

Posing in character are the cast members in the Clifton Dinner Theater production of "Murder Me Always." Back row, from left, Stephanie Lawrence, James Manchester, Jolanda Janczewski, Helen Rusnak, Fred C. Lash and Terri Grimes-Marin; (middle row, from left) Charles Hoffman and Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez; and (in front) Lynne Strang. (Not pictured are Charlotte Yakovleff, Teri Pierce and Eric Rogotsky.)

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NEWS

Promoting Peace Among Youth

Twelve young adults receive 2013 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

At a reception held at the Clifton Community Hall on Sunday, March 3, the Herndon Friends Meeting presented the 2013 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County to 12 exceptional area young adults.

The program is in its eighth year and was open to juniors and seniors in all public and three private schools in the county. The guidelines for entry require that the student has worked “specifically for peace or conflict resolution ... demonstrating commitment to peace by engaging in activities that strive to end conflict ... that promote the understanding of divisive issues in order to bridge differences ... and/or assist in the resolution of conflicts among students or members of the community who may feel isolated or alienated.” That’s quite the mandate, but listening to each recipient describe their efforts and read about their activities in the printed materials provided, there is little doubt that all of this year’s winners exceed the prescribed criteria. The winners are usually nominated by a teacher, administrative staffer or other mentor, many of whom joined parents and family members at the ceremony.

LIKE A MINI UNITED NATIONS gathering, the students represented a variety of ethnic backgrounds and interests, with some homegrown and others having come to America from as far away as Russia, Guatemala, and the Middle East. One after the other, they spoke with passion about their projects. One strives to bring special needs students into the mainstream. Another founded a student-run non-profit pairing older students with elementary children, many from disadvantaged backgrounds, to provide academic assistance and mentoring. “Blast to the Past” was organized by one winner to connect with the elderly at a retirement home in McLean, recording the stories the residents tell them and entering them onto their website to help bridge the generational gap. Among the group there are associations with schools and orphanages in Kenya, Montenegro, Burma, and Haiti, to name just a few. And the list of incredible peace promoting activities goes on.

The attendees were all treated to an inspirational talk by guest speaker Bobbie Gottschalk, co-founder of Seeds of Peace, a global peace-promoting organization that runs three-week conflict resolution and leadership skills camp in Maine, bringing hundreds of young people from regions in conflict together in a supportive setting where they get to meet and develop positive relationships with their “enemies.” Gottschalk was joined by 24-year-old Ahmad Shah Hemmat from Afghanistan, who attended the camp at age 14, returned as a peer supporter at 16, then came back again as a camp counselor. “You never really graduate from being a peace-maker,” Hemmat said to the award winners. “And you never should.”

DONATIONS from sponsors like the Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University, the Reston Rotary Club and the Fairfax Partnership for Youth, as well as sales from the



Autumn Guckert, a junior at James W. Robinson, speaks about raising funds to join her church’s mission to Montenegro to work with Roma refugees. Having experienced bullying in middle school, Autumn also works with special needs students as part of her pledge of “radical inclusiveness.”

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Ahmad Shah Hemmat, one of the guest speakers, talks with award recipient Khaled Hasanin, a senior at Islamic Saudi Academy Boy’s School. Ahmad attended the Seeds of Peace camp for children from regions of conflict and continues to promote the message of peaceful conflict resolution today. Khaled founded the Islamic Club at his school to help promote good behavior in the lower grade levels.

THE 2013 STUDENT PEACE AWARD WINNERS

Kevin Cao, senior—Thomas Jefferson School for Science and Technology, Alexandria
Aracely Cifuentes, senior—Mountain View HS, Centerville
Jeff Freeman, junior—Quander Road School, Alexandria
Yekaterina (Katya) Gilbo, senior—George C. Marshall HS, Falls Church
Autumn Guckert, junior—James W. Robinson Secondary School, Fairfax
Amanda Halacy, senior—South Lakes HS, Reston
Khaled Hasanin, senior—Islamic Saudi Academy Boy’s School, Alexandria
Faith Johnson, junior—W.T. Woodson HS, Fairfax
Sanned Said Khalefa, senior—Lake Braddock Secondary School, Burke
Caroline Mooney, senior—Paul VI Catholic HS, Fairfax
Nicholas (Niko) Velkoff, senior—Mount Vernon HS, Alexandria
Vivian Ali Zohery, senior—Islamic Saudi Academy Girl’s School, Alexandria

Herndon Friends Meeting book “Take Our Advice: A Handbook for Gardening in Northern Virginia,” helped to pay for the program materials, the reception and the monetary awards each winner receives.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

And the winners are (from left): Archie Randall (sixth place); event founder and co-sponsor Ron Kowalski; Toney Mooney (third place); Avyuk Dixit (fourth place); David Doty (second place); Allen Holder (first place); Shawn Wolf (fifth place); and Susan Borrelli, event co-sponsor.

Monopoly Players Win for Action Center

Ron & Susan Associates raise more than \$5,500 for Lorton Community Action Center.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Although Allen Holder was placing bets with funny money and trading fictional real estate, the stakes were high for the sixth annual tournament at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center on Feb. 23.

Not only did Holder grab the top prize of \$500 in real cash, but the tournament benefited the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC), whose mission is to break the cycle of poverty and prevent homelessness. They help people with needs such as medications for those without insurance, food for hungry families and even diapers or new school clothes.

