

McLean CONNECTION

Damien Leverett as Jean
Valjean and Camilla
Alfonzo Mezaas as
Cosette in McLean High
School's production of
Les Miserables.

McLean High Present Les Misérables

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Schools Using Diversity for Student Benefits

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Author Examines Life by the Letter

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

NOVEMBER 28- DECEMBER 4, 2012

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From left: Sally Turner, of Vienna; Maureen Bunyan; Odelia Codrington; and Carol Loftur-Thun attend a benefit gala in McLean for The Women's Center.



PHOTOS BY SYLVIA JOHNSON

Victims, Advocates Educate Public About Mental Health Resources

McLean gala event raises more than \$300,000 to provide counseling services at The Women's Center in Vienna.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Paige Meade has vivid memories of one day 20 years ago when she was sexually assaulted at the age of 19. She lived with that secret for 17 years. Three years ago, however, she says that she began receiving mental health counseling and embarked on a journey of healing.

"I found a safe place where I could talk about what happened, and I never thought that was possible. . . . It's important to have someplace to go, it's important to have a safe place and safe people," said Meade.

She received treatment at the Women's Center, in Vienna, and shared her story publicly for the first time during a fundraiser for the non-profit organization held earlier this month in McLean. Nearly 300 people attended the gala fundraiser, which garnered more than \$318,000 for the Women's Center.

Carol Loftur-Thun, CEO and executive director of The Women's Center, says that as a result of speeches by Meade and Amanda Tenerio, another victim of sexual violence, the group exceeded its fundraising goal by \$22,000, and was able to educate the public about the power of mental health counseling and the dearth of such services in Northern Virginia, particularly those with financial limitations.

"It can be difficult to get into any therapist no matter your income," said Loftur-Thun. "It can be especially difficult for people who are looking for help with a short-term crisis or an ongoing mental health issue, grief, a job loss, or a challenge with their children and the means to pay for high-quality mental health services."



From left: Jeff Bridges and Sally Turner, of Vienna, and Ed and Michelle Meehan, of Fairfax, attend a benefit gala for The Women's Center.

THE WOMEN'S CENTER provides mental health treatment to more than 2,500 people each year. "We serve a diversity of clients," said Loftur-Thun. "We have a sliding scale and some clients who pay is as little as \$20 which is much, much less than you would pay if you went to a private therapist. We even have clients at all income levels, some who pay the full fee and some who don't. We serve also children, adolescents and men. We even have clients who are in their 80s and 90s."

Janet Kimberling, Ph.D., vice president of clinical services and center programs at The Women's Center says that she and her team of therapists work to overcome misconceptions about the impact that mental health counseling can have on one's life.

"There is still a stigma," she said. "There are some people who have misconceptions about what therapy is, but we have therapists with a variety of specialized backgrounds who see people with issues ranging from a fear of flying to deep, serious depressions."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Members of the McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet.

Honoring Veterans

McLean Orchestra performs military salute at Vinson Hall.

This past Veterans Day, Nov. 11, the McLean Orchestra once again honored America's veterans with their third annual "Salute to Our Military" concert at Vinson Hall Retirement Community. The McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet performed a fun and inspirational concert of patriotic favorites, including the music of American composers Henry Fillmore, Hoagy Carmichael, Scott Joplin, Buddy Holly, George M. Cohen and of course, John Philip Sousa, "The March King." The musical program concluded with A Salute to the Armed Forces during which all branches of the service were recognized while the residents of Vinson Hall stood to be honored for their service in their respective branches.

For the second year in a row, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) opened the ceremonies with a tribute to all those who have served our country and those who continue to be in harm's way today to keep us safe and free. After her speech, the audience, musicians and honored guests were led in The Pledge

Holiday Magic at Oakcrest School

The McLean Orchestra will perform its next concert, Holiday Magic, on Dec. 8 and 9 at the Oakcrest School on Balls Hill Road in McLean. Visit the website at www.mclean-orchestra.org for ticket and concert information.

of Allegiance by Commander William Glenn Yarborough, Jr. of American Legion Post 270. During a post-concert Cake and Champagne reception for the residents, board members and musicians, Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville) gave a toast to all of the retired service men and women and their families who reside at Vinson Hall. The reception allowed the audience to meet the members of the McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet who are all current or retired members of the United States Air Force, Navy, Army or Marine Bands in Washington, D.C.

The generous contributions of Colonel Allan and Mrs. Lilian Jorgenson and McLean Orchestra Past President Wayne and Mrs. Linda Sharp made the concert possible.



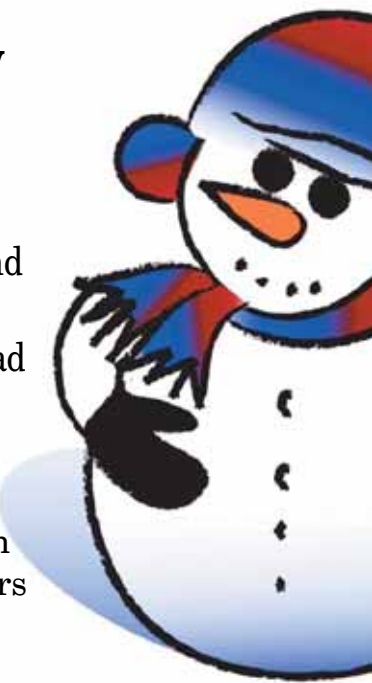
McLean Orchestra Past President Wayne Sharp, Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), Commander William Glenn Yarborough, Jr. of American Legion Post 270 and Supervisor John Foust (D- Dranesville) with the McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet.

