

Potomac ALMANAC

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FEBRUARY 11-17, 2015

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Del. Aruna Miller with her staff: Ginger Macomber, Legacy Leadership intern; Lisa Lee, legislative aide, and Alice Heiserman, administrative assistant. (Not pictured: Afrey Lucas, intern)

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Setting Priorities

BY ARUNA MILLER
STATE DELEGATE (DISTRICT 15)

It's an honor to serve you as your Maryland state delegate, representing District 15. As your representative in the Maryland House of Delegates, I promise to work hard to ensure that your interests are represented in Annapolis. I will continue to focus

COMMENTARY

on those priorities that are most important to you — priorities such as investing in our infrastructure to grow our economy, protecting our environment, educating our children to compete in the global economy, and supporting our working families.

Gov. Larry Hogan became Maryland's 62nd governor and 58 new delegates and 11 new senators became a part of the 188 members of the 2015 Maryland General Assembly. I look forward to working with Governor Hogan and with my colleagues on both sides of the legislative aisle to address our state's challenges and advance our shared priorities.

GOVERNOR HOGAN'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Governor Hogan's budget proposes a number of reductions in essential services to address our State's more than a \$800 million budget shortfall:

- ❖ \$200 million cut to Medicaid funding

- ❖ \$144 million cut to education funding and 50 percent reduction in a geographical formula that provides additional funding for K-12 education to districts where the cost of education is higher causing Montgomery County to lose \$25 million;

- ❖ Cuts to higher education will result in a 20 percent increase in

tuition at the University Maryland for the next four years;

- ❖ 2 percent across-the-board reduction to spending in every state agency including elimination of raises for state employees;

- ❖ Elimination and delay of \$285 million in transportation projects across the state.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I will be looking very closely at these reductions and will work very closely with the Montgomery County Delegation to find ways to restore any budget cuts that will negatively affect our county. The Maryland State Constitution requires the governor submit a balanced budget. The legislature may not add to the budget or move money from one program to another but we may reduce or restrict particular appropriations. You can find out more about the governor's proposed budget by visiting the Department of Budget and Management.

TRANSPORTATION

On Friday, Jan. 30, the Stella Werner Council Office Building was overflowing with members of our community who came to testify and offer their comments on the County Executive's bill MC 24-15 which would create an Independent Transit Authority (ITA) in Montgomery County to be funded by a new transit tax that would not be counted against the charter cap limiting the amount of revenue the county can collect. As a result of the testimony heard at this hearing, the county executive withdrew this bill for further consideration. This is how our democracy works for its citizens and how citizens shape our policies.

I strongly believe that transportation improvements must include all modes of travel including highways, transit, sidewalks, and bi

SEE FOCUSING, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Caring for the Potomac

Read the Report

The full Potomac Conservancy report on the health of the Potomac River is available at www.potomac.org.

Developers have a role in maintaining and improving river's health.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE ALMANAC

It might sound counterintuitive, but the health of the Potomac River might be improving thanks to large-scale development in places like Tysons Corner and Rockville.

In its recent report, the Potomac Conservancy shows that there's still much work to be done to safeguard the Potomac River from pollution and urban sprawl, but there are areas of encouragement.

"We're trying to sound the alarm" before things get irreversibly damaged, said Hedrick Belin, the group's president.

Development of rural areas potentially can wreak havoc on watersheds and rivers because grassy land helps to absorb and slow the rate of storm water rushing into a river and helps keep soil intact, and paving over pervious surfaces leads to soil erosion, silt-clogged rivers and depleted oxygen levels which can kill ecosystems.

Building Metro through Tysons could have been a disaster, but the developers worked with the community to take ecological matters into consideration, said Stewart Schwartz, executive director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth.

"The Potomac is a treasure for our region," Schwartz said. "It's an amazing natu-



The Potomac River at Great Falls.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER JAMES

ral asset to this region that helps attract people to live and work here."

It's also the drinking water supply for most of the region, said Stella Koch, the Virginia conservation associate with the Audubon Naturalist Society. Fairfax Water, the Washington Aqueduct and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission all draw from the river in part or in full, in addition to portions of Loudoun and Prince William counties. That's an estimated five million people, she said.

There was great potential for problems

with all the construction in Tysons, Koch and Schwartz note.

"Tysons had 75 percent impervious surface, and 70 percent of Tysons had no stormwater collection facilities," Koch said.

The damage done is noticeable, she said. Generations ago, the river was so clear boaters could look down and see grasses growing in healthy soil under the water, but now some spots are dangerously high in nitrogen and phosphates from fertilizers.

But progress is being made, and just as it took years for pollution to occur, it will take years to correct, she said.

The Potomac Conservancy's report does warn that there's the potential for loss of healthy forests in the areas surrounding the river, and aging sewer infrastructure could create perilous situations if not addressed quickly.

"Aging sewer and water infrastructure is a major source of pollution for today's urban waterways," the report states. "In an average year, leaks from burst pipes and combined sewer overflows dump 600 million gallons of diluted raw sewage into the Potomac river and 1.5 billion gallons into the Anacostia. This perennial problem exposes the river — and anyone who comes into contact with it — to dangerous patho-

gens and bacteria."

