

Potomac

ALMANAC

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Mary Wakefield (Eliza Doolittle)
and Ken Kemp (Henry Higgins)
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**Holiday Entertainment
& Gift Guide
2012**



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News

Lights, Camera, Action, Potomac!

"Philomena"
filmed in
local home.

By Carole Funger
The Almanac

Nov. 8 dawned cold when, in the wee hours of the morning, the movie crew for a new feature film descended on the Conway's 180-year old Potomac residence. By 7 a.m., the secluded tree-lined driveway of the family's River Road farmhouse was bursting with vehicles as technicians unloaded thick cable wires, sound production machines, lighting, staging materials and directors chairs. Inside a growing number of film, sound and make-up specialists, many sporting neat Scottish-plaid tams and argyle wool sweaters, gathered quietly within the cozy kitchen, huddled over steaming cups of coffee and tea.

It was clear the Brits had arrived. The Conway residence had been selected as one of the American locations for a new feature film being made called "Philomena." The mostly British production is being directed by Stephen Frears ("Dangerous Liaisons," "High Fidelity," "The Queen") and stars Dame Judi Dench as Philomena and comedian Steve Coogan ("24 Hour Party People," "A Cock & Bull Story," "What Maisie Knew") as Martin Sixsmith, the BBC correspondent and author of "The Lost Child of Philomena Lee," on which the movie is based. The narrative is the true story of one mother's 50-year search for her lost son. The bittersweet comedy takes place in London, Ireland and ultimately America, where the extraordinary story of Philomena's son is finally revealed. A portion of the American story takes place in an old American farmhouse. Lucky for Potomac, the Conway family had just such a spot.

No feature film can be made without the requisite deluge of equipment. By 8 a.m. the considerable crew had erected camera equipment and slates, light stands and reflectors and various multi-wired sound devices. Workers hurried by pushing video carts while technicians in over-sized headphones manipulated audio mixers. Seemingly endless miles of cables and extension cords were laid. People spoke in hushed voices into cell phones or headsets while others clustered around cameras and LED light panels. As technicians



Photos by Alexandra Conway

Actress Judi Dench and director Stephen Frears in front of the Conway residence working on a feature film, "Philomena."



Filming included two other new stars in the form of Mocha and Athena, the Conway's pair of rescue dogs.

mounted a large fabric backdrop against the rear of the house, gigantic light booms and reflectors shone brilliant light on the stark white surface.

Momentum was broken only by shouts from the production manager of "Silence on the set!" and "Rolling! Rolling!" Suddenly the set fell quiet and immobile, as the entire company held its breath, while in the family's living room a scene was filmed.

Meanwhile in the adjacent parlor, crew members busily rearranged furniture and applied touch-ups to paint for a scene within the farmhouse featuring the Scottish actress Sara Stewart, dressed in a woolen snowflake-print sweater and '50-style updo. Make-up crews applied final touches to her face and hair as staging crews moved plants and accessories.

See Lights, Camera, Page 7

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Holiday Gift Guide

Upcoming Bazaars and Craft Shows Yield Gift Ideas

Showcasing one-of-a-kind items.

By Susan Belford
The Almanac

Looking for creative and unusual gifts for family and friends? The holidays are quickly approaching and bazaars and craft shows are ideal for that hard-to-find gift. A number of near-by bazaars will be taking place within the next few weeks. Each bazaar has a distinctive feel and offers a variety of items that could never be found at the mall. Many raise money for a cause.

The first boutique on the calendar is the 9th Annual "Mayfield Market" at the Connelly School for the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd. in Potomac. It will take place on Saturday, Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and on Sunday, Nov. 18 from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. This shopping bazaar features more than 70 vendors selling personalized clothing, accessories and stationery, hostess gifts for the holidays, distinctive jewelry, hand-made ceramic pieces, men's clothing, cashmere hats and scarves, handbags, children's gifts and clothing, original art work and more.

Holy Child Director of Development Suzi Montes de Oca describes a few merchants who will be selling their wonderful wares: "Our vendors include personalized clothing and accessories from Two Coconuts and The Fine Swine in Kensington as well as from Namedroppers in Potomac, artists including Carol Dyer and Martha Spak, Lilly



The 9th Annual Mayfield Market at the Connelly School for the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd. is this weekend. The Holy Child alum is Lisa Lanham Hall.

Pulitzer's 'Life's A Beach', handbags, gloves and accessories from Potomac's Barbie B, jewelry from Ice, Razzle Dazzle, Deco, Sam Barry and Stella and Dot. We will also have gifts and accessories from The Surrey Two, Create-A-Plaque, Pearls Fine Teas, Joyful Bath Company, Haute Papier and much more."

In addition to the vendors, The Holy Child "Always Shabby Chic Boutique" is an upscale white elephant sale where one can find gently-used household items such as mirrors, lamps, candlesticks, furniture and more. The Tiger Bakery is a delightful place to rest while eating lunch or buying a baked treat. Luncheon options are provided by food trucks - Go Fish, ThatSalata and Maui Wowi. According to co-chair Jennifer Kress, "Proceeds from the Mayfield Market will benefit the Holy Child Scholarship Fund."



The German School bazaar includes hand-made wooden toys.

The German School, 8617 Chateau Drive, Potomac, will hold its Christmas Bazaar from 12 – 5 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1. This bazaar brings German holiday traditions to the Potomac area. Arrive with an appetite, because a full meal of delectable homemade German cuisine is served — bratwurst, spatzle, knodel, potato salad and sauerkraut are just a few of the samplings. Desserts include a full cake-buffet with black forest cake, fruit tarts, cheesecakes, German Christmas cookies and puddings. The European-styled bazaar includes hand-made wooden toys, delightful music boxes and nutcrackers, Christmas ornaments and decorations, woolen scarves and mittens, handbags, candles, decorated Advent wreaths and more. A variety of German sausages and Swiss desserts are for sale to take home. The bazaar will also offer a number of entertain-

ment activities for children.

THE NEXT VENUE on the shopping trail is the CPR Realtor Holiday Extravaganza in conjunction with the the Glen Echo Partnership for the Arts and Culture (GEPPAC) which will be held on Dec. 1 from 2 – 5 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom Annex in Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

This boutique will feature women's clothing from Ibhana, Silpada silver jewelry, Beijo Bags, decorator items for the home, artwork and more.

