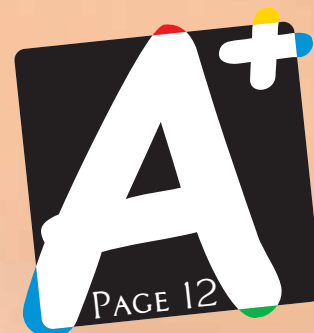


McLean CONNECTION

Fiona Mulholland portrays an art student in the late 1700s in the McLean High students' presentation of the Salon Project at the Corcoran Gallery of Art on Saturday afternoon, Feb. 16.



McLean High Presents The Salon Project

NEWS, PAGE 4

Langley High Orchestra
Performs in Italy
NEWS, PAGE 8

Stuffing the Bus in McLean

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 13 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

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PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Cooper Middle School students Georgia Wolston, Will Broeckaert, James Perotti and Sean Feldman pass out flyers to shoppers at the McLean Giant to support the Stuff the Bus food drive Saturday, Feb. 16.

Stuffing the Bus in McLean

McLean Giant hosts drive for Share food bank.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Volunteers at the Share food bank in McLean packed nonperishable items as well as toiletries and other necessities into every available inch at the McLean Baptist Church Saturday, Feb. 16, courtesy of Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus initiative. The county's Neighborhood and Community Services, Office of Public Private Partnerships, MV Transportation, Fastran and Human Services Transportation teamed up with Share and the McLean Giant to provide items of need to Share clients.

"We filled the list with things that we are literally completely out of," said Bonnie O'Neill, a Share board member. "We're so grateful to Giant because they're the only store around here that makes a drive like this a week-long effort for them. And the community really came out today to help us. Some picked up groceries, others donated cash, which we turned around and used to buy more items right here."

BEFORE THE DRIVE started, Share's shelves were completely out of coffee, tea, sugar, vegetable oil, pasta sauce, mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard and baby food. They were also out of items such as laundry detergent, baby wipes, diapers, paper towels, toilet paper and toothpaste, which are especially needed since they can't be purchased with food stamps.

A group of middle school volunteers were stationed at the entrances to the McLean Giant, passing out lists of most-needed items to shoppers as they entered the store. Shoppers could pick up the items with their regular groceries and drop them off in the front of the store.

"It's a convenient, easy way to give back that I hope goes to help a lot of people," said John Stevens of McLean, who picked up a few cans of coffee and bottles of ketchup. "I like knowing what Share has a big need for, and it's not really a big deal to add a



Volunteers from MV Transportation unload a bus full of donated items to Share Saturday, Feb. 16, part of the annual Stuff the Bus food drive.

few bucks onto my grocery bill."

The McLean Giant also assembled packages of several high-demand items together, which was sold for \$10 and were tallied by the cashiers along with the items.

"I liked that they had a group of things that are needed all together, for \$10, which makes it easy to track," said shopper Ann Shields of McLean.

The pre-assembled bags sold out by 3 p.m., but there were also displays in the aisles of high-demand items such as cooking oil and diapers. Violet Templeton of Vienna said the drive helped her learn about what people are in need of at local food banks.

"My kids have done the canned food thing, but I would have never thought about the need for things like diapers until today," she said.

"But it makes sense. They're expensive, and for people trying to just put food on the table, that's probably not the first thing on the shopping list, but it's very necessary."

THE BUS was actually stuffed twice during the day, it made one run to the church around 2:30 p.m., and another at 4:30. Scott Marr, general manager of MV Transportation, said each run was about 90 large boxes filled with items.

"This is a great time to be able to do an event like this, the food banks make a big push for the holiday season, but by February it can be easy to forget about those in need," he said. "We've been doing this program for about three years, we started under the previous [general manager], and it's something I was very enthusiastic about continuing."

Once the boxes reached the McLean Baptist Church, volunteers offloaded them in shopping carts, unpacked and sorted the items, which will be given away starting Wednesday.

Share opens its food bank and clothing store Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. More information can be found at www.shareofmclean.org.



PHOTO BY NESHAN NATCHAYAN

Diners toast in the dark at the annual fundraiser for the Foundation Fighting Blindness at the Tysons Corner Ritz Carlton Thursday, Feb. 7.