Sponsored by Re/Max Gateway Realtors Ron & Susan Associates, founders of the event, more than 100 Monopoly players of all ages had a blast in the three-round tournament. The top six players had the privilege of trading prime property on an ornate Franklin Mint Gold Edition Monopoly game board. After a tense 60-minute final round, Allen, who traveled from West Virginia for the tournament, emerged the victor.

“I’m very excited to have won,” Holder said. “This was my first time attending this tournament and it’s great to be the top prize winner. Knowing when to make the right trades and deals is the key and this year, it worked out for me.”

This competition is one of

many tournaments held nationwide to assist organizations in raising funds for their causes.

“Ron and I are proud to host this annual event to raise money for a great cause and bring some fun into real estate by playing the classic game of Monopoly,” said Susan Borrelli, the event’s co-sponsor. “We were pleasantly surprised with this year’s turnout. We had 108 players and 20 local businesses participate, far exceeding last year’s turnout. We are definitely seeing this event grow bigger and better each year and are thrilled to be able to generate much-needed funds for LCAC.”

In addition to Holder winning the top prize of \$500, 8-year-old David Doty won second place and received \$250, and two-time finalist Toney Mooney placed third earning \$100. Many local businesses also participated by sponsoring tables at the event and providing food and drink.

The \$25 registration fee per player included a continental breakfast and a raffle ticket for door prizes and lunch, compliments of Glory Days Grill in Lorton.

“We also sold table sponsorships for \$250,” said Kowalski. “These were a great way to support a community charity and promote your business.”

To learn more about LCAC, call 703-339-5161, visit their website at www.lortonaction.org or email info@lortonaction.org.



PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Lesha Debose and Tchonda Bishop call out to those living in a homeless encampment in the Lorton area while volunteering their time to help identify and register the chronically homeless during Registry Week.

Encampments like this were found scattered around the Lorton area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep; volunteers often found old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelters made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.

Putting a Face on Homelessness

462 homeless interviewed during Registry Week, an intense effort to document Fairfax County's chronic homeless.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Under a bright moon on a chilly Monday morning, a team of volunteers and homeless advocates roamed the woods near Reston Town Center to put a name and a face to those in Fairfax County considered “chronically homeless.”

One of the teams, which included Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), stumbled across wood scraps, broken branches and pieces of plastic that served as the home for Thomas, a 40-year-old unemployed carpenter from Florida who had been living under a cluster of trees since Christmas Eve.

Wearing several layers of clothing, including a dark blue hoodie for warmth and camouflage, Thomas apologized for his living conditions.

“I’m really sorry you all had to come out like this. Be careful of the branches,” he told volunteers.

Thomas said a rough divorce and getting laid off from his job contributed to his homelessness. He said the temperature, nearing 40 degrees by 5 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 25, wasn’t “too bad for sleeping. I’ve slept in worse.”

“My biggest concern is getting robbed or beaten. That’s why I try to protect myself with this little fortress of branches and blankets,” he said.

Thomas was just one of 462 chronically homeless individuals found in the woods, in cars, and in tents last week.

Armed with flashlights, food, gift cards and assorted items of warm clothing, more than 200 volunteers and homeless advocates fanned out across Fairfax County for



Volunteers, elected officials and representatives from area organizations attend a community debrief at the Jubilee Christian Center on Monday morning. The debrief was held to reveal the results of a countywide survey on homelessness held last week.

three days—Monday, Feb. 25, through Wednesday, Feb. 27—roaming the woods and other homeless “hot spots” to count, photograph and get names and histories for the county’s chronically homeless.

THE UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT to create a name and photographic “registry” is a component of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a nationwide initiative to help nonprofits and local governments prioritize and allocate housing and support resources for the chronically homeless, defined as those living consistently without a home for more than a year.

The county’s goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

“I was struck by the differences in talk-

ing with someone in their ‘home’—in their space—versus when we are in shelter and other settings where we must set the rules,” said Kerrie Wilson, CEO of Reston Interfaith. “There was a sense of pride from those homeless interviewed when they showed volunteers their campsites.”

“After giving my gloves to a man who immediately placed them on his hands for warmth, I realized that this is home and his struggle every day,” said Dean Klein, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

Cedric Smith, 50, who has been homeless for five years, was found living in a tent behind a Herndon shopping center. Supervisor Cathy Hudgins asked him how he became homeless and his goals for the future.

Key findings from Registry Week

Volunteers and homeless advocates gathered the following information from the 462 individuals they interviewed last week. The information was released during a community debrief at Jubilee Christian Center on Monday, March 4.

- ❖ Nearly a quarter were between 18-34 years old
- ❖ 10 percent were veterans
- ❖ Nearly half were employed
- ❖ The largest number of chronically homeless (151) were found in the Route 1 corridor
- ❖ More than three-quarters of the chronically homeless were male
- ❖ “Unable to pay rent/utilities” and “job loss” were the most often cited reasons for homelessness
- ❖ 40 percent had a physical disability

“Five years from now, I hope to be in my own apartment,” he said. He told Hudgins and other volunteers that he also misses his two children, who live in southern Virginia.

“I want to have a place where they can visit. They’re in my heart every day. ... They’re my primary concern and they keep me going every day,” he said.

HUDGINS, who has worked extensively with Fairfax County’s nonprofits to help find affordable housing for the homeless, said she hoped the 100K homes campaign opens doors and eyes to the plight of homeless individuals.

“We have to step up to this question. ... Are we going to walk away from this tonight and say, ‘That’s just the way people live?’ Well, it’s not the way people should live,” Hudgins said.

“The theme for me this week was persistence,” said Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS. “Most importantly the persistence of the men and women we met living in their cars or on the street. In the worst conditions they continued to smile and seemed hopeful this caring community would help find them a home. Some of them were gone to work before we got there or were on their way back to the woods from an overnight shift.”

