

South Lakes' Aghayere, Rendle Dominate Boards in Victory

SPORTS, PAGE 12

South Lakes junior Princess Aghayere scored 18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds during a 60-52 win against Madison on Jan. 10.

Coming In from the Cold in Reston

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Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws

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Lift Me Up! Shares History of Secretariat

The nonprofit kicks off its Good Fences Make Good Neighbors fundraiser in Reston and Great Falls.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Many know the story of Secretariat, a thoroughbred horse who overcame great physical limitations to win the 1973 Triple Crown, taking home wins at the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes. However, many may not be aware of Northern Virginia's historical ties to Secretariat's owner, Penny Chennery, who rode for the equestrian team for the Madeira School in McLean before graduating in 1939.

During January and February 2014, Great Falls nonprofit Lift Me Up! will share Secretariat's story with Great Falls and Reston residents in a film screening of Disney's Secretariat, as well as a book signing featuring Chennery's daughter, Kate Tweedy, co-author of Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, The Family, The Legend. In the book, Tweedy and her co-author Leeanne Ladin detail the history of The Meadow, a thoroughbred farm in Caroline County, Va., once owned by the Chennery family. In the movie Secretariat, for which Tweedy served as a consultant, the champion thoroughbred horse helps to financially save The Meadow after winning the Triple Crown in 1973.

LIFT ME UP!'S THERAPEUTIC RIDING PROGRAM offers horseback riding lessons to both the physically and mentally disabled, as well as military veterans injured in battle through its Back in the Saddle program. Many of the riders have mental health conditions ranging from autism to cerebral palsy, down syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder, to name a few, and they all benefit greatly from renewed balance, coordination and confidence from riding with Lift Me Up!'s therapy horses.

Georgia Bay, Director of Programs for Lift Me Up! notes that while its 13 therapy horses may not be championship-winning thoroughbreds, they do make a difference in riders' lives every day. "We see these wonderful little victories – the child who develops the ability to sit balanced, when before he could just lean to the side; the rider who decides to talk after months of riding in silence," said Bay, adding fondly, "Of course that first comment is always about the horse."

The nonprofit receives help from community donors and volunteers as well as student interns, equestrian students from the Madeira School, who work with riders each week. "If Penny were attending there now, I imagine she would likely volunteer too," said Laura Smith, Director of Donor Relations. Smith also noted that Penny's father, Christopher Chennery, helped to train military veterans in horseback riding here in Northern Virginia. "Penny has long been a champion for horses and people with disadvantages."

ONE OF THE PROGRAM'S HORSES is actually a former racing thoroughbred named Radar,

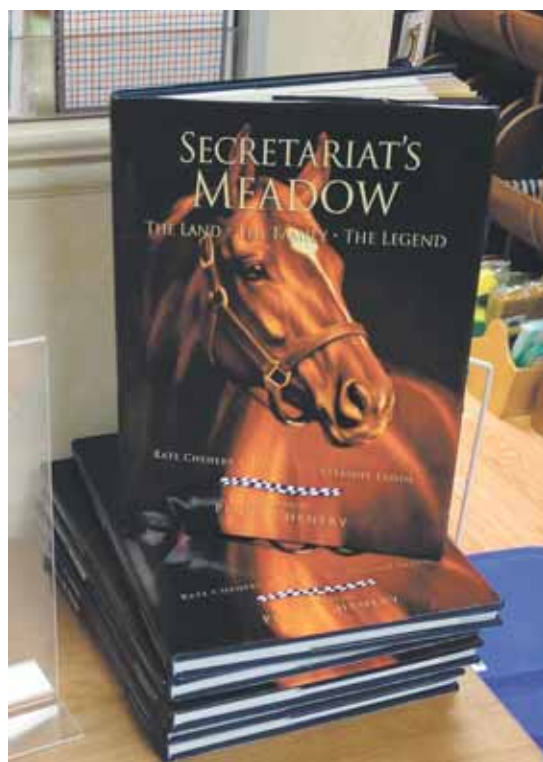


PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

The Saddlery, at 731 Walker Road in Great Falls, is selling copies of Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, The Family, The Legend by Kate Tweedy and Leeanne Ladin for \$35.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ Film Screening of Disney's Secretariat from 1-3 p.m., Jan. 31. Free. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066
- ♦ Book signing featuring Kate Tweedy, daughter of Penny Chennery and co-author of Secretariat's Meadow: The Land, The Family, The Legend, 5-8 p.m., Feb. 8, 2014. Cost: \$50 for entrance, \$35 per book copy. Fairfax Hunt Club, 1321 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston.

who, after a short-lived racing career, has taken home awards with young riders at the Therapeutic Riding Association of Virginia's statewide horse show in Lexington, Va. Radar's former owner Donna Zimmerman, a Great Falls resident, donated him to Lift Me Up! after her daughter Jenna, now a volunteer with the organization, outgrew the former competition racing horse.

"He was the most gentle, caring soul that I had ever seen in a horse, and for me at the time, I knew that this horse was going to be safe with my daughter to learn on," said Zimmerman of Radar. When her daughter moved on to higher competition levels, Zimmerman saw that Radar would make a great training horse and notified Program Director Georgia Bay. "He's not a high-strung thoroughbred at all," added Zimmerman. "We knew that he would be a perfect horse for the riders to learn on at Lift Me Up! It's great to see him bring so much joy to so many people."

Lift Me Up!'s major fundraising program for 2014 is called Good Fences Make Good Neighbors. The organization is collecting donations from the community in order to fund the building of new fences surrounding the nonprofit's property in Great Falls. "We need to reinforce our fences to protect both our horses and the properties of our neighbors," said Lift Me Up! President Bob Best about the fundraiser.

In addition to the organization's upcoming fundraising events in January and February, The Saddlery, located at 731 Walker Road in Great Falls, is also selling copies of Secretariat's Meadow for \$35 to contribute to the fundraiser.

There'll be posters for buses, schools and other locations in support of Just Ask campaign.

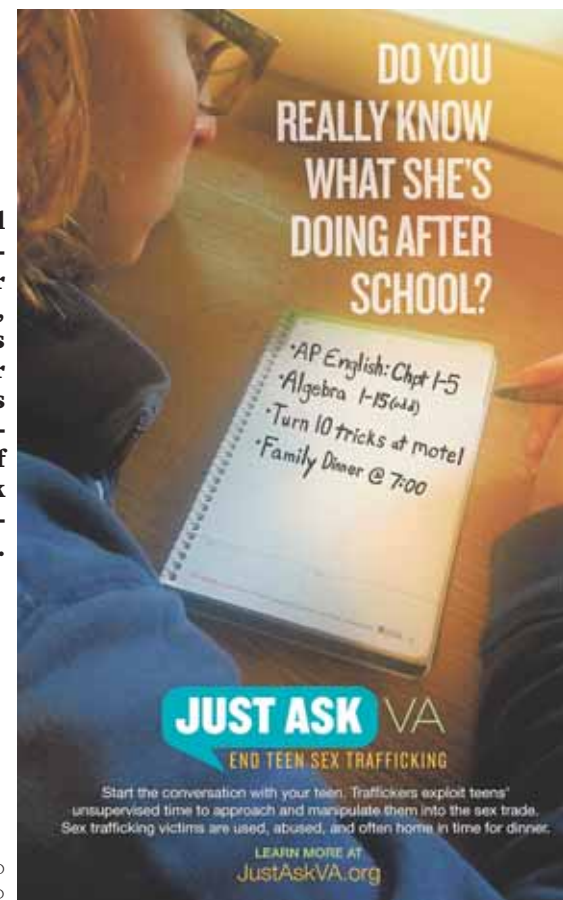


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

New Campaign Targets Teen Sex Trafficking

Officials from the Fairfax County Police, public schools, Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, and the Northern Virginia community gathered last Friday, Jan. 10, in Fairfax, to kick off a new education and prevention campaign on teen sex trafficking. Defined as "the act of manipulating or forcing anyone under the age of 18 to engage in a sex act in exchange for anything of value (money, drugs, shelter, food, clothes, etc.)," police identify an average of two new potential victims per week.

