



Susan Berning leads the West African drumming workshop at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church.

Language of the Drum

A melody echoing in two parts filled the air with vibrating rhythms as the students in the West African drumming workshop practiced a simple drumming exercise. The Mount Vernon Unitarian Church is offering the free workshop in the church on the third Sunday afternoon of the month. Workshop leader and West African drummer Susan Berning has been traveling to Ghana and Nigeria for training during the past six years.

Started with a number of West African dance classes, Berning was drawn to the drummers and the drums, and the left-right action of the hands. Initially rebuffed in her attempts to be trained as a drummer — women are traditionally forbidden to be drummers — she was finally rewarded and allowed to be taught. She learned to play the big drums, the royal fontomfoms. For more information on the workshop and/or other activities at the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church visit www.mvuc.org or call 703-765-5950.



Rebecca Ames adds a different layer to the music with her beats on two cow skin drums.



Patricia Williams (right) tries working with the bells as part of the Sunday afternoon lesson.



Patricia Williams follows as Susan Berning adds another part to the rhythm of the movement.

North of \$88,000

Lawmakers consider increased pay for next Gunston Hall director.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE GAZETTE

George Mason was one of the wealthiest Founding Fathers, and now the Virginia General Assembly may be moving to increase the salary of the director of the house where he once lived. Gunston Hall has been in a state of flux since the previous director was finally removed from office after more than a year of calls for his resignation. He was paid about \$86,000 a year. Now the Board of Regents is trying to attract a new director, and some members of the General Assembly believe a higher salary may be needed to attract the right person. "They need to get a first-rate person in there," said Del. Scott Surovell (D-44). "They are doing a national search now, and they need to be able to offer a salary that would attract a top-notch person."

Because the position is a state

job, Virginia law sets out how much money should be paid for the position. The position currently has a ceiling of \$88,583. But a budget amendment introduced by state Sen. Toddy Puller (D-36) would allow the base salary to be supplemented from a source outside Virginia government — the Board of Regents in this case. If the amendment is successful, Gunston Hall would be added to a list of other museums that already have the ability to supplement the base state salary, including the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts and the Library of Virginia.

"You can't just pay them whatever you want," said Patrick Ladden, who has been interim director of Gunston Hall since September. "You have to pay them what's allowable under Human Resources guidelines from the commonwealth."

The problems at Gunston Hall began in January 2011, when

SEE ENHANCING, PAGE 17

Shielding Information

Virginia lawmakers consider efforts to prevent access to documents.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

Every year, members of the General Assembly consider a handful of bills to shield information from the public. This year, efforts are underway to prevent the public from having access to everything from railroad regulation to disaster preparedness. Law-enforcement officials and government agencies are advocating for secrecy while advocates for open government are lobbying for transparency. Caught in the middle are legislators, who must make the

final call as the session heads toward its final stretch next month.

Perhaps the biggest victory for open government is a bill introduced by Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) that would shine sunlight on the secretive State Corporation Commission. The commission, first created in 1903 to replace the Board of Public Works, regulates utilities, railroads, insurance, financial institutions, securities and retail franchising. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act does not currently allow access to any

SEE LEGISLATORS, PAGE 5

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WINTER FUN

Indoor Winter Entertainment Ideas for Children

Some suggestions for when Jack Frost appears.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

Winter weather often means limited open air playtime for some children. "It is very important for children to get as much outdoor activity as possible, but there are times when it is not safe for them to be outside for an extended length of time, or any time at all, because it is too cold," said Shannon Melideo, chair of the Education Department at Marymount University in Arlington. "There are many other things that children can do besides sledding and ice skating."

While experts say many parents fear that too much time spent inside can lead to cabin fever, they add that there are a myriad of ways to have winter fun without leaving the warmth of your home. "There are numerous creative opportunities for children to express themselves indoors. Parents can sneak in educational experiences when the children don't know it," said Melideo, who lives in Reston.

Paula Keyes Kun, spokeswoman for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) offers activity ideas that are geared for outdoor play, but that can easily be adapted for indoors. "Pretend you are at a zoo. Identify an animal: Move and sound like that animal. Pretend to be a growing flower: First you are a tiny seed in the ground, and then grow into a



Experts say that writing can be a fun and educational indoor activity. Try writing thank-you notes for holiday gifts as well as making Valentine's Day cards for family and friends.

PHOTO BY
MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

big flower."

Other imaginative indoor play ideas Kun offered include asking children to pretend to be a balloon, first without air, then being blown up, floating around and finally being popped. Asking a child to pretend to move like different foods, such as melting like a popsicle or popping like popcorn, is also fun and creative.

Put a pen to paper, say experts. "Because of texting and email, many children don't spend time writing 'snail mail,'" said Christie Westermann, a fourth grade teacher at Norwood Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "Children can decorate blank postcards, learn how to properly address a piece of snail mail and write special notes to friends and relatives."

Melideo agrees that writing can be a fun

and educational indoor activity, and suggests writing thank-you notes for holiday gifts as well as making Valentine's Day cards for family and friends. She says this is an ideal way to incorporate writing skills with fun: "You have to ask yourself what your child can do developmentally," she said. "If they can write their name, then they can make the rest of the card with stickers. Children can make two or three each day and they will have something they are proud of, and family members always need to be told they are loved."

Fourth grade teacher Alysha Akbar, a graduate student in the education program at George Mason University in Fairfax, adds, "While the winter weather has prevented my fourth graders from enjoying outdoor recess, the cold has not kept their hands

idle," she said. "Many of my students enjoy making beautiful, three-dimensional snowflakes. We hang them from the ceiling and they are very simple to make. The children also keep busy indoors playing with Lego blocks, drawing and, of course, reading."

Melideo says that creating a family photo album where children get to create the captions or playing a game of charades are also great indoor pastimes. "Play charades with a theme, where maybe one person comes up with clues, throws them into a hat around a theme like the holidays or a family experience. Children are using creativity, memory, connecting in a fun way and getting excited and expressing themselves."

Westermann adds that students can practice math skills while whetting their taste buds by choosing a favorite dish to prepare: "Have your children dream up something yummy to eat [like] cookies, brownies or cinnamon rolls, then look online for a kid-friendly recipe," she said. "Children can hone their math skills through measuring. Monkey bread is a fun, easy and yummy recipe for children."

Using modern technology to connect with family members who live in other parts of the country is another indoor pastime, say experts. "Call, Skype or Facetime and read to grandparents or other family members," said Melideo. "Children practicing reading before for an audience helps them develop fluency. Parents should encourage them to rehearse beforehand. They can also read a poem or something that they wrote. This is also a self-esteem boosting exercise because they get positive feedback from the grandparents or relatives."

Melideo concludes by suggesting scavenger and treasure hunts: "You can even start with an outdoor hunt where the treasure brings them back inside to find hot cocoa and cookies."

Winter Fun with Food Easy and tasty ideas for winter meals.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

The stove is fired-up, a sauté pan is sizzling and the thud of a steel knife blade hitting a wooden chopping block fills the air along with the woodsy aroma of fresh thyme. The temperature outside is frigid, but the kitchen feels like an inferno as Chef Kristen Robinson drives a knife through a fennel bulb, kale leaves and a tough-skinned butternut squash with staccato succession.

"One of my favorite things to cook in winter is potpie with beef, kale and potatoes or squash," she said.

