

# More Fun To Give Than Receive

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Jake and Kate Albert  
at the Rabbi Joseph  
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hood Center.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Two Novels  
By Age 17

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# LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

## The Luxury Home Library

A home library is a reflection of the homeowner. Here is where you keep those books that reflect who you are and tells both friends and acquaintances the kind of interests you hold. It's the place that organizes your collections, from the modern series you've only recently discovered to the classics that you can't imagine living without. The library is a perfect place to bring your guests for a quiet evening of companionship. A mutual love of books and a good bottle of wine make for a wonderful evening with friends who share your love of the smell of leather bound first editions and the stories, poems and authors who define you. When creating your library, keep these things in mind:

- For ease of use, consider floor to ceiling bookshelves with a rolling ladder.
- Dark wood shows off the precious books you've collected through the years.
- Wood or stone flooring protected by beautiful, collectible area rugs adds to any library's ambience.
- Your personal writing desk, accompanied by the perfect comfortable chair, allows your library a dual function as a working area as well as a place to relax and read.
- Choose lamps that give off just the right amount of light for reading through the night or composing that perfect letter.
- Comfortable chairs placed on either side of the perfect end table make a library a social room for nightcaps and conversation as well as for solitary reading.

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## GETTING AROUND

# A 'Royal Wedding' Takes Place

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT  
THE ALMANAC

Most everyone will recognize the name "Maxwell House Coffee," but it is pretty safe to say there are not many around these days who will recall the original George Burns and Gracie Allen series Maxwell House sponsored over a half century past.

That all changed recently when a group of Fox Hill residents who named themselves "The Fox Hill Radio Players" presented, for residents and their guests, the "Royal Wedding" in which Gracie attempts to coax George into spending an evening hearing a re-broadcast of the royal wedding of Elizabeth and Phillip.

The original script of "Royal Wedding" was heard on NBC radio in 1947. It was from this script the Fox Hill players portrayed the cast — Gracie (Nan Muntzing), George (Jack Frankel), Bill Goodwin (Hy Eliasof), Marie Wilson (Karen Brown), Ms. Judson (Shirley Norwood), Dr. Miller (John Harvey) and Gracie's Mother (Tema David).

The story unfolds when Gracie expresses a desire to not only have been in England for the royal wedding, but for Gracie and George, to snuggle before a warm fireplace and listen to the episode on their radio. She emphasizes there was a 500 pound wedding cake, to which George replies, "That's almost as heavy as the first biscuits you made."

This is an early indication of what to expect throughout the script which is so corny it's funny.

When neighbor Bill Goodwin enters the scene at the Burns' to offer a poker game the same evening of the wedding broadcast, it is much to Gracie's dismay. Others are also invited to join in the



"Royal Wedding" performers at Fox Hills are ready to broadcast from the script of the original Gracie Allen and George Burns radio play produced in 1947. From left are Jack Frankel, Hy Eliasof, Tema David, Nan Muntzing (standing); Shirley Norwood, Karen Brown and Dr. John Harvey.

PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC



Announcer Sylvia Brown reads from the script.



Not that it was necessary to stir up the crowd, but Cliff Kendall's "Applause" sign, which appeared periodically, added to the spontaneity of the evening performance.

poker game including Marie who says, "I've been reading up on the game." She asks if they will be playing auction or contract? George suggests she read the wrong book.

Directed by Sherry Migdail, who in past decades has done both acting and directing, the "Royal Wedding" production moves along

when remaining characters including, Gracie's mother "Mother;" Ms Judson a Texas multi-millionaire (oil wells, of course;) and psychiatrist Dr. Miller who told Marie she will have a split personality if she doesn't get in the game and "mingle with you fellas."

Bear in mind, this is 1947 humor at it's best and applause sign-

bearer, Cliff Kendall, appears periodically to unnecessarily remind the audience of about 70 residents and their guests that it is time a little appreciation is demonstrated.

Being on stage was not a new experience for some of those who were selected during tryouts for SEE 'ROYAL WEDDING'. PAGE 8

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**POTOMAC ALMANAC**

## It's More Fun To Give Than Receive

### Preschoolers learn lesson in giving.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

During the December week of Chanukah, pre-schoolers from the Rabbi Joseph Weinberg Early Childhood Center brought toys to school that they had outgrown or no longer played with — toys that they had once enjoyed and were still in excellent condition. Each had gone through their toy closets and chests to decide, on their own, which toy to give to a needy child who might not have a toy for the holidays. Their parents or guardians accompanied them to school, helped them to clean each toy with wipes and to attach their own hand-made gift tag.

Preschooler Samantha R. said, "I feel happy because other people that were sad are now happy because they have toys," and Jacob H. said, "It was good that we did this. I like to help."

The center partnered with Second Chance Toys to provide needy children with toys. During the fall, lesson plans for the school, which educates preschoolers through kindergarteners (ages 2-6), had centered on

helping others, the value of giving, and the power of one small person becoming involved in a giving project. They learned that, even though they are very young, each of them can make a difference. "We work a lot on teaching the children to care about others and to take the time to help them," Center Director Fran Miller said. "A key element of the preschool's curriculum is the environment, and by giving their plastic toys new life with new families, these little students will keep the toys out of landfills and help Mother Earth as well."

During the week of Hanukkah, the pre-school held a candle-lighting each morning for the 140 children and 45 staff members. On the day they brought in the toys, parents were invited to join them in the candle lighting ceremony, and then to help with the cleaning of the toys.

