

## **FAITH**

## P Minor of a Purim Paparazzi

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND DIRECTOR OF CHABAD OF RESTON-HERNDON

nstead of joining an exasperated press probing into prominent people's privacies, I will pursue celebrities like King Ahasuerus, Queen Esther and Vashti of Persia. I will serve a much greater purpose by presenting a better picture, or portrait, of the Megillah's principal personalities. It gives me the opportunity to report on the grand procession of Mordechai, Haman and his sons Parshandatha, Parmashta and Poratha, to name only three. Now, with the approach of Purim, I prefer to devote my expertise to promote the proper performance of the Purim procedures and its prerequisites.

Perhaps you are perplexed and perturbed why we make such a big production out of Purim, exaggerating it out of proportion to other projects or programs? Why must we twist ourselves into a pretzel with all this perennial Purim propaganda? I propose that this is precisely Purim's Problem. If Purim is not paramount in your mind, it probably needs more and better PR.

Purim represents the promise of Jewish perseverance under pressure and persecution. Although it transpired in Persia approximately 2,300 years ago, Purim is not an ancient anachronism, but part and parcel of the present. As the Baal Shem Tov paraphrased the Talmud: "One who reads the Megillah backwards has



Rabbi Leibel Fajnland

Purim is as current and contemporary as this newspaper.

Purim is pervaded by Divine Providence, as the Megillah prefaces with the Royal parties and profaning of the pure priestly vessels, the priceless perfumes, progressing with

Mordechai's premonition of peril, and the evil oppression and persecution perpetrated by Persia's prejudiced premier, Haman, may he and all his conspirators perish. Esther and the Jews prepare to preempt Haman's evil plot, while Mordechai is promoted to prominence, paraded in purple and imperial paraphernalia. Purim's profound principles may appear to be compromised by the peripheral pranks, silly improvisos, superficial pretenses, parodies and parades. Yet paradoxically, scriptural interpretation compares Purim to Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year!

Purim pertains to each and every one of us. It speaks to every person of every profile and persuasion, from the lowest to the uppermost; from

not fulfilled his a protesting preppie to a presiding provost; from obligation," for the poorest, perspiring paparazzi to the prim & proper president of Purdue U., or the paradigm of any other prosperous corporation.

> Rather than preach Purim principles in the abstract, we should be particular and specific, for proverbially, practice makes perfect. So here is a paragraph on Purim's Four important pre-

> 1) The Megillah parchment is proclaimed on Purim day, and the preceding night.

> 2) We send our friends and peers, by proxy, a pair of provisions: Hamantashen (poppy or prune), Perrier, Pringles, pirogen, pears, apricots, peppermint candy, or other appropriate foods portions, whether or not they have that persistent PR pronunciation, as long as they are edible.

3) It is imperative that we open our purse, and provide to the deprived on Poorim. We should proffer a coin (at least a quarter) each, to two poor persons. It is your prerogative how much to give, but the more the merrier. If you can't personally locate poor persons, participate by placing the proceeds into a pushka/

4) On Purim we partake of a Party, and pour a Ľchaim!

Happy Purim!

With thanks to Israel Rubin and Lechayim Magazine. For all Purim related questions and information visit www.chabadrh.org/purim

Rabbi Fajnland can be reached at Rabbi@chabadrh.org.

### FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiservices. Send to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church**, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or

www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Cen**ter,** Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds monthly classes for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. www.meditationdc.org or 202-986-2257.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, has Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are available during worship services. Youth and Adult Sunday School is held Sundays from 9:40-10:45 703-437-5500 www.trinityherndon.org.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. www.stannes-reston.org.



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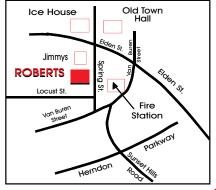
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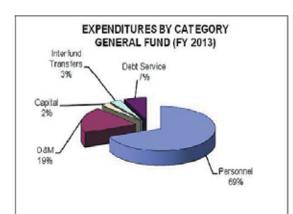
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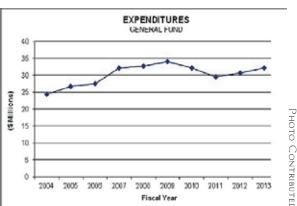
> **75% 75%**

**75%** 









The Town of Herndon's expenditures for the fiscal year 2013. The town is currently accepting public comment on the FY2014 budget.

