

Potomac ALMANAC

Scene from Potomac Theatre Company's production of
"Blithe Spirit": Ruth (Charlene Sloan), Elvira (Annette
Kalicki) and Madame Arcati (Leah Mazade).

Neighbor Saves Two Teenagers from Fire

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At 100 Years, She's Going Strong

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Summoning 'Blithe Spirit'

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PEOPLE

Hatten Inducted Into Mid-Atlantic Tennis Association Hall of Fame

Bethesda Country Club's director of tennis honored.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Every Bethesda Country Club tennis player knows the welcoming smile and hearty “Good Morning” from Director of Tennis Frank Hatten.

“Now, that’s what a player looks like,” “perfect” and “I like it,” are just a few of his encouraging missives as he drills and enlightens — working toward creating more skillful tennis players and in improving the overall tennis program at Bethesda Country Club.

“I want to help our players get maximum satisfaction and enjoyment from tennis, the sport and fitness program for a lifetime,” he said. Not only has Hatten been an influential force in making tennis better for tennis players at BCC, he has made a difference throughout Montgomery County by serving as president of the United States Professional Tennis Association, Mid-Atlantic Division, president of



Frank Hatten was inducted into the Mid-Atlantic Professional Tennis Association Hall of Fame on March 9.

the Mid-Atlantic Tennis Foundation and president of the Montgomery County Tennis Association — and bringing about

changes in the sport of tennis.

Hatten was inducted into the Mid-Atlantic Professional Tennis Association Hall of Fame on March 9 at the annual convention in Charlottesville, Va. — an exceptionally fitting place for him to receive the award since he served as captain of the University of Virginia Varsity Tennis Team (and as their Number 1 singles player) from 1971 – 1975. He played on the 1972 Atlantic Coast Conference Championship team and was the West Virginia State Men’s Champion in 1975.

Rod Dulany, past president of the National USPTA and the Mid-Atlantic Professional Tennis Association as well as a 2012 Hall of Fame inductee presented Hatten to the audience and spoke of his work within the tennis community.

“I’m happy to be among the five tennis professionals who have been inducted into the Hall of Fame,” said Hatten. “People need sports for many reasons. I’ve been lucky enough to work in the sport I love and to have the opportunity to make a difference as well as help influence others to become as excited as I am about tennis. I’m also proud to be able to give back to tennis. It is an honor to be recognized by my peers for my work with the industry. I have always

felt a deep debt to the industry for all that tennis has done for me.

“I have always been proud of the work I did as president of Mid Atlantic Tennis and Education Foundation in securing a luxury suite at the US Open that provides \$50,000 in revenues for summer and after school programs for at-risk youth in the region, working with the Montgomery County Tennis Association Board as president from 2003-08 to increase participation from 2,500 players to 6,000 players in 2008, and most importantly the privilege of working with the Board at Bethesda Country Club for 37 years to make the club’s tennis facility and tennis offerings one of the preeminent tennis programs on the East Coast. The magnificent new tennis house at Bethesda Country Club is testament to the first-class status that BCC tennis has attained.”

Hatten became a teaching pro at BCC in 1976 when the facility consisted of only five tennis courts with no club house or tennis bubble. He taught there for two summers — fully planning to attend law school. He loved teaching tennis so much that he decided to continue, but knew that he needed to find a way to make the position into a year-around occupation. Thus, he proposed, financed, owned and managed a tennis

SEE HATTEN, PAGE 7

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Neighbor Saves Two Teenagers from Fire

**Family displaced;
house fire causes
\$600,000 in damage.**

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

A neighbor's efforts saved the lives of two teenagers on Willow Green Court, Monday afternoon, Feb. 25, according to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue reports.

"The teens inside narrowly escaped the blaze," according to Assistant Chief Scott Graham.

Firefighters were dispatched shortly after 4 p.m. for the report of a house fire on the 12400 block of Willow Green Court. First arriving units described "heavy fire and smoke conditions and requested additional resources," according to fire and rescue reports.

Approximately 80 fire and rescue personnel assisted putting out the fire, which caused more than \$600,000 in damages to the house.

OFFICIALS CREDIT the "neighbor's quick actions" in helping the teenagers escape safely.

The neighbor was walking her dog when she smelled smoke and investigated.

When she saw flames at the rear of the home, she called 911, and tied her dog to a nearby mailbox, according to fire and rescue reports.

cue reports.

She "began to pound on the front door of the home in an attempt to alert any occupants inside that the home was on fire," according to reports.

Fire and Explosive Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and believe that cooking materials placed outside to cool sparked the fire.

"Bacon grease," said Graham.

ONE FIREFIGHTER was injured and transported to a local hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The American Red Cross assisted the displaced family.

Due to extensive fire damage to the home, investigators were unable to determine whether the home was equipped with smoke alarms.

"Smoke alarms are one of the most important safety features to have in your home and, with many units available for under \$20, they are worth every penny," according to Graham.



The home on Willow Green Court is engulfed in flames.

Firefighter extinguish the house fire that caused \$600,000 in damage.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCKVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Callers Create Sense of Urgency in Scam

Local residents victimized after being told loved ones have been injured.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

The scammers create a sense of urgency. They convince victims to wire money to various locations.

"That's what they do. They start to solicit answers, and they get information out of you," said Officer Rebecca Innocenti. "Don't offer them information. They are using that information to manipulate you."

"Often, you do not realize that you are giving them valuable information," according to police.

At least five Montgomery County residents have reported such scams since Feb. 20.

"Two wired money, three did not," said Innocenti.

The scammers create a variety of emergency situations: that a loved one is in jail, that a son has been in an accident, that a

husband and son were injured. They generally tell victims that a family member or friend is in trouble or needs help.

"To assist in helping the family or friend, the victim is required to send money via wire transfer or other fund transfer," according to police reports.

A ROCKVILLE RESIDENT confirmed to a caller that she had a son on Feb. 20. The caller then told the resident that her son had been kidnapped following a car accident and would be killed unless she wired money, according to police reports.

The victim transferred money via wire transfer to Florida and Puerto Rico.

"Red flags should go up when they are asking you to wire money. No public agency is going to ask you to wire money," said Innocenti. "You've got to slow down and ask, 'Does this make sense?'"

Another county resident who was told his

brother had been shot didn't believe the caller and asked probing questions, according to police. "The suspect hung up the phone after realizing the resident did not believe the story."

"If you say no, they hang up, and are on to the next caller. They don't want to work harder," said Innocenti.

Another resident on Feb. 23 was told his son and brother were being held hostage after an accident, and that he needed to pay for damages to a damaged vehicle.

"The resident told the suspect he was calling police and ended the call. The resident was able to verify that his brother was safe," according to police.

Innocenti said they have linked five cases to the same phone number in Puerto Rico. Scammers are able to use a technique called "spoofing" to make phone numbers appear to be coming from a local number on Caller ID displays.

"They are randomly calling people in any part of the country," she said.

"Ask for as much information as you can, ask them where, when, ask them for their name and tell them you will call them back,"

she said. "If it is a reputable person, they will answer this."

THE FINANCIAL CRIMES Section of the police received reports of scammers posing as victims' grandchildren in the Friendship Heights area in November 2012.