Dining in the Dark At Tysons Corner

Foundation Fighting Blindness hosts annual fundraiser.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

More than 150 guests were able to eat but not see their dinner Thursday, Feb. 7, at the Tysons Corner Ritz-Carlton, at the Foundation Fighting Blindness's annual Dining in the Dark event. The dinner raised almost \$150,000 for the foundation, which is a national nonprofit that sponsors research into various retinal degenerative diseases.

"This event is a way for people to experience what life is like for people who do not have sight," said Davida Luehrs, the event's chair.

Just before dinner the lights went out, plunging the ballroom into complete darkness. Even the entrances to the kitchen were covered with dark cloth so light would not invade the room.

"It's such a stunning moment, that's how complete the darkness is," Luehrs said. "You can immediately feel the buzz in the room, and then people get more in tune with their other senses, and it becomes a very intimate event. It demonstrates just how much we use sight compared to other senses."

Luehrs, a Reston resident, has retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic disease that causes night blindness and a progressive loss of peripheral vision. Her college-age daughter also has RP.

"This foundation has created so many amazing stories about people who have gotten their vision restored, and research is making strides every day on a variety of disorders," Luehrs said. "The foundation's goal is to eventually put itself out of business by curing all blindness."

The event also honored David Thompson, CEO of Orbital Sciences, a Dulles-based space design and manufacturing company, with its Visionary Award. Thompson shared his own experiences with vision loss.

He recalled losing the vision in his right eye one day, and after being persuaded to check into a hospital, it turned out to be a retinal detachment, and if he had delayed seeking medical care, he could have permanently lost vision in that eye.

The Department of Defense's Department of Veterans Affairs was also recognized with a Visionary Award for their efforts to restore sight to wounded veterans.

The Foundation Fighting Blindness will host a Vision Walk Sunday, April 21, at Fairfax Corner. The walk's goal is to raise \$150,000, making the total more than \$1 million raised at the Northern Virginia walk.

Walk organizers will hold a kickoff event Saturday, March 2, at 11:30 a.m. at Seasons 52 in Tysons Corner. More information can be found at www.fightblindness.org.

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NEWS



A salonniere, Madame DeStael, played by Mererose Daniels, invites General Nathaniel Greene (Erik Thomas) and Lt. Colonel David Humphries (Matthew Musikanth) to join her upstairs for an opera aria by Emmanuelle Theime.



Fouad Malin, as Charles Mason, accompanies opera singer Emmanuelle Thieme down the grand stairwell.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/CONNECTION

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McLean High Students Present The Salon Project

Revisiting the time and a place “where ideas mattered most.”

Conversations about Newtonian science, Benjamin Franklin's electricity, liberty and equality, diplomacy, the monarchy, free speech, free press, American independence, social life and scandal were just a few of the subjects broached in the Salon Project presentation, at the Corcoran Gallery of Art last Saturday, Feb. 16, by McLean High School students in Dean Howarth's program.

Beginning in 1992, Dean Howarth, a physics teacher at the high school, formed Project Enlightenment as a historical interpretation society and it is now a fully credited Living History class. For the Salon Project, students created an 18th century sa-

lon in the rooms at the Corcoran Gallery. Natural Philosophy in the Salon Scientifique was interpreted and displayed in a first floor gallery. Hostesses explained the dynamics and culture of the Salon as guests were led upstairs for cultural performances. A thespian (Julia Barton) entertained, Emmanuelle Thieme sang an opera aria and choral groups sang on Clarks Landing as part of the afternoon activities.

“During the late 18th century, urbane men and women participated in an intellectual and social atmosphere that became known as the Republic of Letters ... a place where ideas mattered most, and where the sharing of ideas and creativity became the intellectual commerce of true Enlightenment.” The social gathering of open-minded and impartial “citizens of the world” took place in the salons. Often organized by independent, intelligent and curious women, the salons were frequented by artists, scientists, writers, philosophers and politicians.

— LOUISE KRAFT



Vocal performances by students fill the air in Clarks Landing at the Corcoran Gallery of Art on Saturday afternoon.

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MCC Board to Meet Feb. 27

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center will hold its regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27. All Governing Board meetings are open to the public. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

At its January meeting, the Governing Board deferred action on the Downtown Committee Report (dated Dec. 12, 2012), and the Capital Facilities Committee Summary Report on Ingleside Renovations at the request of Supervisor John Foust. The board will include the reports on the agenda of its February meeting.