Many people believe teen sex trafficking only happens to runaways or in other more urban settings. But it's on the rise across Northern Virginia and teens are now being targeted in public venues — bus stops, walking down the street, parties, shopping malls, through social media outlets and more.

Sex traffickers don't discriminate; they recruit victims across ethnic, economic and gender strata. Most teens are unaware they're being drawn in and often don't recognize the signs of manipulation until it's too late. Traffickers aren't just gang members or criminals; they may be business professionals, family members, students and teens they know. The trafficker

may not be a stranger; rather it may be a friend or acquaintance from the classroom.

The Just Ask Prevention Project is a new public-awareness campaign addressing the increasing prevalence of teen sex trafficking in the region. The goal is to inspire residents to get involved with prevention and encourage them to learn more about spotting and reporting manipulative recruiters.

The campaign incorporates age-appropriate and illustrative new videos into the FCPS Health & PE. Family Life Education curriculum. There's an interactive Website, www.JustAskVA.org, plus a Just Ask Facebook page. There'll also be posters for buses, schools and other locations. Schools will create a plastic bracelet awareness campaign.

Additionally, the campaign partners with the Office for Women & Domestic and Sexual Violence Services which will fund several prevention and education programs to better prepare personnel on the front lines to respond to human trafficking victims and survivors. Parents, family, teachers and friends will learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of teen sex trafficking situations and be urged to report suspicious activities to the FCPD Human Trafficking Unit.

Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws

State legislators turn attention to ethics in wake of McDonnell gift scandal.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

As members of the Virginia General Assembly convene for the first time since last February, legislators are stampeding to introduce ethics legislation in response to the gift scandal which engulfed then Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R).

The revelations last spring about numerous undisclosed gifts and purported loans from businessman Jonnie Williams to McDonnell — including a \$6,500 Rolex watch engraved to the “71st Governor of Virginia” and \$35,000 in gifts and catering for his daughters’ weddings — shined a spotlight on Virginia’s porous financial disclosure laws.

McDonnell, who remains under federal investigation over his relationship with Williams, pointed to various loopholes in existing state law as reasons for not disclosing gifts, noting that state law requires only the disclosure of gifts directly to officeholders, and not their families.

Following the principle cited by Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis that “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants,” state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-Fairfax) has introduced an ethics reform package which he says “makes the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) a centerpiece.”

PETERSEN’S BILLS would increase disclosure, limit contributions and gifts, prohibit the use of private law firms for state business, and create an ethics commission, ideally with subpoena power, to hold legislators accountable and increase transparency.

“The era of Rolexes, lake-house vacations, and \$150,000 loans must end,” Petersen said. “For far too long those of us who serve in Richmond have relied on super-sized political contributions to fund our campaigns. That is a part of our current flawed culture. Working Virginians don’t see campaign donations larger than their yearly incomes as ‘no strings attached.’ They see a transaction.”

Petersen’s package of ethical reform bills takes its place alongside several others announced last week, including a bipartisan reform package unveiled Tuesday, Jan. 7, by House Majority Leader M. Kirkland Cox (R-Colonial Heights) and House Minority Leader David J. Toscano (D-Charlottesville).

Under the Kirkland-Toscano bill, reforms include:

- ❖ A \$250 cap on tangible gifts to officials and their immediate family members



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), sitting, confers with a colleague during last year’s General Assembly session. After the session ended in February, it was disclosed that federal and state authorities had launched an investigation regarding gifts given to then-Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) and his family. The investigation served to heighten public awareness of Virginia’s lax financial disclosure laws.

from lobbyists or people with business before the state.

- ❖ A ban on solicitation of those gifts.
- ❖ The requirement that family members’ finances and gifts be disclosed.
- ❖ The creation of an ethics commission that would serve as a resource, providing legislators guidance on issues that may pose a conflict of interest.

“What we have really tried to do here is take the best parts of our current system, which is fairly strict reporting accountability, and in targeted areas, we’ve really tried to beef that up and really get at some of the problems,” Cox said at a news conference in Richmond last week with Republican and Democratic leaders.

Petersen said his proposals differed significantly from the House bill.

“I’m not overly impressed by the ‘bipartisan compromise’ announced in the House this week. My package has teeth. My intention is to change the culture, not just close the loopholes,” Petersen said in an interview on Wednesday, Jan. 8.

“The other issue that’s part of my proposal is making FOIA the centerpiece,” Petersen said. “I think my FOIA bill is critical for bringing more transparency to this process. That’s a huge difference, because without that it’s really hard to know what’s going

on and it’s for people and the media to investigate.”

Petersen said he wants his ethics commission to have subpoena power, which would give the group the authority to compel lawmakers to testify and produce evidence, or face a penalty for failure to comply.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, more than 40 states have similar ethics commissions, most with subpoena power.

Petersen said he has long been bothered by the lack of financial transparency in Virginia, and the ensuing erosion of the public’s trust.

WHEN REPORTS ABOUT THE ROLEX surfaced last July, Petersen sent a letter to the governor asking him to “come clean on this matter” by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office. He became the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell’s resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy over the lavish gifts.

“For too long, we’ve said ‘hey, we’re honorable gentleman, we can police ourselves,’ Unfortunately, there have been too many recent incidents to contradict that,” Petersen said.

“That’s why I’ve introduced four bills that

What Petersen’s Ethics Package Would Do

- ❖ **SB212:** FOIA for General Assembly members and staff - SB212 removes the General Assembly’s exception from the Virginia FOIA act. This bill repeals the 2013 General Assembly FOIA exemption act (HB1639), patroned by Del. Tag Greason (R-Potomac Falls).
- ❖ **SB218:** Limits on Campaign Contributions and Gifts - SB218 Limits General Assembly members and Executives in the Commonwealth to a total of \$2,000 in gifts per year. All gifts over \$50 will continue to be itemized and reported. “Super-sized” campaign donations will be limited to \$20,000 per individual donor per candidate.
- ❖ **SB220:** Prohibiting the Use of Private Law Firms for State Business - SB220 requires the office of the Attorney General to contract local city or county attorneys, rather than private counsel, when it experiences a conflict of interest. This bill will remove the incentive for private law firms to exploit the current law and over-bill the state on a public matter. This bill was brought about due to the ongoing attorney’s fees charged by two firms employed by Attorney Gen. Ken Cuccinelli’s office to defend Gov. Bob McDonnell, reportedly more than \$780,000.
- ❖ **SB219:** Establishment of the Virginia Ethics Commission - SB219 requires that all loans, gifts, and statements of economic interests disclosures shall be filed with the Virginia Ethics Commission. Currently these disclosures are filed to the clerks of each house. The Virginia Ethics Commission will be a body independent of both houses, comprised of both former legislators and distinguished independent citizens whom have never held office. The commission will be able to make recommendations for disciplinary proceedings against legislators found in violation of disclosure laws to their respective house, where members will vote on any disciplinary action.