Elderly residents were contacted by telephone by a suspect who said he or she had been arrested or involved in an accident in Mexico or Canada, needed money to be sent, and to "not contact" the mother or father.

"The victim is told to send the money quickly and given a bank account number into which to deposit the money," according to police documents at the time.

"Do not provide information over the phone," say police. "Do not provide bank account numbers over the phone, and do not send money to anyone you do not know. Most importantly, if you feel that you have been the victim of a scam, contact police."

"Your report to the police is oftentimes the only way that police know that such incidents are occurring," according to police.

POTOMAC ALMANAC ♦ MARCH 6-12, 2013 ♦ 3

GETTING AROUND

At One Hundred Years, She's Going Strong

Ada DeFranceaux recalls old Potomac friends and the good times they shared.

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

"He always called me CHEE-ILE," Ada DeFranceaux said. The youngest of 12 children, she was referring to one of her older brothers who, at the time, was working in Washington. "When you finish college come to Washington and I will give you a job," he promised. The then 19-year-old Ada, who had just completed one year of college in her native LaFayette, La., where she was born and raised, replied instantaneously, "I have just finished!"

It was 1932. Ada Moss DeFranceaux, who celebrated her 100th birthday on March 1, arrived in D.C. and took a job as her brother's secretary and bookkeeper. She never looked back.

Two years later she met her future husband, George, who worked "downstairs in the bank." She explained how she loved to play tennis and a group from the building would have daily games at lunch time. "I had never formally been introduced to him when he called one day to ask for a date. I refused."

"He called every night for a week, and days later at parties where there were Paul Jones dances, the red head George somehow always appeared in front of me," she marveled. Due to his persistence, after several weeks, he got his first date and finally



Ada DeFranceaux, poses with a portrait of her late husband, George, on the anniversary of her 100th birthday, March 1.

the girl. Their marriage, two years later, took place at Sacred Heart Church, Washington. It lasted for 62 years until George's death in 1997.

Prior to moving to Potomac in 1948, Ada and George had four children, Jeff, Don, Diane and Kay. "At first we lived in Chevy Chase but the children wanted horses. I finally agreed to move on one condition. I will name the place. It will be 'Sans Souci,' without a care."

From Chevy Chase to Potomac they went and found the joy of horses, fox hunting, comradeship and tranquility. For all of that she said, "I endured carpooling. The children went to Stone Ridge and Georgetown Prep." There were no regrets.

Shortly after the move the family resumed



Diane DeFranceaux Grog, wipes a tear away after welcoming Emma Graham, 85, (second from left) at Ada DeFranceaux's 100th birthday party. Kay DeFranceaux Leonard, (left) and Emma's sister, Muriel Wade, were among the 96 guests at the Congressional Country Club luncheon. "Emma raised us," the DeFranceaux sisters said.

the Christmas Day parties a tradition they started in Chevy Chase and continued for years. They also had many fundraisers for various organizations including Montgomery County Crippled Children, Christ Child Society, Our Lady of Mercy, the Stone Ridge School Horse Show and St. Francis House Tour at their River Road home.

"Back then everyone helped and cared for each other," she reminisced. She fondly told the story about when the Potomac Methodist Church needed a minister. "All the members decided to have a church supper so they could raise funds to hire a minister. The late Marjorie Hendricks owned Normandie Farm and she let the church borrow the restaurant for the supper. "Everyone helped. All denominations got together and both men and women helped," she recalled. Subsequently, the Rev. Gloyd Allis was called to the ministry and stayed for many years.

On her 100th birthday Ada enjoyed recalling old Potomac friends and the good times they shared. She particularly enjoyed telling about one Christmas Day when there was so much snow on the ground there was no place for their guests to park for the party. "Frank Counselman, a neighbor, called me at 7 a.m. and asked if I would like for him to come over and scrape the front field so cars could park." That was the nicest thing that ever happened to me in Potomac," she said, adding, "That was Potomac in those days."

"Those days" were also before Mitch and Bill's, (that location was formerly Hitchcock's beer parlor) and Benny Counselman's grocery store, now Hunter's Inn. Across River Road, now the BP station,

was the baseball field. Ada remembers it all.

Moving on from the history lesson Ada regaled a reporter with memories of her old friends and the fun they had. She recalled, "The last time I had a big party was for my 90th birthday. I invited the Kiplingers. Kip took the message, said they would be there. They arrived the day after the party." She still laughs about it.

She mentioned Ray and Jalma Norton, after whom Norton Road is named, and their home there. That was the site of many

Potomac Hunt meets. Down River Road, pass the Village, an area now called, "Belle Terre" was Jocelyn and Pete (Dr.) Moran's River Road home, also a gathering for Potomac Hunt meets. Yes, there was fox hunting in that area then. Charlie Carrico's horses and hounds were across from the DeFranceaux's 9124 River Road. Ada remembers it well.

She also considered Anita and Sam Bogley among her closest friends.

He was one of the original owners of Potomac Place (Safeway) Shopping center. Anita Bogley and Lyn Carroll were original owners of The Surrey, a Potomac institution for 56 years before moving to Darnestown. She included Margo and Mike McConihe, he was among those who started the first shopping center, and Jane and Joe Kreeger, and their son, Jake. "It was Jake who named me 'Ada Potato' and when Jane heard him she scolded him. I told her not to dare let him stop. I loved it."

The annual Christmas Santa Claus,



The cake.



Jake Kreeger, a River Road neighbor of the DeFranceauxs during the 1960s, was one of many who shared nostalgic moments with Ada DeFranceaux at her 100th birthday party at Congressional Country Club, March 2



Elie Cain welcomed Alan Lord back to his old stomping grounds. Lord's father, the Rev. Martin Lord, in 1955, was the first rector of St. Francis Episcopal Church.

PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

PEOPLE

Potomac Rotary Unveils Murals

Art honors Dr. John Sever.

The Potomac Rotary Club unveiled commissioned murals on Feb. 20 to be installed at the Children's National Medical Center in honor of Dr. John L. Sever, a founder of the Polio Plus effort of Rotary International to eradicate polio throughout the world.

Sever has been a lifelong advocate for children's health, and has been responsible for the care of treatment of children with infectious diseases at Children's National.

The unveiling was held at the club's meeting at Normandie Farm Restaurant. Joining in the event was Tina Lassiter, director of Creative and Therapeutic Arts Services, Children's National, and Heather Buggee, founder and executive director of "Splashes of Hope," which produced the murals.

The murals were commissioned by Potomac Rotary, and also were supported by additional Rotary Clubs in District 7620, as well as individual Rotarians.

Sever is a member of Potomac Rotary, joining in 1964, serving as president in 1969-1970, and as Governor of Rotary District 7620 (DC and Central MD) in 1978-1979. As a founder of Polio Plus, he has held numerous posts with RI for the world-wide project. He has also served as the RI representative to the World Health Organization, the Pan American Health Organization, and to the U.S. Congress.

"Splashes of Hope" works with hospitals and institutions to facilitate healing through art. The artwork serves as a therapeutic distraction for children during exams, medical procedures and recovery.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

From left: Artist Heather Buggee, Dr. John Sever and Children's National Medical Center representative Tina Lassiter.