Winter Fest Parade

McLean's Only Community Parade

Sunday, December 2nd
3:15 PM
Old Chain Bridge Road

Bring a gift card
for Share of McLean
to help your neighbors
in need.



www.mcleanwinterfest.org

NEWS

Author Examines Life by the Letter

Joe Reynolds publishes collection of letters on variety of topics.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

In an era of e-mails, text messages and tweets, the art of writing a letter hasn't been lost on McLean resident Joe Reynolds. It's something he was raised on, his father and grandfather wrote him letters while he was at college, a tradition that he continued while his three children were away at school.

"Our kids are about four years apart, so I had a good 12 years of writing them letters at least once a week or every other week," he said. "This eventually evolved from what I did over the week, which got dull, to my reaction on certain things. My kids found it amusing, and they said they would read them aloud to their friends."

After all three graduated, Reynolds found it wasn't a habit he wanted to drop, so he found himself expanding on standard thank-you notes and other correspondence. After the responses to his letters grew, he decided to ask if people wanted to subscribe to his letters, all typed on his computer but sent on paper through the mail.

"I had about 40 people respond to the initial note, and it eventually grew to more than 100 people, some of which I didn't even know, they were just friends of friends, that sort of thing," Reynolds said. "I like the idea of a letter, because I think it's an art that's being lost. Unlike an e-mail, a letter is something you sit down and compose, it feels more permanent, because it's on paper, it comes to your house. And people like getting letters. So much of mail is bills, ads or junk, it's fun to get a letter from someone you know."

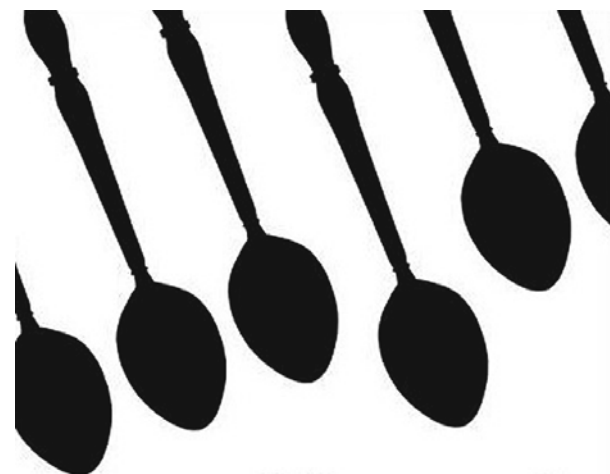
AFTER HIS RETIREMENT, he began to toy with the idea of putting together a collection of his letters, aiming to compile 20 of his favorites. He ended up with 22 letters, which form his first book "Measured Out in Teaspoons."

On the surface, the letters cover topics such as a bathroom renovation or a camping trip, but they contain deep musings on concepts such as marriage, aging, the existence of God and friendship.

Reynolds, despite describing himself as an "overly serious fellow for most of my life," has infused the letters with his dry, humorous takes.

"Over the years, I've come to believe more and more that life is comedy. If you can laugh, that's a good thing, if you can laugh at yourself, it's a better thing and if you can share that joke with someone else, it's better yet," he said. "These letters are all about sharing the joke, and writing them has helped me appreciate the comedy in my own life."

Each letter is about 2,000 to 3,000 words, and most start with a normal life event before detouring into deeper territory. A trip to the grocery store turns into a reflection on capitalism, an observation on his lack



Measured Out In Teaspoons

A Selection of Martingale Letters

JOSEPH REYNOLDS

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local resident Joe Reynolds has released "Measured Out in Teaspoons," a collection of letters featuring his take on many life events.

of fashion sense into how suits foster a sense of anonymity.

"The letters usually start with an idea, and that idea gets tossed around my head while I'm driving or trying to sleep and eventually it gets written down," Reynolds said. "I sit down and write it, then polish it, each letter is revised about 10 times before it goes out. I'm always checking to make sure I've used the right word, or that I've captured an image the way I wanted to."

REYNOLDS HASN'T LIMITED his letter writing to his book either. He writes a yearly letter to his grandchildren on their birthdays, letters that they can open when they turn 21.

"My grandfather wrote a genealogy of our family, and there was an entry about someone who died falling in a well. But there was nothing else. I found myself asking about what happened. Was he drunk? Was it an accident? There was no information. These letters are meant to be information along with the color and flavor of our culture and community," Reynolds

said. "When they open the letters on their 21st birthday, it will be a sort of outline of parts of their lives that they may have little or no memory at all. And it's entirely possible that in 21 years they'll be reading about a mention of movies or computers and say 'What's a movie? What's a computer?'"

"Measured Out in Teaspoons" is available on Amazon.com, and information can be found at www.facebook.com/MeasuredOutInTeaspoons.

"I like the idea of a letter, because I think it's an art that's being lost."

— Joe Reynolds

Give Local

When making a donations to your workplace Combined Federal Campaign this season, please consider making a contribution to the Safe Community Coalition.

For over 15 years, our volunteer-driven 501 (c)(3) organization has been working in your community, dedicated to helping our kids learn to make responsible decisions and lead healthy lives.

