



Westfield High's football team unloaded ONC tables filled with toys.

## The Community Comes Through

Members of Stone Middle School's National Junior Honor Society and other volunteers worked at the Saturday, Dec. 8, Panther Drop-off. Area residents brought new toys and clothes to the school for Our Neighbor's Child to distribute for Christmas to local families in need.



Back row, from left, are ONC/Panther Drop-off Coordinators Cindy Hicks and Pam DeBell, Catherine Burke (NJHS sponsor), and Stone students Daniel Park, Eirenn Velardi, Rachel Szymanski, Lauren McDermott and Caroline Heffron. Front row, from left, are Alex Duong, Cody Volarich, Luke Dennis and Derek Knodt.

PHOTOS COURTESY  
OF KELLY LAVIN



Bike Elves (from left) are ONC volunteers Dave Schott, Marty Clarke, Chris Lavin, Chip Perkins, Jack McAleese.



Stone Middle students at the curb, directing donors to the drop-off area, are (from left) Nathan Oh, Lilly Johnson, Emily O'Sullivan and Emily Lorange.

## 'We've Created a Community Here'

Centreville Labor Resource Center celebrates one-year anniversary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

When the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) opened a year ago, it was with high hopes that it would become a safe and successful place for local day laborers to meet with employers to obtain jobs.

It started slowly, at first. But as people became more familiar with the center and the caliber of its workers, word spread and more employers came there — instead of to the streets — to hire them. Now, things are going well and, on Dec. 1, the community gathered to celebrate the CLRC's first anniversary.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Sharon Bulova presented Al Dvoskin with a plaque of appreciation from the CIF.

The Rev. Marci Huntsman of

Centreville United Methodist Church gave the invocation. "Lord, we have been blessed with kind and generous hearts and hands so

SEE LABOR CENTER, PAGE 5

## What Labor Center Means to the Workers

Finding safety and security.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

More than Centreville Immigration Forum members and local dignitaries participated in the Centreville Labor Resource Center's one-year anniversary. The workers did, too, and were happy

to be there.

"I feel blessed because, before they opened the center, a lot of bad things happened on the corner while we waited for jobs," said Alejandro Santiago. And often, they went from bad to worse.

"Some employers would make us work hard and, afterward, we'd ask them for pay, and they'd say, 'I'll come tomorrow and pay you,'" said Santiago. "So we were happy, knowing we'd worked and would

SEE WHAT LABOR, PAGE 6

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## SCHOOLS



Holding their prizes are (from left) Valerie Claunch, Nikki Caballero, Chef Clay Doubleday and Kyung Lee.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# 'The Food Was Fabulous'

## Chantilly High team wins culinary challenge.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**F**ive stars are given to America's top restaurants, and at a recent culinary competition, a student team from The Chantilly Academy captured the top prize, the Five Star Award.

Victorious were seniors and Culinary Arts II students Kyung Lee, Valerie Claunch and Nikki Caballero — all of whom plan to someday become professional chefs. Lee's base school is Fairfax High; the other two attend Chantilly.

Fairfax County's chapter of the national organization, Real Food for Kids, sponsored a Feeding Academic Success event, Oct. 23, on the eve of National Food Day, at Marshall High. And Chantilly's team beat out teams from three other schools.

"Real Food for Kids is trying to raise awareness and make changes so we're serving healthier, less-processed, fresher foods in our schools," said Chantilly's chef/instructor, Clay Doubleday. "So it held a meeting/rally to promote this cause."

In conjunction, it invited FCPS culinary students to create a themed salad bar that could potentially be used in this project. In addition, the students had to meet the USDA's cost and nutritional guidelines for school lunches. Entries also had to offer a variety of vegetables and appeal to fellow students. The event also included a panel of food and health specialists who discussed ways of transforming school food, the rising rate of childhood obesity and the use of organic food in school meals. For their first-place finish, Chantilly's team members each won a knife kit; a free, three-credit class worth \$1,600 at Stratford University; \$200 cash and a cookbook signed by Chef Ann Cooper.

"I'm very proud of and happy for them," said Doubleday. "We found out about this contest when school started, so they just had six weeks to prepare for it. They worked incredibly well together and had great rapport as a team. They were also professional

with each other and mature about their decision-making process; they bounced ideas off each other. Everybody had a say and nothing was approved until they all agreed on it — and the food was fabulous."

"We had to set up a salad bar for 40 people," said Caballero. "And we decided to go with a Tex-Mex theme so kids would enjoy it, too."

They chose ingredients such as cilantro, lime, corn and beans. "We wanted to offer things different from regular, school salads," said Lee. "We thought the colors would attract young students and the sweetness plus some heat would attract their palates."

Caballero said they also had fun creating their own salad dressings — creamy chipotle adobo and cilantro lime vinaigrette. "We didn't want to use ranch or thousand island," said Lee. "So we incorporated mayonnaise, honey, lime juice, adobo sauce and garlic for the creamy chipotle adobo." The cilantro lime vinaigrette was comprised of cilantro, lime juice, garlic, red-wine vinegar, red onions, oil, salt, pepper and honey.

The actual salad-bar ingredients included corn, beans, pineapple salsa, chicken, red bell peppers, sliced onions, romaine lettuce and baked tortilla chips. But the Chantilly team was well-prepared and up to the task.

"We were used to doing things like this in class," said Lee. "The biggest challenge was the balance of flavors." Gesturing toward her teammates, she said, "I like heat, but these girls can't take it as much."

Claunch said they appreciated having the opportunity to participate in this kind of competition. And, she noted, "It was good practice for culinary school, putting flavors together and having a blank canvas to create from."

The Chantilly Academy team vied against Falls Church High, Marshall Academy, and Mount Vernon High, but was confident from the start. Said Caballero: "We looked at our competition and thought, 'Nah, we got this.'"

For example, said Claunch, "We made everything from scratch, and some of our competitors used bottled dressing." Agreeing, Caballero called Chantilly's food "fresh and simple."

SEE 'THE FOOD WAS FABULOUS,' PAGE 19

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## ROUNDUPS

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 13 and 27, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

### Encore's Christmas Show

Featuring dancers from Centreville and Chantilly schools, Encore Theatrical Arts Project's newest musical production, "All I Want for Christmas," is for audiences of all ages.

Show times are Dec. 14 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 15 at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; and Dec. 16 at 1 and 4 p.m. at NOVA's Annandale campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike. Tickets range from \$17-\$30 at [www.encore-tap.org/](http://www.encore-tap.org/). Or call 703-222-5511.

### Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger will discuss land-use planning trends. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

### Centreville Elementary Seeks Grant

Centreville Elementary has been nominated by its PTA for a \$50,000 Clorox Bright Futures Grant. If awarded, the grant will be used to support the school's healthy movement initiative. The school will install a running/walking track for the students and community. This is a nationwide competition, and the entity with the most votes will win.

Anyone from the community may vote twice a day (once online at <https://powerabrightfuture.clorox.com/nominees/detail/?nid=2099> and once by texting 2099pbf to 95248). Anyone 13 and older may vote every day until Dec. 19. So Centreville counselor Lee Kaiser is asking residents to "please vote, and tell your friends and family to do it, too."

### Animal Shelter Open House

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is holding a holiday open house Saturday, Dec. 22, from noon-5 p.m., at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. Attendees may meet new director Tawny Hammond; tour the newly constructed, spacious, animal-adoption wing, enjoy holiday refreshments and learn about the many opportunities to volunteer.

The Shelter is also offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter through Dec. 31. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual Home for the Holidays adoption celebration to help homeless animals leave the shelter for stable, new homes in time for the holidays.

The shelter also has rabbits, small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/> and click on adoption. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

### Christmas Tree Fire Safety

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department crews distributed Christmas tree safety tags to holiday tree lot vendors during the week before Thanksgiving. These tags provide valuable, fire-safety

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

## NEWS

# Helping Those in Need

## Local teen collects items for the poor and homeless.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

In this season of giving, even the generous heart of just one person can make a big difference in other people's lives. Westfield High junior Nick O'Connell knows this firsthand because he's now in his fifth year of doing just that.

Since he was in middle school, this Oak Hill resident has organized an annual drive in the Emerald Chase and Bradley Farms neighborhoods near his home. He collects the donations, sorts them into gifts for men, women, girls and boys, packs them into shoeboxes, wraps them and delivers them to So Others Might Eat [SOME] in Washington, D.C.

"In seventh grade, I wanted to earn community-service hours to be part of my school's [Rachel Carson] National Junior Honor Society program," said O'Connell. "My mom told me her office was getting a box together to donate to this organization, which serves the poor and homeless, so I thought I'd like to help, too."

In the fall, he and some of his friends distribute flyers to every mailbox in the two communities asking for donations of hats, scarves, socks, shampoo, soap, shaving sets, lotion and other necessities. O'Connell then places a huge, watertight bin marked SOME on the front steps of his house and, from late November through mid-December, neighbors drop off their contributions.

Last year, he delivered 15 wrapped shoeboxes with not only those essentials, but also with some toys for the children. He's compiled 24 so far, this year, and donations are still coming in. Since beginning this drive in 2008 — and counting this year — he will have delivered more than 100 shoeboxes to SOME on behalf of the Emerald Chase and Bradley Farms communities.

"It was a rewarding feeling to know I helped people stay clothed and keep warm," said O'Connell, 16. "I also included toiletries and other things we take for granted, and it felt great. It didn't take a lot of time, so I kept doing it and plan to continue."

He received a letter of thanks and recognition following last year's efforts. It was from Father John Adams, the president of SOME, and O'Connell was delighted.

"This is a great way to help others and to engage your neighborhood in the spirit of giving around the holidays," wrote Adams. "It takes planning, organization and time to do what you continue to do for the poor — and I want you to know how appreciated it is, not just by me, but especially by the most vulnerable people in our city."

Noting that the gifts were "beautifully wrapped," Adams said they contained "all the important essentials which the people we serve need and appreciate



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Nick O'Connell with some of the shoeboxes he's filled with presents and wrapped for delivery to people served by So Others Might Eat.**

most — beautiful hats, scarves, gloves, soap, razors, shampoo, deodorant and other gifts and toiletries. You and your friends have made people very happy, Nick, [and are] helping [them] get through the winter."

Adams also included a story about O'Connell's efforts, plus a photo of him, on SOME's Web site, on the "volunteer opportunities for youth" page. Adams said it would serve as "an inspiration to others who would like to find a way to bring hope and support to people in need."

In closing his letter, Adams wrote, "Thank you so much for caring about the homeless families who come to SOME. You are letting folks in need know that someone cares about them. That might be the best gift of all."