NEWS

Cast photo: (standing, from left) Director Charlotte Yakovleff, Helen Rusnak, Lynne Strang, Charles Hoffman, Fred C. Lash, Jolanda Janczewski, James Manchester, Terri Grimes-Marin and Teri Pierce; (kneeling, from left) are Stephanie Lawrence, Eric Rogotsky and Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
CHARLOTTE YAKOVLEFF



'Murder Me Always' at Dinner Theater

Clifton Dinner Theater presents "Murder Me Always."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Mystery, intrigue and laughs are all on the menu when the Clifton Dinner Theater presents its new show, "Murder Me Always."

Performances are slated for March 14-16, at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road in the Town of Clifton. Shirley's Catering of Clifton is providing the dinner, all three nights, and wine and beer will be available.

Tickets for dinner and the show are \$35 for Thurs-

day, March 14, and \$40 for Friday-Saturday, March 15-16. Doors open at 7 p.m. for cocktails; dinner and the show begin at 8 p.m. Tickets may be purchased at Clifton businesses T&K Treasures, Clifton Cafe, A Flower Blooms in Clifton, and The Clifton Wine and Tasting Shoppe.

"There's a play within the play," said Clifton's Lynne Strang. "It's a humorous murder mystery with lots of local references. The story's about a community-theater group working on a murder mystery called "Murder Me Always." And in the middle of it, there's

SEE DINNER THEATRE, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Dreaming in a Foreign Language

A foreign exchange student reflects on experiences gained in area.

To the Editor:
The best experience in my life. That's how I would describe living in a foreign country while being a student. This statement comes from my personal experience but I can guarantee you that there are many reasons why I think everybody should try it.

The first thing that I noticed while being away from home was the independence and autonomy that you gain. A very trivial example is that I personally started doing my laundry or organizing my time better. Don't you think autonomy is among the most important values that a teenager should develop? Well they will, because you cannot rely on any other person except yourself when you first start living in a place that for you is foreign. Self-confidence comes along and you will feel proud of yourself for having taken such an important decision.

"[Being an exchange student] stresses the need to deal with dramatic changes and to acquire a level of competency not often emphasized in undergraduate education, such as communicating skills and thinking competencies, including critical, creative, comparative, metathinking, and self-regulating competencies" ("Exchanges, Cultural and Scientific"). If

there is something I could really wish for my future sons or daughters is that they will be self-sufficient and autonomous enough to gain a place in this world.

Another main reason for which I'm writing today is probably more obvious but absolutely not less important. Only by living completely immersed in a culture you can really understand the pure essence of it, you can understand of what is made and why is shaped in a certain way, you can understand the strengths and the weaknesses and, most important, you can understand better your own culture through comparison. I think that these days we really need to improve the consciousness of our cultural background to realize our role in the community of the world. There is no better way to educate your children so that they will be open to accept what is different and far from their perception and will be ready when they grow and will forge the future of our world. "The true beauties in life are the differences that capture the eye. The reflection of culture in a person's language is what makes that person unique" ("Language and culture"). So differences make us unique and being an exchange student allows you to feel those differences and live them completely.

Talking about interaction with the rest of the world I cannot forget to mention the reason

why most of the people think students travel abroad: learning the language. This is probably the easiest part of the whole experience because learning to speak comes along with your normal life. Without realizing it you will start dreaming in the foreign language after one month (as it happened to me). However this learning method is nothing like what you have seen in school so far and works much better and faster. "Students enrolled in immersion programs work toward full proficiency in the second language and usually reach a higher level of language competence" ("Learning and Teaching Foreign Languages").

So again I ask you is there something better than learning without studying? It is my opinion that never before in history have language skills played such an important role in determining your future occupation.

If we add all these reasons together what we obtain is the perfect receipt to excel in the global community, to achieve a mature understanding of your personal beliefs and to live the best experience in your life.

Lorenzo Serafini
Alexandria/Springfield

The writer is an international student at Hayfield Secondary School for the fall 2012 semester, during which he lived in the home of Bob and Mary Magnini in Alexandria where he was placed by the World Heritage International Exchange Student Program. For more information call 703-507-9224.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unprecedented Interference With the Election Process

To the Editor:

I am extremely upset by the recent interference of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee in the election process in Fairfax County. The term of one of the Republicans on the Electoral Board is expiring. By law, and by historical precedence, the chairman of the Fairfax County Republican Committee has the prerogative of requesting the Circuit Court to fill this position with a selection of his choice. The chairman chose to request the re-appointment of Mr. Hans von Spakovsky, the incumbent, who is a nationally recognized expert on election law and who has been a valuable asset to the Electoral Board in protecting the integrity of elections in Fairfax County. Unfortunately, the Fairfax County Democratic Committee interfered with this process by writing a letter to the court alleging various claims against Mr. von

Spakovsky which have no basis in fact. As an apparent result of this unprecedented interference by the Democrats, the Republican choice for a Republican seat on the Electoral Board was denied by the court and an alternate Republican selected. This will be a great loss to the voters of Fairfax County. Mr. von Spakovsky's vast knowledge of election laws and his wise counsel in understanding the intent of the law as written by the General Assembly will be sorely missed. All Democrats who value their vote and the integrity of the election process should be ashamed of this unprecedented and unworthy action by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee.