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OPINION

Citizens Prevail on Brickyard

BY SHAWN JUSTEMENT
WMCCA PRESIDENT

Just two years ago, at West Montgomery County Citizens Association's March 2011 meeting, we learned that there was to be a commercial soccer complex on Brickyard Road's 20 acres owned by the Board of Education as a future school site and used as an organic farm for the past 30 years.

The County Executive announced that the property was to become a soccerplex, with the board leasing the land to the county, which in turn would sublease to a soccer club — a plan developed in closed-door meetings involving the County Executive, the board and a private group, starting in 2009. All of this was done without the community's knowledge, with no opportunity for input, and bypassing the county's processes to determine land use.

We were told that this was a done deal, with community input limited to the number of fields and parking spaces. In fact, there were to be four soccer fields and 300 parking spaces, as well as concession stands and bathrooms — a development that, under normal circumstances, zoning laws would not allow.

This news resulted in a large public outcry from supporters of the farm and opponents to a soccerplex in a residential neighborhood. Shortly after learning of, and in opposition to, the soccerplex, the Brickyard Coalition was formed, including WMCCA, the Brickyard Road Citizens Association, the Civic Association of River Falls, and more than 2,000 members of the community. While this issue had important ramifications for the farm and surrounding community, there were bigger issues at play — no public input or transparency in the process, violating the Potomac Master plan and the county's zoning laws, and providing public land to a private corporation for its exclusive use. This plan, if allowed to go forward, would set a dangerous precedent, and no community would be safe from covert planning and private development on public land.

After two years, the Brickyard Coalition has been successful in halting the soccerplex, with a dedicated group of community activists spending hours and hours in meetings and hearings. Critically, the coalition initiated a series of legal actions seeking public documents under the Maryland Public Information Act (MPIA) related to two years of secret dealing by our county government — documents which by law are to

WMCCA Meeting

The West Montgomery County Citizens Association will meet at the Potomac Community Center on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:15 p.m. If schools are closed because of inclement weather, the meeting will be cancelled.

The speakers will be Brickyard Coalition leaders. Like so many opposition campaigns, it started around a kitchen table in a quiet neighborhood two years ago. Since then, Brickyard Coalition steering committee leaders have met every two weeks to plan strategy, discuss meetings with countless government officials, develop press releases, coordinate efforts and raise money for legal actions. Coalition leaders have been tireless in their perseverance to stop a commercial soccer complex that violated our Master Plan and excluded all public input. They have been the leading edge of what has become a community effort that reached well beyond Potomac, and serves as a model of what citizens can do when they are denied a voice by their own government. Come join in celebrating the rights our community defended during the Brickyard struggle and discuss what may be next for the Brickyard Road school site. As always the public is welcome to attend.

be made available to the public upon request. The coalition also entered into two lawsuits, with WMCCA part of the MPIA action as well as a Plaintiff in the second lawsuit.

Finally, the citizens prevailed. The county has surrendered the lease, and the land is back in the control of the Board of Education. It should not take this level of organization and lawsuits for residents to have a voice in this type of decision. One good outcome of this challenge is Bill 11-12 passed by the County Council, requiring the County Executive to seek approval before disposing of county real property through sale or long-term lease. If Potomac's ordeal results in a more open and responsive county government with more checks and balances, then everyone will have benefitted.

BRICKYARD ROAD SCHOOL SITE UPDATE

BY CURT UHRE

It has taken two years, but the Brickyard Community has prevailed in its mission to stop the proposed soccerplex at the Brickyard school site. The coalition opposed the soccerplex because (i) it did not comply with the Potomac Master Plan; (ii) the decision was made in secret and not in a competitive and transparent manner, and (iii) the proposal did not meet applicable zoning regulations.

Montgomery County has now surrendered

the lease granted by the Board of Education for this property. The Board of Education has rescinded the lease and further, at our suggestion, nullified their authorizing resolution of March 8, 2011. There is no doubt that coalition's multiple lawsuits caused the county to surrender the lease which now permits the BOE to restart the process. The Brickyard Coalition would like to thank its 2,000-plus members for their enthusiastic support and assistance. We stood together and we prevailed.

As we have received all of the relief requested in our legal suits, Judge Greenburg has now dismissed the BOE appeal as moot. We expect similar action in the other lawsuit. However, we still retain the option to make an application for part of the legal fees expended in this fight. We understand that the Board of Education has decided to conduct a review of its process for the use of the Brickyard site and other similar BOE properties and develop policy guidelines for their future use. We look forward to working with the BOE as they undertake this important task.

GLEN HILLS AREA SEWER STUDY CALENDAR

BY SUSANNE LEE

March 18: Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), 7:30 p.m.

March 25: Last day for CAC comments on Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.

March 28: DEP posts revised Phase 1 and draft Phase 2 reports for public review.

Week of April 15: Evening public meeting at Frost Middle School

Week of April 29: Last day for public comments on Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.

Late May: DEP completes and posts final Phase 1 and Phase 2 reports.

June: DEP sends Glen Hills study reports and staff recommendations to the County Executive.

ARTIFICIAL TURF

Two bills related to synthetic infill turf fields (artificial turf athletic fields) have been introduced in the Maryland House of Delegates, one disallowing use of some forms of public money to finance such fields and the second requiring signs at artificial turf facilities warning players and parents to take precautions.

Carol Van Dam Falk, WMCCA Board member and former president, testified at a hearing for the first bill in early March, saying "I have discovered that there are several environmental, health and financial concerns too large and too serious to overlook, and no amount of industry-funded pamphlets can put my mind at ease regarding these issues."

She spoke to three important issues — no long-term studies have been ordered by local, state or federal government authorities to assess the risk of the carcinogens in recycled tire crumb; polluted stormwater runoff from the semi-imperious surface finds its way into local streams, the Potomac River, and Chesapeake Bay; and properly constructed and maintained natural turf permits as many playing days as artificial turf at a cost considerably below that of artificial turf.

WMCCA

PETS NEEDING HOMES

ANGEL (Dog)- F, 1 year old, 10 lbs., spayed, Mini Dachshund - Adorable Angel and a buddy ended up at a shelter together and were rescued by PAW. She is a typical Doxie in temperament and also has a friendly, loving side towards her foster mom and family. Because of her special bond with her friend, Beagle mix Yoshi, PAW would like to keep Angel and her pal together in an adoption.



PIPER (Dog)- F, 1 year old, 27 lbs., spayed, Shiba mix - Endearingly lop-eared Piper is all puppy at 1 year but has learned some of the basics. She is sweet and loving towards people and seems to take other dogs in stride. Piper will need the gentle training all puppies need but will reward a dog-experienced adopter with a great pet.



To learn more about the organization, the pets shown, volunteer, or make a much-needed, tax-deductible donation contact Partnership for Animal Welfare at www.paw-rescue.org, call 301-572-4729, or write P.A.W., P.O. Box 1074, Greenbelt, MD 20768

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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Newspaper of Potomac
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Potomac Almanac is published by Local Media Connection LLC

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PEOPLE



PHOTO BY ALI BRATUN/WES

Washington Episcopal Grade 3 student Giovanna Massaro, 9, portrays sculptor Augusta Savage (foreground), and Cameron Hall, 8, portrays astronaut Guion Bluford, while classmate Julian Haas, 8, listens to Giovanna's speech (far right) in their Black Facts Museum at the school this week.