For more information on these bills, go to:

<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB212>
SB220 (Petersen)
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB220>
HB1639: (Greason, 2013)
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?131+sum+HB1639>
SB218 (Petersen)
<http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?141+sum+SB218>
SB219 (Petersen)
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will increase the public’s right to know, limit campaign contributions to \$20K per candidate from a single donor, end the soaking of taxpayers by white-shoe law firms, and start a truly independent and distinguished ethics commission that includes everyday citizens to hold legislators accountable.”

But Del. Dave Albo (R-42) said he wasn’t overly impressed with Petersen’s bills, and he supports the bipartisan compromise.

“The bipartisan House proposal includes an ethics commission, so I don’t know why Senator Peterson thinks that his ethics commission is better,” Albo said Friday, adding that it’s unrealistic for state lawmakers to impose certain campaign contribution limits.

“If a bill could be crafted that would equally limit [all campaign contributions], then I would support it. But it has to be a level playing field,” Albo said.

“It takes a long time to start earning back the trust that you have lost, and as Virginians, and as public officials, we need to start now,” Petersen said.

Coming In from the Cold in Reston

The Embry Rucker Shelter opens its doors to the freezing during the Deep Freeze.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Large numbers of Reston's homeless at risk of contracting severe frostbite or hypothermia from subzero wind chills sought refuge at the Embry Rucker Community Shelter this past week. On Jan. 7, temperatures dropped to a record low of three degrees, with wind chills as low as 10 degrees below zero, according to a National Weather Service advisory from that day. The official record low for Reston on Jan. 7 was previously set at 8 degrees in 1988. Frigid conditions caused many to pack into the shelter from Jan. 6 to Jan. 8 due to sub-freezing daytime temperatures.

During the months outside of the hypothermia season, which lasts from Nov. 1 to March 31, homeless clients regularly leave the shelter during the day. However, it is much safer during these colder months for homeless clients to remain indoors. "Hypothermia season doesn't mean clients just stay overnight when the temperatures are 32 degrees and below," noted Embry Rucker Shelter Director Vincent Jenkins. "We allow clients to stay here in the facility literally all day."

From Nov. 1 to March 31, the shelter's 40 available beds are split between 29 for unaccompanied adults, 20 of those for men and nine for women, and another 11 for families. However, during the "deep freeze" on the nights of Jan. 7 and 8, an additional 29 people were welcomed into the building's main floor to sleep on blankets and mats, bringing the total number in the shelter to 70. "You talk about the building basically being able to deal with 40 at any given time, and we have an additional 30 people in the building, then that's going to create an additional tension," says Jenkins, adding, "But overall we have to do it."

In addition to the shelter space, Embry Rucker also operates a Hypothermia Unit during cold weather season that provides space for 24 additional people. During the severely cold weather, the Hypothermia Unit and the shelter managed to accommodate almost all who sought an escape from the cold. Ken Hinkle, the community out-



An all-male bedroom in the right wing of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston.



Director Vincent Jenkins in his office in the administrative wing of the shelter.

How to Help

If you see someone who is outside during hypothermia season, contact the county non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131. More information about Embry Rucker Shelter is available at <http://www.cornerstonesva.org/>.

reach specialist for Embry Rucker Shelter, manages the Hypothermia Unit across the street at 1850 Cameron Glen Drive and shuttles clients over from the shelter during the evening. The facility opens every night at 5 p.m., though a core group of regulars usually starts lining up around 4:30 p.m. It features one main room where 24 people can spread out on mats overnight, as well as two kitchens, bathrooms and a TV. "For the entire season of four months, the food is donated by individuals and churches," explains Hinkle. After meals,

around 9 p.m., everyone cleans up, brings out the mats, and plays cards, watches television or gets on their laptops, sometimes joined by volunteers who work late.

Among its 40 overall beds, the shelter has six hospital respite beds available for people recently released from hospitals all over Fairfax County, along with a nurse who takes care of them. One client, Russ, recently underwent a triple bypass heart surgery, and is staying warm inside of the shelter during his recovery. It is particularly necessary for Russ to stay out of the cold, as extremely cold weather puts his health at even greater risk than the average person.

Russ recalls one woman who stayed at the shelter about five days before as the temperature was beginning to change with the cold wave, who opted to leave the shelter for her campsite. "When you tend to lead a particular type of lifestyle, you seem to

"You talk about the building basically being able to deal with 40 at any given time, and we have an additional 30 people in the building, then that's going to create an additional tension. ... But overall we have to do it."

— Director Vincent Jenkins

close down and hide," he says. "Because of the authorities and privacy issues, people find very unique ways of hiding and they don't share that." Russ has still not heard from her and does not know where she is staying. She is one of three clients who did not come back to the shelter after leaving before the extreme temperatures arrived on Jan. 7. Aside from those three, however, Russ does not know of any who opted to stay outside during the record-breaking low temperatures.

Director Vincent Jenkins adds that for several years now, the shelter has maintained open four drop-in days each week on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, during which clients who do not stay at the shelter can come in to take advantage of basic services. "During these times clients are allowed to come in and utilize those opportunities to take showers, eat, get a towel, and are able to wash their clothes," says Jenkins. "We take those opportunities to reach those clients to find out where they are, so that when the temperatures are really low we can try to talk them in."

While Embry Rucker Shelter, operated by the non-profit Cornerstones, receives money from local businesses and private citizens, the majority of its funding comes from Fairfax County. Still, local residents can make a difference by donating hot meals – "primarily what they need, especially in the evenings," notes Jenkins – as well as thermal underwear, hats, gloves and other outerwear.

"I am so grateful for Cornerstones, shelters in Fairfax County, and for the county putting together programs to help re-establish people like myself back into the workforce," Russ said. "I am unbelievably thankful, and this shelter really is an oasis."

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WEEK IN RESTON

AAUW Program Kicks Off 2014—Jan. 25

January 25 at 10 a.m. is the date to mark on your calendars. That is when the American Association of University Women of Reston and Herndon jointly with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) will offer a special presentation on human sex trafficking in our communities.

The presentation at the January AAUW meeting will feature guest speaker Detective William Woolf, a key member of the Northern Virginia Human Trafficking Task Force. Det. Woolf will discuss the growing problem of sex trafficking in the region as well as educating all who attend about the actions Fairfax County is taking to deal with a dangerous trend. The presentation is open to all who attend this annual joint meeting of AAUW of Reston-Herndon and the NCNW. A continental breakfast will be served.

That is 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 25 at the offices of Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith) in Suite 210 at 11150 Sunset Hills Road in Reston. It is the building next door to the Post Office, above the Cardinal Bank.

Volunteers Needed

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities throughout the area. Volunteers can work in facilities close to where they live. Training is provided in March 2014. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Find more information on becoming a long-term care ombudsman volunteer at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/vol_ombud_program.htm.

OBITUARY

Mae Balboni of Reston Dies

Mae Balboni died Jan. 8 in her home. Mae was a resident of Reston for 13 years. She is survived by her daughters Mary Balboni and husband Chuck Norris of Reston; Anita Balboni and partner Steve Cooke of Schwenksville, Pa.; Lynda DiPasquale and husband Philip of Collegeville, Pa.; Catherine Balboni of Hatfield, Pa.; and her sons Joseph M. Balboni and wife Tammy of Eagleville, Pa. and Anthony V. Balboni of Cinnaminson, N. J.; her sisters Jane Ricci of South Weymouth, Mass.; Dorothy Wilson and husband Jimmy of Allison Park, Pa.; her brother George Goolsby and partner Rosalee Wiswall of Peabody, Mass; her sister-in-law Beatrice Birt of McKinney, Texas; her brother-in-law Al

Rusas of Long Beach, Calif.