## Town Seeks Budget Feedback

## Threat of sequestration looms as budget comes together.

BY ALEX McVeigh THE CONNECTION

s the Town of Herndon staff prepares the fiscal year 2014 budget, which will begin July 1, they are soliciting comments from town residents on how to formulate the budget. Per town rules, Town Manager Art Anselene must present a budget to the council by April 1.

Early input from citizens is an important part of the budget development process, and citizens are encouraged to share their views on programs and services that are most important to them," said Mary Tuohy, the town's direc-

tor of finance. "During the next six weeks town staff will continue formulating and refining the proposed budget document and supporting materials."

AFTER THE BUDGET is delivered, the council will conduct two public meetings on the proposed budget April 9 and 23. The budget must be adopted by

Tuohy said the town is not immune to the threat of sequestration, cuts in federal government spending, since much of the town's business base is in the contracting business.

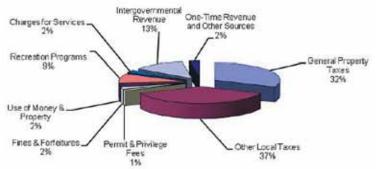
"Revenue channels that could be especially vulnerable are transient lodging and meals tax, and business license fees," she said. "A large portion of the town's economic base and major excise taxes are closely related to federal contracting opportunities in this community."

Councilmember Dave Kirby said people should keep in mind the possibility of "a considerable amount" of budget cuts should sequestration come

"If we do fall into sequestration fiscal rut, we need people to tell us how they think we can meet our budget. We may lose up to 25 percent of our budget if sequestration goes into full effect," he said. "If [federal government contractors] start thoughts are before passing budget so we can conlaying people off and closing up shop, we lose a lot of the taxes that they contribute to the bud-

Mayor Lisa Merkel estimated that half of the businesses that pay the town's business and professional license tax are related in some way to government

### REVENUES BY SOURCE **GENERAL FUND (FY 2013)**



The Town of Herndon's revenue sources for its fiscal year 2013 budget. The town is currently accepting comments on the FY2014 budget, and the effects of sequestration could affect many revenue streams for the town.

contracting.

While sequestration remains a major issue as the town's budget is constructed, Tuohy said there is another area of concern.

"Assessed property values within the town are expected to increase very modestly at two to three percent over assessments from last year," she said.

Richard Downer, co-chair of the Herndon Chamber of Commerce committee of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce spoke at the town's Feb. 12 public hearing and said the town would be wise to look ahead to the opening of Phase Two of Dulles

"I'd like to see the town set aside engineering money in the budget to take serious look at extension of Worldgate Drive. If Metro opens and that road is not pushed through and finished, I think we will have a first class bottleneck on our hands," he said. "And right now unfortunately we don't see any new development out there that's going to pay for it."

Councilmember Sheila Olem said she hopes all town residents will provide feedback.

"I hope all citizens feel the need to come forward with what they don't like about town services, what they think we're missing and what their sider all thoughts and desires before we finish it,"

MORE INFORMATION on the budget, and a comment submission form can be found at www.herndonPHOTO BY ALEX McVeigh/The Connection



Members of the Herndon Relay For Life unveil this year's theme at the Herndon Police Station Wednesday, Feb. 13. This is the 10th year of the event, which has raised more than \$300,000.

## Relay For Life Kicks off 10th Walk

## American Cancer Society event has raised more than \$300,000 over past decade.

By Alex McVeigh THE CONNECTION

he Herndon Relay For Life kicked off its 10th season of fundraising Wednesday, Feb. 13, at the Herndon Police Station. The walk, which benefits the American Cancer Society, has raised more than \$300,000 over the past decade, and is shooting for a goal of \$50,000 this year.

"I am privileged to be the staff partner for this event. We don't get to choose which event we work on, and I was delighted to get Herndon this year," said Shari True, a community manager with the American Cancer Society. "I was there in the beginning when we started the Herndon Relay, and it's a great community, I love working with everyone."

The Relay For Life is an overnight walk where teams gather at Herndon High School and walk to honor someone who has passed away, or survived, or cared for or even knows someone with cancer. Team members raise money to walk, then spend the evening walking around the track, with games and entertainment as well.

Herndon's first Relay For Life took place June 12-13, 2004 at Herndon High. The event raised more than \$120,000 and featured 59 teams of more than 600 participants.

"We like to think of ways to make people feel good about what they're doing," said Mary Glenn Mancini, a member of the event's planning committee. will be Saturday, June 8, at "Every year we've grown bigger Herndon High School. More and better, and we're looking forward to highlighting a lot of

teams this year."

As of Sunday, Feb. 17, 14 teams have registered for a total of 92 participants.