Both surprised and gratified by the letter, O'Connell said, "I wasn't expecting it, but I was humbled by it. This letter was also a huge validation of what I had done. I then fully understood how much it had touched people and really helped them. And it's all the more reason for me to continue doing it, now that I know it really is making a difference."

He also encourages other teens to start these collections for SOME in their own communities because he knows even children as young as 12 can have a big impact on the lives of those less fortunate. He'd be happy to tell them how to turn in their filled shoeboxes at SOME Headquarters. O'Connell may be reached at 703-371-8665, or visit [www.some.org/volunteer\\_children.html](http://www.some.org/volunteer_children.html).

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## SCHOOLS



These are all of the Chantilly High students accepted into the District 12 Honor Choir.

## Chantilly Students Make Honor Choirs

Several Chantilly High choral students were recently selected for two honor choirs. They are:

**VMEA Honor Choir:** Wesley Coleman and James Baker.  
District XII Honor Choir

**Women's Choir:** Emily Zou, Emilie Urquidi, Lindsey Stutz, Rebecca Gustafson, Kayla Blatman, Bethany Hugo, Kaylee Noble, Mona Vahedi, Dana Webb, Jackie Plummer, Rachel Moore, Emily Lu, Cady Belsky, Pallavi Swarup and alternate Claire Hewer.

**Mixed Choir:** Natalie Spitzel, Tara Uncles, Amanda Mason, John Downey, Kevin Lu, Michael Mason, Nick Tenny, James Baker, Daniel Belsky, Troy Fries, Mohammed Khan, Gray O'Reilly, Luke Reyda, Matthew Richter, Jack Tarbell and Henry Hutchinson.

## Blanket Drive

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Chantilly's two seniors in the VMEA Honor Choir, James Baker and Wesley Coleman.

# Labor Center Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

FROM PAGE 1

this place could open,” she said. “We ask you to continue blessing this place and the people involved with it.”

But things weren't always so warm and welcoming for Centreville's mainly Guatemalan-born immigrant community. Until the CLRC opened, the day laborers looking for jobs stood outside the Centreville Square Shopping Center, on the outskirts of Centreville Plaza and near the Centreville

Regional Library. And that led to tension in the local community.

Store owners said the men's presence discouraged customers from patronizing their businesses. And some mothers felt uneasy bringing their children to a library



**Supervisor Michael Frey**

with men standing outside.

Meanwhile, the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) was established to help the local, immigrants. Members made contact with the workers, directed them to social services that could help them and their families, and connected them to churches offering English-language classes. But they were still hired from the streets.

Then in early 2010, Al Dvoskin, owner of the Centreville Square Shopping Center, proposed the idea for a worker center. He later donated one of his storefronts for it and agreed to pay for utilities if the CIF would run it. So the CIF began fund-raising and solicited grants and donations to hire a director and an assistant.

But it was an uphill battle.

“Many people here don't know how toxic and unfriendly the environment was then,” said Al Fuertes, who teaches conflict resolution and mediation at GMU and who was instrumental in helping bind the workers and CIF volunteers into a cohesive unit. “I think constant dialogue and openness to the concept helped. This developed organically; it emerged from people just coming together and wanting to continue and explore more.”

Basically, said Fuertes, “We listened to people, regardless of their views, and that was important in trying to facilitate things. Now, it just feels so good, and I'm a guest at the center's first anniversary — and my students continue to volunteer here.”

Before the center opened, CIF members invited the laborers to their meetings, had them develop the center's rules and regulations and made sure they were an integral part of the new facility so they'd actually use it. Then Director Shani Moser and Coordinator Molly Maddra were hired, workers learned each other's trades and employers began hiring them directly from the center.

Now each day, the CLRC makes sure the workers get paid for their labor — which



**From left: Barb Shaiko, the Rev. Marci Huntsman and Harriet Graves chat during the event.**



**London Towne Elementary students (from left) Diocy Ascencio, 9, sisters Claudia, 4, and Ana, 6, enjoy refreshments with their grandmother, Lucia Ascencio.**



**Sharon Bulova with Centreville dentist Jose Aunon, also honored by the CIF.**



**CIF President Alice Foltz**



**From left: Patricia Marino and Stephen Vandivere at the celebration.**

didn't always happen when employers picked them up from the streets. The center also fulfills the temporary labor needs of small contractors and homeowners and enables the workers to support themselves and their families.

According to CIF President Alice Foltz, over the past year, the CLRC has amassed more than 350 registered workers, 320 registered employers and 100 community volunteers. It's also made more than 1,200 job placements.

At the anniversary celebration, visitors toured the center and viewed worker-created art decorating the walls. They also met the new director, Herndon resident Roberto Fernández, who replaced Moser after she left in September to become a high-school Spanish teacher.

Virginia Run's Harriet Graves joined the center after becoming friends with Huntsman. “My husband volunteers and we've hired some of the day laborers to do yard work,” she said. “They did an excellent job; we had no problems. And my husband and I served Thanksgiving dinner here [at the CLRC] to about 70 people. I think this center's just wonderful. More people in the community have noticed it and become involved because they've seen it become successful.”

“It's amazing that here we are, one year later,” added Huntsman, who's a CIF board member. She and her husband Ken also hired workers for yard work and were “100-percent pleased,” she said. “I'm also thrilled about the educational opportunities the center offers. That's such an important part of empowering people to grow in many ways. And, of course, this was all done under Alice's leadership — she's an amazing lady.”

Maria Baylock, of Centreville's Country Club Manor community, was delighted “to celebrate this milestone of this part of the Centreville community. And it's great that the center gets so much support from Centreville.”

Addressing the crowd, Foltz said, “We've created quite a community here, and we're glad you're here this afternoon to celebrate with us.” Then she and Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova recognized some people who had a major role in the center's success.

Although Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) couldn't attend, his significance to the CLRC was acknowledged, and Bulova said she'd give him his plaque from the CIF at the next Board of Supervisors meeting. “What a heroic thing it was for Mike to do to support this center,” she said. “And it was

not without political risk to him to do the right thing. Mike deserves a red badge of courage for doing this.”

“We thought, at some point, he'd say he'd have to step back because of the risk to him politically, but he never did,” said Foltz. “He continued to provide support. He understood we weren't trying to solve problems nationally, but to help people in our community have a safe place to meet and find work.”

Bulova also praised Dvoskin for his contribution. “This is a great place where wonderful things are happening,” she said. “I've never worked with another corporate leader who's stuck his neck out to provide a safe place for people to come and get jobs, training and legal advice.” After all, she said, the day laborers are “just people trying to work and have successful lives for themselves and their children.”

Presenting Dvoskin with his plaque, Foltz called him an “absolute visionary.” But Dvoskin noted that the CIF already existed when he got involved. “We're supporters of what this center is all about, and Mike Frey and Alice deserve all the credit.”

In response, Foltz said, “Everybody here deserves praise for giving time, energy and money to make this happen — and the

SEE LABOR CENTER, PAGE 16

# OPINION

## Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas

Many religions enrich Northern Virginia; immigration will lead to the most growth in Catholicism.

**W**e are a nation of immigrants, to invoke the title of John F. Kennedy's posthumously published book; undeniably a nation descended from immigrants and a nation greatly augmented by immigration.

From this perspective, with the first immigrants motivated by the search for religious freedom, even Christmas is a religious holiday of immigrants.

As this week's main story on immigrants and religion in Northern Virginia explains, the largest number of current immigrants are from Latin America, and they bring with them a

powerful commitment to Christmas through their Catholic faith. In 2010, Fairfax County's Catholic population numbered 184,183, while protestant adherents numbered 205,556.

Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ on Dec. 25, is one of the two most important Christian religious holidays, along with Easter.

Christmas is also a widely celebrated secular holiday and economic stimulus.

The Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is not one of the most important Jewish religious observances, but it is a celebration that gets added attention from timing. Hanukkah celebrates a great Jewish military victory and the miracle of a one day supply of oil for the Temple lasting eight days. Happy Hanukkah to all who are enjoying this holiday, which lasts for eight days and this year began last Saturday evening.

Sikhs celebrated the birthday of their first guru at the end of November. The founder of the Sikh religion, Guru Nanak (1469-1539) preached that there is only One Universal Creator. Guru Nanak brought a message of love and equality to his disciples, the Sikhs, (the

word Sikh means a disciple or seeker of truth) and urged three things: Always remember the creator God (Akaal Purkh), always live a honest life and earn a just living and always share your blessings with less fortunate ones. From <http://www.sfova.org/sikhism>.

Buddhists celebrated the day of Buddha's enlightenment on Bodhi Day, Dec. 8 this year. <http://www.ekoji.org>.

Diwali, the major Hindu celebration, commemorated with lights welcoming a hero home, was in November this year. Hindu temples in Fairfax include the Durga Temple <http://www.durgatemple.org>.

This of course is not an exhaustive list of other religions or of religious holidays in November and December. We welcome letters and comments. Share your religious and holiday traditions. You can submit a letter online [www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter).

You can read the stories in our immigration series at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration).

EDITORIAL

## What Labor Center Means to the Workers

FROM PAGE 1

get paid. But then that person never came."

He said that happened to him a couple times and other workers experienced the same thing. But the employers always had the upper hand and no one was fighting to make sure the day laborers were treated fairly.

"It made me sad because I'm supporting my parents and seven brothers and two sisters back home in Guatemala," said Santiago. "But now it doesn't happen because the center takes down the employer's license-plate num-

ber and information."

To the workers, he said, the labor resource center represents more opportunities to improve their lives, learn English and obtain training in a variety of skills. "It also lets people know who I am and that I have something to offer," said Santiago.

"When I came to those first [CIF] meetings, I had no idea what would happen. But now it's like we have another family here at the center."

"The people I know now are very kind to me, which makes me more comfortable," he continued. "I hope the center will keep growing because it's a good opportunity for people like me."

CIF volunteer Jerry Foltz called the center's first anniversary "quite an accomplishment — just like the first day we opened. And we've

added on, every day. It's been an adventure for the workers, volunteers and the community."

He noted that of the CLRC's more than 350 registered workers,

35 of them are women. "And they're all local," he added. Unlike what some residents feared might happen when the center opened its doors, the majority of the laborers live in Centreville. Said Foltz: "They're not from

Manassas and Herndon."

"One of my dreams was to also help the workers' mental health," he added. "Many of them were depressed about not finding jobs, and they worried about paying their rent and buying food. Now, they have more confidence that they're able to earn money."

Nowadays, said Foltz, it's rare for a worker not to be paid. "And

**"I feel blessed because, before they opened the center, a lot of bad things happened on the corner while we waited for jobs."**

— Alejandro Santiago



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**Alejandro Santiago at the CLRC's first anniversary.**

we've even raised the level of pay — which makes it more fair for others competing for jobs," he said. "The workers smile more, support each other, honor each other for their gifts and learn from each other."

