

# Potomac ALMANAC

Emmeline and Leah Stupak show a purchase from the used book sale at Potomac Library on Saturday, April 13.

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PHOTO BY DEBBIE STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

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APRIL 17-23, 2013

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### APRIL 18-21

**Mind-Body Week.** U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio will be one of the presenters at the event, which is held all over Bethesda. Other events include activities conducted by local wellness studios such as meditations and yoga. For a full schedule and tickets visit [www.mindbodyweek.com](http://www.mindbodyweek.com).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 21

**China Roundtable of Washington.** 1-3 p.m. at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Washington, D.C. Hosted by Landon School. Free, but space is limited. RSVP by April 18 to [ammerski@yahoo.com](mailto:ammerski@yahoo.com).

### TUESDAY/APRIL 23

**Open House.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Har Shalom. Tour the building, visit classrooms and meet the staff. 11510 Falls Road. Call 301-299-7087.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Free Workshop.** "Clicker Train Your Dog to Behave" from 10 a.m.-noon at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 6030 Grosvenor Lane. Speaker Laurie Luck, trainer and instructor at Karen Pryor Academy, will teach you all the ins and outs of how to use the clicker. We will also do some myth-busting. Come see just how fast (and

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 4



PHOTO BY MARY KMM/THE ALMANAC

## A Branch Too Close

Pepco contractor Asplundh trims tree branches around Pepco lines on MacArthur Boulevard in Potomac. At West Montgomery County Citizen's Association's meeting this week, a Pepco spokesman and forester explained some of the reasons behind the greatly increased tree trimming. Pepco is required by state regulations to trim trees and branches a set number of feet from power lines depending on the voltage, said Daniel Landry, senior staff forester for Pepco. Several WMCCA members decried lack of environmental concern in current tree trimming policies.

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## 'Kids Helping Kids' To Benefit Local Organizations

### Annual fundraiser adds "Buddy Run."

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

The fifth annual "Bullis Gives Back" 5K Run/2.5K Walk will take on a new meaning this year as more and more Bullis students are committed to the theme — "Kids Helping Kids." Besides running in the 5K and walking in the 2.5K, Bullis students will be running and walking with a "buddy" from The Diener School, from K.E.E.N (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) and from The Treatment and Learning Centers/Katherine Thomas School 9TLC/KTS) in an inaugural "Buddy Run."

Bullis students, staff, families and the entire Potomac community will be coming out to help raise funds — and to enjoy time together making a difference. The proceeds will be donated to these three local organizations which educate and support children with special needs. Additionally, the event will support Habitat for Humanity in three locations where Bullis seniors will be volunteering as their Capstone project before graduation, as well as S.A.F.E. — a fund that covers student activity fees and textbooks for Bullis students in need.

"Our theme this year is 'Kids Helping Kids,'" said Bullis parent and event co-chair Barbara Guterman. "For the first time this year, a wheelchair accessible Buddy Run has been added to the events so that children of all abilities can participate along with their families."

Bullis students Lily Ebrahimi-Qajar and Sasha Frye signed up for the race. "I've done



**Head of School Dr. Gerald Boarman looks on as students sign up for the Bullis Gives Back - Kids Helping Kids 5K with co-chairs Barbara Guterman and Michelle Benaim.**

the race every year," said Lily. "It's a lot of fun — and I love that I can be a buddy this year." Sasha agreed, "I'm just excited to be with the kids."

The event will be held on Sunday, April 28, on the grounds of the Bullis campus. Race events will kick off at 8:30 a.m. with check-in and packet pick-up at the Bullis Stadium. Warm-up exercises will be provided by Clint Khouri of Finally Fit Studio. The Buddy Run will begin at 9:15 a.m., and the starter's signal will go off at 10 a.m. for the 5K run and at 10:05 for the 2.5K walk. All race participants will receive free t-shirts, food, goody bags and awards. There will be a raffle for a 43-inch flat panel television and for an iPad Mini.

Also new this year is a Fun Festival from



**Lily Ebrahimi-Qajar and Sasha Frye sign up for the Bullis Gives Back 5K.**

9 – 11 a.m. This festival will include sports centers with Bullis student volunteers from the baseball, softball, track and lacrosse teams. The student athletes will toss balls, teach fundamentals and help youngsters complete an obstacle course. Other activities will include pony rides by Pampered Party Ponies, face painting by Bullis art students, inflatable slides, and more. Food will be donated by Potomac Pizza, snacks by Monumental Vending and gift cards by Mama Lucia. Race emcees will be Carson from MIX 107.3, and Tucker Barnes and Julie Wright, both from Fox 5 News.

Co-chair Michelle Benaim said that Bullis student Fiona Caldwell was the designer of the race t-shirt. "We are adding a patch to the t-shirt to commemorate the memory of Bullis senior Cami Baruch who passed away

last February," said Benaim. "She served as a volunteer in the 'Bullis Gives Back' 5K every year."

To register for the 5K Run, 2.5K walk and/or the Buddy Run, go to [www.Bullis.org/5K](http://www.Bullis.org/5K). The cost is \$10 for Bullis students and \$25 for other runners/walkers. Students from The Diener School, from K.E.E.N (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now) and from The Treatment and Learning Centers/Katherine Thomas School 9TLC/KTS) who are running, walking or in a wheelchair with a Bullis Buddy are free.

"We'll have carnival games, raffle prize drawings, exercise warm-ups and plenty of music," said Guterman, "so whether you want to walk, run or just have fun, there will be something for everyone. It's a wonderful way for families to spend time together while making a difference."

## One to Three Months To Live: Now What?

### Potomac resident writes of her triumph over diagnosis.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

She returned to Potomac to die — a 30-year-old woman who had been given the diagnosis that she had a lethal non-cancerous cervical spinal cord tumor and would not live more than three months.