Michelle Daichman of Team Pixie Dust spoke at the event kick off. She started walking in 2003 in memory of her mother, and last year her team participated in 10 events around the country, including the Relay in Arlington.

"I watched my mom go through treatments and drug cocktails and tests and the hardest thing for me was seeing her lose her beautiful curly hair," she said. "It was hard to be a defenseless 18-year-old with no way to save the person who would literally put her life on the line for me. After she passed away in 2001 my father and I decided we couldn't just stand by and let cancer beat us too."

The event will begin at 1 p.m. with an opening ceremony celebrating the lives of those who have battled cancer. The first lap around the track is taken by those who have survived the

"One of the highlights every year is the luminaria ceremony, which are small bags with a tea candle inside, and on each bag is the name of someone who has died of cancer," said Sheila Grooms, the event's chair. "We place them around the track and it's a very touching moment, designed to honor those we've lost and provide a chance for people to hope for a world without cancer."

The Herndon Relay for Life information can be found at www.herndonrelay.org.

## **OPINION**

# To 'Get That Vote We All Deserve'

## From Fix Gun Checks tour to White House.

Brother of Reema Samaha

fter my sister Reema was killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, our lives changed forever. I say "our lives" changed forever because gun violence doesn't just affect the direct family of the person killed, but an entire community. As I learned more and more about gun violence,

I found that on a daily basis, this ripple of pain and suffering is repeated 34 times in 34 communities around the country, that's a Virginia Tech massacre every day.

This all became even more apparent when I drove around the country on the Fix Gun Checks tour. The campaign promoted respect for the second amendment and fixing our background check system on gun purchases to prevent dangerous, prohibited purchasers from acquiring them.

The campaign began shortly after the Tucson, Ariz. massacre where U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords was shot along with many other innocent Americans. For months I campaigned across the country, holding public events in small towns and big cities. When I made it to Tucson, Gabby was still recovering from her gunshot to the head, yet I had the opportunity to meet her sister and those affected by the shooting. Her sister gave me a bright blue bracelet that had inscribed on it, "Gabby," along with a peace sign and a heart. I've cherished it and worn it ever since along with my "Hokie

Hope" bracelet as I've hoped and BY OMAR JOSEPH SAMAHA GUEST EDITORIAL prayed for her recovery and for all those affected by gun violence.

> IN EVERY STATE I traveled to, I met with families and survivors of gun violence, mayors, congressional members, law enforcement officials, doctors, gun owners and NRA members. From the rural countryside, to the suburbs, to the inner cities, I witnessed the same thing; gun violence affects people in every community

and from all walks of life. The resounding plea from everyone I met along the way is that we must do more to prevent gun violence in our country while respecting our second amendment rights. This can and must be done in a comprehensive manner in order to have real

After the Newtown shooting, everything changed, and Americans could not bear the thought of inaction. We can see that a push from citizens could cause the president and Congress to finally act to prevent these tragedies from occurring.

I went to the White House last Tuesday to speak with the first lady and other policy advisors and on Capitol Hill I spent much of the day meeting with congressional members. Everyone is now committed to working on the complex issue of gun violence prevention around our country while making sure our

Constitutional rights are not infringed.

On Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran has been a very strong vocal leader in gun violence prevention and has worked closely with us over the years. He invited me to be his guest to the State of the Union. I was honored to attend along with many others who have experienced gun violence in their lives and even more so when President Obama acknowledged our

The president spoke strongly about how the time for talk is over and the time for action, to vote on gun violence prevention measures, is now. He reiterated, "They deserve a vote!" when referring to those who have been murdered in the growing number of massacres, for the 34 Americans killed every day, for the families and communities affected, and for the survivors who live their lives with permanent injuries and trauma.

SHORTLY AFTER the State of the Union address, as I was leaving, I randomly got to meet one of those survivors, Gabby Giffords. She was being escorted by her husband, Capt. Mark Kelly. I had the feeling that one day we would cross paths. I introduced myself to her and though I don't believe she knew who I was, when I showed her the bracelet with her name on it her expression changed to one of excitement and enthusiasm.

Although Gabby is still recovering and relearning how to speak, the words we exchanged were enough to give us more hope and energy, to continue on until we get that vote we all deserve, for our safety, for our children, and for our families and communities.