Local Virginia memorial service is Friday Jan. 17, at 5 p.m. at Adams Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon. Her final resting place will be in Norristown, Pa. on Saturday Jan. 25, at St Patrick Cemetery where she will be buried with her husband Joseph J. Balboni.

Mae volunteered for Fairfax Pets on Wheels for eight years. Mae also volunteered as a test scorer for Raytheon's MathMovesU and MathCounts competitions, both regional and national for many years.

Donations in memory of Mae Balboni may be made to St Jude Children Research Hospital to support finding cures for cancer. www.stjude.org

Information and condolences at www.adamsgreen.com

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OPINION

From Late Night Comedy to Your Bedroom

Why the General Assembly matters more in Virginia than most states.

The Virginia General Assembly began its annual session last week on Jan. 8.

The actions of the Virginia General Assembly matter more to localities than it would in many other states. In Virginia, localities have only the power specifically granted by the General Assembly, the Dillon rule.

So, for example, Montgomery County and Prince Georges County in Maryland recently voted to increase the minimum wage in those localities. They didn't need permission from Maryland General Assembly to do so. Arlington and Alexandria might be inclined to follow suit (the District government also voted to increase the minimum wage) but do not have that power.

The General Assembly limits how localities can raise revenue, what kinds of traffic regulations they can implement, whether they can control where guns are allowed, whether school districts can begin classes before Labor Day, and much more.

Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria sent their members of the Northern Virginia delegation of state senators, all Democrats, and delegates, overwhelmingly Democrats (13-5), to Richmond, where the House of Delegates is overwhelmingly Republican and control of the Senate is still up in the air pending special elections.

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) filed HB536 which would "increase the minimum wage from its current federally mandated level of \$7.25 per hour to \$8.25 per hour effective July 1, 2014, and to \$9.25 per hour effective July 1, 2015, unless a higher minimum wage is required by

the federal Fair Labor Standards Act." It isn't likely to see the light of day.

Anyone can watch the Virginia House of Delegates or Senate on streaming video when either is in session, and the Virginia General Assembly proved last year that it can be worthy of national attention for entertainment. It is in fact well worth tuning in once or twice or more. Visit <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for video links.

Legislators will consider literally thousands of bills between now and March 8.

Some quite random examples of proposed legislation from local delegates and senators:

❖ Del. Dave Albo (R-42): Driving while intoxicated; refusal of blood or breath tests. This bill would allow a person who has been arrested for driving while intoxicated and who has refused to submit to a blood or breath test be given another opportunity to consent to testing after the arresting officer has advised the person of the consequences of his refusal.

❖ Del. David Bulova (D-37): One bill would allow the employment of lights for the observation of deer (spotlighting) for certain activities authorized by the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Another would provide that property used in connection with certain crimes associated with human trafficking is subject to forfeiture to the Commonwealth.

❖ Del. Scott Surovell (D-44) has propose the repeal of last year's hybrid tax, plus a bill that would place a cap on the compensation that may be paid to a special counsel appointed to handle certain legal matters where it would be improper or uneconomical for the Attorney

See for Yourself

Visit <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/> and click on "members and session," and see the "quick links" section for live video links, information on who your legislators are and how to track bills. Every resident is represented by one state delegate and one state senator; look up your and email to be placed on their mailing lists. Consider attending their local meetings.

General, or the Attorney General is unable, to handle such matters. That cap would be the same as allowed for a court appointed attorney, a very small amount.

❖ Del Barbara Comstock (R-34) proposes to allow local school districts to set their own calendars. Another bill would include non-motor vehicles including bicycles among vehicles that any driver must not tailgate. Another would require most state colleges and universities to allocate 75 percent of their slots for in-state students by 2019-2020 school year.

❖ Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) proposes to prohibit firearms on the floor of the House of Delegates. Another bill would require public institutions of higher learning in Virginia to provide a dedicated page on its website to information on mental health resources available to students.

❖ Del. Mark Sickles (D-43) proposes to create the Virginia Health Benefit Exchange, which will be established and operated by a new division within the State Corporation Commission.

❖ Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for the owner of a website to both post an arrest photo and solicit, request, or accept money for removing the photograph.

❖ Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) proposes to require drivers and passengers to wait for a reasonable opportunity to open vehicle doors on the side adjacent to moving traffic, an effort to prevent the "dooring" of bicyclists.

Five Million Dollars a Day

BY KENNETH R. "KEN"
PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



Virginia taxpayer dollars not returned to them has amounted to five million dollars each day since Jan. 1, and will continue at that rate each day that Virginia refuses to expand its Medicaid program. In addition, at least 400,000 working Virginians will continue to be uninsured.

The 2013 session of the General Assembly created the Medicaid Innovation and Reform Commission (MIRC) to consider whether reforms to Virginia's Medicaid program were sufficient to allow Virginia to proceed with some form of coverage expansion through the Affordable Care Act. MIRC members have been assured by staff that all requested reforms have

been made, but the Commission members from the House of Delegates have refused to acknowledge the reforms and continue along with the Speaker of the House of Delegates to oppose expansion of Medicaid. For otherwise fiscal conservatives to turn down five million dollars of Virginia taxpayer dollars being returned to them to pay the full cost of Medicaid expansion shows the continued animosity that some Republicans have toward the Affordable Care Act that they refer to as Obamacare. To the concern that the federal government will not be able to continue funding the program into the future, Virginia could make a decision to withdraw at that time.

At the same time, the Virginia Chamber of Commerce business plan for the Commonwealth, "Blue-

print for Virginia," supports the Medicaid reforms that have been made and recommends Medicaid expansion. Chamber leadership has termed Medicaid expansion to be both an economic development as well as a workforce issue. Most of Virginia's one million uninsured residents are employed. It is projected that the expansion would create an estimated 33,000 jobs and bring \$21 billion dollars back to the Commonwealth.

Governor Terry McAuliffe is a staunch supporter of Medicaid expansion. As he stated to the Chamber, "Let me be clear on one point. If Medicaid expansion is not the business community's number one priority in your communication with the General Assembly, it will not happen." He calls for "coming together, putting old ideological differences aside and focusing on what makes sense from a

business perspective."

The case for Medicaid expansion goes beyond the strong business case; it is also a humanitarian cause. Social justice organizations, faith communities, and individuals need also to give priority to making their views known to legislators. Give priority to writing or calling House and Senate leadership and members of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees and ask them to approve the expansion of Medicaid. Contact information is available at <http://viriniageneralassembly.gov/membersAndSession.php?seid=1&active=0#!hb=1&mainContentTabs=0>.

Five million dollars a day is a lot of money. It is too much to turn down, especially when it can improve the health and well-being of Virginians. Please make sure your voice is heard on this issue.