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6th Grade Ethics Days • Middle School Forum • Youth Advisory Council

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Faith Community Leaders Breakfast • Prom Notes • Bullying Prevention •

WEEK IN MCLEAN

ReinDog Parade Slated for Dec. 1

Area dog owners need to start thinking about their dogs stepping out for the holidays: Their first opportunity for this holiday season will be at the 16th Annual Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce ReinDog Parade, Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012 at 8 a.m. at the Langley Shopping Center.

The Chamber invites residents to join this event either as a sponsor, vendor or with their own entry. Registration is at 8 a.m. A Plus Pets will be collecting the entry fee of two cans of dog food. The food will be donated to a local dog rescue by A Plus Pets.

Dogs will parade in holiday or creative attire for contest prizes. The program includes music, vendors, photos with Santa and the local fire engine—always a favorite with children. Guest judges will select the winners in various categories.

Additionally, Dog World Rescue will be present and will host an adoption event. They will bring a number of their rescues, available for adoption, and will meet with potential new doggie parents.

AAUW to Hold Gala Holiday Luncheon

American Association of University Women (AAUW) McLean Area Branch Gala Holiday Luncheon is Sunday, Dec. 16, at River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. You need to make your reservation as soon as possible by sending your \$30 check (which includes tax and gratuity) payable to the AAUW-McLean Branch to Aroona Borpujari at 1225 Meyer Court, McLean, VA 22101. Social is at noon and the three course luncheon will be served at 1 p.m. Entertainment is by the Madeira School's "Sweet Ti A Cappella Ensemble." You can participate in a Pirate Gift Exchange (\$20 limit) and bring a gift card for the SHARE Food Bank. All members of the public are welcome to attend. Since the final number has to be confirmed with River Bend Country Club well before Dec. 16, checks should be sent in now with a call to Aroona Borpujari at 703-556-9693 to let her know the payment is on the way.

SEE WEEK, PAGE 9




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The master bedroom suite consists of a sitting room, dressing room, and large walk-in closet. There are decks off the first floor and the basement level. In addition, there is a year round sun room off of the great room.

Large kitchen and great room with a formal living room and dining room. There is a fireplace in the living room and great room. The basement level is partially finished with a full bath and a 2-car garage. Cottage located about 50' from the main house and has a small kitchen—ideal as a guest cottage or mother-in-law house.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 28

Dialogue & Friendship Dinner: Education for Peace. 6:30 p.m., Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. The American Turkish Friendship Association and the Rumi Forum Fairfax bring officials, leaders and representatives from faith communities, businesses, media and academia together for dinner and speakers on education for peace. 703-267-5751 or rsvp@atfa.us.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Tysons Regional Annual Holiday Mixer. 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Bank of Georgetown, 1850 Towers Crescent Plaza, Suite 100, Vienna. New member of the Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce, Bank of Georgetown, kicks off the holiday season at their new location in Tysons Corner; food from Dutch Mill Catering, networking and holiday cheer included. \$15, members; \$20, non-members.

Opening Receptions. 7-9 p.m., McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In the Edges and Grids exhibit in the Emerson Gallery is five artists' work which incorporates elements of edges and grids; in the Atrium Gallery is Ellyn Weiss's Primordial Soup Kitchen, full of paintings which evoke early forms of life with tar; the Ramp Gallery exhibit shows Ron Paras' photographic works entitled Silent

Symphony: A Photographic Composition in Four Movements. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-7 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. <http://www.pimmit-hills.org/pimmit-hills-events>.

Altar Boyz. 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Eileen Ivers & Immigrant Soul. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Irish fiddle prodigy Eileen Ivers joins bandmates playing world music and traditional and contemporary music. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

The Chamber's 16th Annual Reindog Pageant. 8-9:30 a.m., at Langley Shopping Center, on Chain Bridge Road between Old Dominion Drive and Dolley Madison. At the pet event of the season, dogs parade in holiday or creative attire for contest prizes while music, vendors, photo opps and Santa surround. A dog adoption event

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12



Damien Leverett as Jean Valjean and Camilla Alfonzo Mezaas as Cosette in McLean High School's production of Les Misérables.

McLean High Present Les Misérables

The play lead, Damian Leverett, won the 2012 National Capitol Area Cappie for Best Actor and the 2012 McLean HS Idol competition; see the classic on the struggle against adversity in France during the early 1800s Thursday, Dec. 6 through Saturday, Dec. 8 (see calendar for specific times). \$10 in advance; \$8 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.



Hydra by Ellyn Weiss, tar on panel.

Three New Exhibits Open at McLean Project for the Arts

Edges and Grids, Primordial Soup Kitchen and Silent Symphony: A Photographic Composition in Four Movements compose the three new exhibits opening at MPA on Thursday, Nov. 29. An opening reception from 7-9 p.m. serves as the opening night at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In the Edges and Grids exhibit in the Emerson Gallery is five artists' work which incorporates elements of edges and grids; in the Atrium Gallery is Ellyn Weiss's Primordial Soup Kitchen, full of paintings which evoke early forms of life with tar; the Ramp Gallery exhibit shows Ron Paras' photographic works entitled Silent Symphony: A Photographic Composition in Four Movements. 703-790-1953 or www.mpaart.org.