The report also says that current population growth models predict the heavily populated areas along the Potomac, including Washington, Fairfax, Arlington and Montgomery counties and the cities of Alexandria and Rockville, expanding by 2.3 million by 2040, the equivalent of Houston, Texas.

To help support the health of the river, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority and the EPA have partnered in the Clean Rivers Project to reduce sewer overflow, a \$2.6 billion effort, according to the report. The development in Tysons Corner is praised for a "detailed, city-wide smart planning project" that will "help reduce polluted urban runoff by in-

creasing the use of permeable pavement and rain gardens." Still, residents need to do their part to help protect the river, Belin said. If possible, homeowners should consider putting rain barrels under the downspouts of their gutter systems in addition to taking care to clean up oil, gasoline or other chemical spills on impervious surfaces like paved driveways. He also recommended going easy on lawn fertilizers and other treatments, as those also can choke the oxygen out of the river and, eventually, the Chesapeake Bay, resulting in dead zones devoid of plant and animal life.

Governments in Fairfax and Montgomery counties are investing heavily in new infrastructure to help mitigate storms rushing over impervious surface, and their dedication should be applauded, Schwartz said. Montgomery County has taken steps to protect 10 Mile Creek and promote urban tree canopy, for example.

And for those who ask why the Potomac is worth protecting and keeping healthy?

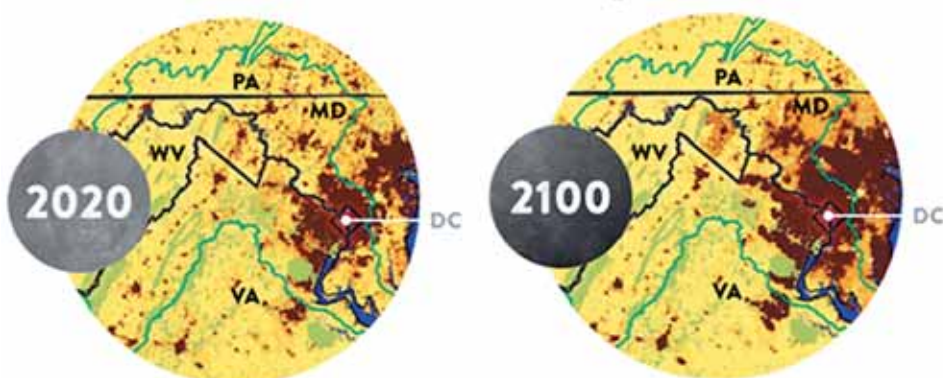
"We all want to drink clean water, for ourselves and for our children," Schwartz said. "We also like to have healthy streams to kayak or play around in. We can't have that if you're polluting the river."

"We all want to drink clean water, for ourselves and for our children," Schwartz said. "We also like to have healthy streams to kayak or play around in. We can't have that if you're polluting the river."

— Stewart Schwartz,
executive director,
Coalition for Smarter Growth

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2/4/2015 Wellbeing – National
Children's Dental Health Month

2/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle

2/11/2015 Valentine's Dining & Gifts II
Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16

2/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools

2/25/2015 Pet Connection Pullout

MARCH

3/4/2015 Wellbeing

3/11/2015 HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/18/2015 A+ Camps & Schools

3/25/2015 Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

APRIL

4/1/2015 Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout

Easter Sunday is April 5

4/8/2015 HomeLifeStyle

4/15/2015 A+ Camps & Schools

4/22/2015 Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

4/29/2015 A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

4/29/2015 ...Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

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- Springfield Connection
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PEOPLE



Potomac
artist Na'ama
Lewin in the
Photoworks
gallery in
Glen Echo
Park.

PHOTO BY
ALYZA LEWIN

More Than an Image

Local artist conveys
emotional perspective
in her photography.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE ALMANAC

Most every mother can relate to the constant, plaguing worry that Potomac artist Na'ama Lewin expresses in her latest photo exhibit, "A Day at the Pool." The 18-image exhibition is currently on display at Photoworks, one of the art studios in Glen Echo Park that boasts of a gallery, classes and other programming for local artists.

Lewin said this project is special to her, not only because Photoworks is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, but also because of the subject of the photos is near and dear to her heart – her children. The exhibit opened on Jan. 9 and will showcase through Friday, Feb. 20.

It started when Lewin was sitting poolside, watching her young son and daughter splashing happily in the water. She noted to herself that although she loved watching her children play happily, every time they dipped their heads underwater, she breathed a sigh of relief as soon as their faces broke through the water's surface.

"I find that I come up with ideas as I go through living life and experiencing different things," Lewin said. "There are always different things I want to address or talk about. With this, I was just there with my kids and I realized I wanted to capture my concerns and feelings, so I started trying to figure out how to do that. I wanted to show this mix of beauty, love and fear."

She said the 18 black-and-white, toned images that make up "A Day at the Pool" came from a collection of photos she took with a digital infrared camera between April and August of 2012.

"Each of the images came from a regular day with the kids at the pool even though it doesn't look like it," Lewin said.

Gayle Rothschild, director and Curator of Exhibitions at Photoworks, said Lewin was selected out of 12 photographers. She echoed Lewin's sentiments about her own work, saying that it was a simple image that successfully reflected the fear of a mother.

