

# Potomac ALMANAC

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& Gift Guide 2014  
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Jodi Pasternak and Susan Schreck of Jodi's Jamboree at the Washington Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood's 28th annual Holiday Boutique and Silver Auction at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center on Sunday, Nov. 16. See page 2.

## Holiday Boutique

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**SHOP EARLY AND SAVE!**

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 CHECK OUT SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY, 11/29.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

**Holiday Boutique**

Vendors and shoppers fill the Washington Hebrew Congregation Sisterhood's 28th annual Holiday Boutique and Silver Auction at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center in Potomac on Sunday, Nov. 16. Twenty percent of every sale supported national and local charities.



Shohreh Vojdani of "Oat my Goodness"



Barb Brody and her mom Joyce Sachs of "barbie b."



PHOTOS BY CARLA MORRIS

**Arts Reflections Night**

Parents and students at Potomac Elementary School enjoy looking at the art exhibits during Arts Reflections Night on Thursday, Nov. 13



Potomac Almanac reporter Colleen Healy hands out the first place literature award to Shaadi Ghorbani.

## Honoring Potomac's People of the Year

### Chamber salutes its honorees.

**F**riends, family and members of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce gathered Thursday evening, Nov. 13, at Normandie Farm Restaurant to honor Potomac's People of the year, including Citizen of the Year Barry Perlis, who moved to Potomac in 1976.

Perlis is vice-president of the Potomac Community Village, part of the national village movement providing support for local residents to stay in their homes and neighborhoods as they get older. Perlis also volunteers at Manor Care Nursing Home, serves as president of the Ridgely Neighborhood Homeowner's Association, is a member of the board of directors and Investment Committee of Jewish Social Service Agency and is president of two synagogues.

Perlis for the past 10 years has served as chairman of U.S. operations of Save a Child's Heart, providing life-saving pediatric heart surgery and follow-up care for indigent children from developing countries.

Business People of the Year Jill and John Phillips have been involved in every aspect of Potomac life. They are both former Army officers, retired to Potomac and bought a home with a large yard for their five children. Jill Phillips thought it would be a good idea to acquire an alpaca to help "trim the lawn." As she collected more animals — goats, chickens, ponies — they decided to launch "Squeals on Wheels," a portable petting zoo with pony rides. The concept was almost an instant hit, and they have been in business ever since.

"It is a huge honor for us to be chosen as Business of the Year by the Potomac Chamber of Commerce," said Jill Phillips. "In recognizing our family business, you are honoring the importance of being engaged, giving back and sharing our gifts with the community. It is a privilege to operate a business in Potomac and our purpose is to share our love of animals with our home town and to bring joy to children and families."

The Phillips are also involved in volunteer work for many Potomac organizations. They are helping establish the Potomac Community Village; Jill Phillips sits on the board of the Potomac Chamber of Com-

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### Samuel B. Greenberg, Potomac Youth of the Year



**From left: Jill and John Phillips, owner of Squeals on Wheels, were named Business People of the Year, and celebrated with family including Kate Brownstein, Grant Phillips, Raquel Phillips (center), Jill, John and Tyler Phillips.**



**Cissy Grant, who, with her husband Mac, served as Grand Marshal of this year's Potomac Day Parade, with Chamber President Adam Greenberg, owner of Potomac Pizza and Potomac Village Deli Catering.**



**Barry Perlis, Citizen of the Year, with Fred Goldman, who serves on the nominating committee.**



**Barry Perlis was honored as Potomac Citizen of Year and is pictured here with state Sen. Brian Feldman (D-15).**



**Jennifer Matheson, Potomac Day organizer, with Fred Goldman, who serves on the Potomac Chamber of Commerce's board of directors.**



**Youth of the Year Sam Greenberg with with state Del. Kathleen Dumais (D-15).**



**Adam Greenberg with Business People of the Year, Jill and John Phillips**



**Mr. and Mrs. Potomac: Cissy and Mac Grant**

PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE ALMANAC

# POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

Newspaper of Potomac  
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly  
newspaper delivered  
to homes and businesses.

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Potomac Almanac is published  
by Local Media Connection LLC

**Five Time First Place  
Award-Winner  
Public Service**  
MDDC Press Association

**Four Time  
Newspaper of the Year**

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# OPINION

## Why Shop Small? Shop Large Locally

Small business Saturday isn't enough; don't wait until then, and don't stop after that.

There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to participating in community traditions and celebrations, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a community that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her busi-

ness in a way that is otherwise unmatched.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon. An effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, also called Shop Small. This year that day is Nov. 29.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive, and communities depend on those businesses as well. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fundraising for local charities, advocating for improvements, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

## EDITORIAL

## Pardon My Turkey But is that a bird in your hand?

BY CAROLE FUNGER  
THE ALMANAC

Each year before Thanksgiving, the President of the United States "pardons" a live turkey presented to him by the National Turkey Federation. The gifts have been going on for over a century, but it wasn't until recently that the turkey pardon became an official White House tradition.

There are many stories surrounding the origin of the presidential turkey pardon. Some say the tradition can be traced as far back as 1863, when by some accounts, President Lincoln interrupted a Cabinet meeting to grant clemency to a turkey named "Jack" his son had befriended. An 1865 dispatch by a White House reporter later confirmed this version noting, "Tad's plea was admitted and the turkey's life spared."

Records show, however, that official gifts of turkeys to American presidents date from the 1870s, when a marketing-savvy Rhode Island poultry dealer named Horace Vose began sending birds to the White House. In 1873, Vose delivered a 38-pound stunner to President Ulysses S. Grant. Vose went on to supply turkeys to presidents for over 40 years, becoming a national celebrity.