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Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411
Baptist-Free Will
Bloss Memorial Free Will
Baptist Church...703-527-7040
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Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100
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Vatican II Catholic Community
NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907
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Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535
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McLean to Celebrate WinterFest on Dec. 2

On Sunday, Dec. 2, McLean residents will welcome in the holidays as more than 50 entries proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road for the 5th annual WinterFest parade. This year's Grand Marshal is Virginia Foley, who has contributed outstanding volunteer service to the community. The stage will be set in the center curb cut of Langley Shopping Center, with Peggy Fox from WUSA Channel 9 again calling the parade. Parade entries will begin at Fleetwood Road and proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street. Old Chain Bridge Road will be closed to traffic from 2:45 to 6:15 p.m. on the day of the parade.

Pre-parade entertainment begins at 3:15 p.m. and will be provided by Bob Rosenbaum, the Springhill Elementary School chorus, singer Chelsea Lee, the Franklin Sherman chorus and the Langley High School dance team. New to the parade this year will be food vendors along the route including Naked Pizza, Doug the Food Dude, Mama's Donut Bites and French fries from Bistro Vivant. Cardinal Bank will be giving away popcorn and bottled water; Giant Foods and



Parade entries will begin at Fleetwood Road and proceed down Old Chain Bridge Road to Elm Street.

McLean Pharmacy will donate warm apple cider and hot coffee in the refreshment tent. Girl Scout Troop 2325 will be selling holiday tree ornaments across the street from the parade stage.

Also new this year in the parking lot of Langley Shopping Center will be an information tent about the 495 Express Lanes. The Express Lanes team will be available to provide information and answer questions about the 495 Express Lanes.

Parade attendees will be able to pick up an E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex from the 495 Express Lanes tent that they will register and activate once they're back home.

The parade steps off at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 2. Follow updates of McLean WinterFest on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/mclean.winterfestand> and go to www.mcleanwinterfest.org for more parade information.

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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OPINION

Learning in a Global Community

Students in Fairfax County speak 160 languages.

This week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and some of the joys and challenges of having a diverse student body that speaks as many as 160 different languages at home.

Find the series compiled online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/>.

For the director of language acquisition in Fairfax County Public Schools, the 44 percent of students who speak a foreign language at home present an opportunity to create language immersion classes where half a kindergarten is learning Spanish or Korean while the other half is learning English.

For principals of some elementary schools where more than half of their students are not proficient in English, the need to have students meet benchmarks in a variety of subjects is a relentless process. In addition to limited English, immigrant students come from varied backgrounds, some with good basics in their

own languages and some with limited previous education in any language. The parents of these students are similarly varied.

Meanwhile, representation of Latino and African American students in Fairfax County's top instructional centers for gifted students lags dramatically.

EDITORIAL

FCPS is conducting two critical sets of public meetings this week and next. The call for public input is not specifically about growing diversity in the schools, but related challenges make both the possible expansion of centers for the county's most talented students and the selection of a new superintendent of schools that much more important.

A fast moving proposal to expand the number of centers to provide "advanced academic" services is the topic of meetings this week. The meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Westfield High School cafeteria; Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Lee High School cafeteria; and Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Kilmer

Middle School cafeteria.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale will be retiring in June of 2013. The School Board has hired a search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, which will be gathering community input. Many of the challenges facing the new superintendent will revolve around growing diversity, and a track record of open communication and achievement in this will be key to success.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- ❖ Dec. 3 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, South County HS, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.
- ❖ Dec. 4 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley HS, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101.
- ❖ Dec. 5 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson SS, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale HS, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.
- ❖ Dec. 7 - 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

BY JOHN HOREJSI, COORDINATOR
SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

The presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Non-immigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to,



but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and 10 percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have

been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities, which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

- ❖ Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;
- ❖ Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;
- ❖ Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;
- ❖ Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and
- ❖ Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other both stand to gain.

Write Us

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444. ✦ mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

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WEEK IN McLEAN

FROM PAGE 5

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screenings Coming to McLean

Residents living in and around the McLean community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. Trinity United Methodist Church

will host a Life Line Screening on Dec. 4. The site is located at 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard in McLean.

Packages start at \$149. All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-877-237-1287 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.



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School Principal Jay
Pearson

10 ♦ McLEAN CONNECTION ♦ NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2012

FROM PAGE 6

occurs simultaneously. 703-356-5424 or www.members.mcleanchamber.org.

30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. <http://www.pimmit-hills.org/pimmit-hills-events>.

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12 can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child. www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

The Nutcracker Tea. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Enjoy the Nutcracker Ballet with afternoon tea and treats while members of the Creative Dance Center put a contemporary twist on the beloved classic. \$75 (includes nutcracker doll for all children). www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

The 44th Annual Wolf Trap Holiday Sing-Along. 4-5:30 p.m., at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Bring your brightest candle, your shiniest bell, a Toys for Tots gift and a grand holiday spirit; the president's own United States Marine Band and 400 voices from top area groups lead the audience in traditional holiday songs. www.wolftrap.org.

Christmas with FCS: Carols Through the Ages. 5 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna. Share Christmas with the Fairfax Choral Society; 300-plus voices belt out popular and unusual carols from Christmases past. \$25, adults; \$15, students (in advance, adults are \$30 at the door). 703-642-3277 or www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

Great Falls Celebration of Lights. 6-8 p.m., at the Great Falls Village Centre Hill, off State Route 681/Walker Road, Great Falls. The 22nd annual tree lighting ceremony has not only a host of lights, but also a petting zoo, pony rides, Santa Claus with his old-fashioned sleigh bell, a live nativity, music from the Langley Madrigal Singers, hot cider and an open house featuring shops with treats, cookies, hot chocolate and coupons.