"Every year, people can submit portfolios," Rothschild said. "Sometimes, the exhibits feature two

artists, but Na'ama's work was strong enough that we gave her a solo show. The senior photography editor of the Smithsonian magazine, Molly Roberts, was one of the judges and she said what made Na'ama's work interesting was that it was so poetic. It was a haunting body of work that she shot in infrared film. The hands, feet and skin look very white as opposed to the water that looks very black and scary."

Lewin, who was born and raised in Maryland, grew up around photography and has always used the arts to express herself. Her mother was a photographer and built a darkroom in her childhood home, and she followed in those footsteps as the photo editor of the Holton-Arms School newspaper in Bethesda.

She studied art and English at Barnard College in New York City before returning to the D.C.-area as a reporter and photographer for the weekly newspaper Washington Jewish Week. A few years later, in the mid-1990s, she returned to New York and played the role of politician's wife while her husband served in the New York State Assembly. All the while, she earned her MFA in photography and related media from the School of Visual Arts.

She ultimately gravitated toward photography and video work because the images she could produce did a better job showing the dimensions of her thoughts and feelings than writing did.

"Certain feelings and fears I had, I couldn't verbalize or write in words," Lewin said. "Photography is more open ended than words sometimes are."

She explained that most of her work is inspired by defining experiences she has had as a woman, including as a politician's wife.

"My work ends up being a lot about my own experiences, and about women and the positions they find themselves in," Lewin said. "It's about being a wife, daughter and mother."

She said "A Day at the Pool" exemplifies these themes that often permeate her work.

"There are so many opinions and articles now about what is good parenting and what isn't," she said. "There is always that question of how much freedom you should let your kids have. These photos show that there is always this fear when you are a mother."

Lewin said her children are often the subject of her photographs, and she is constantly playing with different cameras, and tinkering with different lighting and other effects. This is how "A Day at the Pool" came to be.

SEE LEWIN'S ART, PAGE 5

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PEOPLE

Lewin's Art on Exhibit at Photoworks

FROM PAGE 4

"I am always experimenting with different cameras," Lewin said. "I was able to contrast the skin and water, expressing the fear I had when I was with the kids."

This exhibit is Lewin's first venture with Photoworks, though she said she hopes to continue her involvement. She has always wanted to get involved with the various programs that Photoworks offers for local artists, and hopes to in the future when she isn't as consumed with motherhood and her role as instructor at the Corcoran College of Art and Design in

Washington D.C.

She said this project is special to her, and different from many other projects she has had on display.

"This is all still photography, a sequence of images," Lewin said. "Usually, I work with a lot of media and do a lot of video work. And it's a project about my kids, which makes it personal."

Lewin said Rothschild and the rest of the Photoworks staff was great in making "A Day at the Pool" the best exhibit it could possibly be. Rothschild, she added, was crucial helping

select some of the images that are now a part of the exhibit. She is looking forward to future involvement with such a crucial resource to local artists.

"I was very extremely flattered and excited when I was selected," Lewin said. "When I was showing the work, I didn't expect it to be a solo exhibit. I was very honored. It's been a great experience."

For more information about Photoworks, visit glenechophotoworks.org. The organization will be having a number of events this year to celebrate its 40th anniversary.

Focusing on Residents' Priorities

FROM PAGE 2

cycle facilities. As vice-chair of the Transportation and Environment Subcommittee, I will be looking closely at all bills that affect transportation in our county. In District 15, this means congestion relief for Clarksburg and Germantown residents with improvements to I-270, local highway projects, and construction of the Corridor Cities Transitway which will bring knowledge based jobs to the Life Science City.

WORKING FAMILIES

Working families are the backbone of our county. As a working parent I know how important family friendly policies are to the continued economic growth of Maryland. I will

work hard to ensure our labor policies are modernized to reflect the 21st century economy, where employees must balance work and family. This session several important bills will be introduced that support working families, like SB 40- Labor and Employment -Maryland Healthy Working Families Act. I believe common-sense paid sick days policy benefits employers, employees and customers.

SAVE MONEY, SAVE ENERGY

This is a reminder to take advantage of Maryland's tax free weekend for Energy Star products beginning Saturday, Feb. 14, and ending Monday, Feb. 16. I am proud to announce because of the passage of a bill I sponsored in the 2014 Session (HB768), this year

LED lights will be added to the list of tax exempt product.

LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

I encourage you to contact me and let me know about the issues that are facing your community, so that I can be your voice in Annapolis. From time to time I will be sending you updates on important issues that are being considered during this legislative session which ends April 13, 2015. You can find out more about the legislation that I am sponsoring by visiting my Maryland General Assembly web page. I welcome your feedback.

My door is always open and my wonderful staff are also available to assist you.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to 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.

