

Potomac ALMANAC

HomeLifeStyle

PAGES 11-13

Janet Constable Preston (Claire) and Lou Pangaro (Tobias) in
the Peace Mountain Theatre Company's production of
"A Delicate Balance."

Living a Life in 'A Delicate Balance'

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'Art For the Sky'

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NOVEMBER 9-15, 2016

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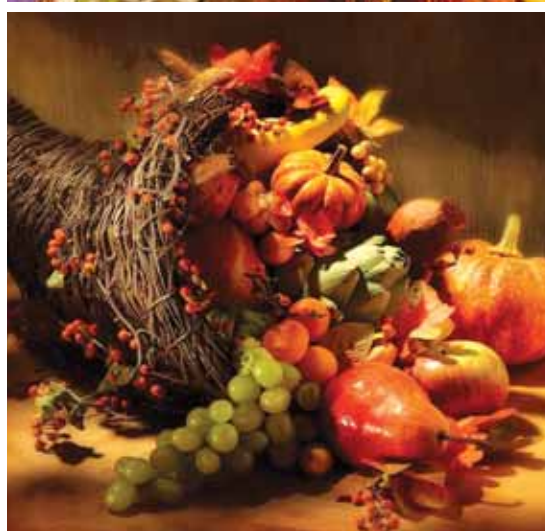
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‘Dolphin Daydream’

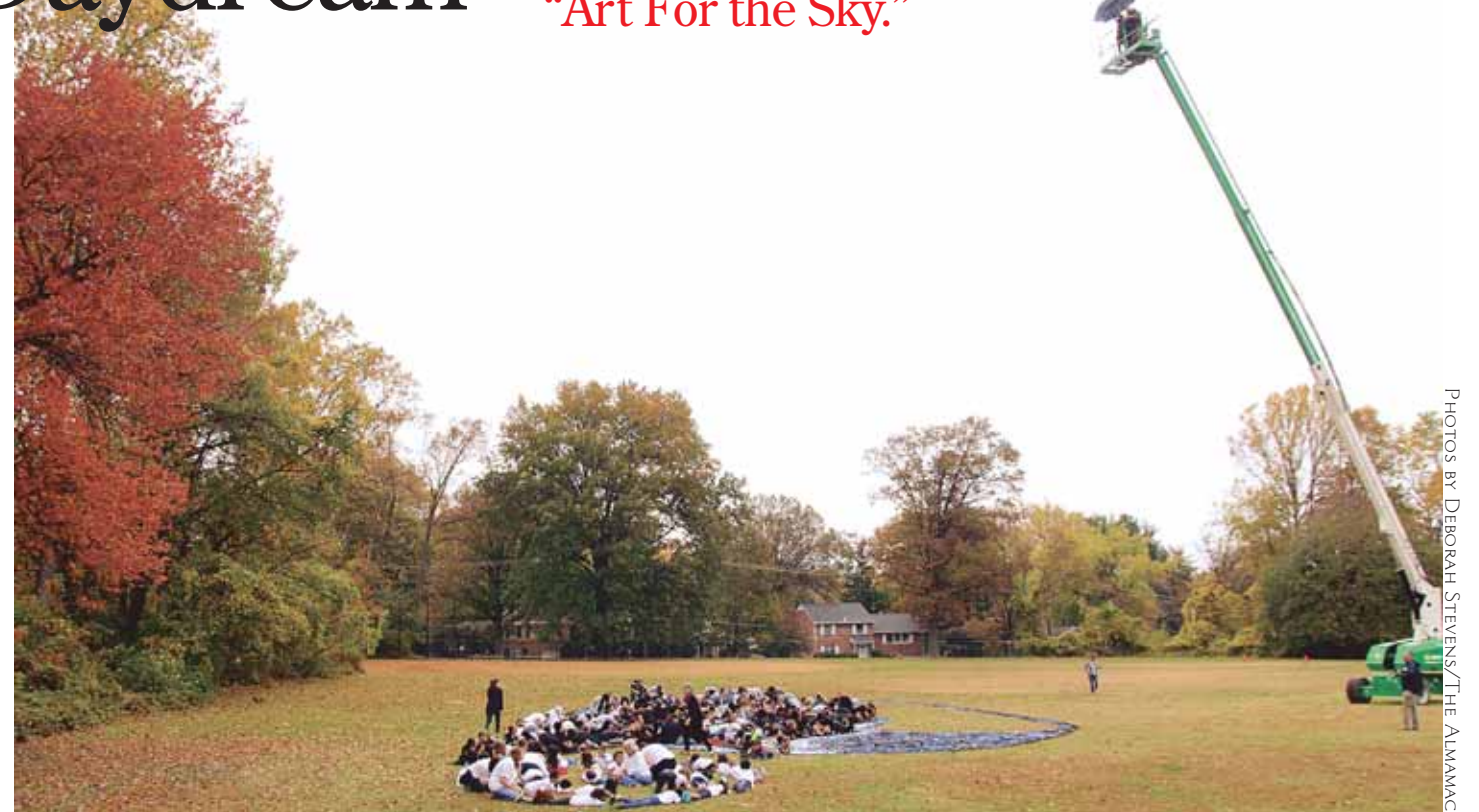
BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE ALMANAC

Every Wayside Elementary School student functioned as a critical piece in a massive work of art on the afternoon of Thursday, Nov. 3. And without a camera far above the ground to capture the art, the only way for the students to make sense of the art would have been to sprout a pair of wings and look down from the sky.

Roughly 560 students, each wearing a color assigned to them based on their grade level, stood in a formation so that Oregon artist Daniel Dancer, the creator of Art For the Sky, could photograph them from his vantage point standing on an 80-foot crane. Dancer had arranged the children as well as participating teachers in such a way that, from above, they all created what looked like a perfect painting of the Wayside Elementary School mascot, a dolphin, jumping out of a blue sea.

“This was our first year having Daniel Dancer to Wayside and working with him,” Wayside Elementary School art teacher Felice Weinbaum said. “When you’re down on the ground, it doesn’t make any sense, until you see what he’s done from the sky. Daniel used every student as a drop of paint. One of the biggest takeaways is that there is so much more that you can accomplish when you collaborate with other people. From the sky, one of us would just look like a dot, where everyone together made this beautiful piece of artwork. The students got to see that they were doing something bigger than themselves.”

Dancer, founder of Art For the Sky, has been working with elementary and middle schools since 2000 through his artist-in-residency program. The program he offers for schools spans three days with the children, and is designed so that it does not keep them out of the classroom for too long. The lessons of Art For the Sky include the im-



Artist Daniel Dancer takes photos up in the crane.

portance of collaboration, and perhaps more importantly, he said, the dire need for every individual to appreciate the environment and change the way that humans have been treating it for too many generations.

