

Springfield CONNECTION

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Holiday
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& Gift Guide 2012

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- *Charles Wadsworth, founder and 20-year artistic director of the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center*





Margery Leveen Sher, executive director of the Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation, raises a toast to children's dental health as the foundation launches Project Pearly Whites to raise \$24,000 by the end of the year to provide dental care for 40 children.

PHOTOS
CONTRIBUTED



Project Pearly Whites

Fairfax foundation launches campaign to raise money for children who need dental care.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

I imagine a child sitting in school with a toothache so bad he needs a root canal. Nearly a decade ago, that child was Jorge Ramallo. He came to Fairfax County with his mother, brother and sister when he was 14 years old.

Through the Medical Care for Children Partnership (MCCP) Foundation, a Fairfax County public-private partnership, he and his family were able to access the medical and dental care they needed.

"How do we expect children to learn when they need medical and dental care? Despite being one of the wealthiest counties in the nation, there are still thousands of children who don't have access to doctors and dentists when they need them," said Margery Leveen Sher, executive director of the MCCP.

"When we came here, it was just my brother, my sister, my mom and I, and we didn't have any health insurance," Ramallo said. "Through the help of MCCP we received yearly physicals, and we were able to see a doctor or dentist when we needed one . . . MCCP helped me get through high school."

Ramallo said he was so grateful for the medical care he and his siblings received that he wanted to study medicine and give back to the community. He is now a fourth-year medical student at Yale University.

"Jorge is amazing," Sher said. "I think the point is, you don't write off these kids. They have tremendous potential. We need to give them as much good health as possible."

TO HELP CHILDREN like Ramallo, the MCCP Foundation is launching Project Pearly Whites to provide Fairfax County children access to free dental care.

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$24,000 by

the end of the year, which will provide dental care for 40 additional children. Sher said the nonprofit foundation currently provides medical and dental care to approximately 2,500 uninsured children in low-income families in Fairfax County, and, last year, spent \$172,000 on children's dental care alone. She said approximately \$600 covers the dental care needs for one child, and estimates about 9,000 children need the help of MCCP.

MCCP-eligible children, many of whom are immigrants, have working parents who don't have access to health insurance and whose incomes are too high for Medicaid but too low for adequate, regular healthcare. For a family of four in Fairfax County, the annual income level cut-off is about \$55,000.

Sher said the public-private partnership is efficient and cost-effective. Private and public donations and grants are leveraged with local tax dollars to provide quality health care.

Harry Klaff, managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle, a financial and professional services firm, said he

has been a supporter of MCCP "in some form or fashion" for the past 11 years.

"I like the combination of corporations, healthcare providers and public entities coming together to provide a leveraged model for taking care of the healthcare needs of Fairfax County's working poor. . . It's an enriching, rewarding, innovative organization," Klaff said.

PARTNERS OF MCCP include Fairfax County government, corporations and individual financial supporters. Kaiser Permanente and 300 doctors and dentists provide low or no-cost care to MCCP children. Sher said Fairfax County provides case management for families, and support that includes transportation, language assistance and help accessing specialty care.

"We want these children to have the care that any other child has. It's a great cost savings for the community, because without MCCP they would go to the emergency room and probably be a lot sicker and need more care," Sher said. "We are the last safety net for these children."

* To donate to the Pearly Whites campaign, go to the foundation's website at mccpfoundation.org and click on the "donate now" button. Those who donate \$50 or more receive a Pearly Whites T-shirt.



Jorge Ramallo



PHOTOS BY LINDSEY SMITH

Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) at the 18th Annual Taste of Braddock on Dec. 5.

Taste of Braddock Kicks Off Holiday Season

Eighteenth annual event draws more than 300 for food, fun, holiday cheer.

Braddock Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) hosted the 18th Annual Taste of Braddock event in Braddock Hall, welcoming more than 300 members of the community, including Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

"The annual Taste of Braddock kicks off the holiday season and brings together the community to sample food donated by local area restaurants," Cook said. "We want to thank everyone who contributed to another successful year and thank our friends and neighbors for joining us for the evening."

This year, more than 20 local restaurants donated a variety of food for attendees to sample. The restaurants that participated were: Aladdin's Eatery, Bangkok Golden Thai,

BBQ World, Brion's Grille, Café Rio, California Pizza Kitchen, Chili's Bar and Grill, Coyote Grill, Cupcakes Actually, Edible Arrangements, Hunan West, Kilroy's, Magill's Famous Pizza, Milano's, Quiznos, Samurai, San Vito's, Saxby's, Smith & Clarkson's Deli, Spartan's Family Restaurant, Swiss Bakery and Wegmans.

In addition to the food provided by local restaurants, Christine Gloninger, also known as "Chef G" from the Culinary Institute at Annandale High School, brought some of her students to help in the setup, serving and clean up. They also baked hundreds of sweet treats for the event.

"The food was amazing," said Lindsey Smith, Cook's chief of staff. "We sent some of the leftovers over to the West Springfield Police Station, which went over in a big way."



More than 300 people attended the 18th Annual Taste of Braddock on Dec. 5.