By the 1920s, turkey gifts began taking on a whole new flavor. Chicago's Harding Girls Club sent a turkey to President Warren Harding in 1921 dressed in a custom-made flying suit complete with goggles. The bird arrived at the College Park airport on a mail plane escorted by an armed guard. Another turkey arrived in 1922 in a crate designed as a battleship.

Harry Truman was not the first president to pardon a turkey, but many stories have him originating the tradition. In 1947 at Thanksgiving, Truman was urging Americans to conserve food in an effort called "Poultry-Less Thursday." Poultry growers were outraged and in protest sent crates of live chickens dubbed



President Barack Obama pardoning a turkey.

"Hens for Harry" to the White House. The stunt grabbed headlines. Though records show Truman did not eat turkey that particular year, in December of 1948, he accepted two turkeys and was heard to remark they would "come in handy" for Christmas dinner.

President John F. Kennedy is known to have spared a turkey, but his decision was not due to a love for the bird. Kennedy received a Thanksgiving turkey from the Poultry and Egg National Board with a sign around its neck reading "Good Eatin' Mr. President." Kennedy sent the bird back to the farm saying, "We'll let this one grow."

President Ronald Reagan is the first president on record to formally issue a "pardon" to a turkey; in this case a turkey named Charlie, who was sent to him in 1987 from a petting zoo. Some say, however, the reprieve was a joke made to deflect criticism over his considering a presidential pardon of Iran-Contra player Oliver North.

It was George H. W. Bush who, in 1989, made the turkey pardon an official White House tradition. Rumor has it that he did this in response to animal rights activists picketing nearby. He said, "Reprieve," "keep him going," or "pardon" — it's all the same for the turkey, as long as he doesn't end up on the president's holiday table.

Whatever the reason, turkeys have been pardoned ever since and taken to area farms to

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face tough challenges right now. Competition from big box stores and online sellers makes the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally owned retailers. But local families will literally spend millions of dollars to shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of places.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. Everyone will do some shopping online. Many will answer the call of the big box. But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the local businesses and holiday spirit there.

The Almanac is participating in Shop Small 2014, email sales@connectionnewspapers.com to find out more.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



President John F. Kennedy returns a turkey.



Horace Vose sent a turkey to President Ulysses S. Grant in 1873.

live out the rest of their natural lives. For many years the birds were sent to Frying Pan Park in Fairfax, Va. Other "farms" have included Disneyland and Walt Disney World Resorts where the turkeys have served as marshals in the annual Thanksgiving parade.

The National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation and pardon take place in the White House Rose Garden every year shortly before Thanksgiving. In an official ceremony, the president is presented with a live domestic turkey and issues a pardon.

NEWS

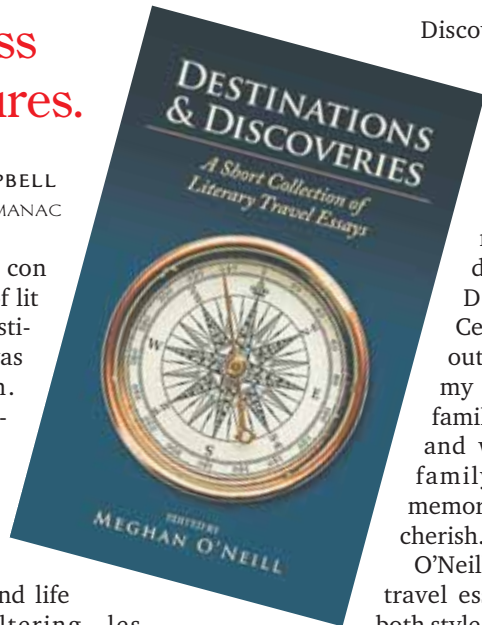
# Exploring Life-Changing Travels

Local authors discuss unexpected adventures.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

A group of local writers contributed to a collection of literary travel essays, "Destinations & Discoveries," which was released earlier this month. Meghan O'Neill edited the collection.

"The goal in collecting these essays was to show a trip, be it a vacation or business assignment, can offer unexpected



Discoveries" enables readers to take vicarious journeys without leaving the comfort of their reading chair.

"I spent time biking through Ireland with my wife a 13-year-old daughter," said essayist Derek Perkins of Centreville. "What started out as a 'forced fun' trip for my daughter turned into a family vacation, albeit chilly and wet, that brought our family closer and created memories that we will always cherish."

O'Neill selected eight literary travel essays that are varied in both style and geography. The settings range from a Mexican fishing trip to rural Ireland, a western Canadian beach, a Tuscan kitchen, a snowy day in the Blue Ridge mountains, and a memorable study abroad experience in Paris.

There are essays that share cherished family traditions. "There is a wizardry to the art of packing, and in it Mary Poppins has nothing on my grandmother," said essayist Bonnie Foote of Alexandria.

"Destinations & Discoveries: A Short Collection of Literary Travel Essays" can be found on Amazon.com and in local bookstores.

**"Writing about your travels forces you to be reflective and focused."**

— Meghan O'Neill

This collection explores the joys, challenges and insights travel can bring. "Destinations &

and life altering lessons," said O'Neill, who lives in Potomac. "Writing about your travels forces you to be reflective and focused."

**VIENNA ART & CRAFT SHOW**

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

# More Colorful Than Court

Potomac jewelry artist traded corporate law for colorful fabric.

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE ALMANAC

**F**ew of the more than 400 artists and crafters featured in this weekend's Sugarloaf Craft Festival got their start in a courtroom.

Potomac resident Jill Newman has lost hour after hour creating vividly colored felted jewelry in her Zazzy Peacock Studio, melding together pieces of combed or uncombed wool to fabricate rings, necklaces, brooches, earrings and other household items.