FUNDRAISER

"Spay It Forward." Donate to support MCPAW efforts to reduce pet overpopulation and shelter intakes of stray and feral animals. In addition to the spay/neuter and microchipping program, MCPAW is organizing a Pet Food Pantry to assist pet owners who need help with dog or cat food and to help managers feed feral cats. MCPAW is implementing a unique fundraising formula for Spay It

Forward called Easy Fund 1, 2, 3. MCPAW is asking each resident of Montgomery County to donate \$1, each organization to donate \$2 for each of their members and each business to donate \$3 for each employee. To donate, visit www.crowdrise.com/mcpaw, www.MCPAW.org or checks can be mailed to MCPAW/SIF, 7315 Muncaster Mill Road, Derwood, MD 20855. Write SIF on check. MCPAW is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization and donations are tax deductible as allowable by law. For more on Spay It Forward or MCPAW, visit www.MCPAW.org/SpayItForward.

WEDNESDAYS/FEB. 4-MARCH 25
Deaf Adults Relationship Therapy Group. 5 p.m. at JSSA, 200 Wood

Hill Road, Rockville. This eight session group is for adults 25 and older to share joys and sorrows, hopes and fears, coping mechanisms, and strategies for improving relationships. \$75 per session. (May be insurance reimbursable) The group meets from February 4 – March 25 at 5:00 pm. Pre-registration is required to attend. Email lkatz@jssa.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 11

Volunteer Training Session. 10 a.m.-noon at the Jewish Council on the Aging, 12320 Parklawn Drive, Rockville. Training sessions for volunteer drivers and grocery shoppers. For more information and to apply, contact Mary Murphy at mary.murphy@seniorconnectionmc.org

or 301-942-1049.
Winter Speaker Series. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Planning Department headquarters, 8787 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. The Montgomery County Planning Department is hosting the fourth session in its Winter Speakers Series. The Feb. 11 session, "Creating and Sustaining the County's Agricultural Reserve," traces the 35-year effort to protect the rural area and the working farms of upper Montgomery County. Visit www.montgomeryplanning.org/departments/onceandfuture for more.

How to De-Stress Your Family Workshop. 7:15-8:30 p.m. Har Shalom ECEC, 115 Falls Road, Potomac. Join as Elizabeth DuPont Spencer, LCSW-C, co-author of the

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

The Right Questions to Ask A Realtor®

You're ready to market your house, or you're ready to buy one—congratulations on this new exciting step in your life! Now, the question is, How do you do it? The first thing to keep in mind is: Don't go it alone! The modern real estate market is tricky, and full of industry language that can often leave the layman scratching their head. In the wake of recent industry turmoil, lenders and banks have tightened up restrictions of loan qualification—whether buying or selling, the best path to success is with a certified, professional Realtor® at your side to guide you through the process and advocate for your needs in real estate. Now that you've made the wise choice to engage the services of a professional Realtor®, how do you go about finding the one that's right for you? What guidelines are you going to use to choose a Realtor®, one you can relate to and who can do the best job for you? Start with these questions:

• **How long have you been in the business?**
Experience is key when hiring a Realtor®, especially in a highly specialized market. Contacts made through the years are invaluable and can cut time on the market. Is the Realtor® you want experienced enough?

• **What's your best marketing plan for my needs?**
In other words, How will you sell my home? What tools will you use to approach the sale of my home? Will you focus on one form or marketing, or is your approach to marketing multifaceted?

• **Do you have references, and would you be willing to let me contact your former clients?**
Ask former clients/customers what their experience with the Realtor® was like, how they handled details and how their team worked together. Nothing will sell a house faster than a coordinated effort by a team.

• **What haven't I asked you that I need to know?**
There will always be questions. How your future Realtor® answers them can tell you a lot about their knowledge and how you will interact together as a team. You always want a Realtor® who hears you, addresses your concerns and deals head-on with any questions you may have.

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VALENTINE'S DAY

What To Do To Celebrate Valentine's Day

Some suggestions for a one-of-a-kind day.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Valentine's Day is this Saturday. If you haven't planned a special day for your loved one, you still have time to come up with something that's both fun and special — and look as if you've been thinking about making plans for months. Here are a few suggestions to add a bit of romance and frivolity to your Valentine's Day, a day that can be cold and snowy — or warm and fuzzy because you made it the best one you ever had.

❖ Surprise her or him with a romantic night in a B&B or historic inn. This could be the start of a once-a-year tradition. Make a reservation to stay at the 1897 Inn at Buckeystown or the Antietam Guest House, an 1856 log and stone home. You might book a room in St. Michaels at the Inn at Perry Cabin or in nearby Columbia at The Columbia Inn at Peralynna Manor. Check out www.bedandbreakfast.com for ideas and reservations.

❖ Treat your loved one to "50 Shades of Grey" (opening at the ArcLight in Montgomery Mall this weekend). After the show, make a reservation at a romantic local restaurant such as the Old Angler's Inn which features two- and three-course Valentine's Day luncheon and dinner, Normandy Farm Restaurant where you can dine either in the main restaurant or dance and dine in romantic Margery's Lounge, or drive out to

the Comus Inn for its special three-course Valentine's Dinner served from 5-8 p.m. Several Valentine's drinks offered are "Crazy in Love" Margarita, a "Lovers Mojito" and a "Dozen Roses."

❖ Spend your Valentine's Day exploring Yoga and Thai massage. Treat that special someone at Lil Omm Yoga, 4708 Wisconsin Ave NW, Tenleytown. This session will be held on Saturday, Feb. 14 at 2:30 p.m. and costs \$40 a couple. For more information, go to www.lilomm.com.