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



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

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Making Spirits Bright

FACETS helps children give presents to their siblings.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

No matter people's income levels, their children still want presents at Christmas time. 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 hosts 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 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 explained. "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. The Dec. 11 event at the Old Town Hall in Fairfax was hosted by Centrepointhe Church. GMU's Alpha Omicron Pi sorority hosted the Dec. 12 Sibling Shop at nearby Robinson Square, and Brandywine Realty Trust is hosting the Dec. 13 event 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 GMU and 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, a third-grader at Eagle View Elementary, 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 Lanier Middle students Sobia Latif and Mairah Mehtab with Fairfax High freshman 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."

Lanier eighth-grader Courtne 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."

Fairfax High seniors Oghuz Anwar and Musse Ali also shopped together. Ali got an iCarly traffic signal for his sister and Anwar got a basketball for his brother.

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AREA ROUNDUPS

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/ or call 703-222-5511.

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 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 Depart-

ment crews distributed Christmas tree safety tags to holiday tree lot vendors during the week before Thanksgiving. These tags provide valuable, fire-safety 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.



PHOTOS BY JESSICA MCKAY

MPO Jim Reid (crime prevention officer, Franconia District Station), Captain Jim Baumstark (commander, Franconia District Station), Greenspring Associate Executive Director Lynn Keefe, Lieutenant Jake Jacoby (assistant commander, Franconia District Station).

Greenspring Helps Fill the Wagon

During the first week of December, residents and staff at Greenspring retirement community collected approximately 2,000 lbs. of donations for the third annual "Fill the Wagon" food drive. The program is sponsored by the Franconia District Station, the Franconia Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and several local grocery stores including Giant, Shoppers Food Warehouse and Food Lion. The goal of the drive is to gather non-perishable food items for distribution to local food banks.

"We know there are many families in need in the greater Springfield community," said Lynn Keefe, associate executive director at Greenspring. "We are very grateful to be a part of this opportunity."

According to Officer Jim Reid of the Franconia District Station, about 16,000 lbs. of donations have been collected during the 2012 Fill the Wagon drive, which he says is an increase from last year.

—JESSICA MCKAY



MPO Jim Reid helping to load donations from Greenspring into the wagon.



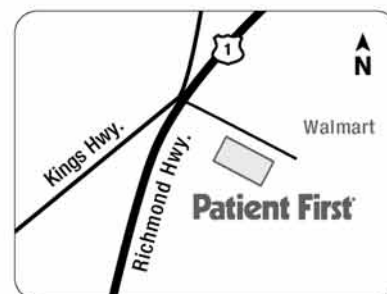
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OPINION

Happy Hanukkah, Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas

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

We 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 (<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 at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter.

You can read the stories in our immigration series at www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration.

EDITORIAL

Celebrating Diversity Through Culture

BY KENWAL SACHDEVA

When my brother got married, his wife came to our house. Ours was a joint family with my parents, grandparents, elder brother, his wife, and two sisters. My new sister-in-law was coming from a different state with different family traditions and way of life. Since she was the new member in our family, it was our job to make her feel at home, to make sure she feels comfortable, to help her settle down and become a part of the family, to give her love and affection so that she does not miss her family too much. And we all worked towards making it happen.



IMMIGRATION AND INTEGRATION

In turn, she also adapted to our ways and became a lovable part of the family.

So, when people from different countries, diverse cultures, and dissimilar values migrate to United States, they try to adjust and adapt to the new culture. But the onus should also be on American people to welcome them, to make them comfortable and feel at home.

What do we do to create awareness about different cultures? Unfortunately, I have not seen much effort on the part of the government. People can be so ignorant

about different cultures, that they expect same kind of behavior from all in different situations. I would like to see some organizations stepping up and make deliberate efforts to make connections to diverse cultures.

People of different cultures also must advertise and organize events, and invite all to create cultural awareness.

The Sikh foundation of Virginia, the Sikh temple at Ox Road is committed to this cause. We organize a cultural program each year in which more than 100 children and adults participate and perform to typical Punjabi folk music. We advertise the event in local newspapers and invite people from differ-

ent faiths. This is an important event to make connections with our extended American family. We have found that many people are interested in learning about different cultures, but do not know where to go and whom to approach. This event generates enough interest and we do get interesting questions to understand our dances and music. Moreover, music knows no language barriers, and everyone enjoy the dances a lot. Cultural events could be a gateway to get to appreciate and celebrate diversity.

Kenwal Sachdeva of Fairfax Station is a Public Relations Officer for Sikh Foundation of Virginia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Something Special

To the Editor:

For those of you who may have missed it, the recent Varsity Football game between West Springfield High School and South County Secondary School proved to be more than just a game.

As has become customary, the Spartans of West Springfield escorted one of their captains, Jordan Trunfio, to the center of the field for the coin toss. Jordan is battling brain cancer, and the team has dedicated its season to him and his struggle. However, this toss was not like any of the previ-

ous ones. As Jordan and the other West Springfield captains approached the center of the field, the entire South County Football Team proceeded onto the field. In a show of solidarity, the team lined up, tipped their helmets to Jordan, and wished him well as he battles forward. Also at this time, the South County coaches presented Jordan with several tokens of their support that included items signed by the Washington Redskins Organization, who were also expressing their support. What happened in those few moments was an example of true sportsmanship, leadership, coaching and community.