The group is collecting canned goods for a local food bank. Co-Chair Ellen Cohen said: "Your neighborhood CPR Realtor Team (Cohen, Porter and Rohrer) in conjunction with Glen Echo Park and co-sponsored by Rob Mercer of First Home Mortgage and Ken Savitz of Acer Title & Escrow are thanking our community by offering a Holiday Shopping Extravaganza. Come and support our neighbors while finishing your holiday shopping."

Save some energy for the Friends of the Clara Barton Community Center Annual Craft Show on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 1-5 p.m. This is the only show dedicated to artwork and crafts produced by local artisans, many from Glen Echo, Potomac and Cabin John.

Chairman of the show Leslie Barden said, "The show was created at the request of our local artisans. There will be paintings, photography, pottery, glass, jewelry, jams, gift baskets, wrapping paper, books, wood carvings, knits, needle point blouses, belt buckles, quilts, table linens, purses, wooden

See Upcoming Bazaars, Page 12

Art of Giving

The Art Gallery of Potomac offers variety of themes.

By Colleen Healy
The Almanac

During the holiday season The Art Gallery of Potomac will offer several small paintings, originals, prints, and giclees for gift giving as well as note cards, home decor, ornaments, dolls from the G St. Doll Club, and hand knit scarves for holiday shoppers. The newly published book, "Christmas Rose" by Dalton Delan and illustrated by Yolanda Prinsloo will also be offered at the sale.

Now through Dec. 17, paintings will be priced to sell in all sizes and genres reflecting themes to celebrate the holiday season. The resident artists bring their own style to the gallery. Carol Dyer will feature her



Artist Claire Howard with her painting "A Heavenly Peace."

highly collectible paintings from her Washington Christmas series. Anne Martinez's work features pet and people portraits and gift certificates for a future sitting will be available. For local scenes, Dot Procter's paintings feature the C&O canal, local landscapes and the Jefferson Memorial. Millie Shott will display mixed media pieces of winter and holiday scenes while Felisa Federman's work features themes of being green and the environment.



Artist Yolanda Prinsloo with her painting "Dreaming of Spring."

For the great outdoors, paintings by Terri Cunningham are painted in the plein air style and her landscapes feature beautiful, soft colors. In Claire Howard's paintings, she uses a palette knife to create texture and paints local scenes of farms, and large winter landscapes.

If residents need color in their homes, the bold, colorful paintings of Colette Calilhanna will brighten any room. Yolanda Prinsloo's art is done in a realistic style and

will feature landscapes and still-life on canvas using oil paint and gold leaf.

The Art Gallery of Potomac is located at 9945 Falls Road in Potomac. It has relocated within the same shopping center and is now next to Big Wheel Bikes. Phone 240-447-9417 or 301-765-7617. Hours are Wednesday-Sunday 12-4 p.m. There will be a holiday tea Dec. 8 from 1-3 p.m. For more information go to www.theartgalleryofpotomac.com.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Secret to Successful Buying

There's an old secret to buying a new home that Realtors® have known for years. Don't buy the most expensive property in the community. This secret is a tactic that's been tested and proven over time, and if you follow it while shopping for your dream home, you'll be investing in both your home and your future possibilities for its resale value. While it's appealing to buy a home in a well-established community full of modern homes and meticulously maintained lawns, what happens to that neighborhood in a soft market? What would the ramifications be for your home, valued highest in the neighborhood, suddenly flanked on all sides by a slew of lesser-valued homes? What happens is this: your perfectly maintained home will be undermined, despite its state-of-the-art amenities, its sleek, modern kitchen and its impressive whirlpool tubs. Your ability to sell your home will be compromised by its proximity to a number of lesser-priced homes, while those same homes will benefit from their proximity to your home. In a market evaluation, this phenomenon is called the negative effect. As a home buyer, it's incredibly important to be informed and educated in home value trends and the real estate market, especially in light of the turbulence of recent years. Every home is an investment, so make sure you engage the services of a professional Realtor® to help you make an informed, well-planned decision, and don't forget to keep the secret of successful buying in mind as you tour your potential dream home.

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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Potomac Almanac turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: almanac@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

News

Bringing 'My Fair Lady' to Stage

Potomac Theatre Company's production opens this Friday.

By Colleen Healy
The Almanac

This month The Potomac Theatre Company presents Alan J. Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "My Fair Lady." The musical tells the story of Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower girl who takes speech lessons from professor Henry Higgins, a phoneticist, so that she may pass as a well-born lady.

The 1956 Broadway production set the record at the time for the longest running musical theatre production in history. The original cast starred Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews. The play is based on George Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion."

"My Fair Lady" features a long list of popular songs, including "Lovely," "I Could Have Danced All Night," and "Get Me to the Church On Time," all accompanied by a live orchestra.

This show was one of the first integrated musicals, where the songs and dancing are integral to move along the plot.

"My Fair Lady is my favorite musical so it was a no-brainer to work on the production," said choreographer Melanie Barber. "I combined basic jazz and ballet technique in the choreography. Since the cast had various dance experiences, we were able to create strong numbers while not overwhelming everyone. A lot of hard work, but it was worthwhile."

Ken Kemp plays Higgins and describes his character as "essentially an anti-social misogynist. He doesn't like people or women. He doesn't understand them or his own feelings. My challenge as an actor is to take a self-centered and socially awkward character and make him lovable. Everyone exists as a mean to an end for him. If someone is not useful to him they are not important to him. He and Eliza develop a respect for each other and go on a journey together. Higgins is a fascinating character study. I am thrilled to be a part of this classic show. This is a fun, family show. It asks the question 'How can I change the world one person at a time to make a better world?'"

Mary Wakefield is "so grateful. Having the opportunity to play Eliza Doolittle is more than I could have hoped for. She might be, if not the best, one of the top three best roles ever



Photos by Harvey Levine/The Almanac

David Berkenbilt (Col. Pickering), Nan Muntzing (Mrs. Higgins), Phil McLeod (Freddy Gynsford-Hill), Mary Wakefield (Eliza Doolittle), and Ken Kemp (Henry Higgins)

written. The range of the character is phenomenal. You are looking at the shoes that came before you like Julie Andrews and Audrey Hepburn and it just really puts you in awe. The character goes through a transformation on the surface from a dirty, improper girl to a lady. The role is very easy and fun especially the way Lerner and Loewe wrote it. Eliza is a crybaby at first; she bursts into tears in every scene but at the end she is so self confident. It is fun to watch her grow up and grow into herself and who she is. My favorite scene is Ascot. I get to wear an amazing costume and during the story about the aunt it is almost impossible to keep a straight face. 'My Fair Lady' is probably one of the best musicals written for sheet entertainment and memorable songs. "

David Berkenbilt, who plays Colonel Pickering, said, "I did not really know what to expect when I accepted the part of Pickering. As I learned the part, and with Kevin Sockwell's great direction and suggestions, Pickering develops as a very kind man, with great respect for Higgin's work and tends to accept but not completely agree with Higgins' brash manners.