What is it like to be given this diagnosis — and then survive? How did she wake up each day with the strength and courage to fight the prognosis and still be able to be a wife and a mother to her three young sons? Potomac resident, Debbie Berkelhammer has written this story in her book, "Point of View: On Dying and Living," — a recounting of her illness, grief and struggle with

depression as well as the promises she made to herself if she beat the illness — and the triumph of her return to good health.

"I was in the hospital when my husband and best friend were told that I would not live beyond 1 – 3 months," Berkelhammer said. "That was in August of 1996. The neurosurgeon opened me up — and then immediately closed me — and when I awoke, he told us that it was impossible to operate — and that I had virtually no time left."

"My appearance had totally changed — I could not walk and could not even get out of bed by myself. When I fell, I couldn't get back up. I lost my hair and I was swollen from the steroids. My husband took me home to my in-laws in Potomac to die.

"The doctors discovered that my tumor was a pediatric tumor that had been on my cervical spinal cord for a long time. My par-



**Berkelhammer**

ents began searching the internet for doctors who were familiar with this type of tumor — and they found Dr. Fred Epstein. My husband and parents loaded me onto a mattress in the back of a Jeep Grand Cherokee and drove me to New York City — and into the care of Dr. Epstein — a doctor who simply said, 'I will fix you.'

Epstein operated and was able to remove all but 10 percent of the tumor, leaving her with partial numbness on the right side of her body. She has patiently taught herself to become left-handed and has painstakingly learned to type with her left hand.

Sixteen years later, Berkelhammer is a busy event planner, model, actress, wife and grandmother — and living each day to the fullest. She looks happy and healthy, even though she has been through an experience



that left her a changed person.

"I made some important promises to myself, when I was bargaining for my life," she said. "I decided that I will always view life positively. I am not going to judge other people. I will be more patient and not rush — and always follow my mantra to give myself a break. I will live each day of my life to the fullest — and most importantly, make time for the meaningful things in life — family and friends are the most important things in one's life. I became ill so fast that I didn't have time for a bucket list. I just wanted to hold my children close to me."

Berkelhammer decided to write "Point of View: On Dying and Living" for many reasons. Even though the book took more than three years to write, reviewing

SEE ONE TO THREE MONTHS, PAGE II

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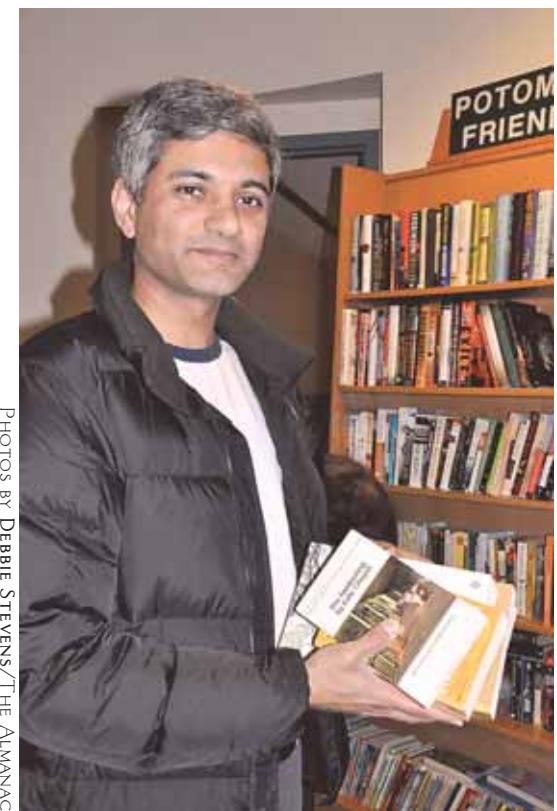


## COMMUNITY

### Good Reading Ahead



**Leah Stupak took advantage of the monthly Potomac Library's used book sale on Saturday, April 13.**



**Aasim Husain found some books to bring home from the used book sale. All of the books are donated by the community and all proceeds benefit the library.**

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## Many Share in Jaden's Smile

J aden stepped off the bus holding back his tears and revealing a new gaping hole in his frown. Although this first-grader at Potomac Elementary should've been thrilled to lose his first upper top tooth while riding the school bus, the napkin where he stashed it had been tossed into the bus's trash can

when the tooth had seemingly disappeared from it.

Our hearts sank as we watched the bus pull away.

I rushed home and called the Montgomery County bus depot at least to make a recovery attempt, never expecting anything to come from it, or even to reach a live voice.

I was elated when Hugo, at the bus depot, kindly offered to personally search the third seat from the back on the right side of bus #1215. When he dis-



**Jaden**

### NOTES FROM THE HOMEFRONT

covered that the bus hadn't returned to the lot yet, he called to update me that he would contact its driver, Lilly, and alert her of the missing needle in the haystack. An hour later at 5 p.m., Hugo called me with the news that Lilly was on her way to our house to hand-deliver the found tooth.

We greeted the empty bus with jumping, fist-thrusting, and cheering. Lilly had not only searched the

bus, but had recalled the crumpled napkin discarded by Jaden as he exited the bus. She retrieved it from the trash as a last look. Unbeknownst to Jaden, the tooth had remained attached to the napkin when it was discarded.

Jaden was euphoric to have his tooth back and receive confirmation that the tooth fairy would visit our home that night. Of course, I realized that the ultimate tooth fairy had already come.

— ELANA SILVERSMITH

### BULLETIN BOARD

#### FROM PAGE 2

easy) clicker training works and how you can use it with your dog to teach manners or change a behavior. Leave your dog at home. To register, go to <http://yourdogsfriend.org/blog/free-workshops/> or call 301-983-5913.

#### TUESDAY/APRIL 30

**Meeting.** 7:30-9 p.m. at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center, 11810 Falls Road. Potomac Community village is hosting a meeting about how residents can remain in their homes and live with dignity as they get older.

#### MAY 4

**Spring Fling Fair.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road. Buy an 8'x8' space for \$30. All proceeds from the sale of spaces go to benefit programs at the center. 240-777-6960 to reserve a table.

