

Ann Summerson, resident of Reston and member of the Reston Community Orchestra performed at the March 16 concert in honor of Bob Simon, founder of Reston.

# A Tribute to Bob Simon

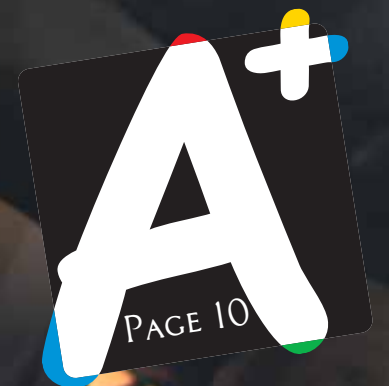
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**South Lakes High School in Reston was filled with visitors for the March Makers Faire hosted by NOVA Labs. Innovators, hackers, and artists came from all over the DC metro area to view the different displays**



**Chris Vo, director of education for the D.C. Area Drone User Group displayed small drones including a model RM450 at the Reston Makers Faire held on March 16.**

# First NOVA Makers Faire Held At Reston

**Inaugural event brings visitors to explore hands on science and tech.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**his last week has been really intense, but we would say it was a success," said Brian Jacoby, a resident of Reston and founding member of NOVA Labs. Jacoby had just finished operations for the inaugural NOVA Makers Faire hosted at two locations, South Lakes High School and Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston. The event sold over 3,000 tickets, and more than 300 volunteers helped guide visitors to various displays related to technology and engineering.

"I was surprised by how ecstatic folks were, it was a great feeling, everybody was so upbeat," said Jacoby. Visitors came in from all over D.C. metro area, some as far as Baltimore, Richmond and Boston. Innovators, hackers, artists and do-it-yourselfers of all ages came to view the different displays of gadgetry and hear presentations by guest speakers. A nonprofit group based in Reston, NOVA Labs was founded in 2011.

Steve Bloom, a resident of Ashburn, helped display a 3D printer making bottle openers. "This has been great, I have gotten lots of good questions like what software I used." Bloom also participates in drone activities hosted by NOVA Labs. Displaying drones at the South Lakes gym was Chris Vo. "It is kind of like a hot rod, you buy the pieces and then



**Sheri Roman and her daughter Ariel look at the 3D printer display at South Lakes High School. The family was impressed by the Makers Faire hosted by NOVA Labs.**

put it together. I can build one drone powered with a lithium battery in about two hours," said Vo. Vo is Director of Education for the D.C. Area Drone User Group, the mid-Atlantic's largest organization related to small drone and UAV or sUAS technology.

Scott Harris, a resident of South Riding assisted with the display of a 3D printer called the TMAX 2.0 3D printer, which has a fully open sourced design. "We were not sure how many people would show," said Harris. Jacoby and other leaders of NOVA Labs had been preparing the Maker Faire for almost a year. "I was lucky enough to find

Jeanne Marshall and Amy Shaw and we went forward, they are the heroes in this because they helped make it so amazing," said Jacoby.

**THE FAIR** was full of innovation and design. Volunteers gave basic soldering instructing, information on 3D printers, and displayed art made of fiber optic cables. Wind tunnels were set up at the South Lakes cafeteria, and folks demonstrated customized Minecraft programs for kids. At Langston Hughes Middle School robots and ham radios were on display. There were also participants from the Girls Excelling in Math and Sci-



**Mara Casebeer a student at Rocky Run Middle School in Chantilly and her brother, Jonah Casebeer, student at Thomas Jefferson High School, had a display on brain neurons at the Reston Makers Faire.**

ences Club (GEMS) taking apart old computers and printers and learning how they work. "I couldn't choose one favorite part of the festival," said Jacoby.

"You can really see the excitement in the kids' faces, it really indicates it is getting them interested in science," said NOVA Labs co-founder Justin Leto. "At NOVA Labs we have hosted over 400 events. We hope the exposure from this event will help publicize our group." The event continued lasted from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. "It is very neat," said Sheri Roman who brought her children to the fair. "They learned more in two

hours than the last week."

"It has been fantastic, there was a lot of cool robotic stuff," said Fred Briggs, a resident of Ashburn who brought in his wife and children to the fair. Author Robert Wallace, whose children attended South Lakes, gave a presentation at South Lakes theatre on the history of American innovation and espionage. Nene Spivy, executive director of the Children's Science Center was at the South Lakes cafeteria, explaining the organization's "Museum Without Walls" program. "We love to tell people about our future museum in the Dulles region," said Spivy.