He quickly develops a "dutch uncle" affection for Eliza, and although he has made a bet with Higgins that the professor cannot transform her into a "lady," he really wants to see it happen. He is intensely protective of Eliza, and at the same time distractible tending to lose focus at times.

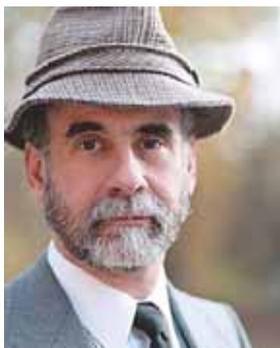
"The part itself requires a lot of concentration since much of the lines are spaced between other actions, and being on stage during the spaces requires careful listening and reacting which is challenging since I seem to share some of Pickering's focus problems but most enjoyable because our Eliza is such a joy to work with and our Higgins really has the chops for his very challenging part and the cast and crew have been great and very supportive."

The production will run at The Blair Center for the Arts at the Bullis School 10601 Falls Road for two weekends: Nov. 16-18 and Nov. 23-25 (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Shows will be Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. The play is directed by Kevin Sockwell and produced by Tammi T. Gardner. The musical director is Ronald Isaacson and choreographer is Melanie Barber. For reservations call 301-299-8571. Tickets are \$20; \$18 for seniors and students; 20 percent off prepaid groups of 10 For more information visit <http://potomactheatreco.org>. The Hunters Inn will be offering a pre-theater special dinner menu for \$20 per person on Friday and Saturday nights of show days from 5:30 till 6:30 p.m. Ticket holders can call and make a reservation after purchasing their tickets at 301-299-9300 and mention that they are going to the show. The Hunters Inn is located at 10123 River Road. For more information go to www.thehuntersinn.com.



Mary Wakefield



Ken Kemp



Nan Muntzing



Bob Ashby



Phil McLeod

Chance for Compromise on Brickyard Site?

County Council calls for hitting "pause button."

By Ken Moore
The Almanac

After nearly two years of edict and opposition concerning a 20-acre "future school" site on Brickyard Road, a town hall meeting in Potomac last week with County Council offered a glimmer of hope for advocates of the organic farm.

"The way this has unfolded is not OK," said County Council President Roger Berliner on Wednesday, Nov. 7 at the Potomac Community Center.

At the rare town hall meeting that featured eight of the nine members of County Council, councilmembers expressed strong opinions about the ongoing conflict over the Brickyard Road organic farm.

"The way this matter has unfolded has been ugly and costly to everyone involved," said five councilmembers in a letter handed out at the meeting. "We do not think this result in necessary or inevitable."

"This turmoil has not only tainted our constituents' opinion of representative gov-



George Leventhal at large, Phil Andrews and Craig Rice at the Nov. 8 town hall meeting at Potomac community center.



County Council President Roger Berliner sits between Nancy Navarro and Nancy Floreen. Eight of the nine Montgomery County council members attended.

ernment, but it has also completely shut down communication," wrote George Leventhal (D-at large).

Sophia Maravell asked, now that council has called for compromise, what assurances are there that the County Council and the public are involved in the process.

The councilmembers wrote to County Executive Isiah Leggett and Board of Education President Shirley Brandman that the current stay in the court process in Mont-

gomery County Circuit Court offers a "time out" in order "to consider fresh approaches and a transparent process to meeting each of the legitimate needs of our community that has been raised by this divisive debate."

THE COUNTY COUNCILMEMBERS also voiced recognition how the ongoing battle has affected Montgomery Soccer Inc. as well.

Montgomery Soccer, which successfully

responded to the county's request for proposals to build soccer fields on the site, had planned to begin development of the soccer fields this fall.

"We deeply regret the continued anxiety that this issue has caused our constituents and the uncertainty to Montgomery Soccer Inc., which successfully applied to the RFP," councilmembers wrote. Representatives of MSI did not speak at the meeting.

See Compromise, Page 7

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Opinion

Shop Locally, Support Small Business

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 24. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

It sounds like an obligation, and it is. But there is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when

local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair.

The economy continues to improve slowly without inspiring. But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them.

Editorial

A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

— Mary Kimm,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Hit the Pause Button

The following letter to County Executive Isiah Leggett and Board of Education President Shirley Brandman is shared with the Potomac Almanac.

We write you today regarding a matter with which you are very familiar: the fate of the Brickyard Road Junior High School site in Potomac.

In our view, there are four very legitimate interests at issue here: (1) the desire of affected communities to have input into the disposition of public property; (2) the documented need for more soccer fields downtown; (3) promoting

the benefits of healthy eating and organic farming; and (4) the interests of the school system in being able to reclaim land that they may need in the future.

Regrettably, in the current environment, these interests have been pitted against each other. The way this matter has unfolded has been ugly and costly to everyone involved, including our county and the school system. We do not think this result is either necessary or inevitable.

As you know, the Circuit Court of Montgomery County recently stayed the lease of the property

Nov. 7 letter from majority of council members calls for compromise.

from the Board of Education to the county. Now that Judge Greenberg has essentially hit the pause button, we believe you have an opportunity to take a step back. Applying a renewed sense of public engagement and collaboration, we believe it may be possible to craft a solution that addresses all of the legitimate interests at stake here. Such an outcome is not guaranteed of course, and would depend upon the good will of all stakeholders to be willing to collaborate in an open ended, transparent process that seeks "win-win" solutions.

We are aware of at least three possible approaches that could be considered in such a process:

❖ One such approach that has been put forward in the past, which we believe deserves continued consideration, is a compromise at the Brickyard site that would continue the current organic farming use and incorporate a reduced number of fields from that which is currently contemplated. The site's 20 acres suggest that such a compromise could be feasible.

