

April 16-122, 2014

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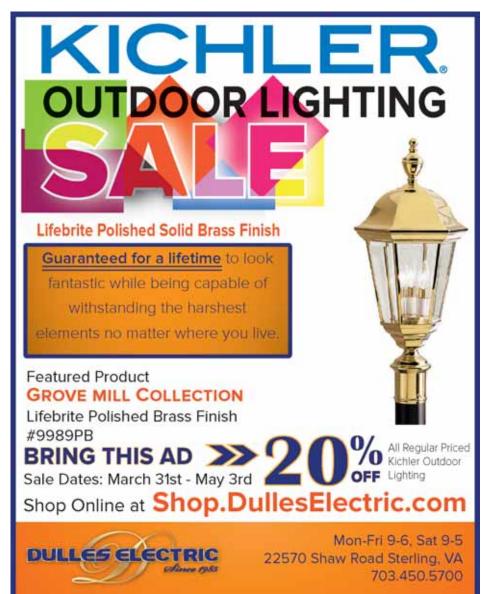


Photo GALLERY "Me and Μv Mom"

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

ionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Potomac Almanac, 'Me and My Mom

Photo Gallery, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 2231 Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed enve-

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JT Interiors at Potomac House



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2pm - 7pm

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News



Tiger Trot co-chairs Christine Drummond and Cindy Anastasi with headmistress Maureen Appel (center).

Tiger Trot Triumph

ore than 500 runners participated in the fourth annual "Tiger Trot" at Connelly School of the Holy Child. New this year, a raffle prize and the Peet's Coffee truck, complemented the array of donated foods, from yogurt to fruits and Powerade, from local business. A check for \$3,500 was presented to the firefighters from the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, bringing the three year donation total close to \$10,000.





The scenic course was just one of the draws for the 4th annual Tiger Trot 4K.



The Holy Child Tigers got everyone excited about the race.



Chief Paul Sterling (far right) and the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department were thrilled with the day and the turnout, which netted \$3,500 for the firehouse.



Sophomores Kelly Russell, Peyton Holifield, and Katie Kloster didn't let the costume contest get in the way of their running.



The joy of warming up: sophomores Gianna D'Avella and Sofia Alpizar get ready for racing.



Jerry and Jonathan Leener help themselves to the delicious, and Kosher, chicken and fries.

Beth Shalom Hosts 'Guys Night Out'

By Susan Belford The Almanac

osher BBQ ribs, chicken, fries — and scotch. Nothing could make an enormous gathering of more than 400 men any happier than dining on their favorite comfort foods while bonding and schmoozing with other men and preparing for seder leading.

The 4th annual BBQ, Scotch and Seder Summit took place April 6 at the Beth Sholom Congregation on Seven Locks Road in Potomac. This gathering was the largest Seder summit event held in the D.C. area.

This "men's outreach event" reaches across all spectrums of Judaism attracting orthodox, conservative, reform, and unaffiliated Jews. Attendees had the opportunity to enjoy Passover insights from Beth Sholom's recently installed Senior Rabbi, Nissan Antine. Antine said, "This is a great event that can be re-created in other Jewish communities across the country."

The evening featured a perfect menu for men along with a program that incorporated "speed learning," with a focus on sharing ancient traditions to help make one's Seder more meaningful for all participants. Men took home pocket-sized materials with key lessons for them to incorporate into their own Seders. There were raffle prizes and sports memorabilia. Funds from the event support families who need financial assistance to celebrate Passover. It also benefited A Wider Circle by providing more than two hundred suits for needy men.

SEE BETH SHALOM, PAGE 11

COMMUNITY

Dinner Music

Focus Music brings folk and acoustic music to Potomac's Tami's Table.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

usic lovers have a new opportunity to enjoy creative and tasty food while listening to folk and acoustic music by local and nationally-known musicians. Tami's Table Café and Wine Bar, located at 12944-E Travilah Road, Potomac is the scene to check out. Partnering with Focus Music of Rockville, the restaurant will feature engaging live music while diners enjoy a glass of wine or a beer and delicious homemade food in a cozy restaurant just north of Potomac Village. In addition to the performances at Tami's Café, Focus Music offers live music at Ted's Diner in Rockville and in several churches in Alexandria and Mount Vernon, Va.