The labor resource center's existence is only possible with donations. "It's totally, privately funded, so contributions are always needed. To donate, go to [www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org](http://www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org).

### LETTER

#### Welcoming Place

To the Editor:

Bonnie Hobbs did a great job covering the Nov. 12 grand opening of the Bull Run Elementary School Family Center. I hope the community recognizes the great effort and coordination done by Bull Run staff to make the center a warm and welcoming place for families.

**Mary Shepherd**  
Family and School  
Partnerships Specialist  
Fairfax County Public  
Schools

### Write

Centre View 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:

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## CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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A Connection Newspaper

FROM PAGE 3

# Guilty Plea in Handyman's Death

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Nothing will restore Jose Cardona to life or return him to his family. But his loved ones will at least have a measure of justice now that the second of the three men involved in his death has been convicted.

In June, Reynard Prather was sentenced to 30 years in prison. And last Friday, Dec. 7, in federal court, Tasheik Ashanti Champean, 46, of Suitland, Md., pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and use of a firearm in a crime of violence causing death.

Cardona, 39, was a married father of two who lived in Manassas Park and worked as a handyman and gardener. His employer owned several check-cashing stores in Northern Virginia, and the conspirators believed he kept cash from those stores in his 9,000-square-foot mansion on Compton Road. So they planned to rob him at gunpoint and flee with the money.

The plea agreement and other court records state that, on May 17, 2010, Prather and Champean drove from Prince George's County, Md., to a shopping center in Virginia. During the drive, authorities say, Champean enlisted Prather's help in the plan to rob the homeowner.

According to Champean's May 24 indictment, he also "gave Prather a duffel bag containing a loaded, semiautomatic pistol." And Prather knew Champean was also armed with a semiautomatic pistol. A third co-conspirator then picked up both of them at the shopping center and dropped them off in the vicinity of their target's residence.

The two, armed men then walked to the Centreville house and saw the homeowner leave. He left one of the garage doors open, so the intruders entered the garage to wait for him to return. According to court documents, Champean told Prather "his role in the robbery was to restrain [the homeowner's] younger son upstairs in the residence, and he would take care of [the homeowner] upon his return."

But around 10 a.m., before the homeowner got back, the intruders were discovered by Cardona and one of the sons.

"The four paired off in a struggle: Prather and the son and Champean and Cardona," the documents state. "While so involved, Prather heard a shot fired and saw Cardona lying dead on the driveway in front of the garage." Within minutes, he and Champean fled on foot through a wooded area next to the home.

Cardona's autopsy revealed that a 9-mm bullet passed through his left hand into his head. Authorities said a magazine containing seven live rounds of .45-caliber ammu-

munition was found on the driveway near where Cardona was shot.

In an Oct. 18, 2011 affidavit, Fairfax County police homicide Det. Stephen Needels, wrote that, according to the homeowner's son, "At one point, Cardona gained possession of the handgun carried by the man he was struggling with. Moments later, however, he was fatally shot by one of the two intruders."

Prather was arrested Oct. 25, 2011. On Feb. 22, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, he pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit robbery and using a firearm in the commission of that crime. He returned to court June 1 and, at that time, U.S. District Court Judge Anthony J. Trenga sentenced him to 30 years behind bars.

Champean — also known as Ashanti Champean and Douglas A. Howell — is scheduled for sentencing March 1, 2013; he faces a maximum penalty of life in prison. Fairfax County police and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Michael Rich and Zachary Terwilliger are the prosecutors. Police still want to arrest the other suspect, though. Anyone with any information is asked to contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, visit [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org), text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

tips for residents when purchasing a tree.

Residents should keep the tree base immersed in water; not allow smoking near the tree; use only lights approved by Underwriters Laboratories (U.L.); use flame-retardant decorations and paper; inspect lights for frayed or cracked wiring, broken plugs and defective sockets; unplug lights at night and when leaving the home; and remove the tree soon after the holidays, before the needles dry out.

## Self Defense Class

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. Currently offered free with all class materials are included, funding is provided through the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than instructors are permitted during class. Call 703-246-7806 or visit [www.fairfaxfoundation.org](http://www.fairfaxfoundation.org).

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The Rev. Richard A. Lord, Rector

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- 11:00 a.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
- 4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
- 7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
- 10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS MORNING** (Episcopal)  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25:**  
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## October 2012 Top Sales



**1** 8804 Lake Hill Drive,  
7.30 Acre Lot,  
Lorton — \$1,452,500



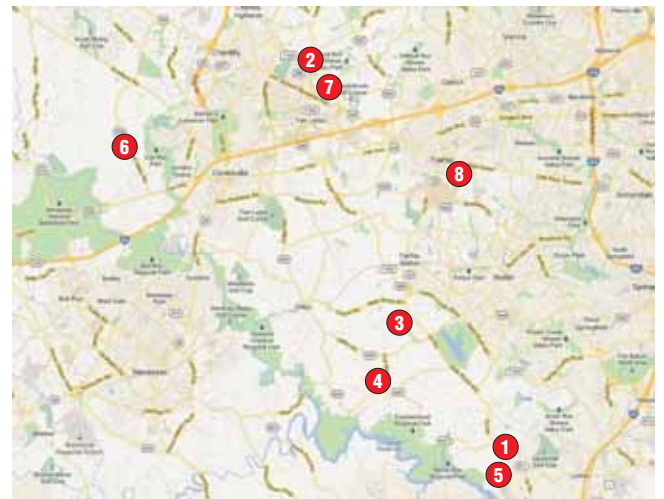
**3** 6630  
Rutledge Drive,  
Fairfax Station  
— \$1,150,000



**7** 12344 Firestone Court, Fairfax — \$912,000



**6** 5861 Saddle  
Downs Place,  
Centreville —  
\$935,000



© Google Map data

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 8804 LAKE HILL DR	0	0	0	LORTON	\$1,452,500	Detached	7.30	22079	LAKE HILLS	10/05/12	
2 3451 FAWN WOOD LN	5	5	2	FAIRFAX	\$1,330,000	Detached	0.85	22033	OAK HILL ESTATES	10/19/12	
3 6630 RUTLEDGE DR	4	4	2	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,150,000	Detached	5.50	22039	WOLF RUN	10/05/12	
4 7733 BLACK WALNUT CT	4	4	2	FAIRFAX STATION	\$980,000	Detached	5.00	22039	QUAILWOOD	10/15/12	
5 9304 ELKHORNE RUN CT	4	4	1	LORTON	\$975,000	Detached	1.16	22079	OCOCOQUAN OVERLOOK	10/12/12	
6 5861 SADDLE DOWNS PL	4	5	1	CENTREVILLE	\$935,000	Detached	0.96	20120	THE RIDINGS@VIRGINIA RUN	10/19/12	
7 12344 FIRESTONE CT	4	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$912,000	Detached	0.26	22033	FAIR OAKS CHASE	10/05/12	
8 10201 FOREST AVE	6	4	1	FAIRFAX	\$900,000	Detached	0.25	22030	MAPLE HILL	10/26/12	

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# Home LifeStyle

## Preparing Home for Holiday Guests

Experts offer checklist for getting a house in tip-top shape.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

In addition to shopping, decorating and attending parties, many are making a mad dash to get their homes ready for the holiday visitors. Take a deep breath: Local experts have developed a checklist for creating a guest-ready home.

"Many people feel better about their home when everything is in order and in place," said Steve Magill, a remodeling consultant with Fred, the home repair division of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., and an Oak Hill resident. "It makes the homeowner feel more at ease when minor details are taken care of."

The kitchen is one of the most important rooms in a home, especially during the holiday season. Experts say to make sure your microwave oven, toaster and coffeemaker are in top working condition, or to replace them if necessary.

For extra storage space for cookware, experts suggest installing a pot rack. Also, consider adding extra stools or chairs for guests who like to gather in the kitchen.

**"Many people feel better about their home when everything is in order and in place."**

— Steve Magill

free of signs of foot traffic. Consider updating the room with holiday home accents or adding new items, as well as accessorizing sofas and chairs with holiday pillows and throws.

"Take a magic eraser to clean up small

**Experts suggest cleaning carpets and area rugs in a home's family or living room before holiday guests arrive.**

Next, survey the living or family room. Experts suggest cleaning carpets or area rugs so that they are

smudges on walls like around light switches," said Magill, whose firm developed a holiday readiness checklist.

If guests are staying overnight, experts say to make space in a closet or drawer so visitors have a place to put their clothing. Since not everyone falls asleep at the same time, a bedside clock and reading lamp are helpful accessories.

"Your guest room should be warm and

inviting and make your visitors feel as if they are at home," said Magill.

**MAKE A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION** by ensuring that all outdoor lighting, including holiday lights, is functioning properly and turned on when it is dark. Outdoor lighting is a key to ensuring safety during the holidays.

Check the front door for signs of wear and consider giving old doors a new coat of paint. "Some of the most impact transformations ... are projects like painting," Paul Zuch of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry said in a statement. In addition, polish and tighten door hardware and oil hinges to prevent squeaking.

Considering adding a small rug or welcome mat to the entryway. Establish a place in your home's entrance to collect coats, hats, boots and gloves. Make sure there is extra space and hangers in your coat closet.

"Make sure you think about every room in your home when preparing for the holidays," said Tom Dodd, another Fred remodeling consultant. "Thinking about these things ahead of time will help make for an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.



**When preparing your home for holiday guests, make sure there is a space near the entrance to collect coats, hats and boots.**

**OPEN HOUSES**  
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**Centreville**  
6487 Trillium House Ln.....\$999,900.....Sat 4-9.....Jean Marotta.....Birch Haven..703-402-9471

**Clifton**  
8309 Cub Den Ct.....\$1,125,000.....Sun 1-4.....John Cooney.....Fairfax..703-989-9969  
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr..\$589,000.....Sat 12-3.....AJ Zaman.....Century 21..703-945-4489  
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr..\$589,000.....Sun 1-4.....Blaise Barnes.....Century 21..703-618-5563

**Fairfax Station**  
7701 Leeds Manor Ct.....\$1,199,990.....Sun 1-4..David Tesorero.....RE/MAX..703-642-5555

**Falls Church**  
3804 Munson Rd.....\$829,000.....Sun 1-4..Patrick Kessler..Keller Williams..703-405-6540

**Lorton**  
10726 Anita Dr.....\$579,000.....Sun 1-4..Colleen Pavlick.....Century 21..703-347-6700

**Springfield**  
7316 Backlick Rd.....\$429,900..Sat 1:30-3.....Janine Ali.....Golden Key..703-910-7073  
7205 Layton Dr.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Trong Trinh.....TMT..703-237-6779

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CENTRE VIEW

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**HOLIDAY NIGHT OPEN HOUSE**  
**Saturday 5:00 - 9:00 pm,**  
**December 15th**

# Being Muslim in Fairfax County

Immigrants face the challenge of balancing Islamic faith and American culture.