❖ An alternative approach would be to consider installing additional ball fields at an already existing park, such as Avenel Local Park. Members of the community have suggested that this park does not make the most efficient use of existing space, that more soccer fields could possibly be accommodated there, and that making the maximum use of an existing asset would be a more ame-

nable solution than creating an entirely new location.

❖ Finally, Park and Planning staff have identified other potential sites in the downcounty, including publicly owned land, that could possibly be used for soccer. We believe you would be well served by exploring these options, with full stakeholder and public participation, and assessing whether there are in fact other sites that could more easily, and with less adverse community impact, accommodate additional soccer fields.

We deeply regret the continued anxiety that this issue has caused our constituents and the uncertainty to Montgomery Soccer, Inc, which successfully applied to the RFP. The court's "stay" very clearly indicates that none of the stakeholders are guaranteed a victory in this contest. Bringing the best of Montgomery County to bear, we believe it may be possible to find common ground and put this matter behind us. Accordingly, we urge you to seriously consider using this "time out" to consider fresh approaches and a transparent process to meeting each of the legitimate needs of our community that has been raised by this divisive debate.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Council President Roger Berliner (D-1)
Phil Andrews (D-3)
Marc Elrich (D-at large)
Valerie Ervin (D-5)
Hans Riemer (D-at large)



Photo Contributed

Storm's Aftermath

Jill and John Phillips, who own Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo and live on Brickyard Road, had two trees fall during the close encounter with Hurricane Sandy. The trees crushed the 1965 Ford pickup that had belonged to Jill's father. The tree also hit the roof of the Phillips' duck house. They found their ducks "playing follow the leader" out in the pasture.

Lights, Camera, Action, Potomac!

From Page 2

When lunch was called promptly at noon (union rules) the company scattered quickly across the Conway's field to neighboring Saints Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church, where a lunch of penne pasta, chicken, Caesar salad and sautéed shrimp was served. Five long rows of cafeteria-style tables quickly overflowed with family, friends, crew members and cast, while outside a gourmet food truck dispensed piping-hot specialty coffees and tea. The atmosphere was buzzing and congenial with smiles all around. The friendly and approachable German-born actor Peter Hermann ("30 Rock") joined everyone for lunch, as well as Stewart, and the Irish actor Sean Mahon, in a loden green sweater. Mahon stars in the role of Philomena's son, Michael Hess, and Hermann plays the role of his lover. Conversation was open and friendly and all three expressed admiration for the very eclectic character of the Conway's home that reminded them so much of places they knew back home.

Back at the shoot, two large plank tables, with extension cords running back to the house, provided a groaning board of pastries, and snacks, plus two large coffee urns and assorted teas for the crew. Multiple white plastic buckets of sand were placed around the property for the inevitable cigarettes.

Between takes, Diana Conway was fortunate to spend some time conversing with Dame Dench. She and the actress discussed everything from the history of the farmhouse to Dench's initial interest in making the film, which "spoke to her." During a break in the filming of a car scene, Dench told Conway that when she first walked into the house she felt like it was "the right house" and that she would not change a



Photo by Alexandra Conway

Judi Dench told Diana Conway that when she first walked into the 180-year-old Conway house she felt like it was "the right house" and that she would not change a thing.

thing. She revealed that she had only felt that way once before and that was about another house in England.

Dench also had warm praise for Father George Rados of the Saints Peter & Paul Antiochian Orthodox Church. Proclaiming him to be a "warm and wonderful" man, she was very enthusiastic about his being included in the film footage.

At the end of the day, Potomac provided two other new stars in the form of Mocha and Athena, the Conway's pair of rescue dogs. Look for them soon in a theater near you.

Compromise on Brickyard Site?

From Page 5

The County Executive didn't attend the meeting. Patrick Lacefield, spokesman for the County Executive, said in response to an email asking for reaction to the council letters: "There is no change in the county's position that public land should be used for public purposes, as called for in the Potomac Master Plan unanimously approved by the County Council."

But no one at this stage of the battle is assured that its position will be upheld by the court system.

"The court's 'stay' very clearly indicates that none of the stakeholders are guaranteed a victory in this contest," according to the letter from the councilmembers. "Bringing the best of Montgomery County to bear, we believe it may be possible to find common ground and put this matter behind us."

Nick Maravell has leased the 20-acre site from the Montgomery County School Board

"This turmoil has ... tainted our constituents' opinion of representative government."

— George Leventhal

for more than 30 years, running an organic farm, which produces heirloom GMO-free corn, and soybean seed. More recently, Sophia Maravell has run the Brickyard Educational Farm on the site as well, bringing in busloads of school children to learn about farming.

Nearly two years ago in March 2011, Nick Maravell, neighbors and civic organizations in Potomac learned that Leggett had already decided to take control of the 20-acre school property on Brickyard Road to turn it over to a private organization for development into soccer fields. The Board of Education voted with only

a few days notice to lease the property to the county for that purpose.

Local food advocates, neighbors and civic associations have expressed outrage that there was no public process for the decision, including filing several lawsuits. They

See County Council, Page 13

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Holiday Entertainment

Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too). Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. <http://rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me>. Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 in The Library, First Floor.

The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season. There are favorite fairytale princesses, an annual holiday tradition, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org.

Beauty and the Beast, through Nov. 16, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

The Nutcracker, Nov. 23 - Dec. 30, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Toyland, Jan. 18 - Feb. 10, 2013, Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/NOV. 13-14

Strathmore Afternoon Tea. 1 p.m. The sounds of local musicians fill the room as you enjoy afternoon tea in The Shapiro Music Room at Strathmore. Vegetarian meals not available. \$23 per person (Stars Price \$20.70). (Pre-paid, non-refundable)

reservations required. Call 301-581-5108. (The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit www.strathmore.org.)

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 14

Violin Concert. 7:30 p.m. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Tickets \$30. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

NOV. 14 THROUGH JAN. 6

Musical. Seussical runs in Imagination Stage's Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Theatre, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Best for ages 4-12. Tickets are \$12-\$25, and may be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the ImaginationStage box office or at 3012801660.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

The Potomac Chamber of Commerce's annual awards dinner, honors Potomac's citizen, businessperson and youth of the year. Normandie Farm, 10710 Falls Rd. Visit www.potomacchamber.org.