One of the few members of her family that didn't fall heart over loom for knitting or crocheting, Newman said she came across felting when trying to repair a favorite cashmere sweater.

A small write-up in a lifestyle magazine sparked her interest, and following a quick trial-and-error weekend in which she broke her skin and a barbed needle, she's been hooked.

Felting "meshes fabric together," she said. "I get to sculpt and paint with wool."

When asked how long it takes to create the jewelry, purses or other goods she makes, Newman laughed.

"I lose track of time," she said. "I get so absorbed in it. I find it so relaxing."

It's a painstaking process to assemble felted items. First, Newman dry felts the material together, weaving together various thread-like swatches of wool.

Then, she wet felts the material she's woven together, a process she said results in the kind of felt most people recognize. The following day, after the fabric has had a chance to dry and become more durable, she'll dry felt additional fabric on top of the original layer, allowing for three-dimensional patterns and accents.

In addition to selling her jewelry on her own website ([www.zazzypeacockstudios.com](http://www.zazzypeacockstudios.com)), Newman is excited to participate in her second Sugarloaf festival this weekend.



**Jill Newman, owner and artist behind Zazzy Peacock Studio in Potomac, is preparing some felted jewelry for this weekend's Sugarloaf Festival in Gaithersburg.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



**Colorful felted jewelry like this necklace and earring set are the type of stylish accessories Potomac resident and Zazzy Peacock Studio owner Jill Newman will be bringing to the Sugarloaf Festival this Saturday in Gaithersburg.**

When she decided to leave her previous job, in corporate law, to spend more time at home with her then-young children, she rekindled her love of art, namely painting. Once she started felting a few years ago, Newman said she started thinking about one day taking her jewelry to the Sugarloaf festival but considered it a "lofty goal" at the time.

Undeterred, she applied for this fall's shows in January and made her first appearance in October. She's also slated to participate in December's event, followed by the Tiewyan Artisans in the Country-side holiday studio tour, taking place Dec. 5-7 and 12-14.

With a handful of shows and sales under her belt, including a show in Chicago that required a good deal of pre-planning and

shipping goods to be sold on site, Newman is more prepared than ever for the fun.

"It's just exciting now," she said.

## Shop for Yourself

The upcoming Sugarloaf Craft Festival is scheduled for Nov. 21-23 at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds in Gaithersburg. The fair is open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Sunday. For more information and discounted admissions tickets, to go [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com/festivals/gaith/november](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com/festivals/gaith/november).

Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Puppet Co. presents a marionette romp in which three brothers get the goat of a hen-pecked troll, in their attempts to trip-trap-tromp to where the grass is greener. Three variety numbers precede the performance, demonstrating the making of a simple hand puppet, and manipulation of rod puppets and marionettes, as an introduction to the Art of Puppetry. Visit [www.thepuppetco.org](http://www.thepuppetco.org) to learn more and to purchase tickets.

**Ancient Materials, Modern Aesthetic.** Saturdays and Sundays, 12-6 p.m., through Nov. 23. Stone Tower Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Lime

Stucco Plaster in Contemporary Mosaics. Stone Tower Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 301-634-2222.

**Mommy & Me (& Daddy, Too).** Third Tuesday each month. 10 a.m. at Rockville Town Square. Meet for a morning out with active learning and creative play with lunch specials, story time, arts and crafts, sing-a-longs, prizes and more. Visit [rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me](http://rockvilletownsquare.com/events/mommy-and-me).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

### FRIDAYS THROUGH DEC. 19

**Gingerbread House Decorating.** 7-9:30 p.m. at VisArts Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. VisArts provides the gingerbread house, candy and one glass of wine. Tickets \$45. Participants must be 21 years or older. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-23

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg. Crafts on display, live demonstrations and holiday shopping of hand-crafted creations. Admission: \$8 when purchased online, \$10 for adults at the door and free for children under 12. Admission is good for all three days, free parking. [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com) or 800-210-9900.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**Holiday Shopping Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Holy Child's Mayfield Market, 9029 Bradley Boulevard, Potomac. The shopping extravaganza includes more than 60 vendors selling personalized clothing, accessories, jewelry, handmade ceramic pieces, handbags, original artwork, boutique, café, food truck, and bakery. [www.holychild.org](http://www.holychild.org) or 301-365-0955.

**Thanksgiving Parade.** 10 a.m. Begins at Ellsworth Drive/Fenton Street, proceeds south on Georgia Avenue, ending at Silver Spring Avenue, Silver Spring. The line-up of over 100 parade units features a 12-foot inflatable turkey, a 12-foot inflatable Silver Spring penguin, a teddy bear toy float and drum lines and colorful dancing groups. The parade will be held rain or shine. [www.silverspringdowntown.com](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com) or 240-777-6821.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 27

**Turkey Chase 10K Run.** Starts at 8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Visit [www.turkeychase.com](http://www.turkeychase.com) for more.

### FRIDAY/WEDNESDAY/NOV 28-DEC. 31

**Winter Lights.** This recurring event is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. It also has additional events including walks and runs under the lights and S'more lights. Proceeds from the Festival benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov).

### DECEMBER 2014

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit [www.cjpvfd.org](http://www.cjpvfd.org) for more.

**Santa on Fire Engines.** This event is run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. A procession of fire engines carry Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings in December, collecting unwrapped new toys for needy children. Call 301-365-2255 or visit [www.cjpvfd.org](http://www.cjpvfd.org).