While many people lose culinary inspiration during the winter, Robinson, a self-admitted "food nerd," relishes the chance to create cold-weather meals with fresh, seasonal bounty. She and other local chefs say that even though the days are shorter, the temperatures colder and energy levels lower, winter meals can be just as inspired as fare served during more temperate times of the year.



Arlington-based Chef Kristen Robinson says that even though the days are shorter, the temperatures colder and energy levels lower, winter meals can be just as inspired as fare served during more temperate times of the year.

"Some people find cooking in winter challenging because a lot of people are focused on eating tomatoes and tomato salads in the dead of winter when those vegetables are not in season," said Robinson, an Arlington resident and culinary instructor at the Art Institute of Washington. "There are a lot of vegetable options like kale, butternut or acorn squash and potatoes."

In the Alexandria kitchen of nutritionist Bonita Lillie of Arlington's Marymount University, a chill in the air heralds the arrival of piquant broth-based soups brimming with whole grain penne, cannelloni beans and kale, and showered Parmesan cheese.

"I take advantage of all the vitamin-packed winter produce," said Lillie. "I start building my meals around the vegetable, then I'd probably have lower fat turkey sausage and maybe a side of beans. Cheese and beans also make good, hearty meals."

Arlington-based culinary instructor Andie Nelson says her biggest cold-weather culinary hurdle is that her vigor drops along with the temperatures: "Like most people, I have less energy in winter," said Nelson.

"So I spend one day making satisfying a meal that I can eat for a few days."

On her list of winter must-haves is a stew made with beef that she marinates overnight, Asian-style soups and shepherd's pie with ground turkey instead of beef. "Other simple ideas are root vegetables like carrots, parsnips and sweet potatoes that I roast with sea salt and olive oil," said Nelson. "I also make crispy kale where I remove the leaves from the stems, sprinkle the leaves with sea salt and olive oil and roast for about 20 minutes. They make a great snack."

Chicken and vegetable potpies are another of Limb's favorites: "It is not very difficult matter. It is a matter of getting the right vegetables like celery, carrots and onions, and boiling them with the chicken."

Robinson adds that many vegetarians feel left with limited options during winter months. "I make a vegetarian bulgar wheat, quinoa, pink lentils and mushroom," said Robinson. "It eats like a hearty, meaty chili. Another thing you can add to vegetarian chili is barley."

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NEWS

Legislators Weigh Less Transparency

FROM PAGE 1

documents from the commission, which operates totally outside of public oversight.

"It's a ridiculous situation where we have this body that regulates all kinds of utilities and serves as this regulatory body, but we can't know anything about it," said Mark Caramanica, Freedom of Information director for Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "I think it's high time that the legislature made that body subject to the open records laws."

Surovell's bill will not become law this year because it was "laid on the table" during a subcommittee of the General Laws Committee last week. But it was referred to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council, a panel that makes recommendations to the General Assembly. If members of the council approve the effort to open documents from the State Corporation Commission, the initiative would have momentum headed into the next General Assembly session because legislators tend to rely on the council for direction.

"Everything they do should be done, from my point of view, with maximum sunshine," said Surovell. "There are some functions they do that are more in the nature of a court, but the regulatory work should be subject to public scrutiny."

One bill under consideration would allow local governments to do away with the requirement to advertise procurement notices. Currently local public bodies are required to publish requests for proposals in a newspaper. But a bill introduced by Virginia Beach Del. Ronald Villanueva (R-21) would ditch the requirement for public scrutiny. Instead, the bill suggests the notifications could be posted on a govern-

ment website.

"This is a terrible idea, and we're going to the mat on this one," said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. "This bill obscures what your local government is doing."

Another bill that advocates for open government are opposing is House Bill 1524, which would shield documents from local parks and recreation departments in Virginia. Currently, parents can opt out of public disclosure by checking a box on application forms saying they do not wish their child's information to be public. This bill would reverse that situation, making secrecy the default position. Parents would have to opt in to public disclosure rather than opting out.

"That's a dangerous approach," said Caramanica. "We shouldn't be operating from a position where we are going to presume everything is private."

Police agencies enjoy a broad exemption that allows law-enforcement agencies to shield complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements and evidence. Efforts to make some of that information — even in closed cases — more available have been rejected in previous years when police and prosecutors have lobbied for secrecy. This year, a debate unfolded about records related to child abuse and exploitation. The Virginia Press Association wanted to make some information available, such as a summary of the documents or even the number of violations. The Department of State Police argued that all of the information should remain secret.

"We could not come to a compromise," said Stanley. "And the bill was withdrawn."



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OPINION

Extreme, But Brief, Volunteering

More than 150 volunteers needed to survey chronic homeless three days in February.

The real solution to homelessness is housing. This week in Northern Virginia, a point-in-time survey will record all of the “literally homeless” individuals and families in the region. Last year, on Jan. 25, 2012, there were 1,534 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community; 697 of them were single individuals and 837 were people in families. A third of the total number of homeless were children. Nearly 60 percent of the adult members of the homeless families were employed.

Later in February, the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to End Homelessness will embark on a new, intensive approach to identify the nearly 300 people who are chronically homeless, living on the street or in the woods around the county. This is part of a national effort, 100,000 Homes.

Volunteers will create a registry, including names, photographs and personal stories of all individuals experiencing chronic homelessness

in the area. The information gathered will identify particularly vulnerable people, and help prioritize housing and support resources. The county’s goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

The effort is not without precedent. Arlington’s registry week was in October 2011, and identified 153 homeless individuals, with more than half at risk of dying on the streets. Since then, more than 30 homeless people identified as vulnerable have been placed in permanent housing. Arlington’s campaign is on target to fulfill the goal of housing 100 people in three years.

The Fairfax effort, 100,000 Homes Fairfax, kicks off on Feb. 23 with Registry Week, a multi-day event where volunteers go out on the streets and gather information to create a name and photographic registry.

It will require the work of more than 150 volunteers countywide. Most will help conduct surveys with homeless individuals on the

streets for three days during registry week. Others will help with data entry and other support roles.

It’s a big commitment but also an opportunity to be a part of real change for some of the area’s most vulnerable people. Volunteer efforts on those days will most certainly lead to saving lives.

Survey volunteers make a four-day commitment, a half-day of training plus working three mornings (4-7 a.m.) in teams of four to interview homeless individuals for the registry. The same team of four must survey the assigned geographical area all three days. Survey volunteers will need to be available: Saturday, Feb. 23, overview and training, noon-4 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 25, 26, 27, team survey, 4-7 a.m.

The Registry Week will wrap up with a presentation to the community on March 1.

Other volunteers will help set up for the volunteer training and/or assist at headquarters each survey morning by setting up food, helping with cleanup and answering volunteer questions. You can register online and learn more at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/100khomes/registry-week.htm>

EDITORIAL

Redistricting Shenanigans Distract General Assembly

BY ADAM EBBIN
STATE SENATOR (D-30)

From constitutional amendments and uranium mining to electoral reform and redistricting, the General Assembly is dealing with a wide range of issues this year in our fast-paced 46-day session.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Three Constitutional amendments that I co-sponsored passed the Senate easily — to restore voting rights to non-violent felons who have served their time (passed 30-10), to establish a bipartisan redistricting commission (34-6) and to allow governors to serve two consecutive terms (25-15). I argued that a governor seeking reelection is more accountable to the voters who would evaluate whether they kept their promises. It could also provide for more continuity in budgeting, projects, and state agencies. The amendments will now be considered by the House of Delegates.

