

March 2016

Ghent Living

A SOCIAL PUBLICATION FOR THE RESIDENTS OF GHENT AND WEST GHENT



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

*Michael Khandelwal has a passion for both
the written word and Ghent.*

Terri Hughes-Simply Human Pictures

meet your Neighbor

Meet Michael Khandelwal

By T.T. Robinson
Photo Credit: Simply Human Pictures

After Michael Khandelwal graduated from the University of Southern California, he knew he wanted to come home to Hampton Roads. “I missed the seasons,” he explains. With an almost poetic prose that one might expect from the Executive Director of The Muse Writing Center, he elaborates, “The weather out there was perfect every day, but I missed seeing that one red leaf fall to the ground.” He, alongside a friend from USC, looked at houses in Hampton and at the beach, but ultimately knew he wanted to live in Ghent. “It was (and still is) the thriving arts area for all of Hampton Roads. I look at Ghent as the central hub for creativity in Norfolk,” Michael says. When he found a house on Princess Anne Road, he knew it was a perfect fit. He’s been on the same street ever since.

Soon after his return to the East Coast, Michael started teaching a poetry workshop at the Ghent Studio of Fine Art (SOFA). When SOFA closed their doors a few years later, The Muse was born, “Mostly out of necessity,” Michael admits. “I wanted to do fiction, another student (Lisa Hartz) wanted to do memoir,” he recalls. The two joined forces and The Muse Writers Center was born.

It’s been ten years since Michael and Lisa solidified their plans for The Muse by



drawing its logo on a napkin. The Muse has grown exponentially, both in students, and now, with the opening of a new facility, in space. “We were casually looking at expanding for about three years,” Michael shares. “We got to know Richard Levin (owner of the 22nd Street development) and when the space opened up, he called us.” Located next to Plaza del Sol on 22nd and Colonial, the expansive location boasts five large classrooms, two semi-private rooms for writers who need a little more quiet, an office space, kitchen, library and auditorium. Michael’s hope is the new space will further invigorate the “exploding arts scene” in Ghent. “We’re here to provide encouragement for writers at all levels.” With weekly happy hours, frequent events and over 70 classes, it’s no wonder that Michael considers The Muse writers a large family.

When he isn’t at The Muse, Michael enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, Stephanie, and enjoying all that Ghent has to offer. “I love that everything you could



want to do is within walking distance of our homes,” says Michael. “The Naro is here. The Muse is here. Great restaurants are here.” Whether you’re talking to Michael about USC football or a song-writing class, he exudes a palpable passion with every word. How fortunate for Ghent that such passion exists just down the street.



Thomas Stites,
PT, DMT, FAAOMPT

Accepting new patients—call (757) 938-6608 to schedule your appointment today!
Brambleton Clinic | 250 West Brambleton Ave., Ste 100 | Norfolk, VA 23510

Your Family Physical Therapist

When you hurt, you want to be seen.

**Come See Us Directly
No Prescription Needed**

www.tpti.com/NoPrescriptionNeeded

**Tidewater
Physical Therapy, Inc.**

Toll Free: (855) 673-8784

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube tpti.com