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 5-6

**Greens Sale and Holiday Boutique.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Specialty wreaths, topiaries,

boxwood roping. 40 vendors. Proceeds benefit student financial assistance and faculty enrichment programs. Visit [landon.net/greens](http://landon.net/greens).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 6

**Bethesda's Winter Wonderland.** 1-4 p.m. Bethesda Urban Partnership, 7770 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The celebration features holiday performances, a live ice sculpting presentation in Bethesda's Veterans Park and a visit from Santa Claus. Free. [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or 301-215-6660

**Jewish Folk Arts Festival Chanukah Concert.** 8 p.m. Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville. The biennial event celebrates the talent and diversity of Jewish performing and visual arts in the Washington, Baltimore and Virginia region. The Exhibit Hall will feature 30 Judaic artists and their crafts, which will be for sale. Visit [www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com](http://www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com) for more.

**Holiday Concert.** 8 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville. The National Philharmonic Singers will be joined by the Takoma Ensemble, conducted by Maestra Gau for this concert. Free, donations accepted. [www.nationalphilharmonic.org](http://www.nationalphilharmonic.org) or 301-493-9283, ext. 116.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Holiday Craft Show.** 1-5 p.m. Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John. Free admission and parking. There will be many hand-made items for sale, including jewelry, pottery, ornaments and books. Contact Leslie Barden, 301-365-1311 or [cbcc.craftshow@verizon.net](mailto:cbcc.craftshow@verizon.net) or visit [www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org](http://www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org).

**Jewish Folk Arts Festival.** 1-6 p.m. Universities of Shady Grove Conference Center, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. A celebration of Jewish art, music and culture. The Exhibit Hall will feature 30 Judaic artists and their crafts, which will be for sale. Visit [www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com](http://www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 13

**Christmas on the Farm.** noon-5 p.m. at Montgomery Farm. Visit [www.MontgomeryParks.org](http://www.MontgomeryParks.org).

**Gingerbread House Decorating.** 12-2:30 p.m. at VisArts Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. VisArts provides the juice and cider to keep the holiday mood going. For children 6 and up. Two people can share one house but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets \$45. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 14

**Jingle Bell Jog 8K.** 9 a.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. The Rockville Senior Center's last run of the year. Participants will run through a residential area. Sign-up is day of. \$10 for adult non-members and \$5 for non-members below the age of 18. Visit [www.mcrrc.org](http://www.mcrrc.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 28

**Gingerbread House Decorating.** 12-2:30 p.m. at VisArts Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. VisArts provides the juice and cider to keep the holiday mood going. For children 6 and up. Two people can share one house but all children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets \$45. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

## CALENDAR

Email community entertainment events to [almanac@connectionnews.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnews.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

### ONGOING

**VisArts Cocktails and Canvas Class.** Various art classes. Good through May 31, 2015. Painting & Drawing Studio (3rd floor), 155 Gibbs Street, Rockville. Price \$40. [www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas](http://www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas)

**The 3 Billy Goats Gruff.** Through Nov 21. The Puppet Co., Glen

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

## FRIDAYS/NOV. 7-DEC. 19

**Gingerbread House Decorating.** 7-9:30 p.m. at VisiArts Rockville, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. VisArts provides the gingerbread house, candy and one glass of wine. Tickets \$45. Participants must be 21 years or older. Visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) or call 301-315-8200.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 20

**Literary Luncheon Series.** 11:30 a.m. Strathmore Mansion, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Historian Ida E. Jones will discuss her book "Mary McLeod Bethune in Washington DC: Activism and Education in Logan Circle." Tickets start at \$12 for FOLMC and Strathmore members and \$17 for non-members. Visit [www.folmc.org](http://www.folmc.org) to register.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 21

**Balboa DJ Dance.** 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner Balboa lesson; 9-11:30 p.m. Ballroom Backroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. A chance for Balboa/Bal-Swing enthusiasts to dance to DJ music. \$10. 703-359-9882 or [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com)

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 21-23

**Sugarloaf Crafts Festival.** Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut Street, Gaithersburg. Crafts on display, live demonstrations and holiday shopping of hand-crafted creations. Admission: \$8 when purchased online, \$10 for adults at the door and free for children under 12. Admission is good for all three days and free parking is available. [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com) or 800-210 9900.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 22

**Dinner of Champions.** The Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The 23rd annual event honors those who have achieved success in the world of sports, and those who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The dinner benefits the Jewish Community inclusion programs for individuals with special needs. Call 301-881-0100 or see [www.jccgw.org](http://www.jccgw.org).

**Holiday Shopping Bazaar.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Holy Child's Mayfield Market, 9029 Bradley Boulevard, Potomac. The shopping extravaganza includes more than 60 vendors selling personalized clothing, accessories, jewelry, handmade ceramic pieces, handbags, original artwork, boutique,

café, food truck, and bakery. [www.holychild.org](http://www.holychild.org) or 301-365-0955.

**Thanksgiving Parade.** 10 a.m. Begins at Ellsworth Drive/Fenton Street, proceeds south on Georgia Avenue, ending at Silver Spring Avenue, Silver Spring. The line-up of over 100 parade units features a 12-foot inflatable turkey, a 12-foot inflatable Silver Spring penguin, a teddy bear toy float and drum lines and colorful dancing groups. The parade will be held rain or shine. [www.silverspringdowntown.com](http://www.silverspringdowntown.com) or 240-777-6821.

**Al Petteway and Amy White CD Release.** 7:30 p.m. at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. This performance will feature acoustic guitar, mandolin, Celtic harp, piano, banjo, lap dulcimer, world percussion and a touch of vocals. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Visit [www.imtfolk.org](http://www.imtfolk.org) for more.