#### THOUGH MAY 24

**Kindergarten Registration.** Kindergarten orientation sessions will take place for children who will enter kindergarten in the 2013-2014 school year. During orientation, parents and students will meet the school

principal, kindergarten teachers and other staff members. Parents will have an opportunity to ask questions about the school's procedures and programs; enroll students for next school year and complete important forms. The sessions will also help students become acquainted with the school environment. Parents should call their home school to make an appointment to register for that school's specific orientation date(s). Parents who are not certain which elementary school serves their area should contact the Boundaries office at 240-314-4710 or access the School Assignment Locator at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org).

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# POTOMAC ALMANAC

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# Norwood School Student Displays Art at Yellow Barn Gallery

**Student presents her first collection of artwork.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**W**hen Neelam Shaikh was in nursery school, she had an extraordinary fascination with her ability to create.

"I have always loved art and would love to do various arts and crafts-related activities when I was young," said the 14-year-old Bethesda resident and eighth grade student at Bethesda's Norwood School.

"From the time she was in preschool ... Neelam has never missed an opportunity to create a special card [or] painting to commemorate a birthday or ... special occasion," her mother, Sunita Iyer, said. "We always organized fun art projects for her at home and then found opportunities for [her] to be involved in various art classes starting from age 5."

Her artistic predilection expressed itself earlier this month when she presented her first collection of artwork at the Yellow Barn Gallery in Glen Echo. The exhibit, which was hosted by the National Park Service, featured 40 pieces of Shaikh's art. This body of work, which was completed over the past three years, reflects the development of her artistic style.

"[She is] the youngest artist to exhibit work at the gallery," said her mother. "She works with various techniques and media: oil and acrylic paint, watercolor, charcoal,



dian Rajput woman in a palace. My family is originally from India, so I especially loved learning about Indian art in this process," she said.

For Neelam, creating art is a form of relaxation. "Performing well at school is very important to me so I work very hard at my academics," she said. "The time I spend on my art is an escape from all the stresses of being a student. I love this special, peaceful time when I can shut out everything else and focus on creating something. I am a perfectionist, so I especially love that there are no mistakes in art and I can be free to take risks when creating art. Art also requires focus and self-motivation, which I try to apply to all parts of my life."

She feels fortunate to have been included in the show at Glen Echo. "I was so surprised when I heard that I was the youngest artist to exhibit at the Yellow Barn Gallery, but I feel very honored. I am very lucky to get the opportunity to present my artwork in the same gallery as so many talented artists who have so many years of experience. It's been an incredible experience learning how to put together an art show. I could never have imagined how much is involved, even beyond creating the artwork."

Shaikh will begin high school at Sidwell Friends School in September. "I am really looking forward to getting involved with their art department," she said. "Art is very important to me and is something I plan to continue with all my life. I hope to always paint for pleasure."

**Norwood School student Neelam Shaikh presented a body of work at the Yellow Barn Gallery, which she completed over the past three years.**

**"I especially love that there are no mistakes in art and I can be free to take risks when creating art."**

— Neelam Shaikh

printmaking and mixed media. The strong arts program at Norwood School propelled her interest in painting, drawing and printmaking."

"It has been a great pleasure to observe Neelam's personal growth and transformation into a prolific artist over the last few years," said Eneida Somarriba, Norwood School's art teacher and Neelam's mentor.

"She consistently displays an amazing internal motivation that exceeds what you would expect from a student of this young age. Neelam's ability to approach each piece of work with extreme joy has contributed greatly to her success."

Shaikh said her work integrates elements of South Asian culture and iconography. "My very first Indian painting is of an In-

## Countdown to College Decision Day

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**M**arta Daniels recalls the day when her son Will received his first college acceptance letter.

"He was thrilled," she said. "It was a huge relief to know that he had been accepted somewhere."

But elation soon turned to stress when Will learned that he'd been accepted into all five schools to which he'd applied. "We went from being relieved that he would be going off to college next fall to panicking over whether or not we would choose the best school for Will," said Daniels.

As the May 1 national college decision day looms, the day students must shell out hefty deposits to secure their spots at colleges and universities, students like Daniels are feeling pressure. Most college counselors agree that it's important to make sure the school is a good fit for the student academically, financially and socially, and local counselors share ideas for making the decision less daunting.

They urge students to do a thoughtful assessment of who they are and what they need to thrive in an academic environment. "From community college to the ivy leagues, every school has success stories," said Mike

Canfield, director for undergraduate admissions at Marymount University in Arlington. "You can be successful at any school if it is the right one."

Brie Jeweler-Bentz, Psy.D., a psychologist at The School Counseling Group encourages students to ask, "Where do I want to be geographically? Do I need a large campus or a school with an urban campus? Will I go crazy in a small town? Do I want to paint my face and cheer on my Division I sports team?" The school's political and religious climates matter, she said, as does the local weather.

She also stressed that a school must be a good fit both socially academically. "A big rah-rah school is great, but academically will the student get lost in a big lecture hall with 400 other students?"

Michael Carter, Ph.D., director of college counseling at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said that fit and balance also matter. "Does the student mesh with the school's programs academically and extracurricularly? Is there a good blend academically, socially and extracurricularly so that the student can have balance?"

One way to answer these questions is to spend time on campus. "Sit in the cafeteria, have lunch and look around at the students," said Jeweler-Bentz. "How do the

students dress and talk? Do they have piercings, tattoos and nose rings? Does the school click for you? Does it feel like home?"

Randy Tajan, director of college counseling at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said students should look at colleges through a new lens, that of admitted student. "What is student life like? What about access to professors? Can you be a student and an active citizen? They should think about again why they applied to those schools originally."

A school's atmosphere should not be underestimated, said some counselors.

"Given that our environment often affects us, for better or worse, is this school a good fit for my goals and values?" asked Michael Hude, college counselor at The Heights School in Potomac, Md. He said that students should also ask, "Does it foster an environment that will facilitate the type of growth I'd like both to experience [in college] and take with me for the rest of my life?"