“What I do is literally art for the sky,” Dancer said, “because in our day-to-day lives, we don’t do anything for the sky. The sky is the atmosphere and all we do is pollute it, and it’s killing us. With the amount of carbon dioxide in the air, we are on our way toward extinction. Of course I don’t go in depth with that specific concern with the students, but Art For the Sky is my best effort to wake people up. Doing each one of these images is a gift for the sky and the earth, and it’s gratitude for the blessings we get every day in spite of what we do to this planet. It’s also an apology for what we’ve done to the earth and unconsciously how

we treat it. I encourage students to look at the big picture. We are distracted from the important things by what’s on the screens that are always in front of us.”

On Dancer’s first day at Wayside, last Wednesday, he discussed the logistics behind the artwork they would create the following day. Then, on Thursday, in the midst of light rain, every student met outside to form the piece of art. Dancer snapped photos and took video footage from 80 feet above ground. On Friday, before leaving the students, Dancer presented a video he created of the entire process to the students and faculty. The video included student interviews, film of all the prep work, and finally, views of the final product — “Dolphin Daydream.”

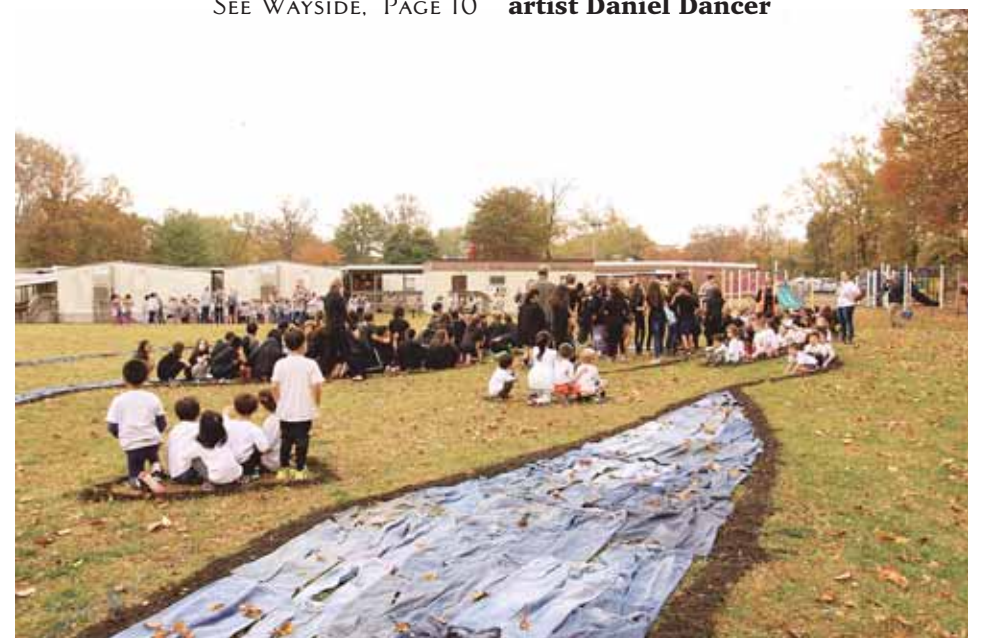
SEE WAYSIDE, PAGE 10



Teacher Felice Weinbaum and artist Daniel Dancer



The artist films the children.



The jeans act as the water and the children fill in the open grassy area for the photo.

LET'S TALK Real Estate



by Michael Matese

What's New in Luxury Bathroom Trends

The luxury home market is one that is energetic and always changing at a quick pace to meet the unique needs of its clients. Over the past decade, the trend of defining what makes luxury has shifted dramatically—once, an abundance of square footage was the primary aspect of defining a property as a luxury home. Today, the market and clientele have adjusted their needs, wants and long-term goals when purchasing luxury real estate. The new definition of luxury home places more emphasis on the ease, comfort, convenience and magnificence of the home's details, features and amenities, rather than the space that they take up. One such paradigm shift happens in the bathrooms of luxury homes, with a trend towards the creation of a spa-like atmosphere in the comfort of one's own home on the rise in popularity. Instead of adding more square footage to a home to provide a sense of escape, luxury and indulgence, the current market trend is in maximizing the efficiency, luxury, and sumptuousness of the home's square footage: essentially, why build extra rooms when you could be making the most of the ones you already have? For the coming year, simple upgrades that are hot commodities are standing spas, heated tile flooring, towel warming drawers and stone countertops. These improvements can take any luxury home's bathroom to the next level, entice prospective owners, indulge the current residents of the home and add to the home's long-term value over time.

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NEWS

Living a Life in 'A Delicate Balance'

Albee play at Congregation Har Shalom.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

"A Delicate Balance" by Edward Albee is, as Director Laurie T. Freed says, a story of multiple themes: "man's fear of taking risks in life; man's inability to honestly communicate with family and friends; the loss of passion in one's life; the fear of aging; the fear of the unknown. Albee believed that settling, risking nothing, maintaining a delicate balance in life was a life not lived to the fullest."

The Peace Mountain Theatre Company will present Albee's Pulitzer Prize-winning production at Congregation Har Shalom on Thursdays, Nov. 10 and 17 and Saturdays, Nov. 12 and 19 at 8 p.m. Sunday matinees followed by Q&A sessions with the actors and director are scheduled for Nov. 13 and 20 at 1 p.m.

"A Delicate Balance" opens when the lives of upper-middle-class suburbanites Agnes and Tobias and their permanent houseguest, Agnes' witty alcoholic sister Claire, are disrupted by the sudden appearance of lifelong family friends Harry and Edna, fellow empty nesters who ask to stay with them to escape an intangible terror. They soon are followed by Agnes and Tobias's bitter 36-year-old daughter Julia, who returns home following the collapse of her fourth marriage.

The cast includes Nancy Blum (Agnes), Nick Sampson (Harry), Leah Mazade (Edna) Louis Pangaro (Tobias), Janet Constable Preston (Claire) and Devorah Zack (Julia.)

A team of 40 supports the performance.

Blum, who has appeared locally in many plays including "The Little Foxes," "The Importance of Being Earnest," "Humble Boy," "The Comedy of Errors" and others said, "The character of Agnes is like many women who have sublimated their individuality to the goal of protecting their family. She is the old 'ideal' of the educated, refined wife/mother who keeps things running like clockwork for her husband and children, so they can grow and achieve, even if it is at her own expense. I like her intelligence, her devotion to her family and her steely resilience as she faces loss, betrayal, possible dementia and her growing acceptance of death. However, I dislike the way she has iso-



Leah Mazade (Edna), Nancy Blum (Agnes), Devorah Zack (Julia), and Lou Pangaro (Tobias)

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

lated herself and her husband from the world beyond their small social circle and her relative indifference to those outside her own family."

