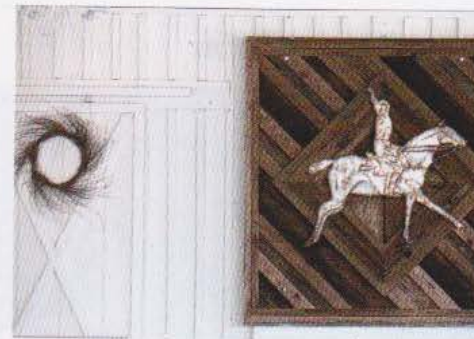




THE HOUSE OF CHUKKAR

A variety of public activities from art to polo take place on the sweeping Alpharetta farm. Owner Jack Cashin and his late wife purchased the 131-acre property in 1979.

Above, sunset over the barn at Chukkar Farm. At right, owner Jack Cashin, mingles with guests before the start of a Home by Dark concert held at his farm. Chukkar also boards horses owned by private owners.



**Story by ADRIANNE MURCHISON
Photos by JASON GETZ
and JESSICA MCGOWAN**

A

t age 90, Jack Cashin is a ladies man, whether in a crowd or one-on-one – so fellas beware. Wearing a flashy red sport jacket, he recently took the mic before the start of a country music concert held on his farm and serenaded the crowd with Louis Prima’s “Just a Gigolo.”

Cashin likes to joke that his body may be 90, but his mind is 18.

Some might not believe the youthful businessman and former polo player’s age, given the many activities at his home at Chukkar Farm Polo Field and Event Facility in Alpharetta.

“When I bought this [land], the barn was the only building on the property,” he says. “We moved that house and two tenant houses from Sandy Springs.”

Cashin and his late wife, Helen, purchased the 131-acre farm in 1979, and raised six children there. The story of the Cashins’ family life is captured in paintings and photographs covering entire walls in the spacious and comfortably rustic home. Helen passed away in 2014.

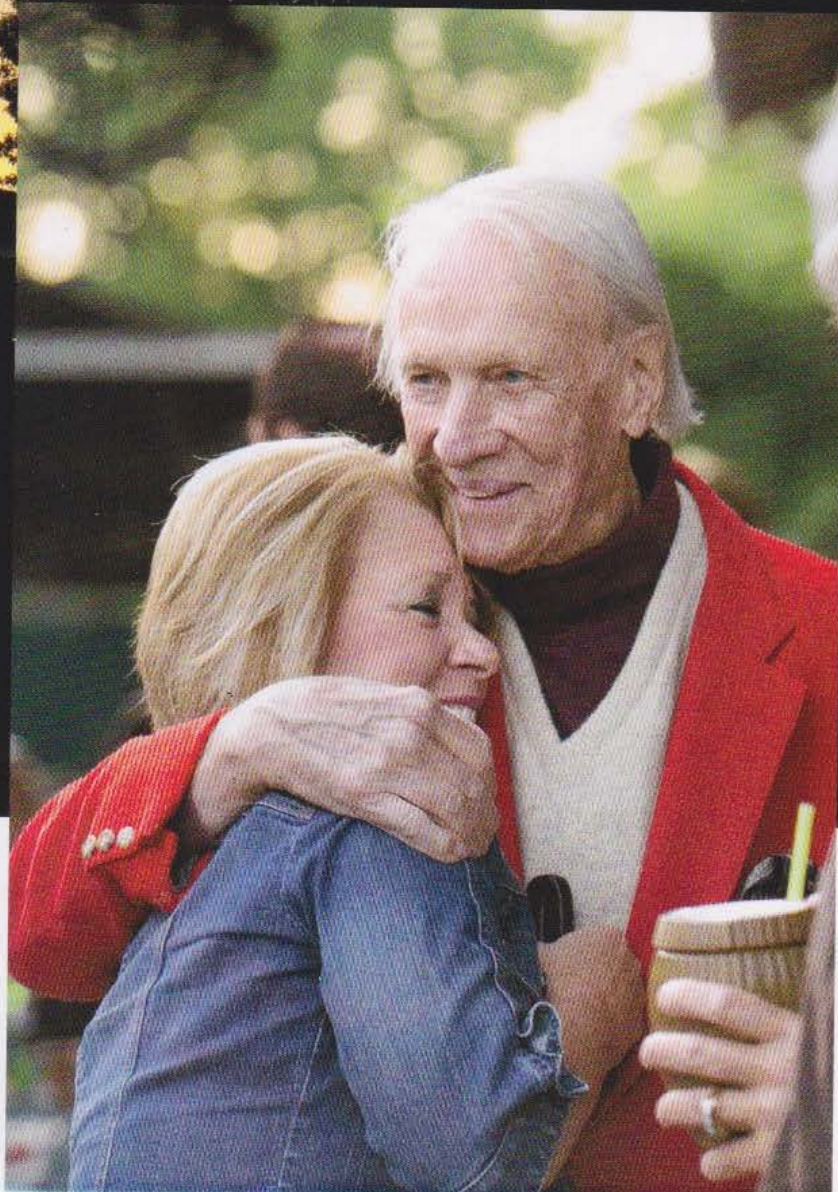
Cashin’s daughter Cara oversees Chukkar Farm operations. Polo matches are sometimes played as many as three days a week. Weddings take place in the clubhouse. Hundreds flow in for James Casto’s Home by Dark concert series from spring to fall. And there are special events such as the classic car show *Concours d’Elegance*, which in May featured a Duesenberg, a 1957 Rolls Royce Phantom and more than 100 other vintage vehicles.

The patriarch was inspired to have a sculpture garden of 25 unique pieces along a spectacular winding horse trail.

“I just like art,” he says. “All of a sudden I was walking the trail and I was looking up, and there’s nothing more magical than the majesty of the trees. And I had the idea.”