Tax district residents (1A-Dranesville) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting are asked to call the center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 to be placed on the agenda.

To view the reports, board meeting agendas and minutes or for more information, visit the center's website, www.mcleancenter.org.

Sheriff's Office Announces Scholarship Opportunity

If you are currently enrolled in a Virginia college or university and are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice then you are eligible to apply for a college scholarship from the Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship program. Scholarships are available to both full and part-time students.

As part of the application process, Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Berry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. A letter can be obtained by contacting Lieutenant Steve Elbert at shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov or by calling 703-246-3250.

Founded in 1981, the Virginia Sheriff's Institute is

a non-profit professional and educational organization. In May 2012, the VSI Scholarship Committee awarded 63 scholarships for a total of more than \$30,000. There are \$500 scholarships available for full-time students and \$250 scholarships available for part-time students. The number and amount of scholarships awarded each year varies depending on the number of eligible students and the amount of money that is raised.

For more information on the VSI Scholarship Program or to download an application, visit vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/.

Fundraiser Supporting the Brookfield School


A fundraiser for the Brookfield School has been announced by HBC Realty Group's (Keller Williams Realty) Community Charity Champions. Come to dinner on Tuesday, March 5, 5 to 8 p.m. at Pulcinella Italian Host in McLean to support the Brookfield School. Enjoy dinner and know that approximately 60 percent of the proceeds from food and drink will go to the charity, as long as the diner brings the flyer for the event. Contact HBC Realty Group at 703-734-0192 or visit www.HBCRealtyGroup.com to receive a flyer.

"The money raised will be put towards the purchase of new science material and equipment for the science lab that the school opened this year," said Sarah Krawchuk, Director of Admissions for the Brookfield School.

Sponsors of the event are: Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy with the HBC Realty Group of Keller Williams Realty, Richard Moroscak with EagleBank, Marcus Simon with EKKO Title, Frank Vorndran with MorganStanley SmithBarney, and Moe Jebali with Pulcinella Italian Host.

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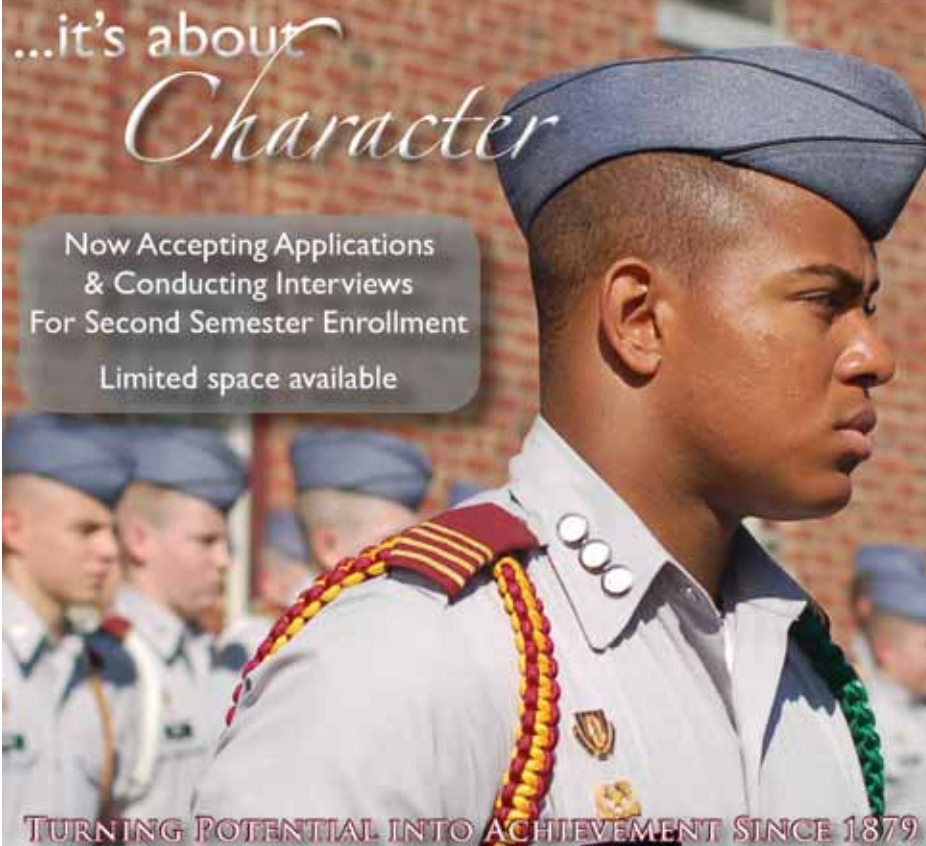
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OPINION

To 'Get That Vote We All Deserve'

From Fix Gun Checks tour to White House.