"I think it is awesome, we had a great time sharing about the Spy Museum as well as sharing about our Spy Camp," said Jacqueline V. Eyl, a resident of D.C. and the Youth Education Director of the International Spy Museum. The museum was one of the sponsors for the event, as were WyoLum, Ideaventions, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, and Fairfax Connector. Connector buses provided free transportation services for the event, shuttling visitors in from Herndon Monroe Bus Station. Other sponsors included Makezine.com, GEMS, Holland & Knight, Activity Rocket, and Small Batch Assembly.

"It is really about spreading the joy of making things, sharing the creativity," said Leto. "We want to make kids excited about making things, so by having this fair the goal is to put children on the path of life long learning that serves them their entire life. We really saw how much support this event had in the community and we are looking forward to next year."

**TO LEARN MORE** about NOVA Labs, visit [www.nova-labs.org/blog/](http://www.nova-labs.org/blog/)





PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

The Reston Community Orchestra is composed of musicians from throughout the Northern Virginia area. From left, Bonnie Hudson, Sarah Connelly, Emily Hufnagle, and Erin Lindgren prepare their violins for a concert at Reston Community Center.

## A Tribute to Bob Simon

**Reston Community Orchestra Concert celebrates 100th birthday of Reston's founder.**

BY RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, March 16, approximately 200 people went to Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods to an afternoon performance by the Reston Community Orchestra. The event was an early celebration of the 100th birthday of Reston founder Robert "Bob" Simon. Also attending the event were Delegate Ken Plum (D-36), state senator Janet Howell (D-32), and Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).

Conducting the orchestra was Dingwall Fleary, a maestro who has directed Reston Symphony Orchestra for 16 years. "In planning the concert it was with the idea of recreate the ideas of Bob Simon's innovations... it was a personal treat to be able to plan the program. I think he [Simon] is a treasure to the community and I am pleased with how the orchestra has grown and become a treasure to the community as well."

Fleary has also conducted the McLean Symphony orchestra for 42 years and been director of music at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, in Bethesda, Md., since 1988.

Founded in 1988 as Reston Chamber Orchestra, Reston Community Orchestra (RCO) is an all-volunteer ensemble devoted to music and the community. The



Conducting the Reston orchestra was Dingwall Fleary, a maestro who has directed Reston Symphony Orchestra for sixteen years.



Rebecca Kite, marimba soloist, performed at the March 16 afternoon concert at Reston Community Center. Seated in the front was Robert Simon, founder of Reston.

performance repertoire covers the entire spectrum of orchestral music including baroque, classical, romantic, and contemporary compositions.

The music selection on Sunday's concert included work by Béla Bartók, Paul Creston, and Albéric Magnard. "This is the kind of music that really stretches your ears and intelligence," said Fleary.

"It has been very challenging and rewarding to play this particular selection of music," said Ann Summerson, RCO Assistant Concertmaster and resident of Reston. "This is a once in the life opportunity to hear this type of music," said Felicia Kessel Crawley, who played the keyboard. Before Fleary took the stage, Reston resident

LaVerne M. Gill welcomed everyone to the event. "My husband and I had company from Mexico, and they certainly enjoy the music played on the marimba," said Gill.

"I think for the community it is a gift to be able to enjoy nice music... and the closing song 'Jerusalem' was such a treat," said Gill. One of the highlights of the music performance was when members of the chorale ensemble sang "Jerusalem" by Hubert Parry. Bob Simon also went up to join in the performance. The song is one of Simon's favorites, and he enjoyed singing it while in glee club.

To learn more about Reston Community Orchestra visit [www.restoncommunityorchestra.org/cgi/index.php](http://www.restoncommunityorchestra.org/cgi/index.php)



Reston founder Robert "Bob" Simon received applause from the audience at his arrival for the March 16 concert, which was held in his honor.



A member of the Reston Community Orchestra, Felicia Kessel Crawley played the keyboard during the March concert at Reston Community Center.



## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) by the Friday prior to the following week's paper.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 20

**March Meeting of the Women's Club of Greater Reston.** 10 a.m., Lake Anne Community Center, 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston. The guest speaker for the March Meeting of the Women's Club of Greater Reston will be Ken Knueven, president of Reston Association; refreshments provided. [www.restonnewcomers.org](http://www.restonnewcomers.org) or 571-201-8719.