## Oak Hill & Herndon

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Saving French at Herndon Elementary

To the Editor:

I am writing, as a parent of two children currently attending fourth and sixth grade at Herndon Elementary School in Herndon, to express our big concern about the proposal and possibility of switching from the French Immersion Program that has been in place since 1988, to a two-way Spanish

The proposal was presented to us on Jan. 30, 2013 after we received a short notice and a flyer that was sent home with the students at HES. Therefore, it came up as a surprise as we have never heard about this change before. We definitely had no idea that this was discussed with Fairfax County Public Schools administration.

As a result, there was a massive reaction and a group of parents formed quickly to call for a meeting with some responsible parties at FCPS administration. We met on Feb. 8, with Ms. Jane Strauss,

School Board member representing Dranesville District, and the assistant superintendent for Cluster 1, Marty Smith, to have a dialogue regarding the proposed change.

I strongly believe that we should keep the existing French Immersion program in place as it can benefit our school for the generations to come. It attracts a large community including outside the boundaries families, who are willing to drive their children back and forth, in order for them to attend our school due to the partial French program that HES offers.

Furthermore, I know some families who are also relocating or already bought their houses, to be in proximity to school considering that there are only two schools in the county who offer this great French immersion program, Herndon ES, and Kent Gardens, in McLean. Hence, we not only want to keep French immersion as an opportunity for future generations, but we also aim to improve the quality of this program.

My understanding from attending that meeting is that FCPS administration is committed to support any foreign language that has been in place for so long and is willing to help us save this program. We are aware that there are some challenges that we have to overcome for the program to be successful in the future including the hiring process of highly "Qualified Teachers" that has been altered as a Title I school.

We suggest that FCPS look for a partnership with some local universities such as George Mason University, and promote our school as a good place to teach French language. I also believe that the actual school administration needs

to take the lead and be more supportive of the French immersion program, instead of looking for a way out. It is important to give our kids

this unique opportunity to learn French as any other foreign language at an early age, which will be an asset for all the students later on in life and in their future career as it can open so many doors to them, and Herndon Elementary School is the perfect place for that to happen.

> **Aicha Bensaid** Herndon

## Write

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

> Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

## News



From left, William David Meinert, South Lakes High School; Tatiana Michelle Liu, Potomac Falls High School; Alexis Michelle Gruber, Dominion High School; Adam Michael Cleland, Flint Hill High School; Nicole Marie Frank, Potomac High School; Steven Tai, Lanier Middle School; Meghan Elizabeth Babington, Dominion High School; Sarah Erica Slate, Langston Hughes Middle School; Nikole Rae James, Potomac Falls High School; Yechan Lim, Centreville High School; Kathryn Nei, Hunters Woods Elementary School and Isaac Daniel Mantelli, Westfield High School.

## Reston Lions Honor Music Competition Winners

inners of the James A. Bland Music Scholarship competition, co-sponsored by the Reston Lions Club and the Reston Community Center and held at the community center on Tuesday, Jan. 29, were as follows: vocal competition, Alexis Michelle Gruber, first place; William David Meinert, second place; and Nikole Rae James, third place. Instrument competition, Yechan Lim, first place; Tatiana Michelle Liu, second place; and Sarah Erica Slate, third place.

First place winners received prizes of \$100 and are eligible to compete in Virginia Lions Regional, District and State competitions for additional prizes. Second place winners received \$75 prizes and third place winners received \$50.

Judges were Lydia Kriso, Gretel Von Pischke, Elizabeth Kluegel and Leslie Luxenburg.



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rgardne1@masonlive.gmu.edu (571) 216-3672





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## Entertainment

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

### FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Kids' Night Out. 6:30-10 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This program is designed for older children (6-8 years old) to play games, enjoy arts and crafts, dance, play sports, and watch movies; refreshments included. Reston resident: \$15; non-Reston resident: \$30. www.restoncommunitycenter.org.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Cooking Class. Noon, at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. A three-course lunch with wine and recipes. Reservations. \$45. 703-437-5544 or banquets.reston@ilfo.com.

Closing Reception: Artist Talk With George Smyth. 3-4:30 p.m., at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, Suite 103, Reston. Join for the Appetite for Art: Contemporary Art Dialogues with Smyth, who will discuss his two series, The Braddock Project and the Extras, currently on exhibit; light refreshments provided. Register. 703-471-9242.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 26

The Stray Birds. 7:15 p.m., at Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon hosts the group voted to the Top 10 Folk & American Album of 2012 (by NPR). \$11 for members; 12 for non-members. 703-435-2402 or DAHurdSr@cs.com.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Paint Your Own Pottery. 5:45-6:15 p.m., at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Children ages 5-10 can make a foodsafe, finished item, to be returned one week later; paints, material, supplies and instructions provided. \$10. www.herndon-va.gov.