Veteran actor Louis Pangaro enjoys playing characters who are caught in the struggle to hold things together. He's performed as Macbeth, Othello, Lear and Shylock in Shakespearean performances and played Willie Loman and Eddie Carbone in Arthur Miller's plays.

"Tobias has become accustomed to a life in some semblance of balance after a career in business," Pangaro said. "He prefers things to work smoothly like a machine in delicate balance, and he tries to distance himself from the unsettling emotions that arise in life. Who in our lives of pain and suffering does not hope for a moment of equilibrium? I admire and love Tobias's struggle to do the right thing, for one last time in his life."

"A Delicate Balance" premiered on Broadway in 1966. It is a cautionary tale that still resonates for today's audiences. The exploration of choices — keeping life simple and in-bal-

ance versus risk-taking and adventuresome will make the audience examine their own life selections — and perhaps choose to explore some broader paths.

Director Freed said, "A Delicate Balance" is an important play for audiences to see because it is an opportunity to experience one of the greatest master works of a world renowned playwright, Edward Albee. He is never afraid to use biting dialogue to wake up his audiences. All of his plays bring a dark humor and mystery to the characters that inhabit his stories. His dialogue reminds one of classical music; he even mentioned that his plays were 'composed' rather than written."

General admission tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students (student ID required at the door. Gold and Silver sponsor tickets are also available for \$75 and \$36 each. Group tickets (minimum quantity of 10) are \$15. Because of content, this show is not recommended for children under age 13. Tickets are available through www.tinyurl.com/A-Delicate-Balance or by calling 301-299-7087. Tickets will also be available at the door.

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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.

BEGINNING IN EARLY NOVEMBER

Vacuum Leaf Collection. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation's Division of Highway Services (DHS) began its annual collection of leaves in the vacuum leaf collection district on Nov. 7. DHS provides two collections on every district street during the fall. A third collection may also be provided on an as-needed basis. To determine if a residence is within the boundaries of the leaf vacuum collection district or view the leaf collection schedule, visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DOT-Highway/Leaf/PostingLog.html or call 240-777-0311.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is seeking volunteers to participate in a free, non-profit program, offered in conjunction with the IRS, that provides tax filing assistance to people of low- and middle-income, with special attention paid to those aged 60-plus. Training will be available in December and January to help taxpayers Feb. 1-April 18, 2017. Visit www.aarp.org/taxaide.

FRIDAY/NOV. 11

Montgomery County Holiday Schedule for Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11. Montgomery County government will observe the

PHOTOS BY DEBORAH STEVENS/THE ALMANAC



Halloween Magic

Mike Rose the Magician performs at the Potomac Library on Monday, Oct. 31.

- following schedule:
- ❖ County Offices – closed
- ❖ Libraries – closed
- ❖ County Liquor stores – all Country liquor stores will be open normal hours.
- ❖ Recreation: aquatic and community centers open as scheduled; classes and programs will meet as scheduled; all senior programs cancelled, and administrative offices and senior centers closed
- ❖ Montgomery Parks - For operating schedule, visit www.MontgomeryParks.org
- ❖ Ride On – Ride On will run on a Special Modified Holiday Schedule

- ❖ Metrorail & Metrobus– Information available at www.wmata.com
- ❖ TRIPS Commuter Stores (Silver Spring and Friendship Heights) – closed
- ❖ Transfer Station recycling and trash drop-offs: Open with normal hours. Recycling Center: closed Transfer Station and Recycling Center administrative offices: closed
- ❖ Trash Collections –Friday collections will slide to Saturday
- ❖ The Shady Grove Processing Facility and Transfer Station - closed
- ❖ Parking at public garages, lots, curbside meters – free
- ❖ MCPS Schools and Administrative Offices – Schools and administrative



Jiang Qian and Sophy Pan watch the magic show.

- offices are open; early release day for K–8th grade students
- ❖ State offices and courts – closed

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

PCV Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac. Potomac Community Village presents author David Hoffman talking about his book, "The Billion Dollar Spy." For more information, to volunteer or get volunteer help, call 240-221-1370, email info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org or visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

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The Children's CONNECTION 2016

This keepsake, award-winning issue will be filled with the artwork and writings of local children starring their families, friends, pets, schools and more. Our family readers are your best customers, who take time to savor this edition during the holidays and beyond.

Be Part of the Children's Connection

During the last week of each year, The Connection devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. The edition has won many awards.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens, or other creative efforts.

To submit material, identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school if applicable, name of teacher and town of school location. E-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Connection, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Please send all submissions by December 16.

Publishing December 28

Advertising & Materials Due: December 16

For More Information: Call 703.778.9431

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OPINION

Coming: Children's Almanac 2016

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, The Almanac devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Almanac is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Intake Project Could Meet Other Needs

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

Re: Potomac Submerged Channel Intake

Thank you for asking for community participation in the planning and decision-making process for the middle river intake at the Potomac WSSC water filtration plan. I am aware of the need for cleaner water provided by a mid-river intake and for possible future capacity increase. I understand that the existing intake will continue to be used and maintained and that WSSC will have the option of pulling water from either source.

My main concern and desire are that the design will take into consideration the long-term use of the park and surrounding environment and that WSSC will leave our park even better after this project is completed. I have lived near Swain's Lock all my life and continue to enjoy the canal 3-4 times a week having grown to love this resource since childhood.

I observed the reconstruction of the current intake in 1989. The project impressed me as a particularly well-designed civil infrastructure undertaking. A unique feature of the design (which I hope can be repeated) was the open view of the construction throughout all phases of construction without undermining security or safety. I only remember a few days that the tow path or canal was closed.

A key element of the "award-winning design" was that whatever was visible of the intake would have to be attractive, accessible, and educational, and the project was a real success from that point of view:

❖ A tasteful monument out of view of the towpath informs visitors of the Potomac watershed.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ Private benches allow peaceful views of the river.

❖ An overlook now used for good fishing.

❖ A stair path leads to benches above the intake that allow for long views up and down the river.

❖ Everything is mostly hidden by earth berms, new landscape and reforestation.

❖ Every visible surface tells a story to the visitor about the river such as past flood stage levels, etc.

In 2002 after the 9/11 attack, WSSC took precautions and put up an unsightly security fence around most of the structure which undermined the intent of the original design. It is important to the success of the new project and the community that this kind of a creative yet still safe and secure design be incorporated in the revised intake, and that the finished project be an improvement to the park or, at least, not a detriment.

I know that NPS with EA Engineering Science and Technology have done a very detailed study of the environmental effects of the project and have suggested recommendations to minimize impact and long-term recovery. The National Park Service (NPS) team has also carefully quantified the costs to the park of impact to visitors and maintenance during this project.