BY OMAR JOSEPH SAMAHA
BROTHER OF REEMA SAMAHA

GUEST EDITORIAL



After 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 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 results.

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 address. 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 presence.

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 re-learning 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Alarmed and Saddened

To the Editor:

I participated in the public hearing on school discipline last week and was alarmed and deeply saddened to view the document Students Rights and Responsibilities for K-12, which lists pages and pages of all the "bad" behavior a student could possibly have, and the consequences for each violation. The really big consequence is for marijuana use, which merits immediate 10-day suspension and a referral for consideration of expulsion on the first violation.

While the striving for clean, unbiased, and even-handed treatment of each specific offense is certainly well intentioned, the approach falls short of educational best practices. Schools have begun to move beyond a focus on "discipline" to a focus on "pedagogy."

Pedagogy comes from the Greek words "paidos" which means "child," and "ago" which means

"lead"—to have a "pedagogy" rather than a "punishment policy" means to lead the child somewhere — it aims to develop the humanity of the student in addition to developing cognitive skills.

We live in an increasingly diverse world made up of people from many religions and cultures. The religious values and cultural glue that bound members of community in the past can become scrambled these days. Behaviors of the "very different" among us can alarm. However, one leader, Stephen Covey, has a proven track record in applying his Seven Habits of Highly Effective People approach to professional development within major global corporations around the world with good effect. His approach is currently being brought to school systems including the public schools in Potomac, Md.

Schools where Stephen Covey's educational approach as described in The Leader in Me – How Schools and Parents Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at

a Time has been applied have had a tremendous reduction in school incidents, and a tremendous increase in remarkable performance and accomplishments by students.

Working from the virtues we wish to inculcate, rather than the vices to be punished, will go a long way toward creating the positive spirit of community that so many children, parents, and educators long for. The proposed encouragement of personal leadership as defined in "The Leader in Me" program engages school administrators, teachers, parents and stu-

dents in a united purpose of cultivating the virtues of leadership, integrity and compassionate character in each individual child. Such a shift in focus would transform the spirit of community in our public schools. I would like to see the contract document between school and student be an inspirational document that celebrates the school community and defines the child's leadership role in being a valued contributing member.

Kathleen J. Murphy
Great Falls

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:

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NEWS

Langley Crew Team Rows to 'Stop Hunger Now'

The Langley crew team raised \$2,500 toward the Langley pyramid effort to support the Stop Hunger Now charity, which culminated in a meal packaging event that was held at Colvin Run Elementary School on Saturday, Feb. 9. The Langley pyramid effort raised \$19,000 total, which paid for 76,000 high protein meals that were put together or "packed" by volunteers. Langley crew held a fundraiser event at the Great Falls Safeway on Feb. 2 and also donated a portion of the proceeds from its annual indoor rowing competition—an "Erg-a-thon" against West Springfield High School that Langley won.

Established in 1998, Stop Hunger Now is a 501(c)(3) non-governmental, international relief organization with a worldwide mission to provide high protein meals to schools and orphanages in developing countries around the globe.



Pictured, from left, front row: Captain Thomas Marzol, Tucker Grimm; middle row: Coxswain Charlie Bavisotto, Ian Havesy, Alec Keiss; back row: Patrick McKee, Wyatt Child, Sam Child, Tommy Slade and Ryan Shaw at the Langley crew fundraiser event at the Great Falls Safeway on Feb. 2.



Check donation: From left, Principal Matt Ragone, crew captain Liam Fitzmorris, crew captain Thomas Marzol, Stop Hunger Now Coordinator Dominic Alexander, crew captains Ashley Doll and Tyler Seckar.

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PHOTOS BY MICHAEL RIVERS



Langley High School Orchestra at the Spanish Steps in Rome.