By AMNA REHMATULLA  
CENTRE VIEW

Over the years, Muslims from different countries migrated and settled in the Fairfax County area; however, the children of immigrant parents often struggle the most because they have to balance their Islamic faith along with the influence of American culture.

Sarah Khan has lived in the Springfield area for the past 42 years after coming to America from Pakistan at the age of 11. "In the 1970s, there was one mosque: the Islamic Center in Washington, D.C. Everybody just went to that one. So, as Muslims we were very united.

Nobody fought with one another. There was like 50 to 60 families that used to come to the mosque and everybody got along well," Khan said. Now there are many mosques in the area such as Dar Al-Hijrah in Falls Church, Darul Huda in Springfield and ADAMS in Sterling, to name a few.

Back when Khan was growing up in the area, nobody knew what Muslims were. "The hardest part was when I was fasting as a young girl and my PE teacher made me run. I told her I was fasting and she didn't realize what fasting was," Khan said. When Khan told her teacher she was Muslim, her teacher replied, "What is that?"

Khan admits that it is much easier being Muslim in today's society. "Everybody knows your religion. People respect it. You're free to do what you want. You don't have to pretend to be somebody you're not. You can still be yourself and be accepted," Khan added.

**SOME MUSLIM PARENTS** turn towards putting their children in Islamic schools to help them retain their Islamic identity. Al-Qalam Academy, located in Springfield, is an all-girls Islamic school from grades fifth through 12th. Girls at the school are taught the core subjects of math, science, English and history in addition to learning Islamic studies, Arabic and the holy Quran.

"It is hard to balance my life socially and religiously," Samira Sather, a seventh-grader at Al-Qalam Academy said. "I attend lectures in mosques and pray five times a day. Sometimes when I leave the house and one of our prayers pass by, I feel shy to pray in public because I already attract too much attention," Sather said.

Maryem Ahmed, an eighth-grader at Al-Qalam Academy, is a third generation American who was born in Fairfax County. "I don't generally call much attention to myself as a Muslim, but some people view me with their perceptions of what a Muslim is because I wear hijab [religious head covering]. And those perceptions are many times misconceptions of who I am," Ahmed said.

"Sometimes when I meet people for the first time, they seem shocked to hear me speak to them without a foreign accent. It's like, they see me wearing hijab, and immediately think I come from overseas," Ahmed said. "Not that there's anything



Imam Mohamed Magid, executive director of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society, speaks on the importance of faith in peace Feb. 3, 2011, during the ADAMS commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week.

wrong with coming from overseas, but it's just that they've already jumped to the conclusion that I'm not even from America, without even speaking to me," Ahmed said.

Sather looks up to her mother for wearing the hijab. "I think of my mother and wonder how she goes through it all. She looks different and speaks differently, in addition to being a Muslim. I admit it's hard to abide by all the rules Islam gives us. I strive to be like my mother because she doesn't care what anyone else judges her for; she is focused on what God will judge her on," Sather said.

Ahmed admires her father who works as an engineer at the Department of Defense. She said, "He served as the president of our neighborhood civic association and initiated several activities to make our neighborhood a better place to live," Ahmed said. She helped her father by handing out civic association newsletters and neighborhood watch schedules to inform her neighbors and help prevent neighborhood crime.

More than 11 years have passed since Sept. 11, 2001; however, Muslims continue to face prejudice. Ahmed experienced an act of injustice not too long ago. "My older sister and I were going to a local restaurant, and there was a man standing outside," Ahmed said. "As we passed him to go inside I saw him, out of the corner of my eye, spit in our direction, barely missing my shoes. I turned to look at him in surprise. Instead of apologizing, that person simply glared at me with a look of disgust on his face," Ahmed said.

Abdullah Malik, an African-American who grew up in the Northern Virginia area, was only 16 at the time of 9/11. His younger brother, 13 years old at the time, was framed by his peers at school, in a situation in which they illegally broke into his locker and placed a ticking device mimicking a bomb inside. "This caused the bomb squad to show up to our school, evacuate the entire building of 4,000 students, blow up his entire locker in front of his friends and then proceed to interrogate him for hours," Malik said.

Similarly, Khan's children were treated differently after 9/11 at school. People made fun of their names. People also made fun of their background

SEE REBUILDING. PAGE 12

# FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION



The Durga Temple of Virginia, the largest Hindu structure in Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington D.C.



The Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Fairfax Station.

## Dynamic and Diverse

New immigrants bring religious diversity to Fairfax County.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

Part four of an ongoing series.

The sight is striking. At the intersection of Hooes Road and Silverbrook Drive, on the dividing line between Lorton and Fairfax Station, is the largest Hindu structure in three states. The Durga Temple of Virginia—with its multi-tiered, bronze-tipped towers—punctuates the traditional suburban vista of neo-colonial homes and new shopping centers. On Ox Road, neatly tucked between acres of land and upscale neighborhoods, is a large golden dome mounted atop the sprawling gurdwara (place of worship) of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia.

A short distance away is the campus of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple, its clean architectural lines evocative of many Japanese structures. Near Walney Road in Chantilly, the circular dome and stylized arabesque arches of the Chantilly Mosque is home to the Ahmadiyya Muslim community.

The East Asian architecture is a powerful visual reminder that Fairfax County has changed. Julie Knott of Burke, a member of the Accotink Unitarian congregation, said she welcomes the county's increasingly diverse houses of worship. "Our church is just a mile away from the Sikh temple. We stand for many of the same values. We need to support one another."

"How welcoming we are to this diversity will say much about how we grow and thrive in the future," said the Rev. Scott Sammler-

Michaels, senior minister of the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church in Burke.

### Immigration Brings Religious Diversity

In 1970, religious groups in Fairfax County mirrored its highly homogenous demographic composition. More than 93 percent of the county was white and middle-class, and for the most part, adherents of mainline Protestant, Catholic or evangelical Christian churches.

As immigrants flowed into Fairfax County from all parts of the globe in the past four decades, they brought not only cultural diversity but their diverse religious traditions.

A 2012 report on religion and international migration by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life—"Faith on the Move: The Religious Affiliation of International Migrants"—finds that the United States has been the world's number one destination for Christian immigrants. Of the 43 million foreign-born people living in the U.S. as of 2010, an estimated 32 million (74 percent) are Christian.

"Faith on the Move" draws on a new database created by the Pew Forum that combines hundreds of census, surveys and other sources to shed light on the origins, destinations and religious affiliations of international migrants, according to Jamila Woodson at the Pew Forum.

Other findings show that: Although Protestants currently

outnumber Catholics in the United States, new immigrants, especially those from Central and South America, are overwhelmingly Catholic, suggesting that America is close to becoming a minority Protestant country.

Fairfax County mirrors this national data. The Association of Religion Data Archives (ARDA), a free source of online religious information housed at Pennsylvania State University, tracks such trends. According to the ARDA, in 2010 Fairfax County's Catholic population numbered 184,183 while mainline, evangelical and black protestant adherents numbered 205,556.

Immigration is leading to an increase in the number of Buddhists, Hindus and Muslims in the United States, according to the Pew report.

In Fairfax County, the ARDA reports about 11,000 adherents to Buddhism in 2010, the first decade in 30 years the ARDA captured that data. In 2010, the ARDA reports about 6,500 adherents to Hinduism in throughout the county.

According to a 2001 study by the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area Education Fund, surveys of numerous Fairfax County school population records indicate that about 400,000 Muslims live in the greater Washington metropolitan area, which extends from Richmond to Baltimore.

About 150,000 Muslims live in Fairfax, according to the study. Roughly half are native born and half are immigrants or refugees.

According to the league's report, there are several enclaves of Muslims in Fairfax, wealthy Iranians settled in Great Falls and middle-class Iranians, Pakistani, Afghani and Indians congregated in Springfield and Reston-Herndon. Recent refugees live



Statues of Radha Krishna—the supreme Hindu goddess—at the Durga Temple of Virginia in Fairfax Station.

mostly in the Baileys Crossroads area.

In addition to Muslims, Buddhists and other non-Christian religions, evangelical Christian churches are flourishing in Fairfax County's suburbs and appeal to many Korean, Chinese and Latino immigrants.

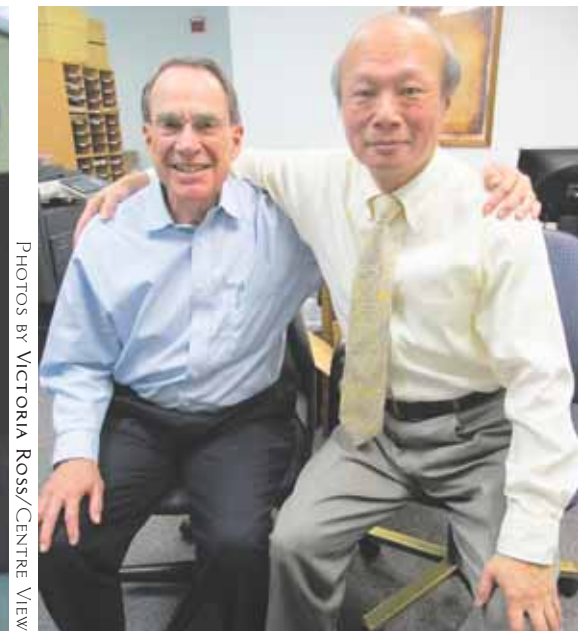
In Chantilly and Centreville, the vast majority of Korean and Chinese immigrants identify as Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist and Independent denominations.

Chantilly Bible Church, started in 1978 by Pastor Steve Austin, is "purposefully a diverse body of believers" that actively reaches out to immigrants in the community.

"In addition to English, the world's most spoken languages of Mandarin, Hindi and Spanish are integral parts of our ministry. The doors of Chantilly Bible Church are open to our changing society. We believe that racial and cultural harmony reveals the reality of new life and unity in Christ," Austin said.



Anna Song, a music student at George Mason University in Fairfax, plays the violin during Chantilly Bible Church's Sunday services.



Pastor Lew Whittle and Pastor Isaac Huang of the Chantilly Bible Church, who lead Hispanic and Chinese outreach ministries.