**The MOMS Club of Herndon** will host a Spring Swap from 10 – 11:30 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church (651 Dranesville Rd, Herndon). All Herndon (zip codes 20170 and 20171) stay at home mothers are encouraged to come and meet other at-home mothers. Bring gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, books, etc. and exchange for other items that you see at the swap. When you're done, relax and mingle with other Herndon-area moms. For more information or to RSVP contact: Tomoko Azuma, Membership VP at [Herndon\\_moms\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 23

**Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen Book Sales.** 1-1:30 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and

teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for teens.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 29

**Researching Your Veteran's Story.** 2 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Commander Victor "Tory" Failmezger, US Navy Retired, will provide an hour-long presentation for family genealogists and others interested in military history who want to begin researching the military service of their relatives but may not know how to get started. A question and answer session will follow. Free. Call 703-689-2700 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) to register.

## Snow Leprechaun spotted at Washington Plaza

**This snow leprechaun appeared in the yard at 11437 Washington Plaza on St. Patrick's Day. Only 3 feet tall, he is one cool customer!**

PHOTO BY  
FRAN LOVAAS



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## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**Trinity Presbyterian Church,** 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or [www.trinityherndon.org](http://www.trinityherndon.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center,** Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12. 202-986-2257 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.org).

**St. Anne's Episcopal Church,** 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m.

Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Morning prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or [www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.



# OPINION

## Income Gap Alive and Well

Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

**N**orthern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the

Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospitals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health

care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least \$1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about \$635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average \$415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average \$950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to [www.NYTimes.com](http://www.NYTimes.com) and search "income gap."

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Making the Grade

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

**A**t a time when quality reviews and accountability measures result in more activities being given a letter grade, it is appropriate that legislative sessions receive the same treatment. At the risk of seeming to cop-out, I give the session an "I" for incomplete because we have not yet completed the basic requirement of passing a biennium budget in the even-numbered years. We are back in Richmond in special session now to meet that requirement.

Taking the budget out of the equation, I would give the session a "B"—a higher grade than I would have given sessions in recent years. Some important work got done. Growing out of the recent tragedy of Senator Deed's family and with lingering memories of Virginia Tech, mental health laws were strengthened. Legislation extends the time a person can be held involuntarily under a temporary detention order from 48 to 72 hours. The state will maintain a "real time" online registry of available psychiatric beds in public and private hospitals. Emergency cus-

today orders will be extended from six to 12 hours with the state assuming responsibility to find a bed for a patient after eight hours. A four-year study will be undertaken to determine what other reforms are needed. In significant reform of ethics laws that will continue to be debated as to whether or not they go far enough, a cumulative cap of \$250 was put on gifts that elected officials can accept. Gifts given to spouses and immediate family members must be disclosed, and all disclosure forms will be accessible online for public viewing. Disclosure will be required twice rather than once each year. An ethics council will

be established to provide oversight to the process. In the area of education, the General Assembly restrained itself from passing the latest reform fad as it had been doing the last several years and even took a second look at recent reforms by delaying for a couple of years the idea of giving each school a grade, until it can be determined how such a system might work and whether it would be meaningful. State take-over of failing schools will also be delayed. SOL (Standards of Learning) testing that

SEE PLUM, PAGE 7

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Incorrect Assertion

To the Editor:

In a letter ["A Manufactured Crisis," Connection, March 12, 2014] Jack Kenny states that the ObamaCare Medical Devices tax applies to fishing poles and tires, and that "the Department of Health and Human Services has asked retailers to not show the tax on your sales receipt."

I found this rather hard to believe and, as I do with many emails I receive regarding supposedly outrageous governmental actions, I did an Internet search. Sure enough, according to many fact-checking websites, this incorrect assertion has been making the rounds for over a year. Briefly summarizing, the Affordable Care Act imposes a 2.3 percent tax on manufacturers and importers of certain medical devices, but it does not apply to fishing poles or tires. It appears this misunderstanding originated due to a mistake in software used by Cabela's, a seller of hunting, fishing and outdoor gear. According to the Star-Herald, a

Nebraska newspaper (Cabela's headquarters are in Nebraska), on Jan. 1, 2013, "A companywide glitch in Cabela's cash register system that added a 2.3 percent 'Medical Excise Tax' to customers' purchases — everything from boots to bullets — was an error and will be refunded, a company spokesman said Monday."