Third-graders Present Black Facts Museum

Thirty-six prominent historical African Americans, including Frederick Douglas, Phyllis Wheatley, Augusta Savage, and Jesse Owens appeared at Washington Episcopal School recently, as the third grade class portrayed them in their annual Black Facts Museum. Each student chose an African American who made a significant contribution to the country. Their project involved researching their subject, creating a tri-fold presentation board, and delivering a memorized speech to attendees in their "museum" during three sessions.

"I liked finding the costume for being Augusta Savage," said Giovanna Massaro, 9, who por-

trayed the sculptor. "I want to be a librarian when I grow up so I enjoyed reading about her; I never knew about her until I started reading about her for my project."

"The third graders should be incredibly proud of their hard work," said third-grade teacher Dana Benedict. "The Black Facts Museum is their first major research project. They learned invaluable research skills, and had the opportunity to explore the accomplishments of influential African Americans throughout history."

Washington Episcopal School is an independent, coeducational day school in Bethesda, for students age 3 to grade 8.

For more information, visit www.w-e-s.org.

Hatten Honored

FROM PAGE 2

bubble that made the BCC tennis facility a year-round operation. He grew the tennis program from one part-time tennis pro (himself) to a comprehensive year-round program with six full-time pros on staff. He has instituted programs at BCC for adults, teens and children, including women's and men's teams, cardio tennis, World Team Tennis, youth tennis camps and more.

"Tennis has taken me to places I never thought I'd go," he said. Born in Huntington, W.Va.,

Hatten was recruited as a high school student to attend the Phillips Exeter Academy — a New England boy's boarding school. "That's just one place — but the contacts and exposure for a boy from West Virginia were invaluable. Then I was fortunate to play at UVA and then move to Montgomery County." He joined the staff of BCC, built the tennis program — and continues to encourage and excite others about the game he loves so much.

Hatten and his wife, Lauren reside in Potomac and have three children.

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Email community entertainment events to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

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Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too).

Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-alongs, prizes and more. Visit rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me. The Library, First Floor: March 19, Nov. 19 and Dec. 17. On the Square: April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 and Oct. 15.

The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park has announced its 2012-2013 season. There are favorite fairytale princesses, and a special guest artist with a bilingual twist. 301-634-5380 or www.thepuppetco.org. **Alice in Wonderland**, through March 10, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; **Jack and the Beanstalk**, March 14-Apr. 21, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; **Cinderella**, Apr. 25-June 9, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Glassworks. Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Glassworks is the D.C. area's first glass school. Classes are taught year-round for both new and advanced students. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2280 or visit www.innervisionglassworks.com.

Science & Nature. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Weekend Nature Programs at Living Classrooms Children's Museum Living Classrooms Children's Museum at Glen Echo Park presents engaging science and nature activities for the family. Encounter live animals, take an interpretive hike, explore the indoor anthill and tree slide and more. Free for members/children under 2; \$5 for non-members. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 202-488-0627, ext. 242 or visit livingclassroomsdc.org/Site-BasedPrograms.html.

SilverWorks Studio & Gallery.

Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition and sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. At Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Call 301-634-2228 or visit www.silverworksglenechopark.org.

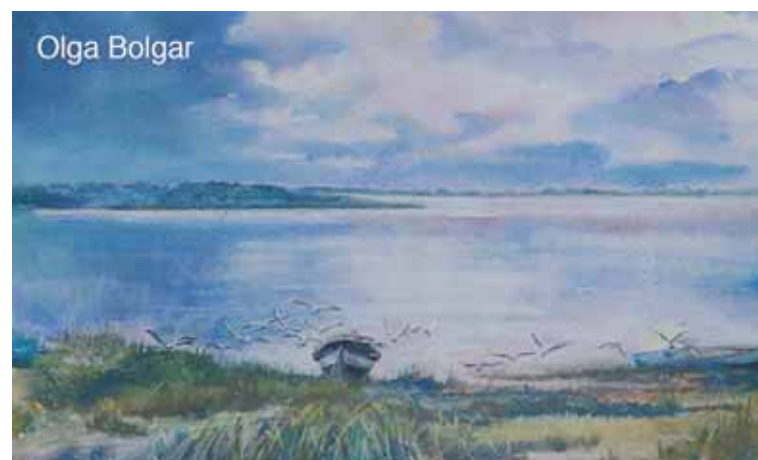
Theater Performance. Through March 10, Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, showcases "Anime Momotaro," a Japanese folktale that teaches about inner strength and the ability to stand up against bullying. Tickets range \$12-\$25 and available online at www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 6

Introduction to the Wheel. 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Learn all about the potter's wheel. \$260. Register at www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

MARCH 6 THROUGH APRIL 14

Children's Theater. Imagination Stage and Natasha Holmes, director and cofounder of Tell Tale Hearts Children's Touring Theatre Company presents "From Here to There," Tuesdays through Sundays at 10:30



beautiful moments



Beautiful Moments

Juliya Ivanilova, of Bethesda, and Olga Bolgar, of Ellicott City, will present their artwork inspired by beautiful places, people and objects from around the world, at the Glen Echo Yellow Barn Gallery, March 23 and 24. The Gallery is open noon-5 p.m. A reception for the artists will take place on March 23, 5-7 p.m. at the Gallery. The event is hosted by the National Park Service. The collection includes oils, watercolors, pastel and charcoal drawings, works done both in studio and during plein air sessions. The event is open to the public. For more information contact the Yellow Barn Gallery at 1-301-371-5593, or the National Park Service, Glen Echo, at 1-301-492-6229.

a.m. and 11:45a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Appropriate for children ages 2-5. Tickets are \$10-\$12 with a lap seat for children under 12 months for \$5. Visit www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Advanced Ceramics. 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. For those with prior ceramics experience. \$260. Register at www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

Wine + Art: Color Me Picasso. 7-10 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Guests explore the power of color in Picasso's work and then create their own abstract portrait. No experience necessary. Includes guided tour of an exhibit. \$60. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Cirque Ziva. 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Watch gravity-defying acrobatics and more. \$25-\$45. Visit www.strathmore.org for more.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. "Crossing the Distance" brings together emerging contemporary artists in a cultural exchange. Presents a wide-range of media. Located at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

Opening Reception. 7-9 p.m. see B.G. Muhn's "Accidental Reality" at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Browse his paintings, which float between abstraction and representation, presence and absence. Free. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

Pencils and Pasties. 7-10 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Try your hand at sketching. Soda and chips are free, beer and wine will be sold. \$15. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200 to register.

Reservation Deadline. RSVP to the Bette Aschkenasy Lunch & Learn on March 20 at Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville. The theme is "Aging Backward-Moving Forward." \$36/member; \$40/non-member. E-mail epsteinsgma@yahoo.com to RSVP.

Heavy Breathing. 8 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Hear electric rock in the form of traditional instruments with electronic influences. \$10/online; \$12/door. Visit www.strathmore.org for tickets.

MARCH 8-24

Theater Performance. Potomac Theatre Company presents "Blithe Spirit" at Blair Family Center for the Arts, Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 2 p.m. \$20/adults; \$18/students,

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seniors. 301-299-8571 for reservations.