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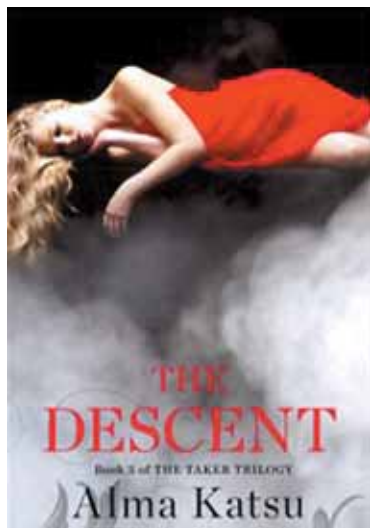
Reston Author Releases Third Book in 'The Taker' Trilogy

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Reston author Alma Katsu's newest book, "The Descent," published by Simon & Schuster's Gallery Books division, hit bookstore shelves on Jan. 7. The book is the third installment in "The Taker" trilogy, a series of paranormal fantasy novels set in both 19th century and modern New England.

Katsu lives in Reston and splits her time between being an award-winning fantasy novelist and a senior analyst for the defense policy think tank RAND Corporation. She started working on her first book in the series, "The Taker," 10 years ago while she was still working for the CIA. Katsu first began considering a second career as a fiction writer in 2003, around the same time that she and her husband, a musician, moved to Reston from Columbia, Md.

"I tried to pour as much energy into these books as I did into my career," says Katsu, reflecting on her decision to begin writing fiction novels after 21 years of working for the National Security Agency (NSA). Katsu enrolled at



COURTESY OF GALLERY BOOKS/SIMON & SCHUSTER.

Reston author Alma Katsu's newest book, "The Descent," went up on bookstore shelves Jan. 7.



PHOTO BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION.

Alma Katsu, the author of the paranormal fantasy "The Taker" series has lived with her husband in Reston since 2003.

the Johns Hopkins University graduate program in writing, where instructors taught her to approach developing her craft with a high level of seriousness and dedication. "I talk to a lot of writers, a lot of whom are around 40, who think, 'There is this long-held dream that I've had that if I don't do it now then I never will' – and I try to impress upon them

that it's a lot of work, you must be dedicated, and it probably won't come to you in the first six months."

During the months between when she finished writing The Taker and when it was published by Gallery Books in 2011, Katsu came up with additional ideas for two other installments and successfully pitched them to her pub-

lisher. Meanwhile The Taker was named a "Top Ten Debut Novel" by the American Library Association's Booklist Magazine, and developed a solid following of readers, as well as its own fan club.

Katsu, who grew up in Maynard, Mass., says that a lot of the details, right down to the very houses she includes in the book, came from her own experiences and knowledge of American History. The saga begins in modern times in a fictional Maine town, where the immortal main character, Lanore, seeks the help of an emergency room doctor after she is accused of murder. Katsu describes the first book as dark and historical, and the second installment, The Reckoning, as a "chase story with breakneck pacing." The Descent, she says, plays on the notion of the Underworld myth, but also reads like a fantastical fairytale.

Northern Virginia book blogger Jennifer Lawrence called "The Descent" a "perfect conclusion to a truly stunning trilogy."

Alma Katsu will also speak and sign copies of her books at George Mason Public Library in Annandale on Wednesday, Jan. 29.



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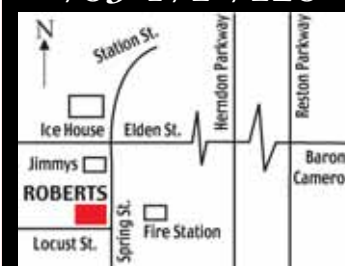
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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

TUESDAY/JAN. 14-SUNDAY/MARCH 12
Something Blue. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Fine textile art is showcased in Something Blue by the Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 15-WEDNESDAY/FEB. 19
Art Explorers. 10:30-11:30 a.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon.
 Three sessions allow for a more in-depth introduction to the key concepts and will provide some good homework suggestions to help start and develop a habit of sketching. \$200.
 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 17-SATURDAY/JAN. 18
Les Miserables. 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, this revolutionary musical is a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18
ArtSpace Open Mic. 7 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Join for an evening of entertainment and refreshments; singers, dancers, actors, musicians, and poets of all ages are encouraged to perform. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Join Reston Community Center for a revolutionary musical performance of Les Miserables starting on Jan. 17.

SUNDAY, JAN. 19
Sweet Honey In The Rock. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Five women provide unique perspective in their traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, hip hop, ancient lullabies and jazz improvisation; with sign language interpretation. \$25 Reston/\$50 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

TUESDAY/ JAN. 21
Third Tuesdays: Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Sangria and Silk, with guest artist Marilyn Harrington will show participants how to paint scarves. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.
The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon. 7:15 p.m. Amphora Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St, Herndon. The genius

of a Dana and Susan Robinson performance lies in their ability to capture the imagination of their audience, evoking a transformative experience that touches on the deepest humanity.

They can make the audience howl with laughter or hush with poignant reflection as they take them on a journey across America and convey the mystery and wonder of the places they visit. \$11 Members, \$12 non-members. jamessue@aol.com or <http://www.restonherndonfolkclub.com/>

FRIDAY/JAN. 24-SATURDAY/JAN. 25
Les Miserables. 8 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Set against the backdrop of 19th century France, this revolutionary musical is a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit.



Learn how to paint a silk scarf with artist, Marilyn Harrington, at ArtSpace Herndon's Design and Wine Event on Tuesday, Jan. 21.

SUNDAY/ JAN. 26
Something Blue Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. This exhibit showcases fine textile art and is a sampling of blue varieties as used by Northern Virginia Quilters. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9
Rennie Harris' RHAW 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. RHAW will showcase Dr. Rennie Harris' newest and brightest street dancers as they bring hip hop back to basics. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 12
Lúnasa. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters

Woods. This group of Irishmen continues its 20-year tradition of famed Celtic music. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 6
Mr. Vaudeville and Friends with Mark Brutsché. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Buddy Silver, and alter-ego Mark Brutsché, returns to to prove, once again, that nothing can take the place of live entertainment. \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27
Trout Fishing in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. This Grammy Award nominated duo's infectious

mix of folk/pop and family music is enriched by the diverse influences of reggae, Latin, blues, jazz and classical music. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 28
Modern Moves, in partnership with Dance Place. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Three of D.C.'s most prominent choreographers – Daniel Burkholder, Daniel Phoenix Singh and Erica Rebolgar – come together to create an eclectic evening of thrilling modern dance. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SATURDAY/MAY 31
Raul Midón. 8 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. Blind since infancy, Midón uses his songwriting and musical talents to shatter stereotypes while establishing himself as one of music's most distinctive and searching voices. \$20 Reston/\$40 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

SUNDAY, JUNE 8
SpeakeasyDC's Born This Way: Stories About Queer Culture in America. 3 p.m., at The Centerstage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods. One of the region's premiere storytelling theatres presents an adults only afternoon of entertaining and thought-provoking true stories that showcase a range of perspectives from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) community. \$15 Reston/\$30 Non-Reston. www.restoncommunitycenter.com or 703-476-4500.

ONGOING
Free Comedy Showcase. Thursdays 8:30 p.m., at Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Kalypso's hosts weekly comedy shows that feature some of the best national touring and local comedians in the area. Free of charge.
Sunday Funday Workout Series. Sunday, July 7, 21, and 28, 9-10 a.m., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Potomac River Running presents weekly yoga, Pilates, crossfit, or ketal bell. Final lineup and free registration at potomacriverrunning.com. 703-689-0999.

League of Reston Artists' Photographers Focus on "Ahh Summer!" 8 a.m.-5 p.m., July 2-31, Monday-Friday, U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Photographers of the League of Reston Artists/Reston Photographic Society display their summer-themed works. Admission is free. www.leagueofrestonartists.org.
Free Conversational English Classes. Various times, at Washington Plaza Baptist Church (located on Lake Anne in Reston). These multi-level classes are designed to aid students in conversing in English from June 12 through August 15. 703-471-5225 orwashingtonplazachurch.com.