[http://www.starherald.com/news/local\\_news/cabela-s-blames-glitch-for-jan-tax-error-promises-refunds/article\\_9ba2f422-5a0d-11e2-b22a-0019bb2963f4.html](http://www.starherald.com/news/local_news/cabela-s-blames-glitch-for-jan-tax-error-promises-refunds/article_9ba2f422-5a0d-11e2-b22a-0019bb2963f4.html)

Unfortunately, a copy of one of the receipts showing the tax was posted on the Internet and the fun began.

I should note there are manufacturers taxes on a variety of items, including fishing poles and tires (IRS Publication 510; [www.irs.gov/publications/p510/ch05.html](http://www.irs.gov/publications/p510/ch05.html)), but they are not related to the Affordable Care Act.

**Fred Siskind**  
McLean

#### Commending Election Officials During Sunshine Week

To the Editor:

During this year's Sunshine Week, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area salutes the Fairfax County Electoral Board, General Registrar and employees

of the Fairfax County Office of Elections for their transparency and willingness to share information with the public in the follow-up to the 2013 general election.

Their handling of the election

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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## OPINION

# Are You Ready for Spring in Reston?

BY JOHN LOVAAS  
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

It's St. Patrick's Day. So, faith and begorrah, spring cannot be far behind. I love snow, but even I have pretty much had enough!

We have enjoyed watching an especially interesting selection of cold weather water birds on Lake Anne this year—Double-crested Cormorants, Pied-billed Grebes, Ring-necked Ducks, and American Coots. But we are ready now to welcome back our resident Great Blue and Little Green Herons to join the Canada Geese and Mallards who are here pretty much all year. Enough of the cold, quiet days and nights on Washington Plaza! We are ready to once again fill the Plaza's four fine restaurants—the Kalypso, Montmartre Café, Singh Thai, and Jasmine Café for lunches and fine dinners. I can almost taste the flaming Saganake cheese dish at the Kalypso, the Trout Amandine at Montmartre, the Founder to die for at Singh Thai, and the White Pizza at the Jasmine.

We have some great news for all who love Lake Anne. The new owners of the Lakeside Pharmacy have decided to keep an interesting, re-invented pharmacy as part of their new business and to keep Pharmacist Larry Cohn part-time until his 100th birthday! We thank the wonderful people at Small

Change, Lake Anne Florist (and Chocolate and Wine!), New Family Naturals, the barbers and hair stylists, Reston Used Book Shop and the others who have been there for us all winter long. And we wish them prosperous spring, summer and fall.

Then there's the very essence of springtime—The Reston Farmers Market, again selected as the best in Northern Virginia. The Market will open its 17th season on Saturday, May 3 at 8 a.m. — 27 of your 28 favorite vendors are returning! In addition, we have recruited a special, all natural grass-fed meat farm and homemade pasta kitchen.

And, we are proud to announce that the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) will join the Market thanks to Cornerstones which will administer the program. The Reston Farmers Market will be open 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays beginning May 3 and going through Nov. 8 this year. Full disclosure—my wife Fran and I are the co-Market Masters, volunteers for the Fairfax County Park Authority, which sponsors the Market and 10 others all around the County.

I just measured the snow in our little yard on St. Patty's Day. Good grief—eight inches on the grass and our patio furniture. But, I assure you that by the time you read this column it will be gone and you will be able to go about the business of enjoying Reston as I've outline above.

Happy Springtime to all!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

reporting, canvass, provisional ballot determinations and recounts in the races for Virginia Attorney General and 33rd District Senate seats exemplified the best principles of open government. The Office of Elections frequently published updates on election reporting problems and the extended provisional ballot determi-

nation process, later on providing details about the progress of the recounts, all the while describing the safeguards in place to protect the integrity of the ballot.

That integrity is essential for our system of government to work.

This is why during Sunshine Week we commend the Fairfax County Office of Elections for sharing important voting results and

information with the residents of Fairfax County, detailing exactly how their votes in these important elections were counted and protected.

**Jones and Helen Kelly, Co-Presidents**  
League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area

## Plum

FROM PAGE 6

in recent years has come to dominate the school year will be reduced from 22 to 17 in K-8, giving more time for instruction.