❖ Take a walking chocolate tour in Georgetown. This two-hour interactive walking tour features the history of the neighborhood while indulging in fine local chocolates. Highlights of the tour include chocolate-dipped bacon lollipops, chocolate tea, chocolate sugar, chocolate salt, chocolate crepes, chocolate skincare products and more. Advance tickets are required. Tickets: dcmetrochocolatetours.com.

❖ Attend a Valentine's Day Cooking Class at Dawson's Market in Rockville. On Feb. 14 at 1 p.m., join blogger Amanda Nicole Smith as she teaches how to make RAW Vegan chocolate treats. The class is hands on; participants get to make five types of chocolate treats to eat or

take home. The class is \$6 per person or \$10 for two people. Space is limited; sign up in advance at 240-428-1386. Dawson's is at 225 N. Washington Street in Rockville. Or, looking to do something different for Valentine's Day this year? Come to Dawson's in Rockville for

Champagne and Chocolate Happy Hour on Friday, Febr. 13 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. A tasting ticket is only \$5 per person for three tastings. At each station, enjoy a paired tasting of a chocolate-inspired dish and champagne. For more information and to register, call 240-428-1386.

❖ Tour the Crime Museum for the Crimes of Passion: "Til Death Do Us Part." This tour takes place after hours on Valentine's Day. The self-guided tour includes a rose, a take-home pair of furry handcuffs, hands-on forensic demonstrations, and lessons on "crimes of passion" such as the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. 6 p.m.-12 a.m., 575 7th St NW. Tickets \$80-\$150 crimemuseum.org/valentinesday.

❖ Learn the secrets of animal and human wooing at "Woo at the Zoo." This year's adults-only event emphasizes the mating habits of giant pandas and how science stepped in to help create the zoo's newest baby panda, Bao Bao. Enjoy one complimentary drink and light snacks, visit a Valentine fortuneteller, decorate a sweet, and watch an animal demonstration. A cash bar with specialty drinks will also be available. All festivities take place in the Zoo's Visitor Center starting at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 14, 3001 Connecticut Ave NW.



Tickets and info: www.nationalzoosociety.org/activitiesandevents/celebration/woo.

❖ Celebrate Valentine's Day in the USA with a tribute to Bruce Springsteen. Hurry over to Annapolis to hear the music of Bruce Springsteen. The Rams Head will

feature live music and entertainment throughout the evening. Admission fee includes appetizers, a gourmet buffet dinner, dessert and a champagne toast. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-268-4545.

❖ Enjoy a special Valentine's tea at the Mansion at Strathmore. This luxurious setting features live music and delectable treats. For pre-paid, non-refundable reservations, call 301-581-5108.

❖ Here's a different Valentine's Day weekend for

lovers: Choose a San Cameron Waterside Travel Registry Guest Cottage for an unforgettable Valentine's Day weekend. Guests will discover the joys of complete seclusion and romance for two in a private nautical setting on serene North Point, just 30 minutes southeast of Baltimore. Package includes: romantic arrival fruits and chocolates tray, special boxed pair of champagne flutes with bottle of sparkling juice or non-alcoholic champagne, bouquet of flowers to say "I love you", and personalized "Sweetheart Cake" for two. Visit www.sancamregistry.com or call Dot Colvin at 443-717-3186.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Email community entertainment events to 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. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org.

“About 286,000,000 Results.” Through Feb. 22 at VisArts, Common Ground Gallery, 2nd Floor, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Nancy Daly’s current body of work examines how the development of the online social world is affecting identity and social behavior. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

East of Sheridan. Through March 1 at VisArts, Gibbs Street Gallery, 1st Floor, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Laini Nemett’s recent paintings and constructions piece together fragments of place to investigate ways of both conceiving and experiencing “home.” Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

“Suspension.” Through March 1 at VisArts, Kaplan Gallery, 2nd Floor, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Experimental/film artists selected three artists to present their work in a series of one-person exhibitions. Visit www.visartscenter.org or call 301-315-8200.

“Jewels” by Wayson Jones. Through March 1, Saturdays and Sundays, noon-6 p.m. at the Stone

Tower Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo Park Partnership presents “Jewels” by Wayson Jones. The exhibition showcases original paintings and collages. The work includes abstract, minimal landscapes that can be viewed from a dual perspective: the horizon line seen from a normal view shifts to become a shoreline or border as seen from the air. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

The Silk Work of Diane Tuckman. Through March 1, Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Park View Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo Park Partnership presents a solo exhibition featuring the work of silk painter Diane Tuckman. Her pieces are full of color and can be displayed or worn. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

“Petite Rouge, A Cajun Red Riding Hood.” Through Sunday, March 8 at Adventure Theatre MTC, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Take a toe-tapping trip to the bayou in this family-friendly, Zydeco-driven musical soaked in N’awlins hot sauce. Based on the classic fairy tale and adapted from the book by Mike Artell and Jim Harris, a red-hooded duckling named Petite Rouge and her sidekick cat lead the Big Bad Gator on a wild “duck” chase through New Orleans and Mardi Gras. Will they make it to Grandmere’s house with a basket full of Cajun goodies? Visit www.adventuretheatre-mtc.org to learn more.