"We are pleased to get back into a restaurant space where people can enjoy an intimate 'up-close' listening experience with high-quality entertainment," said Scott Moore, president of Focus Music. "We offer good music value for your money, personal contact with performers and a community of other music lovers to socialize with."

Focus Music has been presenting live music to audiences since 2007 — but Scott and Paula Moore have been providing their favorite song-writer acoustic music in the basement, family room and backyard of their Rockville home since 1997. Focus Music is a volunteer-run non-profit organization, which delivers acoustic, folk, blues, bluegrass, Celtic, Americana and other types of music to the listening public. The group offers regularly scheduled performances,

education, and encourages the career growth of new and emerging folk and acoustic music artists.

Tami's Table will provide the venue for a variety of shows. The small café can seat 45 listeners and they do take reservations for evenings with musicians. Performances will begin at 7:30 p.m. followed by an Open-Mike venue. On Thursday, April 24, songwriter, musician and recording engineer Jud Caswell will perform on the guitar, banjo, cittern, whistle, bodhran and uke. The multi-instrumentalist will sing a variety of his own songs, including "The Weight of the World," recorded by Judy Collins who described it as "one of the best political folk songs I have ever heard."

The folk-funk music of Connor Garvey and the down-to-earth folk music of Jenna Lindbo will be featured Monday, May 12. Garvey will pair his soulful vocals with the infectious joy of Lindbo's songs. The two will provide an electric evening of inspiration and delectable tunes for the listeners. While there is no fee entrance fee, the suggested donation is \$12-\$15 per person.

Tami's Table Café and Wine Bar opened last May, providing diners with delicious home-made farm-to-table lunches and dinners as well as 30-40 carry-out options. Owner Tami Mallios is excited with the opportunity to offer live music to her patrons. "It adds a new element to dining in and around Potomac," she said. "We attract performers from ages 8–80 for our Open Mike Nights on Thursday and Friday, but having a set performer will be an outstanding addition to the Potomac dining scene."

A self-described "food junkie," Mallios



Tami's Table and Focus Music are bringing back dinner music. Restaurant guests may enjoy folk and acoustic music by nationally-known and local acts.

More Music

Ted's 355 Diner in the Wintergreen Plaza in Rockville will provide a larger space for performers and their audiences. The venue allows for 50-70 people in an informal and cozy setting. Focus Music has arranged for an exciting and interesting program of events. The band, Spuyten Duyvil will be appearing April 29, and Danny Schmidt and Carrie Elkin will bring their music to Rockville from Austin, Texas, May 20. The suggested donation at Ted's Diner is \$15\$18 per person. Ted's 355 Diner is located at 895 Rockville Pike, Rockville. Call 301-340-0088 or visit www.teds355.com for more.

competed on the "Master Chef" show, making it through six rounds. She has been catering for almost four years — but has always wanted to own a restaurant where she can feature her own recipes. Some of these

include chicken with artichokes and lemon capers, seafood lasagna, blue cheese carmelized onion squares and much more. She features gluten-free and vegetarian selections in addition to gourmet salads, soups, entrees, sandwiches and desserts.

She offers a variety of pre-cooked and parcooked meals for carry-out and special orders. Additionally, the restaurant offers a wide variety of beer and wine selections. Peter Mallios said, "We offer 100 draft beers and 100 different wines – and a great happy hour from 4-7 p.m."

For reservations or more information about Tami's Table, call 240-477-8835 or visit www.tamistablecafe.com. The restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday–Wednesday, 11 a.m.–8 p.m. and Thursday–Saturday, 11 a.m.–10 p.m. For more about Focus Music and to view their schedule of musicians, go to www.focusmusic.org.