Dr. Keith G. Damon
Fairfax

Out of Mainstream

To the Editor:

According to a Feb. 25 article in "Politico," two prominent Republican CEOs lambasted GOP gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Re-

publican Governors Association, saying his hard core socially conservative policies will make Virginia less attractive for business, and he is out of the Virginia mainstream.

It is good to finally see leading members of the Republican Party speaking up for the betterment of our state.

To date, Mr. Cuccinelli has not exhibited the same kind of moderation as his would-be predecessor Gov. McDonnell. As case in point, he has been quite vocal in his disdain for the transportation bill recently passed under the stewardship of McDonnell, who of course is a Republican as well. The bill is primarily based on new taxes and cuts, and was passed on a bipartisan basis. As alluded to in the

article, this seems to be the breaking point amongst even establishment Republicans, such as these CEOs.

Instead of focusing on tangible issues such as roads, education and transportation, he has focused his attention on socially partisan issues such as limiting women's contraceptive rights. Perhaps now that leading figures of Cuccinelli's own party have reprimanded him for deterring new business from coming to Virginia due to his socially extremist witch hunts, the voters of this commonwealth will move on to the business of determining a serious leader with real solutions.

RJ Narang
Vienna

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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Dinner Theater Presents 'Murder Me Always'

FROM PAGE 5

a real murder of a cast member. So then the task is to figure out who the real murderer is."

Each actor has a role in the show and in the play within a play; Strang portrays Felicia Fontaine. "She's a rather pompous, self-important woman who thinks a lot of herself," said Strang. "In the theater-group's play, I play Agatha Swanwallow, a wealthy

heiress having a party in honor of her protégé, Ruby, who's just landed a new job. But after the murder, all the actors become suspects, and a couple detectives try to figure out who did it."

Stang likes playing Felicia because she's so different from herself. "She's got a distinctive personality, so that gives me a lot to work with," said Stang. "I get to change the way I look and speak."

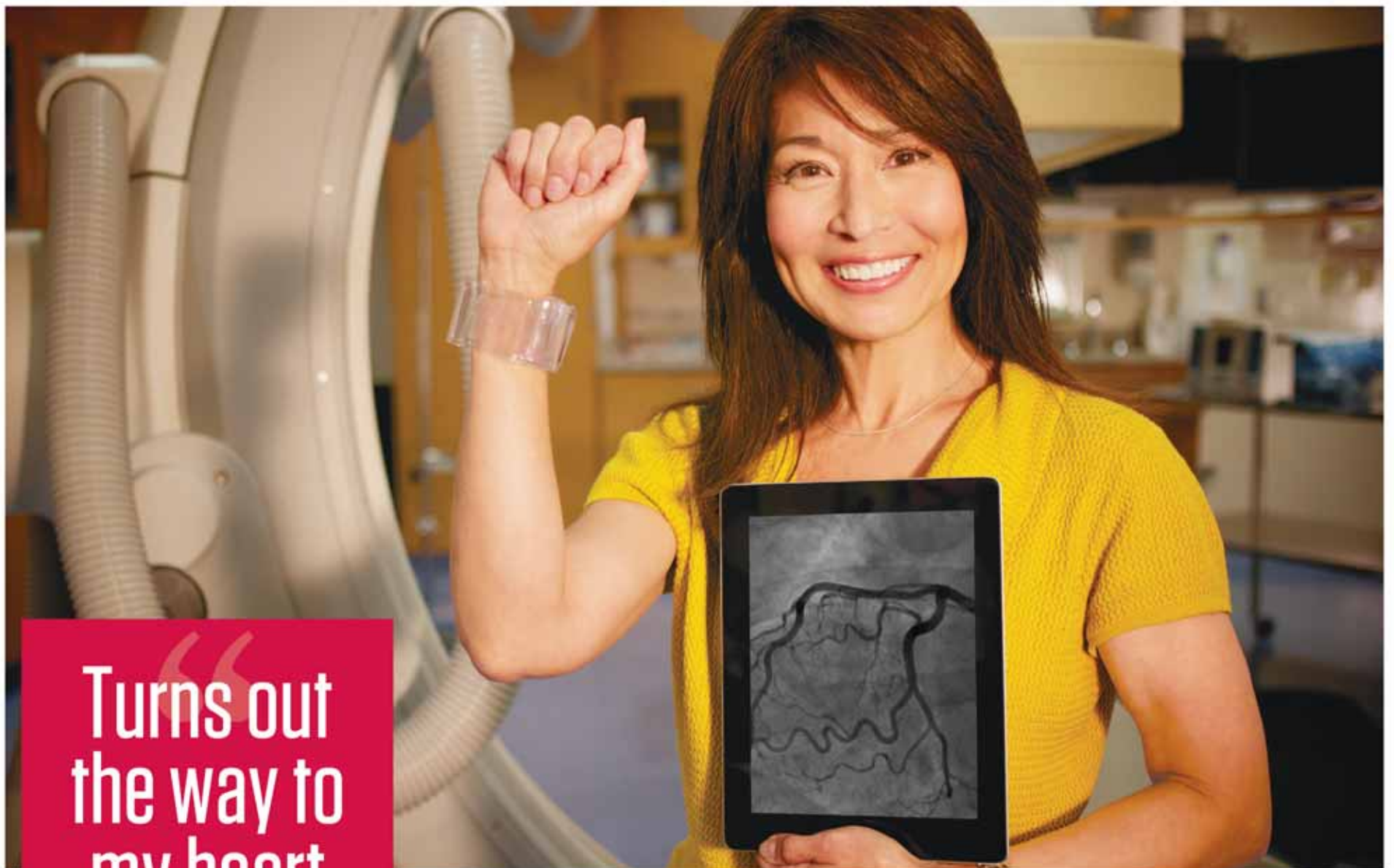
She said the play's fun because "There's

music and humor and it's fast-paced. The audience will enjoy the action scenes, and it's also interactive. The audience members are the party guests; and later, they'll try to figure out amongst themselves who did it, so they'll be engaged throughout the play. And the set transforms in a way that the audience finds themselves in a completely different setting by the end of the production."