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Dance Bethesda Concert. 8 p.m. at Round House Theatre, 4545 East-West Highway, Bethesda. Seven performers and choreographers have been selected to perform including the Washington School of Ballet. \$20/adult; \$10/child 12 and under. Visit www.bethesda.org.

Seminars. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Hopkins & Porter, 12944-C Travilah Road, #204. Workshops will discuss additions, ways to open up a floor plan and more. Free. Space is limited to 15 participants. Call 301-840-9121 to register.

Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Potomac Library. Most hardback and large paperback books \$1. Regular size paperback books \$.50. 10101 Glenolden Dr., Potomac.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Strathmore Show: Dan Tepfer and Ben Wendel. 7:30 p.m. This jazz duo of piano and saxophone offers a unique sound, and this pair of critically acclaimed artists takes the sonic adventure even further. Join them for the release of their new CD. The Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit www.strathmore.org.

Performance. 4 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Young Artists of America and the Maryland Classic Youth Orchestra presents "Madama Butterfly" and "Miss Saigon." Tickets range between \$20-\$40. Visit www.strathmore.org for tickets.

Soup 'N' Bowls Fundraiser. Noon-4 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Help raise money for camper scholarships for children and teens with chronic health conditions. Enjoy a silent and live auction, food and more. \$25/online or \$30/door. Visit www.braincamps.com or 202-476-5142.

Capitol Steps Performance. 7 p.m. at Walt Whitman High School auditorium, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda. Proceeds benefit the school's post prom event. \$30/person; \$25/Montgomery County Public School students and teachers.

Family Dance. 3-5 p.m. above the post office in the Glen Echo Town Hall, 6106 Harvard Ave., Glen Echo. Donna Hunt calls the music of New Hip Trio. \$5/person. No experience necessary. Visit www.fsgw.org or 301-315-9461.

THROUGH MARCH 10

Theater Performance. Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, showcases "Anime Momotaro," a Japanese folktale that teaches about inner strength and the ability to stand up against bullying. Tickets range \$12-\$25 at www.imaginationstage.org or 301-280-1660.

MONDAY/MARCH 11

Wheel Away the Day. 1-3 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. \$230. Register at www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Jazz Vocalist. 7:30 p.m. at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Inegriti Reeves performs jazz standards with original flare and modern harmonies. \$15. Visit www.strathmore.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

Strathmore Show: Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. Exploring the borders of contemporary classical music, indie

rock, and other diverse musical forms, this ensemble combines flute, clarinet, electric guitar, double bass and piano. The Mansion at Strathmore 10701 Rockville Pike, Visit www.strathmore.org.

Comedy. 8-9:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Headline is Mike Lawrence and features Kat Timpf. \$15. Visit www.visartscenter.org or 301-315-8200.

Balboa DJ Dance. 8:30 p.m., lessons start; 9-11:30 p.m., dancing at Ballroom Backroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$10/person. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Open House. 9 a.m.-noon at Montgomery County Extension, Agricultural History Farm Park, 18410 Muncaster Road, Derwood. Hosted by the Montgomery County Master Gardeners. Sessions include starting a vegetable garden, caring for tools and more. Seed will be available for purchase and trading. Free. Visit <http://growit.umd.edu/ClassesAndEvents/Montgomery%20County%20Classes.cfm>.

Free Special Event. 2-4:30 p.m. at Clara Barton National Historic Site, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo. Enjoy a free performance of "Clara Barton: Red Cross Angel," then explore the historic home and hear stories about Clara Barton. Free. Reservations required for the performance. 301-320-1410.

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St. More than 20 dealers will have gems, minerals and more for sale; plus exhibits, raffle, workshops and more. Visit www.glmsmc.com/show. \$6/person 12 and older; free for children and scouts in uniform.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St. More than 20 dealers will have gems, minerals and more for sale; plus exhibits, raffle, workshops and more. Visit www.glmsmc.com/show. \$6/person 12 and older; free for children and scouts in uniform.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

The Strengths of Autism. Learn about the latest research findings in non-social strengths (e.g., a detail-focused cognitive style) and difficulties (e.g., inflexibility/desire for sameness) in autism spectrum disorders. Call 301-468-9343.

THROUGH MARCH 18

Art Exhibit. Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., presents "Signs of Life" by Elizabeth Steuart. See natural and man-made elements woven together in compositions reminiscent of a stage set. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Seminars. 6-8 p.m. at Hopkins & Porter, 12944-C Travilah Road, #204. Workshops will discuss additions, ways to open up a floor plan and more. Free. Space is limited to 15 participants. Call 301-840-9121 to register.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

Opening Reception. 6-9 p.m. see "Mirror to the World 2013" at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. 301-634-2274.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

Green Mansions

Current market trends in the luxury home market are placing strong emphasis on the "green-wise" sustainability of luxury homes. With new luxury home buyers placing a premium on environmentally friendly, health conscious building and design, luxury home construction firms and knowledgeable REALTORS® are taking this new emphasis into account when constructing and showing luxury homes. Solar paneling, utilization of and maximizing on alternative energy sources and incorporation of sustainable, non-toxic building materials are important considerations new luxury home buyers are taking into account when conducting their home searches. The current trend is driving homeowners and prospective homeowners away from the idea of conspicuous consumption and into the realm of sustainability. Going green is not only an ecologically aware choice, but it is also one that is becoming economically sound, with many green renovations providing tax deductions and reduced energy costs, offsetting or negating the cost of their installation in immediate terms—and proving priceless over time, as green renovations reduce the harm of civilization on nature and ecology. One such consideration when marketing a "green mansion" is the concept of personal health and well-being. Health and vitality, incorporated into the convenience and privacy of one's own home, is a new standard of luxury. As such, personalized facilities catering to this concept, such as personal spas, home fitness rooms, solariums and state of the art water filtration are some of the most sought-after amenities in the luxury home market. Likewise, there has been a shift towards greater environmental consciousness in home buyers. Cost effective and environmentally friendly, many new home design elements are being incorporated by construction and design firms due to high market demand. Welcome to the future of housing—the green mansion!

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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ON STAGE



Annette Kalicki plays Elvira.



Mike Fisher plays Charles.



Charlene Sloan plays Ruth.



Leah Mazade plays Madame Arcati.



Caity Brown plays Edith (a maid).

Potomac Theatre Company Summons 'Blithe Spirit'

Show opens Friday night.

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

This month the Potomac Theatre Company presents Noel Coward's comedy "Blithe Spirit." The play premiered in 1941 in London and was adapted into an Oscar-winning 1945 film starring Rex Harrison. The play begins with a séance where novelist Charles Condomine hopes to gather material for his next book. During the séance the medium accidentally summons the spirit of his first wife, Elvira. Charles is the only one who can see her, and she makes things very difficult on Charles' marriage to his second wife, Ruth.

Director Laurie Freed describes Coward's writing as having "very wordy dialogue, jammed packed. There is so much to memorize. The cast has worked very hard. Noel Coward has stood the test of time. This play opened in 1941 in England and has had over 2,000 performances. It was an immediate success. At the time it opened England was deep into World War II. People were craving some entertainment to get their minds off the war. 'Blithe Spirit' is a very erudite play with twists and fantasy and the spirit world. It deals with marriage and jealousy but also has lots of laughs."