## Bienvenido! Huan ying! Welcome!

Chantilly Bible Church thrives on diversity by providing outreach to immigrants.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

Pastor Isaac Huang vividly remembers the day he landed in the United States from Taiwan. It was Jan. 7, 1982, and Huang, 25, was looking forward to studying computer science at Old Dominion University. But when he arrived at Norfolk airport, he got a shock.

"We landed during a huge snowstorm, and I had never seen snow before. Snow? What is snow?" Huang said, smiling at the memory. "Remember that Taiwan has a tropical climate, so I was not dressed at all for this cold weather."

Huang, who left his high-tech job for the seminary in 2000, is now an elder at Chantilly Bible Church, an evangelical Christian church that actively reaches out to Chinese, Latino and Indian immigrants.

**BORN IN TAIWAN** in the 1950s, during a time of brutal religious and political oppression, Huang said he desperately wanted to live in America. In 1949, the Nationalist government had imposed martial law. During nearly 40 years of what is known as "the White Terror," more than 140,000 Taiwanese were imprisoned and thousands executed for being perceived as anti-Kuomintang or pro-Communist.

"I wanted to live in America; everybody did. I thought it would give me a good future, which I could not have in Taiwan," Huang said. "I always admired the freedoms here and I appreciated the functioning of the American political system."

Huang said he grew up in a Christian family that took a "legalistic approach" to understanding the Bible, with many "shall nots."

"My childhood was filled with physical illnesses and emotional struggles. Even though I attended church every Sunday with my parents, I rarely pondered the meaning of salvation and I did not feel much of God's love," he said.

In his junior year of college at Old Dominion

University, that changed when he attended a campus evangelical fellowship meeting.

"During that meeting, I was deeply touched by the message and came to realize, for the first time, that I was a sinner, but Christ died for me and forgave my sin. As I put my trust in Jesus, my life was forever changed by God," Huang said.

"He and his wife Ramona demonstrate great compassion for Chinese people who need to know Christ," said Lewis Whittle, pastor to Hispanics and the church's English as a Second Language director. Whittle said that after 20 years of development, the Chantilly Bible Church's Chinese ministry now impacts every area of the church program and is the dominant minority in the 34-year-old church.

Since the 1990s, Huang said more than 150 Chinese have been baptized at Chantilly Bible Church. Some have returned to China, Taiwan or their other countries of origin, but many remain at the church.

The church leadership also wanted to have an outreach to the growing Latino community, which was finally launched in 2004 when the Whittles joined the church after serving Hispanics in Los Angeles. As a member of the pastoral staff, Whittle, along with his wife Dianne, has actively engaged the Latino community.

"Our experience in addressing immigrant needs and our progress in welcoming them at the church proves the benefit of diversity," said Whittle, who has lived in California, Central America and Spain.

In June 2007, Chantilly Bible Church began conversational English classes with volunteer teachers who speak Mandarin and Spanish. Their most recent term, Whittle said, included 128 students from 26 countries. A citizenship class is also part of the program.

Steve Austin, the senior pastor and founder of Chantilly Bible Church, said that the latest cross-cultural ministry to become part of the church focuses on the burgeoning Asian Indian population in Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

SEE CHURCH. PAGE 12

## FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

**A child and her parents during prayer services at the Sikh Foundation of Virginia in Fairfax Station on Thursday, Nov. 14. The Dias where Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Book) is adorned is called Darbar Sahib (Holy Court).**

PHOTO BY  
ROBBIE HAMMER/  
CENTRE VIEW



# Sikhs Bring Foundation of 'Service to Others'

**Fairfax Station temple active in community outreach.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

**O**n a recent Thursday evening, Ajaib Singh, 78, one of the founding members of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia, politely escorts a visitor to the area where one removes shoes and dons a headscarf.

In the background, the melodic vibrations of a harmonium blend with the sounds of men, women and children chatting as they sit together on mats on the floor. They are chopping large bowls of onions and other vegetables for a communal meal after an outreach service.

"You see, no one is more elevated than any other," said Singh, noting that everyone sits on the floor during communal meals and during worship service.

Singh said that equality and service to others are key tenets of Sikhism, a monotheistic faith. "I like to say we're a grassroots movement," Singh said, smiling.

Ajaib Singh came to the United States as a graduate student to University of California, at Davis, in August of 1958. After completing his Ph.D. studies in chemistry in 1961, he came to the east coast as a research fellow at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass.

He and Majit Kaur consider themselves proud members of the SFV congregation and proud American citizens. Ajaib said he wants to share the SFV mission with others, to promote respect and understanding of Sikh values.

**ON SATURDAY, NOV. 17,** the Sikh Foundation hosted people from different faiths to share their thoughts on selfless service, what it means in their faith and how they personally pursue it in their lives. The panel included protestant missionaries and a Coptic Christian immigrant from Ethiopia. During the event, the Sikh community also collected dozens of boxes of winter clothes to send to those still suffering from the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy.

"This event will be marked as the beginning of a new era of interfaith efforts followed by many similar projects where the youth of different faiths will work collectively and help the needy," said Surinder Singh, an active member of the foundation.

Although Sikhs do not have a particular day of worship, the Fairfax Station temple holds services on Thursdays and Sundays. A formal gurdwara service includes the singing of hymns and recitations from the Guru Granth Sahib, Sikhism's Holy Scriptures.

The temple is a welcoming home to many immigrants from India as well as those born in the United States, Singh said.

The Fairfax Station gurdwara, like many around the world, includes classrooms, a Langer Hall for community meals, a sanctuary and a community center, which Singh said is a sign of the religion's values of service and equality.

"Sikhism was founded in an area and in a time in which inequality was rampant," said Navdeep Singh, assistant executive director at the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund and a member of the Fairfax Station Temple his entire life. "If you were a woman, you were less than a man. If you were poor you were less than a rich person. Based on what caste you were, that defined your entire life. Sikhism was a rejection of those ideas."

**SINCE THE 9/11 TERRORIST ATTACKS** by Islamic extremists, Sikhs sometimes have been mistaken for Muslims, because of their beards and turbans, and have been the target of hate crimes and discrimination. Many American Sikh women dress like other Westerners or wear the salwar kameez, a colorful north Indian garment of a long shirt and loose-fitting pants.

Gurpreet Singh, a member of the Fairfax Station Temple, said most men wearing turbans are Sikhs, not Muslims.

"I remember the bumper stickers that appeared on cars after 9/11. 'I am Sikh. I am American.' But it shouldn't matter whether it's a mosque or a temple. Hate is hate, and it's wrong."

Navdeep Singh said the Sikh community in Fairfax Station was profoundly touched by the outpouring of support from neighboring churches in the wake of the deadly attack on the Wisconsin Sikh Temple on Aug. 5, when a gunman shot and killed six followers. During a candlelight vigil held at the temple, more than 300 people of all faiths gathered for an evening of unity, resilience and hope.

Politicians and police officers, Muslims and Jews, children and seniors stood side by side on the grounds of the temple, holding up candles, murmuring prayers of peace and listening quietly as community leaders promised solidarity with the Sikh community and reflected on the violence in Wisconsin.

"One might say our community should retreat and live in fear," Singh said, "but Sikhs will keep the doors of the gurdwaras open."

For more information on Sikhism, contact Dr. Ajaib Singh of the Sikh Foundation of Virginia at 540-720-5755 or visit [www.sfova.org](http://www.sfova.org).

# Church Attracts Chinese Immigrants

FROM PAGE 11

"Since the arrival and membership of several Indian families in 2007, key leaders like Manoj Mathai and Sujay Phillips have made Chantilly Bible Church the base for a creative outreach to this community. It even touches India through frequent visits that include evangelism and Bible distribution," Austin said.

Whittle said all three of the ministries are an integral part of Chantilly Bible Church, and none plan to become separate churches.

"Chinese, Hispanics and Indians serve alongside North Americans at every level of the church. The children and youth programs are fully integrated. There are immense benefits for these second and third generations. Bicultural couples are comfortable at Chantilly Bible Church, and, as you would expect, mixed marriages are on the rise," Whittle said.

**IN FACT, THE CHURCH ATTRACTS** so many immigrants that they offer headsets during worship services so those who speak limited English can listen to sermons

interpreted in Mandarin or Spanish. And the songs are projected in English with Mandarin translations.

"Being bicultural and bilingual gives you a special joy in life," Whittle said.

Huang said the language outreach is especially critical for older Chinese immigrants.

"As first generation immigrants, we hold on to our Chinese identity. Chinese is still the mother language," he said.

Huang also said there's a more profound reason for interpreting sermons into Mandarin.

"The older Chinese, like me," he said, smiling, "they need to hear the scripture in Mandarin, so it can enter their heart."

Huang said his greatest joy is baptizing fellow Chinese immigrants. "For Chinese immigrants, wherever they come from, church becomes an attraction. They are longing for something they can't have in their homeland. It's a very special moment. This is something people are afraid to do in Hong Kong or Taiwan. . . . I can't express how happy I feel during a baptism," he said.

# Rebuilding the Trust

FROM PAGE 10

even though they had never even been to Pakistan. Some children said, "Oh, you are hiding in the mountains!"

Khan raised her children with the intent that America is their home.

"We are Americans, we are Pakistani-Americans, but that's where the challenge came after 9/11. The kids asked, 'Are we American or are we Pakistani? What are we?' So that was a big thing, a big challenge that came," Khan said.

**KHAN'S NEIGHBOR,** who she had been living next door to for the past 20 years, stopped speaking to her the day after 9/11. Prior to that, the two friends would exchange Christmas and Mother's Day presents. "We basically watched each other's kids," Khan said. However, it took a long time before Khan's neighbor came around and started speaking to her again.

Another thing that came out of 9/11 was that both Muslims and non-Muslims were hurt. "That trust was gone and it takes time

to rebuild that trust. But one good thing that came out of 9/11 was that the younger generation of Muslims started getting very involved politically and socially," Khan said.

Five months after 9/11, Malik started an interfaith dialogue program with a local synagogue and church. "I worked on educating people about our religion and the peace it teaches," Malik said.

Sather has noticed that over the years, people have treated Muslims a little better. "When I attempt to wear the head scarf, people treat me with more respect than when I don't wear it," she said. "Also, as I get older, I realize there is absolutely nothing to be ashamed of."

Khan hopes that her future generations take the good from her background as well as their American background and blend the two. "Some of the good things of American culture are honesty, respect, and tolerance for others. Some of the good things of my culture are religion, family values and traditions. The biggest challenge is to make sure that the generations to come have both," Khan said.

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Centreville High School's 2011 Winter Choral Concert.

## Celebrate the Season with Centreville High School

The Centreville High School Choral Department will present "Celebrate the Season: A Winter Choral Concert" on Wednesday, Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Roy A. Skip Maiden Theatre at Centreville High School. The concert will feature all the ensembles in the choral program, as well as various soloists and a student-directed *cappella* group.