All of us, US citizens as well as international visitors to the C & O National Historic Park (NHP), pay with our taxes and fees paid at certain access points along the park to protect this great resource. Building this mid-river intake will incur costs to our park which I know WSSC recognizes. NPS with Chris Stubbs' oversight has come up with a very reasonable estimate for these elements on a project of this

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Almanac, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 2. The Children's Almanac will publish the last week of 2016.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Almanac to Almanac@connectionnewspapers.com.

EDITORIAL

POTOMAC ALMANAC

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SEE PARK, PAGE 7

LETTERS

Possible Benefits to Park

FROM PAGE 6

As suggested by West Montgomery County Citizens Association, I too would like to see improvements to the Watts branch watershed and its storm water management. This will take long-term planning and perseverance. Thanks are already due to the MC Department of Permitting regarding enforcement of increased run-off standards for new construction and remodeling. Most of the Watts Branch watershed is fully devel-

oped, and yet we still can and should do better.

Friends of the Great Falls Tavern and the C & O Canal Trust have made great strides in raising monies to address needed repairs, but it can never fully meet the need. I hope WSSC will take this opportunity to make a notable commitment to helping make the C&O NHP the treasure that we can again be proud of.

Guy Semmes
Hopkins & Porter

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Thirteen Montgomery County Public Schools students have been named semifinalists in the prestigious Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology and three of those students have been selected as regional finalists, including: **Garyk Brixi** of Winston Churchill High School, **Robert Yang** of Montgomery Blair High School and **Yi Zhu** of Thomas S. Wootton High School. Winners will go on to the national finals in December where they will compete for a \$100,000 scholarship.

Semi-finalists also included: **Bethany Chen** and **Olivia Wang** of Winston Churchill High School, and **Michelle Hu** of Thomas S. Wootton High School.

Eric Meyer, of Potomac, is a member of the

Carleton College men's swimming and diving team for the 2016-2017 season. Meyer is a member of the class of 2020 at Carleton.

The **National Philharmonic winners** of this year's concerto competition for high school students will appear at the Music Center at Strathmore in Bethesda in two of the eight performances for nearly 15,000 2nd grade students from Montgomery County Public Schools on Nov. 15-18.

Mohit Bisbey, of Potomac, a seventh grade student at Randolph-Macon Academy, has been named a "top performer" on the Academy's summer reading assessments for his grade level.

Jessie M. Meyer, of Bethesda, is a member of the St. Lawrence University (Canton, N.Y) class of 2020. Meyer attended Bethesda Chevy Chase High School.



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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

Laughter Fitness Classes. Through Nov. 1, Tuesdays, 11:15 a.m.-12 p.m. at Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Class includes, laughter, breathing, chair yoga and Bollywood dance for balance. Registration is \$59 for seven lessons. Visit www.dance2health.com or call 301.299.3334 for more.

2016 Inaugural Video Art Exhibition. 5-7 p.m. at Glen Echo Photoworks Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Photoworks showcases a group of female visual artists who use video to reveal the personal, the intimate and the artistic. Desires, dreams and fears are all visually explored in Photoworks' Inaugural Video Competition and Exhibition, curated by Na'ama Batya Lewin. Free. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

Accepting Submissions: Bethesda Songwriting Contest. Through Nov. 4. The Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District announces the third annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards. The adjudicated competition is seeking the best, up-and-coming, local songwriters and will award one talented songwriter a Grand Prize of \$10,000. Visit www.bethesda.org to apply.

Club Friday. Through March 17, 7-9 p.m. at Potomac Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. Children grades 3-6 are invited to participate in games, crafts, movies, sports and more. Membership fee is \$88. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec.

Children's Storytime. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 4801 Bethesda Ave., Bethesda Listen to employees read children's stories. Free. Visit www.store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/event/4824850-21.

VisArts Cocktails and Canvas Class. at VisArts in the Painting & Drawing Studio, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Price \$40. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/cocktails-and-canvas for more.

Thang Ta. Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts, 1525 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. Learn the ancient art of the sword and spear. \$25. Visit www.gancesidra.org.

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 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. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. Visit 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 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 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.

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 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-alongs, prizes and more. Visit 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 Gurley. Call 301-983-8838 or visit www.popovers.com for more.

Chocolate Factory Tours. Fridays and Saturdays, 2-5:45 p.m. at SPAGnVOLA Chocolatier, 360 Main St., Gaithersburg. Take a short tour of The Truffle Factory facilities. Free. Visit www.spagnvola.com.

Glen Echo Park Films. Saturdays and Sundays. Arcade Building, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Films about the Park's history are shown on rotation in the lobby. Free. Visit www.glenechopark.org 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.

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. Sculpture, vessels, functional art and jewelry for sale. Classes are taught year-round for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. Visit www.artglasscenteratglenecho.org for more.

Yellow Barn Studio & Gallery. Saturdays and Sundays, 12-5 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 for more.

Acoustic Open Mic. Wednesdays, 7-11 p.m. at Benny's Bar & Grill, 7747 Tuckerman Lane. Everyone welcome to perform. Wine bottles are 50 percent off. Visit www.bennysbargrill.com.

Potomac Games Group. Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. at Potomac



National Philharmonic performs Handel's Messiah Dec. 17-18 at the The National Philharmonic Music Center at Strathmore in North Bethesda. Visit strathmore.org.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Holiday Fun

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Snow on Snow. 7:30 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. The Thirteen, the all-star professional choir, will celebrate the story of Christmas through English-language works from the 15th century through the present day. Tickets are \$25/\$20 for general/students at the door; \$20/\$15 in advance. Visit www.bradleyhillschurch.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show. 1-5 p.m. at Clara Barton Community Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. browse pottery, woodwork, glass, things to eat, things to wear, things to read, all sold by the local artists, artisans, and authors who made them. Free. Visit www.friendscbcc.org for more.

Community Recreation Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac. The world is in the midst of a Golden Age of new board and card games for players of all ages. Free. Contact event host Randy Hoffman at 412-983-5411 or wrandyhoffman@gmail.com for more.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

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 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 for a list of class dates, times.

THROUGH NOVEMBER

Arclight's Best of the Best Film Festival. Times vary at the Arclight, Westfield Montgomery, 7101 Democracy Blvd. Best Of The Best will feature works from a variety of filmmakers such as Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Ridley Scott, and Stanley Kubrick. Call 240-762-4000.