"Good Good Trouble on Bad Bad Island." July 19-Aug. 10. NextStop Theatre Company presents the D.C. regional premier of Joshua Mikel's play. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.
Jo Ann Rose Gallery Exhibit. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Joyian Scapes and Illustrations, RCC Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. Ted Ramsey's watercolor paintings and ink and graphite drawings come to the Reston Community Center. <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>
Explorations in Fiber: Quilted Artwork. Aug. 1-31. RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road,

Reston. Anne Smyers's quilted floral landscapes made of designer fabrics come to the Reston Community Center. <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com>
Sean McGuire Art Exhibit. Sept. 1-30. Hunters Woods Gallery, Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.

McGuire showcases his drawings and acrylic, charcoal, and woodburning work.
Exhibit: Menagerie. Tuesday, Sept. 4-Sunday, Sept. 29. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Painters Jill Banks, Lori Goll, Mireille Molette, Jeanne Treschuk, and sculptor Jackie Ehle-Ingelfield present depictions of animals made from found art. Artists reception on Saturday, Sept. 7, 7-9 p.m.

Art Mirrors Culture. Sept. 4-30. Jo Ann Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center Lake Anne, 1609-A Washington Plaza N, Reston. Local artists display works representing their heritage. restoncommunitycenter.com.
"Share the Pie." Through Sept. 15. Paisano's Pizza, 1141 Elden St., No. 105, Herndon; 12050 North Shore Drive, Suite D, Reston. Mention "Boys and Girls Club" when ordering so that Paisano's will donate 10 percent of the order to support the Club. www.pizzapaisanos.com.

"Mr. Knick Knack!" Children's Performance. 10:30-11:15 a.m., every Monday through Oct., Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Kid-friendly music. Free admission.
"Go, Dog, Go!" Oct. 19-Nov. 10, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Family Theatre presents a musical adaptation of the P.D. Eastman's classic children's story. Directed by Ray Ficca, adapted by Allison Gregory and Stephen Dietz. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.
"Pinnocchio." March 8-30, 2014, Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop

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2014 Reston Association Board of Directors

Interested in guiding the direction of the Reston community?

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Three seats will be open in the spring:

- Hunters Woods/Dogwood District Director for a three year term
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- Apartment Owners Representative for a three year term

To qualify you must:

- Be a member of the Reston Association – either a residential renter or property owner
- Complete a statement and a Petition of Candidacy
- If you run for a district seat, you must live in that district

Forms must be filed by 5 p.m., Jan. 31, 2014. Candidacy Forms and other election information can be found online at www.reston.org. The election is open to property residential owners and renters within Reston Association.

Details or questions: e-mail electionscommittee@reston.org or call 703-435-6512.



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PHOTOS BY ETHAN MCLEOD/THE CONNECTION

President Jefferson impersonator, Bill Barker, addresses the sitting Fox Mill Elementary School audience.

Historic Figures Come to Area Schools

Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry impersonators visit Reston and Herndon elementary schools.

BY ETHAN MCLEOD
THE CONNECTION

Two unlikely historical celebrities paid a visit to Fox Mill Elementary School students on Wednesday, Jan. 8, for a special assembly. When Principal Mie Devers announced that Thomas Jefferson would be a guest at their school that day, the cafeteria filled with sitting children began buzzing with excitement; at the mention of his friend, Patrick Henry, a large number of the sitting students shouted excitedly.

Jefferson, played by Bill Barker, and Henry, played by Richard Schumann, arrived at the school cafeteria at 1:30 p.m. Mr. Henry arrived first. After he introduced himself, he spoke of his undying love for the state of Virginia, as well as his recent visit to his good friend George Mason at his "Academy" just up the road. Just as he began to disparage the highly federalized country of France as compared to the United States' new republic, President Jefferson interrupted, "I beg your pardon!" as he stepped into the cafeteria.

Together, the duo of historical impersonators told tales of the early United States' history to the Fox Mill Elementary audience for an hour. They discussed their favorite pastimes of hunting, fishing and riding horses, and told of how over time the United States gradually dispensed of British customs such as bowing. Perhaps more

importantly, Mr. Jefferson explained the importance of education for not just wealthy men, but also young women and children not born into families with money. "Who should be those to decide what is the best system of education?" questioned Jefferson, pausing, before answering his own question. "The people!" he exclaimed, receiving cheers from the audience.

The politicians welcomed questions from the students, and one fifth-grader asked President Jefferson whether he and Henry disagreed about any political issues. "Patrick Henry? He disagrees on everything!" exclaimed Jefferson, inciting laughter in the audience. The two proceeded to bicker about all the things political, including the necessary size

and scope of the federal government and the importance of personal liberties.

Fairfax County was able to fund these historical figures' visits thanks to the generosity of Fox Mill community residents Carol Ann and Jim Babcock. "It's our effort to teach the young people today what the roots of our republic form of government are because in 10 to 12 years, they will be in the voting booth," said Mrs. Babcock, who was in attendance at the Jan. 8 assembly. "We're trying to teach history and make them eager to learn."

The Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson impersonators come from The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, and have visited area elementary schools before in January 2011 and 2012. In addition to visiting Fox Mill Elementary, Mr. Henry and President Jefferson also went to 10 other Herndon and Reston elementary schools on Wednesday, Jan. 8 and Thursday, Jan. 9.



Hard of hearing, Patrick Henry, played by Richard Schumann, leans in to hear a question from one of the students.



PHOTO BY DWIGHT CARTER

The highlight of the community-wide celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday will be a keynote address by Sweet Honey in the Rock.

A Musical Keynote

Sweet Honey in the Rock to highlight Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday celebration.

Reston Community Center presents the 29th Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration on Jan. 18-20. The highlight of this community-wide celebration will be a keynote address by Sweet Honey in the Rock. Audience members will enjoy a community lunch served family-style followed by a keynote address that explores how music and activism have contributed to civil rights movements over the years. The performance will also be sign-language interpreted.

Rooted in a deeply held commitment to create music from the rich textures of the African American legacy and traditions, Sweet Honey in the Rock possesses a stunning vocal prowess that captures the complex sounds of blues, spirituals, traditional gospel hymns, rap, reggae, African chants, hip hop, ancient lullabies, and jazz improvisation. Sweet Honey's collective voice, occasionally accompanied by hand percussion instruments, produces a sound filled with soulful harmonies and intricate rhythms. The metaphor of "Sweet Honey in the Rock" captures completely the essence of these African American women whose repertoire is steeped in the sacred music of the Black church, the clarion calls of the civil rights movement, and songs rising out of the struggle for justice everywhere.

In addition to the keynote address, Sweet Honey in the Rock will join RCC for three

days of activities including a sold-out concert, a Community Sing-along and school workshops.

Attendance at the Community Lunch and Keynote Address is limited to registered participants only.

Tickets are \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others. For more information on this event – as well as other events for the weekend celebration – please visit <http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com/mlk-celebration.shtml>.

This year's Reston Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration will include events at RCC Hunters Woods, Lake Anne Plaza, South Lakes High School, Southgate Community Center, and Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation.