Big Sam's Funky Nation. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A general admission dance with "Big Sam" Williams and his troupe of urban jazz musicians. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

Ballroom Dance at Colvin Run Community Hall. 9-11:30 p.m., Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ Bill Powers and TJ play ballroom dance music from the 1930s to today; includes light refreshments. \$4. www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Gingerbread House Decorating Class. 10 a.m., 1 p.m., at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Children ages 3-12

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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We Are the World, at Garfield

Teachers discuss challenges of teaching English as a Second Language.

BY MICHELLE KAIN
THE CONNECTION

Garfield Elementary School in Springfield, like all of Fairfax County, has a population that reflects a wide range of backgrounds. With 33 languages spoken, the school's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program has had to expand. The school has a first grade class of 60 students, 58 of whom are ESOL students ranging from levels one through four.

Jane Cofie-Raczko, who has been a teacher for the past 13 years, teaches one of three first grade classes in which all 20 of the students have English as a second language.

The majority of these students are from Hispanic or Middle Eastern backgrounds and common languages include Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese. The challenges involved with teaching these students depend on their proficiency with the English language.

"For students who speak almost no English, it can be difficult to communicate to the students that you want them to succeed and that you are there to help them. It can also be difficult to get the students to ask for help, mostly due to their lack of confidence in their speaking ability. For students with a better knowledge of the social language, it can be tough to give them a similarly strong academic language. Add the already difficult material to learning English for the first time and it can be very challenging," said Cofie-Raczko.

"The success of the students with the curriculum and their preparedness for middle and high school depends on the schooling they received in their home country as well as when they enrolled



Jane Cofie-Raczko gives her first grade class the details regarding their upcoming test.

at Garfield," said Rozi Khakpour, an ESOL teacher at Garfield Elementary.

Students who have attended Garfield from the start get the opportunity to develop oral language at an early age through programs such as Lunch and Bunch in which kindergartners with English as a second language meet twice a week to have lunch and practice this important skill.

The program, along with others, have proven to be successful as "students who have been at Garfield since kindergarten often exceed in high school and earn positions on the honor roll," Khakpour said.

"Another thing that has proven to be helpful," said Kirsten Howard, another first grade teacher, "is Garfield's social curriculum." This social curriculum, which concentrates on teaching students cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control, has given students a greater awareness outside themselves and has helped them in middle in high school as demonstrated by their willingness to take on leadership positions.



Mariana Del Cid-Quintanilla, Spanish, Parents from El Salvador



Anmul Jan, Pashtu, Born in Pakistan



Michael Opuni, Akah, Parents from Ghana (Michael born in US)



Yusuf Ouanina, Arabic, Morocco



Tracy Huynh, Vietnamese, Vietnam



Mohammed (Jafar) Abdulridna, Arabic, Iraq

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE KAIN/THE CONNECTION

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION 'Hidden Curriculum'

FROM PAGE 10

of being Italian." Dalila carried that warning with her when she entered Marshall. The dire warning turned out to have no basis at her new school. "When I tell people here I'm Italian, they say, 'oh, I love Italy' and then, I'm so relieved. Yes, I am proud to say I'm Italian here."

In Italy, it was always school and studying through late evening, Dalila said. She had no social life there.

"When I came here, it was such a relief," she said. "I was so happy I finally had time for myself."

Millan Mbise, from Tanzania, was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interaction between students and teachers. Teachers are less approachable than in the U.S. Millan, whose native language is Swahili, grew up speaking English,

up their native language.

"Studies show that bilingual students do better academically."

Bloom said the school helps newly-immigrated students to transition by embracing the families as they enter the school. Relationship-building is how he refers to the partnership. "When you establish that relationship with new families from other countries, you get rid of a lot of hurdles. When you do that, the families feel valued and a part of the Freedom Hill family. We have students learning from one another simply from their exposure to each other."

The children of Freedom Hill Elementary School are so accustomed to establishing relationships within the classroom, they don't recognize barriers, Bloom said. "It's a representation of the world."

Bloom refers to the school's di-

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together."

— Scott Bloom, Freedom Hill principal

as well. English is compulsory in the schools, and, Millan calls it the "unofficial" language of Tanzania.

Millan is bused from Marshall daily to Falls Church High School for a class in "pharmacy technology." He learned what he wanted to do with his life while living here and attending an American school. He wants to be a pharmacist some day.

FREEDOM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL feeds into the Marshall pyramid. Like Marshall, Freedom Hill is the world in microcosm. There are more than 42 languages spoken in the students' homes and the children of Freedom Hill represent more than 53 countries. Some Freedom Hill students are from diplomatic families, already bilingual or multilingual with English exposure. Others are new to English. The school, through its many ESOL levels, works with these students to help them adapt to English.

"Within the realm of school, the kids are held accountable to communicate in the English language," said first-year Freedom Hill principal Scott Bloom. As the kids interact with their peers, they pick up English.

"I like to think we also recognize the importance of kids having that dual-language skill," Bloom said. "We want them to learn English, but, we don't want them to give

versity as a "hidden curriculum."

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together," Bloom said. "You set the stage for the children to share their history, backgrounds, culture, and experiences. "There's so much power in bringing all these different cultures together that I think it's justified to call it a hidden curriculum."

"The kids don't even know they're learning from this diversity."

Marshall's roundtable students eager to discuss their new lives all said that school life is more pressured in their native countries with little opportunities within the school system to learn nonacademic things. Schools do not promote extracurricular activities as they do here.