PCR, Calleva Celebrate Earth Day

Since 2007 Potomac Community Resources Inc. and Calleva Outdoors have partnered together to provide an Earth Day event that includes individuals of all abilities to provide service to the community and learn about the environment. PCR members, adults with developmental differences, along with other community members participated in service projects to beautify the area around the C&O Canal. This year the Inclusive Earth Day event coincided with the Allison Ferguson Clean Up Day. After service projects were complete, Calleva provided lunch for all PCR members who participated and took everyone for a ride in their 20-person war canoe. Visit www.pcr-inc.org for more.

Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 11, 2014, and every year at this time, we call for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.)

You can upload photos and information directly to our website a

www.connectionnewspapers.com/ mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Prekindergarten and Head Start

Registration. Walk-in applications are being accepted Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141 in Rockville. Parents also can register their children at other community locations. Prekindergarten and Head Start for income-eligible children who will be four years old by Sept. 1, 2014, for the 2014-2015 school year. Call 301-230-0676 or visit

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org for more.

Kindergarten Orientation. Sessions will take place through May 30, for children who will enter kindergarten in the 2014-2015 school year. During orientation, parents and students will meet the school principal, kindergarten teachers and other staff members. Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2014 can be enrolled in kindergarten. For more information about the kindergarten program and orientation sessions, parents can call their home school or the Division of Early Childhood Programs and Services at 301-230-0691. Visit

SEE BULLETIN. PAGE 11

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese The Luxury Home Community

Modern luxury homebuyers are looking for more than just a spacious floor plan and world class amenities inside the home—today's luxury is defined by the lifestyle and values, not just the home's construction and its rooms! Country clubs and golf communities are two choices that have remained enduringly popular for the luxury homeowner—but the 21st century has given homeowners a diverse range of choices in defining what means luxury to the individual buyer, their lifestyle, recreation and values. Contemporary living, forward-thinking options—here's just a sampling of the luxury lifestyle communities available for prospective home buyers to choose from:

- Equestrian. Steadily gaining popularity, equestrians and horse enthusiasts are delighting in the return of the gentleman's farm to the luxury home market. In this type of lifestyle community, elegance meets functionality in developments with riding trails and stables that carry on a noble tradition.
- Vintage Luxury Homes. These communities fuse modern convenience, technological upgrades to historic constructions, blending yesterday's charm with today's modern amenities to perfectly balance family values, unique architecture and sumptuous living.
- Aviation. Piloting communities are one of the newest types of luxury communities, with aviation enthusiasts enjoying access to private landing strips and hangars in the privacy and convenience of their own backyards.
- Marinas. For those to whom the sea calls, marina communities offer boat slips, docks and wharf access to navigable bodies of water, offering homeowners the ultimate in luxury waterfront living and the convenience of a marina without surplus fees or excess travel time.
- Private Reserve. For the greenwise homeowner, nature lover or ecologically-minded home buyer, private reserve communities offer the experience of living on open-space acreages with an abundance of protected natural life, strict regulation of urban sprawl and the conveniences and amenities associated with upscale living—camping, if you will, luxurystyle!

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

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Photos by **Deb Stevens**/The Almanac

Potomac REAL ESTATE

In February 2014, 23 Potomac homes sold BETWEEN \$2,880,000-\$243,700.

February, 2014 Sales from \$699,900 to \$743,000



2 18 Orchard Way South —



4 9305 Falls Chapel Way — \$739,000

3 11033 Powder Horn Drive — \$740,000

6 12305 Captain Smith Court — \$699,900

BR FB HB ... Postal City .. Sold Price Type Lot AC . PostalCode Subdivision Date Sold 🚺 11049 POWDER HORN DR 4 .. 2 .. 2 POTOMAC \$743,000 Detached 0.26 20854 FOX HILLS ...

3 11033 POWDER HORN DR 5 .. 3 . 1 POTOMAC \$740,000 Detached 0.25 20854 ...