Then, they watched the employees of 1-800-Junk fill the truck with their toys, and then head to D.C. to deliver them to other children. A Hanukkah party was held to celebrate with music, dancing and doughnut treats for everyone. "This is a hands-on



Max Finkel at the Rabbi Joseph Weinberg Early Childhood Center.

way for children to learn the value of giving back — and that it is much more fun to

than receive," said Jennifer Millstone, communications manager at Washington Hebrew Congregation. Second Chance Toys is a non-profit organization founded in 2006 to rescue and recycle plastic toys for children in need by donating them to community organizations. Because non-biodegradable plastic is kept out of our landfills, Second Chance Toys is helping the environment at the same time.

According to its website [www.secondchancetoys.org](http://www.secondchancetoys.org), "Second Chance Toys provides a waste-free solution to these problems. Twice yearly, unwanted plastic toys are rescued and donated to organizations that care for children in need. The toys can enhance a child's development by helping promote socialization, creativity, emotional security, motor skills, and learning."

The Rabbi Joseph Weinberg Early Childhood Center is located at the Julia Bindeman Suburban Center at Washington Hebrew Congregation, 11810 Falls Road, Potomac. To learn more about the pre-school, visit [www.whcecc.org/RJWECC\\_PC.htm](http://www.whcecc.org/RJWECC_PC.htm).

## Living a Writer's Life — at 17

### Churchill High senior writes two books while working on school newspaper and preparing for college.

BY AMBER HEALY  
THE ALMANAC

Samantha "Sammi" Silber is an expert juggler. Not only is the 17-year-old a senior at Winston Churchill High School, she's editor-in-chief of the school's paper, the Churchill Observer, and, like most other seniors, she's looking forward to starting college in the fall.

But what sets Sammi apart from her classmates is what she's done in her spare time, kind of by accident: She's written and self-published two books.

Sammi has always had paper in her hand, but it was "more on the cartoon end when she was younger," said Patty Silber, Sammi's mother.

Sammi's older sister, Alex, agreed, adding that her sister left doodles all around their house when she was younger. "You could always tell if a piece of paper was hers," or, in some cases,

the doodles made their way on to pieces of clear tape, Alex said.

When Sammi published her first book, unexpectedly, she told her sister.

"She comes in and says, 'I think I published a book,'" Alex recalled. "What do you mean, you wrote a book?"

That changed in high school, however.

"As she got older, into junior high school, she was playing soccer. But when she signed up for journalism in ninth grade, that's when she was really interested" in writing, Patty Silber said.

"My writing started to get more sophisticated," Sammi said. Writing for the monthly paper, which has roughly 40 students working on it, helped her start to develop her narrative voice, which she now uses also as a blogger for BuzzFeed.

A little while ago, Sammi wanted a different challenge, something completely new to her. November is National Novel Writing Month, and much to her surprise, Sammi found herself with about 77,000 words for



Churchill senior Sammi Silber has written and self-published two novels, all while working on her school's newspaper.

a book. She initially wasn't thrilled with the outcome and spent time editing and reworking the draft.

When her AP language teacher "assigned" her a technology break to clear her head, Sammi started thinking about evolution and the world around her. Within a few hours, she had a new idea and the first two chapters of a sci-fi leaning book, "Ultima." The book tells the story of Earth in the future, when all the continents have recombined to form Pangaea Ultima.

She wanted to print out a few copies of the book, just for herself, but the next thing she knew, the book was published and available on Amazon.com. "I didn't expect to do that," she said, laughing.

Next, she wanted to write something that better reflected her personality and the world in which she lives. The slightly autobiographical "The J" provides a peek behind the scenes of a high school newspaper and includes characters based on Sammi, her sister Alex, their mom and Sammi's friends.

"The J" is a more humorous effort, as "I find myself to be really funny but also very awkward," Sammi said. "Every day is so funny for me. A lot happens that is just too much fun."

The second time around, Sammi said, writing a book was much easier. "I knew what I was doing this time. With 'The J,' I was able to find my voice and make it funny, and it was just more sophisticated and really shows who I am."

Kelly Knarr, a journalism teacher and adviser of the Churchill Observer, said she had no idea Sammi had been working on the second book.

"Sammi works hard but is very humble," Knarr said. "I thought it was very impressive that she was able to publish articles for the newspaper and take on novel writing all while keeping up with her school work and leadership role as the editor in chief."

