola

WPN YARD SALE
Sat, Oct 26, 9 am

**WPN COOK OUT AND
CHILI CONTEST**
Sat, Oct 26, 4 pm

WPN BOOK CLUB
Sun, Oct 27, 3 pm
Book: TBA

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Nov 15, 7 pm
Details TBA

WPN BOOK CLUB
November 24th at 1 pm
Nancy Smith 912
Forrest View Ct,
Canton, GA 30144
Book: TBA

**WPN PERGOLA
DECORATING**
Sat Nov. 30, 10am
at Williams Park
Join in bedecking our
signature structure

**WPN PERGOLA
LIGHTING**
Fri, Dec. 6, 6 pm
at Williams Park
wood fires, hot dogs,
s'mores !!! Fun for the
whole family

WPN HAPPY HOUR
Fri, Dec 20, 7 pm
Emily DeVane
1401 Hawthorne Ave
eldevane@gmail.com

News in and around WP

continued from the previous page

Kleenex, and rain ponchos. Wait — rain ponchos? Yep — teachers have asked for cheap plastic Dollar Store type rain ponchos to support the 5th grade field trip in May.

School supply drive dates are Sunday, January 20th through Sunday, February 3rd. Drop off locations are at Keith & Susan Bentley's house (2651 Gilbert Street) and Stephen & Hayli McQuade's house (1555 Roswell Street). Monetary donations are welcome. Checks should be made out to Williams Park Neighbors and marked "school supplies" on the memo line.

— Hayli McQuade

WILLIAMS PARK GETS HAPPY

On the third Friday of each month WP gathers in neighborhood homes to share food, drink, and conversation.

For our October happy hour, **Jonathan and Jenny Stroble (1)** welcomed neighbors into their Roswell Street home. Jenny sported a lovely black and white striped cardigan while Jonathan wore a warm grey heathered pullover. The Strobles are among a small subset of neighborhood residents who, wishing to "buy up," sold one house in WP and bought another house in WP. Their move four doors up the street netted them the pool they wanted and we were all happy to see them stay in the neighborhood.

We reconvened with hosts **Ken Kmiecik and Barbara Copes (2)** on Old Roswell Road in November. Barb ("not Barbie," she says) decided to follow Jenny's lead. "This would make a nice tradition," Barb told us, "If happy hour hostesses all wear black and white, neighbors will always know who to thank for the hospitality." It was a last minute decision, though, so her outfit wasn't completely weather appropriate. "I didn't have time to shop and this is the only black and white striped ensemble in my closet." Always the supportive type, Ken chose to wear beach clothes as well.



WENDY AMUNDSON PHOTOS

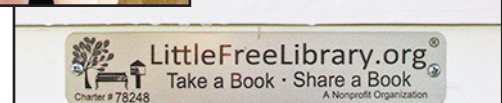


LITTLE LIBRARIES

What we reported as "coming soon" last issue is now a reality. Ed and Linda Heck have completed WP's first Little Library and installed it in Durham Park. It's now loaded with books and "open for business."



Nice job, you guys, this library is lovely. We look forward to seeing what you do for the next one slated for installation before long at Whitfield Park.



WPN BOARD O' D

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Keith Bentley
404-906-8853

Vice President
Rob Allen
404-909-5253

Secretary
Liz Davis
770-431-9786

Treasurer
Myrna Evans
678-231-1826

Membership
Hayli McQuade
404-502-1116

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770-329-6175

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404-909-5253

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Jane Caniff
404-210-2394

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Laura Fine
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Emily DeVane
770-853-5621
Marie Lambremont
678-592-6185

Webmaster
Eli Fine
424-354-3463

Happy Hour
Jill Huitron
404-376-5114

Beautification
Ed & Linda Heck
770-633-2518

Development Review
Lem Ward
770-863-9580
and Leon McElveen
770-431-0292

Traffic Calming
Stephen McQuade
404-993-7803

At Large
Jeremy Fort
770-560-5224
and Kristy Barker
678-462-2876

dining out

close to home...by laura fine

Pho Hoang Long is a Vietnamese/Thai restaurant near the Cobb Center shopping center (on South Cobb Drive). It's a hidden gem that's so much nicer on the inside than it looks on the outside. Arriving at the cracked asphalt parking lot of a strip mall (across Pat Mell from Cobb Center), all you can find is a faded sign over a completely covered wall of windows at the front of a restaurant you can't see into. Every time I go there I'm worried they're actually closed for good. Entering, you realize the windows are covered because the several huge aquariums filled with live coral and tropical fish would be harmed by sunlight. The aquariums alone are worth checking this place out! Once you pry yourself away from the coral extravaganza, you're seated in a casual, well cared for restaurant. I've been a couple of times for lunch and the atmosphere is always relaxing and welcoming.

Technically, the menu covers both the Vietnamese noodle soup called pho (pronounced "fuh") and a variety of Thai dishes, but I'm not going to lie — besides appetizers, I've only ever gotten pho. If you don't know what pho is, think of the best chicken noodle soup you've ever had, but with beef broth instead of chicken and rice noodles instead of wheat. That doesn't do it justice, but it's as close as I can get. Mostly, I just recommend going and trying it.

For an appetizer, we shared an order of Thai Fish Cakes which are marinated in coconut, kaffir lime leaves, and red curry paste, then served with fresh cucumber and a spicy-sweet dipping sauce. We both agreed, these are very nice indeed — completely freshly made in house from scratch with fresh ingredients — no shortcuts.