Fairfax Station's Jolanda Janczewski plays

Melodie Melotone. "She's the dim-bulb debutante from a wealthy family. She's stuck-up, thinks she's better than everyone else and can't be bothered with solving a murder. After all, the murder happens in Clifton and she's from Fairfax Station. I especially like playing her as a really bad actress in the play within a play because that's when she's the most fun."

SEE 'UNIQUE CONCEPT,' PAGE 13



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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Josh DeWeese Ceramics. 7-9 p.m., at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Josh DeWeese, assistant professor of art at Montana State University, Bozeman, and former resident director of the Archie Bray Foundation for the Ceramic Arts in Helena, Mont., exhibits ceramic piece that have been thrown then altered, using pottery as an expressive art form in a contemporary context. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

Saawariya: Dinner and a Movie Night. 8 p.m., at the W-3 Theatre in the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Film, dinner and soft drinks make it an arts experience to savor; the Bollywood masterpiece directed by Sanjay Leela, inspired by Dostoyevsky's White Nights, shows. Reservations (indicate dietary needs). \$39 per person. www.workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Barrel Room 2012 Futures Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

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

www.WorkhouseArts.org.

City Works Opening Reception and Book Signing. 6-9 p.m., in Studio 4, the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The paintings of John Gasco and Mary Gallagher-Stout, or "The Art Monkeys" explore urban life, culture and architecture—their collaboration, or "ongoing conversations," began with their first children's book, *USA to Z: Artful ABC's for Kids of All Ages*. www.TheArtMonkeys.com.

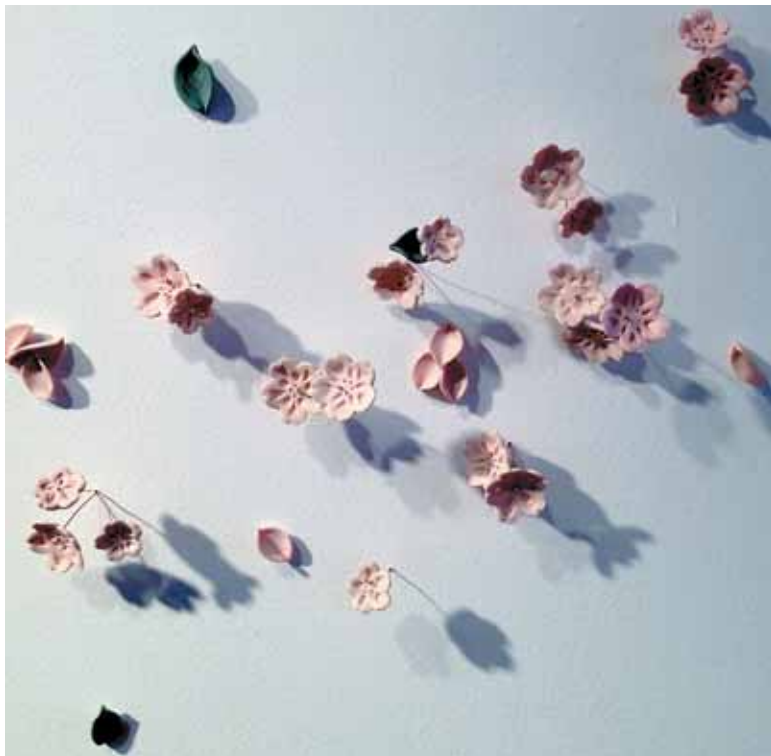
Northern Virginia Chorale. 7:30 p.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 5800 Backlick Road, Springfield. The chorale, accompanied by a jazz ensemble, presents "American Journeys," a sentimental musical journey that recalls sights and sounds across the nation from Route 66 to New York, New York and the like. \$20 at the door; \$15 in advance. www.northernvirginiachorale.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Barrel Room 2012 Futures Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

TUESDAY/MARCH 12

Soilwork. 5-11:30 p.m., at Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. The metal band launches their North



Sakura, Sakura by Lukaszewski.

Asian Art and Culture Day at the Workhouse

On Saturday, March 9, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, is the National Cherry Blossom Festival and Asian Art and Culture Day, featuring workshops, demonstrations, performances, talks and exhibitions featuring Asian art and culture. Join for a Japanese tea tasting, origami workshops and film, brush painting demonstrations, artist talks, cherry tree planting and more. www.WorkhouseArts.org.

American Infinity Tour at Empire, featuring their new double album release *The Living Infinite*. \$22. www.empire-nova.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Twain Family Night. 6-8 p.m., at Twain Middle School, 4700 Franconia



Artistic Duo IV

Watercolor artist Carolyn Grossé and photographer Stephen Gawarecki exhibit their work at a joint show at Green Spring Horticultural Center Gallery, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria, through Sunday, April 28, daily from noon-4:30 p.m. Grossé's paintings range from realistic to abstract and Gawarecki's work features a window series as well as moody landscapes. The artists' reception is on Sunday, April 7, from 1-3:30 p.m. 703-642-5173.

Road, Alexandria. Rising students can explore the school as current students share activities and the staff and community join for food games, face painting, cake walks, putt putt, poetry slams, a food drive and more. csoto@fcps.edu.