4 9305 FALLS CHAPEL WAY 4 .. 3 . 1 POTOMAC \$739,000 Detached 0.24 20854 FALLSREACH 02/28/14 § 9108 ORCHARD BROOK DR .. 4 .. 2 . 1 POTOMAC \$720,000 Detached 0.26 20854 ... POTOMAC COMMONS .. 02/10/14

6 12305 CAPTAIN SMITH CT 4 .. 2 . 1 POTOMAC \$699,900 Detached 0.23 20854 . MONTGOMERY SQUARE . 02/14/14

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Brook Drive -\$720,000

Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Theater Production. See "The Great American Trailer Park Musical" presented by Rockville Musical Theatre at the Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Runs through April 20. Visit http://www.rm-t.org/ or 301-258-6394.

Kaplan Gallery. See "Abstraction: Finding the Thread" through April 20, at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Visit www.visarts center.org or call 301-315-8200. Photography Exhibit. Frank Van

Riper: On Location through April 24 at the Partnership Office Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Photos from Glen Echo Park and abroad. Van Riper is an awardwinning photojournalist, author, fine art photographer and faculty member with the Photoworks Studio at Glen Echo Park. Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Children's Puppet Theater. Hansel and Gretel, through April 27 at The Puppet Co. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Magic, music and special effects with puppets. Tickets \$10. Check website for exact dates and times: www.thepuppetco.org.

IMAGINATION STAGE

Theater Recital. "Still Life With Iris"
(Acting Conservatory) will be
performed Friday, April 25 and
Saturday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m., and
Sunday, April 27 at 6 p.m.
Performances will be in The
Christopher and Dana Reeve Studio
Theatre at Imagination Stage. Tickets

for all performances are \$10 per person, and may be purchased online at www.imaginationstage.org, at the Imagination Stage box office, or via phone at 301-280-1660.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Dance Performance. 7 p.m. at
VisArts at Rockville, 155 Gibbs St.,
Rockville. The Susan Havlik Dance
Performance Group will present a
performance inspired by and in
response to the "Ground Zero Series"
of artist Craig A. Kraft in the Gibbs
Street Gallery and to the critically
acclaimed group exhibition
"Abstraction: Finding The Thread" in
the Kaplan Gallery. Free. Visit
www.visartsatrockville.org for more.
Contra Techno Dance. 7:30-10:30

Contra Techno Dance. 7:30-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. FSGW presents a "Techno" Contra Dance with a DJ and a caller. \$8; \$6 for FSGW members, and age 17 and under. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

FRIDAY/APRIL 18

Balboa DJ Dance. 8:30-11:30 p.m. in the Ballroom Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. For balboa, swing and lindy dancers. Drop-in beginner swing lesson at 8:30 p.m., dance begins at 9. \$10. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/APRIL 19

Tiny Tots Puppet Theater. 10 a.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. "Bunny Business," a program designed for ages 4 and under. 30-minute runtime, lights stay on and doors stay open. \$5 tickets, including

children. Visit www.thepuppetco.org or call 301-634-5380.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The Tom Cunningham Orchestra plays. Beginning swing lesson at 8 p.m., dancing begins at 9. \$18. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SUNDAY/APRIL 20

Waltz Dance. 2:45-6 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Waltz Time presents a beginning waltz lesson 2:45-3:30 p.m., followed by an afternoon of waltzes and other couples dances to live music. Dancing begins 3:30. No partner required. \$10, including lesson. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

MONDAY/APRIL 21

Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Saint Mark
Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old
Georgetown Road, Rockville. Old
Buck makes its home at the
convergence of Southern old time
and bluegrass traditions, making
music that "just feels right." General
admission, \$25 advance, \$29 door,
students: \$21 advance, \$25 door.
Call 301-960-3655 or visit
www.imtfolk.org, or http://
oldbuckmusic.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 25

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Lesson at 8 p.m. followed by dancing, with live music from The Smoking Time Jazz Club. \$20. Part of DC Lindy

Author Discussion: Andrew Lam

Dr. Andrew Lam will host a discussion on his new book, "Two Sons of China," and the history of America's role in China during World War II at Potomac Library on Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Two Sons of China," recently released by Bondfire Books, is a historical saga from a forgotten theater of World War II. Lam is also a retinal surgeon and Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine in Massachusetts. He lived in Potomac while performing medical research at the National Institutes of Health, and still has family in the area.