The hybrid car tax was repealed, but efforts to roll back other provisions of last year's transportation bill were rejected. The sodomy law

was repealed as court action had already effectively done. A small step forward on bike safety increased from two to three feet the distance cars must leave to pass bicycles. Posting pornography on social media without a person's consent was made an offense. Sunday hunting will be legal on pri-

ivate lands. What would have given the session an "A?" Full committee debate on background checks for gun purchases, raising the minimum wage, and repealing the marriage amendment rather than such limited debate and defeat of these measures in subcommittees would have made for a better grade.

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During the Nowruz celebration, Saeed Banaei played the drums while Reza Kalioush dressed as the character Hajji Piruz spoke about the New Year.



At the March Nowruz Festival, Ashburn resident Saghar Shoaie preformed a classical Persian dance to tune of Gole Gandom.

PHOTOS BY RYAN DUNN/THE CONNECTION

## Nowruz Celebrated At Reston Town Center

Third annual Persian New Year's festival brings thousands.

By RYAN DUNN  
THE CONNECTION

This event is basically the Iranian New Year's festival," said Ashkbous Talebi, who was assisting with a display representing the Ghashghaich tribe, from southern Iran. Both Talebi and his wife have attended the celebration of Nowruz at Reston Town Center since it was first hosted in March of 2012.

The event was a day-long celebration, with the Pavilion serving as the presentation hub throughout the event. Layla Rad served as an emcee for the morning and afternoon. "Nowruz is very important to us, and to me," said Rad. "This is one of the biggest local gatherings of Iranian people." After graduating from Shahid Beheshti University in 2006, Layla started work as an interior designer. Rad has also taught art classes in Oakton.

Nowruz is a festival of early spring, renewal and the future. The full annual Nowruz celebration has many rituals, all having to do with aspects of hope and renewal. The event at



Emcee Layla Rad and Shohreh Asemi, founder of Nowruz Festival Organization.

Reston was open to the public, and there were a variety of singers, musicians, dancers and storytellers entertaining an actively engaged crowd. Market Street was filled with booths offering customary foods, goods and crafts.

During one of the shows, Saeed Banaei played the drums while Reza Kalioush dressed as the character Hajji Piruz spoke about the upcoming New Year. "I am enjoying the event and I hope everyone enjoys it as well," said Banaei, a resident of Herndon. "I hope this event continues every year."

Helping several dance groups was Katayoun Hutson, artistic director and dance instructor of Mosaïque Center for the Cultural Arts based in Sterling. "This event is such a great opportunity," said Hutson.

Hutson also works with the dance ensemble Troupe Eshveh

and Cyrus Academy, a family school located in Sterling. "This is a celebration of spring for everyone," said Hutson.

Performing a classical Persian dance was Saghar Shoaie, a resident of Ashburn and junior at Broad Run High School. "I preformed in last year's celebration as well," said Shoaie. "I think everything was fun, people can come attend and learn about the Persian culture." Shohreh Asemi, Persian-American stage actress, journalist, host and founder of Nowruz Festival Organization, was also at the celebration. "I am very excited about the third Nowruz Festival," stated Asemi.

"This huge on-street event takes the normal Persian celebrations to the next level."

For more information on the festival, visit [nowruzfestival.org](http://nowruzfestival.org)

## CALENDAR

"Solace Outside My Window," by Gennara Moore, won first place in paintings for her evocative winter image at the League of Reston Artists' "Winter Dreams" exhibit, currently at the Parkridge 5 Building in Reston and is on display until April 11.



Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline is the Friday prior to the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**MONDAY/MARCH 17-FRIDAY/APRIL 11**  
**Artists Honored at LRA's "Winter Dreams" Exhibit.** Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Parkridge 5 Building, 10780 Parkridge Blvd., Reston.

**THURSDAY/MARCH 20**

**Spring Swap on Thursday.** 10-11:30 a.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon. Hosted by The MOMS Club(R) of Herndon, clean out your closets and get ready to freecycle.

The Spring Swap is a great opportunity to declutter your home and save money by swapping items your children have outgrown. Simply bring gently-used children's clothing, shoes, toys, books, etc. and exchange for other items that you see at the swap. When you're done, relax and mingle with other Herndon-area moms. For more information or to RSVP email [Herndon\\_moms\\_info@yahoo.com](mailto:Herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com).