SEE CHURCHILL HIGH, PAGE 8

# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## 2014 Top Sales



2 10711 Red Barn Lane — \$3,300,000



2 10841 Stanmore Drive — \$3,725,000



5 9800 Sorrel Avenue — \$2,880,000



4 11005 Cripplegate Road — \$2,985,000



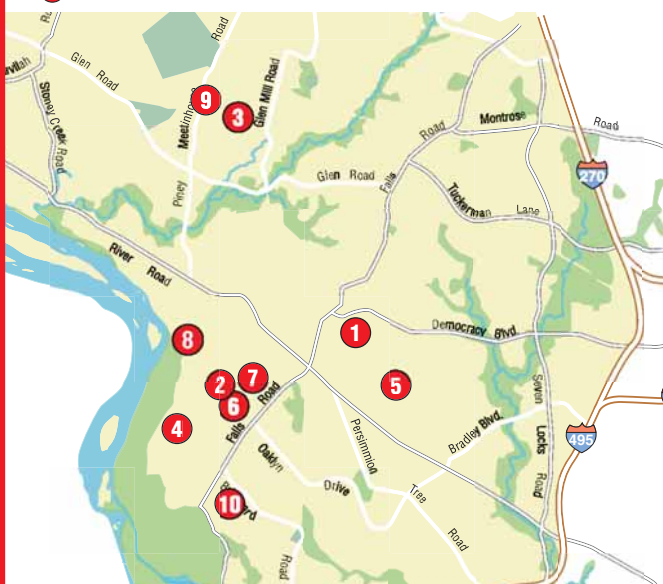
6 10840 Stanmore Drive — \$2,675,000



7 10801 Stanmore Drive — \$2,585,000



8 9906 River View Court — \$2,580,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot	AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 10204 IRON GATE RD	9	10	3	POTOMAC	..	\$4,400,000	Detached	2.07	20854	CAMOTOP	04/01/14	
2 10841 STANMORE DR	8	8	2	POTOMAC	..	\$3,725,000	Detached	2.10	20854	GREAT FALLS ESTATES	08/22/14	
3 10711 RED BARN LN	5	8	2	POTOMAC	..	\$3,300,000	Detached	5.00	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	04/08/14	
4 11005 CRIPPLEGATE RD	6	6	3	POTOMAC	..	\$2,985,000	Detached	2.56	20854	POTOMAC FALLS	09/15/14	
5 9800 SORREL AVE	4	7	0	POTOMAC	..	\$2,880,000	Detached	2.00	20854	FALCONHURST	02/04/14	
6 10840 STANMORE DR	6	8	1	POTOMAC	..	\$2,675,000	Detached	2.08	20854	GREAT FALLS ESTATES	01/21/14	
7 10801 STANMORE DR	6	6	1	POTOMAC	..	\$2,585,000	Detached	2.30	20854	GREAT FALLS ESTATES	05/09/14	
8 9906 RIVER VIEW CT	4	5	1	POTOMAC	..	\$2,580,000	Detached	1.60	20854	MARWOOD	07/07/14	
9 12313 PINEY MEETINGHOUSE RD	6	8	2	POTOMAC	..	\$2,550,000	Detached	2.42	20854	PINEY GLEN FARMS	09/25/14	
10 10905 ROCK RUN DR	6	6	3	POTOMAC	..	\$2,530,000	Detached	0.99	20854	FAWCETT FARMS	08/04/14	

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## Potomac Kitchen Gets Facelift

Storage space and a view of the yard are among the amenities.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

A Potomac family of five recently decided it was time to spread out and get organized. They enlisted the help of Glickman Design Build. Their request: an updated kitchen and an abundance of storage space.

“With two adults and three teenage girls living in the house, this family had simply outgrown their existing space,” said architectural designer Keith Long of Glickman Design Build.

The kitchen was in need of a facelift. “The cabinets had been there forever,” said Long. “The working area in the kitchen was so small that it didn’t allow more than one or two people in the kitchen at a time without walking on top of each other.”

The family had expanded beyond the limits of their tight quarters. “They came in from the garage and dropped their shoes and book bags into a cramped space,” said Long.

“We created a mudroom right off the garage with three spaces for the children,” he continued. “It provides a level of organization they have dreamed of for years.”

In fact, mudrooms are a common request in remodeling plans.

“Mudrooms are really important in today’s high-efficiency homes,” said Dana Kaminsky of Glickman Design Build. “They



This newly remodeled Potomac kitchen includes granite countertops and porcelain tile flooring.

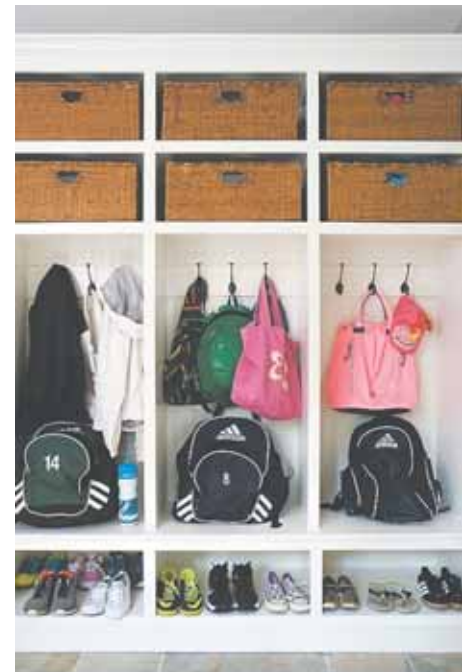
are the most heavily used and most under appreciated rooms in the house.”

Current trends in mudrooms, says Kaminsky, include features such as a bench on which to sit while putting on shoes, a pet shower, and small laundry area. “Another trend in mudrooms is an information board with a master calendar and daily reminders,” she said. “Anything that helps a household run smoothly and most efficient

... and of course always done beautifully.”

The new kitchen features antique white cabinets and granite countertops in a warm brown hue, with an expansive prep area that allows several cooks to work simultaneously. Built-in bookcases add visual interest and additional storage, and tough surfaces add durability.

“There are porcelain tile floors, which last forever and can take a lot of traffic,” said



This Potomac mudroom boasts built-in shelves and storage for children to store their belongings.

project manager Wayne Jackson.

There is even a breakfast area with a view of the backyard.

“The new kitchen and breakfast area ... is a clean, updated space perfectly designed to meet [the family’s] needs,” said Long.

## A New Way To Organize

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

The new year brings an opportunity for a fresh start. For many people, that means a resolution to get organized. Whether the goal is to create a clean, orderly home or simply become a better time manager, three local women have ideas to help jumpstart the organizational game.

Gretchen Margery, Karen Smoller and Susan Frankenberger created The Organizational Spectrum, a personal organizing company that they say uses an unorthodox approach to creating and maintaining order. The North Potomac-based trio encourages clients to be self-reflective and determine their individual organizational needs rather than adhering to generic strategies. They tailor a long-term organizational strategy around a client’s personal style.

“For example, if you’re chronically late because you spend an hour looking for your car keys or eyeglasses, then the techniques that are helpful to you could be different from someone who has a million junk drawers in their home,” said Smoller.



COURTESY OF GRETCHEN MARGERY

**Before purchasing storage boxes and other organizational tools, personal organizers suggest determining your needs and planning a strategy around them.**

Their multi-pronged approach begins with a self-inventory. “Each person has to develop a system that works for them,” said Frankenberger. “Think about what would make your life easier and what would make you feel more peaceful and confident.”