Tia Fuller Quartet. 7:30 p.m. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Tickets \$35. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Lecture Series. 11:30 a.m. David Maraniss, a "Washington Post" assistant editor and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, will discuss his book, "Barack Obama: The Story" at Strathmore Mansion, 10701 Rockville Pike. Book signing and luncheon follow at 12:30 p.m. Books will be available for purchase. Tickets range from \$10 to \$21. Call 240-777-0020

or visit www.folmc.org.

Opening Reception: Dalya Luttwak: "Ground Cover: Roots of Liriope." 7-9 p.m. Free and open to the public. VisArts offers an opening reception for artist, Dalya Luttwak who inaugurates the new VisArts "InSight" series with "Ground Cover: Roots of Liriope" which begins as a single painted line and expands into a three-dimensional steel sculpture that climbs and reaches the corners of VisArts' ground floor atrium. The reception will include a brief talk by the artist followed by light snacks and drinks. VisArts is located at 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. The galleries are open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday from noon to 9 p.m., and on Saturday and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

FRIDAY/NOV. 16

Olivia Newton-John. 8 p.m. This pop icon, star of Grease and Xanadu, and four-time Grammy winner, is delivering a show that spans her pop hits ("Physical," "Hopelessly Devoted to You") and her more recent musical explorations. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Visit www.strathmore.org.

NOV. 16-25

Live Orchestra. Potomac Theatre Company presents Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe's My Fair Lady by George Bernard Shaw. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. At Blair Family Center for the Arts, Bullis School located at 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Tickets are \$20 for adults



Photo by Harvey Levine/Potomac Almanac

Potomac Theatre Company's production of "My Fair Lady" runs Nov. 16-25 and features Ken Kemp as Henry Higgins and Mary Schmidt Wakefield as Eliza Doolittle.

'My Fair Lady'

Potomac Theatre Company is kicking off its 2012-2013 season with Lerner & Loewe's musical "My Fair Lady." Opening Nov. 16 at the Blair Family Center for the Arts at Bullis School and running for two consecutive weekends, "My Fair Lady" is a classic from the golden age of Broadway musicals, and director Kevin Sockwell's imaginative staging promises a fun evening for the whole family. This charming production is a perfect way to kick off the holiday season or entertain out-of-town guests during the Thanksgiving weekend.

"My Fair Lady," is produced by Tammi T. Gardner and directed by Kevin Sockwell, with musical direction by Ronald Issacson. At the Blair Family Center for the Arts at Bullis School, Friday, Nov. 16 through Sunday, Nov. 25. Evening performances are at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$18 for seniors and students. Call 301-299-8571 for tickets. Visit www.potomactheatreco.org.

POTOMAC THEATRE COMPANY

Alan Jay Lerner & Frederick Loewe's



Based on Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

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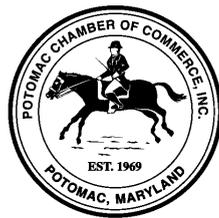
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6:00PM - 9:00PM

Please respond by Thursday, November 8, 2012

Mr./Ms. _____

Business Name: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

____ Number of Individual attendees - \$55.00 per person.

____ I am unable to attend.

Please choose a dish for each individual:

____ # of Chicken Piccata w/ Capers & Sun dried tomatoes

____ # or Filet of Cod Stuffed w/ Crabmeat

(or) ____ Steamed fresh Vegetable Plate Sauce Hollandaise

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Lindsey Thaker*

*Co-Youth of the Year
Jonathan C. Dyer*

*Please RSVP by November 8, 2012
Please choose your entrée*

\$20; \$18 for seniors and students; groups of 10 or more receive 20 percent off. Call 301-299-8571 to reserve seats.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Free Workshop: Learning about Your New Dog. Your Dog's Friend Training Center, 12221 Parklawn Drive, 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. An expert trainer will discuss common issues new dog adopters face. Leave your dog at home. Register at www.yourdogfriend.info or call 301-983-5913.

Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-noon. Join for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to browse interesting items. Emmanuel Lutheran Church at 7730 Bradley Blvd. in Bethesda. Call 301-365-5733.

NOV. 17 THROUGH DEC. 29

Grayscale. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Explore the connection of grayscale images to the past and their meaning in the present, and addresses viewers' ability to ascribe color to a black and white image by assessing the intensity of light that is different for every color. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

Annual International Exhibition of Fine Art in Miniature. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Hundreds of works in a variety of media-sculptures, drawings and paintings-perfectly rendered in a tininess that tests the artists' talent and makes most viewers depend on a magnifying glass to see every detail. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 18

Kids Sunday Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Ages 7-11. The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Call 301-581-5200 or visit www.strathmore.org.
 ♦ Go Crazy with Henna.
 ♦ Artist Trading Cards: Mini Masterpiece.
 ♦ Black & White Printmaking.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 17-18

Art Exhibition: "Summer in Provence." An exhibition of plein air watercolors will be on display at the Yellow Barn at Glen Echo Park located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The exhibition will be open from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17, and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 18. A reception for the artists will take place from 4-6 p.m. on Saturday. Call 202-244-3051 or email amysabrin@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 23

Classic Albums Live. 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Tickets \$28-\$38. Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon will be recreated by top musicians live onstage. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 24

Tag Dogs. 4 p.m. & 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Tickets \$25-\$52. Set on a construction site in a steelworks town, this movement-driven theatrical work sends its performers tapping upside down, through water and jumping through scaffolding in a fast-paced spectacle

that's part theater, part rock concert. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

NOV. 24, 25, DEC. 1, 2, & 27

Free Victorian Holiday Greeting Card Workshops. 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. The public is invited to sign up for free workshops on making Victorian-era holiday greeting cards. Participants will dress in period clothing and be photographed. Photos will be used to make holiday cards. The workshops are open to all ages. The house will be open with free guided tours between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. At Clara Barton National Historic Site, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo. Call 301-320-1410 to reserve seats. Visit www.nps.gov/clba.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/NOV. 27-28

Strathmore Afternoon Tea. 1 p.m. The sounds of local musicians fill the room as you enjoy afternoon tea in The Shapiro Music Room at Strathmore. Vegetarian meals not available. \$23 per person (Stars Price \$20.70). (Pre-paid, non-refundable reservations required. Call 301-581-5108. (The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 30

Julia Nixon: Songs of Burt Bacharach. 7:30 p.m. Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Tickets \$30. Hayes Award winner Julia Nixon performs the music of one of America's most successful composers. Call 301-581-5100 or visit www.strathmore.org.