“Aladdin.” Feb. 19 through March 16 at The Puppet Co., Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. From ancient Persia comes this tale, true to the original “One Thousand and One Arabian Nights,” full of genies, wizards, magic caves, exotic princesses, and an elephant. Half life-

size rod puppets and special effects make this production exciting and exotic theater. Recommended for kindergarten-grade 6. 50 Minutes. Visit www.thepuppetco.org.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Montgomery Parks, part of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission will celebrate Black History Month with a series of free public events at Josiah Henson Park each Saturday in February. Josiah Henson Park is a historic resource of international significance because of its association with Reverend Henson, whose 1849 autobiography, “The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave,” inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe’s landmark novel “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.” Visit www.montgomeryparks.org.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

KID Museum at Davis Library. 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda, has three five-week after-school programs Feb. 25-March 25. Call 301-897-5437 or visit www.kid-museum.org for more.

Registration Open. The spring issue of the Montgomery County Guide for Recreation and Parks Programs features a variety of classes and programs. Call 240-777-6840 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Comedy Fundraiser. 7:30 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. For adults 21 and older and includes a bar reception at 6 p.m. (ID required). Comedians will take the stage at 7:30. Dietary laws will be observed. Ticket prices start at \$36 per person with special discounted rates for groups of 4 or

more. \$40 at the door. Visit <http://mclivecomedy.blogspot.com>.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Cupids & Cupcakes. Noon-1:30 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd. Potomac. The Potomac Community Center presents “Cupids & Cupcakes,” a senior Valentine luncheon for active adults 55 and older. Includes lunch and musical presentation by Andrea & Chip. Spaces are limited. Pre-registration required, \$10. Call 240-777-6960.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Food & Wine Tasting. noon-5 p.m. at 10323 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Balducci’s introduces shoppers to their own wines — Sauvignon Blanc from the Curico Valley in Chile; Chardonnay from California; and a reserve bottling of Cabernet Sauvignon, Napa Valley. Food tastings begin at noon; wine tastings begin at 1 p.m. Call 301-564-3100 or visit www.balduccis.com for more.

“Love in the Safavid Period.” 2-6:30 p.m. at Exhibit9 Gallery, 10116 Lloyd Road, Potomac. Exhibit9 Gallery presents an art exhibition in conjunction with a gallery talk by Rudi Mathee. Artwork by Nasser Ovissi, Fariba Amini and more, as well as a collection of jewelry and apparel by Metropolitan Museum of Art. \$15. Space is limited, reservation required by Feb. 12. Call 202-276-9419.

Valentine’s Day Red Dress Ball. 8 p.m.-midnight, in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Celebrate Valentine’s Day at Flying Feet’s Red Dress Ball featuring the Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra. The night begins with

a Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. with Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle, followed by dancing to Eric Felten from 9 p.m.-midnight. \$18. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

Waltz Dance. 2:45 p.m. at the Spanish Ballroom, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Introductory Waltz Workshop, 2:45-3:30 p.m.; dance with music by Audacious, 3:30-6 p.m. The band will offer a mix of folk waltzes and other couple dances, including Hambo, Schottische, Swing, Tango, and Polka. \$10. No partner required. Call 202-238-0230 or Glen Echo Park at 301-634-2222.

MONDAY/FEB. 16

RPR in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Saint Mark Presbyterian Church, 10701 Old Georgetown Road, Rockville. Steve Ritchie, Al Parrish and Rob Ritchie have reconnected and with the addition of percussionist Beaker Granger, RPR picks up where Tanglefoot left off with explorations of new themes and directions while honoring their musical roots. \$12-\$20 advance, \$20 door. Call 301-960-3655 or visit www.imtfolk.org.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Snapshot Day. Montgomery County Public Libraries will help celebrate February as Library Lovers Month by participating in the fifth annual Library Snapshot Day. On Snapshot Day, MCPL will compile statistics, customer comments, photographs and other data chronicling a typical library day. Special activities will include VIP Read activities at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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Top Sales in December, 2014

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

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2 8513 RAPLEY PRESERVE CIR ..	5	..	5	.	3	POTOMAC ...	\$2,050,000	Detached	0.38	20854	AVENEL	12/03/14
3 9020 BRONSON DR	5	..	5	.	1	POTOMAC ...	\$2,000,000	Detached	2.58	20854	BRADLEY FARMS	12/02/14
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5 35 PINEY MEETINGHOUSE CT 6	..	5	.	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,800,000	Detached	2.08	20854	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS	12/11/14	
6 11307 S GLEN RD	4	..	4	.	2	POTOMAC ...	\$1,750,000	Detached	0.94	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	12/12/14
7 11017 RIVERWOOD DR	6	..	6	.	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,700,000	Detached	3.16	20854	POTOMAC VIEW ESTS	12/08/14
8 11351 PALATINE DR	5	..	6	.	0	ROCKVILLE ...	\$1,700,000	Detached	2.00	20854	PALATINE SUB	12/16/14
9 9812 AVENEL FARM DR	5	..	5	.	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,680,000	Detached	0.51	20854	AVENEL	12/08/14
10 11528 LAKE POTOMAC DR	6	..	5	.	1	POTOMAC ...	\$1,600,000	Detached	2.35	20854	LAKE POTOMAC	12/11/14

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Remodeling Expands Amount of Useful Space

Trend emphasizes open designs.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Open, airy and clean — that's the look that a Potomac family wanted when they decided to remodel their dark and dingy, 1970s era kitchen.