To Coach Gerry Pannoni, his staff, and the entire South County Foot-



Jordan Trunfio, No. 58—West Springfield HS football battling brain cancer.

ball Organization—thank you for supporting our team and our captain.

There are events and challenges in life that remind us that football is just a game and true heroes all wear the same color jersey.

For those of you who may have missed it, you missed something special.

Dana Esposito
West Springfield Football Parent

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CAPPIES REVIEW



PHOTO BY BRUCE WENZEL

Kira Omans, Nathan Vasquez and Adrianna Watson in Edison High's production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Lighthearted Classic at Edison

BY PAUL SOUTTER
WASHINGTON LEE HIGH SCHOOL

As the house lights fell and soft, swinging jazz music played, I knew that I was in for a slice of delicious Americana at Thomas Edison High School's production of *The Man Who Came to Dinner*.

Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman's *The Man Who Came to Dinner* debuted in 1939, and has been performed since then as a classic piece of American comedy. Its plot, which follows the foibles of an injured radio orator and his love-struck secretary, not only draws laughs for the zany, supporting cast, but also gives perspective into the class struggles of Depression-Era America. Through Broadway revivals and television, film and musical adaptations, this classic play has lost nothing of its lighthearted yet sincere spirit.

The supporting cast of the play brought energy and freshness to the performance with strong character choices. Pedro Silva's Beverly Carlton left the audience in stitches with his superfluous gestures and his unbounded vitality in a portrayal that revived the second act. Sylvia Landis (Ms. Preen) captured the oft-maligned nurse with strong displays of timidity and confusion, thus heightening the tension in her final snap. Banjo (Aiden Waddell) displayed a West Coast ease with his sweeping stride and excellent comedic timing.

Sheridan Whiteside is not an easy role to play: he has numerous long monologues and sits in a wheelchair for most of the play. Yet Nathan Vasquez por-

trayed the vituperative codger with a natural elegance. With a poised face and controlled voice he captured the arrogant superiority of the character, and with his gestures and movements he showed the other, more whimsical side of the orator. Kira Omans (Maggie Cutler) brought both sarcasm and heart to the secretary, and had excellent chemistry with Matthew Kaufax (Bert Jefferson). Kaufax's charming portrayal of an eager journalist shone through his quick movements and expressive face.

The tech for *The Man Who Came to Dinner* was simple, but smoothly executed. Sound did not cut out, and the few light changes were quick. Where the show stood out in tech was in sets, props, and costumes. Attention to the set was superb. From period desks and molding to real windows with falling snow and working sconces, the set entrancingly drew the audience into the past. Props helped to keep the play rooted in the 30s, ranging from antique ice skates, cameras, suitcases, and telegrams. Really though, it was the costumes that stole the technical side of the show. Every character underwent costume changes, giving the audience clues as time went by in the play. Adrianna Watson's (Harriet Stanley) conservative and dated dresses reflected a lifetime of isolation, while those of Parker Collins (Lorraine Sheldon) added grace and appeal to the celebrity she portrayed.

Although the script is more than 70 years old, Thomas Edison High School showed with grace and enthusiasm that *The Man Who Came to Dinner* is still quite humorous and profoundly relevant.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Afternoon Book Club. 1:30 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7520 Commerce St., Springfield. For those who appreciate the company of other book-lovers; make new friends and chat about books chosen through member nominations. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/.

FRIDAY/DEC. 14

2nd Annual Jeans Day: Putting the ZIP on Homelessness. Midnight to 11:55 p.m., in offices throughout Northern Virginia. Chairman Bulova and the Board of Supervisors have declared it Jeans Day; Wear jeans to work in exchange for a contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Register. <http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>.

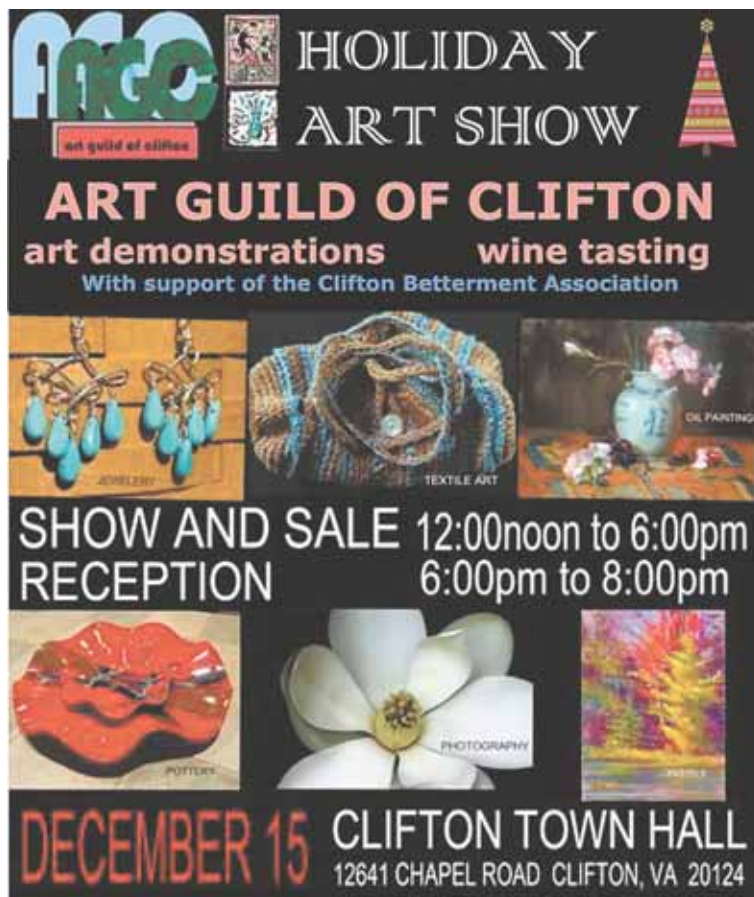
Christmas Cantata, "A World of Christmas." 11 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Joseph Martin gives the world in his new cantata that celebrates the carols and traditions of Christmas. The church is handicapped accessible and assisted listening devices are available. 703 971-5151 or admin@franconiaumc.org. <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Holiday Art Show. Noon-8 p.m., at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. The Art Guild of Clifton, supported by Clifton Betterment Association, serve up art demonstrations, wine tasting, and the art show and sale to benefit your holiday giftings and spirit. A reception follows the show at 6 p.m. 703-830-1480 or www.artguildofclifton.org.