The concert is a diverse program of choral pieces from different eras and a variety of styles. The concert will open with the Madrigal Ensemble singing "Deck the Hall" followed by all the choirs singing the Latin chant "Soli Deo Gloria." The Madrigal Ensemble will follow with three Madrigals from the Renaissance era.

Women's Ensemble will then sing a set of three stylistically different pieces: "Cuatro Baladas Amarillas" (a set of Spanish pieces), a beautiful arrangement of the spiritual "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child," and an Appalachian folk tune "Come Pretty Love." The soloist for this last song is Hana Tawil.

The student-directed group "Contempo" will follow them with "Christmas Time Is Here," an arrangement by CVHS choral alumnus Emmie Dohse. The student directors of this ensemble are Lexi Moles and Elaine Edwards.

Men's Ensemble will then sing "The West Country Love," followed by three Nigerian folk songs in the Yoruba dialect, and ending with the sea shanty "The Wreck of the Julie Plant."

The first half will close with Concert Choir singing "Come to the Music," the Spanish folk song "Mañanitas en la Tierra," and a unique arrangement of the well-known American folk tune "Skip to my Lou."

The second half of the concert will open with Bella Voce singing "Lamma Badaa Yatathanna," an Arabic folk song. This will continue into the Shaker song "Once I Had a True Love." Following this set are "Lake Song" and "Munoera," in the Shona language of Zimbabwe.

Symphonic Choir's set is next, starting with the choir's traditional offering of "Carol of the Bells," followed by "I'm Coming Home," written by CVHS alumnus/composer Emmie Dohse. Dohse will guest conduct her piece, which was dedicated to this choir. "Asi Baila mi Trujillana," in Spanish, is next on the program, conducted by Symphonic senior Daniel



The Centreville High School Madrigal Choir at rehearsal.

Cabrejos. This is followed by a beautiful arrangement of "Ev'ry Night When the Sun Goes Down" by American composer Gwyneth Walter, and the set ends with "Dubula," a South African piece in the Xhosa language.

The finale begins with an *A cappella* rendition by the Symphonic Choir men of "Prayer of the Children," which will lead into "Can You Hear," sung by all the choirs.

The concert concludes with the traditional singing of "An Irish Blessing" by Dede Duson. The choral alumni attending the concert will be invited to the stage to join in the singing of this lovely little gem.

Three professional musicians will accompany the choirs for some of the pieces: violinist Regino Madrid, who is a member of the "Marines Own" Band and Orchestra in Washington, D.C., and Michael Maher, pianist and music teacher at Shenandoah Conservatory. Maher will also play some percussion, along with professional percussionist Scott Babcock.

This concert is a wonderful way to usher in the holiday season. Musically there is something for everyone. The community is welcome. Admission is free to any student, college age or younger, with a student I.D., and is \$5 for the general public.

## CALENDAR

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos welcome.

### FRIDAY/DEC. 14

**"Annie Jr."** 7:30 p.m. Bring the whole family to enjoy this production. Open to the public, tickets are \$7 each and will be sold at the door. The show will be presented in the Stone Middle School Auditorium, 5500 Sully Park Circle, Centreville.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 15

**Art Show and Sale.** The Art Guild of Clifton will hold an art show and sale, featuring a variety of original art, hand-made by the member artists, including paintings, pastels, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, fiber art,

and photography, some of which will also be demonstrated. Followed by a reception where the public can mingle and chat with the artists. Show and sale are noon-6 p.m., reception is 6-8 p.m. No entrance fee. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Call 703-830-1480 or visit [www.artguildofclifton.org](http://www.artguildofclifton.org).

### Free Christmas Banquet & Concert.

Dinner starts at 5 p.m., followed by a concert at 6 p.m. At Oakton Baptist Church located at 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. Call 703 631-1799. Free. Bring a can of food to help support local ministry. A love offering will be taken.

**"Annie Jr."** 3 p.m. Bring the whole family to enjoy this production. Open to the public, tickets are \$7 each and will be sold at the door. The show will be presented in the Stone Middle

School Auditorium, 5500 Sully Park Circle, Centreville.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 16

The Gate Post Estates Luminary returns. Drive or stroll through the neighborhood (with a rain/snow date of Sunday, December 23rd).

### SUNDAY-MONDAY/DEC. 16-17

**Renaissance Dinner.** 6:30 p.m. An evening of food, music, and entertainment set in the Renaissance period. Members of the adult choir will act as the Royal Court to the Lord and Lady of the manor. The evening will include a four-course, catered dinner and entertainment by

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 20

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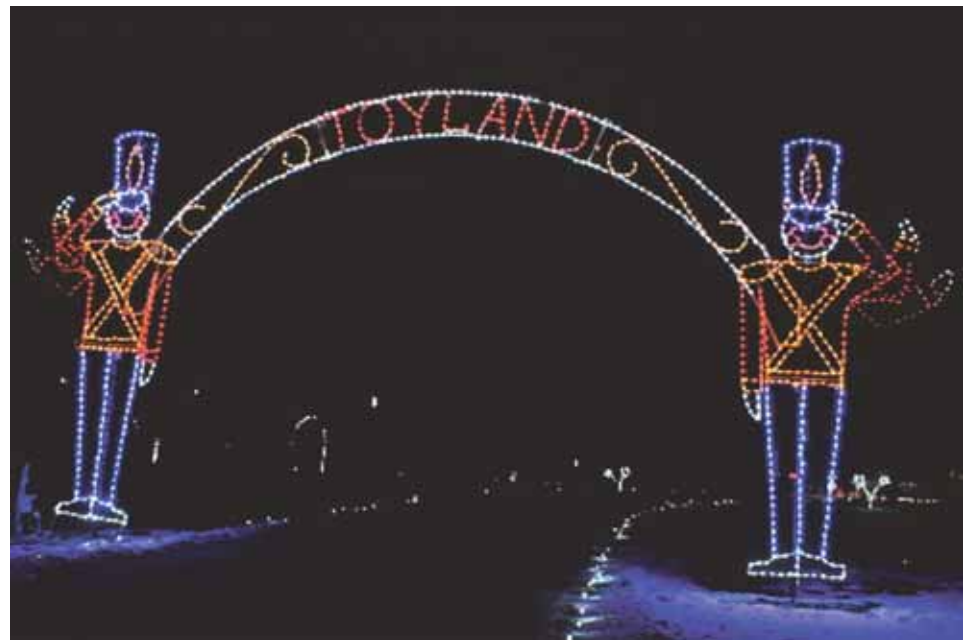
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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



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# Instincts...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

...related to having been diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal/incurable, but treatable kind, according to my oncologist. The kind whose median life expectancy at diagnosis is eight months. The kind that John Rhys Davis as Sallah from the 1981 movie "Raiders of the Lost Ark" might have described as "very bad," just as he had described the asps slithering below on the floor of the tomb he and "Indy" had just unearthed. So the news I received in late February, 2009 – such as it was, was never very good. In fact, for an asymptomatic, non-smoking, 54-and-half-year-old male with an immediate-family history of NO cancer, it was, well, "shocking" barely scratches the emotional surface of what I was feeling.

Forty-five months later, I am still dealing with feelings – as in still living, for which I am amazingly fortunate. However, those feelings seem to sometimes have a mind of their own, and accordingly tend to take over and rewrite one's brain (figuratively speaking). Moreover, thoughts, actions and behaviors change, and not always for the better, and rarely for the best; most likely a direct result of the cancer's emotional wallop. Thoughts you don't want/never had seep in despite your best attempts at minding them. Behaviors previously uncharacteristic manage to exert more control than you ever imagined. Actions previously unfamiliar cause one to wonder if who you were – pre-cancer, you will ever be again. You don't want to lose yourself inside the whole cancer culture, but being told you're going to die prematurely: in "13 months to two years," has a way of rewriting your record books, whether you intended to or not. Not giving in to this cancer consequence has been my greatest struggle.

Early on, I remember asking my oncologist: "Is it OK to still buy in bulk?" For all you know, based on much of what your doctor is saying, and what you are sensing, your future is tenuous and extremely unpredictable (a version of the humorous advisory to "not buy green bananas"). I mean, the diagnosis is terminal cancer; "HELLO." What are you supposed to think? This is how your mind takes over and you sort of lose it/lose control of it. As former Vice President "Dan" Quayle said in a speech to the United Negro College Fund (not about cancer), "What a terrible thing it is to lose one's mind." Still, it certainly applies.

Another brain drain has to do with specific events scheduled in the future, a future whose guarantee – for me, has been invalidated. I'm watching television during the summer of 2012 and I see ads for Downton Abbey's third season premiere in January, 2013, and instinctively I wonder, will I be alive to see it?

Road projects are another example. At the beginning of the construction of the Intercounty Connector in Maryland (a cross-county highway being built near my house), regularly I would be stuck in the project's related road closures/redesigns and bridge-type flyovers and I would always think to myself: "Am I going to be alive when this project is finished or am I just going to suffer its building pains?"

Next May, the LUNgevity Foundation ([www.LUNgevity.org](http://www.LUNgevity.org)), the largest foundation in the country dedicated to lung cancer research (and on whose Web site my cancer columns are now being posted) will be hosting their annual "Hope Summit" in Washington, D.C. I have been invited to attend and/or speak. My first thought upon receiving the invite: "Am I going to still be alive in May?"

I want to be positive. I am positive. But cancer is a huge negative. It's a constant battle of good versus evil. Sort of like the Indiana Jones movies. But this isn't the movies. This is real. This is cancer, the true definition of "very bad."

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

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# NEWS Labor Center Anniversary

FROM PAGE 5

workers are grateful, as well." Next, she honored Centreville dentist Jose Aunon.

"He volunteered to help the workers without access to dental care," said Foltz. "He gave education and hygiene information, plus low-cost treatment to workers with acute problems. And he and his staff provided the basics for our Thanksgiving dinner for the workers."

Accepting his plaque from the CIF, Aunon said, "I was born in Cuba and immigrated to the U.S. in 1961, and I've been through what they have, so it's my way of giving back."

Foltz also acknowledged Ed Rice for his financial support and the Centreville library for letting the CIF meet there before the center opened. And she introduced Fernández, who vowed to "continue the great work done over the past year and continue providing education and training to the workers in a positive environment."