"They asked for an upgraded look," said project coordinator Kelly Thurman of Hopkins and Porter Construction, Inc., in Potomac. "They felt like the layout made space too tight for working."

The design team made subtle changes, which had a big impact on the way the kitchen could be used. "We created a larger window and got rid of a closet, making them cabinets," said Guy Hopkins Semmes, the firm's founder and president. "There used to be an eight-foot closet with a bifold door. It was a big cluttered mess. Now the preparation area is accessible to the breakfast room and living room and dining room."

Among the construction challenges that arose, Hopkins and Porter worked to preserve the kitchen's pegged oak flooring — which they had installed only a few years earlier. "We wanted to stick to the footprint



PHOTO BY PAIRED IMAGES PHOTOGRAPHY

Designers at Hopkins and Porter Construction, Inc., created a clean aesthetic for this Potomac kitchen by combining white cabinetry with stainless steel appliances.

so we wouldn't have to replace the flooring," said Thurman. "In the end, there were only a few places that needed to be refinished."

White wood cabinets by New River Cabinetry, combined with granite countertops, a backsplash with hues of blue,

gray and white, and sleek stainless steel appliances created the casual, but spacious look the owners desired.

"Stainless steel and white were important to them," said Semmes. "They wanted something very clean and open. I think we achieved that." In fact, clean and open looks

are part of a trend, said Semmes.

"People are forgoing formality and opening up their homes," he said. "They want everything open, accessible and functional. They don't want a visual and structural separation, especially in smaller homes."

"Now, adjacent rooms are being incorporated to create a much larger space for entertaining," said Susan Swartz of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. "People are getting rid of dining rooms and breakfast rooms and are borrowing space from lesser-used areas to create a larger space where everyone can do what they want in the same place."

"People are forgoing formality and opening up their homes. They want everything open, accessible and functional."

— Guy Hopkins Semmes, Hopkins and Porter Construction, Inc.

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THE CONNECTION
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"Scantsy"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's becoming increasingly difficult to
characterize the feelings I regularly
experience during the final few weeks
leading up to my every-three-month CT
Scan, and even more so the feelings I
experience waiting the following week or
so to see my oncologist to discuss the
results. "Scanxiety," "scanxious,"
"ascance," "scanticipation," "scancer,"
"scantastic," "scanning the horizon," are
all descriptions I've made up to try and
"humorize" an incredibly difficult set of
circumstances. How else should I react to
news on which my life depends? If the
scan shows growth and/or movement –
which it hasn't for 18 months or so – it
will be, as they say in Boston, "Katie bar
the door," which means: look out, trouble
ahead. However, if my luck continues
and the scan shows "stable" (a new
favorite word), or even better,
"shrinkage," then I can semi-relax for the
next three months until we scan again.

This is the cyclical axis on which my
life churns. And though I've become
accustomed to this life cycle, to say it has
become easier as well is a bit of an over-
simplification. Familiar? Certainly.
Regularly scheduled? Of course.
Expected? Naturally. Used to? Sort of.
Stressful? Need I say? Just because I know
the drill doesn't mean I don't fear the bit.
Some things are out of one's control.
Cancer might be at the top of that list.
After all, I was originally given a "term-
inal" diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell
lung cancer, with a rather discouraging
"13-month to two-year" prognosis to
boot. And though I've survived nearly six
years from that fateful day when Team
Lourie first met with my oncologist, I
don't feel particularly confident about my
future. I know where I've been; still, I
don't know where I'm going (figuratively
speaking; if only there were a GPS for
such problems). At this point, I'm glad to
be going anywhere, figuratively or literally.
The guarantees have long since left the
building.

Wednesday, I'll be driving to Gaithers-
burg, Maryland for my next CT Scan. And
given the excellent results I've been
amazingly fortunate to receive these last
few years, I am happy return to this same
location and hopefully be tended to by
the same technicians. They're my good
luck charms, and every appointment/
scan, I tell them so, and thank them for
my above-average results and encourage
them as well to keep up the good work.

At the end of the day; heck, at the
beginning of the day too, who knows
what matters in this fight against cancer?
And though I'm sure I've left a few stones
unturned, I have turned over a few rocks.
I've made some changes, as you regular
readers know, and I suppose I'm living
proof that all is not as lost as sometimes it
might initially appear to be. My life has
gone on much longer than I was led to
believe, and a great deal more favorably
than I had a right to expect.

Every scan reminds me of who I am,
what I have and the statistical anomaly
which I have become. As much as I'd like
to minimize the significance of this quar-
terly CT Scan, I can't. When one's life
might be hanging in the balance, it's diffi-
cult to maintain your equilibrium.