**THE NEXT STEP** is to create a realistic time frame to complete your organizational challenge. “If you’re someone who shies away from hosting social gatherings because your home is in disarray, plan a dinner party,” said Margery. “If you

know that your friends are coming over for dinner on a specific day, at a specific time, you’re more likely to make sure your home is presentable by that time.”

Go through your home and purge it of items that have not been used in a while (or have never been used) or of which you have multiples. This is another key to achieving and maintaining home organization.

“People often end up buying the same items over and over,

whether it’s clothes, tools or household supplies, because they don’t keep track of what they already own,” said Smoller. “Take inventory, donate the excess and write down what you’re going to keep.”

Then, limit your acquisition of new items.

“Before you buy an item, consider its use,” said Frankenberger. “Keeping track of the items you buy, whether you need them and where you will store them is an important part of the organization puzzle.”

It’s easier to accomplish as task when you feel you are not alone. Enlist the support of family or friends. “Almost everyone has some area of their life that needs organizing,” said Smoller. “Rally those people together and offer support to each other. Hold each other accountable.”

Setting realistic organization goals, achieving them and rewarding yourself is a way to avoid burnout and giving up hope. “Sometimes, though, an organized home is a reward unto itself,” said Margery.

### HOME SALES

In November 2014, 31 Potomac homes sold between \$1,680,000-\$575,000. This week’s list represents those homes sold in the \$1,680,000-\$715,000 range. For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

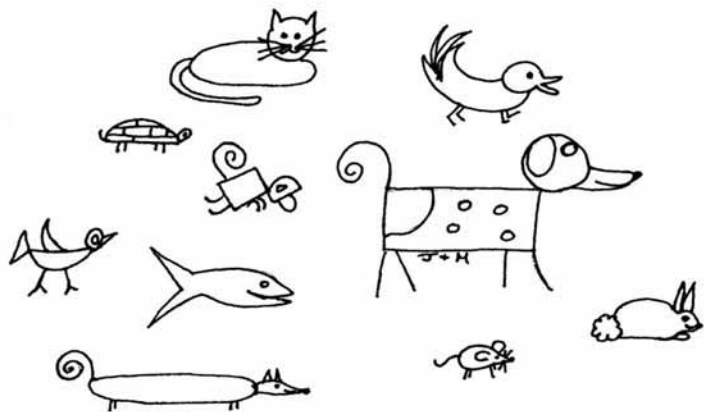
Address	BR.	FBHB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
12021 GREAT ELM DR	5	4.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,680,000	Detached	2.00	20854	GREAT ELM FARM ESTATES
11517 LUVIE CT	8	7.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,595,000	Detached	0.76	20854	MERRY GO ROUND FARM
11322 BROAD GREEN DR	6	5.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,456,000	Detached	0.40	20854	CLAGETT FARM
9910 MERIDEN RD	5	5.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,455,000	Detached	0.87	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
8908 ABBEY TER	4	4.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.25	20854	AVENEL
7812 LINDSAY HILL TER	4	4.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,275,000	Townhouse	0.04	20854	PARK POTOMAC
11508 LAKE POTOMAC DR	5	5.2	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,275,000	Detached	2.34	20854	LAKE POTOMAC
10905 BURBANK DR	5	6.2	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,185,000	Detached	3.20	20854	POTOMAC MANOR
10529 MACARTHUR BLVD	5	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,076,500	Detached	0.36	20854	RIVER FALLS
9022 MARSEILLE DR	6	6.0	20854	POTOMAC	\$1,057,000	Detached	0.89	20854	LAKE NORMANDY ESTS
9904 CARMELITA DR	4	2.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$950,000	Detached	0.48	20854	MCAULEY PARK
7946 TURNCREST DR	3	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$912,000	Townhouse	0.10	20854	POTOMAC CREST
7629 MARY CASSATT DR	4	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$860,000	Detached	0.34	20854	WILLERBURN ACRES
8803 DAIMLER CT	4	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$849,000	Detached	0.41	20854	OLDFIELD
8517 FOX RUN	4	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$839,900	Detached	0.25	20854	FOX HILLS
9232 FALLS CHAPEL WAY	5	3.2	20854	POTOMAC	\$799,000	Detached	0.35	20854	COPENHAVER
10504 SCARBORO LN	5	2.2	20854	POTOMAC	\$750,000	Detached	0.35	20854	WINDSOR HILLS
8708 POSTOAK RD	5	3.1	20854	POTOMAC	\$735,000	Detached	0.21	20854	HIGHLAND STONE
9316 GARDEN CT	5	2.1	20854	ROCKVILLE	\$715,000	Detached	0.44	20854	TIMBERWOOD OF POTOMAC

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## PEOPLE

# National Honor for Votaw's Art

Winston Churchill High School graduate Alexandra Votaw had her sculpture work selected to be included in the 2014-15 AP Studio Art Exhibit. The exhibit represents a selection of some of the finest artwork created by students who submitted portfolios for the AP Studio Art Exam in May 2014. Her piece was selected from close to 50,000 portfolios. The AP Studio Art Exhibit premiered at the AP Annual Conference in Philadelphia in July 2014. The exhibit is shown at different locations around the United States throughout the year, including the 2015 National Art Education Association conference in New Orleans.



**Alexandra Votaw**

Votaw is currently a freshman at Arizona State University where she is enrolled in Barrett Honors College studying conservation biology and ecology.

Alexandra Votaw's work can be viewed on the AP Studio Art Exhibit website: [http://](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/226179.html)



**Alexandra Votaw's artwork**

[apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers\\_corner/226179.html](http://apcentral.collegeboard.com/apc/public/courses/teachers_corner/226179.html)

The AP Studio Art Exhibit is currently at Dellora A. Norris Cultural Arts Center:

<http://norrisculturalarts.com/news/entry/gallery-hosts-national-college-board-ap-art-exhibition>.

### BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.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.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

**Volunteers Needed.** From day one of open enrollment, Montgomery

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20f094fadab28a5f58-volunteer. Contact Neeta Datt at [neeta.datt@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:neeta.datt@montgomerycountymd.gov).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 15

**Famous Collaborations in Art History.** 10:30 a.m.-noon at Live and Learn Bethesda, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda. \$15. Register at

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

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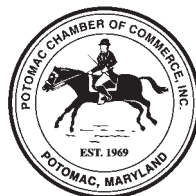
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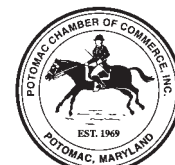
Or reserve your spot online at [www.potomacchamber.org](http://www.potomacchamber.org)  
R.S.V.P. by January 26, 2015

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If you would like to donate a door prize,  
please call Jennifer at the Chamber office.



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**"A Day at the Pool."** Through Feb. 23 at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. "A Day at the Pool" depicts the anxiety that underlies a mother's love. Na'ama Batya Lewin is a photographer and video artist living in Maryland. Her art often explores the roles of women in society. Lewin has served as adjunct faculty at the Corcoran College of Art and Design for 11 years. The Gallery is open Saturday, 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-8 p.m. and any time a photography class is underway. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

**Weekly Blues Dance.** Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. Visit [capitalblues.org](http://capitalblues.org) for more.

**Weekly Swing Dance.** Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing until midnight. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) for more.

**Argentine Tango with Lessons.** Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga. For just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 301-634-2222 for more.

**Contra and Square Dance.** Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or call 301-634-2222 for more.

**Late Night Comedy.** Fridays (open mic night) and Saturdays (established comedians) at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac. Benny's is open 8 a.m.-1 a.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Visit [www.BennysBarGrill.com](http://www.BennysBarGrill.com).

**Drop in Art Activities.** Every Saturday 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in the Candy Corner Studio at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., parents and children can explore a new art form or theme. \$10/child, parent combo. Drop-in only. Visit [www.pgip.org](http://www.pgip.org) for more.

**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).

**Live Music & Dancing.** Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. in Margery's Lounge, Normandie Farm Restaurant 10710 Falls Road. Dance to the music of Barry Gurely. Call 301-983-8838 or visit [www.popovers.com](http://www.popovers.com) for more.

**SilverWorks Studio & Gallery.** Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. SilverWorks Studio & Gallery is a working silversmith studio and includes an ongoing exhibition, as well as sales of the work of artist-in-residence Blair Anderson. Free. Visit [www.silverworksglenechopark.com](http://www.silverworksglenechopark.com).

**Art Glass Center at Glen Echo.** All day Wednesdays; Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, noon-4 p.m. Art Glass Center, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Ongoing exhibitions feature work of Resident Artists Christine Hekimian, Sue Hill, Michele Rubin, Sherry Selevan, Bev and Zayde Slepsh and Janet Wittenberg. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry are for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit [www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org](http://www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org) for more.

**Glen Echo Pottery.** Through December,

Saturdays and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. Glen Echo Pottery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. The Gallery shows the work of 29 individual potters and instructors at Glen Echo Pottery. Wheel-throwing demonstrations are offered most Saturdays and Sundays, noon-2 p.m. Children are welcome. Visit [www.glenechopottery.com/gallery](http://www.glenechopottery.com/gallery) for more.

**Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery.** Saturdays and Sundays, noon-5 p.m. The Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery presents free exhibitions of emerging artists' work. Each weekend features the work of a different artist. Most artwork is also for sale. Visit [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com) for more.

## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**2015 Musical Theatre Intensive Summer Camp.** For actors, dancers and singers ages 13-18. The program will run for two weeks from July 12-25 at the Sandy Spring Friends School in Sandy Spring, Md. Campers can participate in daytime or overnight camp. The daytime camp will feature students in a final showcase the last Friday of camp. Students who participate in the overnight intensive camp will take part in a full production of the musical "Once on this Island!" Early bird discounts are available to those who register before Feb. 1. Visit [www.youngartistsamerica.org](http://www.youngartistsamerica.org) for more.

**Art Explorers Open Studio.** Every Saturday, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at The Candy Corner Studio, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Art activities for parents and children. Activities change weekly and there is no pre-registration; \$10 per child. Visit [www.glenechopark.org/saturday-art-explorers](http://www.glenechopark.org/saturday-art-explorers) for more.

**Ceramic Classes.** Various dates and times. VisArts, 155 Gibbs St, Rockville. An opportunity to try the new ceramic workshops. Visit [www.visartsatrockville.org/ceramics](http://www.visartsatrockville.org/ceramics) for a list of class dates, times.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 18

**Opening Reception & Gallery Talk.** 6-8 p.m. at Photoworks Gallery at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Boulevard, Glen Echo. "A Day at the Pool" depicts the anxiety that underlies a mother's love. Na'ama Batya Lewin is a photographer and video artist living in Maryland. Her art often explores the roles of women in society. Lewin has served as adjunct faculty at the Corcoran College of Art and Design for 11 years. The Gallery is open Saturday, 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-8 p.m. and any time a photography class is underway. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 24 8 P.M.

**"Shrek, The Musical."** 8 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. A cast of 56 — including children and teens from 11 area schools — brings this updated fairy tale to life. General admission \$20 for adults and \$15 for children (under age 13). Chai Patron tickets are \$180 each. Patron tickets are \$100 for adults and \$36 for children (under age 13). Purchase tickets online at [www.harshalom.org](http://www.harshalom.org). For information on group sales, email [play@harshalom.org](mailto:play@harshalom.org) or call 301-299-7087.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 25

**Submission Deadline.** My Little Town, a juried exhibition about Washington, D.C. Submit up to five jpeg images to [photoworks.gallery@gmail.com](mailto:photoworks.gallery@gmail.com), with My Little Town in the subject line. \$40 entry fee. Call 301-634-2274, email [Gayle.Rothschild@me.com](mailto:Gayle.Rothschild@me.com) or visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org) for more.