Laura Andruski enjoys playing her character, Mrs. Violet Bradman, who "for a proper British lady is a bit of a ditz. She is invited to the séance by her husband and wants desperately for it to be real. She wants to be told her fortune and have spooky things happen. 'Blithe Spirit' is a delightful play, a supernatural farce. Noel Coward writes wordy and rich characters. I have been having a lot of fun working with this deeply talented cast."

Charlene Sloan plays Ruth Condomine, the second wife. "She is a haughty British lady who wants things to be in control and



Scene from "Blithe Spirit:" Charles (Mike Fisher), Edith (Caity Brown) and Madame Arcati (Leah Mazade).

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC



David Gross plays Dr. Bradman.



Laura Andruski plays Mrs. Bradman.

Details

Director: Laurie T. Freed

Producer: Tammi T. Gardner

Starring: Michael Fisher, Charlene Sloane, Annette Kalicki, David Gross, Laura Andruski and Caity Brown

Performance dates are: March 8, 9 and 10, March 15, 16 and 17, March 22, 23 and 24; Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Call 301 299-8571 for reservations. All seats are assigned.

The theater is located in The Blair Family Center for the Arts at the Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac.

For directions and campus map, go to <http://potomactheatreco.org/directions.html>

in an organized manner. At the séance everything goes crazy and things start to happen that you don't expect. She goes from controlled to unraveled. Farce is realistic people in unpredictable situations. My challenge is to make Ruth seem like a real person and make the audience feel for her and what she is going through. The other acting challenge is there is a character onstage who is a ghost the entire time that only one person can see so we need to pretend we don't see her. As an actor you need to counter your natural intuition and work hard at ignoring her." To achieve her character's British accent Sloan watched a lot of Downton Abbey and Dr. Who.

Caity Brown enjoys playing Edith the maid "because I get to do lots of physical comedy. I think the audience will enjoy the play because it is very funny and not done very often. The audience is in on the joke. Most characters cannot see the ghosts but the audience can see all the action and characters. The cast has put in a lot of hard work and we are excited to get an audience in to participate with us."

David Gross plays Dr. George Bradman whom he describes as "a funny sarcastic man. He is skeptical of the medium but thinks the séance will be fun. "Gross feels the audience will enjoy the show because "it is such a farce; the language is sharp and clever. The play is so fantastic and the audience is in for a good romp."

GETTING AROUND

At One Hundred Years, She's Going Strong

FROM PAGE 4

Charlie Paine, and his wife, Eva, were also favorites. They lived on Persimmon Tree Road, next door to Jane Read, another of Ada's special friends. Every Christmas morning Charlie would get in his Santa suit, saddle his gray horse and deliver Christmas presents, riding miles, often as far as Travilah Road. She has forgotten nothing about the "good old days."

The Leonards who lived nearby, bought their place in 1949. Jack Leonard, Sr., Jack, Jr. and Jack, III all lived there at one time or another. Jack, III, married Kay DeFranceaux in 1983. "We knew each other as kids," he said. The couple, who with their daughter, Carolyn, flew from their home in Kauai, Hawaii, to celebrate the birthday.

Although March 1 marked Ada's centennial, the big celebration was March 2 at Congressional Country Club where 96 guests gathered for a luncheon. She greeted everyone with hugs and kisses. When time came for her to address the gathering, Ada, who loves to sing, told her guests: "They are very few words, but very meaningful and from an old song. Three little words and eight little letters, 'I love you.' Thank you for coming to an old gal's last hurrah."

THE PARTY WENT ON for several hours with the hostess in fine fettle. Guests had as many recollections to impart as Ada did. One former neighbor, Jake Kreeger, told the story about his father's 60th birthday. "My step mother announced that she was having a party to celebrate the occasion. Dad told her emphatically that he did not want it and would not come. Two hundred people came that evening. When Dad came home and saw all the cars he kept on going."

Alan Lord remembered days in Potomac when his dad, The Rev. Martin Lord was the first rector (1955-'58) at St. Francis Episcopal Church. He said after his mother died his dad (now deceased) moved back to County Cork, Ireland, for 10 years. He subsequently remarried. Alan, who has an appraisal and real estate company in Alexandria, and his wife, Tena, have two daughters and three grandchildren.



The invitation. Ninety-six guests accepted.



PHOTOS BY Cissy Enley Grant/The Almanac

"Time out" the birthday lady exclaimed at her 100th celebration. Sue Monahan assured her hostess, Ada DeFranceaux, she deserved it.

There were dozens at the party from Maplewood, the Bethesda retirement community where Ada now lives. Also there were her four children, Jeff (from LaFayette), Diane Grog (from California), Kay and Jack Leonard (Hawaii) and Don and his wife, Peggy DeFranceaux, of Washington. Don and Peggy, due to their proximity, were the chief luncheon planners. "We also had quite a party at our house last night," Don confessed, "and another planned for tonight. I'm going in hiding next week," he added.

Counting Ada's four children, nine grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, many of whom were at the luncheon, there was no end of memories and nostalgia. Barbara Kinney deFranceaux, Ada's sister-in-law, was there with her son and daughter-in-law, Clark and Joannie. Barbara is the widow of Howard deFranceaux, George's brother. Yes, it is the lower case spelling of deFranceaux. "They were educated in different areas and that was how they were taught," Barbara explained.

Lisa and Rick Arrowsmith with her mother, Sue Monahan; Elie and Ted Cain, Leonard Proctor who can relate almost as many Potomac stories as Ada; and Lindy Boggs, former ambassador to the Vatican and former congresswoman, with her son, Tommy, were all there. Boggs' daughter, media correspondent Cokie Roberts, was in Rome covering the papal election.

However, the honoree herself had the best story. When asked, "How is your health?" She replied, "Don't make me brag. I have two pills I take every day. One is a vitamin!"

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OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC MARCH 9 & 10

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

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Churchill senior Dominique Williams scored 14 points during a region quarterfinal victory against Clarksburg on Feb. 28.



Churchill senior Bryant Wheatley had a double-double against Clarksburg in the 4A West quarterfinals, finishing with 11 points and 12 rebounds.



Churchill sophomore Jesse Locke scored 17 points against Clarksburg on Feb. 28.

PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Churchill Boys' Basketball Wins Quarterfinal Match-up

Bulldogs reach region semifinals for third consecutive year.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

A Clarksburg buzzer-beater cut Churchill's lead to two at half time of the teams' 4A West boys' basketball quarterfinal matchup.

A 17-5 Churchill run to open the second half assured Clarksburg would get no closer.

No. 2-seed Churchill advanced to the region semifinals for the third consecutive season with a 67-58 victory against No. 10 Clarksburg on Feb. 28 at Churchill High School. Four Bulldogs scored in double figures, led by sophomore Jesse Locke's 17 points. Senior Dominique Williams and junior

Malik Harris each scored 14 points and senior Bryant Wheatley had 11.

Clarksburg closed the first half on a 12-4 run, but Churchill held the Coyotes scoreless for a 3-minute, 37-second stretch of the third quarter and extended its lead to 48-34 with a Locke bucket with 1:27 left in the period.

"We just had to turn up our defense," Williams said. "I know we weren't blocking out well in the first half, so we had to make sure we knocked those big boys out so we could get those rebounds."

Williams finished with six steals, and fellow senior Wheatley grabbed 12 rebounds,

giving him a double-double. Locke grabbed nine rebounds.