THROUGH DEC. 9

Artomatic Arts Spectacular. Various times through Friday, Dec. 9 at 12435 Park Potomac Ave., Floors 5 and 6. Thursdays, noon-10 p.m.; Fridays: noon-midnight; Saturdays, noon-midnight; Sunday:, noon – 6 p.m. Free admission, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Visit www.artomatic.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 17-18

National Philharmonic Performs Handel's Messiah. Times vary at The National Philharmonic Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Hear Handel as the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale perform his most beloved oratorio, the Messiah. Led by Artistic Director Stan Engebretson, the concert will feature the National Philharmonic's nearly 200 voice all-volunteer Chorale, as well as soloists Danielle Talamantes (soprano); Magdalena Wór (mezzo-soprano); Matthew Smith (tenor); and Christòphenen Nomura (baritone). Visit www.strathmore.org.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/DEC. 21-23

Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. 8 p.m. at The Music Center at Strathmore Concert Hall, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. CityDance students perform in Moscow Ballet's Russian Nutcracker. Visit www.strathmore.org.

along or dance the night away. For a complete schedule of entertainment through the month of November, call 301-983-8838 or go to popovers.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 11

Big Head Todd & The Monsters. 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Tickets are \$32-62. Visit www.strathmore.org.

A Conversation with Lucas Debargue. 7 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle. Pianist Lucas Debargue with Jenny Bilfield, moderator Free admission.

SATURDAY/NOV. 12

Potomac Library Book Sale. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10101 Glenolden Drive. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter. Runs most months. Most hardbacks are \$1 and paperbacks are \$.50. Visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library/branches/potomac.html.

The Raleigh Ringers. 7:30 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. Bradley Hills Presents, the concert arm of Bradley Hills Church, will host The Raleigh Ringers, an internationally acclaimed handbell choir, who will perform a unique blend of sacred, secular, and popular music arranged specifically for handbells. Tickets are \$25/\$20 for general/students at the door; \$20/\$15 in advance. Visit www.bradleyhillschurch.org for more.

National Philharmonic Music Director Awarded. 7 p.m. At the Kosciuszko Foundation's annual gala at the Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, D.C. Bethesda's National

ENTERTAINMENT

Philharmonic Music Director and Conductor Piotr Gajewski has been honored with the Kosciuszko Foundation's 2016 Pioneer Award. Maestro Gajewski will receive the award at the foundation's annual gala. Contact Deborah Birnbaum at 301-493-9283, ext. 118 or deborah@nationalphilharmonic.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 13

Owl Moon Raptor Center Festival. 12-4 p.m. at Black Hill Regional Park, 20930 Lake Ridge Drive, Boyds. Featuring Adventures With Raptors, with native and exotic owls, hawks, and falcons on exhibit, including a Snowy Owl. There will be photo opportunities, raptor flight demonstrations, raptor face painting, games and other activities. Free. Visit www.owlmoon.org.

A Science And Religion Discussion With Mike Beidler. 6-8 p.m. at Concord-St. Andrews United Methodist Church, 5910 Goldsboro Road. Beidler is an author and President of the American Scientific Affiliation. Free admission. Contact Dr. E. Maynard Moore at wesleynexus@aol.com for more.

Photo Slam 2016: The Event. 8-10 p.m. at Busboys and Poets, 2021 14th St., NW, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by Glen Echo Photoworks, photographers vie for slots in the Photoworks FotoWeek 2017 gallery show. Three-time National Poetry Slam Champion Regie Cabico returns to emcee a high-energy event featuring an on-the-spot face-off of projected portfolios plus a "best shot" final round, with winners selected by celebrity and audience-rep judges. \$25 to compete, \$20 suggested donation to attend. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

more.

TUESDAY/NOV. 15

Author Event. 7:30 p.m. at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Scott Eblin presents "The Mindful Approach to Living at Your Best: Simple Ways to Move from Stressed to Resilient." Suggested donation, \$20. Sponsored by the nonprofit Willow Oak Therapy Center, 301-251-8965.

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Bob Stout. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. Sing along or dance the night away. For a complete schedule of entertainment through the month of November, call 301-983-8838 or go to popovers.com.

Author Speaks on Spies and Espionage. 7-9 p.m. David E. Hoffman will speak at Potomac Community Village's meeting at the Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac, about a true story of Cold War espionage and betrayal described in his new book, "The Billion Dollar Spy."

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Dinner of Champions. 7 p.m. at JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The annual event honors those who have achieved success in the world of sports, and those who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The dinner benefits the Jewish Community inclusion programs for individuals with special needs. Individual tickets are \$275. Visit www.jccgw.org for more.

Washington Balalaika Society:

"Love and Laughter." 8 p.m. at F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors, \$25 for students, and for children 18 and under. Visit www.balalaika.org for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Photo Slam 2016: The After Party. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Participants from Photo Slam 2016, as well as photographers from the Photoworks community are invited to bring in their images on a flash drive for a Projected Review and Photo Critique with faculty. Tickets are \$10 for brunch and portfolio review. Visit www.glenechophotoworks.org for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

The Potomac River Jazz Club. 3-6 p.m. at Alfio's Restaurant, 4515 Willard Ave., Chevy Chase. Monthly traditional jazz jam session at Alfio's instead of Normandie Farm Restaurant. \$10 admission, free for jammers and students. Call 301-762-3323, or visit prjc.org.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 23

Tom Saputo. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road. For a complete schedule of entertainment through the month of November, call 301-983-8838 or go to popovers.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

Turkey Chase. 8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old



Author David E. Hoffman to highlight spies and espionage and his new book, "The Billion Dollar Spy" at Potomac Community Village's meeting, 7-9 p.m., Nov. 17, at the Bolger Center, 9600 Newbridge Drive.

Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The Turkey Chase 10K Run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Registration is \$10 for the Kid's Run, \$20 for the 2 mile race, and \$35 for the 10K. See www.turkeychase.com.

NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Winter Lights Festival. Sunday-Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. at Seneca Creek Park, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg. Winter Lights is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. Additional events include Wine Under the Lights, Run Under the Lights, Leashes 'n' Lights, and, S'More Lights & Trolley Rides. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/leisure/special-events/winter-lights-festival.

FRIDAY/DEC. 2

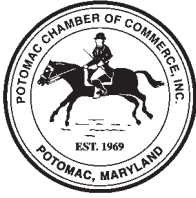
The Maverick's. 8 p.m. at the Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$41-\$86. Call 301-581-5100.

SATURDAY/DEC. 3

Snow on Snow. 7:30 p.m. at Bradley Hills Presbyterian Church, 6601 Bradley Blvd., Bethesda. The Thirteen, the all-star professional choir, will celebrate the story of Christmas through English-language works from the 15th century through the present day. Tickets are \$25/\$20 for general/students at the door; \$20/\$15 in advance. Visit www.bradleyhillchurch.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 4

Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show. 1-5 p.m. at Clara Barton Community Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd., Cabin John. browse pottery, woodwork, glass, things to eat, things to wear, things to read, all sold by the local artists, artisans, and authors who made them. Free. Visit www.friendsbcc.org for more.