The 29th Annual Reston Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration weekend is presented by the Reston Community Center in cooperation with Martin Luther King, Jr. Christian Church, the Office of Fairfax County Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins, Reston Community Orchestra, Al Fati Academy and Cornerstones (formerly Reston Interfaith), with the support of many other religious and civic organizations, business groups, and schools.

For more information contact Kevin Danaher, Community Events Director, at 703-476-4500, extension 6166 or via email at kevin.danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Creating Books With Children

Experts say helping little readers become authors can deepen a love of reading.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

K.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, love reading books, particularly books they've written themselves or with their mother. In fact, K.J. is an avid reader of both homemade and traditionally published books, and his sister is following in his footsteps.

"When they were younger, I took pictures and copied them on a home printer," said their mother, Holly Karapetkova, an associate professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "Once they were older, they illustrated the books or chose the item they wanted to include like for a specific letter in an alphabet book."

Karapetkova and other researchers said that creating books like this with children is not only easy and inexpensive, it's one of



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOLLY KARAPETKOVA

K.J., 8, and his sister Kalina, 3, make books with their mother, Holly Karapetkova, a professor of literature at Marymount University in Arlington. Experts say making books with children can help them develop of a love of reading.

the best ways to help them develop a love of books and reading, which Karapetkova said is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give a child.

"Reading is one of the fundamental ways that we interact with the world and particularly with knowledge," she said. "As a college professor, I find that my students who can read well can also think well and write well. They are thinkers on a much deeper level. Research has shown that reading makes you more contemplative, builds patience, concentration, and you have to use your imagination."

MAKING YOUR OWN BOOKS stretches the imagination. M. Susan Burns, Ph.D., a member of the early childhood education and human development and family sciences faculty at George Mason University says there are a few things that parents should keep in mind when making books with their children, however.

"Parents need to make it a positive experience," she said. "Children need to have books available [on topics] that are of true interest to them. When a book is being made

SEE LITTLE READERS, PAGE 13

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South Lakes junior Princes Aghayere scored 18 points and grabbed 19 rebounds against Madison on Jan. 10, giving her 41 rebounds in two games.



Madison junior Kelly Koshuta scored a game-high 28 points against South Lakes on Jan. 10.

South Lakes' Aghayere, Rendle Dominate Boards in Victory

Madison's Koshuta scores 28 points in defeat.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Few opponents can match the size and skill of South Lakes post players Abby Rendle and Princess Aghayere, who helped the Seahawks win 10 of their first 11 games.

At 6 feet 4, Rendle is a game-changer at each end of the floor. She can score in the paint or from the perimeter, and can alter an opponent's shot with her long arms. Aghayere is an aggressive athlete who scored 15 points and grabbed 22 rebounds during a Jan. 8 contest against Fairfax.

On Jan. 10, the South Lakes girls' basketball team traveled to face Madison and 6-foot-2 forward Kelly Koshuta, providing Rendle and Aghayere a rare opportunity to face a foe of similar size and skill.

"I know personally I was looking forward to this game because she's really known and she plays very well," Aghayere said about facing Koshuta, "so I was really excited for this game."

Koshuta proved a worthy adversary, scoring a game-high 28 points. But Aghayere and Rendle each produced a double-double and spearheaded a dominant team-rebounding effort during a 60-52 South Lakes victory.

South Lakes out-rebounded Madison 50-14, including 24 offensive boards. While the Warhawks kept the score close, pulling to within four in the final minute, the Seahawks' second-chance opportunities proved too much for Madison to overcome.

"It's all about possessions for us," South Lakes head coach Christy Winters Scott said. "The way that we've won a lot of games is to save possession for our team. Whether we score off of it or not, we get the clock [moving]. When we had the lead, it was very important for us to use that clock and get the extra possession from our boards."

Aghayere grabbed 19 rebounds, giving

her 41 in two games. She also scored 18 points, including a pair of free throws to give South Lakes a 44-37 lead late in the third quarter. "They're just very athletic and they work very hard," Madison head coach Kirsten Stone said about the Seahawks. "I feel like they really wanted to beat us. ... They're a tough rebounding team, we knew that going in."

Rendle finished with 15 points and 12 boards. Her bucket with 5:56 remaining in the fourth quarter capped an 8-0 run and gave South Lakes a 52-42 advantage.

"Every game we've played [against Koshuta], she's always been a threat to us," Rendle said. "She's a really good post player, so being able to play against her also helps us get better as post players [and] as defensive and offensive players."

Despite getting in early foul trouble, Koshuta helped Madison take a 25-19 lead when she converted a three-point play with 3:01 remaining in the second quarter. But with Koshuta on the bench late in the first half, Rendle scored a pair of buckets in the paint, helping South Lakes close the half on an 8-0 run. An Aghayere bucket early in the third quarter gave South Lakes a 29-27 advantage and the Seahawks would lead for the remainder of the contest.

"I look forward to this game all the time," Koshuta said. "Most of the teams we play don't have anyone who is even 6 foot, so it's good to have this competition. I love playing against it. I get very psyched and pumped for it."

Koshuta scored a game-high 28 points, including 19 in the second half, but grabbed just three rebounds.

Koshuta's coach praised Aghayere's effort.

"Princess is just that quiet, athletic [player]," Stone said. "She's fast when she needs to be fast, she slows down when she needs to be slow. She has that tenacity to get the ball. She knows where it is and goes for it. It's hard to defend that."



South Lakes senior Abby Rendle scored 15 points and grabbed 12 boards against Madison on Jan. 10.

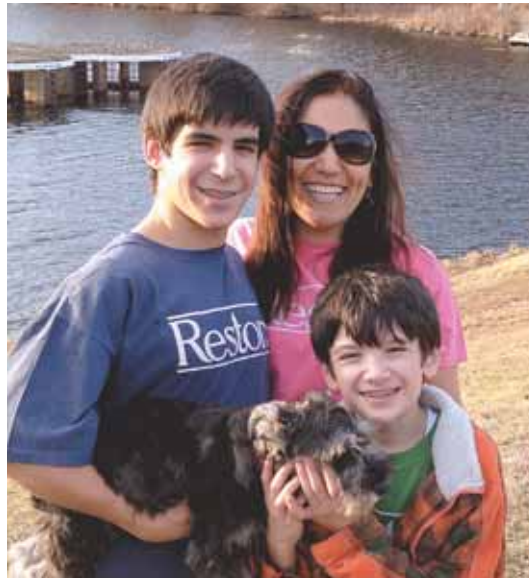
Madison sophomore guard Aidan McWeeney finished with 17 points, connecting on 5 of 9 from 3-point range.

South Lakes improved to 11-1, with its only loss coming against Central Bucks West (Doylestown, Pa.) during the Boo Williams

Classic holiday tournament. The Seahawks will host Langley at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17.

Madison fell to 5-7. The Warhawks will travel to face McLean at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 17.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



A Warm Day at Lake Anne

Enjoying a warmer-than-usual winter weekend the Letteri family, of Reston, took these pictures at Lake Anne. In the first photo (from left) Paul, Joseph, 14, Aaron, 10, and Raba Letteri pose with the Bronze Bob, a statue of the Reston founder Bob Simon. In the second photo: Joseph, Aaron and Raba Letteri, and Fred the dog.

A Education • Learning • Fun

Little Readers

FROM PAGE 11

with parents, it may not be engaging if the book is only of interest to the parent.

"Sometimes it gets sickening to have your kid tell you another princess story or another train story, but it is really important though to go with the child's interest," she continued. "You can take a little bit of a twist on the story by maybe adding a map that shows that places where the train might go."