Al Furtres

BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

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**Alliance Holding Auditions for 'Grease'**  
The Alliance Theatre will hold auditions for the musical, "Grease," on Jan 4, 5 and 7. It will be directed by Jen Farmer. To register to audition, go to [www.thealliancetheatre.org](http://www.thealliancetheatre.org).  
Actors will be asked to prepare a song and a monologue and be ready to dance. The auditions on Friday, Jan 4 and Monday, Jan 7, will be from 6-9 p.m. at Mountain View High School in Centreville. The Saturday, Jan 5, audition will be from 8:30-11:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library. Snow dates are Jan 6, 8 and 9.  
Rehearsals will begin in May and the performance dates are July 13-28 at Chantilly High.  
For more information, visit [www.thealliancetheatre.org](http://www.thealliancetheatre.org), call 703-220-8101 or e-mail [grease@thealliancetheatre.org](mailto:grease@thealliancetheatre.org). Alliance is also on twitter @TAT\_NorthernVA.  
Anyone unable to make these audition dates/times should contact Alliance as soon as possible to make different arrangements.



Bank of America volunteers wrapping presents are (from left) Amilcar Ferruffino, Mauricio Matallana, Carmen Berdea and Maria Sorto.



From left: Carmen Berdea and Maria Sorto of the Bank of America wrap up holiday gifts.



From left: Madeeha Jauhar and Nadia Chaudry, with Bank of America, set out these cookies for the holiday-shopping party.

# Making Spirits Bright FACETS helps children give presents to their siblings.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**N**o matter people's income levels, their children still want presents at Christmastime. So each year, FACETS holds Sibling Shops, enabling children to peruse a variety of toys, games and other items, select gifts for their brothers and sisters and have them wrapped.

The events are also holiday parties, involving food, games and crafts, and the nonprofit FACETS is hosting four of them this week. FACETS helps people suffering the effects of poverty in Fairfax County. It works with families living in public-housing communities and having an average income under \$20,000 for a family of four. It also helps those who are, or recently were, homeless.

The first party was Monday evening at the Ragan Oaks Community Center in Fair Oaks, and those attending live in the Ragan Oaks apartments. It was divided into two parties for about 50 people total; the first was for children ages 3-12, and the second was for youth ages 12-18.

About nine volunteers from the Bank of America provided the decorations, games

and refreshments and wrapped the presents. "I like helping the kids," said Madeeha Jauhar. "Before school started, I volunteered with FACETS to collect school supplies and distributed them to the kids. I liked seeing their faces — they were so happy."

Volunteer Nadia Chaudry enjoyed the holiday party, as well. "It feels so good to help out and watch the children have a good time," she said. "It's the first time I've attended this party; I heard about it from Madeeha and wanted to come."

Melissa Edwards, volunteer manager for FACETS, said the organization also runs after-school programs for children and adults, all year 'round, at the Ragan Oaks Community Center. There are boys' and girls' groups, homework-help groups, arts and crafts, plus ESL classes for adults. But Edwards especially likes the Sibling Shops.

"Every year, FACETS gets donations for children, teens and adults from the community so kids can 'shop' for gifts for their brothers and sisters," she said. "It's set up like a store, and volunteers walk them through and assist them in selecting age- and gender-appropriate gifts."

FACETS also recruits groups to host and provide volunteers for each Sibling Shop. Another one locally will be hosted by

Brandywine Realty Trust, this Thursday, Dec. 13, at Barros Circle in Centreville.

In addition, a Sibling Shop for children not housed in one of FACETS's family centers was hosted by Deloitte. All together, these holiday parties provided some 160 children with gifts to give to their family members.

"I get to work with the volunteers and donors and see how giving the community is," said Edwards, a 2008 Robinson Secondary grad. "And it's good to see how people are so willing to give back to the community I grew up in — and then reach out and do more."

**AT MONDAY EVENING'S** party, Lina Badawi, 9, picked out a makeup set for her older sister and an art kit for her 4-year-old sister. Children were able to get one gift for each of their siblings. Lina said it was fun "because you got to get presents and play games and stuff."

Shopping together were young teens Sobia Latif, Mairah Mehtab and Zernish Khan. Latif selected a toy car for her 7-year-old brother. Mehtab chose iPhone speakers for her brother and a basketball from him to her because he couldn't come to the party. Khan got headphones for her brother, 18,

and a Barbie doll for her 8-year-old sister.

Latif had a good time because "the volunteers were nice" and she was shopping with her friends. Agreeing, Mehtab said, "We could talk to each other while we picked out the presents and had food." Added Khan: "We want to say thank you to everybody who made this possible."

Courtnie Lucas, 13, chose a football for her 14-year-old brother and nail polish for her sister, 15. She enjoyed playing the game, "Apples to Apples" at the holiday party and said the Sibling Shop was great because "it had stuff my brother and sister actually like."

Friends Oghuz Anwar and Musse Ali also shopped together. Saying, "I always have a good time here," Anwar got a basketball for his younger brother. "Some people don't have money to celebrate the holidays, so this is a good idea," he said. "It gives kids something to play with and keeps them away from bad influences."

Ali selected an "iCarly" traffic signal for his 7-year-old sister. Noting that "we grew up here," he said everyone attending the Sibling Shop really appreciated the efforts of those who put it on. Said Ali: "In volunteering, they're putting in a lot of time and hours to help other people."



From left: Sobia Latif, Mairah Mehtab and Zernish Khan hold the gifts they chose for their siblings.

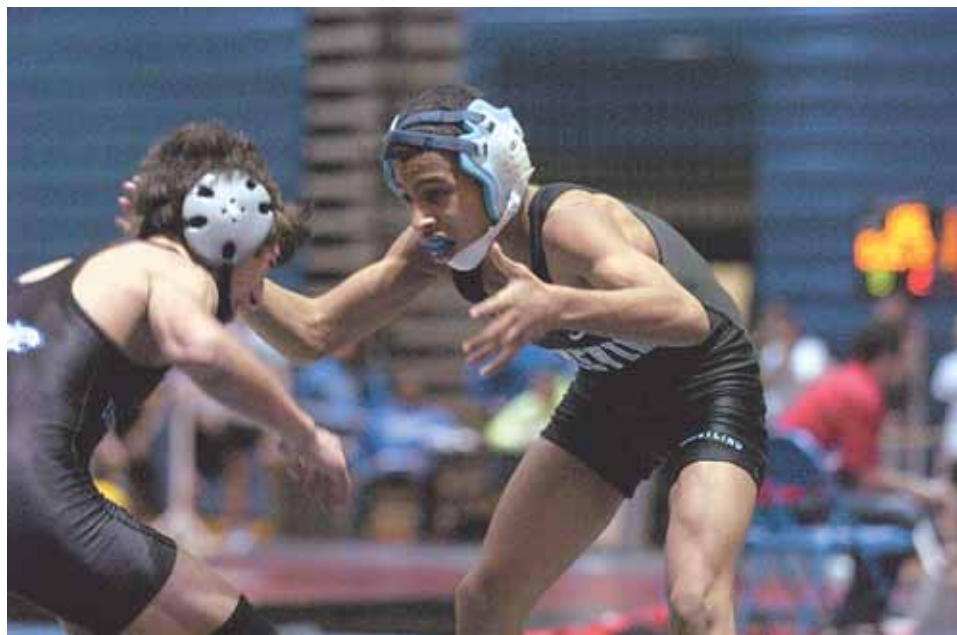


Holding the gifts they picked out for their siblings are (from left) Oghuz Anwar and Musse Ali.

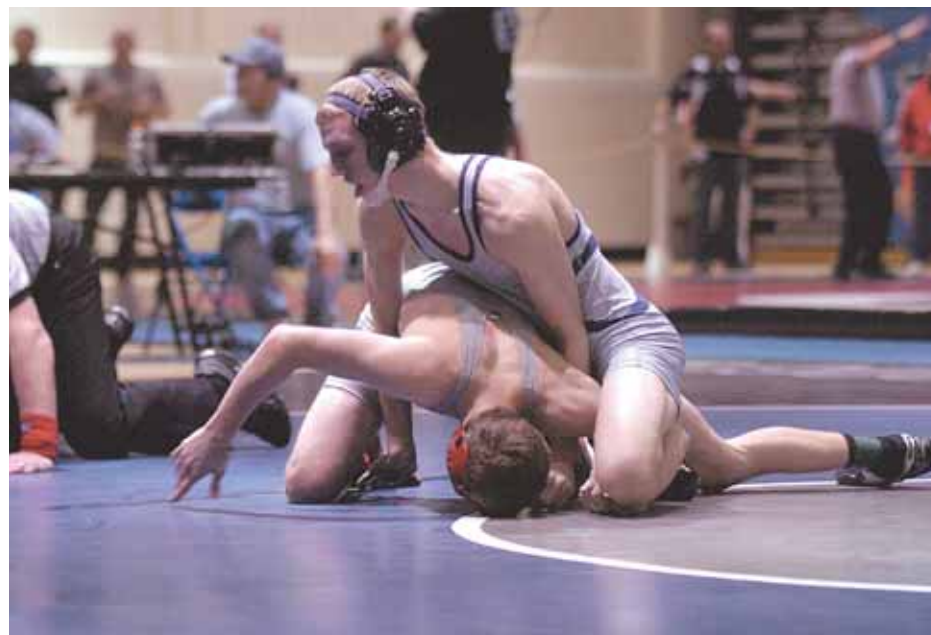


Courtnie Lucas with the presents she selected for her brother and sister.





Centreville's Victor Echerveria took second in the 106-pound division at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic Dec. 7 and 8 at Fairfax High School.



Chantilly's Ryland Arnold placed second in the 132-pound bracket at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic Dec. 7 and 8 at Fairfax High School.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

## Centreville Wrestling Ties for Second at NOVA Classic

### Chantilly finishes 16th.

The Centreville wrestling team finished in a second-place tie with Fauquier at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.Com NOVA Classic Dec. 7 and 8 at Fairfax High School.

Battlefield won the event with a score of 194.5. Centreville and Fauquier each scored 180. Paul VI was fourth with 154.5 points, followed by Lake Braddock (151.5), Mount Vernon (135), Annandale (131.5), McLean (115.5) and T.C. Williams (111.5). Edison and South County finished tied for 10th with 105 points.

Seven Wildcat grapplers finished in the top eight of their respective weight classes,

including four who finished runner-up. Victor Echerveria (106), Connor Mitchell (145), Tyler Love (182) and Joey Steinbach (195) each finished second for Centreville. Will Fulton took fourth in the 152-pound bracket, Dillon Dull finished fifth in the 160-pound division with a pin against Fairfax's Adam Elhadj and Michael Vu placed fifth in the 120-pound division, winning via forfeit against Mountain View's Josue Beltran, Jr.

Chantilly placed 16th at the event, scoring 89 points. Ryland Arnold placed second in the 132-pound division, Walter Carlson took fourth in the 138-pound bracket, Brian Kim finished seventh in the 220-pound division with a pin against Potomac Falls' Trevor Raymont and Ashkan Mazloom finished seventh in the heavyweight bracket with a 4-2 decision against South Lakes' Alex Smurda.