REDISTRICTING

You have probably heard about the controversial redistricting measure (HB259) that was abruptly pushed through the Senate on Martin Luther King Day. Senate Republicans waited to vote on the bill until Inauguration Day when a key Democrat, Virginia civil rights icon Senator Henry Marsh III, was attending the President’s inauguration. What began as so-called “technical adjustments” to House districts unexpectedly morphed into legislation dramatically changing all 40 Senate districts, and it was shoved through the Senate without any public discussion or analysis. (In contrast, in 2011 Virginians had the opportunity to hear



about and weigh in on the redistricting plans for over six months.) Furthermore, Virginia’s Constitution clearly states that redistricting shall take place “in the year 2011 and every 10 years thereafter,” and just last year the Richmond Circuit Court ruled off-year redistricting unconstitutional. I was shocked by the actions taken by my Republican Senate colleagues to redraw the district lines in such a blatantly unconstitutional and divisive manner.

MY LEGISLATION

On a bipartisan note, I am pleased to report that many of my bills are successfully working their way through the Senate. SB871, dealing

with asbestos worker safety, unanimously passed the Senate, and a modified version of SB965 regarding the reporting of lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement passed 36-4. SB701, my bill codifying the state’s nondiscrimination policy and include protections on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, passed the Senate 24-16. My bill SB969 to repeal the Reconstruction-era law against unmarried adults cohabitating passed the Courts committee unanimously and now heads to the floor. While U.S. and Virginia Supreme Court decisions make it clear the law is unconstitutional, it still needs to be removed from the Code of Virginia. After all, the reality of today is not the reality of 1877.

Some of my other major bills are still in committee, like SJ319 (requiring adequate contri

SEE REDISTRICTING, PAGE 8

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reform County’s Appointment Process

To the Editor:

In August 2010, Supervisor Hyland constituted a visioning task force to study the Mount Vernon District and create a comprehensive report concerning the next 25 years. I was proud to be chosen as a member of its land use committee. At the first meeting of the task force, Supervisor Hyland compared and contrasted the “top down” governing style of our sister city Harbin in Communist China with what he described as his “bottom up” governing style in which he allegedly listens to his constituents and makes appropriate decisions

for our District. That was the basis for the task force.

(<http://connection.membershipsoftware.org/article.asp?article=344284&paper=69&cat=104>)

Fast forwarding to the present, I have sadly concluded that the manner by which our County Board of Supervisors (BOS) makes appointments to Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, is more closely aligned with the Chinese “top down” model. The end of December, Glenda Booth’s term as a member of the Wetlands Board expired. There was no public announcement of this fact nor could one find out about it from the county website. Had I not made a specific inquiry with Supervisor

SEE LETTER, PAGE 8

Mount Vernon Gazette

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A Connection Newspaper

Week of Sunshine, Online Textbooks and Car Title Lenders

BY SCOTT A. SUROVELL
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)



Last week in the General Assembly was a busy one. I have introduced 15 bills, three constitutional amendments, one study resolution, seven budget amendments, and I am Chief Co-Patron on four bills. In two days, I presented 12 bills, cast about 300 votes at four different committee hearings and two floor sessions. As a child of the '80s, it's more like the late stages of Atari Missile Command.

Three of my bills were referred to study commissions. One would require the State Corporation Commission (SCC) to abide by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The SCC is an independent agency that regulates Virginia utilities, insurance, securities and corporations. My legislation to allow real estate brokers to determine who can close down their business upon death was also referred to the Housing Commission for analysis. Right now, it's a race to the Realtor Board which is unfair to owners and heirs. I also presented legislation highlighting the problems of low-income and rural children could have accessing online text

books if schools move that direction. Three different Fairfax County students travelled to Richmond and testified including Cameron Coleman from Carl Sandburg Middle School. Each youngster talked about classmates without broadband or computers at home who could not do their homework. My legislation was referred to the Virginia Broadband Commission and Virginia Commission on Technology for study.

Several of my bills were killed this week. Currently, it's harder to prove breath alcohol concentrations in personal injury cases, than criminal prosecutions. It's usually the other way around because the legal system creates higher burdens when liberty is at stake instead of only money. My legislation to streamline evidentiary requirements was killed largely because the insurance industry argued that holding drunk drivers accountable for the injuries they cause would increase insurance premiums.

The General Assembly broadened car title lending in the 2011 session over my objection. Since then, seven new non-bank lenders have appeared on U.S. 1 and there are

now 11 car title lenders, pay day lenders, check cashers or "We Buy Gold" shops between Huntington Avenue and Woodlawn. I am troubled by these businesses because if a consumer borrows \$1,500 from a car title lender at the Virginia maximum legal interest rate of 22 percent per month for 12 months, they have to pay back over \$5,400. This is predatory.

The U.S. 1 corridor has 10 percent of Fairfax County's population and over 30 percent of its licensed car title lenders. Our proximity to the District of Columbia and Maryland (and a casino very soon) — who have tight restrictions on these businesses — creates even more demand. While Fairfax County has always had the authority to limit pawn brokers and currently limits them to one per supervisor district, the county has no zoning authority to limit others.

My legislation was killed unanimously after the car title lender lobbyists testified that they were only responding to demand and that the free market should govern. We need more high-end, family-oriented businesses in the U.S 1 corridor — not car title lenders and quick cash joints.

The Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee, on which I serve, approved legislation prohibiting Virginia law enforcement and governments from cooperating in the

enforcement of any new federal gun laws enacted after the Newtown, Conn., incident. I voted no. I crossed examined the advocates in committee. One delegate pointed out that he was unaware of a successful state nullification effort since the end of the Civil War at Appomattox, but that doesn't seem to dissuade my colleagues. The bill passed on a party-line vote and goes to the full House this week.

We are still waiting to see what happens on redistricting of state Senate districts. I will vote no on any attempt to draw new district lines outside of the decennial cycle.

Legislation making texting a primary offense and chargeable as reckless driving is moving. I am partnering with several Republican legislators in my four-year fight to realign seats on the Commonwealth Transportation Board to get Northern Virginia fairer representation. I am also actively involved in bipartisan rewrites of several Virginia renewable energy laws.

Finally, I have posted a 30-minute interview with me and two other delegates with Cable Reports on my online newsletter — The Dixie Pig — at scottsurovell.blogspot.com. Please email your views and suggestions at scottsurovell@gmail.com.

It is an honor to serve as your delegate.

Redistricting Shenanigans Distract General Assembly

FROM PAGE 7

butions to the Virginia Retirement System) and SB1233 (allowing students approved for Deferred Action status by the

U.S. Department of Homeland Security to qualify for in-state tuition).

To read more about what I'm up to, visit www.adamebbin.com. Your input helps me

represent you better. Call my office at 804-698-7530 or email me at district30@senate.virginia.gov to share your opinion or if we can be of assistance.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

Hyland's office, I couldn't have known about it. The Friday before the BOS meeting of Nov. 20, 2012, the agenda for that meeting was published on the county website and included over 70 nominations to positions on boards, authorities, and commissions the BOS indicated would be voted upon at that meeting. However, only a handful of those prospective appointments actually listed the name of the nominee. Among the names omitted was the nominee for Ms. Booth's seat on the Wetlands Board.