Dr. Scott McCormick conducts the Langley HS Orchestra in Genzano.

Langley High Orchestra Performs in Italy

Two concerts, memorable sites.

The Langley High School Orchestra performed two concerts during their recent trip to Rome, Italy. The trip was an opportunity for the orchestra students to share their music with Italian children and adults, and to experience the rich culture and history of Rome.

The first concert was in the quaint town of Velletri, population 2,000. Velletri has stunning views of the mountains and cobblestoned streets which led the students on an uphill walk to the theatre. The concert filled the 480-seat Teatro Artemisio, which re-opened last November after being closed for 25 years.

The concert was attended by the mayor of Velletri and the entire student population of Scuola Media Mariani, a middle school. Since it was an exchange concert, the Italian students sang and played for the Langley students, and then the Langley students performed several orchestral pieces. After playing



PHOTO BY DIANE HARA

Langley HS Orchestra students visit the Trevi Fountain in Rome. Left to right: Rebecca Oh, Brandon Tran, Gene Kim, JT von Seggern, Alan Chiang, Sydney Kee, Justin Nguyen, Julia Pennington, Julia Hara.

“Ode to Joy” on their soprano recorders and band instruments, the Italian students were mesmerized by Langley’s oboe soloist Christie Goddard, who was featured in “Gabriel’s Oboe” from the motion picture, “The Mission.” Other orchestral pieces performed included works by Italian composers Rossini, Morricone, Vivaldi, Respighi and Puccini.

Mayor Fausto Servadio of Velletri congratulated both the Mariani and Langley students for the beautiful performance. The concert con-

cluded with each student body singing their respective national anthems. Following the concert, the Langley students were invited to visit the classrooms. The Langley students were asked dozens of questions in English, and were even asked for autographs. The Italian students marveled at the violins and violas, because they do not have string instrumental instruction in their curriculum.

The second concert was held in the town of Genzano. It was the opening concert of a music festi-

val, and many local residents turned out to hear the evening program at the Palacesaroni. The concert was streamed live and was also recorded for an Italian radio program which was aired five days later. Patrizia Mancini, the council member responsible for education, sport, and culture for the town, thanked the orchestra for traveling to Genzano and sharing their music.

While in Italy, the orchestra toured Assisi, Perugia, the famous chocolate factory “Perugina,” and Pompeii. Highlights of Rome included the Colosseum, the ancient ruins of the Roman Forum, the Pantheon, Piazza Navona, the Trevi Fountain, and the Spanish Steps. On their visit to Vatican City, the students saw Michelangelo’s Sistine Chapel, the Pieta, many works of art and tapestry, and St. Peter’s Basilica.

The orchestra students are grateful to the travel company, Gateway, the school administrators, local sponsors, and especially the orchestra families for making the Rome concerts and trip possible.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Photography Competition Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Andrew Jezioro, digital photography lecturer at the Northern Virginia Community College, will judge Architectural photographs for the Vienna Photographic Society. www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Happy Giving Hour. 5:30-8 p.m., at Iris Lounge, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Mix and mingle with Northern Virginia networking groups to benefit Doorways for Women and Families; bring a guest. \$5. www.leadershipfairfax.org.

Life as the Daughter of a Vietnam War MIA Father. 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor’s Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Pam Cain, daughter of Col. Oscar Mauterer, USAF, lost while flying over Laos during the Vietnam War in 1966, shares the story of her life as daughter of a missing-in-action father. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardfoz.

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational parodies are the mainstay of New York City’s longest running comedic act. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardfoz.

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational parodies are the mainstay of New York City’s longest running comedic act. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Speed Stacking Tournament. 9

a.m.-1 p.m., at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. Single and double (parent and child) cup stacking competitions held concurrently with prizes; food for sale to benefit the school \$4. 703-658-5563 or semetz@fcps.edu.

Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysonson.org.

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. 8 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Wander into the 1930s and get into the swing of Calloway, Gershwin and Berlin with Doc, Chou Chou and the gang. \$30, \$20 for residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author “Moonstruck” and “Doubt” follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn’t enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage Tysonson.org.

28th Annual Black History Forum. 3-5 p.m., at the Flint Hill School, 3320 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Trivia Game which features black history related topics, including history, language, literature, the arts, the sciences, popular culture, geography and wordplay; light refreshments included. www.flinthill.org.