### SPORTS BRIEFS

#### Centreville Swim And Dive Loses to Westfield

Centreville swim and dive hosted its first swim meet of the season against Westfield High School on Nov. 30. The Westfield boys' team won, 218-97, and the Westfield girls' team won, 180-129.

Centreville first-place finishers were: Rachel Anderson, Logan Ross, Abby McCranie, Kylie Cuomo (200 medley relay), Brooke Worley (200 free), Kyle Marshall (200 IM), Rachel Anderson (200 IM), Paul Baumgartner (diving), Brooke Worley (500 free), Kyle Marshall (100 back) and Logan Ross (100 breast).

Centreville second-place finishers were: Kyle Marshall, Tae Hyun Jung, Matthew Rice, Jonathan Clark (200 medley relay), Logan Ross (200 IM), Abby McCranie (50 free), Tyler Kurowski (diving), Rachel Lee (diving), Abby McCranie (100 free), Andy

Balberde, Jonathan Clark, Matthew Rice, Kyle Marshall (200 free relay), Logan Ross, Kylie Cuomo, Rachel Anderson, Abby McCranie (200 free relay) and Sarah Hessler (100 breast).

The Wildcats are scheduled to take on Chantilly at the Audrey Moore Rec Center at 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14.

#### Centreville Gymnastics Team Takes Second Place

At the gymnastics meet on Tuesday, Dec. 4, competing against Lake Braddock, Annandale, T.C. Williams and Westfield, Wildcat gymnast Ciara Hoernicke placed first on bars with a score of 9.6, and first on beam with a score of 9.1 to help Centreville take second place, with a final score of 116.375.

The team is next slated to compete on Thursday, Dec. 13 against Concorde District rival Herndon at Herndon High School.

#### Chantilly's McGorty Places Second in Nation

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty placed second at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships National Finals on Dec. 8 in San Diego, Calif.

McGorty finished with a time of 15:05, six seconds behind champion senior Ed Cheserek of St. Benedict's Preparatory

School in Newark, N.J. Cheserek also won the 2011 national title as a junior. McGorty finished 10th last year with a time of 15:28.

In the girls' race, Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase (17:42) finished sixth, West Springfield's Caroline Alcorta (17:57) took 16th and Oakton's Allie Klimkiewicz (18:33) finished 33rd.



#### Black Belt Graduates

The Black Belt Academy of Centreville's most recent Black Belt graduates completed a 2 and a half month boot camp to prepare them for the Black Belt test. Back, from left, are Master A, Mike Gammel, Master Y, and, front, from left, Samantha York, Tristen Steen, Zachary Dupont and Kevin Vu.

## SCHOOLS

# 'The Food Was Fabulous'

FROM PAGE 2

Claunch said Chantilly's entry wasn't too complicated and would appeal to the whole student body. "You could mix and match," she said. "So if you didn't like spicy things, you could go for the beans or corn or the sweeter dressing, the cilantro lime vinaigrette — especially if you were a vegetarian."

According to Caballero, the teammates also learned a great deal about working in a group. And Claunch was impressed that some of the judges were graduates of the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) and gave them tips on even improving what they'd done.

Lee said the event showed how "all of us who competed had different perspectives on what students would like to eat. And that helps both us and Fairfax County expand our knowledge." As a result, said Claunch, "Maybe FCPS might move toward having fresher ingredients in the cafeterias."

The students noted, as well, how what they'd learned from Doubleday helped them in the competition. "While we practiced making our salads, Chef taste-tested them and gave us advice," said Claunch. "But he let us choose to accept it or not. And the techniques we used to make dressings — and how to season things correctly and make everything from scratch — we learned from him."

Lee said Doubleday "makes sure you won't be afraid of competition, but will focus, be yourself and



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left are Chantilly Academy culinary arts students Valerie Claunch, Kyung Lee and Nikki Caballero.

not go crazy. He also taught us the techniques and flavorings to attract our peers to our food."

"He's just so supportive and always there for me," said Caballero. "He tells me I can do it."

As for the future, all three girls want to attend the CIA in Hyde Park, N.Y. Afterward, Claunch hopes to either open her own restaurant or become a chef for a high-end restaurant.

Caballero plans to get an associate's degree in culinary arts and then a bachelor's in business and become an executive chef.

Lee will study baking and pastry, culinary arts and food-and-beverage service. Then, she said, "Since my dad's a contractor, I'm hoping he'll work with me and build me a restaurant."



## 'Coins for Kids'

From Nov. 12-30, students at Lees Corner Elementary participated in "Coins for Kids", a fundraising activity benefitting "Literacy Lifeboats" which uses all proceeds to get books and supplies directly to the hardest hit schools from Hurricane Sandy. Buckets were placed throughout the school and coins collected on a daily basis. Through much effort and hard work, they raised \$1,709. Coins were then taken to a local bank and counted by the automatic coin counter.

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 13

a Madrigal Choir, harp, brass quartet, vocal soloists, and dramatic vignettes. Tickets are \$30. At Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-2684, ext. 1869.

## CALENDAR

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 19

**Winter Choral Concert.** The Centreville High School Choral Department presents "Celebrate the Season: A Winter Choral Concert" at 7:30 p.m. in the Roy A. Skip Maiden Theatre at Centreville High School. Free to students with valid I.D. and \$5 for general public.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 22

**Holiday Open House.** Noon-5 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 W. Ox Road, Fairfax. Tour the

adoption wing while enjoying refreshments and learning about the many volunteer opportunities. 703-830-1100.

### THROUGH DEC. 24

**Fair Oaks Enchanted Ice Palace Holiday Tradition.** Open during all Fair Oaks regular and holiday hours. Fair Oaks' Ice Palace features a 30-foot ice dome with falling snow, interactive multi-sensory elements, larger-than-life snow globes, Ice Throne and light show beneath twinkling icicles descending from Fair Oaks' 65-foot Grand Court atrium. New this year will be showcases of the beloved prehistoric herd from the family film Ice Age: Continental Drift. The 1,200 square foot Ice Palace will culminate with a visit to Santa and a complimentary Ice Age gift. Fair Oaks will also celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah with a display adjacent to the Ice Palace featuring the history and significance of the dreidel (sevivonim). Free and open to the

public. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or call 703-279-2708. Fair Oaks Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall.

### THROUGH JAN. 6, 2013

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** The light show is open Monday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday through Sunday and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$15 per car Monday through Thursday; \$20 per car Friday through Sunday and holidays. At Bull Run Regional Park located at 7700 Bull Run Drive. Visit [www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com](http://www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com) or call 703-359-4633.



## Renaissance Dinner

December 16 and 17, 6:30 PM. An evening of food, music, and entertainment set in the Renaissance period. Members of the adult choir will act as the Royal Court to the Lord and Lady of the manor. The evening will include a four-course, catered dinner and entertainment by a Madrigal Choir, harp, brass quartet, vocal soloists, and dramatic vignettes. Tickets are \$30. At Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-2684, ext. 1869.

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

### TUESDAYS AND/OR THURSDAYS

**Senior Fall Prevention Classes.** 1:30-2:30 p.m. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. At The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Dr. Registrations are required. Call 703-667-9800 to register as space is limited. Cost is \$10 per class.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### FRIDAY/DEC. 14

**Fruit Pick-up.** 2-7 p.m. Fruit ordered through the CVHS Band Citrus Sale, must be picked up in the CVHS Band Room.

**Chanukah Shabbat Service.** 7 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Features TBT Religious School students and TBT choir. Free. Visit [www.BethTorah.net](http://www.BethTorah.net) or 703-263-2252.

### THROUGH DEC. 14

**Toy Drive.** Centreville Chiropractic Center is working with Hispanics Against Child Abuse and Neglect to collect new and unwrapped toys for children in need in the Fairfax/Falls Church area. Toys for both boys and girls between the ages of 7-15 are needed. Please visit the office located at 13880 Braddock Road, Suite 108 during regular office hours. Call 703-266-0505 for more information.

**Toys for Tots.** The Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative's non-profit organization, NOVEC HELPS, will be collecting toys for the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program. New unwrapped toys may be dropped off at NOVEC's office located at 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas. The Marine Corps will distribute toys to underprivileged children in Northern Virginia. Visit [www.novechelps.org](http://www.novechelps.org) or [www.toysfortots.org](http://www.toysfortots.org).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 15

**Chanukah Party.** 5-7 p.m. at Little Rocky Run Rec. Center #1, 13775 Little Rocky Run Circle, Centreville. \$5/person includes food, games, songs, crafts and more.

### MONDAY/DEC. 24

**Christmas Eve Services.** St. Peter's in the Woods Episcopal Church, 5911 Fairview Woods Dr., Fairfax Station, will hold Christmas Eve services. Holy Eucharist with choral ensemble and living crèche at 5:30 p.m., special music at 7 p.m. and Holy Eucharist with choral ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Nursery care available for the 5:30 p.m. service. Call 703-503-9210 or visit [www.spiw.org](http://www.spiw.org).

### ONGOING

**Respite Care Volunteers.** Give a family caregiver of a frail, older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov). Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

Your Home...Your Neighborhood...Your Newspaper

CENTRE VIEW [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

Communities of Worship

To highlight your faith community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

## CENTREVILLE

### THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Traditional Anglican Service  
1928 Book of Common Prayer

Holy Communion 10 A.M. Sundays  
(with Church School and Nursery)

Evening Prayer and Bible Study 7 P.M. Wednesdays

13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA  
703-830-3176 • [www.thechurchoftheascension.org](http://www.thechurchoftheascension.org)



Centreville  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Christmas Eve  
3 & 5pm  
Live Nativity  
Children's service  
7 & 9pm  
Candlelight Services

15450 Lee Highway  
Centreville, VA 20120  
703.830.0098  
[centrevillepres.com](http://centrevillepres.com)



## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m.  
Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study: Wed. 9:30 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Worship

4:00 PM & 6:00 PM:

Family Worship with Live Nativity

9:00 PM & 11:00 PM:

Carols, Candlelight & Communion

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street

Centreville, VA 20120

[www.saintandrewlc.org](http://www.saintandrewlc.org)

703-830-2768

## Celebrate Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church

Dec. 16 6:00 pm "The Nativity"  
presented by the CBC Adult Choir and Orchestra

Dec 24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
One service for all ages  
Candlelight service with glow sticks for young children

Sundays Worship Services and Community Groups  
9:15 & 11:00 am ~ Something for all ages



15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-3333 [www.cbva.org](http://www.cbva.org)