A Magical Christmas. 1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Santa hasn't stopped in the town of Believe for three whole years and doesn't even know the place exists—can Joy's grandfather turn the town Christmas spirit around? \$8, children; \$12, adults. www.lortonarts.org.

Date Night: Ballroom Social Dance. 7:30 p.m. lesson, 8-10:30 p.m. open dance, at the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An instructor-led evening of ballroom dancing in casual dress with complimentary refreshments and a cash bar. \$5, mini-lesson; \$10, dance.



Holiday Art Show

The Art Guild of Clifton holds their Holiday Art Show with art demonstrations, wine tasting, a show and sale and a reception on Saturday, Dec. 15. The show and sale go from noon-6 p.m. and the reception follows; both are held at Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton.

www.lortonarts.org.
Date Night: Chef's Table. 8-10 p.m., at the Vulcan Gallery, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Bring someone special for an evening of cooking and learn easy yet impressive techniques behind a menu of dishes. Reservations. \$80. www.lortonarts.org.

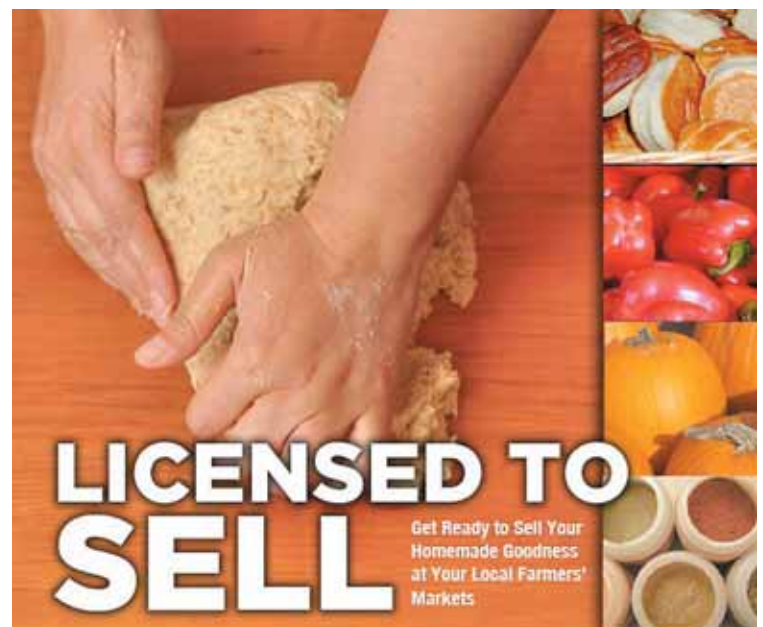
SUNDAY/DEC. 16

"The Journey: A Season of Reflections: Walking the Road to Bethlehem" Bible Study. 9:30 a.m., at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Sit down with pastor and best-selling author Adam Hamilton as he guides through a four-week devotional based on the most joyous event in history. This Bible Study includes short, reflective devotions combined with Scripture readings and heartfelt prayers. 703 971-5151 or <http://www.franconiaumc.org>.

NTRACK Display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRACK members put on a display and N gauge train running at the museum. \$3, adults; \$1, children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 17

Licensed to Sell. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at West Springfield Government Center, the Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. A free workshop that helps you get ready to sell your homemade goodness at your local farmers' markets: learn how to set up a home-based business, comply with state and local health and safety rules, set up bank accounts and insurance, accept credit cards with your smart phone... all from experienced sellers and state and local officials; free lunch. www.smartmarkets.org/licensedtosell.



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TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Classics Book Club. 7 p.m., at Richard Byrd Library, 7520 Commerce St., Springfield. Currently discussing the first five cantos of The Inferno by Dante Alighieri; adults. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/rb/.