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

SPORTS

Whitman Girls' Basketball Nearing Undefeated Regular Season

The Whitman girls' basketball team improved to 15-0 with a 51-28 win over Walter Johnson on Feb. 6.

In 13 games against public school opponents, the Vikings had yet to win by fewer than 10 points.

Through 15 games, Whitman outscored its opponents by an average of 57-34.

Whitman faced Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. If the Vikings survived, they would need just four more wins to complete an undefeated regular season.

Whitman closes the season with home games against Richard Montgomery (Feb. 13) and Northwood (Feb. 24), and road games against Blair (Feb. 17) and Kennedy (Feb. 20).

Whitman has been one of the county's top teams in recent years. In 2010, the Vikings reached the region final, falling short against eventual state runner-up Gaithersburg. In 2013, Whitman won the 4A West region title before falling to Baltimore Polytechnic in the state semifinals, 33-32. Last season, the Vikings experienced a 20-game win streak before losing in the sectional final.

Whitman's record the last three seasons is 57-8.

Whitman Boys Extend Win Streak to Four

The Whitman boys' basketball team defeated Walter Johnson 56-47 on Feb. 6, improving its record to 10-7.

The victory was the Vikings' fourth in a row and sixth in seven games.

Whitman faced B-CC on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Vikings will host Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13.

Churchill Girls Continue Strong Play in 2015

The Churchill girls' basketball team defeated Blair 55-37 on Feb. 6, improving its record to 8-1 during the 2015 portion of its schedule.

The Bulldogs' only defeat of the new year was a 49-26 loss to undefeated Whitman on Feb. 3. Churchill faced Walter Johnson on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs will travel to face B-CC at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13.

Wootton Girls Win 4A West Division

The Wootton girls' basketball team has wrapped up the 4A West divi-



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Hannah Niles, seen earlier this season, and the Whitman girls' basketball team remained undefeated with a 51-28 win over Walter Johnson on Feb. 6.

sion championship, posting a 10-0 record against division foes.

The Patriots' latest division win was a 64-56 win over Gaithersburg on Feb. 6, improving their record to 15-3 and extending their win streak to 10. Cece Kobylski led Wootton with 23 points. Sheri Addison finished with 17 points and Kaitlin Klausung added 12.

Wootton faced Blake on Tuesday, after The Almanac's deadline. The Patriots will travel to face Springbrook at 5:15 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 13.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

"Anxiety Cure for Kids - A Guide For Parents," therapist and presenter provides insight about stress and teaches how to make simple changes in thinking and life. Visit www.ccl-md.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Bereavement Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Forever Yours, a special workshop for widows, widowers and life partners who want to honor and remember their loved ones on Valentine's Day. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Registration required, call 301-921-4400.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

Bereavement Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Montgomery Hospice, 1355 Piccard Drive, Rockville. Forever Yours, a special workshop for widows, widowers and life partners who want to honor and remember their loved ones on Valentine's Day. Free and open to any Montgomery County resident. Registration

required, call 301-921-4400.

Nomination Deadline. 5 p.m. The Montgomery County Board of Education is seeking nominations for its 18th Annual Awards for Distinguished Service to Public Education. The awards are sponsored by the Board to recognize and show appreciation to individuals (including students), groups and organizations that have made exemplary contributions to public education in Montgomery County. Visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or call 301-279-3617 for more.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/FEB. 14-16

Buy Energy Star Products Tax-Free. During Shop Maryland Energy's tax-free weekend, Marylanders can buy selected Energy Star products without paying the state's 6 percent sales tax. Products eligible for the tax break include air conditioners, washers and dryers, furnaces, heat pumps, standard-sized refrigerators, compact fluorescent light bulbs, light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs, dehumidifiers and programmable thermostats. Visit comptroller.marylandtaxes.com for more.

ENTERTAINMENT

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selected libraries. Visit the Library Lovers Month graphic on the scroll at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library.

FEB. 21-MARCH 15

"Out of Nothing." Through March 15, Saturdays and Sundays, noon-6 p.m. at the Popcorn Gallery, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Glen Echo Park Partnership presents "Out of Nothing," curated by Blair Anderson, director of resident artist studio SilverWorks, and Michael Edwards, curator with The National Art Gallery of the Bahamas. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/FEB. 21

Play in a Day. 8 p.m. at Imagination Stage's Lerner Theater, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. Six professional Washington, D.C. area theatre companies will write, direct,

rehearse and perform original plays based on similar themes in only 24 hours. The plays will be presented at the 11th annual Play In A Day, at Imagination Stage's Lerner Theater. \$15 online or at the door, beginning at 7 p.m. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more.

TUESDAY/FEB. 24

Skate Champion Send-off. 7 p.m. at Wheaton Ice Arena, 11717 Orebaugh Ave., Wheaton. Montgomery Parks is celebrating local ice skating champions who grew up training at Wheaton and Cabin John ice arenas. The skaters will be performing in various competitions in the U.S. and abroad, representing a number of categories, including speed skating, ice dance and figure skating and synchronized skating. Skaters will perform and be available for autographs and photographs. The free event is open to the public. Visit www.WheatonIceArena.com and www.CabinJohnIce.com or call 301-905-3000 for more.

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