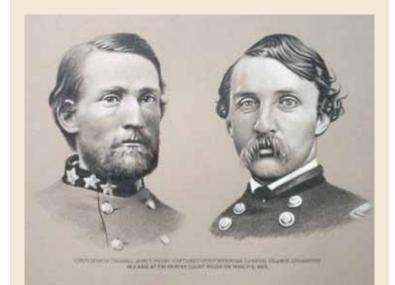
### THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Wine Dinner. 6:30 p.m., at Il Fornaio, 11990 Market St., Suite 106, Reston. Five courses prepared with wine. \$65. 703-437-5544 or banquets.reston@ilfo.com.

## banquets.reston@ilfo.com. 2013 Xing Wen Art Studio

Exhibition. 7-9 p.m., at Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This exhibition displays Xing Wen's paintings of the Yi and Tibetan ethnic groups in China. www.restoncommunitycenter.com/

arts\_exhibits.html.



Mosby & Stoughton, graphite and charcoal, Thomas Segars. The caption at the bottom of the drawing reads, "Confederate Colonel John S. Mosby captured Union Brigadier General Edwin H. Stoughton in a raid at the Fairfax Court House on March 6, 1863."

## Herndon Artists Conjure the Virginia Civil War Home Front

Beyond the Blue and Grey: The Virginia Home Front is an exhibit going beyond Civil War art to showcase a collection of ideas (on places, social history and unique attributes of the "home front") defining what it meant to be a Virginian between 1830 and 1880, during the Civil War era; the exhibit, up from Tuesday, Feb. 26 through Sunday, April 7, coincides with the Sunday, March 17, reenactment of Mosby's Raid on Herndon Station. An opening reception is slated for Saturday, March 2 from 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 2

A Night at the Movies: Songs from the Silver Screen. 4-7:30 p.m., at Reston Community Center, Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Chorale's 2013

Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Chorale's 2013 Pops Concert will showcase songs from great film soundtracks—from Breakfast at Tiffany's to Amistad. \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors/youth. 703-476-1111 or www.restonchorale.org.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Serendipitous Seven: A Fine Art Exhibition from Seven Reston

**Artists.** 9 a.m.-8 p.m., at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery,1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Serendipitous Seven synthesizes the work of seven Reston artists

www.restoncommunitycenter.com/ arts\_exhibits.html.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 2

Beyond the Blue and Grey: The Virginia Home Front, Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m., at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. A reception for the exhibit that goes beyond Civil War art to showcase a collection of ideas (on places, social history and unique attributes of the "home front") representing the Civil War era; the exhibit, up from Tuesday, Feb. 26 through Sunday, April 7, coincides with the Sunday, March 17, reenactment of Mosby's Raid on Herndon Station.

www.ArtSpaceHerndon.org.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Open Mic Night. 9:30 p.m-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Every Wednesday. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra:

Masterworks V. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman performs J. Strauss' Emperor Waltz and Tick Tack, Pizzicato, Trisch-Tratsch Polkas and Overture to Die Fledermaus; R. Strauss' Suite from Der Rosenkavalier, Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks and Salomé's Dance. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

## SATURDAY/MAY 11

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra: Masterworks VI.** 8 p.m. George

Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Conductor Christopher Zimmerman, tenor Brennen Guillory and soprano Joni Henson perform Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod," Tristan und Isolde and Prelude to Act 3, Lohengrin; Verdi's Overture to La Forza del Destino, Overture to I vespri siciliani, Love Duet Finale Act I Otello, "Dio ti giocondi, O Sposo" Otello, "Dio mi potevi, scagliar" Otello, Willow Song Otello and "Libiamo," La Traviata. \$25-\$55. 703-563-1990 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org.

## Great Falls Blue Knights U12 Soccer Tryouts

The Great Falls Blue Knights, a U12 Boys Travel Soccer team, are looking to strengthen their squad for their 2012-2013 ODSL campaign.

Indoor tryouts will be held 6:30pm-8:00pm on February 27th at NZONE in Chantilly.

The Knights have several roster spots remaining for committed U12 players born 08/01/00 or after looking to take their game to the next level.

Training sessions are normally held on Monday, Wednesday & Thursdays 6:30-8:00 pm in the Great Falls/Reston area during the season.



If you are interested, have questions or would like to register for tryouts, please email the Team Manager at

GFBLUEKNIGHTS@LIVE.COM





## Choosing a Summer Camp

Region offers programs to tempt children with interests ranging from sports to drama to science.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

hile most of Washington is braving the winter weather, April Toman has been planning for summer. At the top of her list: choosing a camp for her two children, Claire, who is in fifth grade, and Will, who is a second grader.