"Students are pushed by their parents to excel academically in Malaysia," Kasthury said. "Many of these kids commit suicide. They're told, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed.'"

Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the marching band, the literary magazine and other programs. "In Panama, you have to find one place to fit in. But, here, you can fit in in many places."

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

can explore the life-size gingerbread house at the hotel, then make their own sugary homes in a decorating class taught by the pastry chefs; includes all ingredients as well as a souvenir. \$70 per child.
www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

30th Annual McLean Holiday Crafts Show. 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics and pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, soft sculpture, paintings and drawings. \$2, adults; \$1, ages 13 and under. <http://www.pimmit-hills.org/pimmit-hills-events>.

The Princess Tea. 11 a.m., 2 p.m., at the the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Disney princesses, treats and a special teatime make it a magical day; holiday gift bag and photo with princesses included. \$75.
www.ritzcarlton.com/tysons.

Santa at the Freeman Store. 1-3 p.m., 131 Church St., N.E., Vienna. Assisted by his elves, Santa sits upstairs in his traditional chair beside the Christmas tree, happy to talk to children and smile with them for a photo. The Ayr Hill Garden Club provides fresh greens and decorative arrangements. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.

Altar Boyz. 2 p.m., 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A cheeky, pop-rock musical comedy about a boy band of singing dancing heartthrobs from Ohio on the last night of their national tour. \$30; \$15, students. 703-854-1856 or

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

Christmas Alternative Gift Market and Secret Angel Shoppe

Where: McLean Baptist Church
1367 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101

When: Sunday, December 2, Noon – 3:00 p.m.

Why: To support non-profits locally, nationally, and internationally

What: Make a contribution to a non-profit in honor of someone
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 12

www.1ststagetysons.org.

Messiah Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The sopranos, mezzo-sopranos, tenors and baritones of Music in McLean invite you to sing along in Handel's reflection on nativity, passion, resurrection and ascension at their 20th anniversary celebration concert. \$15; students 18-and-under, free. 703-356-0670.

McLean WinterFest Holiday Parade. 4 p.m., from Fleetwood Road to Chain Bridge Road to Brawner Street. Free water, popcorn, coffee and warm cider with food vendors selling treats and dinner, a parade along a longer route than last year's and the traditional tree lighting immediately following the parade. www.mcleanwinterfest.org.

Christmas Concert. 5 p.m., at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A choir, soloists, handbell players and instrumentalists join together for familiar carols and choral works by Rutter, Darke, Handel, Holst and others. <http://www.gflutheran.org>.

Fall Concerts of Traditional Celtic Music. 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Jody Marshall & Friends' Annual Holiday Concert features Carey Creed, Jim Queen and Paul Nahay playing traditional Celtic instruments. Tickets for all 5 concerts, \$65; \$15 each for individual concerts. All ages. Reservations must be made in advance at the Old Brogue. 703-759-3309.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 5

Photography Lecture by Bob Meyers. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Bob Meyers, photographer for Green Peace, will speak at the Dec. 5 meeting of the Vienna Photographic Society on his journey from photojournalism to documentary photography. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 6

46th Annual Holiday Homes Tour. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., various locations in northwest McLean between the Beltway and the Potomac River. Four large houses on Rivercrest and Live Oak Drives each reflect a distinct architectural style; their natural beauty is played up with festive seasonal decor. \$25 in advance; \$30 day of (tickets available at the MarketPlace, Karin's Florist of Vienna, Mesmeralda's Gifts of McLean and Great Dogs of Great Falls). www.mcleanwc.org.

Woman's Club MarketPlace. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Lunch, dessert concession, a silent auction of merchandise and services, vendors and Homes Tour tickets for sale; all proceeds benefit local charities and nonprofits or go to scholarships and education. 703-356-9646 or 703-556-0197.

Les Miserables, the School Edition. 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The play lead, Damian Leverett, won the 2012 National Capitol Area Cappie for Best Actor and the 2012 McLean HS Idol competition; see the classic on the struggle against adversity in France during the early 1800s. \$10 in advance; \$8 at the door. www.brownpapertickets.com.

Schooner Fare. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The folk music band based out of Portland, Maine, plays country-style songs and maritime themed-folk. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.



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Oakton Football Wins Northern Region Championship

Cougars beat Westfield for first region title since 2008.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After a 6-0 start, the Oakton football team's 2012 season nearly derailed during a four-game losing streak. Doubt started to creep in after a 49-28 defeat against Centreville in the regular season finale on Nov. 2. The Cougars finished fifth in the six-team Concorde District and went a month without tasting victory. Oakton managed to qualify for the playoffs, but how long would the Cougars last?

"To be honest, we did lose the faith," Oakton senior Andy Boone said. "I think we lost the faith when we lost to Centreville, because that was such a heart-wrenching loss. . . . They just ran all over us [and] we couldn't do anything in the second half on offense. It felt like some of the guys were down and we just didn't know what to do. Some of the kids were getting ready to go back to basketball season."

Oakton would enter regionals as a low seed, meaning the Cougars would face a tough opponent in the quarterfinals.

"First, we thought we were going to play Westfield and all the kids on the team were bummed," Boone said. "We thought we were going to be out of the playoffs."

Instead, No. 7 Oakton was matched against No. 2 Lake Braddock, the team which knocked the Cougars out of the 2011 playoffs. With a chance for revenge as motivation, Oakton won, 20-13, on Nov. 9—the Cougars' first win in 35 days. The following week, Oakton edged No. 3 Centreville, 14-13, in the semifinals on Nov. 16.