Sunday Soiree: My Funny Valentine. 3-5 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A themed, open dance session with casual dancing, practicing and live music from The Wayne Tympanick Trio. \$5. 703-790-0123 or www.waynetympanick.com.

MONDAY/ FEB. 25

Anne Barber’s Cape Town. 1 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Ayr Hill Garden Club will feature a presentation by world traveler and landscape designer Anne Barber, who will share photos taken at the gardens of Cape Town, South Africa. latripp24@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 26

The Langley HS Orchestra in Concert. 7 p.m., at Langley High



Great Falls Columns, watercolor, by Jeff Gorrell, 24" X 30."

Great Falls State of Mind

On display with other original artworks of the Vienna Arts Society are Jeff Gorrell’s large and small paintings featuring panoramas and close-ups of the nuances of Great Falls; open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through March 2, at the Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. 703-319-3220 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

School in the auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The public is invited to hear music of Italian composers from the orchestra’s recent trip to Rome—the Cooper Symphonic Orchestra will perform, as well as the Cooper Concert Orchestra with the Langley Chamber Orchestra. www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS/.

Cisco Adler at Jammin’ Java. 7 p.m., at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. Musician and entrepreneur Cisco Adler is scheduled to perform; also performing will be Mod Sun, Tayyib Ali, Choo Jackson and Pat Brown. <https://jamminjava.com/events/road-trippin-tour>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Foot-stomping Irish beats and literal step dancing under dramatic lighting at a bluegrass-gypsy-jazz performance. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Foot-stomping Irish beats and literal step dancing under dramatic lighting at a bluegrass-gypsy-jazz performance. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Essay Contest: What freedom do I enjoy most? The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 180 accepts submissions from third through 12th graders through March 1; call for rules, prize amounts and info. 703-242-7082.

Parker String Quartet. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Grammy Award-winning quartet plays Mozart, Britten and Dvorak. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Roald Dahl’s Willy Wonka. 7:30 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Roald Dahl’s timeless story of the world-famous candy man and comes to life in this stage adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. \$10 for adults; \$5 for students. www.oakcrest.org/student-life/fine-arts/upper-school-show/index.aspx.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

McLean Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Songs from the latest generation of Broadway musicals and Hollywood hits presented with student compositions arranged for full orchestra in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association. 703-790-0123 or www.mclean-symphony.org.

Buskin & Batteau. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The humorous folk-pop duo debuts tracks from their recently released album Love Remembered, Love Forgotten. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Golden Calidore String Quartet. 4 p.m., at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A concert of masterpiece quartets including Haydn’s Op. 76 No.1 and Mendelssohn’s Op. 13 No. 2. \$30; free for students 17 and under. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

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SCHOOLS

McLean's Potomac School Gets New Leader

John Kowalik described as a wise and gifted educator.

The Potomac School in McLean will soon have a new leader at the helm. School officials announced recently that John J. Kowalik will assume the role of head of school.

The announcement came in a statement from Larry Culp, chair of Potomac's board of trustees. "John Kowalik is a wise and gifted educator, with a rare combination of inspirational leadership capabilities and exceptional management skills. He is the right leader to build on [current Head] Geoff Jones' remarkable achievements at Potomac during the last 13 years."

Kowalik has been an educator for almost 30 years. Officials at the Potomac School say that during Kowalik's 10 years as headmaster of The Peck School, he led a rigorous academic program and culti-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

John J. Kowalik was selected as the new head of the Potomac School in McLean.

vated a nationally recognized character formation initiative. He is also a past trustee of the New Jersey Association of Independent Schools.

Kowalik's education includes the executive management program at Dartmouth's Tuck Business School in New Hampshire, a master's in educational administration from Columbia University in New York and a bachelor's in political science from Williams College in Massachusetts.

"I am thrilled and honored to join the Potomac community and continue the strong growth and academic programs that have made Potomac one of the finest schools in the nation," Kowalik said in a statement.

Kowalik is scheduled to assume his new role in July 2013.

—BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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Choosing a Summer Camp

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While 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 wonderful for kids," said Tammy Davis, a doctor of education and a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Some-

times 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.

"Choose a camp that expands your child's horizons and will be stimulating and engaging."