Hude said that the cost of the school is an important consideration: "Will I be going into debt? Does the quality of the education and the school's reputation justify the expense and debt?"

Meg Mayo, director of college counseling at Connelly School of the Holy Child in

**Local college counselors offer advice on making the right choice.**

Potomac, Md., agrees. "I think any type of scholarship money if awarded should play into a decision," she said. "I really worry about kids coming out of college loaded down with debt and not finding work right away."

Jeweler-Bentz adds the prospective students should take a look at those who have graduated from the institution. "Some schools have amazing [alumni] networks that can hook graduates up with job opportunities," she said. "It's also important to look at statistics on job and graduate school placement to see how good of a job particular colleges do with their students post-graduation."

Canfield said that once a student has selected a school, the next step is to connect. "Plan for orientation," he said. "Learn the process for registration. Check out the school's fan page on Facebook. Some schools host invitation-only closed social media sites."

Students should also start planning for life on campus. "What [activities are] they going to join when they get to campus? Students who are involved in campus activities or have a job on campus that is limited to 10 hours a week are significantly happier and do better in their classes than their counterparts who have neither," said Canfield.

# HOME SALES

In February 2013, 23 Potomac homes sold between \$1,802,000-\$263,000.

<b>Address</b>	<b>BR . FB . HB</b>	<b>Postal City</b>	<b>Sold Price</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Lot AC</b>	<b>PostalCode</b>	<b>Subdivision</b>
22 BEMAN WOODS CT	5 .. 4 .. 2	POTOMAC	\$1,802,000	Detached	0.21	20854	AVENEL
11343 PALATINE DR	6 .. 4 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,337,888	Detached	2.00	20854	PALATINE
10801 HIDDEN TRAIL CT	5 .. 4 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,225,000	Townhouse	0.11	20854	RIVER FALLS
11408 FALLS RD	5 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.63	20854	CHURCHILL GLEN
12107 STONEY CREEK RD	5 .. 4 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,150,000	Detached	2.01	20854	LAKE POTOMAC
12440 BACALL LN	5 .. 4 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,145,000	Detached	2.00	20854	STONEY CREEK ESTATES
11624 SWAINS LOCK TER	4 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$1,015,000	Detached	2.00	20854	SADDLE RIDGE
9301 SPRINKLEWOOD LN	6 .. 5 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$979,000	Detached	0.33	20854	PINE KNOLLS
11409 CEDAR RIDGE DR	3 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$850,000	Townhouse	0.09	20854	POTOMAC CREST
8506 BELLS RIDGE TER	3 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$723,800	Townhouse	0.05	20854	BELLS MILL ESTATES
9116 PADDOCK LN	4 .. 2 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$700,000	Detached	0.25	20854	FOX HILLS WEST
10008 PENFOLD CT	4 .. 2 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$700,000	Detached	1.08	20854	GLEN PARK
12120 GATEWATER DR	3 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$655,000	Townhouse	0.10	20854	FALLSBERRY
1701 GLASTONBERRY RD	4 .. 2 .. 0	POTOMAC	\$615,000	Detached	0.25	20854	HORIZON HILL
8414 JEB STUART RD	5 .. 3 .. 0	POTOMAC	\$601,000	Detached	0.23	20854	MONTGOMERY SQUARE
11501 GEORGETOWNE DR	4 .. 2 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$600,000	Detached	0.28	20854	REGENCY ESTATES
1494 KIMBLEWICK RD	4 .. 2 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$600,000	Detached	0.22	20854	POTOMAC WOODS
8548 ATWELL RD	5 .. 3 .. 0	POTOMAC	\$587,900	Detached	0.26	20854	MONTGOMERY SQUARE
7600 CODDLE HARBOR LN	4 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$570,000	Townhouse	0.09	20854	INVERNESS KNOLLS
7904 INVERNESS RIDGE RD	3 .. 3 .. 1	POTOMAC	\$514,500	Townhouse	0.06	20854	INVERNESS FOREST TH
7859 CODDLE HARBOR LN #27	2 .. 1 .. 0	ROCKVILLE	\$266,000	Townhouse	20854	INVERNESS KNOLLS	
7812 CODDLE HARBOR LN #33	2 .. 1 .. 0	POTOMAC	\$263,000	Townhouse	20854	INVERNESS KNOLLS	

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## SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Yongkyoung Park**, a senior hotel and restaurant management major at University of Maryland Eastern Shore, received an Undergraduate Student Academic Achievement award from the University at Shady Grove.

**Madeline Ulanow**, a sophomore at Carleton, participated in Carleton College's Alternative Spring Break Service Trips. Ulanow traveled to Waterloo, Iowa, where she worked alongside Habitat homeowners framing, siding, painting, roofing, and insulating houses.

Upon their return, students documented their experiences and combined them into a photo-essay exhibit addressing the social and economic issues affecting each of the partner sites. These are displayed in the Carleton library throughout spring term.

**Rebecca Friedland**, a senior at Colgate University, traveled to Turkey during Spring Break as part of an inter-faith study group. Friedland is a graduate of Charles E. Smith Jewish Day High School.

**Amira O. Collison**, from Winston Churchill High School, has received a National Achievement Scholarship.

## MILITARY NOTES

**Marine Corps Pvt. Remy D. Bourdeaux**, a 2012 graduate of Richard Montgomery High School, Rockville, earned the title of United States Marine after graduating from recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, S. C.

### Write

The Almanac welcomes news submissions and announcements. Include home address and home and business numbers.

Send by e-mail: [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com)



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<p>5 504 Bridge Creek Circle Reedville, VA 22539</p>	<p>6 183 Towles Point Lancaster, VA 22503</p>
<p>7 201 Waterbury Rd. Kilmarnock, VA 22482</p>	
<p>8 250 Longview Drive Lancaster, VA 22503</p>	

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## OPEN HOUSES IN POTOMAC APRIL 20 & 21

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link.

**Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

### Bethesda (20817)

- 9019 Burdette Rd.....\$1,499,000....Sun 1-4.....Cheryl Kurss....Long & Foster..202-895-7261
- 8940 Bradmoor Dr.....\$1,349,000....Sun 1-4.....Debra Marko...Coldwell Banker..301-983-0200
- 6904 Persimmon Tree Rd.....\$899,999....Sun 2-4.....Jill Aharon...Coldwell Banker..240-328-2640
- 8217 Tomlinson Ave.....\$799,000....Sun 1-4.....Dawn Wilson...Keller Williams..703-224-6000

### Potomac (20854)

- 11225 River View Dr.....\$2,295,000....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
- 7301 Brickyard Rd.....\$1,795,000....Sun 1-4.....Wendy Banner....Long & Foster..301-365-9090
- 13728 Canal Vista Ct.....\$1,399,900....Sun 1-4.....Yasmin Abadian....Long & Foster..301-983-1212
- 10100 Meyer Point Terr ....\$1,325,000....Sun 1-4.....Wendy Banner....Long & Foster..301-365-9090
- 11421 Twining Ln.....\$1,299,000....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
- 10127 Glen Rd.....\$1,239,000....Sun 2-4.....Carol Schantz.....RE/MAX..301-258-7757
- 12304 Briarbrush Ln.....\$1,199,000....Sun 1-4.....Sue Fitzgerald....Long & Foster..301-215-4787
- 10401 Buckboard Pl.....\$1,149,000....Sat 1-3.....Marsha Schuman...Wash Fine Prop..301-299-9598
- 7913 Turncrest Dr.....\$955,000....Sun 1-4.....Lynne Gorsage....Long & Foster..301-215-6848
- 12006 Titian Way.....\$741,000....Sun 2-5.....Diann Gottron....Long & Foster..301-523-1811

### Rockville (20850, 20852)

- 4 Radburn Ct.....\$699,000....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
- 5750 Bou Ave #1911.....\$649,900....Sun 12-4.....Norman Domingo.....X Realty..888-838-9044
- 10433 Procer Dr.....\$469,900....Sun 1-3.....Enock Moon.....Realty 1..410-707-7448
- 11104 Rock Rd.....\$379,900....Sun 1-4.....Marc Dosik.....Federal City..202-543-7283
- 302 King Farm Blvd #30202.....\$325,750....Sun 12-3.....Vince Coleman....Long & Foster..301-548-9700

**For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail [debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)**

**All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.**

# ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to [almanac@connectionnews.papers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnews.papers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos and artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**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](http://www.thepuppetco.org). **Jack and the Beanstalk**, through April 21, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 and 11:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.; **Cinderella**, April 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.

**Children's Theater.** Imagination Stage presents "From Here to There," Tuesdays through Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 11:45 a.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Through Sunday, April 14. Appropriate for ages 2-5. Tickets are \$10-\$12 with a lap seat for children under 12 months for \$5. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

**Exhibit.** Through Monday, April 22. See "Adding In, Taking Away" at Gallery Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road. Features works by local artists including Pauline Jakobsberg of Potomac. Each of the processes used by these artists requires that they add in — ink, oil, stone, wood — or take it away. Free. 301-299-7087.

**Photography Exhibit.** Through Tuesday, April 28, see "Mirror to the World" at Photoworks in Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Features images from around the world and from the D.C. metropolitan area. Free. Hours are Saturdays 1-4 p.m.; Sundays 1-8 p.m. and during class time. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, May 12, see "Fletcher Mackey: Arc" at the Gibbs Street Gallery. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sunday, May 12, see "Mixtopias" at the Kaplan Gallery. Free. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

**Theater Performance.** See "James and the Giant Peach" and "The Magic Finger" at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Through Sunday, May 26. Best for children ages 4-10. Tickets range between \$12-\$25. Visit [www.imaginationstage.org](http://www.imaginationstage.org) or 301-280-1660.

**Art Exhibit.** Through Monday, May 27, see photographs of William Gudenrath's works at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. He is a glassblower. Free. Visit [glenecopark.org](http://glenecopark.org).

**Spectacular Saturday Fun.** Every saturday through August there will be a new media for a child to try at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Sign up for one or for all, it is not a series. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200 to register for a class.

## EARTH DAY 2013

**Events.** Montgomery County will celebrate Earth Day 2013 throughout April, with a variety of events and volunteer opportunities at numerous locations. Several events are approved for student service learning hours for Montgomery County public school students. See the complete list of events and opportunities at [www.montgomeryserves.org/earth-day-2013](http://www.montgomeryserves.org/earth-day-2013). More information is available from the Montgomery County Volunteer Center at 240-777-2600.



## National Philharmonic Singers

The National Philharmonic Singers, under the direction of conductors Stan Engebretson and Victoria Gau, will present a free spring concert on Saturday, April 20 at 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville. Visit [nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org) or call 301-493-9283, ext. 116.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 17

**Tiny Tots.** 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Pre-purchases recommended. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

## THURSDAY/APRIL 18

**Performance.** 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. See off-Broadway stars Voca People perform. For tickets visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or 301-581-5100.

**Blues Dance.** 8:15 p.m.-12:30 a.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents blues dancing. \$8. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

**Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. at The Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Ed Connor of the Johns Hopkins University Department of Neuroscience and Gary Vikan, Director of the Walters Art Museum, explore the neuroscience of visual processing and people's response to art. \$25/person. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

## APRIL 18 THROUGH APRIL 28

**Drawing for Art.** See local artists display their original works. Purchase a ticket for \$100 to choose a piece of art on Sunday, April 28 at Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/APRIL 19

**Performance.** See "Peter Pan" at 7:30 p.m. at Churchill High School. \$20/adults; \$10/senior, child. Purchase tickets at [www.wchsarts.com](http://www.wchsarts.com).