"I start thinking about it in January," said Toman, who lives in Alexandria. "I talk to my kids about what they are interested in taking. There are so many options and the popular camps fill up quickly."

Education experts say summer camp is an important part of a childhood experience, and parents should start considering options well before the end of the school year.

"I think summer camps are won-

derful for kids," said Tammy Davis, a doctor of education and a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Sometimes kids lose ground over the summer, especially with regard to their mental activity. Summer camp can continue brain development, especially with regard to creativity, mental activity, physical activity and social activity."

Davis, who is a former camp counselor, elementary school teacher and school counselor, said children who are not exposed to new social activities could become isolated. "If your kids are only playing video games or going to the pool every day, they run the risk of cocooning themselves," she said. "Choose a camp that expands your child's horizons, that will be stimulating and engaging and where they will develop new friendships without the pressure of

an academic environment."

### FROM SPORTS TO SCIENCE,

the Washington region is filled with camps that will suit almost every child. For example, Annie Moyer, director of the Sun & Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington and Fairfax, says yoga camps are options for children who have never practiced yoga. "No yoga experience is necessary," she said. "We do yoga games and poses, breathing, artistic expression and, weather permitting, outdoor playground time."

For youngsters with a passion for all things artistic, Jeanne Loveland, education director for the Greater Reston Arts Center, suggests art camp. "Our camps are based on the GRACE mission, which is contemporary art" she said.

Jim Supple, director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, encourages parents to consider specialty camps as well as traditional day camps. "Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons, and to challenge yourself," he said.



Photo courtesy of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School

Throjects that they made during a physics

Students show projects that they made during a physics camp at SummerTimes Camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School last summer.

While the thought of academic camps might cause some children to cringe, Mollianne Logerwell, Ph.D., director of science education at George Mason University's Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement, says that does not have to be the case. George Mason hosts science camps, and "students frequently tell us that camp was not only fun, but also increased their interest in science," she said.

# **WITH SO MANY OPTIONS** for summer camps, choosing the best camp for your child can be overwhelming. "When parents are looking for a camp, they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming, and counselors and

staff," said Kevin Rechen, camp

director for the Norwood School

in Bethesda, Md.

Gabrielle Summers, who is planning to send her children to summer camp at the Norwood School, says that she considers safety first. "Second, [I consider] the qualifications of counselors and leadership and their love of the children. [Then] I look at cost, early bird discounts, payment due dates and cancellation policies."

For those who may not be able to afford the cost of summer camp, Rechen suggests that parents do a little research. "Many summer camps offer financial aid," he said. "There are also foundations that give grants for camps."

No matter which camp a child attends, however, Davis has one caution: "Be careful about overscheduling camps, doing back-to-back camps and not giving children down time," she said. "Some people use camp as day care and that is not always a good thing."

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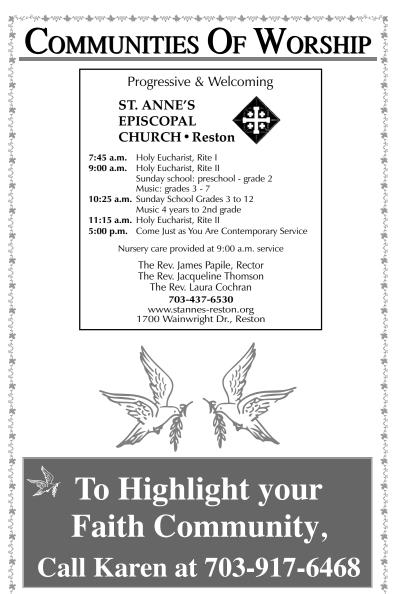
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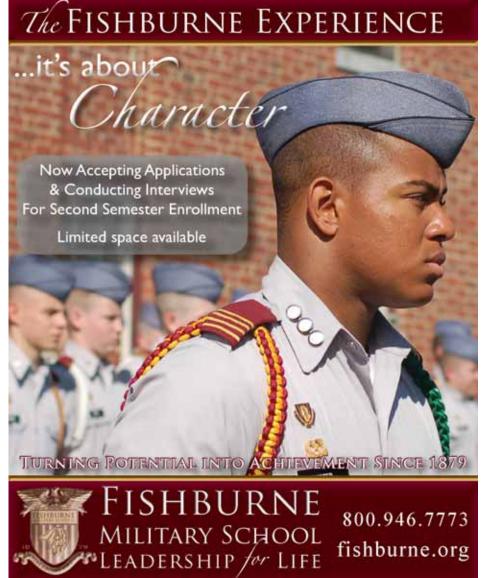
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Marshall senior Grant Leibow scored 24 points against McLean in the Liberty District championship game on Feb. 15. Leibow was awarded the MVP of the tournament.