**A Capella Chamber Chorus.** 2:30 p.m. at North Bethesda United Methodist Church, 10100 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Polyhymnia is an a capella chamber chorus that offers free concerts of works from Renaissance to contemporary and from many countries. Polyhymnia's Winter Concert series, under its conductor Steven Beck, features songs by Poulenc, Janacek, Tallis, Victoria, Desprez, Palestrina, and contemporary works by Steven Beck, Rich Campbell, and Ernst Toch. There is no charge for performances, tax-deductible donations welcome.

**"Shrek, The Musical."** 4:30 p.m. at Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. A cast of 56 — including children and teens from 11 area schools — brings this updated fairy tale to life. General admission \$20 for adults and \$15 for children (under age 13). Purchase tickets online at [www.harshalom.org](http://www.harshalom.org). For information on group sales, email [play@harshalom.org](mailto:play@harshalom.org) or call 301-299-7087.

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# A 'Royal Wedding' Takes Place

FROM PAGE 2

In real life in 1944-45 Hy Eliasof, the poker game promoter was in the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. In 1986 he and his fellow infantryman started reunions in various states. About 10 years later someone decided to get in touch with the German soldiers with whom they fought against.

A trip to Germany followed their efforts to locate those with whom they had battled in the Huerteen Forrest. "We met with them and walked the area where we all had fought," Eliasof said.

Prior to leaving for the two week trip to Germany, Eliasof mentioned to his son he was going. The son responded, he wanted go, and knew excellent video and sound friends. He called them and they indicated they wouldn't miss such an opportunity. From this trip, the documentary "On Common Ground" was made, in which Eliasof participated in telling the story of soldiers at war who nearly 60 years later walked the battlefield together where they had fiercely fought each other.

When folks unite for a production it's not

unusual to find a good story behind a fellow performer. Dr. John Harvey, the psychiatrist in "Royal Wedding," in reality is a well known internist. He played the psychiatrist role with natural, medical aplomb and years as a university professor.

Karen Brown enacted Marie, the character who didn't really grasp the difference between bridge and poker. "I hadn't been in a play since high school and college," she recalled.

"I was a children's librarian reading stories like "The Three Little Pigs," she laughingly remarked. Brown agreed heartily with others in the cast. "We had a good time, all of us. We bonded over it."

Nan Muntzing, "Gracie," is one of the co-founders of the Potomac Theatre Company. She was in many shows during the theatre's 25 year run, most often in a leading soloist part. A superb pianist, she often was the accompanist for others during try-outs for the Potomac theatre.

When asked of his former stage experience, Jack Frankel, a.k.a. George Burns, promptly replied, "This was the first time since 1942." He was in an Ohio high school

and a member of the broadcasting club. "That is what got me into the area of public speaking and debating," he said.

It was also during this time that he was invited to take part in a radio program in Cleveland.

"I'll never forget it. Jack Paar was the emcee/announcer," he said. Doing the "Royal Wedding" at Fox Hills "was like being in high school again. We did stuff like this," he recalled.

Frankel, who speaks very distinctively, said, "Being an attorney gave me plenty of opportunity over the years to practice."

It was apparent director Migdail had little trouble recognizing talent for this production.

"This is the first older group I have worked with," she said. Her next production, with try-outs scheduled for this week, will be Richard Diamond Private Detective in The Gibson Murder Case.

When asked, following his role in "Royal Wedding" if he would try out again, Hy Eliasof replied, "You betcha, even if I play a janitor with a broom."

It's in the blood.

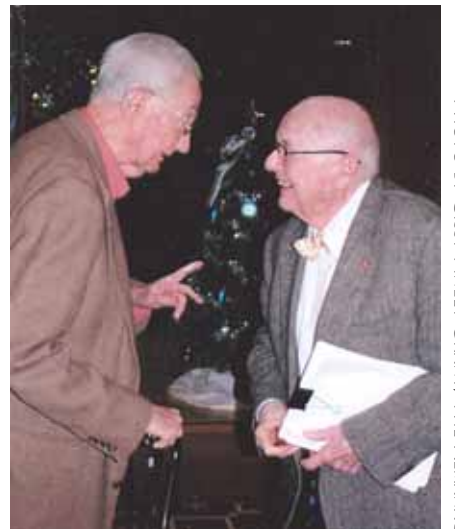


PHOTO BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

**Dr. John Harvey (right) who plays the role of psychiatrist, Dr. Miller, in the Fox Hills Radio Players recent "Royal Wedding" production, speaks with fellow resident Ambassador George Landau, one of the 70 or more guests attending the 45-minute radio play.**

# Churchill High Senior Completes Two Novels

FROM PAGE 3

What makes Sammi stand out, and will undoubtedly help her in college, is her passion for journalism and writing, Knarr said. "Sammi is not afraid to take on a difficult story. She knows her rights as a journalist and she sees it as her responsibility to report stories that matter and affect our students and staff. She is unstoppable."

Katie Gauch, co-editor-in-chief on the Churchill Observer, said Sammi's sense of humor has been apparent from the first time they met.

"She found my number and pretended she was one of those spam messages that gives you random facts, which she called 'Cat Facts,'" Katie said. "It knew it was her though because that's the funny person she is."

When she learned that her best friend had written a book, Katie said she wasn't too

surprised.

"Ever since I have known Sammi, she has always loved writing," Katie said. "Whether it was right after school or late at night, she would be writing on a novel of BuzzFeed articles, and she still does. Her brain is always thinking of ideas."