Opera sings everything from Broadway tunes to folk spirituals and classical opera music. concerts@kirkwoodpres.com.

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

Concerts From Kirkwood: Classical FX. 3 p.m., at Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 833 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. A vocal quartet ensemble that has performed with the Washington National Opera, Wolf Trap Opera and Washington Concert

SUNDAY/MARCH 17

Display and N Gauge Trains. 1-4 p.m., at the Fairfax Station Road Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. A display with trains runs all afternoon; museum open with shows. \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. 703-425-9225 or www.fairfax-station.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Small Business Breakthrough Book Club Launch. 7:30 a.m., at the Community Business Partnership, 7001 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Explore different aspects of the "Small Business Breakthrough" book at the monthly Breakthrough Book Club, the third Tuesday of every month. Kevin@LMKPartners.com or 703-539-2631.

West Springfield Pyramid Art Show. 6-7:30 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A showcase of art from the entire pyramid school system of West Springfield High School, kindergarten through 12th grade. www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

The Last Days of Pompeii. 1:45 p.m., 7 p.m., at Crestwood Elementary School, 6010 Hanover Ave., Springfield. Crestwood After School Theater presents a drama and music by Debra Kay Robinson Lindsay set in Roman times. RSVP. 703-923-5404. **West Springfield Pyramid Art Show.** 7 a.m.-1 p.m., at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. A showcase of art from the entire pyramid school system of West Springfield High School, kindergarten through 12th grade.

www.fcps.edu/westspringfieldhs.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Barrel Room 2012 Futures Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Barrel Room 2012 Futures Tastings. Noon-5 p.m., at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Enter the barrel room and taste future Paradise Springs wines from the 2012 vintage; learn how oak influences wines, how vineyard site selection affects flavors and the like; groups leave every 20 minutes and sample six to eight wines paired with light fare. \$25. 703-830-9463.

THURSDAY/APRIL 18

2013 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards. 8 a.m.-10 p.m., at Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards serve as a community-wide celebration of volunteerism and the awards honor individuals, groups and organizations that have given outstanding volunteer service. Nominations/online application are due: Feb. 4 by 4 p.m. 703-246-3825 or www.volunteerfairfax.org.



Neon Summer, 30x40, acrylic on canvas, by the Art Monkeys, is part of one of the exhibits featured at the Workhouse Second Saturday Art Walk, on Saturday, March 9.

Second Saturday Art Fills Workhouse

Held every second Saturday of the month from 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton, are a slew of opening receptions. On Saturday, March 9, the openings are: City Works by the Art Monkeys in Building W-4, which features personified U.S. cities; Women's Suffrage in Building W-5 by Julia Dzikiewicz features paintings with a beeswax-based, highly textural paint that explore women's struggles through theme and story-emphasized images; A Scarf for All Season in Building W-6 by Joan Hutten is a wall scarf inspired by the seasons, made out of fiber materials on a sewn grid; Building W-7 features artist Kim S. Joy in her Bits & Pieces jewelry show; and Jen Athanas' Think Spring exhibit is in Building W-9 and features works created by all artist in Building 10 as well. www.Worhousearts.org.

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WELLBEING

Mental Health Counseling Professors Honored

**Cultural sensitivity
at the heart of
their work.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

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 under-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

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.

stood 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."

"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."

— Rita Chi-Ying Chung, Ph.D.

AREA ROUNDUPS

John Ponton to Serve as Acting Principal at Robinson

John Ponton will serve as acting principal of Robinson Secondary School from April 1 through June 30. He is filling in for retiring Principal Dan Meier. He is a retired Fairfax County Public Schools educator. Ponton worked in FCPS 31 years, at Marshall HS, Stuart HS, and Annandale HS. He spent 21 years as a social studies teacher, coach and sponsor of student activities. He spent the last 10 years of his career as an administrator, serving four years as assistant principal at Stuart HS and six years at Annandale HS. Ponton's wife Sharon is currently a health & PE teacher at Stuart HS and serves as the head girls' volleyball coach. They have two sons in college in Virginia.

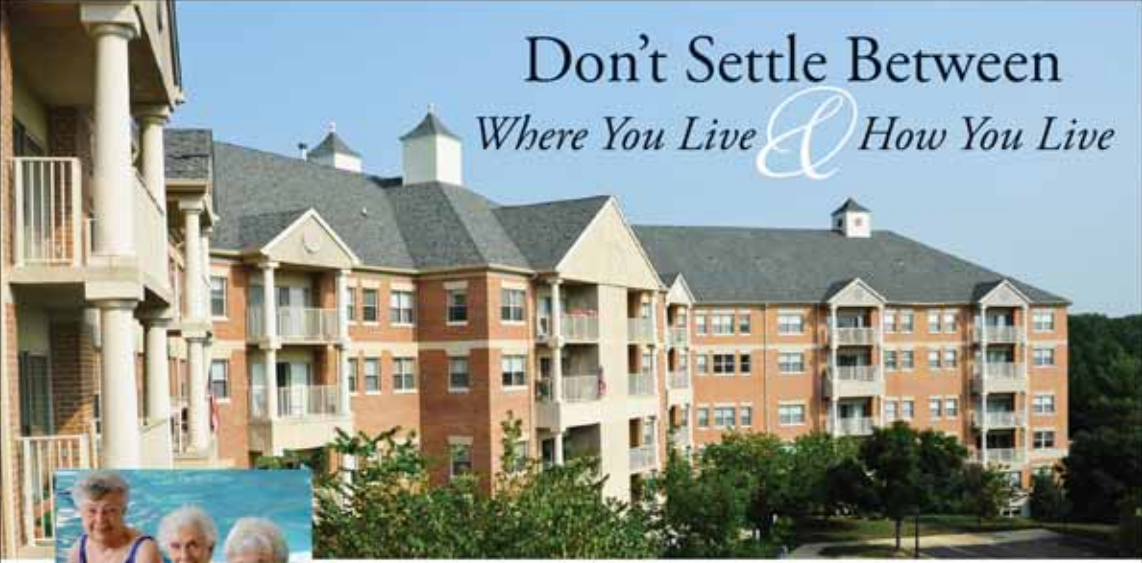
Republican Women of Clifton to Meet March 20

The Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) guest speakers will




address the 2nd Amendment, voter fraud and "Being a Republican Today." The event will be on Wednesday, March 20, at the Fairview Elementary School, 5815 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Members and guests as well as members of other Republican Women's Clubs are invited to the social hour that will begin at 7 p.m. when refreshments will be served. President Alice Butler-Short will open the business meeting at 7:30 p.m., after which Milt Clary and Celia Bigelow will talk about our Right to Bear Arms, Reagan George will discuss voter fraud and a surprise guest will speak about "Being a Republican Today."

Check Those Smoke Alarms

This Saturday, March 9, from 9 a.m. to noon, firefighters will canvass homes in selected neighborhoods throughout Fairfax County, checking for working smoke alarms, and provide family fire-escape plans for residents. More than 3,000 people in the U.S. die in home fires each year, and most are in homes without a working smoke alarm. A working, properly installed smoke alarm lowers the chances of this happening.



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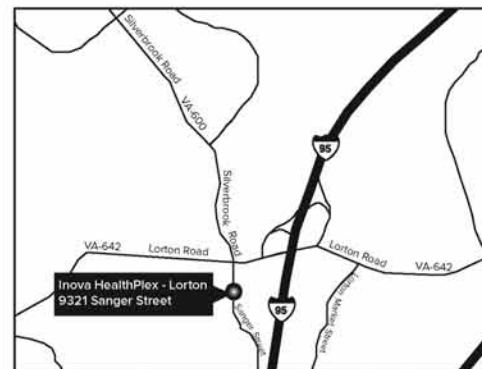
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SPORTS



Woodson sophomore point guard Eric Bowles scored 14 points against Henrico in the AAA state semifinals on March 4 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond.



Woodson students cheer during the boys' basketball team's AAA state semifinal match-up against Henrico on March 4 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Woodson Boys' Basketball Reaches State Semifinals

Cavaliers' season ends with loss to Henrico in Richmond.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Woodson boys' basketball team made its living from the perimeter during the 2012-13 season. With multiple players capable of knocking down 3-pointers, the Cavaliers could shoot their way to a commanding lead or overcome a seemingly insurmountable deficit.

On Monday, however, it was Woodson's opponent that set the nets on fire during the first half while the Cavaliers were sent packing following an afternoon of shooting struggles.

Woodson lost to the Henrico Warriors 75-65 in the AAA state semifinals on March 4 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond. The Cavaliers shot 39 percent from the field (22-for-57), including 30 percent (seven-for-23) from 3-point range.

"We're a team that shoots the ball," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said, "and we didn't shoot it that well tonight."

Meanwhile, the Warriors shot 54 percent (25-for-46), including knocking down seven of nine 3-point attempts in the first half, helping Henrico build a 42-29 halftime advantage.

"This is a great high school team that we had this year and I really thought we had the potential to get to the state championship, but you can't win every game," Woodson sophomore point guard Eric Bowles said. "If a team shoots better than you, there's nothing you can do about it. Even if you're playing good defense and they're still making their shots, there's just nothing you can do."

DESPITE AN OFF-SHOOTING NIGHT, Woodson still had a chance late in the contest. Senior forward Peter Murray beat the buzzer with a 3-pointer at the end of the third quarter, cutting the Henrico lead to 52-48. A pair of free throws by senior guard Michael Hansler trimmed the Warrior advantage to 58-55 with 4:49 remaining in the game, but the Cavaliers couldn't get over the hump.

A three-point play by Murray brought Woodson's deficit to 64-59 with 3:38 left in the game, but Henrico scored the next six points and remained in control.

"It's always frustrating in that situation," Murray said about getting close but not being able to get over the hump. "Like coach said, shots weren't falling tonight and that seemed to



Woodson senior Michael Hansler scored a team-high 17 points during a loss to Henrico in the AAA state semifinals on March 4 at VCU's Siegel Center in Richmond.

be the dagger tonight for us. Normally, if a team is going to come out and out-shoot us, that's going to be a problem for us, especially from the 3-point line, because that's where we've had success throughout the year. ... Mentally, it is hard when your shots aren't falling, but our team kept shooting, we kept working hard and we kept trying to cut the lead back, but it didn't work out at the end."

Murray, who was named MVP of the Northern Region tournament, finished with 14 points and eight rebounds. Hansler scored a team-high 17 points and Bowles

had 14. Senior Tommy Stepka scored 12 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and senior Alex Boock added six points.

The Cavaliers had plenty of fan support during the game as at least 10 buses transported Woodson students to Richmond for the 3:15 p.m. contest. The "WT Woodson Cavalry" was fired up when Murray's buzzer-beater pulled the Cavaliers within four entering the final quarter.

"We got the crowd back into the game and that was the pivotal point there," Murray said. "Hopefully we could make a run off that, but [Henrico] came out and adjusted to everything we had and came out and beat us in the fourth quarter, which was the turning point."