On Nov. 24, Oakton traveled to face top-seed Westfield with the region title on the line. While the Cougars might have been intimidated by the undefeated Bulldogs at the start of the postseason, a confident Oakton team took the field on Saturday and brought home a banner.

OAKTON DEFEATED WESTFIELD, 23-16, in the Division 6 Northern Region football final at Westfield High School, continuing a considerable turnaround for the Cougars. Oakton rebounded from a four-game losing streak to beat the top three seeds en route to the Cougars' first region championship since 2008.

"Just looking back on our season," quarterback Kyle Downer said Saturday, "it's amazing how we got here."

Downer had another big game for Oakton, carrying 18 times for 119 yards and a touchdown, and completing four of 10 passes for 53 yards and two scores. He also intercepted a pass on defense. Downer's three-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds remaining in the second quarter gave the Cougars a lead they would not relinquish.

Oakton led 13-7 at halftime and, after a scoreless third quarter, took a two-possession lead on Brian Burns' 31-yard field goal with 9:08 remaining in the fourth. Burns missed an extra-point attempt earlier in the game, but head coach Jason Rowley didn't lose faith in his kicker, saying the missed PAT was a result of the wind.

"I've got all the confidence in the world in Brian," Rowley said. "He did a great job today."

Burns' field goal gave Oakton a 16-7 lead. Westfield fumbled on its next offensive play and Oakton's



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton quarterback Kyle Downer threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score against Westfield in the Division 6 Northern Region football final on Nov. 24.

Daniel Mansfield scooped up the ball and returned it to the Bulldogs 10-yard line. Four plays later, Downer connected with Boone for a four-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal, helping give the Cougars a 23-7 advantage with 6:31 remaining. Westfield would score a touchdown and add a late field goal, but it wasn't enough.

Boone finished with four receptions for 53 yards and two touchdowns. He also had 22 rushing yards on three carries.

"It feels like a relief," Boone said of winning the region title. "I've been in probably nine championships in my life and I've never won one before, so just to win a championship feels amazing — just that weight lifted off your shoulder."

Westfield defeated Oakton during the regular season, 28-14, on Oct. 19. The Cougars totaled 401 yards of offense, but had trouble finishing drives. Oakton ran 19 plays after reaching the Westfield 30-yard line, but managed just one touchdown. The Cougars' other score came on a 35-yard run.

ON SATURDAY, Oakton scored four of the five times it had the ball inside the Westfield 30, including three touchdowns.

"It was all about finishing drives," Rowley said. "It felt like in the first time we played them that we could get the ball to the 30 and then we'd get stifled and couldn't put the ball in the end zone. Since that game, we've really talked about finishing drives on offense."

After a scoreless first quarter, Oakton took the lead when Downer hit Boone with a 21-yard touchdown pass with 7:30 remaining in the second. Trailing 7-0, it didn't take Westfield long to respond. Devon Burns returned the ensuing kickoff to the Oakton 30-yard line and running back Dalaun Richardson carried the ball into the end zone on Westfield's next play from scrimmage.

Oakton countered with an 11-play, 80-yard drive, capped by Downer's 3-yard touchdown run. Westfield wouldn't score again until quarterback Chris Mullins crossed the goal line on a 1-yard sneak with 1:31 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Richardson rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown for Westfield.

With the victory, Oakton advanced to the state playoffs. The Cougars will host L.C. Bird at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 in the semifinals. L.C. Bird, the Central Region champion, is undefeated.

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall's Mackenzie Haight, seen at the VHSL state meet, competed at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24.

Marshall's Haight Competes in Regional Championships

Marshall junior Mackenzie Haight, who earned all-state this year, competed at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C. He finished 49th with a time of 15:46 in the seeded boys' race. The top 10 finishers qualified for nationals on Dec. 8 in San Diego.

Haight finished 10th at the VHSL state meet with a time of 15:52 on Nov. 17 at Great Meadow.

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty won the Foot Locker regional meet with course-record time of 14:28.

In the girls' race, three Northern Virginia harriers qualified for nationals. Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase won the event with a time of 17:05. West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta placed eighth with a time of 17:19 and Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz was ninth with a time of 17:29.

Athletes from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia competed in the meet.

Herndon Field Hockey Players Honored

Herndon sophomore forward Sofia Palacios earned first-team All-Northern Region honors for the 2012 season. Senior defender/midfielder Sarah Betti and sophomore midfielder Taylor Stone were named second team all-region.

Betti, Palacios and Stone also received first-team All-Concorde District honors for the 2012 season.

Junior midfielder Rachel Delmontagne, senior defender Annie Kelley and junior goalkeeper Sarah Suter and junior midfielder Katherine Wilson were named to the second team.

Herndon Boys' Basketball Home Opener

The Herndon boys' basketball team will face West Potomac in its home opener at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

Langley Boys' Basketball Season Opener

The Langley boys' basketball team will face Centreville for its season opener at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29 at South Lakes High School. The following night, Langley will face Oakton at 5:30 p.m. at South Lakes. The Saxons' home opener is Dec. 14 against South Lakes.

South Lakes Boys' Basketball to Open Season

The South Lakes boys' basketball team will open the 2012-13 season with a home game against Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29. The following night, the Seahawks will host Centreville at 7 p.m.



Alex Stone, a sophomore, plays Enjolras, a passionate believer in democracy and equality—a group of revolutionaries stand behind him in McLean High School's production of *Les Misérables*.