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ChristmasOnThePotomac.com
 or call 301-965-4122

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Potomac REAL ESTATE

Photos by Deb Stevens/The Almanac

In September 2012,
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\$4,700,000-\$282,000.

September 2012 Top Sales



1 10108 Iron Gate Road,
Potomac — \$4,700,000



7 32 Sandalfoot
Court, Potomac
— \$1,250,888



4 9910 Avenel Farm Drive, Potomac — \$1,285,000



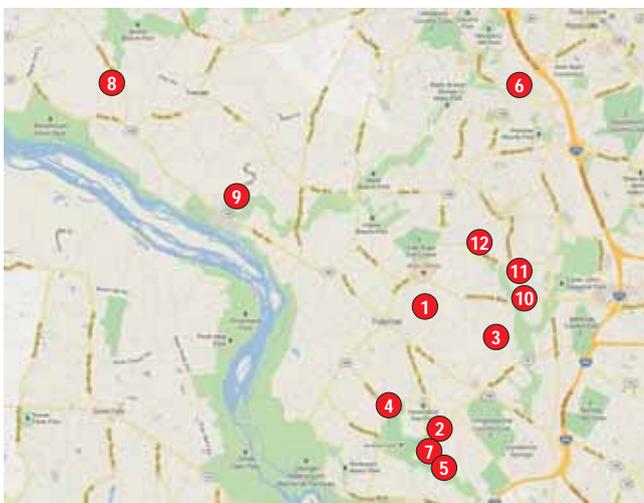
12 8818 Sleepy Hollow Lane,
Potomac — \$1,010,000



9 11517 Lake Potomac Drive,
Potomac — \$1,150,000



11 8509 Scarboro Court,
Potomac — \$1,030,000



© Google Map data

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1 10108 IRON GATE RD	6	7	2	POTOMAC	...	\$4,700,000	Detached	2.15	20854	CAMOTOP	09/15/12
2 9933 OAKLYN DR	6	7	2	POTOMAC	...	\$1,575,000	Detached	0.80	20854	AVENEL	09/14/12
3 9712 KENDALE RD	6	7	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,350,000	Detached	0.73	20854	BRADLEY FARMS	09/04/12
4 9910 AVENEL FARM DR	5	4	2	POTOMAC	...	\$1,285,000	Detached	0.46	20854	AVENEL	09/28/12
5 16 SANDALFOOT CT	4	4	2	POTOMAC	...	\$1,250,888	Detached	0.15	20854	AVENEL	09/21/12
6 8301 HECTIC HILL LN	6	3	1	ROCKVILLE	...	\$1,250,000	Detached	2.67	20854	WOOTTONS MILL	09/25/12
7 32 SANDALFOOT CT	5	4	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.16	20854	AVENEL	09/28/12
8 14 MAIDENS BOWER CT	5	5	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,195,000	Detached	2.07	20854	ESWORTHY PARK	09/10/12
9 11517 LAKE POTOMAC DR	7	5	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,150,000	Detached	2.21	20854	LAKE POTOMAC	09/19/12
10 10328 WINDSOR VIEW DR	5	4	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,120,000	Detached	0.26	20854	WINDSOR HILLS	09/20/12
11 8509 SCARBORO CT	5	4	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,030,000	Detached	0.36	20854	WINDSOR HILLS	09/28/12
12 8818 SLEEPY HOLLOW LN	5	4	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,010,000	Detached	0.28	20854	NORMANDY HILLS	09/28/12

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Home LifeStyle



Architect Jim Rill and his team incorporated a bar and high ceilings in this Potomac family room. The ceiling and trim are stained cherry wood.

Photos courtesy of Rill Architects

An Oasis in Potomac

Home's addition offers views of expansive backyard.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Almanac

When the owners of a Potomac home decided that they wanted to expand their living space, their goal was to build a haven for family and friends to gather and enjoy spectacular views of their woody backyard.

They enlisted the help of Jim Rill, of Rill Architects, who designed a light-filled retreat with a bank of doors that connects it to the new family room. "It

is like sitting out in the yard, but with all the comforts of heating and air conditioning," he said. "The doors all slide open and it becomes one big open space, an adult outdoor enjoyment and entertaining room."

Rill and his team also incorporated a bar, high ceilings and a bookcase-lined hallway. "The concept of the new spaces was that the vaulted family room or sunroom would be a pavilion that reaches into the landscape with a screened porch attached," said Richard Rossi, an architect at Rill Architects, who worked with the homeowners on the initial design concept. "This main room gives the owners a stronger connection to the outside, creating an indoor-outdoor living space. The finishes were selected to distinguish this new addition from the existing rooms."



This Potomac family room has a bank of doors that connect it to the screened porch. "The doors all slide open and it becomes one big open space," said Jim Rill.

THE CEILING AND TRIM are stained cherry wood. "The existing house is very colonial, but the owners wanted a clubby feel, therefore, we used stained wood versus painted wood," said Rill. "It ties in with the existing house, but it does have more of the clubby feel."

Rill worked with Potomac-based interior designer Sharon Kleinman, of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, who created a whimsical look for family. "They have a lot of eclectic or folksy art and they wanted that to tie into it as well," she said. "As we were doing the addition based on their artwork, we kind of got into looking a little bit more like a mission style. The addition had started out being much more traditional looking and it evolved into something much more rustic."

Kleinman says she kept the family's casual entertaining style in mind when it came time to choose furnishings, which include green sofas and orange reclining chairs. "The lime-green sofas by Baker are extremely comfortable," she said. "They didn't want a lot of pillows or a lot of fuss. They really wanted something that was casual and had clean lines. So the bright lime green and orange just really pop. In the old days, I would cringe if somebody came in and said they wanted recliners, but these are actually attractive looking and you don't know that they are recliners until you sit in them."

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Bethesda (20817)

8506 Country Club Dr. \$4,200,000..Sun 1-3.....Kristin Gerlach.....Gerlach..301-656-8686
7001 Crail Dr.....\$2,295,000..Sun 2-4.....Kara Sheehan..Wash Fine Prop..202-274-4660
6519 Fallwind Ln.....\$1,374,800..Sun 1-4.....Cindy Souza....Long & Foster..301-493-9878

Potomac (20854)

11421 Twining Ln.....\$1,299,000..Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
10216 Lloyd Rd.....\$759,000..Sun 1-4..Georgette Hoponick.....Weichert..240-462-0521

Rockville (20852)

6908 Sulky Ln.....\$745,000..Sun 1-4.....Gail Horne....Long & Foster..301-907-7600

For an Open House Listing Form,
call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Holiday Gift Guide

Shop Owners Share Tie to Churchill High School

Gift ideas from Cabin John Shopping Center.