Lam's novel centers on an unlikely friendship between an American soldier and a Chinese Communist

of an at licing Andrew Lam

guerilla fighter who, despite their deeply held, clashing convictions, form a bond of brotherhood in

"Two Sons of China" is available online at BarnesandNoble.com, Amazon.com, iTunes, and via www.TwoSonsofChina.com.

Exchange's DCLX weekend, continues Saturday. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Photography Workshop. 9 a.m.-

12:30 p.m. at Photoworks
Photography School, 1st Floor Arcade
Building, Glen Echo Park. Sam Abell
will hold a personal portfolio review
workshop for 14 photographers.
Register at photoworks.gallery@
gmail.com with "RSVP Sam Abell
Portfolio Review" as the subject line.
The \$100 workshop fee will be
collected on April 26.

collected on April 26. **Artist Talk and Reception.** 2 p.m. at the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. National Geographic photographer Sam Abell discusses his work. Free, RSVP recommended. Visit

www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222

Spring Fiesta. 6-10:30 p.m. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Spring Fiesta /Latin Dance Party with live music by the Music Magic Trio. Buffet dinner and children's activities included. Tickets available at the door: adults \$35; youth \$15; families and patrons \$100; age 12 and under free. Call 301-229-0400 or visit rruuc.org.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m.-midnight in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m. followed by dancing to live music from The Craig Gildner Big Band featuring Aurora Nealand. \$20. Part of DC Lindy Exchange's DCLX weekend, begins Friday. Visit www.glenechopark.org.

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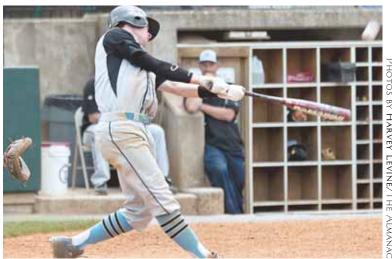
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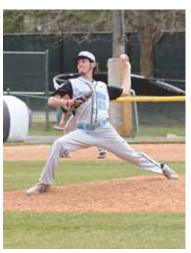
SPORTS



Whitman catcher Max Vogel went 2-for-3 at the plate against Walter Johnson on April 14.



Whitman second baseman Ben Castagnetti went 2-for-3 with a double and a triple against Walter Johnson on April 14.



Whitman pitcher Sam Berson threw a 3-hit shutout against Walter Johnson on April 14.

Whitman's Berson Tosses 3-Hit Shutout Against WJ

Vikings split with B-CC, WJ at Battle of Bethesda.

> By Jon Roetman The Almanac

hitman baseball coach Joe Cassidy was running out of options. The Vikings used five pitchers during the first game of the St. Baldrick's Battle of Bethesda on Monday, a 10-9 loss to Bethesda-Chevy Chase. When Whitman returned for the afternoon finale against Walter Johnson, Cassidy hoped junior left-hander Sam Berson could eat some innings.

"We had Sam, and then we had two other guys that we were going to ask to come back on short rest," Cassidy said. "And then if they couldn't do it, we'd have our third baseman, who just throws the ball over the plate."

As it turned out, Berson would not only eat some innings, he gave the Whitman pitching staff the rest of the day off.

Berson tossed a complete-game shutout against Walter Johnson and the Vikings defeated the Wildcats 4-0 on April 14 at Shirley Povich Field. Berson surrendered just three hits and allowed only two WJ runners to reach third base. He also allowed other Viking pitchers to rest as the team competed in its sixth game in five days.

"I hadn't pitched since Thursday, so I was just trying to save guys' arms," Berson said.

"... I'm just trying to stay efficient — just [pitch to] contact, get ground balls."

Berson threw 80 pitches in seven innings, according to team stats. He struck out seven Wildcats and walked none.

What makes Berson so effective?