On Nov. 19, 2012, I sent the BOS a letter explaining why, in my opinion, Ms. Booth should not be reappointed (if in fact she was nominated). Supervisor Hyland deferred the nomination to the Dec. 4, 2012 BOS meeting. I met with him on Dec. 3, 2012, and he informed me of his intention to defer the nomination again so that he would have an opportunity to discuss possible reappointment with Ms. Booth. On Jan. 25, 2013, I checked the county website and found the nomination listed but still with no identification of the nominee. Over the weekend, I e-mailed Supervisor Hyland and asked him to (1) defer the nomination to the next BOS meeting, and (2) immediately announce the identity of his nominee

so that his constituents could provide comments pro and con. Supervisor Hyland didn't respond and neither deferred the nomination nor identified the nominee.

On Jan. 28, 2013, the day before the BOS meeting, I telephoned the BOS clerk to determine whether a nominee had been identified. None had yet been identified. I telephoned Supervisor Hyland's office and found that he wasn't available. The morning of the BOS meeting, barely one hour before the meeting commenced, the BOS clerk was finally able to inform me that, in fact, Ms. Booth would be nominated for reappointment. This scenario thwarted any possibility of members of the public weighing in on this nomination one way or the other since it wasn't previously possible to find out who was nominated. Perhaps this is the way appointments are made in China, but it is disgraceful that this is the way they are made in Fairfax County. Sadly, this scenario is typical of county appointments.

On Dec. 17, 2012, I sent a letter to BOS Chairman Sharon Bulova decrying the manner by which the BOS makes appointments, devoid of transparency, and requesting reform. Subsequently, my letter to the Gazette was published addressing the same issue. I have yet to receive a reply from Chairman Bulova nor has the BOS's technique for

making appointments changed. At the Jan. 29, 2013 BOS meeting, fully 100 appointments were ratified in the space of perhaps 30 seconds. The published board agenda identified fewer than 20 percent of the nominees. Not a single nominee was orally identified at the BOS meeting. Using governing techniques designed to shorten BOS meetings is no substitute for governing democratically. What likely passes for governance in China is unacceptable in Fairfax County.

One footnote: The Mount Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce got wind of the vacancy on the Wetlands Board and urged Supervisor Hyland "to change the composition of the Wetlands Board to better reflect the community." They also gave the supervisor the names of three alternate candidates. Recently, another Mount Vernon position on the Wetlands Board opened up through the resignation of Raymond Murphy. Supervisor Hyland nominated one of the three people recommended by the chamber to that position, Gavin Carter, and he was appointed by the BOS on Jan. 29. While this development is commendable, it does not change the fact that reform of the appointment process must occur. Now.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Final Performances

Beyond the Page Theatre Company of West Potomac High School continues "The Night of the Living Dead" on 7 p.m., Friday, Feb. 1 and 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 2. Tickets are \$10. All performances are at West Potomac High School in the Kogelman Theatre at 6500 Quander Road. Tickets are available at the door. Above is Caleb Norville.

Correction

In coverage of West Potomac High School's Science Fair [Mount Vernon Gazette, Jan. 24-30], the article omitted the name of Jarod Worden who also won first place in the plant science category.

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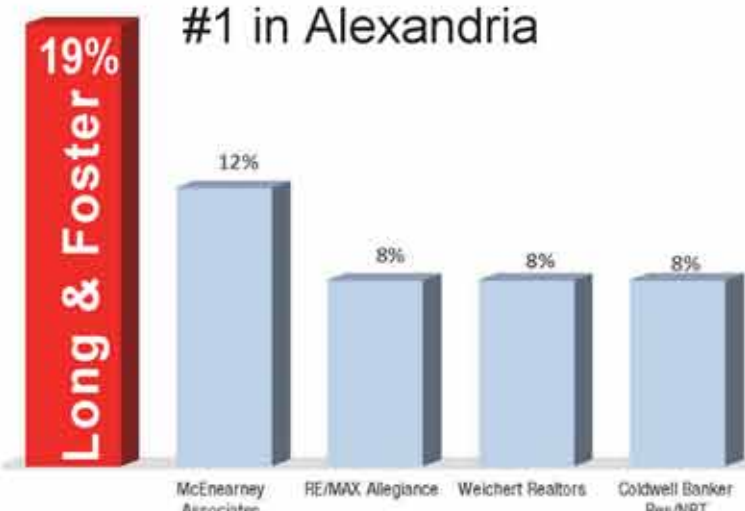
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WINTER FUN

A Lullaby To Birdland

MetroStage premieres “Ladies Swing the Blues.”

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE GAZETTE

Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee. Their voices defined the history of jazz alongside the likes of Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk and Miles Davis. But it is the indomitable influence of Charlie “Bird” Parker that sets the stage for “Ladies Swing the Blues: A Jazz Fable,” now playing at MetroStage.

Set in 1955 at New York City’s famed Birdland jazz club, “Ladies Swing the Blues” imagines the backstage stories of Parker’s life as told through a vocal tapestry woven together by the voices of Ella, Sassy, Lady and Lee on the night following the untimely death of Parker at the age of 34.

“It was an electrifying evening,” said vice Mayor Allison Silberberg following the Jan. 24 performance. “The stories embedded in the music were captivating and the talent in the show was phenomenal.”

Making its world premiere at MetroStage, “Ladies” is an original musical with book and lyrics by Thomas W. Jones II and music by William Knowles. Under the direction of Jones, the incomparable talents of the cast soar to the sounds of the on-stage jazz ensemble.

Anthony Manough is Bird, the tragic Charlie Parker, whose life is seen in flashbacks told by Ella (Lori Williams), Sassy (Yvette Spears), Lady (Roz White) and Lee (Sandy Bainum).

Manough’s silken tenor vocals are especially sublime in the upper octaves, while the incredibly gifted Williams, Spears,

White and Bainum put on a powerful display of vocal flexibility and dexterity that repeatedly brings the audience to its feet.

A Helen Hayes award-winning composer and musical director, Knowles (on piano) reshapes familiar melodies like “Fever,” “Round Midnight,” and “Billie’s Blues” with unexpected notes and arrangements that showcase the talents of Grant Langford (alto sax), Doug Pierce (trumpet), Cheyney Thomas (bass) and Greg Holloway (drums).

The 25-song pulsating score is augmented with original tunes by Knowles, including “Bye, Bye Baby Girl,” a poignant duet sung by Bainum and Manough following the death of Parker’s 2-year-old daughter.

Filled with music that will seduce and move generations to come, “Ladies Swing the Blues” is a tour de force production for MetroStage and Artistic Director Carolyn Griffin.

“I am so excited to be doing this show in this space,” said Griffin of the converted lumber warehouse in North Old Town. “You can feel the music ... you can touch it here. Birdland has nothing on us.”

“Ladies Swing the Blues,” now through March 17, at MetroStage, 1201 N. Royal St. Call 703-548-9044 or visit metrostage.org.



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE GAZETTE

Anthony Manough, Sandy Bainum, Thomas Jones, Carolyn Griffin, Yvette Spears, William Knowles, Lori Williams and Roz White celebrate following the Jan. 24 performance of “Ladies Swing the Blues” at MetroStage.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BANKS

Yvette Spears, Lori Williams, Anthony Manough, Roz White and Sandy Bainum appear in MetroStage’s “Ladies Swing the Blues,” onstage through March 17.

CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon.

ONGOING

Homeschool Studio Class.

Beginning in February at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 6-10 can participate. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

Occupied City: Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.

At The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington Street. Open daily through September, this exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. See how Robert E. Lee’s hometown was transformed literally overnight from a prosperous

commercial port into a supply, hospital, and transportation center for the Union Army, and find out why Alexandria became a destination for African Americans seeking freedom. Explore the experiences of Alexandrians and others who lived here during this tumultuous time, through their own words, as well as in period photographs and collections items. The Lyceum is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, from 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Art Exhibit. Alexandria artist Francis Seeger will display “People” in the Athenaeum Gallery, 201 Prince St. through Feb. 24. Free. Features a number of the artist’s larger figural paintings. Often appearing to be waiting for time to pass or expressing a touch of boredom, Seeger’s subjects are captured with vibrant palette.

Visit www.nvfaa.org or 703-548-0035.

Life in Civil War Alexandria Exhibition.

Daily exhibit traces life in Alexandria following Virginia’s decision to secede from the Union in May 1861. Through September at The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, 201 South Washington St. Open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, 1-5 p.m. Suggested admission \$2. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703-746-4994.

Tavern Toddlers. Mondays, 10:30 a.m.-noon. Mondays through the end of April. Designed for walkers through 36 months and their caregivers. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime in Gadsby’s historic ballroom. Gadsby’s Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THROUGH MARCH 17

Theater Performance. “Ladies Swing the Blues,” a world premiere by Thomas W. Jones II and William Knowles at Metrostage, 1201 N. Royal St. Explore the jazz folklore, mythologies and backstage stories of the ‘40s and ‘50s with four legendary jazz divas as they gather to commemorate the passing of jazz legend Charlie Parker. Performances are Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets \$50 (students \$25). For tickets call 800-494-8497 or visit www.metrostage.org, Groups/Info 703-548-9044. Fully accessible, free parking.

WEDNESDAY/JAN.30

Robert Earl Keen. 7:30 p.m. \$39.50, all standing in the flex stage. The

Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Author Series. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. William Burton McCormick will discuss his book “Lenin’s Harem.” Free.

Time for 2s. 11 a.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

E-book Training. 7 p.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Learn how to use Alexandria Library’s e-book collection on your e-reader, smartphone, mp3 player or computer. Free. 703-746-1705.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 12-24 months can

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 12

enjoy songs, games and interactive fun. Free. 703-746-1703.

Stories to Grow On. Children ages 2 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and interactive fun at 11 a.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Free. 703-746-1703.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Music. Blackstreet featuring Teddy Riley will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Story Time. 10:30 a.m. or 3 p.m. at Charles Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Children ages 3-5 years. Free. Registration required. 703-746-1702 ext. 5.

Mother Goose Time. 10 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. One-year-olds can sing, enjoy fingerplays and bounces. Free. 703-746-1705.

Story Time. 11 a.m. at James Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories, play time and a craft. Free. 703-746-1705.

Pajama Party. 7 p.m. at Ellen Coolidge Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Pajamas optional, but children ages 3-6 can enjoy stories, songs, games and crafts. Free. 703-746-1704.

Story Time. 4 p.m. at Kate Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Children ages 3 and up can enjoy stories, songs, movement and more, including a weekly craft or short film. Free. 703-746-1703.

THROUGH JAN. 31

Art Exhibit. Multiple Exposures Gallery in Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. See Clifford Wheeler's "Axis: Bold as Love, The Luthier's Art." Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

Opening Reception. 7-10 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Meet some of the artists from "Dot and Dash." Free. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Open Mic Poetry Reading. 8-10 p.m. at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub, 2300 Mount Vernon Ave. New and experienced poets welcome. Free. Visit www.stelmoscoffee.pub.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the exciting world with some stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Charles Ross One Man Star Wars Trilogy. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit www.onemanstarwars.com/. The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Coin Show. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Holiday Inn Express Springfield, on the corner of Highway 95 and Old Keene Mill Road. Features 50 tables with coins, currency and numismatic collectibles. Door prizes for the first 500 people. Raffle for gold and silver coins. Visit



Ritual Returns

Designer shopping at bargain prices will arrive with the 8th Annual Old Town Boutique District Warehouse Sale, Saturday, Feb. 2 in Alexandria. The one-day shopping event featuring high-end boutique merchandise will be held at the George Washington Masonic Memorial from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Founded in 2005, the annual clearance sale has attracted a large audience of shoppers traveling to Alexandria from as far away as Richmond and Pennsylvania.

Shoppers will find the best brands of clothing, shoes, jewelry, home furnishings and more up to 80 percent off retail prices. The most serious fashion fans line up early in the morning to get the first look at the top label merchandise.

www.alexandriacoinclub.com.

Washington Gardener Magazine

Seed Exchange. 12:30-4 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. \$10/FROGS and WG magazine subscriber; \$15/other. Enjoy lectures, seed swaps and more. Register at 703-642-5173.

Warehouse Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Presented by the Old Town Boutique District. Visit



Participating stores and local designers include: Andrea D'Ambrosia Studio, Pink and Brown Boutique, Apple Seed, Red Barn Mercantile, Fornash, Gossypia, Toka + Chris, The Christmas Attic, Hysteria, The Little Monogram Shop, J McLaughlin, The Shoe Hive, Lawrence Miller & Co., Top It Off Accessories, Mint Condition, Queen Bee Designs, Mystique Jewelers, Zoe Boutique and Periwinkle.

Visit www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com

www.oldtownboutiquedistrict.com for more.

Wee Ones Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. Children up to age 2 can explore the exciting world with some stories and songs. Free. Visit www.hooray4books.com or 703-548-4092.

Exhibition of Wearable Art" at Target Galley in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more on the exhibit.

SUNDAY/FEB. 3

Choral Evensong. 5-6 p.m. at Historic Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. Enjoy a service of evening prayer

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

FEB. 2 THROUGH MARCH 3

Art Exhibit. See "Fabricated: An

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6:30 pm Mass (from Sept. 9
until mid June)

Weekdays

(Mass or Communion
Service) 9:00 am (followed by Rosary)

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Mass (English)

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WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 13

with choral music. Free. Visit www.HistoricChristChurch.org or 703-549-1450.

Film Day. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch “Dream Girls” in honor of African-American History Month. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703-746-1702.

THROUGH FEB. 3

Art Exhibit. Scope Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., presents “Illuminations,” a cozy ambiance that can be achieved with the glow from handcrafted ceramic lamps, lanterns and more. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Special Photography Exhibit. At-risk Alexandria girls who participated in the “Space of Her Own” mentorship program will have two photos that they took and subsequently developed in a darkroom on display at The Art League in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Free. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

MONDAY/FEB. 4

Deadline for Submission. All entries for Target Gallery’s open exhibit can be submitted to the gallery at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

THROUGH FEB. 4

Art Exhibit. “Winter Impression” at Enamelists Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Showcases the cold, snow, ice and cool colors of winter beauty. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Discussion. Dr. Peter Matic presents “The Insightful Image: Scientific Understanding You Can See” from 6-8 p.m. at Morrison House, 116 S. Alfred St. Free. Visit www.morrisonhouse.com or 703-838-8000.