FRIDAY/DEC. 21

Cool Cow Comedy Presents: Erin Jackson. 8 p.m., in the W-3 Theater, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The performer from Ellen, Comedy Central and Gotham Comedy Club cracks the crowd up with host Rahmein Mostafavi; 18-plus only. Reservations. \$20. www.coolcowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 22

A Magical Christmas. 1 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre, the Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Santa hasn't stopped in the town of Believe for three whole years and doesn't even know the place exists—can Joy's grandfather turn the town Christmas spirit around? \$8, children; \$12,

adults. www.lortonarts.org.
Cool Cow Comedy Presents: Erin Jackson. 8 p.m., in the W-3 Theater, Lorton Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The performer from Ellen, Comedy Central and Gotham Comedy Club cracks the crowd up with host Rahmein Mostafavi; 18-plus only. Reservations. \$20. www.coolcowcomedy.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 12

2nd Saturday Art Walk. 6-9 p.m. Workhouse Art Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Meet each building's featured artist, a reception in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

"Drink This!" The Workhouse International Ceramic Cup Show. 6 p.m., at the Workhouse Arts Center, Building 8, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. An exhibition of 70 works offers a delightful taste of the many ways contemporary artists interpret the cup. 703-584-2982 or www.workhouseceramics.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THURSDAY/DEC. 13

Meals on Wheels. Fairfax County needs a Meals on Wheels coordinator for the Franconia area. Contact Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 703-449-1186, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov, or visit Volunteer Solutions at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and click on volunteers.

SATURDAY/DEC. 15

Action Center Holiday Wishlist Drop-off. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Moose Family Center, 9612 Fernedge Lane, Lorton. "Adopt" a local child or senior citizen and fulfill their holiday wish for a gift item; gifts are needed by Saturday for the Lorton Community Action Center's annual holiday gift and food distribution. 703-339-5161, lcacholiday@gmail.com or www.lortonaction.org, news and events.

TUESDAY/DEC. 18

Toys for Tots Dropoff. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., at Interstate, 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield. Every day Monday through Friday before Dec. 18, the Marine Corps Reserve and Interstate Family Companies invite all to bring a new unwrapped toy to be given to

the Toys for Tots program. www.MoveInterstate.com.

TUESDAY/DEC. 25

26th Annual Washington DC Jewish Community Center's Day of Service. Various times. Sign up for two to four hour project at one of over 50 non-profits in the metro area, with many in Fairfax County. \$20. Register at www.washingtondcjcc.org/d25.

THURSDAY/DEC. 27

2012 Winter Basketball Camp. 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Accotink Academy, 8519 Tuttle Road, Springfield. Directed by Mark Vincent, assistant coach, Montrose Christian, 2011 ESPN National Champions. For boys and girls 7-14 years old.

www.markvincentbasketballcamps.com

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 9

NARFE Springfield Chapter Meeting. 1 p.m., at the American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave., Springfield. The monthly meeting features a presentation by Shelia Willing, Greenspring Village senior sales consultant, on retirement communities in Northern Virginia. 703-569-9684 or harahan@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/JAN. 13

Lee High School is hosting a six week baseball camp starting Jan. 13. Head Coach John Dowling will direct the program in conjunction with U.S. Baseball Academy. Classes are available for grades first-12th and

limited to six players per coach. Sessions are offered in advanced hitting, pitching, catching, fielding and baserunning at a cost as low as \$99 for six weeks. Space is limited. Registration is now under way. www.USBaseballAcademy.com or 866-622-4487.

ONGOING

Thank veterans for their service via the post: draw or write a note of thanks and encouragement—no need to seal in envelopes, Adopt a Soldier will do that—and send to Americas Adopt A Soldier, P.O. Box 1049, Springfield, VA 22151. www.americasadoptasoldier.org.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Ballet Arts Ensemble Presents 'Nutcracker'

Kailey Leinz of Burke to star in the "Nutcracker in a Nutshell."

The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax will perform "Nutcracker in a Nutshell," a condensed version of the classic holiday ballet, on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 3 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at the Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria campus, at 3001 North Beauregard St. Tickets are \$22 in advance by calling 703-273-5344; tickets will also be available at the door.

Choreographed by Debra Savage, the show features company dancers from the Ballet Arts Ensemble (BAE) and scores of young children from the Fairfax dance school, the Center for Ballet Arts. Special guest artist Cameron McCune of Raleigh, N.C., will be paired with BAE dancer Kailey Leinz of Burke, for the Grand Pas de Deux.

McCune, 17 and a high school senior, was the 2012 Youth America Grand Prix (YAGP) silver medalist. Leinz, also 17, is a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School. She has trained with Savage at the Center for Ballet Arts in Fairfax since the first grade and plans to continue her ballet training next year in a university dance program.

Leinz also attended summer intensive programs at the School of American Ballet in New York City and at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School in Seattle, Wash. This will be her 11th year performing in the Nutcracker. In addition to dancing almost all of the children's roles over the years, Leinz has danced the soloist roles of Clara, Fairy Queen, Reed Pipe, Dew

Cameron McCune and Kailey Leinz of Burke will dance together in The Ballet Arts Ensemble of Fairfax production of the "Nutcracker in a Nutshell."

Drop, Arabian and Snow Queen. This will be her first time dancing the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy.

"I have wanted to be the Sugar Plum Fairy since I was a little girl, so I am thrilled," she said. "Getting to partner with Cameron makes it even more exciting. He is so incredibly talented." Leinz is also proud that this will mark the first time that both of the lead dancers in the Grand Pas de Deux in the Ballet Arts Ensemble's production of "Nutcracker in a Nutshell" are teenagers.