WOODSON FINISHED THE SEASON with a 25-5 record. The Cavaliers went 13-1 against Patriot District opponents during the regular season and entered the district tournament as the No. 1 seed. Woodson lost to Lake Braddock in the district semifinals, but bounced back to win the school's first outright region championship in its 50-year history. The

Cavaliers trailed Wakefield by 19 points entering the fourth quarter of the Northern Region tournament final on Feb. 23 and came back to win 75-70 in overtime.

Woodson beat Battlefield 65-52 in the state quarterfinals on March 1 at Robinson Secondary School, earning the Cavaliers a trip to Richmond.

"I don't know how many fans we had here tonight, but it was ridiculous," Craig said after the Cavaliers' loss to Henrico. "I told the kids, these are the things that you're going to remember 20 years from now when you come back for your high school reunion."

"I don't know how many fans we had here tonight, but it was ridiculous. I told the kids, these are the things that you're going to remember 20 years from now when you come back for your high school reunion."

—Woodson boys' basketball coach Doug Craig

NEWS

'Unique Concept With a Creative Twist'

FROM PAGE 7

Janczewski said the "shameless plugs" given to the show's sponsors are also funny. "It's zany and typical community theater with faces the audience will recognize," she said. "And it's the community doing it for the community; the people sitting around you are your neighbors, so it really has a small-town feel."

Teri Pierce of Fairfax portrays Trixie, initially an undercover police officer. But after the murder takes place, she begins investigating. "She's serious and wants to get to the bottom of what's happened," said Pierce. "I love my part because it's my first dramatic role. I've done community theater for over 20 years, but always in musicals. So this is a new challenge for me."

She said all the cast members really like their parts and "it reflects in their work. They're really funny personas and I think that makes the audience enjoy it more."

Playing Det. Josie Mamet is City of Fairfax resident Terri Grimes-Marin. "She takes everyone in the show to the next step," said Grimes-Marin. "I love



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE YAKOVLEFF

(From left) Jolanda Janczewski, Helen Rusnak and Terri Grimes-Marin rehearse a scene from "Murder Me Always."

the 1940s time period, so I'm playing her as a throwback to then – like a cross between Humphrey Bogart and Catherine Zeta-Jones. So she's smart with an edgy attitude, and tough, but with a feminine flair. It's also a challenge because it's a lot of lines to learn, but life's about challenges. And I get to ask the audience questions and make a connection with them, and I like that."

Grimes-Marin is also delighted to be performing with the Clifton Dinner Theater again. "It's great fun to do this," she said. "This is my second show with the group and they're such nice people. I enjoyed myself immensely before, and I was thrilled that they asked me to audition. I was a theater major in college, and this is a great opportunity to do

something I love and always wanted to do."

She said the audience will enjoy trying to figure out whodunit, and the ending will be a surprise. Besides that, said Grimes-Marin, "The whole town hall is transformed for the show, and everyone's so enthusiastic about the food and the setting. It's just a joyful experience."

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Annandale

4267 Americana Dr.....\$139,000...Sat/Sun 1-5.....Christina Yoon.....Weichert..703-357-5111

Burke

7023 Veering Ln.....\$559,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Centreville

6487 Trillium House Ln.....\$964,900.....Sun 10-4.....Jean Marotta.....Birch Haven..703-402-9471
6106 Kendra Way.....\$305,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ritu Desai.....Samson Props..703-625-4949

Chantilly

42344 Astors Beachwood \$830,000..Sun 1-4.....Vera Buonafede.....Weichert..703-501-5015

Clifton

6408 Foggy Hills Way.....\$639,500.....Sun 1-4.....Janet Gresh.....Keller Williams..703-636-3588
6417 Springhouse Cir.....\$629,999.....Sun 1-4.....Robin Jenks Vanderlip.....Keller Williams..703-966-4966

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11107 Hampton Rd.....\$1,295,000.....Sun 1-4.....Alice Gehl.....Weichert..571-426-4073
7131 Twelve Oaks Dr.....\$1,295,000.....Sun 1-4.....Pat Richter..Residential Preferred..703-239-1234
8610 Running Fox Ct.....\$899,999.....Sat 1-4.....Billy Thompson.....Samson Props..703-409-0340
6900 Winners Cir.....\$750,000.....Sun 12-3.....Ed Lang.....RE/MAX..703-818-9603
11134 Robert Carter Rd.....\$689,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Falls Church

3324 Stoneybrae Dr.....\$699,500..Sat 10-1/Sun 1-4.....Dana LaFever.....Weichert..703-609-3479

Kingstowne/Alexandria

5819 Jane Way.....\$749,990.....Sun 1-3.....Cine Wright.....Keller Williams..703-861-8017
6153 Gardenia Ct.....\$384,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
6572 Osprey Point Ln.....\$424,950.....Sun 1-4.....Anita Mason.....Weichert..703-627-6624
6583 Grange Ln #302.....\$310,000.....Sun 1-4.....Judyann Pfarnier.....Samson Props..703-989-8767

Lorton

6830 Tiddle Way.....\$699,000.....Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-328-4129
7738 Tea Table Dr.....\$649,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207
8940-A Milford Haven Ct.....\$319,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Springfield

8132 Drayton Ln.....\$775,000.....Sun 12-4.....Dee Nofal.....Weichert..703-569-9700
7912 Laurel Valley Dr.....\$469,000.....Sun 1-4.....Bobbyd Dillard.....Keller Williams..703-964-1290

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