—Tammy Davis, Marymount University

"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



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. STEPHEN'S & ST. AGNES SCHOOL

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

horizons, that will be stimulating and engaging and where they will develop new friendships without the pressure of an academic environment."

Toman, whose children will attend summer camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, says that from traditional day camps to specialty camps, the options for children are plentiful. "My children have done junior veterinarian camp in the past, and this year we might try an eco-adventures camp."

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. "There are some discussions and there are art projects. There is one camp of messy art projects that your mom would never let you do at home. The camps are educational, but also fun. We will bring in local artists."

Loveland added that during one session, students will learn about public art, and "will create a public art work that will be displayed publicly after the camp."

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. "Children are naturally curious and specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their interests. If a child is not the most athletic and would rather learn about fashion or photography, acting or magic, specialty camps provide that outlet. They allow children to find things that they are

good at and lets them be proud in that activity."

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. "Additionally, classroom teachers have told us that students who attended a VISTA camp ask higher-level questions and are more engaged in science lessons than students who did not attend camp."

Logerwell said VISTA camps are geared toward low-income students. "It's also a great way to expose families with limited knowledge to the possibility of attending and affording college."

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 over-scheduling 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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LeDuc's Buzzer Beater Gives Madison District Title

Warhawks hold on to beat No. 2 seed McLean

ALEX VAN REES
FOR THE CONNECTION

The Madison girls' basketball team repeated as Liberty District champion on Feb. 15, beating McLean 48-46 on a Megan LeDuc layup in the closing seconds of the district championship game at South Lakes High School.

Madison was in control the entire first half and led 30-20 at halftime. It looked as if the Warhawks were headed toward their eighth title in the last 13 years without a fight. However, McLean fought back and pulled to within eight points by the end of the third period, 37-29.

WITH 27 SECONDS LEFT in the game, Madison senior guard LeDuc sank two free throws to give the Warhawks a 46-43 lead. Seconds later, McLean senior post Lisa Murphy dropped the first 3-pointer of her high school career and she tied up the game at 46-all. Murphy finished with a season-high 27 points, leading the team.

"I feel like we showed a lot of heart out there tonight," said Murphy, who was named the player of the year in the Liberty District after the game. "It proves how far we have come this season as a team and I'm very proud that we are making a name for McLean girls' basketball. We had a great season and I'm proud to be a Highlander."

However, for the second night in a row, with time dwindling, LeDuc came to the rescue as she made a layup with less than five seconds left, fueling the Warhawks to the 48-46 win.

Madison won back-to-back Liberty District championships for the third time since 2001.

"I need to score," said LeDuc. "We have to win right now and there's no other option. I don't want to have to go into overtime."

Like the night before, LeDuc took control of the game and ended it the way she wanted to; it was a picture-perfect way to end an unlikely season for the Hawks.

Madison lost their two leading scorers, Kelly Koshuta and Megan Henshaw, to anterior cruciate



Madison's Megan LeDuc cuts off a piece of the net after the Warhawks won the Liberty District girls' basketball championship.

ligament injuries last summer, making it unlikely the Warhawks would reach the district championship game, let alone win the title.

"I think we played really well tonight and the entire season," said LeDuc. "No one expected us to be here at this point in the season. I knew we could win the district and I'm glad we got the chance to go out there and prove it."

Freshman guard Aidan McWeeney led Warhawk scorers with 15 points, while LeDuc finished close behind with 13. After sealing the deal two nights in a row for Madison, LeDuc was named the MVP of the tournament after the game.

"It's nice being named the MVP of the tournament," said LeDuc. "But, I'm more happy that we won the game and are advancing to the regionals."

"We started off not really knowing our particular roles on the team," said head coach Kristen Stone, who was named the Liberty District coach of the year for the girls. "They've really learned what they are supposed to do individually and what they need to do if they are going to win as a team."

OF THE TOP FOUR TEAMS in the tournament, three of them (Madison, McLean and Fairfax) sported 12-4 conference records. So, although the Highlanders were technically the second seed and the Warhawks were ranked fourth, both teams were very evenly matched on paper, and that proved to be the case Friday.

McLean senior guard Shellie Kaniut and Madison junior guard Katie Kerrigan were named second-team all-district.



Madison's Megan LeDuc, left, made a layup in the closing seconds to lift the Warhawks to a 48-46 victory over McLean in the Liberty District championship game.