**Robin Weigert, Actor, Dionne Laufman, Piano.** 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational United Church of Christ, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. This is a nine part free concert series featuring members of the Washington Conservatory Faculty and guest artists. Visit [www.washingtonconservatory.org](http://www.washingtonconservatory.org) or call 301-320-2770 for more.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 23

**Photo Slam: The Hangover Brunch.** 10 a.m. Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. Post-Slam Relief and pop-up exhibition. Have work critiqued. [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org)

**Gibbs Street Gallery.** 7-9:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Lynn Silverman presents black and white photographs of windows in the United States, Great Britain, Australia and the Czech Republic, countries where she has lived for extended periods of time. Call 301-315-8200 or visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) for more.

**Kaplan Gallery.** 7-9 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Sebastian Martorana's work "Yours Mine Ours, Marble" will be on display. Call 301-315-8200 or visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org) for more.

**Common Ground Gallery.** 7-9:30 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Barbara Allen's "Duck Duck Goose" wood fired ceramics will be on display. Contact 301-315-8200 or visit [www.visartscenter.org](http://www.visartscenter.org).

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 26

**Live Music.** 7 p.m. at The Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Performance by The Brian Setzer Orchestra. \$89-125. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) or call 301-581-5100.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 27

**Turkey Chase 10K Run.** Starts at

## LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

### Stone and Steam: Bathroom Luxury

To create your own luxurious retreat, start with the bathroom. It's a room that's often overlooked, due to its functionality—but more and more homeowners are focusing on the bathroom as a room of therapeutic relaxation and comfort, incorporating luxurious flourishes to their bathrooms to create the sensation of a spa retreat. These upgrades range from simple upgrades to state-of-the-art unique fixtures, each of which add to your home's overall value and take it to the next level when it comes time to put it on the market. Simple upgrades are hot commodities, adding to your home's value over time, indulging you as you enjoy them. Even the most modest home can take it up to the next level, incorporating luxury into often overlooked rooms. Here's a sampling of some of the ways you can upgrade to a luxury bathroom, and maximize the potential of a room that every home has to work with!

- **Stone Countertops**  
Easier to clean than traditional tile, the natural color palettes of granite, marble and soapstone are a complement most bathroom cabinetry. Stone countertops are classically aesthetic and match any color scheme, retaining the bathroom's modern feel and beauty over time.

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Like heated tile flooring, heated towel drawers add a regal, indulgent touch to a master bathroom suite. Installation is easy and the price tag on this upgrade is surprisingly low. Standard towel warming drawers heats up to four bath sheet sized towels; for the true regal finish, add in an electric towel bar to heat your robe and slippers!

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## Mayfield Market

Holy Child's Mayfield Market takes place Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The holiday bazaar includes more than 60 vendors selling clothing, accessories, jewelry, handmade ceramic pieces, handbags, original artwork, the Always Chic Boutique (the market's version of a white elephant sale), a luncheon café this year with Go Fish and Linda's Luncheonette food trucks, and Tiger Bakery, with home-baked goodies just in time for Thanksgiving. Holy Child is located at 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac. Visit [www.holychild.org](http://www.holychild.org) or call 301-365-0955.

8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Visit [www.turkeychase.com](http://www.turkeychase.com) for more.

p.m. Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Bring an instrument and sit in with the house band, The Conservatory Classic Jazz Band, at this monthly traditional jazz jam. The house band plays an upbeat mix of New Orleans, Chicago, and swing style. Admission is \$10, free for jammers and students. [www.prcj.org](http://www.prcj.org) or 301-762-3323

7770 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. The celebration features holiday performances, a live ice sculpting presentation in Bethesda's Veterans Park and a visit from Santa Claus. Free. [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or 301-215-6660

**Jewish Folk Arts Festival Chanukah Concert Dedicated to Human Rights.** 8 p.m. Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Road, Rockville. The biennial event celebrates the talent and diversity of Jewish performing and visual arts in the Washington, Baltimore and Virginia region. The Exhibit Hall will feature 30 Judaic artists and their crafts, which will be for sale. Visit [www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com](http://www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com).  
**Holiday Concert.** 8 p.m. Christ Episcopal Church, 107 South Washington St., Rockville. The National Philharmonic Singers will be joined by the Takoma Ensemble, conducted by Maestra Gau for this concert. Free, donations accepted. [www.nationalphilharmonic.org](http://www.nationalphilharmonic.org) or 301-493-9283, ext. 116.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Holiday Craft Show.** 1-5 p.m. Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 MacArthur Boulevard, Cabin John. Free admission and parking. There will be many hand-made items for sale, including jewelry, pottery, ornaments and books. Contact Leslie Barden, 301-365-1311 or [cbcc.craftshow@verizon.net](mailto:cbcc.craftshow@verizon.net) or visit [www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org](http://www.friendsofclarabartoncommunitycenter.org).

**Jewish Folk Arts Festival.** 1-6 p.m. Universities of Shady Grove Conference Center, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville. A celebration of Jewish art, music and culture. The Exhibit Hall will feature 30 Judaic artists and their crafts, which will be for sale. Visit [www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com](http://www.jewishfolkartsfestival.com) for more.

**Waltz Dance.** 2:45-3:30 p.m. Introductory waltz workshop; 3:30-6 p.m. dance. Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Park Boulevard, Glen Echo. Trio con Brio will play. \$10. No partner required. 301-634-2222 or [www.waltztimedances.org](http://www.waltztimedances.org).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 28

**Bella Gaia Show.** 8 p.m. Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. This award-winning, immersive, live multimedia performance combines high-fidelity images of Earth and live performances of music and dance from around the world. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

### FRIDAY/WEDNESDAY/NOV.28-DEC. 31

**Winter Lights.** This recurring event is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. It also has additional events including walks and runs under the lights and S'more lights. Proceeds benefit local charities. Call 301-258-6350 or visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) for more.