McLean High Presents *Les Misérables*

School performs a musical with 100-member cast.

The award-winning choral and drama departments of McLean High School are taking on an ambitious production, *Les Misérables: School Edition*. The musical based on Victor Hugo's novel will feature nearly 100 cast members singing such classic songs as "I Dreamed a Dream" and "On My Own."

"This production is a poignant testimony of the strength of the human spirit and the power of redemption and truth," says the show's director and McLean Choral leader Linda Martin. Drama teacher and technical director Amy Poe adds, "This version is bare-bones to keep the focus on the suffering and re-birth of the characters. Along with the extraordinary talents of our student singers, the show promises to be like no other version audiences have seen

before."

The McLean production combines the considerable talents of the school's nationally ranked Madrigals Choir and Armonia singers along with many honored players in the McLean Theater Department.

"This will probably be the most memorable performance in my high school years," says Damian Leverett who plays the lead character Jean Valjean. "It's a huge project and lots of hard work but I think this cast is up to the challenge."

Les Misérables will feature a full orchestra and runs Thursday through Saturday, Dec. 6-8 at 7 p.m. at McLean High School (1633 Davidson Road, McLean). There is also a matinee performance on Saturday, Dec. 8 at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for students and can be purchased online at brownpapertickets.com or at the door beginning one hour before the start of the show. Doors open 20 minutes before show time and seating is first come, first serve.



Senior Madelyn Paquette as Fantine.



Senior Max Johnson plays alongside sophomore Rachel Lawhead as the Thénardiens, the thieving, selfish couple whose children live on the street with little regard from their greedy parents.

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Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The McLean Connection 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: ChildrensNorth@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.

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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

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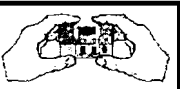
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

TRUSTEE'S SALE OF VALUABLE IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
8894 Windy Ridge Way, McLean, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from David J. Cho, also known of record as Jae Yong Cho, and Eun Jung Cho, dated July 13, 2007, and recorded July 18, 2007, in Deed Book 19461 at page 918, and re-recorded September 21, 2007, in Deed Book 19577 at page 1053 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Wednesday, December 12, 2012 at 11:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 9, Resubdivision of Parcel 1A, Foster Subdivision, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 11178 at page 1032, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 8894 Windy Ridge Way, McLean, Virginia 22102.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$100,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 7.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or material-man's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

Sale is subject to post-sale confirmation that the borrower did not file for protection under the U.S. Bankruptcy Code prior to the sale, as well as to post-sale confirmation and audit of the status of the loan with the loan servicer including, but not limited to, determination of whether the borrower entered into any repayment agreement, reinstated or paid off the loan prior to the sale. In any such event, the sale shall be null and void, and the Purchaser's sole remedy, in law or equity, shall be the return of his deposit without interest. Additional terms may be announced at the time of sale. This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Pay Now, Bye Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Contrary to last week's column, if I do pay for it now (things I can't afford), then I'll be so in debt later that I may end up saying "bye" anyway – from the stress of it. And if that were to happen; dying with a smile on my face, so to speak, would I be truly better off now anticipating that later was not going to be my problem? Do I want to be a modern day version of George Raft, the American actor from the 1930s and 40s best known for his portrayals of mobsters, who said about his Hollywood money: "I must have gone through \$10 million during my career. Part of the loot went for gambling, part for horses and part for women. The rest I spent foolishly."

My problem is that I don't want to spend my money foolishly, just in case I continue to outlive my original prognosis. There's plenty of things I can afford to do without, but money unfortunately is not one of them. The real question, to me, is: do I want to take responsibility for my own actions (lifestyle choices, purchases, miscellaneous financial commitments) and live within my means, or do I want to spend selfishly, live my life and let the chips – or rather bills, fall where they may? After all, eventually (if you know what I mean?), payment may be difficult to collect. And given the fact that as a stage IV lung cancer patient, I am considered "terminal," which means my best years may be behind me, don't I have enough problems at present whereby I shouldn't worry too much about what happens later (somebody else's problem by then)? Then again, if I do pay now, surely there would be a sense of satisfaction/sense of accomplishment, but would paying for any of it (or all of it) now compromise my future? Need I be overly concerned about later when the ship I'm presently steering is listing and taking on water?

Stress hardly provides aid and comfort when imposed on a cancer patient and more so than on an able-bodied, non-terminal man or woman. Finding that balance between what I need today to get me to tomorrow, versus what I need tomorrow to get me through today, is the axis on which that bane of my existence turns. Do I indulge myself? Do I deprive myself? Do I live like there are plenty of tomorrows? Or do I live like tomorrows are in short supply? Do I reach for the brass ring (on the Merry-go-round of life, metaphorically speaking) or do I saddle a real horse and ride off into the sunset? Is time on my side or is it running down my leg?

Unfortunately, there's nothing that I can do today to guarantee me a tomorrow. I have cancer. However, living recklessly, irresponsibly, selfishly may in an awkward way get me through today easier than if I towed the typical Kenny-type line (I'm funny, but I'm not fun). Nevertheless, I keep coming back to an emotional instinct I have: I don't want to give up on myself or my future and paying now assures that I won't. I do plenty of pretending but I'm not going to pretend that I'm the reincarnation of George Raft (besides, he was also an excellent dancer, which I'm not). He may have known what he was doing; I'm not really sure I do.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
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