"Almost all of the Nutcrackers you see in our area use professional dancers for the roles of Sugar Plum Fairy and the Cavalier," said Leinz. "Not only are we not professionals, we are both only 17 years old!"

For more information, contact www.thecenterforballetarts.com or call 703-273-5344.



Northern Virginia Players Present Disney's Little Mermaid

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

In a magical kingdom under the sea, the beautiful young mermaid Ariel longs to leave her ocean home to live in the world above. When she falls in love with Prince Eric after saving him from a shipwreck, she visits the sea witch, Ursula, and trades her voice for three days as a human. Can Ariel and her best friends Flounder, Sebastian the Crab, and Scuttle the Sea Gull get the prince to give her "true love's first kiss" before Ariel turns back into a mermaid forever?

Adapted from Disney's 2008 Broadway production, Disney's The Little Mermaid, Jr., Northern Virginia Players production features the hit songs "Part of Your World," "She's in Love," and the Oscar-winning audience favorite "Under the Sea."

"With a cast of 58 actors ages 8-



From left—Sarah Smith, Ursula; Karinna Johnston, Ariel; Jeremy Wittig, Prince Eric; Kyrie Johnston, Flounder.

18, this is sure to go down as one of the most exciting live shows to hit the stage," said Co-Director

Kate Wittig.

"Northern Virginia Players has been thrilling audiences of all ages since its start. Exceptional talent, costumes and staging support professional quality theatre at the community level," said Co-Director Ann Eul.

The production will be performed at the Family Worship Center, 7719 Fullerton Road in Springfield.

Show dates and times:

- ❖ Friday, Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 12 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Friday, Jan. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 19 at 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit their website at NVPlayers.com. Also, please visit their Facebook Page at "Northern Virginia Players" for pictures of previous shows and updates. If you have questions, call 703-866-3546.

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Being Muslim in Fairfax County

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

By AMNA REHMATULLA
THE CONNECTION

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
THE CONNECTION

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 yíng! Welcome!

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

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

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

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/
THE CONNECTION



Sikhs Bring Foundation of 'Service to Others'

Fairfax Station temple active in community outreach.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On 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.

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.

Holidays Spark Inspiration For New Remodeling Projects

Local contractors say that the holidays offer an opportunity to consider home renovations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While the holidays can bring glad tidings and cheer, they can also spark an interest in remodeling, say some local contractors.

"During the holidays, people spend more time at home and notice more things like outdated bathrooms or kitchens," said Glen Miracle, president of NVS Remodeling and Design in Falls Church and Manassas.

Bob Murphy, president of Homes by Murphy in Fairfax Station, said, "I find that this time of year people think about remodeling projects and then postpone them until after the holidays."

Contractors say hosting holiday gatherings give homeowners a chance to reassess their living space. "We do have people who . .

. realize that they will have crowds of people and family coming over and realize they need or want more space," said Murphy.

Evelyn Nicely, president of Nicely Done Kitchens in Springfield, said, "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls: the turkey

won't fit in your built-in oven or you have far too many leftovers for your too-small refrigerator," she said. "Or maybe when you visited friends, you realized how outdated your space is, how much untapped potential is really in your home."

HOMEOWNERS OFTEN ASSESS their home improvement needs during the holidays and embark on them in the New Year. "We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do," said Miracle. "Many of those projects will get started in the spring."

A survey by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry shows that spring is a time of the year when homeowners embark on new projects. The association reports that last spring, seven out of 10 homeowners planned spring

home improvement projects.

"Right now people are interested in pursuing remodeling projects in part because the election is over," said Niki Golden, NARI spokesperson. "People do start thinking about remodeling projects, but I don't know that at a national level, it is tied to the holidays."

"We get more calls in January than in any other month because during the holidays people finally slow down, spend more time at home and realize all of the projects that they need to do."

— Glen Miracle, president of NVS Remodeling and Design



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS

Local contractors say the holidays often generate ideas for home remodeling projects. "Large kitchen remodels are often inspired by small kitchen shortfalls," said Evelyn Nicely of Nicely Done Kitchens.



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6324 Deepwood Farm Dr..\$589,000.....Sat 12-3.....AJ Zaman.....Century 21..703-945-4489
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10726 Anita Dr.....\$579,000.....Sun 1-4..Colleen Pavlick.....Century 21..703-347-6700

Springfield

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To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Erin Peck at 703-778-9449 or E-mail the info to epeck@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Seen here, cutting a ribbon to open the new office are, from left: Marcia Twomey, president of the chamber; Craig Durosko, founder and chairman of Sun Design; Bob Gallagher, president of Sun Design; and John Foust, member of the Fairfax Country Board of Supervisors. Sun Design recently was named, for the second year in a row, among the region's best places to work.

Sun Design Opens McLean Office

After 25 successful years of growth in the region, Burke-based Sun Design Remodeling, Inc., has now opened its second Northern Virginia office, this one on Elm Street in McLean. The company hosted an open house on Thursday, Nov. 29, co-sponsored by the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce.