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 28-30

**Art Exhibit.** Noon-7 p.m. at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Road. The Yellow Barn Gallery presents "Esoteric Dreams" the first solo exhibit of recent works by Linette Childs. Contact [childs.studio@gmail.com](mailto:childs.studio@gmail.com) or 301-371-5593.

### SATURDAY/NOV. 29

**Swing Dance with London's Jive Aces.** 8-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson, 9-12 p.m. dance. Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. \$20. A night of swing dance fun. [www.gottaswing.com](http://www.gottaswing.com) or 703-359-9882

### SUNDAY/NOV. 30

**Dixieland Jazz Jam Session.** 3-6

### DECEMBER 2014

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit [www.cjpvfd.org](http://www.cjpvfd.org) for more.

**Santa on Fire Engines.** This event is run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department. A procession of fire engines carry Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings in December, collecting unwrapped new toys for needy children. Call 301-365-2255 or visit [www.cjpvfd.org](http://www.cjpvfd.org).

**Friends of the Yellow Barn.** The friends of the Yellow Barn will be putting on annual members show. Dec. 1 through Dec. 23. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more. Call 301-634-2222.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 4

**Artist Talk.** 4-6 p.m. at Exhibit9 Gallery, 2807 Byron St., Potomac. Contributing artists of "Once Upon a Moment" will talk about their various photographs. Visit [www.exhibit9gallery.com](http://www.exhibit9gallery.com) for more.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC.5-6

**Greens Sale and Holiday Boutique.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Landon School, 6101 Wilson Lane, Bethesda. Specialty wreaths, topiaries, boxwood roping. 40 vendors. Proceeds benefit student financial assistance and faculty enrichment programs. Visit [landon.net/greens](http://landon.net/greens).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 6

**Bethesda's Winter Wonderland.** 1-4 p.m. Bethesda Urban Partnership,

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# Encouraging STEM for Girls

Holy Child will host female speakers in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

When Trish Whitcomb's daughter Colleen began to express an interest in engineering, she and her husband were at a loss as to how to foster her academic and career aspirations.

"I am a pediatric oncology nurse, my husband is a general contractor, and our daughter Colleen's interests are in technology and engineering, which is something we knew very little about," said Whitcomb, whose daughter is a sophomore at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, and a member of the school's Tech Club. "Over the years I have learned what arduino microcontrollers, LEDs and soldering irons are, and seen how Colleen uses them in different projects."

Whitcomb and other Holy Child parents have a new tool to help them support their daughters. The school has planned a year-long speaker series called Leading Voices, during which female leaders in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) will offer guidance to parents and students interested in exploring STEM careers.

"Research also shows us that exposing girls to female mentors has a strong impact on their willingness to consider a career in the tech field," said Shannon M. Gomez, Ed.D., Connelly School of the Holy Child head of school. "There are minimal differences in aptitude for math and science between the genders, but society makes them much bigger. Having an example of a successful woman scientist or mathematician standing before them completely debunks that myth."

Teachers say they hope the series helps build students' confidence in one day pursuing STEM careers.

"While we have always focused on and valued educating young women in the arenas of math and science, our students are still exposed to current societal norms and expectations for girls. We must always be vigilant and consistently encourage our remarkable women to explore their world, theoretically through mathematics and practically through



COURTESY OF HOLY CHILD

Holy Child has planned a year-long speaker series designed to inspire students' interest in science, technology, engineering and math.

science," said Jenna Sutton, who teaches both regular and advanced placement biology, oceanography and forensics.

"Too many girls still fall into the 'the good girl syndrome,' where they are taught to be obedient and abide by the rules. This can limit creativity and lower self-esteem."

Teachers also hope the series sparks a dialogue.

"I'm excited about the opportunity to engage our students in a conversation about the underrepresentation of women in STEM and spark their interest in pursuing these careers in the future," said Kaitlyn Valis, one of Holy Child's math teachers. "My hope is that some of our girls become the next leading voices in these fields."

Gomez is optimistic about the positive influence Leading Voices will have on the school community. "I think this program will provide students with more possibilities for their future," she said. "Leading Voices will also help by encouraging faculty members to think about problem-solving as a concept that can be applied across all disciplines."

Whitcomb is enthusiastic about gaining new tools to inspire and support her daughter.

"I look forward to receiving guidance in how to help Colleen navigate to the career of her choice," she said.

"I think it will be an invaluable experience for Colleen to have the opportunity to speak ... with women who have successful careers in fields that interest her."

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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday.

### DECEMBER

Publishing

Wellbeing.....12/3/14

HomeLifeStyle: Home for the Holidays... 12/10/14

Hanukkah begins December 16.

★Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II..12/16/14

A+ Camps & Schools.....12/16/14

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION..... 12/24/14

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## And The "Scancer" Is...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Unknown at this date – Saturday, November 15. In fact, it will be six days from now until we'll know the results. As it is always scheduled, a week or so after my quarterly CT Scan, we will have our usual follow-up, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist. At this meeting, I am examined, and of course, the radiologist's report of the most recent scan is discussed, and plans for the future – stay the course and/or adjust or switch altogether – are considered.

However, this week there's been a blip. My chemotherapy infusion was delayed one week at least, maybe longer, because my creatinine levels were too high. Creatinine levels reflect kidney function, and when my level exceeds normal, given the potential for kidney failure – ultimately, and all the associated, interim complications/effects – treatment is stopped until additional lab work is completed. Now, in and of itself, this presents concerns; in conjunction with a potentially disappointing CT Scan, results of which will be learned on the 21st (even though I remain asymptomatic and feel as normal as a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor could possibly feel nearing year six, post-diagnosis), this presents worries exponentially more distressing.