"He's one of those slow-throwing lefties," Cassidy said. "... He

throws strikes; it doesn't matter how hard you throw. Now, if he was right-handed, he'd probably be an awful JV pitcher. But since he's left-handed and the ball moves a little, and it darts and dives and he throws strikes, [he's effective]."

While Berson stifled the WJ lineup, Whitman came up with some timely hits. Drew Aherne gave the Vikings an early 1-0 lead with an RBI single in the first. Second baseman Ben Castagnetti led off the third with a double and Alex Clark followed with an RBI triple, extending Whitman's advantage to 2-0.

Castagnetti added some insurance runs with a two-run triple in the fourth.

Castagnetti finished 2-for-3, hitting the a late lead against B-CC in the opener. Vogel

Whitman catcher Max Vogel went 2-for-3 against WJ. Jack Prill also had a hit.

The win came hours after Whitman lost

went 3-for-3 with four RBIs during the 10-9 loss. Castagnetti and Clark each had two

It was Whitman's second one-run loss to B-CC this season. The Barons beat the Vikings 6-5 on April 10, a loss that included a seventh-inning miscue that cost Whitman a two-run lead.

The Vikings (7-4)

are confident they can earn a quality playoff seed. "It was good to come back and get a win," Castagnetti said after the WJ game. "... I still feel like we can get the 1 seed if we win out, with four losses. We finally made plays in the field in the second game and got timely hits and that's what we need to do from here on out."

B-CC defeated Walter Johnson 11-7 dur-

Whitman will host Wootton at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22.

"He's one of those slow-throwing lefties. ... He throws strikes; it doesn't matter how hard you throw. Now, if he was right-handed, he'd probably be an awful JV pitcher. But since he's left-handed and the ball moves a little, and it darts and dives and he throws strikes, [he's effective]."

- Whitman baseball coach Joe Cassidy

ball hard in each of his three at-bats in the

"He's just killing the ball," Cassidy said. Castagnetti is batting .375 this season despite limited preseason action. The senior was also a member of the Whitman boys' basketball team, which played until mid-March, reaching the state championship

"I'm finally hitting my stride," he said. "I'm finally starting to see the ball well and hopefully I can keep driving it like that the rest ing the second game of the afternoon.

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One year with rolling admission

Fall 2014 deadline is 5/1/2014

Contact the Program Coordinator for details

202-687-1070

http://biotechnology.georgetown.edu

Photo GALLERYS "Me and My Mom"

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

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"Reading to a child 20

increase their ability to

- Fred Bemak, Ed.D., George

Mason University

read and think above

minutes a day will

grade level."

Challenging A Child's Mind

Experts say reading is critical to cognitive and emotional development.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Almanac

rlington mother Holly Karapetkova reserves time for reading in the schedules of her two young children. It has become such an important part of their daily routine that it is a treasured family activity. It is also vital to her children's development says Karapetkova.

"Reading is an extremely complex mental activity that engages a child's — or adult's — brain much more intensively than television or video games," said Karapetkova, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Literature at Marymount University in Arlington. "When you read, you employ higher-order cognitive skills. You learn to imagine things that you have not yourself experienced."

CHILD DEVELOPMENT and literature experts say that reading helps children develop imagination skills and an ability to learn and think in new ways. It also boosts emotional development.

"You learn to empathize with others, and so you are able to grow emotionally as well," said Karapetkova. "Critical thinking, imagination, and empathy are all qualities that are essential to our nature as human beings, and essential to our success in the world."

Fred Bemak, Ed.D., Professor and Academic Program Coordinator, College of Education and Human

Development at George Mason University, says that even a few minutes each day can have a significant influence. "Reading to a child 20 minutes a days will increase their ability to read and think above grade level," he said. "That is just a matter of sitting with a child and reading with them, but it has a such profound influence."

A lack of reading time also makes an impact on children. "When a child doesn't have

access to books or when a parent doesn't have knowledge about reading to a child, that is where we see an achievement gap," said Bemak.