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7.30 Acre Lot,
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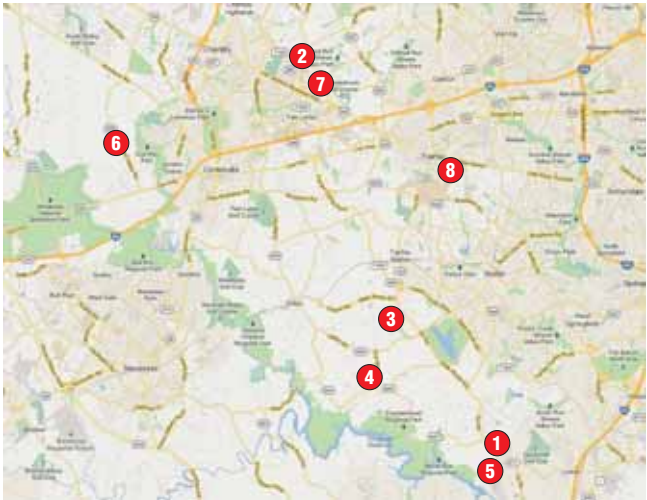
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Preparing Your Home for Holiday Guests

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

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.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

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

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.

Next, survey the living or family room. Experts suggest cleaning carpets or area rugs so that they are free of signs of foot traffic. Consider updating the room with holiday home accents or adding

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

new items, as well as accessorizing sofas and chairs with holiday pillows and throws.

"Take a magic eraser to clean up small 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."

FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

The Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, 10125 Lakehaven Court, Burke, holds a Winter Solstice service honoring the Earth on Sunday, Dec. 23 at 10 a.m.; a Holiday Pageant on Monday, Dec. 24 at 5 p.m.; and at contemplative candlelight service at 7 p.m. All are welcome to each of the open events.

St. Leo the Great Church in Fairfax offers a program for Catholics who are away from the church, struggling with church teachings or who would like to more fully practice their faith by returning to the Sacraments; the program, Welcome Home, is offered on Sundays, February 3, 10, 17 and 24 and March 3 and 10 at 7 p.m. in the St. John Room, 3770 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. csmith@stleofairfax.com.

Franconia United Methodist Church invites you to worship for Advent on Sunday, Dec. 9, 16 and 23 to prepare and wait for the birth of Lord Jesus Christ. The church is handicapped accessible and assisted listening devices are available. The church also offers new Bible studies including "Buzz Bible Study for Children" on Sundays at 9:30 a.m., "Fireproof Your Marriage" starting Jan. 6, and "Quiet Strength Bible Study" for men starting Saturday, Jan. 19. Learn more at franconiaumc.org and call 703-971-5151 or email dce@franconiaumc.org for more information.

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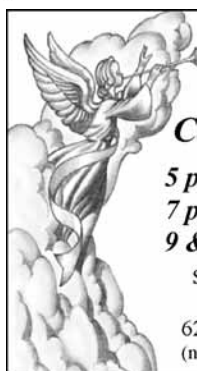
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21 Announcements

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OBITUARY

Evelyn Hamill, 93, of Burke passed away Saturday, Dec. 8, 2012 at Birmingham Green Nursing Home in Manassas.

Survivors include his sons, Harvey Hamill and Henry Hamill; daughter Marilyn Clune of Ashburn; ten grandchildren; and nine great grandchildren.

Services will be held at a later date in Montana.

Online guest book is available at covenantfuneralservice.com.

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

LEGAL NOTICE

According to the Lease by and between the listed tenant TKG-StorageMart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their units, the Manager has cut the lock on their unit and upon cursory inspection the unit was found to contain:
Unit #2016 Lussett Hylton boxes, bags, and suitcases
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Items will be sold or otherwise disposed of at this site on December 20, 2012 @ 12:00pm at the address listed below to satisfy owner lien in accordance with state statutes. Terms of sale are cash only, no checks will be accepted. All goods are sold in "as is" condition. Buyers must provide their own locks. Seller reserves the right to override all bids. All items or spaces may not be available on the date of the sale.

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21 Announcements

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PROPOSAL TO CLEANUP AT UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

There has been a release from an underground storage tank system at:

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Kleinfelder
1340 Charwood Road, Suite I
Hanover, Maryland 21076
(410) 850-0404

The Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ on December 21, 2012. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Kurt Kochan at (703) 583-3825 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan submittal. The DEQ Northern Regional Office will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan until January 21, 2013 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC# 94-1362.

Department of Environmental Quality
Storage Tank Program
13901 Crown Court
Woodbridge, Virginia 22193

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SPORTS

Local Grapplers Thrive At NOVA Classic

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With the bridge of his nose bloodied and bandaged, South County wrestler Hunter Manley found himself locked in a 3-3 tie in the third period of a tournament championship match on Dec. 8.

Last season, Manley won the Northern Region title in the 106-pound weight class. Now a junior, Manley was competing in the 120-pound division at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.com NOVA Classic at Fairfax High School. While moving up two weight classes presents challenges, Manley managed to take care of business during this event.

Manley scored a late takedown against Mount Vernon's Bill Adusei, propelling the South County grappler to a tournament title via 5-3 decision.