McLean's Lisa Murphy scored 27 points against Madison in the Liberty District championship game on Feb. 15. Murphy was named the player of the year in the Liberty District after the game.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley Hockey Completes a Historical Undefeated Season

On a night when six Langley Saxon senior hockey players were honored for their four years of participation on the team, Langley completed the first 10-0 season in team history.

Langley beat Osbourn Park 8-1 on Feb. 15 behind the strong play of those six seniors on both offense and defense. Langley's senior captain Evan Sterling, who was recently named to the NVSHL all-star team along with senior assistant captain Kevin Diner and junior Drew Schneider, had a massive game, with a hat trick and four assists. Not to be outdone, Schneider had one goal and five assists while Diner had his own hat trick along with one assist. The other seniors all registered

points with Derick Paxton having the other goal while the three defensemen, Peter Nam, Logan Pontell and Zach Shames, all had one assist.

Langley enjoyed a large supportive crowd that came out to cheer on the team and its senior class. Each senior has been a member of the team since his freshman year. Sterling (15 goals and 12 assists) and Schneider (14 goals and 13 assists) both finished the season with 27 points, while Diner had 17 points and Paxton 15. Langley will be seeded No. 2 in the NVSHL playoffs, behind Stone Bridge, which also had a 10-0 record but took a few less penalties than Langley to lock up the top seed. Langley will get a bye in the first round this Friday and will have its first playoff game in the quarterfinals on Monday, Feb. 26.



Langley's Drew Schneider brings the puck into the offensive zone with Evan Sterling in front of the supportive crowd.

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Definition of "Slippery Slope"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Figuratively speaking, of course. That definition being: a late stage cancer patient/survivor previously characterized as "terminal" awaiting the results of their most recent diagnostic scan. A scan that will indicate whether the tumors have grown, moved or God forbid, appeared somewhere new. If your life hung in the balance before the scan, waiting for results of this however-many-months-interval-scan will most assuredly loosen your figurative grip on your equilibrium and your most literal grip on your sanity. This is a domain, unlike the one referred to in one of the more infamous Seinfeld episodes, that one cannot master. To invoke and slightly rework Dan Patrick's "catch" phrase: You can't stop it, you can only hope to contain it.

Unfortunately, for many of us cancer patients, cancer is the big dog, and if it wants to get off the porch, it will. Our staying put on the porch, however, won't likely protect those of us inflicted with this most insidious disease. In fact, standing pat – on or off the porch, isn't likely to have much effect, either. In many cases (make that individuals) cancer is in control. In the medical profession, as much as it has researched and studied, and as many dollars as it has committed in the pursuit of eradicating cancer, the reality is there is much work yet to be done. Though many improvements in diagnosis and treatment have occurred, thereby lengthening life expectancies (I'm living proof of that); still, in many (make that most, let's be honest) instances, "cancer" is the last word anyone wants to hear associated with whatever symptoms manifested themselves that led to their seeking a medical evaluation in the first place.

I wouldn't say that a terminal patient's day-to-day existence is chaotic, but neither would I characterize it as the most predictable set of circumstances. I imagine it's a bit like living in the wild, where you have to live by your wits and trust your instincts. Moreover, I don't know of any Living with Cancer for Dummies-type book full of wit and wisdom that exists for the newly diagnosed cancer patient. Being there – diagnosed and treated for cancer previously – and currently, and having already done that (lived/evolved with a terminal prognosis), certainly helps moving forward, but it's hardly a desirable location and certainly not a cure-all (I wouldn't mind if it were a cure-this-one, though). However, given the choices, I'd rather have the experience (meaning I've survived) than not (the definition of DUH). Avoiding it altogether is the goal. However, as this lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer can attest: that is much easier written than realized.

But as you regular readers know, I don't complain. It's a miracle/amazing/extremely fortunate/inexplicable almost, that I am still sitting here – upright and fairly productive, four years into a "13-month to two-year prognosis." I wouldn't describe my diagnosis-to-date, Kenny-with-cancer life as having been a walk in the park; more like a series of mini challenges, akin to crossing a stream dotted with stepping stones. Still, it is life, and I am living it, and I'm certainly not going to let a few stones – figuratively or literally, get in my way. Cancer be damned.

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

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