# Marshall Boys' Basketball Wins Liberty District Title

## Statesmen hold off defending champion Highlanders at South Lakes High.

By Alex Van Rees FOR THE CONNECTION

he Marshall boys' basketball team captured the first Liberty District championship in program history on Feb. 15 when the Statesmen defeated the McLean Highlanders 60-45 in the district tournament championship game at South Lakes High School.

Right out of the gates, the No. 4 Highlanders picked up the early lead within five seconds by driving down the court and getting on 
District Tournament team. the board first, 2-0.

However, that lead would not last for long.

"We didn't come out the way we wanted to tonight," said McLean junior guard Joey Sullivan, who finished with five points. "We turned the ball over too much. I think we just let the hype of the game get into our heads and that's not the way we wanted to come out. We tried to adjust after the half and made it to within eight points, but they held on."

THE FIRST PERIOD went back-and-forth the entire eight minutes with little scoring taking place; it was a great testament to how well these teams can play defensively.

"I think we proved a lot of people wrong this season," said Sullivan. "If you were to ask some of the coaches around the league, I don't think many of them would have said that we would be back in the district championship. Just getting here, we accomplished many goals and proved people wrong."

At the end of the first period, the No. 2 Statesmen took a 9-7 lead, and that was the closest the Highlanders would come to the title. As the game progressed, Marshall continued to build its lead and by the end of the half, the Statesmen had pulled away by 11 points, 26-15.

"All tournament I think we played really well," said Marshall senior guard Grant Leibow, who led the team with 24 points. "We definitely turned it up this tournament. We had a couple down points in the



**McLean's Samer Abdelmoty** was named to the All-Liberty

season when we lost a couple of games in the row, and that just motivated us to do better. We knew we had a chance to win."

The Statesmen burst out of the gates and were ready to get the second half underway; they posted 18 points in the third period, the most in a single period the entire game. Not to mention, they only allowed the Highlanders to tally 13. After three periods, Marshall held a 16-point lead, 44-28.

Heading into the final period, the Highlanders had one last chance for a comeback, and they outscored the Statesmen 17-16. However, that was not enough as Marshall

defeated the defending Liberty District champs 60-

"It feels great to win the championship finally because the last two years, we were eliminated in the first game of the tournament," said Marshall head coach Dan Hale, who was named the coach of the year for the Liberty District boys. "For them, it's a real testament to them about how much work they have put in, both in the offseason and throughout the year on and off the court. Everyone has a role and they each filled that tonight. They are a very dedicated bunch."

Leibow was awarded the MVP of the tournament and was named to the second-team all-district. Senior forward Doug Turpin and junior guard Towner Hale both finished second on the team with nine points.

"Even though we were the higher seed, I think that took pressure off of us," said Leibow. "No one expected us to win, and I think we proved a lot of people wrong. We had never been here before, so we didn't know what to expect."

SENIOR CENTER JOHN PASCOE, who was named to the first-team all-district, led McLean, the defending district champion, with 17 points and seven rebounds. He and senior guard Samer Abdelmoty, who posted 11 points, each made the alltournament team.



Will Ferguson, seen earlier this season, and the Herndon boys' basketball team won the Concorde District title by defeating Robinson on Feb. 15.

## Herndon Boys' Basketball Wins District Title

The Herndon boys' basketball team won two games by a combined four points to capture the Concorde District championship.

The Hornets defeated Chantilly 53-52 in the semifinals on Feb. 14 and beat Robinson 51-48 in the championship game on Feb. 15. Herndon entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed, securing the Hornets a first-round bye and a spot in the regional tournament.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Will Ferguson led Herndon with 26 points against Robinson in the district final. Dorian Johnson finished with 12 points. Against Chantilly, according to the Post, Ferguson scored 20 points and Johnson had 13.

Herndon faced Fairfax, the No. 4 seed from the Liberty District, in the opening round of the Northern Region tournament on Feb. 18.

## South Lakes Girls' Basketball Falls in District Semis

The South Lakes girls' basketball team lost to eventual champion Madison 55-52 in the semifinals of the Liberty District tournament on Feb. 14.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Abigail Rendle led South Lakes with 25 points. Gabrielle Schultz scored nine points for the Seahawks and Caitlin Jensen added eight.