**Return of the Reptiles.** 10-11 a.m. or 1-30 - 2:30 p.m.

Walker Nature Center, 11450 Glade Drive, Reston. Discover Reston's cold blooded reptiles as they are emerging from their winter sleep. Reservations required by March 17. Reston Association members: \$7; \$ Non-members: \$9. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or 703-476-9689 and press 5.

**Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen Book Sales.** 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for teens.

**FRIDAY/MARCH 21**

**Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen Book Sales.** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for teens.

**FRIDAY/MARCH 21- SATURDAY/ MARCH 22**

**DC Vapefest 2014: E-Cigarette Convention and Seminar.** 2-10 p.m. Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon. Since 2010, the National Vapers Club has been hosting



Watch Classical Ballet Theater's performance of "The Sleeping Beauty," on Sunday, March 30.

VapeFest—a social convention, educational forum, and industry networking event for current e-cigarette users and smokers who would like to learn about vaping. It is open to adults 18 years and older.

To purchase tickets or for more information, visit <http://www.vapefest.com>.

**SATURDAY/MARCH 22**

**Nature Walk: Sunrise Valley Wetlands.** 1-3 p.m., Sunrise Valley Wetlands - 12700 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Enjoy a leisurely stroll along the boardwalk and get an up-close look at the amazing diversity of life. [naturecenter@reston.org](mailto:naturecenter@reston.org), or 703-476-9689 and press 5.

**Friends of Reston Regional Library Children and Teen Book Sales.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The Friends of the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. The library will hold sales of gently used books and teaching materials for Children/Educators, and books for teens.

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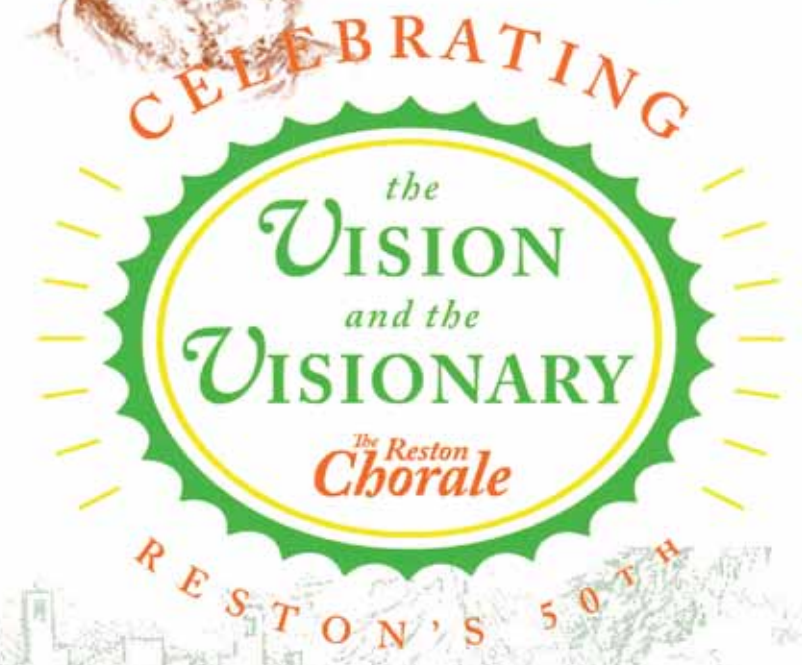
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A student at The Madeira School in McLean enjoys art in the school's art room. Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department, says the school's approach to art draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL



Visitors look at art created by students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area as part of the McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

# Local Art Educators, Galleries Celebrate Youth Art Month

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**Experts say art can teach valuable life skills.**

**B**rightly colored self-portraits, landscapes dotted with spring flowers and hand-carved sculptures fill a gallery at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. All of the art was created by local school children. Meanwhile, in Alexandria, parents and tots dip their fingers in glue, clay and paint to create collages, sculptures and paintings.

"It is a true delight to see parents and

children making things together in the studio. Joy is found in the stuff they make — the collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures — as well as the more intangible things we build: relationships, confidence, creativity, persistence and the many ways we make meaning through art," said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

These are just some of the local art ac-

tivities for children. In fact, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education. This year's theme is "Start With Art, Learn for Life," which was chosen by the Council for Art Education, a sponsor of Youth Art Month.