"We were flying around. We've been having a hard time talking, but now we're coherent, every one's talking, it's fantastic."

— Churchill senior Bryant Wheatley

"Dom and Wheatley tonight just played like seniors," Churchill head coach Matt Miller said. "That was a big focal point at halftime is that you guys have all got to match their intensity. ... [Our guys] were all over the glass, they were all over the loose balls. Even their mistakes, they were hustling."

Churchill has held 19 of 23 opponents to fewer than 60 points this season. Clarksburg scored 66 in the teams' first meeting.

"We were flying around," Wheatley said after Churchill's quarterfinal victory. "We've been

having a hard time talking, but now we're coherent, every one's talking, it's fantastic."

Dennis Singleton Jr. led Clarksburg with 20 points.

Churchill faced No. 3 Quince Orchard in the semifinals on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Cougars defeated the Bulldogs 64-46 during the regular season on Feb. 5.

Churchill last season reached the region final for the first time in more than 30 years. Williams and Wheatley are the most experienced returners from that group, which lost to Magruder in the 4A West championship game.

What could they tell the younger Bulldogs about playing in the postseason?

"The intensity is going to be high and the crowd is going to be into the game," Williams said. "They're going to really try to put pressure on us so we just have to relax and just play our game."

Whitman Girls' Basketball Wins Region Title

The Whitman girls' basketball team won the 4A West region championship with a 46-31 victory over the Gaithersburg Trojans on March 1 at Paint Branch High School.

Gaithersburg had ended Whitman's previous three seasons, including a 53-41 victory over the Vikings in the 2010

4A West championship game at Blair High School. Gaithersburg beat Whitman in the 2011 region semifinals (81-39) and the 2012 quarterfinals (63-47).

Whitman will face Baltimore Polytechnic in the state semifinals at 3 p.m. on Thursday, March 7 at UMBC.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Jennifer I. Endick graduated from Boston University with a master of science degree in public relations.

Veronika Stare was named to the dean's honor list at Gettysburg College.

Kathleen C. Koch was named to the dean's list at Saint Joseph's University. Koch is majoring in

food marketing.

Caitlin Carey Barrett has been named to the dean's list at Boston University for the 2012 fall semester, while studying in London. Barrett, majoring in international relations, is a graduate of the Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart.

Villanova University named the following students to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester: **Stephanie Jones** is pursuing a bachelor's degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **An-**

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

WELLBEING

George Mason University Professors Fred Bemak and Rita Chi-Ying Chung will be honored by the American Counseling Association for their dedication to human rights, social justice and culturally sensitive mental health treatment.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
GEORGE MASON
UNIVERSITY



Counseling Professors Honored

Cultural sensitivity at the heart of their work.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Fred Bemak and his wife Rita Chi-Ying Chung, who are both professors at George Mason University in Fairfax, recall being in Haiti shortly after the catastrophic earthquake of 2010. They were there to provide mental health counseling to those traumatized by the natural disaster.

"We were working in one of the tent camps," said Bemak who, with Chung, has been a professor of counseling and development in George Mason's College of Education and Human Development since 2000. "There were tents and each contained about 30 cots. People lived side-by-side with no privacy. There was little food and little water."

They worked with a woman who was so traumatized that she had been unable to get out of bed for three months. "The traditional response is 'let's get her off to the side and speak to her alone,'" said Bemak. "But that is the Western model of therapy. When you're looking at family-oriented communities, there is a tremendous need to connect with others."

As Bemak spoke with his bed-ridden patient, others began to join the session. "We started to talk to her and crowds started to gather around her cot," he said. "It became a huge healing intervention where for the first time in three months, she got out of her cot. We had a [session] that was conducive to the community in Haiti."

Bemak and Chung's peers will salute their dedication to human rights, social justice and culturally sensitive mental health treatment later this month when they receive two of the American Counseling Association's highest honors.

Chung will receive the Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Humanitarian and Caring Person Award, which Bemak was awarded in 2011, and Bemak will receive the Kitty Cole Human Rights Award, which Chung garnered last year. Additionally, Chung will receive the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

and Dominion Resources.

"I am deeply honored that I was even considered for these awards. It is a true honor. I feel so privileged to be in this field," said Chung, who noted that her background fuels her passion for her work.

"I am a person of color and I grew up in another country," said Chung, whose parents moved from China to New Zealand after the World War II. "Being an immigrant to the United States myself, I understood the struggles and challenges of immigrants and refugees. A lot of counseling theories are based on western beliefs. Coming from an eastern background, I know that culture plays a major part in the way we react and respond to major life experiences."

Bemak worked as a counselor and also served as director of the Upward Bound Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "I worked with white, African American and Latino students who were struggling academically," he said. "When they came together, for many it was the first time that they'd been around people of other races."

Bemak and Chung say cultural sensitivity and insights are often lacking in mental health care. This underscores the importance of their work with Counselors Without Borders, which Bemak founded. It provides culturally responsive humanitarian counseling after disasters. Together, they've led teams of therapists and students in providing mental health therapy along the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and on American Indian reservations and in Latino migrant communities after the San Diego wildfires.

"The two of them have traveled to more than 55 countries, together and individually, where they have worked with at-risk youth, immigrants and refugees; counseled child-trafficking and post-disaster victims; and guided students of color and former child soldiers," said Catherine Probst, a spokeswoman for George Mason University.

The couple also co-authored "Social Justice Counseling: The Next Steps Beyond Multiculturalism" last year.

"We both do the work because we want to give back," said Chung. "We're trying to instill in the next generation of counselors to give back. I am not working to be recognized, but I hope this will inspire people to do the work because there is so much need out there."

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE



My oncologist is a man. He has e-mail. He works for an HMO that encourages/advertises its connectivity and responsiveness – electronically, to its members. If I want to get medical answers in a reasonable amount of time – save for an emergency, typing, “mousing” and clicking is the recommended methodology. No more phone calls, preferably. Though pressing keys on a keyboard rather than pressing buttons on a phone might have felt counter-intuitive at first as a means of receiving prompt replies, it has proven over these past few years to be a fairly reliable and predictable information loop. Not in minutes necessarily, but more often than not during the same day – and almost always by the very next day. In fact, I’ve received e-mails from my oncologist as late as 9:18 p.m. (time-stamped) after a sometime-during-the-day e-mail had been sent. The content of the sent e-mail has almost always been helpful or constructive, even instructive concerning the issue at hand. I’ve never felt disconnected, though; alone maybe, but that’s more because, other than our three cats, there is rarely anyone else at home with me. Being a salesman can sometimes be a solitary pursuit. And though there are many advantages – freedom and independence being the two most important, occasionally you find yourself alone with your thoughts, literally.