Concert Tour. Alfie Boe, who starred as Jean Valjean in the 25th anniversary concert of “Les Miserables” in London will perform at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com/Alfie-Boe-tickets or www.birchmere.com.

Swing Dance. 9-11 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Swing dance with Tom Koerner and Debra Sternberg. Free. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more.

IHOP’s National Pancake Day. Participating local IHOPs celebrate by giving away one free short stack of



pancakes to all who dine throughout the day. A much-anticipated event, all proceeds that day benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s National Capital Area Chapter, with the hopes that patrons will make a donation to LLS in lieu of payment for pancakes. Visit www.lls.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

Concert Tour. Alfie Boe, who starred as Jean Valjean in the 25th anniversary concert of “Les Miserables” in London will perform at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. For tickets visit www.ticketmaster.com/Alfie-Boe-tickets or www.birchmere.com.

Lecture. 7 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Dr. Peter Henriques will discuss why George Washington decided to stop being friends with George Mason, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. \$12/person; \$10/GTMS member and volunteer. Reservations recommended. 703-746-4242.

Movie. 6:45 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Watch a noir romance starring Humphrey Bogart and Gloria Grahame. A discussion will follow at St. Elmo’s Coffee Pub. Free. Call 703-746-1705 for title.

Atomic Swing Club. 9-11 p.m. at Nick’s Nightclub, 642 S. Pickett St. \$10. Visit www.gottaswing.com for more.

WEDNESDAYS THROUGH FEB. 6

Picture Writing: Literacy through Art. 7-8:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to an approach to writing that integrates visual modes of thinking at every stage of the writing process. \$150/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

THURSDAY/FEB. 7

Art Focus Group. 7:30-9 p.m. Printmaking — explore both direct and indirect print-making processes with stamping and mono-print trays. Classes are \$25 each or \$200 for the 10 class series. A school or group of teachers can share the registration for the full series. At 2804 Sherwood

Mountain Music

Discover surprising links between Appalachia and Nepal at the Mountain Music Project, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8-10:30 p.m. at The Lyceum. Free for members (donation requested) and \$20 for non-members. The Lyceum is located at 201 South Washington St. Visit <http://mountainmusicproject.com/>.

Hall Ln. Call 703-201-1250.

Performance. Sera Cahoon opens for Kathleen Edwards at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Creative Writing Session. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Get the creative juices flowing with the help of Camilla Clocker and Julie Ellis. Free, open to the public. 703-765-4573.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Organ Recital. 7:30 p.m. at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road. Kyle Babin, director of music, will present works by Bach, Byrd and more. Free will offering. 703-549-1980.

Chamber Players Concert. 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Hear the United States Air Force Band brass trio and brass soloists. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

FEB. 8 THROUGH MARCH 17

Art Exhibit. See Matthew D. Kiehl’s “Craft and Character: Wasteland” at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery. See an exploration of pen and ink on paper. Free.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Children’s Art Workshop. 1-3 p.m. at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Children ages 5-12 can enjoy expressing their creativity in this hands-on workshop. \$10/DRA member; \$12/non-member. Registration first-come, first served and 30 students max. Register by Feb. 3 at www.TheDelRayArtisans.org.

Music Performance. Celebrate the City of Alexandria with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony, the Alexandria Choral Society and more at 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$5/youth; \$10/student; and start at \$40 for adults. 703-548-0885.

Civil War Songs & Letters. 7 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Dead Men’s Hollow will perform songs of

the Civil War and new, original songs about the war; actors will read letters and diary entries from that time period. Reception to follow. \$10/person.

Opening Reception. 3-5 p.m. at the Schlesinger Center Margaret W & Joseph L. Fisher Gallery. Meet Matthew D Kiehl and see his exploration of pen and ink on paper. Free.

Valentine’s Dinner and Dance. 7 p.m.-midnight at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy a cash bar, food and more. Proceeds benefit Progreso Literacy and Citizenship Center. Tickets are \$30/person and available at GSCC or Progreso LCC or at the door.

Lecture. 1:30 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Michael Lee Pope will discuss his new book “Shotgun Justice: One Prosecutor’s Crusade Against Crime and Corruption in Alexandria and Arlington.” Free. Light refreshments to follow.

Mountain Music Project. 8 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Watch the documentary “Mountain Music Project” and then enjoy some music. \$20/non-member; free for FSGW members, but donation requested. 301-717-4641.

Civil War Recruiting Day. 1-4 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Learn about period clothing and equipment, watch drills and more. Free.

Saturday Matinee Screening. 1:30 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Features a Tarzan movie starring Johnny Weismuller and a second film starring Abbott and Costello. Free. Call 703-746-1705 for titles.

Valentine’s Day Cookie Workshop. Three sessions at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. or 3 p.m. at Occasionally Cake, 207 King St. Participants will be able to decorate cookies, get a demonstration and a cookie box to take home. \$25/person. Reservations required at www.occasionallycake.com or 703-647-9638.

Teen Production. 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See “The Pink Panther Strikes Again.” \$10 available only at the door.

SUNDAY/FEB. 10

10,000 Maniacs. 7:30 p.m. \$35. Visit www.maniacs.com/ The Birchmere Music Hall is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or call 703-549-7500.

Ladies 18th-Century Tea. 3 p.m. or 3:15 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Sip the museum’s special blend and eat period-inspired delicacies. \$35/

person. Reservations required. 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. Celebrate the City of Alexandria with a performance by the Alexandria Symphony, the Alexandria Choral Society and more at 3 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Tickets are \$5/youth; \$10/student; and start at \$40 for adults. 703-548-0885.

Film Day. 2 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Watch “Akeelah & the Bee” in honor of African-American History Month. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703-746-1702.

Capital Wind Symphony Concert. 8 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, and \$5 discounts for seniors and students. The program will include works by Robert Russell Bennett, Malcolm Arnold, Wagner and Mendelssohn. For tickets and additional information, see www.capitalwindsymphony.org, or for other questions contact 703-822-8282.

Teen Production. 3 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See “The Pink Panther Strikes Again.” \$10 available only at the door.

THROUGH FEB. 10

Art Exhibit. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, located in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., has on display “QR Codes.” Free. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

Call for Applicants. Apply for the Visiting Artist Program for residency at the Torpedo Factory. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for details on how to apply.

MONDAY/FEB. 11

Performance. John Mayall celebrates “80th Birthday Celebration Tour!” at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall at the Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.birchmere.com or 703-549-7500 for tickets.

Deadline for Submission. All entries for “Trash Talk” can be submitted to Target Gallery, Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

Duncan Poetry Society Meeting. 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss the sonnets of William Shakespeare, bring a favorite to read, or, if time permits, read a piece of published or unpublished original work. Free. 703-747-1704.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15

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WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 14

TUESDAY/FEB. 12

Antique Furniture: Fake, Fraud or Genuine? 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Dr. Oscar Fitzgerald, local author and professor, will discuss the principles that guide antique dealers and collectors to distinguish the fake from the genuine and the masterpiece from the mistake. Free. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or 703-746-1702.

THROUGH FEB. 12

Introduction to Cartoon Drawing. 6-7:30 p.m. at Art at the Center, 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 8-12 will receive an introduction to materials, figure drawing, character creation and storyboarding. \$180/student. Register at www.artatthecenter.org or 703-201-1250.