Then, on to the pho. To order it, you choose a bowl size and type(s) of meat. Choices include rare steak, well done

brisket, chicken, beef ball, flank, tendon, and tripe. We both ordered rare steak which is actually super thin slices of raw tenderloin which reach "rare" by virtue of the hot broth they're laid into. Your server brings a plate of fresh herbs, bean sprouts, lime wedges and other deliciousness to share, then returns bringing each person a bowl of broth, noodles, and meat. (There's also an array of condiments and sauces on the table.) Then the magic happens — you can put anything you want into your soup to make it as exciting, spicy, crunchy, or herby as you want. The world is your oyster and your soup is your own. Typically, when reviewing a restaurant, I get a variety of dishes to share/swap tastes. But you don't mess with another person's pho and it's not really something you could share anyway. That said, this soup is one of the few foods that's as good as you remember it and at Pho Hoang Long it's as good

as you'll get anywhere. The broth is rich, the meat is tender and of course you can dress it however you like — love spicy foods? Dump and muddle fresh jalapeno slices and/or spicy sauces into the mix! Culantro not your thing? Leave it out! Need a little crunch? Throw in a handful of healthy and delicious mung bean sprouts! It's one of the few restaurants where you can be a total glutton and still not fall off your diet.

Once you're completely full of noodly, brothy delight, you walk back to the aquariums to check out the coral one last time before paying at the front desk on your way out. It's quick, nutritious, inexpensive, and delicious — the perfect lunch for a chilly day. Just don't go for the first time with business partners — without practice, it can be a little messy.

PHO HOANG LONG

Pho Hoang Long

Atmosphere: ★★★★★☆
Service: ★★★★★☆
Food: ★★★★★★

Cost: approximately \$10

371 Pat Mell Road SE #131
Marietta, GA 30060
770-384-0530

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

— on anderson —
Phil King & Amy
Lancaster

— on mathews —
Jennie Rusciano

— on roswell street —
Scott & Sarah Lopano

— on telfair drive —
Billy & Samantha Shida

Our membership now stands at
307 families

When a new neighbor moves in
near you, contact Jane Caniff at
jfcaniff@gmail.com or
404-210-2394
so she can welcome them to WP

You don't have to be a member
to attend our events. If you
haven't already joined, howev-
er, now is a good time to do so.

For an application go to
www.williamsparkneighbors.org

Williams Park Reads — by Leanne Fey

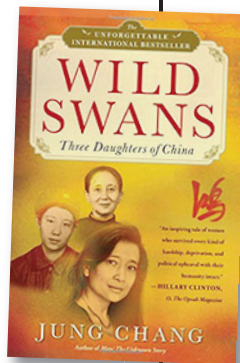
The WPN Book Club meets the last Sunday of the month at 3:00 pm at a host home. We always welcome new participants. To learn which books we'll be reading in the up coming months, see the calendar in the side bars on pages 2-5. To learn more, call Leanne at 770-863-9580. Here are our latest books:

Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China

by Jung Chang

★★★★

Jung Chang explores the harrowing and heartbreaking history of China in the 20th century through the exploration of the lives of three generations of women in her family.

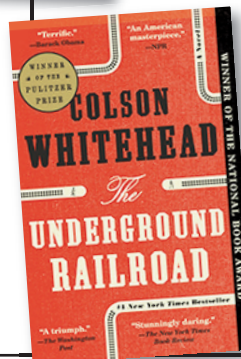


The Underground Railroad

by Colton Whitehead

★★★★★

Whitehead explores the horrors of slavery through the experiences of a runaway slave name Cora. She rides a real underground railroad as she attempts to escape her trackers and find freedom.

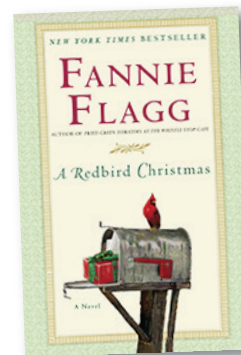


A Redbird Christmas

by Fannie Flagg

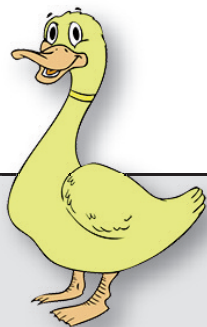
★★★★

Oswald Campbell has always had a weak chest. When a doctor tells him he has only months to live, he decides to take the doctor's advice and leave Chicago's inhospitable climate and spend his last Christmas in the healing air of Lost River, Alabama. He thought his life was over but finds that it has just begun.



Our rating system:

- ★ No one liked it
- ★★ It was ok
- ★★★ It was good
- ★★★★ It was excellent
- ★★★★★ Fabulous



Laugh — it's good for you!

A duck walks into a bar and asks, "Got any grapes?"
The bartender tells the duck no. The duck thanks him and leaves.

The next day, the duck returns and asks, "Got any grapes?" "No," the bartender says, "we do not serve grapes, have never served grapes, and will not serve grapes in future." The duck thanks him and leaves.

The duck returns the next day but before he can say anything, the bartender yells, "Listen, duck! This is a bar! We do not serve grapes! If you ask for grapes again, I will nail your stupid duck beak to the bar!"

The duck thinks a moment, then asks, "Got any nails?" Exasperated, the bartender answers, "no!"
"Good," says the duck. "Got any grapes?"

JILL HUITRON

Senior Marketing Consultant

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