**Dancing.** Lesson from 8-9 p.m. and dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Bria Skonberg's Hot Five, Blue Crescent Syncopators, and Boilermaker Jazz Band will provide the music. \$20. Visit [www.dclx.org](http://www.dclx.org) or 301-674-0080.

**Bethesda Literary Festival.** Meet

local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and children's events. Free. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at [www.schooltix.org/wootton](http://www.schooltix.org/wootton). Strong language.

**Contra Dance.** 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Music by Sligo Creek Stompers. \$10; \$5/17 and under. Visit [www.fridaynightdance.org](http://www.fridaynightdance.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 20

**2013 Spring Gala at Strathmore: Michael Feinstein.** 9 p.m. The two-time Emmy and five-time Grammy Award nominee has collected a "SWonderful" evening of music celebrating the legacy of George and Ira Gershwin. It promises to be a night that will leave audiences humming immortal Gershwin scores all the way home. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

**Performance.** See "Peter Pan" at 7:30 p.m. at Churchill High School. \$20/adults; \$10/senior, child. Purchase tickets at [www.wchsarts.com](http://www.wchsarts.com).

**Dancing.** Lesson from 8-9 p.m. and dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Bria Skonberg's Hot Five, Blue Crescent Syncopators, and Boilermaker Jazz Band will provide the music. \$20. Visit [www.dclx.org](http://www.dclx.org) or 301-674-0080.

**Big Train Celebrity Softball**

**Classic.** 7 p.m. at Shirley Povich Field at Cabin John Regional Park. Visit <http://bigtrain.org/celebritygame/> for information on celebrities and more.

**Performance.** The National Philharmonic Singers will give a free concert at 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 107 S. Washington St. Donations accepted. Visit [www.christchurchrockville.org](http://www.christchurchrockville.org) or 31-762-2191 ext. 3.

**Bethesda Literary Festival.** Meet

local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and children's events. Free. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) for a list of events.

**Clara Barton Event.** 1 p.m. at Clara Barton National Historic Site, 5801 Oxford Road, Glen Echo. Watch re-enactors perform, hear a talk on emancipation and enjoy junior ranger activities for children. Reservations required for the talk, 301-320-1410. Visit [www.nps.gov/clba](http://www.nps.gov/clba) for more.

**Tiny Tots.** 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Pre-purchases recommended. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

**Theater Performance.** 7:30 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at [www.schooltix.org/wootton](http://www.schooltix.org/wootton). Strong language.

**Art Exhibit.** See paintings by Barbara McCoy, Gary Phillips and Justin Pyles from noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**Veggie Prints.** 10 a.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Learn how to make these prints. \$12. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

**Artist Talk.** 3 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. William Gudenrath will talk about glass blowing. Free. Visit [glenecopark.org](http://glenecopark.org) for more.

**Event.** 4-5:30 p.m. at Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. "The Piano: Beautiful Music through Efficient Movement." \$15. Get tickets by e-mailing [info@washingtonconservatory.org](mailto:info@washingtonconservatory.org) or 301-320-2770.

**SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 20-21**

**Introduction to Fused Glass Jewelry Class.** 3-5 p.m. on

Saturday and noon-2 p.m. on Sunday at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Learn different methods for making fused glass earrings. \$140. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 21

**Waltz Dance.** 2:45 p.m. lessons, 3:30-6 p.m. dancing at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$10. Music by Waltz Wizards. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or 202-238-0230. No partner necessary.

**Bethesda Literary Festival.** Meet local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and children's events. Free. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) for a list of events.

**Young Artists Competition.** 4 p.m. at the Washington Conservatory at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. A free voice recital by soprano Heather Bingham and baritone Jeffrey Grayson Gates, winners of the 2012-13 Vocal Arts DC Young Artists Competition. All ages.

**Tiny Tots.** 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Pre-purchases recommended. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

**Theater Performance.** 2 p.m. in the Wootton Center for the Performing Arts auditorium. See "Ragtime." \$15/reserved; \$10/general. Buy tickets at [www.schooltix.org/wootton](http://www.schooltix.org/wootton). Strong language.

**English Country Dancing.** 2:30-5:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$10/person. 703-992-0752.

**Art Exhibit.** See paintings by Barbara McCoy, Gary Phillips and Justin Pyles from noon-5 p.m. at Yellow Barn Studio at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Free. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

**English Country Dance.** 2:30-5:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Michael Barracough presents the dance. \$10. All ages welcome. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Waltz Dance.** 2:45-6 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Dance to live music by Waltz Wizards featuring Liz Donaldson. \$10. Visit [www.waltztimedances.org](http://www.waltztimedances.org) for more.

**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. DJ Rene Davila will mix the music. \$15/person; \$10/dance only. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Contra Dance.** 7:10-10 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. \$13/nonmember; \$10/member; \$5/17 and under. Visit [www.fridaynightdance.org](http://www.fridaynightdance.org) for more.

**Art Song Discovery Concert.** 4 p.m. at Washington Conservatory of Music. Free recital features the winners of the Vocal Arts DC Young Artists Competition. Free. Visit [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org).

## MONDAYS, APRIL 22-JUNE 17

**Art Class.** 7-9:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Work in oils or acrylics to paint a series of still life setups. \$200 for eight-week class. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

## WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

**Music Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike. Isabelle De Leon, jazz drummer, will perform. She was on the 2012 season of NBC's "America's Got Talent." \$15. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-9:30 p.m. at

[www.CONNECTIONNewspapers.com](http://www.CONNECTIONNewspapers.com)



## Churchill's Peter Pan

**Ari Goodfriend (John), Justin Marks (Michael) and Ellie Rabinovitz (Wendy), "fly" for Churchill's production of "Peter Pan."** Performances are Friday, April 19 and Saturday, April 20 at Churchill High School. \$20/adults; \$10/senior, child. Tickets at [www.wchsarts.com](http://www.wchsarts.com).

Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Special guest instructors Pablo Villaraza and Carolina Infata will lead two workshops. \$30/80 min. workshop. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 25

#### Label Release and All-Star Concert

7:30-10 p.m. at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center. Washington Revels will perform music from their previous cds and perform some new music. \$10-23. Visit [www.revelsdcc.org](http://www.revelsdcc.org) for more.

**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Special guest instructors Pablo Villaraza and Carolina Infata will lead two workshops followed by a Milonga until 11:30 p.m. \$30/80 min. workshop; \$15/Milonga only. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Blues Dance.** 8:15-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents blues dancing. \$8. Visit [www.capitalblues.org](http://www.capitalblues.org) for more.

### THURSDAY-FRIDAY/APRIL 25-26

#### Gladys Knight

8 p.m. Eight-time Grammy winner Gladys Knight has packed many lifetimes into a career that has embraced gold records, sold-out concerts, film performances, and most recently a spin on "Dancing with the Stars." Order tickets now for the concert, featuring a soul-stirring mix of Gladys Knight's greatest and newest hits. The Music Center at Strathmore 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

### APRIL 25 THROUGH JUNE 9

**Theater.** See "Cinderella" at the Puppet Co. Playhouse at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Performances are Fridays at 10 a.m. or 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. or 1 p.m. \$10. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Contra Dance.** 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Music by Sax Scandal. \$10; \$5/17 and under. Visit [www.fridaynightdance.org](http://www.fridaynightdance.org) for more.

**Balboa DJ Dance.** 8:30-11:30 p.m. at Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. All ages can dance. \$10/person. Visit

[www.americanswing.org](http://www.americanswing.org) for more. **Cajun Polka Dance Party.** 8:30 p.m.-midnight at Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Enjoy music by Little Red & the Renegades and Mike Surratt & the Continentals. \$15. Visit [www.dancingbythebayou.com](http://www.dancingbythebayou.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Music and Dance.** The Tom Cunningham Orchestra presents "The Swingin' Side of Genius (Duke Ellington, 1920s-1940s)" starting with lessons at 8 p.m. and dancing from 9 p.m.-midnight. \$15/adult; \$8/child. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or [tomcunningham.com](http://tomcunningham.com) for more.

**Tiny Tots.** 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Children ages 0-4 can enjoy shows designed for them. 30 minute running time. \$5/person. Pre-purchases recommended. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) or 301-634-5380.

**Performance.** CityDance presents "Nruthya Manjari," featuring several group and solo works. 7:30 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. \$25/person. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or 301-581-5100. **Art Exhibit.** Hours are noon-5 p.m. with a reception from 5-7 p.m. at the Yellow Barn Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. See over 40 works in an exhibit titled "Expressions of the Mind" by Vian Shamounki Borcher. 301-371-5593.

**Argentine Tango.** 6:30-11:30 p.m. at Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Special guest instructors Pablo Villaraza and Carolina Infata will lead two workshops followed by a Milonga until 11:30 p.m. \$30/80 min. workshop; \$15/Milonga only. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Ballroom Tea Dance.** 3-6 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. All ages welcome. \$14. Visit [www.hotsociety.net](http://www.hotsociety.net) or [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

### APRIL 27 THROUGH MAY 8

**Flower Stakes.** Choose from multiple dates and learn how to use fused glass to create flowers or garden sticks. Located at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. \$40. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

### Hot Trends in Luxury Homes

The luxury home market is picking up momentum, gearing up for a strong showing in the 2012-2013 year. Here are some of the hottest trends that can take any high-end home up a notch and transform it into a luxury home, improving its overall appeal and value to prospective buyers. For homeowners already living in a luxury home—congratulations! Here are five new touches that can take your lifestyle to the next level of comfort, elegance and facility.

#### Warming Drawers

• Installation of heated warming drawers turns any bathroom into a spa, creating an ambiance and atmosphere of sumptuous relaxation. An electric chassis, installed along the drawer's bottom edge allows the heat to rise, warming up to four bath-sheet sized towels at a time. At a cost of under \$1,000, this is an elegant touch that can increase your home's overall comfort and long-term value that's affordable and investment-savvy.

#### Sliding Glass Windows

• Terrace space can be rare and expensive in areas of concentrated urbanism, leading many developers to search out inventive ways to offer outdoor living to prospective home buyers. One such solution to the problem is the installation of floor-to-ceiling windows that are electronically operated—if you can't offer entry to the outdoors, offer entry of the outdoors into your home! While definitely a pricey endeavor, to a luxury condominium without outdoor access, this option can be, both literally and figuratively, a breath of fresh air.

#### Custom Wine Cellars

• Forget the fridge or the shelves—if you've got a bottle of Toscana Tiganello Sangiovese, La Moutonne Chablis Grand Cru or Chateau Margaux, you're looking for a safer spot to store your treasures. If you're a connoisseur, protect your investment by constructing a custom-made wine cellar. Store your vino in style!

#### Outdoor Kitchens

• Why settle for a gas grill and picnic table, when you could splurge and entertain in style? Outdoor entertaining areas, complete with a functional, open-air kitchen are one of the hottest trends in the luxury home market, bringing your home's "square footage" into the great outdoors!

#### Smart Home Sensors

• Be done with timers—permanently! Installation of a programmed computer will ensure the completion of everyday tasks and eliminate the need to get out of bed and check to make sure that the doors are locked. Smart home sensors can be scheduled to allay the worries of your home appearing empty during times that you're away from it.

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

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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Potomac Almanac will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

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### A False Sense of Security

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that there's anything wrong with that; in fact, as a four-year, stage IV, non-small-cell lung cancer survivor, it's amazing to have any security, false or otherwise, whatsoever. And that's the point, really: how amazingly fortunate yours truly is to still be writing columns, if you know what I mean? Moreover, being relatively asymptomatic (as I've mostly been) is all it's cracked up to be, and I say that with utmost respect, sincerity and appreciation. Yet, unless this particular survivor is delusional, incredibly naive (my two main self-preservation/defense mechanisms) or a lucky aberration beyond any statistical reference (within my limited knowledge of such references), one day – sooner rather than later, the other shoe will most likely drop; and you do know what I mean, don't you?