"It was a little bit of a challenge," Manley said of moving up two weight classes. "Luckily, I jumped up pretty early right after the season last year, so I had enough time to regain my strength up to that point. The kids are strong, but I feel fine, technically. You can't muscle people around when you make that kind of jump, you have to really rely on technical skills. I can't really force moves."

What led to the two-weight-class jump?

"I got tall," said Manley, who grew from 5 foot 7 as a sophomore to 5 foot 9 this year.

Manley helped South County score 105 points and finish in a 10th-place tie with Edison. Battlefield finished atop the team standings with 194.5 points. Centreville and Fauquier finished in a second-place tie with 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).

West Springfield (81) finished 19th, Fairfax (62) was 22nd and Lee (55) was 24th.

Lake Braddock's Rory Renzi won his second-consecutive NOVA Classic championship. After winning the 145-pound title last year, Renzi defeated Stone Bridge's Josh Toal via 22-9 major decision on Saturday to capture the 152-pound crown.

Renzi, a two-time Patriot District champion, said he had a goal of 40 takedowns during the NOVA Classic, but finished with 39.

"I've always thought of myself [as] not a pinner," Renzi said. "I've always tried to tech-fall a kid all on my feet. My strong point is on my feet."

Thomas Jefferson grappler and Burke resident Patrick O'Connor won his second consecutive 195-pound title at the NOVA Classic, beating Centreville's Joey Steinbach via decision with a late takedown.

"You've got to trust yourself and when you see it open



Lake Braddock's Rory Renzi won the 152-pound title at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.com NOVA Classic on Dec. 8 at Fairfax High School.



West Springfield's Austin Flanagan won the 220-pound title at the 2012 FinalAutoPrice.com NOVA Classic on Dec. 8 at Fairfax High School.

up, you've just got to go for it," O'Connor said. "If you wrestle tentatively, you're not going to get it anyway."

Edison junior Brock Jacobson won the 138-pound title with a 5-4 decision against Lake Braddock's Sean Haskett. Jacobson has his sights set on a National District title and regional success now that Wakefield standout Henry Majano, who finished state runner-up in Jacobson's weight class the last two years, has graduated.

"Now that he's gone, I know that I have the opportunity to win districts," Jacobson said. "He was my main target. For regionals, I've got Sean Haskett, [Robinson's] Dallas Smith [and Westfield's] Derek Arnold. But after beating Sean, I know I can take that next step to get to Dallas Smith. If I stay strong all season, keep on working hard, stay healthy, I know I can get him."

West Springfield's Austin Flanagan won the 220-pound title with a 4-3 decision against Mount Vernon's Nate Haro. Flanagan finished seventh at the NOVA Classic last year, his first year in the United States after living in Italy.

"[Winning] definitely helps my confidence," Flanagan said. "Last year, I came in seventh and even that—coming [in] seventh out of 32—made me boost for the early part of the season. . . . Coming in first this year really means a lot to me."

Lake Braddock's Ryan Haskett won the 113-pound title with a 13-6 decision against Annandale's Anour Sakta.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL

Butler Leads Bruins To First Win

Senior finishes with 23 points, 23 rebounds against Robinson.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Lake Braddock's Natalie Butler was once a sophomore intimidated by playing basketball at the varsity level. Two years later, she has signed a letter of intent to play at Georgetown University and realized her size can make her the intimidator.

"I think the experience definitely helps," Butler said recently. "I think sophomore year was definitely intimidating coming in, playing against older girls. Now, coming in, being 6 foot 4, you can be large and in charge. I've learned that my size can be an intimidation factor alone, whether I touch a basketball or not, so that's definitely a confidence builder."

The Lake Braddock girls' basketball team came to Robinson Secondary School on Dec. 7 in search of its first win of the season. When the night was over, the Rams might have been wishing Butler was still a sophomore.

Butler scored 23 points and grabbed 23 rebounds, lifting the Bruins to a 43-25 victory on Friday night. After a slow start, Butler scored 10 of Lake Braddock's 12 second-quarter points as the Bruins started to pull away. Lake Braddock led 19-11 at halftime and by as many as 20 points in the second half.

"That's what we need for [Butler] to bring every night," Lake Braddock Head Coach Leigh Janis said. "She controls the boards. We look to get [the ball] inside, but we did a good job working the inside-out, too. We had other kids



Lake Braddock senior Natalie Butler scored 23 points and grabbed 23 rebounds against Robinson.

score and knocking down threes and looking to drive. We feed off of her, but she did a great job finding her teammates as well."

Junior guard Marcia Altman scored seven points for Lake Braddock. Junior guard Betsy Gallier scored six points, sophomore guard Christine McGrath finished with three points and senior forward McKenzie Hunter and senior guard Haley Strawderman each added two.

Robinson entered the contest with a 2-0 record, but Lake Braddock held the Rams to a season-low 25 points. Senior forward Dhyamond Crenshaw led Robinson with seven points and sophomore guard Brigitte Gould scored six. Freshman guard Mary Katherine Mastaler had four points for the Rams, sophomore guard Leeah Betourd and junior guard Melanie Yumping each had three and freshman guard Kaitlin Luccarelli added two.

Lake Braddock defeated Herndon, 52-34, on Tuesday to improve to 2-2. The Bruins will open Patriot District play at home against West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 14.

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