The friends would sometimes be separated due to their long giggling fits, but

working together has made them better friends, writers and editors, Katie said.

"We call ourselves the dream team because we bounce off ideas really well and we don't care if we have to edit something for the other person," she said. "We work really well together which is very helpful."

When Sammi told her about her second book, Katie said she was proud of her friend.

"I even asked her to sign a copy for me."

Sammi's sister Alex is in her second year of college now and knows all this writing will come in handy when Sammi starts the next phase of her education in the fall.

"I'm always calling her for help with papers," Alex said. "We're all very proud of her. Her love of writing will help her follow her dreams."

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

liveandlearnbethesda.org or call 301-740-6150.

**"Out and About" Clubs for Teens.** 5 p.m. at JSSA, 200 Wood Hill Road, Rockville. This club is for teens (14-17) diagnosed with a Level 1 Autism Spectrum Disorder (formerly Asperger's syndrome and PDD-NOS). Participants will be encouraged to engage with their peers in a fun and stimulating environment. \$30 per session. Pre-registration is required to attend. For more

information or to register, call 301-610-8321.

### MONDAY/JAN. 19

**Contest Entries.** Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, 21 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorative Committee will announce Literary Contest and Visual Arts Show for Students. Call 240-777-8491 for more.

### SATURDAY-MONDAY/JAN. 17-19

**MLK Day of Service.** Sign up now for

Montgomery County's MLK Weekend of Service. Celebrate by signing up to volunteer. Projects at multiple sites for all ages and ability levels. Students can earn SSL hours.

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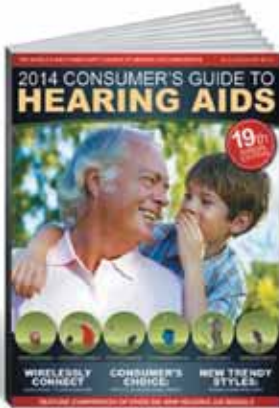
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# SPORTS

## Wootton Girls' Basketball Defeats Clarksburg

The Wootton girls' basketball team improved to 7-3 with a 65-45 victory over Clarksburg on Jan. 9 at Clarksburg High School.

**SPORTS BRIEFS** The Patriots have won six of their last seven games.

Three players scored in double figures for Wootton, led by Sheri Addison's 23 points. Addison also had eight rebounds and two steals for the Patriots.

Kaitlin Klausing finished with 14 points, 12 rebounds and six steals for Wootton. Ellie Kobylski added 10 points. Wootton will travel to face Rockville at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

## Wootton Boys Falls to Clarksburg

The Wootton boys' basketball team lost to Clarksburg 68-59 on Jan. 9.

The loss came two days after the Patriots opened 2015 with a 57-53 loss to Quince Orchard.

Wootton returns to action on Jan. 16 with a 7 p.m. home game against Rockville.

## Whitman Girls' Basketball Remains Undefeated

The Whitman girls' basketball team's undefeated season continued with a 56-21 victory over Richard Montgomery on Jan. 9, improving the Vikings' season to 8-0. Whitman's record over the last three sea-

sons is 50-8.

The Vikings will host Montgomery Blair at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16 as part of a girls'/boys' double-header.

## Whitman Boys' Basketball Extends Losing Streak

The Whitman boys' basketball team lost to Richard Montgomery 50-46 on Jan. 9, extending the Vikings' losing streak to four games.

Each of the losses has come by five points or fewer. Whitman (4-6) will host Montgomery Blair at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

## Churchill Boys' Basketball Snaps Losing Skid

The Churchill boys' basketball team snapped a losing streak with a 74-58 victory over Walter Johnson on Jan. 7. Two days later, the Bulldogs fell to Bethesda-Chevy Chase 58-47.

Churchill will travel to face Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.

## Churchill Girls' Basketball Wins Third Straight

The Churchill girls' basketball team beat Bethesda-Chevy Chase 56-44 on Jan. 9, giving the Bulldogs three consecutive victories.

Churchill heat Seneca Valley on Dec. 29 and Blair on Dec. 22. The Bulldogs will travel to face Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 15.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

**Ellie Kobylski, seen earlier this season, and the Wootton girls' basketball team defeated Clarksburg 65-45 on Jan. 9.**



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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For one box of 54 petite Belgian waffle cookies in three delicious flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate and vanilla; an extravagance to be sure, available during the holidays; this recipient (actually, my wife, Dina, was the recipient) very happy to oblige and indulge. However, as lucky as I was to receive/be offered some of these desserts: \$36 approximately, for 54 average-sized cookies is a bit out of my price range. The problem/complication is, my wife Dina is often a quality-not-quantity type of person, much different than I. And even though her sweet tooth pales in comparison to my sweet teeth, she is now, as a result of this very kind and generous gift, predisposed more than ever to scoff (I'm being polite) at my regular cookie purchases; typically bought by yours truly at the local supermarket and more often than not, involving some kind of Nabisco-brand product. As much as I'd like to think I'm semi open to change, it's the change back from a five-dollar bill with which I'm likely more inclined to consider.

Not that I didn't/don't appreciate the upgrade in my snacking choices, it's more the arithmetic that boggles. For the same \$36 spent on these delightful alternatives, when on sale at \$3 per bag, take 12 bags of Oreo DoubleStuf cookies – each of three sleeves holding 10 cookies – 30 cookies filling each bag. If one multiplies 12 bags times 30 cookies, 360 cookies becomes the total; meaning for the same \$36, I can enjoy 54 cookies, or with my Oreos, I can enjoy 360 cookies (not at one sitting; I'm bad, but not that bad) instead. Not exactly the heels of a dilemma, but neither is it dollars to donuts. And like my mother before me, when the price is upside down on something, as I would characterize this comparison, digesting the more expensive item (cookies in this example) becomes challenging and not nearly as enjoyable as the upgrade might lend itself to be.