Children may also want to turn to real-life for their books. "Children love to create stories based on their own experiences, and begin to develop a love of art and literature at an early age," said Sharon Fishel, ArtReach director for the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. "Parents can foster the link between drawing, writing and reading by having their child draw pictures of their daily routine or special events, such as field trips, family outings or unplanned adventures."

When creating a homemade book, the text doesn't have to be original either. "You can take a familiar song and adapt the lyrics," said Karapetkova. "For example, a book about a daily routine can say 'This is the way we brush our teeth, brush our teeth, brush our teeth early in the morning.'"

The techniques for young children are a little different. "You want a little one to engage with a book," said Fishel. "A parent-child idea is nice. We do a lot of parent-child workshops here [at the McLean Project for the Arts] where

one parent does one side [of the page] and child does the other."

The books children and their parents create don't have to be fancy, however. "When I've made books like this with my children, we've taken photos, we cut out pictures from magazines, glue sticks, something to put the picture onto," said Burns. "You can make those books fun by using artifacts. If you're doing a book from your beach trip, your child may want to put some sand in the book, but it is important to have a child initiate it."

"I like the thicker paper stock and sometimes it makes it easier to hold onto," she added. "The other thing is to get the clear laminating paper and putting a plastic sheet over it."

Even "folded paper, bound with a pencil becomes a writer's journal," said Karapetkova. "You can also take plastic zip-lock bags, punch holes in the bags, fill them and they become bath time books because they are waterproof."

Fishel suggests sticking with the basics: "Composition book, crayons, colored pencils. Go to a crafts store [and get] bags of origami papers or printed pattern papers," she said, noting that "each part of it can be come a lesson plan. Get a patterned piece of paper and explore with your child what makes that a pattern. Don't assume that your child knows."

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac create their own books as part of the elemen-

tary school curriculum. Jordan Love, head of the Lower School, said that parents can "create a writing center at home by providing a child with an area dedicated to their work and ideas. All children need is blank paper, coloring crayons or markers, and a quiet place to work, preferably at a table that is their size. Elementary-age children should be provided paper that has a blank section at the top and lines on the bottom."

"For preschool age children," Love said, "parents can ask their child to dictate or describe in order the illustrations. Parents should describe what they are writing while the child watches them transcribe their ideas to the paper. This reinforces that language can be printed."

Experts add that it's important to emphasize that mistakes, corrections and changes are OK. "I usually say don't let them erase what they write or draw 150 times. It is not about perfection," said Fishel.

Burns agrees. "In books for pleasure you don't want to make big corrections," she said. "It's the relationship with parents that will make it positive."

Love suggests that parents display their children's books. "Writing and reading go hand in hand, and through supporting the writing process, parents are enhancing their child's ability to be a more effective and efficient reader. Writing together helps to expand a child's vocabulary, encourage creativity, activate prior knowledge, and build self-esteem."

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In Case Someone Is Wondering

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I don't mind being alive, really I don't. Occasionally though, I receive well-intended inquiries – electronic and otherwise, from people (who know my cancer story) who are sort of wondering if perhaps I'm not. When people haven't heard from me in a while – and this is a category of people with whom I don't have regular/recurring interactions, but rather a group of people who reach out and attempt to touch me (figuratively speaking) every three or four months or so – there is a presumption on their part that my silence (so far as they know) is not in fact golden, but rather ominous, as in the cancer might have won and yours truly didn't. And when I respond, their pleasure/relief at my not having succumbed to the disease is quite positive, generally speaking. Their honesty and joy in learning that I'm still alive is both rewarding and gratifying. Rewarding in that they care and gratifying in that I must be doing something right which enables me to sustain myself through a very difficult set of medical circumstances: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, the terminal kind (is there any other kind?).

Statistically speaking, stage IV (there is no stage V) non-small cell lung cancer patients, according to various studies by The American Cancer Society, The National Cancer Institute, N.I.H. are not long-term survivors (the understatement of the year). Those of us who survive five years should have a parade, but very few would be alive to attend. February 27th, 2014 will be my five-year anniversary. Lucky doesn't begin to accurately describe my feelings. Amazing begins to scratch the surface.

Obviously, I understand the underlying concern of those individuals who don't hear from me and can't help but wonder (presume even; let's be realistic) that I've joined the ranks of the undesirables: those who have died and not left a forwarding address. In a peculiar way, these queries are my most favorites. They reinforce to me everything I've done right and minimize anything I've done wrong. They make me proud of who I am and how long I've survived with a "terminal" disease. And the longer I continue to receive them, the longer I will have survived. What's better than that? (That's a rhetorical question). Nothing is better than that!

Still, there are many ongoing challenges I face every day. Perhaps as alluded to in the previous paragraph, grasping at straws (figuratively) is one of my enduring pursuits: attempting to find solace, comfort, understanding, support and an indescribable number of non-quantifiable emotions which build me up and make me feel whole again despite being splintered into a million figurative pieces when unexpectedly diagnosed with an inoperable, incurable, terminal disease at age 54 and a half. After having never suffered a broken bone in my entire life or even spent a single night in a hospital (and only one visit to the E.R.), here I was, in the prime of my middle age, being told in effect that my life (certainly as I knew and understood it) was over. If I was in college, I would have put that in my pipe and smoked it. However, as a mid-fifties-aged adult, recently orphaned, I was left to ordinary devices, which had never been so thoroughly tested.

Presently, five years after the fact, the tests still left to be taken mostly involve well-meaning friends and acquaintances wanting to know my status. A little awkward? Sure. A lot of care and concern? Absolutely! Inquiries I can live without? Not a chance.

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

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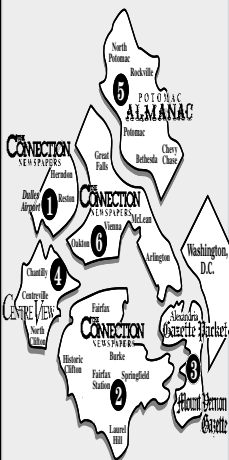
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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

OBITUARY

Mae Balboni of Reston Virginia

Mae Balboni died January 8, 2014 in her home. Mae was a resident of Reston for 13 years. She is survived by her daughters Mary Balboni and husband Chuck Norris of Reston, Va; Anita Balboni and partner Steve Cooke of Schwenksville Penn; Lynda DiPasquale and husband Philip of Collegeville Penn; Catherine Balboni of Hatfield Penn; and her sons Joseph M Balboni and wife Tammy of Eagleville Penn and Anthony V Balboni of Cinnaminson New Jersey; her sisters Jane Ricci of South Weymouth Mass; Dorothy Wilson and husband Jimmy of Allison Park, Penn; her brother George Goolsby and partner Rosalee Wiswall of Peabody Mass; her sister-in-law Beatrice Birt of McKinney Tx; her brother-in-law Al Rusas of Long Beach CA.

Local Virginia memorial service is Friday January 17th 2014 at 5pm at Adams Green Funeral Home, 721 Elden Street, Herndon, VA 20170. Her final resting place will be in Norristown Penn on Saturday January 25, 2014 at St Patrick Cemetery where she will be buried with her husband Joseph J Balboni.

Mae volunteered for Fairfax Pets on Wheels for eight years. Mae also volunteered as a test scorer for Raytheon's MathMovesU and MathCounts competitions, both regional and national for many years.

Donations in memory of Mae Balboni may be made to St Jude Children Research Hospital to support finding cures for cancer. www.stjude.org

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