Local art educators are using the month as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of art education and raise awareness

about the important life skills it can build.

"We believe art is important to study for its inherent value, but art also promotes life skills, including creativity, problem solving, determination, concentration, collaboration and confidence," said Samantha Marques-Mordkofsky, education and outreach manager for the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington. "Regardless of what field a child pursues later in life, these skills will translate and he or she will be better rounded be

SEE YOUTH ART, PAGE 11

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# Youth Art Month Celebrated

FROM PAGE 10

cause of ... art. We also offer multidisciplinary classes like Book Illustration, Amazing Architects & Engineers, and Murals: Big Art, Big Ideas where students have the opportunity to master technical skills in art while simultaneously learning about other subjects."

"What our art educators have known for many years research is now confirming," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "Art helps develop critical thinking and reading skills. Art education is vital because it builds concentration, motivation and confidence."

Jorge Luis Somarriba, art teacher and artist-in-residence at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., says the school is a community of artists. "We believe in a process-oriented and child-centered philosophy," he said. "Art nurtures self-confidence through self-discovery and personal visual expression. Art education is instrumental in the holistic development of a human being: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Art making develops the right brain, empowering individuals to become creative, problem-solvers who may think 'outside the box.'"

Experts said art education also develops self-expression and an appreciation for the work of others. "Elementary school students create art with such unbridled enthusiasm for painting, drawing and creating things," said Dabney Cortina, communications director for the McLean Project for the Arts. "I think it's because they haven't been told that there is anything wrong with how they create art. Currently going on is

our youth art show featuring Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area. It is incredible to look at. You see the talent they have. It is totally amazing."

Eileen Lyons, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., said that the arts are a vital part of the school's curriculum. "Arts education helps students learn how to solve problems in unique ways and it deepens their overall learning experience," she said. "Through collaboration and cross-curricular projects, teachers at Holy Child work closely together to engage students in the arts on many different levels. Art teachers collaborate with language, social studies, English and geometry teachers to bring deeper meaning to learning."

For example, said Lyons, on a recent trip to the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., art and French teachers worked together to bring the Van Gogh Exhibition to life in both English and French.

Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department at The Madeira School in McLean suggests art education might not be taken as seriously as other disciplines. "Schools in general have been responding to trends that you need more science and math education and have been teaching to tests. Not at Madeira, but at some other schools, art education has diminished," she said. "We look at arts as a process. Our students learn to work effectively with others. Our approach draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially. They develop cognitive growth, so they learn to see how parts relate to a whole."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

**The McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show features the work of students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area.**

## Georgetown MBA Evening Program Expands to Tysons Corner

Those looking to earn an MBA outside the Beltway now have another option: Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business will offer its MBA Evening Program in Tysons Corner beginning this fall. School officials say one of the goals of the expansion is to make the Georgetown MBA accessible to a new population of working professionals in the Washington, D.C., region.

"As business continues to grow in Virginia and Maryland, employers are seeking a highly skilled workforce," said David A. Thomas, dean of Georgetown's McDonough School of Business. "By expanding our geographic reach, we extend access to our MBA curriculum, which prepares principled, globally-minded leaders to serve business and society."

Georgetown's MBA Evening Program was ranked number 11 by U.S. News & World Report in 2013 and is the region's highest ranked part-time MBA program.

Students who attend the Tysons-based cohort will have some of the same technological amenities as their main campus counterparts.

Officials at Georgetown said they selected Tysons Corner for its MBA Evening Program expansion because of its proximity to the region's strong business community, which includes local, regional and national headquarters for many major employers. Additionally, the arrival of Metro's Silver Line later this year is also accelerating job and population growth in the region and will make commuting to the Georgetown program easier for students arriving from full-time jobs.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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## SPORTS



PHOTOS BY CINDY NORMAN

**Olivia Norman tops the podium as the Level 9 State Champion in uneven bars for the 15 year old group.**

# State Champion

## South Lakes freshman a State Champion on uneven bars.

**T**his past weekend gymnasts from across the state of Virginia competed in the Virginia USA Gymnastics Level 8, 9, and 10 State Championships in Richmond. Olivia Norman of Herndon, a Level 9 gymnast and freshman at South Lakes High School, scored 9.425 and won the State Champion title in uneven bars for the 15 year old group. She also garnered third place on vault for her age group. Norman qualified to compete in the Region 7 Level 9 Championship meet on April 4-6 in Hampton, Va. Regional Championships brings together the top gymnasts from six states in the region (which includes MD, DC, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia).