Mary Catherine Coleman, Lower School Librarian and JK-12 Library Department Chair at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, said reading offers children a broad view of the world. "I think, and research shows, reading helps to develop children's thinking because it helps to develop a background knowledge about the world," she said. "Reading also helps children to see the world from a different perspective, helping children develop an understanding, empathy and compassion for others and the world. It challenges children to look at events, people and things in a different way."

"When it comes to imagination, books challenge children to create a movie in their minds," said Coleman. "They need to imagine a world, characters and experiences that they are not familiar with."

"Reading challenges children to move beyond what they see in front of them," said Coleman. "It also teaches children how to be storytellers, how to share



Marymount University professor Holly Karapetkova reads with her 4-year-old daughter. Experts say that reading is a complex mental activity that engages a child's brain more intensively than watching television or playing video games.

experiences and fosters creativity."

Karapetkova said that reading is more open-ended than other media and challenges a child's cognitive abilities. "When you read, even when they are pictures, your brain has to do a great deal of work to process information and piece the story together," she says. "In a movie or video game, everything is predetermined and spelled out for you, and there's a lot less room left to the imagination to make leaps and discover things on its own."

Karapetkova has experienced this in her own life. "I have found with my older child that one book often leads to another," she said. "We might read something that piques his interest and sends him back to the library for more information, and the information he can find in the library is seemingly endless."

The same is not true with television or video games. "When he watches a film or plays a video game, he never

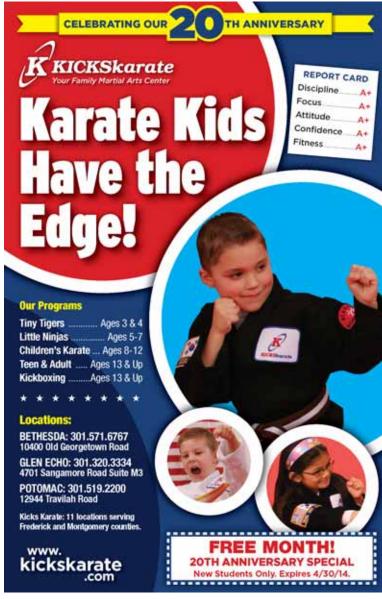
says to me, 'I want to find out more about organisms deep under the sea because that's where Spongebob lives," said Karapetkova. "But when he reads a book, he asks questions and his curiosity and imagination open up."

Michael Moynihan, Upper School Head, The Heights School in Potomac, Md., believes in eschewing some electronic media and promoting "a renewed culture of reading...[and] conversation".

SO WHICH BOOKS do experts recommend? "Really, anything you and your children enjoy reading together will do the trick," said Karapetkova. "My daughter is 4 and my son is 9, and I have been amazed by how much each enjoys the books I pick out together for the other. I'll sit down with my daughter to read 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' or another picture book and my son will stop whatever he is doing to join us."

"And my daughter also enjoys listening to what my son and I are reading aloud together," said Karapetkova.





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News



More than 500 guys were in attendance for this special evening.

Mark Eidelman, MC and

Mark Eidelman, MC and organizer of the event, and Josh London speaking to the crowd.

Fun 'Guys Night Out'

From Page 3

David Farber, who has attended several times said, "The camaraderie and the feeling in the room is what makes the night so special."

Those attending included The CEO of the JCC of Greater Washington, President of the JCC of Greater Washington, CEO of the local Jewish Federation, Headmasters of Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School and Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy, Executive Directors of the University of Maryland Hillel and JCRC, leaders from the Israeli Embassy, AIPAC and World Bank, Rabbis from other local synagogues, community members, friends, fathers, sons and grandsons from across the east coast.

"Even with over 500 guys," Farber, a member of Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, said, "the evening felt personal, intimate and warm — and not just because of the scotch."

To learn more about the event or Beth Sholom Congregation, visit www.beth sholom.org or call 301-279-7010.

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Rabbi Nissan Antine, Senior Rabbi of Beth Sholom Congregation.



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From Page 5

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 16

Candidates Forum. 6:30 p.m. at Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County Civic Federation (Civic Fed), the Montgomery County Taxpayers League and the Parents' Coalition of Montgomery County, Maryland announce the County Executive Candidates Forum. All four county executive candidates have agreed to participate. Visit www.montgomerycivic.org.