To be fair though, as delicious as these cookies were, they are NEVER going to be a regular item in our pantry, nor do I suspect, a regular gift. I mean, who can afford such an expense? And though I certainly enjoyed eating them (especially considering that I didn't pay for them), buying them myself offers much less satisfaction. Dina however, might (might?) think differently. She might (might?) prefer the upgrade. As she has said many times, she doesn't mind less if it is better than more. And on a related subject, a lot of something is just a lot, not necessarily better. She doesn't see the same value in quantity as I do. Speaking to her cookie interest, it might only be 54 cookies whereas mine would be substantially greater. Thus, my being cut off after only 54 cookies, (time frame not specified) would be a significant consideration; for Dina, not so much.

Quality rules her roost. More often than not, quantity rules mine. And though one might consider this difference as substance over style, I characterize it more as fact over fiction. Yes. The cookies were delicious, but money doesn't grow on trees (it's made out of linen, actually); still, I'd rather have a lot of a little than a little of a lot. Sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. With respect to these Christmas cookies, even though their time here was short, their memory will be long. For now, that will have to suffice.

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

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# OPINION

## More Research for Alzheimer's Disease

To the Editor:

I write you today as one of the many thousands of individuals who have lost a family member to Alzheimer's disease, now the 6th leading cause of death in the United States. It's at this time of year that I probably miss my mother the most, as she provided her family a warm and loving refuge to come home to for the holidays for many years before she started showing signs of dementia in her late 50s. Women are at the center of this epidemic: Of the 5 million seniors who are currently living with Alzheimer's, two-thirds of them are women, and women in their 60s are about twice as likely to develop

Alzheimer's disease over the rest of their lives as they are to develop breast cancer.

Despite these statistics, health research funding for Alzheimer's and related dementias is severely underfunded. The Alzheimer's Association is working hard to change that. The organization applauds the many members of congress who have taken steps to support these efforts, in particular U.S. Rep. Chris Van Hollen (D-8).

LETTER

Congressman Van Hollen recently co-sponsored the Health Outcomes, Planning, and Education (HOPE) for Alzheimer's Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, as well as the Alzheimer's

Accountability Act of 2014, which will help ensure funding of the National Alzheimer's Project Act. These bills will go a long way to assist families, both through better diagnoses and care, and increased commitment to research.

Because of the important work of the Alzheimer's Association and vital support of its efforts by public servants like Rep. Van Hollen, I am confident we are on our way to meeting our goal of a world without Alzheimer's. For more information, please visit [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca).

Sue Wronsky  
Potomac



### Holiday Joy

The Cabin John Volunteer Fire Department brought Santa to visit with children at the Greentree Shelter in Bethesda on Dec. 24. The shelter is operated by the National Center for Children and Families.

PHOTOS BY  
DEBORAH STEVENS  
THE ALMANAC



### BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

**Maryland Science Bowl** at Montgomery College

♦ **Sunday/Jan. 18**

**International Cultural Center** - 3-5 p.m.

♦ **Monday/Jan. 19, MLK Day Service Projects & Volunteer Fair.**

1-3:30 p.m. at Bethesda North Marriott Conference Center. **Service Projects.** 10 a.m.-noon at Silver Spring Civic Center. **Service Projects.** 9-11 a.m. at Seneca Creek Community Church, Gaithersburg. Each location will have a variety of activities to participate in such as assembling care packages for foster

children, making bag lunches for shelters, decorating cards for seniors and veterans, packing Snow Day boxes for Meals on Wheels, and more. Each site is collecting nonperishable food for Manna Food Center and sleeping bags and blankets for area shelters. Please bring donations. For more projects visit: [www.montgomeryserves.org/mlk-day-service-2015](http://www.montgomeryserves.org/mlk-day-service-2015) or email [servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:servicedays@montgomerycountymd.gov) or call 240-777-2600.

**MLK Service Events.** Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is joining thousands of

organizations nationwide for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. Volunteer park and stream cleanups and non-native invasive plant removal projects will be taking place throughout the weekend at park sites around the county. The Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service brings out hundreds of thousands of people to volunteer in their communities. Details on dates, times and locations of cleanups, as well as how to sign up are available at [www.MontgomeryParks.org/MLK](http://www.MontgomeryParks.org/MLK).

**MLK Birthday Celebration and Tribute.** 3:30 p.m. at Strathmore

Music Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. The 21st annual birthday celebration and tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., titled, "Honoring the Legacy: Celebrate, Serve, Remember," is a multi-cultural program that engages diverse and talented performers and award honorees who serve their communities unselfishly. People without tickets who want to attend can join a stand-by line the day of the performance, beginning at 2:30 pm. At 3:15 pm, patrons in the stand-by line will be allowed entry, subject to available seating. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org) for more.

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### PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](mailto:@MaryKimm)

### EDITORIAL

PHONE: 703-778-9415

E-MAIL:

[almanac@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:almanac@connectionnewspapers.com)

### EDITOR

Steven Mauren, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

### SPORTS EDITOR

Jon Roetman,  
703-752-4013  
[@jonroetman](mailto:jonroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)

### CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Susan Belford, Carole Dell,  
Cissy Finley Grant, Carole Funger,  
Colleen Healy, Kenny Lourie,  
Ken Moore

### Contributing Photographers

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

### Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager**  
Geovani Flores

### ADVERTISING

For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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### ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Display Advertising:  
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[klourie@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:klourie@connectionnewspapers.com)

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Classified Advertising  
[asmith@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:asmith@connectionnewspapers.com)

### Debbie Funk

National Sales & real Estate  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

### David Griffin

Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

### Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**

[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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