By Susan Belford
The Almanac

No need to travel outside Potomac when searching for that ideal gift for the holidays this year. A vast assortment of gifts is available just around the corner at two gift shops — Leila Fine Gifts and Jewels and Occasions Unique Gifts and Gift Baskets. Both are close-by in the Cabin John Shopping Center — and both shops are owned by Churchill graduates who grew up in Potomac.

Leila Fine Gifts and Jewels was opened this past June by Deb Shalom, who still resides in Potomac. Her shop, named for her mother, is her first foray into the gifts and jewelry arena. “I just love it,” she said. “To be surrounded by colorful, beautiful things is heaven for me. I’m here 7 days a week. I’m pleased with how the business is growing. I have new items coming in daily. I love seeing customers pleased to find that ‘perfect gift.’” The store is located near California Tortilla at the northeast end of the shopping center.

Shalom describes her shop as “fun and funky.” She purchases many pieces from local artists. “Much of my merchandise comes from craft shows. I buy mostly American-made items, but some of my most distinctive gifts are from Italy and other parts of Europe. I also have quite a few artisans from Israel as I travel there every year because my husband is Israeli.”

The selection of gifts is varied and interesting — and the buyer can find everything from hostess to wedding gifts. The store carries beautiful cut stainless steel trays by Melanie Dankowitz, who grew up in Potomac and unites traditional Jewish motifs with contemporary themes, glass bowls from the “Thorne” series by Andrew Madvin, Italian jewelry by Antica Murriana Venezia, stained-glass frames by Silver Spring artist Susan Fullenbaum, pearls, silk scarves and cashmere wraps, belts and jew-



Deb Shalom at her gift store, Leila.



Stephanie Menick of Occasions



Guest towels from Occasions.

elry, candlesticks, champagne glasses — and even a “Manshelf” with gifts for that “hard-to-buy-for” gentleman.

The store will host a Trunk Show by Bethesda’s Judy Bliss from 12 – 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 17. “Startling combinations of colors, textures, stones and shapes are what I do,” said Bliss. Her jewelry is created from semi-precious stones and pearls, contemporary in style, bold and colorful. Leila also hosts a gold selling party monthly. Shalom will be featuring a “Black Friday through Sunday” clearance sale on Nov. 23-25. Leila is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. – 8 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. Located inside Cabin John Mall is one-year old “Occasions Unique Gifts and Gift Baskets,” owned by Stephanie Menick of Bethesda. Menick worked at Party Etc., a gift store located in the same mall as a teenager. She loved the gift business and had

always aspired to own her own shop. She established a corporate gift basket company from her home in Gaithersburg and then, four years ago, launched her first gift shop at National Harbor, and then opened the Cabin John “Occasions” last year.

The colorful, eclectic store features a host of gifts to suit every need from Christmas and Chanukah gifts to specific ones for a hostess, teacher, parents, grandparents, a best pal, a wedding, bar or bat mitzvah — or, as aptly named — for any and all occasions. There are gifts for every budget; many are priced at under \$15. The store also provides wrapping.

“Some of our most popular gift items are Scout Bags of every shape and size, knit scarves that match fingerless gloves that turn into mittens, decorative cell phone cases with matching ear buds and portable back-up batteries, unique frames, plaques, and napkins with cute sayings that make them a personal and distinctive gift, vintage sports signs for teams, tailgating buckets with goodies, fun jewelry and wonderful gift books,” said Menick. “We have a lot of different edible gift items for Christmas and Chanukah, including kosher truffles, candy and chocolate covered pretzels. We also offer soaps that are gorgeously wrapped for unique hostess gifts or stocking stuffers.”

Menick also creates custom gift baskets to suit any need or theme. Some of the favorite and most requested baskets are for



Frame by Susan Fullenbaum at Leila.

birthdays, Chanukah and Christmas. Other popular baskets are Italian Gourmet, Baby, Coffee/Tea, Housewarming and Popcorn Movie Night. The buyer can pick out all the items in the basket, or Menick will pull together original items and then present them as “one-of-a-kind baskets that are individually created for the receiver of the gift,” Menick said.

Occasions also designs and supplies baskets for corporations, silent auctions, and charity events. “Gifts are an important — and people need a place to find that perfect gift for every occasion,” said Menick. “I try to provide that place in the Potomac area.” Occasions will hold a “Black Friday” sale on Friday, Nov. 23. From 9 a.m. -12 noon, everything in the store will be 20 percent off. Occasions is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. on Saturday and 12 - 5 p.m. on Sunday.

Upcoming Bazaars and Craft Shows Yield Gift Ideas

From Page 3

boxes and ornaments. Each artist, author or crafter must have created the items they are bringing to the show themselves.”

Some of the vendors will be Shirley Hendel of Potomac with her fused glass, Potomac’s Betty Christina Komons, offering hand-knitted hats and sweaters, painting and hand-painted furniture, potters Miriam Kelyt and Susan Woollen, woodworker Stanley Schaper of Cabin John and Dale Feuer, Linda Morelli, Beth Rosenheim and Lucy Shapiro — all presenting a variety of jewelry for the show.



Judith Welles, author of a book on Cabin John history will debut her newest book about Lilly Stone. Author Ann McCallum will also present her children’s cookbook, “Eat Your Math Homework – Recipes for Hungry Minds” and her friend Barbara Schuler will give a demonstration.

“We are an outlet for local artists,” said Barden. “The proceeds will help provide a few extras for the Clara Barton community center and its clientele.”

Stacy Rabinovitz with Silpada jewelry will be at the CPR Realtor Holiday Extravaganza.