Business director Susan Wright calls Cashin a serial entrepreneur.

To honor his wife, enterprising Cash- »





in – a one-time ad man – has bottled a house salad dressing with the recipe Helen created when they owned Cashin’s restaurants in the ’70s and ’80s. He’s pushing to have it sold in Whole Foods.

“I’m just a lucky man,” he says.

Cashin says he became intrigued by polo after reading about the sport, and taught himself to ride at age 49 on a Palomino horse he called Hennessy.

“He was a sweet horse,” Cashin says. “We made every mistake in the book. After a couple of years we figured we knew something about it and gravitated to it.”

The horseman says he only recently

stopped playing polo due to a back injury.

Chukkar Farm boards aging polo ponies that are donated by elite players through the Beauty Becomes You Foundation. Cashin’s business pays for the upkeep of the horses. Still in good health, the horses are in Chukkar polo matches, as well as riding lessons for children.

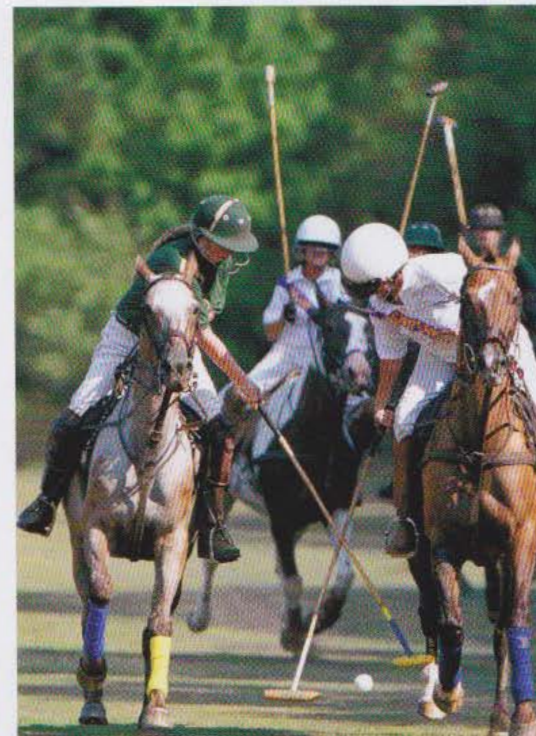
“It’s horse heaven here,” Cashin says. They currently have more than 30 polo ponies, he adds.

Boarding is also available to private owners. During *Living Northside’s* afternoon stroll across the farmland, Amy Livel walked up with her horse

Chukkar Farm regularly hosts car shows and polo matches.

“We made every mistake in the book. After a couple years we figured we knew something about it ...”

JACK CASHIN, CHUKKAR FARMS OWNER



Durango, calling out, "Jack?"

"It's Amy," she added, demanding a hug.

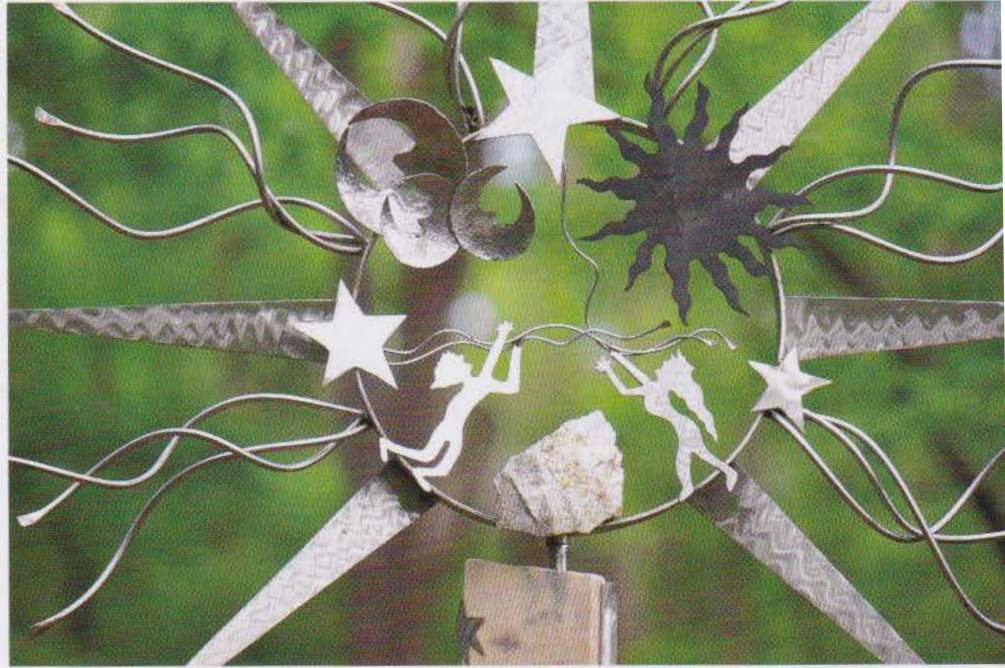
It was their first meeting, although Lielvel had sent Cashin a note describing how happy she is with Durango's new home.

"I loved your letter," says a charismatic Cashin. "I put it in my love box."

Lielvel, who grew up on a working farm in Maryland, is discerning about maintenance of the property and says she appreciates certain details, like how anthills are treated so the pests don't crawl on horses.

"I know what it takes to take care of a place like this," she says. "All the horses are safe. The people help you no matter what. I find so much peace being here. It's just beautiful. You can come here after having the worst day and drive in and look out the window, and all your worries just wash away."

1140 Liberty Grove Road,
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chukkarfarmpoloclub.com



"Dancing Under the Moon Light," by Eric Strauss in Cashin's Sculpture Garden.

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