FEB. 12 THROUGH MARCH 24

Art Exhibit. Multiple Exposures Gallery in the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St., will showcase work by three new artists: Tim Hyde, Soomin Ham and Fred Zafran. Each artist will showcase the world around us. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Reception and Juror Talk. 6-8 p.m. hear Rachel Timmins give a talk relating to "Fabricated: An Exhibition of Wearable Art" at Target Galley in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org/target for more on the exhibit.

Burlesque Revue. Doors open at 6 p.m. with the performance starting at 7:30 p.m. at Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. The Pontani Sisters will perform their Burlesque-A-Pades with music by Brian Newman. \$29.50/person. Visit www.birchmere.com or 800-745-3000 for tickets.

Thursday Art Night: Made with Love. 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Browse open studios, interact with artists and

more. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org or 703-838-4565.

FRIDAY/FEB. 15

Teen Production. 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See "The Pink Panther Strikes Again." \$10 available only at the door.

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

George Washington's Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy a taste of his favorite meal while supplies last, mingle with costumed characters and more. \$17/adult; \$8/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Birthnight Banquet and Ball. 5:30 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Includes an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation and more. Period costume optional, after-five attire encouraged. \$100/advance reservation; \$125 to sit in the main dining room with the Washingtons or \$200 to dine at the same table with the Washingtons. 703-746-4242.

Music Performance. 8 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The United States Air Force Band will play music for the viola. Free. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Patagonia Winds will perform music by Piazzolla, D'Rivera and more. \$10/adult; \$5/student, senior, military. Reception to follow.

Teen Production. 7:30 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road. See "The Pink Panther Strikes Again." \$10 available only at the door.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

George Washington's Birthday Celebration. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. Enjoy a taste of his favorite meal while supplies last, mingle with costumed characters and more. \$17/adult; \$8/children age 6-11; children under 5 are free. Visit www.mountvernon.org.



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West Potomac Gymnastics Sends Two to Regionals

The West Potomac gymnastics team fell one point shy of qualifying for regionals as a team, but two Wolverines will compete as individuals.

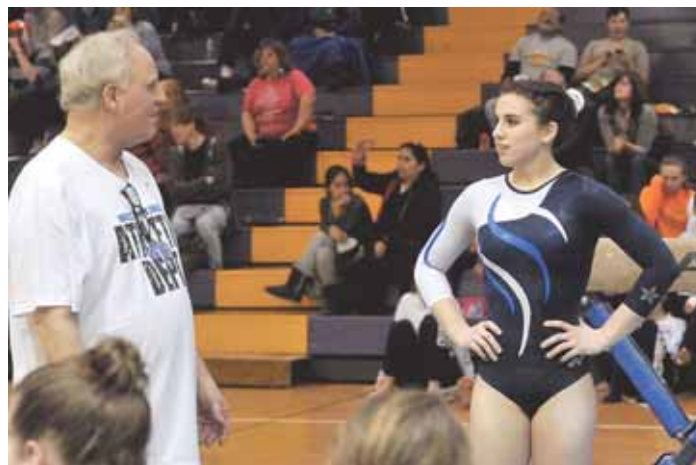
West Potomac finished third at the Patriot District gymnastics meet on Jan. 29 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. The Wolverines totaled a score of 117.275, which trailed champion Woodson (140.1) and runner-up Lake Braddock, which earned the other automatic berth with a score of 118.275.

Monica Thompson finished in the top eight all four events, earning a regional berth in each. Thompson placed third on beam (9.325), took sixth on floor (8.5) and finished seventh on vault (8.85) and bars (7.975).

Thompson finished sixth in the all-around with a score of 34.65. The top four finishers and any athlete with a score of 35 or more qualifies for regionals in the all-around.

Marien Voorhees also qualified for regional after she finished in an eight-place tie on vault (8.7).

Woodson's Simone Freidman won the all-around with a score of 38.1. Lake Braddock's Whitney King was second (37.575), T.C. Williams' Holland Cathey was third (36.3), Woodson's Rachael Talento



West Potomac's Monica Thompson, right, speaks with head coach Pete Novgrod at the Patriot District gymnastics meet on Jan. 29 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

placed fourth (35.8) and T.C. Williams' Grace Girard finished fifth (35.775).

Woodson won the team title with a score of 140.1. Lake Braddock finished second and earned the other team berth to regionals with a score of 118.275. West Potomac finished third with a score of 117.275, followed by West Springfield (109.4), Lee (108.375), South County (106.2), T.C. Williams (104.65) and Annandale (62.825).

West Potomac's Marien Voorhees competes on beam during the Patriot District meet on Jan. 29 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE GAZETTE

SPORTS BRIEFS

Softball Clinic

West Potomac will host a softball clinic on Feb. 3. The clinic is designed to prepare softball players for their upcoming seasons.

The clinic will be held in the West Potomac High School gymnasium. Session 1 is from 1-3 p.m. and is for grades 2-6. Session 2 is from 4-6:30 p.m. and is for grades 7-12. Visit westpotomacsports.org.

West Potomac Boys' Beats Woodson

The West Potomac boys' basketball team defeated Woodson 57-52 on Jan. 28. VirginiaPreps.com had ranked Woodson as the No. 1 public school boys' basketball team in the state of Virginia.

The win improved West Potomac to 10-7, including 7-3 in the Patriot District. The loss was Woodson's first in district play.

The Wolverines will host West Springfield at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

Women's Golf Begins

The Greendale Women's Golf Association will kick-off the 2013 golf season with a spring membership meeting March 28, 1:30 p.m. in the Kingstowne Library. GWGA is an 18-hole league that plays Thursday mornings at Greendale Golf Course. The league is open to experienced golfers of all abilities. Contact Jackie at 703-960-1441 or visit www.gwgl.wordpress.com.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is the Thursday at noon.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Open House. 10 a.m.-noon at Fort Hunt Cooperative Preschool on the grounds of Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.forthuntpreschool.com or 703-768-7584.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Information Session. 7-7:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Get information on the three elements of the International Baccalaureate Program. Free. If interested in the details of the new IBCC, contact Berkeley McHugh at BFMcHugh@fcps.edu or 703-619-3100. If interested in the details of the IBMYP certificates, contact Karen Hertel at KJHertel@fcps.edu or 703-619-3261.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

Informative Presentation. 6:30-8 p.m. at Mount Vernon High School Little Theatre. Ann Dolin will discuss how to manage a demanding schedule and find a balance between academics, sports and extracurricular activities, and how to plan and prepare for SAT/ACT tests and college applications. RSVP to dana.melvin@cox.net.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Documentary Screening. 7 p.m. at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Watch "Little Town of Bethlehem" and discuss it. Free. Refreshments provided. 703-721-0595 or gpourchot@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Boater Education Course. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 8592

Richmond Highway. This course meets all the state requirements to allow people to operate boats. Contact Rich Miller at eaglesailor75@cox.net or 703-780-3765 to get an enrollment form.

Mardi Gras. 8-11 p.m. at Don Beyer Volvo, 7416 Richmond Highway. Meet all 2013 democratic candidates for lieutenant governor and attorney general and vote for your choice in a straw poll. Enjoy a buffet, open bar, music, dancing and auction. \$45/person. Visit www.mvdemocrats.com for tickets.

Multicultural Fair. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hollin Meadows Elementary School, 2310 Nordok Place. Explore the sights, sounds and tastes of cultures around the world as students, families and professional groups share their talents and expertise.