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Fred B. Goldman

YOUTH OF THE YEAR

Arslon D. Humayun

ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Please respond by Friday, November 10, 2016

Mr./Ms. _____

Phone No: _____ E-mail: _____

_____ Number of Individual attendees _____ I am unable to attend.

Please choose a dish for each individual:

_____ # of Tournedo of Beef with Grilled Shrimp

(or) _____ Vegetable Lasagna with Portobello Mushroom, Marinara

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Friends of Library Celebrates 25 Years

\$2,500 donated to refurbish library meeting room.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Twenty-five years ago, Karin Currie had the foresight to launch the first Friends of the Library Chapter in Montgomery County at the Potomac Library. Since that time, the group has grown to more than 110 volunteers who organize and run a monthly book sale, coordinate numerous programs throughout the year for Potomac residents of all ages and who serve as a support group for the librarians and staff of the Potomac Public Library.

"I decided to start the Friends of the Library because Head Librarian Barbara Harr and Elie Pisarra-Cain twisted my arm and said we need a Friends Group," Currie said. "I was originally from Europe and had spent many hours learning English at the Potomac Library — and I was so fond of the staff and volunteers. I was already involved with the Library Advisory Committee and thus I agreed to start the Friends of the Library. Almost immediately we had 90 people interested in joining — and they have remained extremely loyal to the group and to our mission. I have been on the board ever since the group was founded."

The Friends of the Library celebrated 25 years of service with an award presentation to their dedicated volunteers on Wednesday, Nov. 2. President Edie Wingate was recognized with a bouquet of red roses, and all volunteers received a gift card. Tina Rawhouser, director of the Potomac Library, acknowledged the dedication of the Friends of the Library and said, "I would like to rec-



Doris Valis; Gerry Bernard; Judy Davis, book sale chair for more than 15 years; Gladys Hertzberg; Karin Currie; and Denise Shaw

ognize this amazing group who do so much to support our library. It is a wonderful organization that is committed to making our library better."

Members of the Potomac Village Garden Club (PVGC) were also celebrated for their service in beautifying the grounds around the library. Linda Rieger and Julie Perlman represented the PVGC and Perlman explained that the PVGC volunteers have worked extremely hard creating the gardens.

"We are particularly enjoying teaching the skills and love of gardening to the Potomac Girl Scouts, ages 6 – 13 who are working on Badge requirements. They are learning to



Edythe Wingate, Tina Rawhouser, Karin Currie and Gerry Bernard

love the beauty they create," she said.

Others who were honored were Doris Valis, Gerry Bernard, Judy Davis, Karin



Julie Perlman and Linda Rieger

Currie and Gladys Hertzberg for their work each month at the book sale.

Denise Shaw was recognized for outstanding service as Hucklecat at Potomac Day and as other children's book characters during the year. "Children just fall in love with me when I'm dressed up," she said. "It is so much fun to be petted and hugged by them." Both Shaw and Bernard served as president of the organization in the past.

Karin Currie was pleased to make a special announcement: "I have served on the board of the Friends of the Library ever since I founded it. Usually have a volunteers party, but this year, we scaled it back to just refreshments and gift cards. There was a very important reason for this.

As we look around us, this meeting room that is so often used needs updating. The Friends of the Library is pleased to give the Potomac Library a check for \$2,500 to refurbish the library meeting room."

The Friends of the Library has donated funds for furniture, computers and painting the walls. They have also provided musical entertainment, author talks, children's programs and a wealth of educational events throughout the years.

Wayside Elementary Students Create 'Art For the Sky'

FROM PAGE 3

The school assemblies he leads involve original songs to help simplify and further drive home the messages of loving the Earth and the lifelong need for human collaboration.

"I have it down to a pretty good program," Dancer said. "I have a list of things the schools need to do to be ready. The day we're actually creating the art, it only takes two hours out of regular school time. Schools are always concerned with classroom time so that the kids can be ready for testing, so, I have it down to a science. As far as the video goes, I start shooting it as soon as I get to the school. Everything always comes together, and the last project at Wayside Elementary School, where the students created the dolphin, was one of my favorites."

Dancer never holds rehearsals. By the time he arrived at Wayside, for example, he had already diagrammed how and where each person would be positioned. He only once had to mount the 80-foot crane that Weinbaum secured for the day.

Wayside Elementary School was not the first Montgomery County Public School that Dancer had worked with, however, he said he knows it will always stand out in his memory because of its students and the principal, Donna Michela.

"Every school, I've come to understand, is a reflection of the principal," Dancer said, "and usually the schools that hire me are pretty visionary, and therefore, the principals have all been pretty great. This one was particularly outstanding in a number of ways. She had great control of the kids, and at the final assembly — the one where I do a reveal of the photograph and the video,

Donna Michela did a recap, and the way it came together was so eloquent. I'm going to use it for my website. She was exceptional."

Michela was the person who first recommended that Weinbaum get in touch with Dancer, after seeing his work online with another local school.

"She thought that would be a really interesting experience for our school," Weinbaum said. "Once she passed along information about Art For the Sky, I agreed. We've been actively preparing for Daniel's arrival since school started."

Weinbaum said it was an invaluable experience for the students, who have been excited to become part of Dancer's portfolio since the announcement in early September. The experience, she added, absolutely surpassed everyone's expectations.

"He's the only artist who does this exact type of collaboration art," she said, "and this is something I will always remember, and I am sure the same goes for every single one of the students. Every single element of the project showed how impactful you can be when you work with other people. Prior to coming to our school, Daniel had us collect over 300 pairs of jeans to look like water for the picture he created. So, for the past couple of months, every morning, I'd have students coming to the art room, excited to contribute a pair of jeans for the project. Now, we'll donate all the jeans to charity."

Since launching Art for the Sky in 2000, Dancer has completed more than 200 projects in 41 states and several international locations. While he primarily works with schools, he does occasionally create his signature art with corporate and other groups.

Built-ins as Works of Art

Transforming the ordinary.

BY JOHN BYRD

If there's a juncture where craftsmanship enters home remodeling, it's the "built-in." In the remodeling industry the term is broadly applied. It can mean drawers tailored to your cutlery; shelves sized for special books.

In the simplest context, a "built-in" is basic carpentry; at the higher end — it's art.

Soren Jensen, principal of Danish Builders, produces work that falls in the artful end of the range. His originals — ranging from everything to a hand-crafted interior, to a garden trellis to a wine cellar — grace some of the most fashionable addresses in Montgomery County, northern Virginia, and the District.

Recently he designed an interior to a Capitol Hill home for a congressman. A wine cellar in Potomac has garnered national media attention. Yet he'll design a mud room in Great Falls: a solution that converts a footprint between garage and kitchen into space so attractive the owners leave the door open just so they can see the effect from the kitchen table.