Still, I'm not there yet and won't react as if the diagnosis is confirmed until it is. For the moment, I am simply enduring the typical ups and downs of living with an originally-diagnosed-as-terminal/inoperable form of lung cancer (are there any others?). There are good days and bad days to be sure, and many daze before, during and after. To be alive and facing this as yet unconfirmed complication is par for the course. To expect any different would be unrealistic. Most stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patients don't survive as long as I have. Ergo, I would never complain about a situation that few of my fellow lung cancer patients have lived enough to even consider. Heck, I'm the lucky one, considering I was originally given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis back in late February, 2009. I'm grateful to be in my shoes (any shoes, actually; sneakers mostly, because the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet is uncomfortable, a small price to pay relative to my original diagnosis/prognosis).

Initially, when I thought of this title, I was planning on channeling Alex Trebek by incorporating as many Jeopardy (the game show) touches as I could into this column: the questions, the answers, the categories, the "Daily Double," "Double Jeopardy," ("where the scores double and the game can really change"), "Final Jeopardy" (although working in its theme song would have been a challenge) and maybe even Merv Griffin would get a mention, all in an attempt to be funny.

But there's nothing very funny about the situation in which I find myself. I remain positive and upbeat, and after almost six years of experience living this emotional roller coaster, this week of waiting, even with the additional blip, is manageable, believe it or not. It's just not fun, whether you're asking or answering.

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

## Honoring

FROM PAGE 3

merce and the West Montgomery County Citizens Association; John Phillips is on the board of the Brickyard Coalition. They often donate their petting zoos to charitable causes, including the Armed Forces Retirement House of Washington D.C., Luke's Wings, the Potomac Mom's Club, the Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department, the River Falls 4th of July Parade, the Potomac Community Center, the carnival day for Big Train Baseball and for the Collingswood Nursing Center.

Sam Greenberg, Youth of the Year, has been named Outstanding Scholar at Bullis as the student with the highest GPA in his class three times. He is the captain of his school's "It's Academic" team — the first team in school history to win two on-air matches. He is also a musician who plays trumpet in the Bullis Concert Band and Jazz Band, an athlete who pitches and plays first base for his baseball team, serves as a student tutor and Bullis Ambassador and is member of the National Honor Society. Sam has also volunteered in Costa Rica at a summer camp for underprivileged children, served as a "Band-Aide" with the Interplay Company Band, a music program for people with disabilities.

Cissy and Mac Grant, this year's Grand Marshals, are known by many locals as "Mr. and Mrs. Potomac." Cissy Finley Grant is an award-winning journalist and reporter who is a fifth-generation Montgomery County resident. She was employed by the Montgomery County Sentinel, the Washington Evening Star, the Gaithersburg Gazette and still contributes to the Potomac Almanac.

Being a fifth generation Montgomery Countian, Cissy Grant says it has been impossible not to delve into politics on occasion. This included helping her close friend, the late Jean Cryor, get elected to the Maryland House of Delegates. "The group of 10 who called ourselves her 'Kitchen Cabinet' still get together monthly," Cissy Grant said.

She has also volunteered for the Montgomery County Heart Association's Women's Board and founded and co-chaired the Heart-to-Heart Ball for 22 years. She also served on the Shady Grove Foundation Hospital Board when the hospital opened. She has delved into politics, public relations and authoring a cookbook and magazine articles.

Cissy's husband Mac Grant worked for NASA for 33 years, and has served as board member of the Prevention of Blindness Society of the Washington Metropolitan Area, the Montgomery County Historical Society, and the Potomac Theatre Company. Mac Grant started with Potomac Theatre as a song-and-dance performer and retired from that group as master carpenter. He portrayed George Washington for DAR-sponsored elementary school programs in Potomac. He has served the Potomac Day Parade as a participant, as a line-of-march coordinator, and, finally, as an announcer. Still, Mac Grant said, "It is my biggest honor to be sitting next to Cissy Grant, wife and co-honoree."

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Sophomore forward Abby Meyers, seen against B-CC in the section final on Oct. 31, and the Whitman girls' soccer team finished the 2014 season with an undefeated record.



Whitman junior midfielder Kristen Bissell goes up for a header against B-CC during the section final on Oct. 31.

PHOTOS BY ADAM PRILL

# Whitman Girls', Boys' Soccer Teams Win Championships

**Whitman soccer had phenomenal weekend.**

The Whitman girls' and boys' soccer teams each captured a state championship during the weekend at Loyola University in Baltimore.

The girls' team repeated as 4A champs with a 1-0 victory over Howard on Saturday, Nov. 15. With the victory, Whitman completed an undefeated season (17-0).

"It was an amazing feeling of accomplishment and pride," Whitman head coach Greg Herbert wrote in an email. "We do set a goal each season of winning every home game, winning the region and winning the state but early on this season I'm not sure the girls believed they could do that. It took time to mold the mental make-up of this team and make them believe in themselves the way that I did and convince them that

they could do the impossible if they dedicated themselves to excel each and every day. And to do just that and come out of this loaded division, section and region unscathed and run the table the way we did is really just a testament to the mental make-up and technical ability of these girls.

"To think that after last year's successful championship run that we would even better ourselves this season is mind-blowing."

After a 12-0 regular season, Whitman defeated Walter Johnson and Bethesda-Chevy Chase before beating Northwest, 1-0, in the 4A West region final on Nov. 4.

The Vikings beat Eleanor Roosevelt, 3-1, in the state semifinals on Nov. 7.

For the season, Whitman outscored its opponents 50-7.

