



My first thought when I received word of our 35th High School Reunion, was “How did we get so old?!?” It seems like yesterday I attended our 10 year reunion and then it occurred to me that was in 1981! 25 years ago! That is a lot of “Bridge Over Troubled Water” *under* the bridge! My classmates may recall that was our class song. And to clarify for my non-classmate customers, I am speaking of the Fairfax High School Class of 1971. *Go Rebels!*



Not in my wildest dreams, did I think I would own a boutique one day. Those of you that know me, know that I loved clothes and I worked at Corner House in Fairfax all through High School and afterwards, but to own a store ... I won't make this a long story, but I think it is somewhat interesting how Santangelo & Sandridge came to be. My partners, Georgia *Santangelo* Derrico and her husband, Rod Porter, were my bosses, CEO and President respectively at Southern Financial Bank. (Now Mrs.

Palazzolo, my senior Algebra teacher, could say the real strange thing is a career in banking, considering my final math grade!) When the Bank was bought in 2004, I did not stay with the purchaser. I wanted to stay in touch and do something with Georgia and Rod, who were, after 18 years, like family. So, Georgia, who is a bigger fashionista than me, thought about a store. But not just any store, a special high-end, mostly Italian store for women *and* men. And in beautiful, quaint Middleburg, Virginia. Hunt Country and home to the Kennedys when Jack was president. I managed our branch in Middleburg from 1987 to 1995 and knew a lot of people here. The demographics have changed some but I think for the better. Sheila Johnson Newman, (the former Mrs. BET TV) is opening an Inn and Spa. She purchased the late Pamela Harriman's estate. Sandra Lerner, an ex-Cisco profiteer, has opened a prospering Organic Butcher shop. Both are within walking distance to the store, which we love.

Have you noticed that we are all women? See? Some things have changed! After 18 months of planning, and buying and renovating we opened in September 2005. And thanks to our wonderful customers, we have exceeded our expectations.

More importantly, we have had a ball. Our first inventory purchases were in Naples, Italy in September of 2004. We purchased the spring and summer collection of Livio di Simone. We are

the only ones in the United States that carry Livio. And Livio di Simone has a strong Middleburg connection as Jackie Kennedy shopped in their store on the Isle of Capri. And then it was on to New York, Milan and Tropea for more inventory. It's a hard job, but someone has to do it!

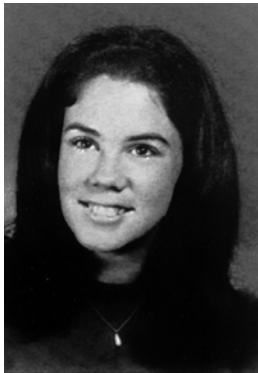
A lot has changed from 1971 to 2006. But as some things change some styles do remain the same. For instance, Emilio Pucci is making a dramatic comeback from the golden years of the 60's and 70's to the new millennium. Emilio's signature design is classic. And for the lucky few that kept their Pucci skirt or scarf, start wearing them again. For those of you who didn't, you will be glad to know that Santangelo & Sandridge offers everything Pucci and you don't have to drive to Tyson's Corner. I have been told that we have a better collection than Neiman Marcus.

We also carry another 70's icon-Vivian Westwood. She is still going strong in the fashion industry. You might have seen some of her styles on "Sex and the City". She is just a little off center, but always fun.

We also carry wonderful St. John Knits, as well as She's So. Other designers include LeFull and Luciano Barbera.

For the men we have Davide Cenci out of New York, Rome, and Milan. This is his first store in Virginia and the first one with some one else. The clothes and fit are beautiful. Cashmere with cotton for a corduroy jacket that is softer than butter!

I think we have something for everyone in our little store including Galerie l'Enfant Antiques from Georgetown on our second floor.



Linda Womack

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone. It's been much too long. So come for the party, relax, have some champagne, and let's "groove" down memory lane!

Peace and love,

Linda Womack Sandridge