THURSDAY/FEB. 14

Information Session. 9:20-9:50 a.m. at Mount Vernon High School. Get information on the three elements of the International Baccalaureate Program. Free. If interested in the details of the new IBCC, contact Berkeley McHugh at BFMcHugh@fcps.edu or 703-619-3100. If interested in the details of the IBMYP certificates, contact Karen Hertel at KJHertel@fcps.edu or 703-619-3261.

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

Genealogical Society Meeting. 1 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Hear a presentation on "Our Ancestors Did Not Live Alone," which talks about exploring the family of neighbors and other acquaintances to learn more about the ancestors. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org or 703-866-2478.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Meeting. Colonial Republican Women will meet from 6:30-9 p.m. at Virginia Hills Administration Center at Old Virginia Hills School, 6520 Diana Lane. Refreshments will be served. E-mail colonialrepublicanwomen@gmail.com or call

Debbie at 703-768-1934.

Mount Vernon Branch AAUW Meeting. 7 p.m. at Mt. Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parker's Lane. June Malina will discuss "How to Enrich Your Travels While Saving Money." Free. 703-395-9626 for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Fairfax County needs a **Meals on Wheels coordinator** for the Mount Vernon 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.

AARP Tax-Aide, a national volunteer-run tax counseling and preparation service for low to moderate income and elderly citizens, needs volunteers to electronically complete and file federal and state income tax forms for the 2013 tax season. The program offers free five-day training using IRS computers and software. Volunteers become IRS Certified Tax Counselors after completing and passing the IRS examination. Training sessions will be held in Annandale, Centerville and Alexandria in Jan. 2013. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

ONGOING

Postpartum Support Virginia sponsors a free, bi-monthly support group for women suffering depression and/or anxiety during pregnancy or in the first year following childbirth. Meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at Inova Alexandria Hospital, Health Education Center, rooms 1-2, 4320 Seminary Road. Contact co-moderator Susan Doyle at suzjdoyle@gmail.com or 571-403-0673.

The Boy Scout Troop 1906 is seeking members. They meet every Saturday morning at 9 a.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church Parsonage, 7836 Fordson Road. Visit www.boyscouts-ncac.org/colonial for more.

NEWS

Enhancing Gunston Hall Recruitment

FROM PAGE 1

former executive director David Reese fired education director Denise McHugh, a 20-year employee of the museum. Reese, who had been director since 2003, said the decision was based on financial considerations.

Critics of the decision said it violated the educational mission of the institution, and they launched a 15-month campaign to get rid of Reese. In April 2012, the Board of Regents removed Reese from his position.

"It seemed to me that there was a real

management problem," said Rob Hartwell, one of the leading voices calling for Reese's ouster, at the time. "I think the regents made the right decision."

Now supporters of Gunston Hall are trying to look forward as a national search is conducted to find a new director for the historic house museum. Because recent years have seen so much turmoil, supporters of the museum say the next director has a difficult job ahead. Members of the General Assembly will have the final say as to whether or not he or she will make more money than the last director.

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much
ostentation
and much
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met
together.

—Joseph Hall



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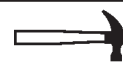
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21 Announcements

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Vasiliki Volioti, President.
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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Gladys Cordelia Bushrod, 103,
of Mason Neck (Lorton) VA peacefully
entered into eternal rest on Thursday,
January 24, 2013. She is preceded in
death by her husband, Courtney and her
two sons, Calvin and Maurice. Gladys
leaves four daughters to cherish her
memory; Lorraine B Jackson, Shirley
Giles (Carl), Gwendolyn Wright and
Barbara Strange (Theodore), sixteen
grandchildren, twenty-eight great
grandchildren, sixteen great-great
grandchildren and a host of other
relatives and friends.

A visitation for family and friends will be
held on Friday, Feb. 1 from 6:00 until
8:00 at Shiloh Baptist Church, 10704
Gunston Rd., Lorton, VA, where a view-
ing will take place on Sat., Feb. 2 from
11:00 a.m. until time of service at 12:00
p.m. Interment, Shiloh Baptist Church
Cemetery, Lorton, VA.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests
that a contribution be made to the Shi-
loh Baptist Church Building Fund in
Lorton.

Arrangements by Phillip Bell Sr. and
Winona Morrisette-Johnson, P.A.
www.bmjfuneralservice.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

**NOTICE OF FEBRUARY,
MARCH MEETINGS AND
APRIL ELECTION**

Dear Members:

Please note the following General Membership meetings of
the NAACP Alexandria Branch for the purpose of election
of officers and at-large members of the executive commit-
tee.

• On February 7, 2013, at Charles Houston Recrea-
tion Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA, there will
be an election of the Nominating Committee. All members
whose memberships are current as of 30 days prior to the
meeting date may be elected to the Nominating Commit-
tee.

• On March 7, 2013, at Charles Houston Recrea-
tion Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA, there will be
a report of the Nominating Committee, receipt of Nomina-
tions by Petition, and election of the Election Supervisory
Committee. All members whose memberships are current
as of August 1, 2012 may be nominated for office or as an
at-large member of the Executive Committee. In order to
sign a nominating petition, or be elected to the Election Su-
pervisory Committee, a member must be current as of 30
days prior to the March
meeting.

• On April 4, 2013, at Charles Houston Recreation
Center, 901 Wythe Street, Alexandria, VA, the election of
officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee
will take place. Polls will open from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. In
order to vote in a Branch election, one must be a member
in good standing of the Branch 30 days prior to the elec-
tion. A form of
identification is required.

We look forward to your participating in these activities.

Brenda Adams, Secretary

The biggest
things are
always the
easiest to do
because there is
no competition.
-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
William "Bill" Sawyers Darrough (Age 58)

On January 18, 2013, while on vacation in Freeport, Bahamas.
A lifelong resident of Alexandria, VA, he was active with the
Boy Scouts of America. He is survived by his wife of 32 years,
Phyllis Darrough; children, Mary Boden and Andrew Darrough;
brother, Kirk Darrough; sister, Rebecca Cordell; two nieces
and one nephew. Family and friends may gather on Friday,
February 1, 2013 from 2-4 & 6-8 pm at Everly-Wheatley Funer-
al Home, 1500 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria, VA 22302 where
funeral services will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2013 at
11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made
to The Claude McDonald Foundation (Camp Big Mac) c/o Mr.
and Mrs. William Crouch, 10322 Maremont Dr., Richmond, VA
23233. A guest register may be found at www.everlyfuneral-
homes.com

21 Announcements

OBITUARY
Dr. Bernard Greifer

Saturday, January 19, Bernard Greifer, 91, of Rockville, MD,
previously of Alexandria, VA. Bernie, son of Morris and Nettie
Greifer, was born in the Bronx, NY, December 22, 1921. He
graduated from City College of NY with a BS in chemistry. A
decorated war veteran of WWII, he received his MS from NYU
and his PHD from Carnegie Mellon University. Bernie was a
gifted scientist in the fields of organic and environmental chem-
istry. He was active in both the American Chemical Society
and Alpha Chi Sigma. Beloved husband of Ruth Greifer, loving
father of Carla Paris Teich, Helen Grimm, and Amy Godin,
grandfather to Andrew Paris, Rebecca and Jacob Grimm, and
Sophia and Shira Godin. He will be missed by family and
friends. Memorial contributions may be made to Agudas Achim
Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302.

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