"When we're working as the general contractor and designing the built-ins, there's no middleman," Jensen says. "It's an arrangement keeps the client's dollars concentrated on not only building, but my efforts to produce exceptional design."

Typically, Jensen starts with exacting measurement of this client's home; presents schematics and other drawings. Often the homeowner evinces interest in design styles and especially in special woods, stones, specialty materials—which must be procured from selected sources.

As a rule, the wood employed in a project is milled and treated in Jensen's 3,500-square-foot woodworking shop, then transported to the client's home where it is painstakingly assembled.

It is work with requires a mastery of logistics, one of the reasons the remodeler is so popular with busy professionals.

"There can be complicated considerations to creating work that will stand out," Jensen said. "My job is to figure out all the logistical, procurement and processing issues, and see that the project happens without surprises or set backs. When you and the client have mutually agreed to a high bar there are always challenges."

Still, a quick assessment of recent work highlights the standard succinctly. From entire rooms to simple cabinetry, one finds a combination of elegant understatement and distinction that is Jensen's signature style.

FOR INSTANACE:

Handcrafted breakfast room

Like something out of a fairy tale, a handcrafted breakfast room not far from the Potomac impresses the eye with its linear simplicity, then slowly reveals an underlying aesthetic perfect for its wood-

land setting.

Hand-tooled ceiling trim, window frames and inset cedar shake cabinet facings evoke the fine design traditions, yet the room is equal parts warm and homey.

Maple throughout, Jensen sized, prepped and painted the many constituent parts in his shop, then assembled on site to the enthusiast plaudits of the homeowner who wanted similar ideas in another part of the house. A library followed.

Arching 18th Century Elegance

It is not merely the pair of matching arched doorways in the family room of this 8,000-square-foot country home, but the same icon visibly reiterated in the adjacent dining room.

With graceful curved moldings and a hand-crafted keystone, Jennings borrows classic 18th century protocol, then sets up symmetrical relationships that establish a soft formality.

Matching book cases, coffered ceilings, a perfectly-centered cubby for the plasma TV and speakers — all counter-balanced by display shelves created for favored collectibles and photos. Nearby, a convenient recess for cordials and brandy snifters.

Credenza and Backwall Set Post-Modern Tone

A postmodern interior that fools the eye in almost every respect, the credenza, backwall and plasma TV frame boldly highlighted in shades of platinum, blond and straw are, in fact, made from weng, a hand-assembled veneer that is created by cutting and milling maple into "slices" so fine that the grain patterns can be discerned in their deepest minutia with the naked eye.

A cut which captures a straight and uniform grain is especially prized.

Slices are then playfully transposed over one another in a search

for a compelling — even iconic — combination of layered patterns.

The selected slabs are mounted, positioned and carefully laminated presenting completely unique natural wood surface.

Classic Window Seat Gains New Function

"Ideas for built-ins are often simply an inspiration that occurs in the process of executing an assignment," Jensen said.

Working in a kitchen half-buried in an avalanche of household maintenance literature, "to do" lists and documentation, the remodeler hit on the happy idea of adding pull-out drawers inside a window seat to a home in Potomac.

The decorative cabinet facing is so understated that visitors never suspect there are usable drawers under the bench so comfortably occupy unless one is accidentally left open.

Soren Jensen periodically offers tours of his woodworking facility. For information, call 301-279-0255 or danishbuildersinc.com

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. Reach him at byrdmatx@gmail.com or www.HomeFrontsNews.com.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The decorative cabinet facing is so understated that visitors never suspect there are usable drawers under the comfortable place they are sitting unless one is accidentally left open.

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Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

Top Sales in September, 2016

IN SEPTEMBER 2016, 36 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,999,996-\$490,000.