Divorce Seminar. 7-9 p.m. at Shulman Rogers Bldg. 6th Flr., 12505 Park Potomac, Ave., Potomac. Collaborative Divorce Process Seminar - a little less painful way to divorce. Free, but reservations required. Email jdamico.cdrp@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 22

Open House. 6-8 p.m., at the Rockville Memorial Library, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. The Montgomery County Planning Department is inviting residents and business owners to give feedback on the comprehensive District Map Amendment proposed for Montgomery County. There will be several open houses held throughout the County this spring and all are invited to attend. Visit www.montgomeryplanning.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 24

Potomac Community Village Meeting. 7:30-8:45 p.m. at the Potomac Community

Center,11315 Falls Road. Pazit Aviv, Montgomery County's Villages Coordinator at the Department of Health and Human Services, discusses county programs and resources for seniors. Call 240-221-1370 or visit www.potomaccommunityvillage.org, info@potomaccommunityvillage.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 26

Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Rockville City Police Station, 2 W. Montgomery Ave., and Maryland State Police Rockville Barrack, 7915 Montrose Road, Rockville. Local agencies participate in the national event, which is a safe, free and anonymous opportunity to dispose of unused, unwanted or expired prescription drugs. This is part of an effort to prevent the increasing problems of prescription drug abuse and theft.

Dying of Curiosity



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I was completing last week's column ("I Thought I Was a Goner") and thanking my oncology nurse, Ron, in the process, for the excellent care he has provided me for nearly five years now; a week after I wrote a column thanking my Certified Holistic Health Coach, Rebecca Nenner, for the health and fitness-type knowledge she has given me over those same five years; it dawned on me that perhaps my subconscious mind knew something that my conscious mind didn't: that I should move closer to the undertaker like Radar's Uncle Ernest did two days before he died, in the M*A*S*H episode titled "Novacaine Mutiny" from season four.

I don't want to think that, and I certainly don't want to believe it; nevertheless, I thought it an interesting point to address: as a terminal cancer patient, as much as I fight against it mentally and physically, the presumptive death sentence that a "13month to two-year prognosis" portends is the kind of news that's difficult - make that impossible - to ignore. And as much as I try to defend myself, as you know, with humor, a positive attitude and a variety of self-preservation, defense-type mechanisms – still, at the end of the day (heck, at the beginning and middle, too), I may talk and write a good game, but one's mind often interferes. The trick is knowing whether that interference (subconscious) is real or imagined. I struggle with that assessment every day, as I presume most characterized-asterminal patients do as well.

As my struggle enters its sixth year, let me assure you, its familiarity has not bred content (nor contempt, either). Though I certainly know the warning signs, the dos and don'ts, and my responsibility in all of it, that doesn't mask - to me, anyway, the underlying reality: lung cancer kills. The survival rates, especially five years postdiagnosis, are in the low single digits. Fairly grim, I admit. Yet I am extremely happy and fortunate to say that I am one of those low-single-digits (and yes, I have been called worse; not much better though, considering my diagnosis). However, I am not in remission and I'm still receiving chemotherapy. In truth, I am an anomaly, an aberration; and expecting that my life continues without any further cancer-related ado seems naive and from most of what I read, fairly unrealistic. Now as much as I try to compartmentalize all these cancer facts and feelings - successfully for the most part, I'd like to add - the reality of my situation does manifest itself from time to time. This column has attempted to identify a recent example, my last two columns, where these facts and feelings may have collided.

Though nothing in my current health — or recent awareness of it (scans, lab work, physical exam, old symptoms, new symptoms persisting/getting worse, etc.) would indicate a change (a fatal flaw, if you will), there are always things with which I am totally unaware that may have changed and perhaps the way I learn about these changes is through my subconscious. I certainly don't know how or when I'll know when I'm at death's door. Perhaps there will be a knock, perhaps not. Still, I can't help wondering — and wanting to know — sort of.

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

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