A few weeks back, I published a column entitled, "Definition of Slippery Slope," which discussed the range and depth of emotions a cancer patient/survivor (let's be honest: this cancer patient/survivor) feels waiting to hear back from the oncologist concerning the results of his most recent diagnostic scan ("CT" for me), the results of which will determine your most immediate future (I'd say between living and dying, but that sounds so dramatic). I readily admit though, I can now absolutely appreciate the anxiety many women feel awaiting the results of their mammogram. Been there, and thankfully, still doing that.

One of my standard answers to queries about my overall health is: "I'm fine until they tell me otherwise;" this column's true context and another place I can go – figuratively speaking (sort of like "Strawberry Fields" and "A Glass Onion") to endure the ongoing stresses and pressures of being a terminal cancer patient who has so far outlived his oncologist's original prognosis: "13 months to two years." Even though living remains the best reward (I did not say revenge), it also exerts the greatest sense of inevitability, if certain statistical measures/references are to be considered (nor did I say, believed).

Not that I want to buy into that "sense of inevitability," but cancer is likely not most persons' favorite word, and presumably one of their least favorite diagnoses – for a reason. Though more and more cancer patients are living longer (see graph referenced in a previous column entitled "14.8 Percent" citing a National Cancer Institute SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009), you'd just as soon not take your chances with a malignancy. But sometimes, maybe oftentimes for all I know (and I know very little), diseases/diagnoses really are just a function of chance (nature vs. nurture?) and perhaps so too is surviving beyond the mean (and I don't "mean" unpleasant, either) number of years or months "prognosed" at one's original date of diagnosis (rationalizing is another one of my tools).

I guess what I'm looking for is a guarantee, or at least a fair warning before – you know what (and I'm assuming you know "what" is) But I don't suppose that's realistic, so trying to enjoy the good days and not worry/anticipate the bad days ahead is my M.O.; which I imagine is somewhere between a wish and hope. And in between of course is "a false sense of security," the bane of my existence.

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



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

**Whitman senior pitcher Helen Rosenthal earned the victory against Richard Montgomery on Monday.**

**Whitman sophomore Elena Kozak swings against Richard Montgomery on Monday.**

## Whitman Softball Beats Richard Montgomery

### Seniors Rosenthal, Gertzog lead Vikings to winning record.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE ALMANAC

Sophomores and juniors comprise the majority of the Whitman softball roster. On Monday, a pair of seniors helped the Vikings attain a winning record.

Pitcher Helen Rosenthal struck out six while tossing a complete game and catcher Sydney Gertzog went 2-for-4 and drove in the Vikings' first run with a double as Whitman defeated Richard Montgomery 10-4 in Rockville. It was the Vikings' third consecutive victory and improved their record to 4-3.

Rosenthal has pitched since her sophomore year. The senior allowed four runs and scattered 11 hits against a Richard Montgomery team that entered Monday with a 4-3 record.

"She does a great job," Whitman head coach Anne Marie O'Donoghue said about Rosenthal. "She does get good movement. She walks very few people. Not to mention, defensively, she's a fantastic fielder. She can really do it all for us."

Gertzog has started at catcher for Whitman since her sophomore season. With two outs in the top of Monday's first inning, the senior lifted a fly ball to right field that dropped for a run-scoring double. She was hit by a pitch to lead off the fourth and added an infield single in the fifth.

"We sort of lead by example," Rosenthal said of the senior duo. "We know what we're doing and we'll teach them if they don't know. With me on the mound and Syd behind the plate, we know when things are going bad we know how to calm people down and try to get everything back on track."

Whitman trailed 2-1 after three innings, but re-gained the lead in the fourth when freshman second baseman Genevieve Anderson delivered a two-run single to right field. Richard Montgomery tied the score

at 3-all in the bottom half of the inning before Whitman took the lead for good with two runs in the top of the fifth.

Gertzog, Anderson and junior shortstop Marissa Cannon each had two hits for Whitman. Rosenthal and sophomore third baseman Elena Kozak each had one hit. Eight of nine in the Whitman batting order reached base by either a hit or walk.

"It's huge, just being able to have hits — and even not necessarily hits, but just getting on base up and down the order makes a huge difference going [forward]," O'Donoghue said. "We've got some tough games coming up ... it gives confidence to all the girls."

Kozak, who started as a freshman, drove in a run with a sixth-inning single on Monday.

"Athletically, she's very, very good," O'Donoghue said. "She has all of the tools to do it; she's just getting more confident as she gets older."

Whitman will host Wootton at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17 and will travel to face Walter Johnson on April 22.

## One to Three Months To Live: Now What?

FROM PAGE 3

and understanding the bleakest part of her life was therapeutic. "I wanted to share my story because my message is that even if you are at the darkest moments in your life, there is still some light. My favorite quote is from Audrey Hepburn who said 'Nothing is impossible. The word itself says it all: I'm possible.'"

She also wanted to write the book to share with her children what she went

through, since they were too young at the time to understand. "They are so appreciative," she said. "They framed my book and gave it to me for a gift. I am lucky to be so close to them. They have always been my life. My darkest fear was that I wouldn't be there for my kids."

Berkelhammer will be participating in several book signings in the area. On April 21, she will be reading from her book at the Kensington Book Festival at 3 p.m. In May, Lacy Couture will be hosting a book signing and on Sept. 16 she will be at One

More Page Books in Arlington, Va. "Point of View: On Dying and Living" sells for \$15.99 at Barnes and Noble and Amazon.com. Signed copies can also be purchased directly from Berkelhammer at www.DebbieBerkelhammer.com. She is also available for speaking engagements.

"I just hope this book will help others and will inspire people to find that light, even if they are mired in illness, depression or the problems of life," she said. "It's so important to remain positive."



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