**Olivia Norman of Herndon, a freshman at South Lakes High School, scored 9.425 and won the State Champion title in uneven bars for the 15-year-old group.**

## Playing to Stop Hunger Now

**Great Falls and Colvin Run elementary schools participated in a sixth-grade charity basketball game that raised more than \$800 for Stop Hunger Now. Colvin Run won 57-52 in overtime. Colvin Run roster: Colin O'Connor; Lucas Gauthier; Luke Addington; Jacob Rose; John Kelly; Rex Kerrigan; Sam Sachtleben; Will Rissing; William Bean; Zachary Crumes; Zack Baskin; Coach Jim Rose; and Coach Rich Gauthier. Great Falls Roster: Andrew Walker; Bradley Carvajal; Cameron Dhillon; Carson Volanth; Cole Walmsley; Ian Walker; Jack Fitzgerald; Nate Mazich; Pierson White; Sam Maruca; Simon Medina; Tre Vasiliadis; Coach John Fitzgerald; Coach Doug White; and Coach Todd Walmsley.**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



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**Pictured with Senior Naval Science Instructor Commander Rick Cassara (U.S. Navy, Retired) and Coach Clay Wilkins, Herndon High's NJROTC cadets celebrate placing third in the nation.**

## Herndon's NJROTC Orienteering Team Places Third in Nation

After suffering postponement due to the region's unusual winter weather, Herndon High's NJROTC cadets triumphed in the much-anticipated Navy National Orienteering Championship.

Held in Georgia over the weekend of March 7-9, this rigorous event challenged competitors throughout the United States to prove their mastery of off-path cross country running and land navigation. Cadets used their maps and compasses to traverse miles of rough terrain swiftly and confidently.

Both Herndon's varsity and junior varsity teams performed well. Standout individual competitors included: Marshall Wilkins, who finished sixth of 76 male varsity competitors; Virginia Murphy, who was third out of 17 female varsity competitors; Joe LaRosa, who took 18th out of 88 junior varsity competitors; and Joe Jackson, who finished 14th out of 69 intermediate competitors.

Led by coach Clay Wilkins, Herndon's national ranking improved from 11th in 2012 and seventh in 2013. Next year's championship will be held in California in February of 2015.



By CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**The Herndon girls' lacrosse team participated in a scrimmage against Yorktown on March 14 at Herndon High School. The Hornets will compete in the Atomic Blast tournament at Annandale High School on Saturday, March 22.**



## NEWS

### Terraset Elementary Students Win Odyssey of the Mind Award

Students from Reston's Terraset Elementary School won the Ranatra Fusca Award at the 2014 Odyssey of the Mind Regional Tournament on March 8. The Fusca Award acknowledges the effort, exceptional creativity and teamwork displayed by a team in completing its project.

The Odyssey of the Mind format allows teams to compete among specific challenge topics. According to Odyssey officials, the Terraset team, including Kathleen Russell, Olivia Purvis, Ethan Boswell, Caleb Waller, Noah Davidson and Edyson Powell, showed "exceptional creativity in the concept and delivery of the Driver's Test problem." The team, coached by Katy Boswell, developed their project with knowledge gained from a unit in their elementary school science curriculum. They constructed a vehicle designed for ant drivers. Unique to the design was a GPS which they identified as a "Global Predator System," which warned the driver



Terraset Elementary Odyssey of the Mind team.

of predator anteater hazards. All of the costumes worn by the team members, along with large leafy fenders on the vehicle's sides, were hand sewn by the students them-

selves.

The team also fabricated the voice element of the GPS from a recycled birthday card with a recording mechanism.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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## St. Patrick's Snow Day in Great Falls

Enjoying a St. Patrick's Snow Day, from left: Avery and Lexie Perez, Allie Wakeman; Front: Caitlyn Shumadine.

PHOTO  
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-William Van Horne

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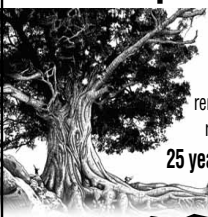
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THE  
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## No Know. No Problem.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's an old advisory among salespeople: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naïve, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

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



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