South Lakes, which entered the district tournament as the No. 1 seed, qualified for the Northern Region tournament by defeating No. 8 Marshall in the opening round. The Seahawks faced Chantilly in the opening round of regionals on Feb. 18.

## Marshall's Stahl Places Third at State Gymnastics Meet

As a freshman in 2012, Marshall's Morgan Stahl competed at the VHSL state gymnastics meet, but failed to place in the top eight in an event.

As a sophomore, Stahl earned a trip back to the state meet. This time, she walked away with some hardware.

Stahl placed third in the all-around competition at the state gymnastics meet, earning all-state honors with a total of 38.325 on Feb. 16 at Centreville High School. Stahl placed second on floor (9.725), fourth on beam (9.675) and finished in a tie for fifth on vault (9.725).

Stahl also finished 15th on bars (9.2).

"It feels really good," Stahl said. "Last year I was here as a freshman and I didn't place on anything, so it was nice to come back and improve so much."

Western Branch's Jamie Stone won the all-around state title with a total of 39.1. Great Bridge's Courtney Adams was second (39) and Woodson's Simone Freidman was fourth (38.1).

One day earlier, Kellam won the team championship with a score of 148.3. Washington-Lee finished runner-up for the second consecutive season, posting a 147.2 — the highest score in program history.



## Herndon Delegation Visits Richmond

Officials from the Town of Herndon traveled to Richmond on Thursday, Jan. 31, to visit with Sen. Mark Herring (D-33) and Del. Tom Rust (R-86) and to participate in informational sessions conducted for local officials throughout the commonwealth. From left, Councilmember Sheila Olem; town attorney Richard Kaufman; Councilmember Dave Kirby; Councilmember Charlie Waddell; Mayor Lisa Merkel; Sen. Mark Herring; Vice Mayor Connie Hutchinson; Town Manager Art Anselene.

## Elden Street Players Going Professional

## This fall, ESP will begin its evolution into NextStop Theatre Company.

he Elden Street Players' (ESP) Board of Directors has announced plans to transition the 25-year-old community theatre company into the Dulles Technology Corridor's premier professionally-operated, not-for-profit regional theatre.

This fall, ESP will begin its evolution into NextStop Theatre Company. The reorganized, re-christened organization will build on ESP's history and resources to expand its reach and create an even higher caliber of theatrical productions for the Dulles area.

"When the ESP founders established the company, they set out to create a 'different kind of community theatre," said Elden Street Players' Board President Todd Huse. "Rather than offering the same plays and musicals as other local theatres, they envisioned a com-

pany dedicated to producing artistically challenging pieces that were not seen on other stages; and do them well, for a price that made great theatre accessible to everyone. We have been fulfilling that mission for 25 years. So, now what? For us, the answer was clear. Take it to the next level. Raise our game."

Leading this new phase in the life of the organization is Evan Hoffmann, whom the board has hired as the company's first producing artistic director. Hoffmann grew up in Herndon and has been associated with the company for over 20 years. He has also developed a lengthy resume as a professional actor and director in the Washington, D.C., area, around the country, and overseas.

"It is truly a dream come true for me to be able to come home to Herndon and help guide this organization, that nurtured me and helped foster my passion for theatre as a young person, towards exciting new possibilities and a brighter future," said Hoffmann.

ESP plans to complete its 25th anniversary season under the current name and structure, ending in August with a production of the musical "Caroline, or Change." When the 26th season begins in late September, the organization hopes to greet patrons in the Dulles Corridor with not only a new name, but a whole new kind of theatrical experience.

When asked about the transition, the Town of Herndon's Mayor Lisa Merkel said, "Elden Street Players has been a long-time centerpiece of the Herndon arts community, and we look forward to their continued success as they transition to a professional theatre company. The arts are alive and well in the town of Herndon!"

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## Elaina Lenore Heller and James Eric Rosenquist Wed

laina Lenore Heller and James Eric Rosenquist were married Oct. 6, 2012, at Wintergreen Resort.

Elaina is the daughter of Barney and Karen Heller of North Wales, Pa. James is the son of Jack and Cathy Rosenquist of Herndon and graduated from Langley High School in 2008.

The wedding ceremony took place on a Saturday afternoon overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains.

James and Elaina enjoyed a honeymoon in Paradise Island, Bahamas, after which they returned home to Pittsburgh, Va., where James serves as a campus minister and Elaina is a registered nurse. Both James and Elaina are graduates of James Madison University.



Elaina Lenore Heller and James Eric Rosenquist

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