How did this year's Vikings compare to the 2013 title team, which finished 16-1-1?

"The teams' seasons are actually very different from each other," Herbert wrote. "Last year, I think the whole team expected to come away with a state championship

and was just so driven to do it. This year's team came in with so many new players and questions that we really didn't know what to expect.

"Last year, the team knew that they were destined for success but this year's team took longer to find its identity and I think once it did it found that it could be unbeatable. I think what we see as the true difference between the two teams was the way each team played. This year required the whole team to work together as one cohesive unit from the first to the last player in order to be successful whereas last year, we leaned so much more on a core group of 3-5 players to carry us through. That's why I feel like this season was more of a team championship."

This year's team captains were Emma Anderson, Clare Severe, Erin McClanahan and Lindsay Wytkind. Herbert said senior Lela Walter came up big during the postseason.

One day earlier, the Whitman boys' team defeated Chesapeake, 4-1, to capture its first

state title since 2009.

Whitman's Davey Mason scored a pair of goals in the state final. Andreas Djurhuus and Aaron Tanenbaum each scored one.

The Vikings finished 15-3-1, including a 2-1 victory over Gaithersburg in the 4A West region championship match on Nov. 4.

"It was an awesome experience," Herbert wrote about the Whitman girls' and boys' soccer teams winning state titles in the same weekend. "Dave Greene, the boys' coach, and I have talked about just this same situation for several years now about how great it would be if we could do this together one season and now to finally have it happen is just amazing. The fact that we could both bring home the hardware for the school and the community is just something that we really appreciate and are proud of doing. There is actually a brother/sister combination (Alex Harris on the boys' team and Ellie Harris on my team) on the teams. What an amazing time for that family to have a member of each state championship team living under one roof."

## SIGNING ON



Churchill senior Julia McDermott signs her letter of intent for the College of William & Mary track & field.



Churchill senior David Fitzgerald signs his letter of intent to run cross country and track & field for Temple University.



Churchill senior Kali Becker signs her letter of intent to dive for the University of North Carolina.

Churchill senior Louis Dubick poses with his family and head coach Jeff Fritz after signing his letter of intent to play lacrosse at the University of Maryland.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# Friends Seek Forever Homes

## Luncheon raises funds for rescue work.

BY SHARON ALLEN GILDER  
THE ALMANAC

“There’s no better way to go than adoption,” said Dottie Fitzgerald at the Friends of Montgomery County Animals’ fall luncheon with boutiques at TPC at Avenel on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Adoption success stories abounded at the annual event attended by women and men devoted to the welfare and humane treatment of animals.

Fitzgerald added, “We are so aligned with the animals in so many things. We can learn so much from them and in my case it’s from dogs. Your dogs teach you compassion and the true meaning of forgiveness.”

Attendee Brenda Monaco, who said her love of cats goes back to her childhood, has fostered 90 kittens during her eight-year tenure as a member of Friends. “We always had cats in the family. As fosters, we’re just a stop along the way to help them. We help these little guys get a sec-

ond chance. It makes us feel good we’re helping this tiny little creature and finding it its forever home,” said Monaco.

Friends, an all volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit established in 1974, is celebrating its 40th anniversary. The organization has no shelter or office and relies heavily on private donations and volunteers who assist at adoption clinics on Saturdays at the Germantown PetSmart; provide foster homes; assist with trap-neuter-release/place (TNR/P) endeavors; and support fundraising projects.

A primary focus of the group is the issue of abandoned strays and at-risk animals living on the street. Partnering in 2014 with some of the areas most experienced TNR

trappers to provide financial assistance for targeted, high-impact areas, has resulted in the successful spay/neutering of 200 felines. According to Friends’ literature, the majority of the animals are abandoned strays, litters of kittens born in colonies, or kittens born to abandoned house pets. Many are unable to survive the outside elements and are malnourished and in need of medical treatment. Though

the group receives reduced rates from several local veterinarians, costs are high.

Ninety-six percent of the animals in the group’s TNR program require full vetting.

Friends often extends a helping paw of financial support in emergency situations to other humane and wildlife groups. Recent recipients include Tip Me Frederick for TNR and Owl Moon Raptor Center for the preservation of the birds of prey population.

Potomac resident Claire Proffitt, president of Friends, emphasized the need for funding and outside donations. She said the group has helped individuals and families with the support needed to ensure they could keep their pets healthy and happy. She shared several stories including the story of Peanut, a rescued cat, who arrived at a Friends’ participating veterinarian “half dead” after two misdiagnoses.

“He had ingested a long thread that had cut his intestines and liver in a number of places. After two touch and go surgeries, two blood transfusions and much TLC, he has completely recovered,” Proffitt said. “Friends also helped a young family with food, heartworm meds and flea control for their three rescued dogs after learning the mother of the family required brain surgery

after childbirth and the father lost his job.”

Friends is committed to finding forever homes for the 100-plus cats, kittens and puppies currently in foster care. Approximately 200 animals have been placed to date. Recent adoptions have included, “Buddy” a Labrador/Australian shepherd mix whose owner said, “Things are going so well with Buddy. He is so anxious to learn. He’s growing so fast – he still has a way to go to grow into his feet though. Thank you so much – we love him.”

Sometimes unexpected friendships develop as in the case of an adopted orange and white domestic shorthair cat named Cairo. His family reports that he is wonderful, they feel lucky to have him, and he recently befriended an abandoned baby lovebird named Hope.

For more information, visit [www.fmca.org](http://www.fmca.org).



PHOTOS COURTESY OF FMCA

Among the animals that have been adopted is Buddy, in the middle.



Cairo the cat and Hope the bird.

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