Attempting to speak directly with my oncologist during the day – at my convenience, given the too-numerous-to-list responsibilities of his non-stop, double-booked routine, seems a bit unrealistic. And if there’s anything I’ve learned during this cancer experience, it would be to minimize/manage my expectations in a way – any way, to avoid any totally understandable but fairly unhelpful jumps to discouraging conclusions. Patience can be a virtue, although being one of many, less so. And though I consider myself an important patient (I would imagine most “terminal” patients would characterize themselves as such) and thus deserving/expecting exceedingly prompt and predictable feedback, the reality appears to be somewhat less Kenny-centric. Not that I need constant care (I don’t, thank God!) or reassurance for that matter; however, when your oncologist shortens up your life expectancy by say, 30 years, you kind of think/feel that you’ve risen to the top of his to-do list. Which I certainly don’t know that he has/keeps. If he did/does, perhaps my placement on it would warrant a more immediate reply, electronic or otherwise. Nevertheless, my diagnosis-to-date sense has been that though I am likely on a list, there are probably other equally less fortunate people who have become listed as well. All of whom feel as I do: that they’re the most important name on that list – real or imagined.

Apparently, for the medical system’s exchange of information and for the treatment of patients to sync, e-mail has to suffice. And though it may have taken me a little while to sync up, I am now a regular e-mailer to my doctor and an equally regular receiver of his electronic expertise. It’s not perfect, but four years into it, I feel fortunate to have the access that I do. It’s not exactly any port in a storm, but the weather has been inclement and having lines of communication available to me 24/7 has smoothed out many rough patches.

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

BULLETIN

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

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Soup ‘N’ Bowls Fundraiser. Noon-4 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Help raise money for camper scholarships for children and teens with chronic health conditions. Enjoy a silent and live auction, food and more. \$25/online or \$30/door. Visit www.brainycamps.com or 202-476-5142.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Dog Adopter Workshop. 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Your Dog’s Friend Training Center, 12221 Parklawn Drive. Learn how to deal with common issues, prevent problems and more. Free. Leave dog at home. Visit www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913 to register.

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Shrimp and Oyster Feast Fundraiser. 1-5 p.m. at Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad, 5020 Battery Lane, Bethesda. \$45/person for all-you-can-eat steamed shrimp, fresh shucked and fried oysters, potato salad, sliced ham and more. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Visit www.bccrs.com or 301-977-6634.

SoberRide. 4 p.m.-4 a.m. Area residents can call the toll-free phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost safe way home (up to a \$30 fare). AT&T customers can dial #WRAP for the same service. For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Volunteer Session. The Literacy Council of Montgomery County will hold information sessions for volunteers interested in helping adults with learning to read, write or speak English at 7:30 p.m. at Rockville Library. Visit www.literacycouncilmcmd.org or 301-610-0030.

Support Group. For anyone grieving the death of a loved one, a six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice professional counselors. 1-2:30 p.m. Tuesdays, at Trinity Lutheran, 11200 Old Georgetown Road, North Bethesda. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

Support Group. For children (4 years old) through teens who have experienced the death of a parent or sibling. Parent/guardian meets at the same time. A six-week group led by Montgomery Hospice professional counselors. 6-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays. Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Registration required: 301-921-4400.

JUNE 17 THROUGH AUG. 9

Social Skills Summer Camp. Children in grades 1 through 6 can attend camp and learn friendly behaviors, working as a team, anger management and more. Held by the Jewish Social Service Agency and the McLean School of Maryland. All potential campers will be interviewed to make sure the camp is appropriate for their needs. Visit www.summertimeedge.org/ for more.

ONGOING

Beginner’s Yoga Classes at Village Yoga. Village Yoga is adding a new Beginner’s Yoga Class, Mondays, 8 p.m. Continues our Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Beginner’s Gentle Flow class as well. 10154 River Road. 301-299-1948. Visit www.villageyogayogi.com.

Fenton Street Market. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 27. The market is located in downtown Silver Spring at One Veterans Plaza, intersection of Fenton and Ellsworth streets. It will not be open on Sept. 22.

Members Wanted. The Potomac Area Newcomers Club is a group of more than 200 women who have moved to the Potomac area. The club offers helps newcomers and current residents form new friendships. Visit www.potomacnewcomers.com

Free Parent-Child Playgroup. Every Monday at 9:30 a.m. at the Har Shalom Early Childhood Education Center. Meet new friends as you and your child play with age appropriate toys. Call 301-299-7087.

Music Accompanies Art Opening

The opening of The Art Gallery of Potomac’s March 2 exhibit included a duet performance by Jacqueline Niemat and Jose Cueto.

Niemat, who is from Potomac, has made a name for herself as one of the premiere recitalist in the Washington / Baltimore area. She has performed at the Strathmore Hall, Italian Cultural Society, The American Visionary Museum, The Art Club of Washington, The Corcoran Gallery of Art and the Austrian, Finnish, Egyptian and Lebanese embassies. Last year, Niemat performed at the Rothschild Estate in Vienna, Austria and will perform at the National Opera House in Cairo, Egypt.

Cueto is originally from Puerto Rico. As a soloist he has performed in the U.S., Latin America, Europe and Asia. He has performed with the Kennedy Center, Tidewater and Casals Chamber Player, Washington Chamber Society and the Melos Ensemble. He has also performed with Gervase de Peyer, at the La Gesse Festival in France, Autunno Musicale Veronese, The Italy and USA Alba Music Festival in Italy, and the Three World Festivals in China. He has also founded the chamber music ensemble Alborada.

Cueto is concertmaster of Concert Artists of Baltimore and the Chesapeake Festival Orchestra. He serves as artist-in-residence and head of the strings de-



PHOTO BY YOLANDA PRINSLOO

Jose Cueto and Jacqueline Niemat performed at the opening reception at The Art Gallery of Potomac.

partment at St. Mary’s College of Maryland.

The exhibit “Yolanda Prinsloo and Friends” will continue through March 31. The gallery is open on Wednesdays through Sundays noon till 4 p.m. Prinsloo, who was the student of Paul Emsley and recent portrait artist of the Duchess of Cambridge, is exhibiting with her own students.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 12

drew Garber is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Cameron Moshedy** is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in the Villanova School of Business. **Jordan Meeker** is studying economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Caitlin Murphy** is studying political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. **Erin Kale** is studying psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Amanda N. Corwin, a first-year student at Colby College, was named to the dean’s list. She is

the daughter of Erik and Manal Corwin and attended Potomac School.

Erika Burns, a member of the class of 2014 was named to the dean’s list at Loyola University Maryland.

Jonna Rautsola has been named a Wake Forest University Public Engagement Fellow. The fellows program, sponsored by the University’s Institute for Public Engagement is designed to bolster support for students interested in pursuing careers in public service, public policy or public administration.

Fourth Presbyterian Hosts Spelling Bee

For the fifth year in a row, The Fourth Presbyterian School hosted the Scripps Regional Spelling Bee for Montgomery County on Saturday, March 2. The bee is sponsored by The Meakem Group and was held at Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda.

Thirty-nine Montgomery County public and private schools were represented this year. Seventh grade student, Calvin Liu, from Takoma Park Middle School prevailed in the end, clinching the championship by spelling “brilliantine” correctly. Manav Mathur, a seventh grader from Rocky Hill Middle School, was the runner-up. Liu will now go on to compete in the 86th Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. in May, along with hundreds of other elementary and middle school students from across the United States.

The winner of the National Bee receives a \$30,000 cash prize and an engraved loving cup trophy from Scripps, a \$2,500 savings bond, a reference library from Merriam-Webster, \$3,800 in reference



Winner Calvin Liu with Carolyn Meakem of The Meakem Group (spelling bee sponsor).

works from Encyclopædia Britannica, and a \$5,000 cash prize from the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation.

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