Lucy Shapiro will be at the Clara Barton Community Craft Show.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Well, I did, along with 2,000 or so other like-minded individuals, walk the Walk on November 4th: Five Ks, although not exactly the route mapped out by the literature provided by the LUNgevity Foundation. (If truth be told, our group, "Team Kenny's Column" veered off course prematurely by a "K" or so to attend to some prearranged business, unfortunately). Nevertheless, we started the Walk behind the Washington Monument, then alongside the Reflecting Pool up toward the Lincoln Memorial, stopped at the steps for a "photo op," then returned on the other side of the Reflecting Pool back down to 7th Street, then across the Mall – with the U.S. Capitol in our sights, finally turning back along the sidewalk bordering the Mall and returning to the Start/Finish.

Twenty-two registrants from our "team" paid their money and made their presence felt. Spirits were high even though the temperature was low, in the 40s. Still, the sun was mostly shining, the breeze was light, and the turnout was record-setting, as was the money raised: over \$261,000 as of November 10, 2012 (the site, www.LUNgevity.org will remain active/open through December 31st for donations), and the greater good was most definitely served.

As a "survivor," I was given a green t-shirt with "Survivor" printed on the front; the other participants received blue t-shirts without being so identified. In addition, we all received LIVESTRONG-type wrist bracelets with "www.lungevity.org" and "Cure Lung Cancer" printed on them. I wore my bracelet proudly that day, (as everyone did) and even kept it on my wrist when I went to bed that night. However, I had trouble sleeping and attributed it to the bracelet reminding my brain that I have cancer. Feeling a physical reminder like that touched me – subconsciously. And though I may wear my emotions on my sleeve, as you regular readers know, having such a constant reminder of my cancer diagnosis dangling on my wrist didn't seem to help me fall asleep. I know I have cancer. I don't need to be convinced. Nor do I need to be reminded all the time. Forgetting helps too.

And if I did forget about having cancer, it would qualify as a mental health moment. Being diagnosed with cancer is bad enough, especially the kind (non-small cell lung cancer, or NSCLC) that I have, which is, at present, incurable/terminal ("Treatable," my oncologist said, "but not curable;" words I never imagined hearing at age 54 and a half). Forgetting about my diagnosis, as often as possible and living life – as normally as possible, has been a part of my process diagnosis-to-date. Though sometimes it seems irresponsible to do so, and almost inappropriate even, concentrating and focusing on it/the disease/my compromised life expectancy shall we say, 24-7 seems counter-productive. It's sort of a bastardized version of: "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em." Somehow, I have to live my life like I have a life, not like I have a cancer. I'm not giving up, and I'm not giving in. I'm just making the best of bad situation. And as bad as it is, I don't need to make it any worse. If it sounds counter-intuitive, it probably is. But that's life in the cancer lane. One conundrum after another.

Participating in Breathe Deep DC/ LUNgevity Foundation's 5K made that life better. And "better" is all I can ask for. Thanks to all who organized, volunteered, participated and donated their time, energy and money. See you all next year.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

Churchill Football Ends Season with Loss

After a 7-3 regular season in which the Churchill football team's three losses were by a combined 16 points, the No. 3 Bulldogs ended their season in the 4A West semifinals with a 34-7 loss at No. 2 Northwest on Nov. 9.

Churchill lost its regular season meeting with Northwest, 27-24, on Oct. 5, but suffered a lopsided loss in the rematch. Quarterback Jonathan Lee scored the Bulldogs' lone touchdown on the ground. He passed for 95 yards and rushed for 51. Dominique Williams had three receptions for 46 yards and Malik Harris rushed for 18 yards.

Blake Dove finished with a team-high 12 tackles and Jack Norman had 11. Giulian Groce, Jake Longenecker and Sam Sloate each had one sack. Joe Nolan had an interception.

Churchill opened the season with a three-game winning streak, won four of its first five and was 7-2 before losing its last two contests. The Bulldog defense had three shutouts this season, and held six opponents to 14 points or fewer.



Quarterback Jonathan Lee scored Churchill's lone touchdown in a 34-7 loss to Northwest on Nov. 9.



Running back Malik Harris and the Churchill football team ended their season with a play-off loss to Northwest on Nov. 9.

Photos by Harvey Levine/The Almanac

Wootton Boys' Place 3rd, Churchill Girls' 4th at XC States

The Wootton boys' team placed third and the Churchill girls' team finished fourth at the MPSSAA state cross country meet on Nov. 10 at Hereford High School.

In the boys' race, Wootton finished third with a score of 150. Severna Park won the state title with a score of 47 and Walter Johnson (93) finished runner-up. Whitman

(252) finished seventh. Wootton's David Levine placed fifth with a time of 16:42.6. Teammate Josh Trzeciak was eighth with a time of 16:54.8. Whitman's Evan Woods was 14th with a time of 17:04. In the girls' race, Churchill finished fourth with a score of 149. Bethesda-Chevy Chase won the team title with a total of 67, followed by Quince Orchard (103) and Broadneck (119). Whitman (229) finished sixth and Wootton (240) was eighth. Churchill's Lucy Srour placed fifth with a time of 19:55.1.

Wootton Boys' Soccer Advances To State Final

The Wootton boys' soccer team defeated Perry Hall, 3-1, in the state semifinals at Richard Montgomery on Nov. 10.

The Patriots will face Severna Park at UMBC at 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 16 for the state championship.

School Notes

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Virginia Tech student **Monica Caropreso**, from Potomac, will join the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences Ambassador Program.

Students are selected to join the team each spring through a competitive application process.

Semifinalists in the 49th annual National Achievement Scholarship Program were announced by National Merit Scholarship Corporation (nmsc) officials: **Lauren E. Montgomery** of Potomac, from Bullis School, and Winston Churchill High School's **Amira Collison** and **Jonathan A. Mulugeta**.

Natalie Bree Abrams, a graduate of Winston Churchill High School in Potomac, has joined Colgate University's Class of 2016.

Elizabeth Horowitz, of Potomac, has enrolled in Rochester Institute of Technology's National Technical Institute for the Deaf, the nation's first and largest technological college for deaf and hard-of-hearing students. She is a 2012 graduate of Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville. She is the daughter of Cathy Horowitz.



Contributed Photos



Episcopal Schools Day

Grade 4 Washington Episcopal School students gather before the service celebrating Episcopal Schools Day at Washington National Cathedral on Oct. 10. At left, seventh-graders **Samantha Liggins** (left) and **Athena Skoufias** (right), prepare to carry the school banner. The service was presided by the Rev. Canon Preston Hannibal, Canon for Academic Ministries, Diocese of Washington, and The Very Rev. Gary Hall, Dean, Washington National Cathedral.

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