2 10603 Rivers Bend Court — \$1,930,000



3 10401 Bit and Spur Lane — \$1,638,888



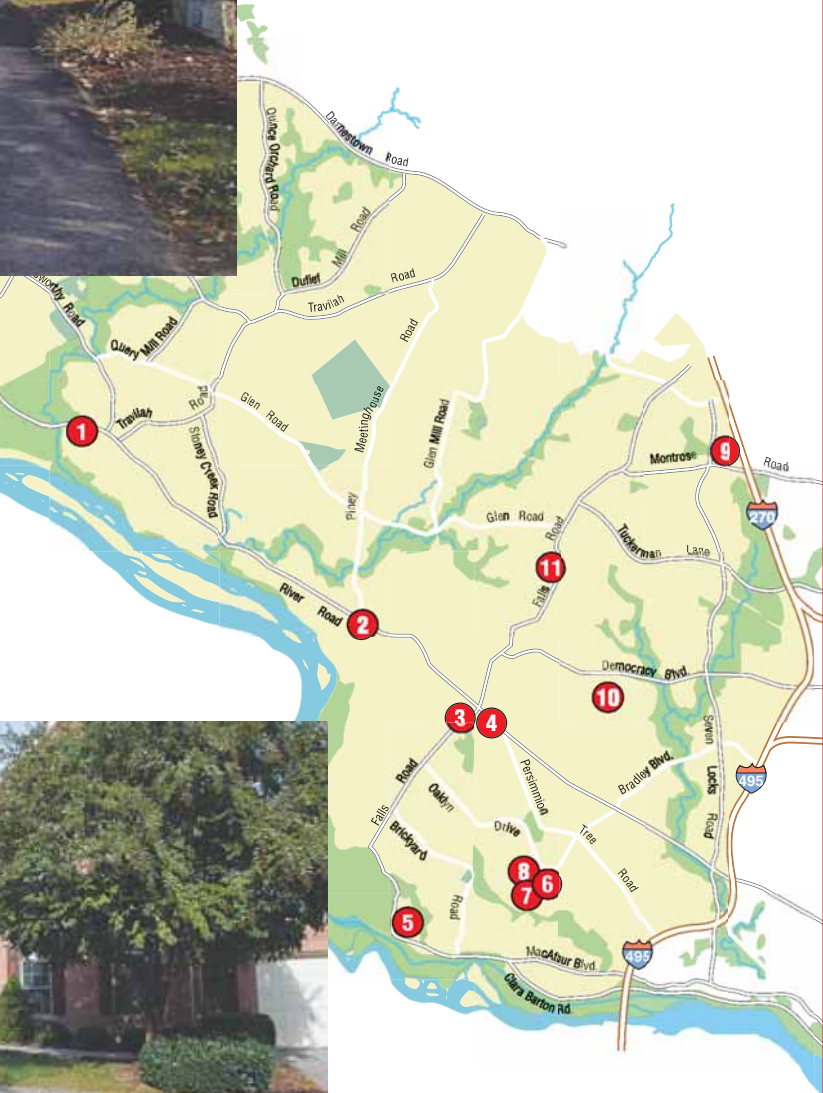
6 7939 Sandalfoot Drive — \$1,280,000

8 9619 Beman Woods Way — \$1,150,000

7 9640 Beman Woods Way — \$1,182,500



5 7800 Gate Post Way — \$1,295,000



| Address | BR | FB | HB | ..... | Postal | City | ..... | Sold Price | ... | Type | ..... | Lot AC | .. | PostalCode | ..... | Subdivision | ..... | Date Sold | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|----|-------|---------|-------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------|---------------|--------|-------|------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------|
| 1 0 LONGACRES PRESERVE CT4 .. | 5 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,999,996 | ... | Detached | ..... | 2.00 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | LONGACRES PRESERVE | ... | 09/08/16 | | |
| 2 10603 RIVERS BEND CT | 5 | .. | 5 | .. | 2 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,930,000 | ... | Detached | ..... | 1.12 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | MARWOOD | ..... | 09/22/16 |
| 3 10401 BIT AND SPUR LN | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | 2 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,638,888 | ... | Detached | ..... | 2.52 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | POTOMAC MANOR | ..... | 09/02/16 |
| 4 9830 RIVER RD | 6 | .. | 6 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,400,000 | ... | Detached | ..... | 0.50 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | POTOMAC OUTSIDE | ..... | 09/15/16 |
| 5 7800 GATE POST WAY | 4 | .. | 4 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,295,000 | ... | Attch/Row Hse | .. | 0.13 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | RIVER FALLS | ..... | 09/28/16 |
| 6 7939 SANDALFOOT DR | 5 | .. | 5 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,280,000 | ... | Detached | ..... | 0.23 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | AVENEL | ..... | 09/28/16 |
| 7 9640 BEMAN WOODS WAY | 3 | .. | 4 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,182,500 | ... | Townhouse | ..... | 0.09 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | AVENEL | ..... | 09/15/16 |
| 8 9619 BEMAN WOODS WAY | 2 | .. | 4 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,150,000 | ... | Townhouse | ..... | 0.10 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | AVENEL | ..... | 09/30/16 |
| 9 7800 CADBURY AVE | 4 | .. | 3 | .. | 2 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,110,000 | ... | Townhouse | ..... | 0.05 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | WHEEL OF FORTUNE | ..... | 09/15/16 |
| 10 9928 KENTSDALE DR | 4 | .. | 3 | .. | 1 | ..... | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,100,000 | ... | Detached | ..... | 0.46 | ..... | 20854 | ..... | FALCONHURST | ..... | 09/16/16 |
| 11 9512 FOX HOLLOW DR | 5 | .. | 4 | .. | 1 | | POTOMAC | ... | \$1,025,000 | ... | Detached | | 0.27 | | 20854 | | BEDFORDSHIRE | | 09/30/16 |

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Guest-Ready Home for the Holidays

From organizing to decorating, a guide for getting a house ready for visitors.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE ALMANAC

Ready or not, the holidays are coming. For many, this means a flurry of overnight guests. With three weeks before Thanksgiving, many to-do lists are more involved than choosing turkeys and decking the halls.

Some homeowners will be sent into states of cleaning frenzy by spotting crumbled Cheerios lost in the corners of dining chairs or guestrooms piled high with papers and boxes. From the reality of cleaning and tending to repairs to the frivolity of fanciful holiday decorating, local experts offer suggestions for getting organized and ready to welcome company.

"For my out-of-town guests, I love to make them feel special and welcome," said interior designer Gretchen Fuss, of Gretchen Fuss Works of Art and Interior Design. "The whole house will be clean and sparkling."

Consider dispersing flowers, candles and greenery throughout the home in all public areas, including bathrooms and guest bedrooms, suggests Katie McCarthy, senior designer and project manager at Marika Meyer Interiors. "Adding lush throws and cable knit pillows can give the family space that cozy feeling we all look for during the holidays."

Clear the clutter before purchasing holiday decorations and before guests arrive. "Clear out any clutter that's accumulated in your main living areas," said Anne M. Walker, Anne Walker Design LLC in Potomac, Md. "If your dining room is host to a pile of papers, make sure those get filed away or thrown away soon. A clean, organized home makes a perfect palette for any holiday décor."

The kitchen is often the central hub of a household, especially during the holidays. Make sure the pantry and refrigerator are well stocked and consider leaving out a bowl of fresh fruit guests can help themselves to, advises Fuss. "Breakfast is always a meal that seems to make everyone happy," she said. "My husband starts the bacon and everyone finds his or her way to the kitchen



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

Guest preparation should include organizing and making extra space in closets, such as this one by interior designer Anne Walker.

table. I feel it is important to have both comfort food and healthy choices for everyone."

Cleaning out the pantry and cabinets will help ensure there is plenty of room for the additional supplies and food necessary for Thanksgiving and other holiday meals.

When preparing that holiday dinner, the last thing that a person with a house full of guests wants is to realize that their oven is broken. "Inspect your appliances to be sure they are all in working order," said Chuck Khriel, vice president, FRED Home Improvement. "If the refrigerator or oven has been acting up, get them repaired or replaced before guests arrive. ... Check the garbage disposal, too, to be sure it's working efficiently so it doesn't back up during dinner prep."

Another high priority — the highest, according to Fuss — is the guest bedroom. This means "fresh bed linens adorning a 'photo shoot-ready,' beautifully made bed" and bath towels wrapped with ribbon and sage," she said. "Put a luggage rack out and

make space in the closet for hanging clothes."

Place fresh flowers on the dresser and, "if time allows, frame a picture of your guests and hang it on the wall in the guest room," said Fuss. "Everyone really gets a kick out of this one."

From soft lights for reading to a small mirror for applying make-up, practical touches can go a long way toward comfort. "These touches, although they may seem small, can make all the difference," said McCarthy. "Small bud vases on bedside tables, plush bathrobes and towels, and fresh, white bedding can give guest spaces a very inviting feeling."

Guest bathrooms should be stocked with extra towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste. "If your guest bathroom has a vent fan with a nightlight, make sure it is working," said Khriel. "If not, repair or replace it. If the fan does not have this feature, install a plugin nightlight. There's nothing worse than guests stumbling in the dark trying to find the bathroom light."

"Make the powder room fun and festive by updating the towel rack and toilet paper holder, mirror and light fixture," said Khriel. "Think about replacing the kitchen or bathroom faucet to a new, more efficient model or one with a water filter. And get any leaky faucets fixed."

A slow-burning fire is another way to create a sense of comfort and warmth. "Inspect your fireplace to be sure it's in working order and no debris is blocking the flue," said Khriel. "Consider building or adding a storage box for wood next to fireplace for easy access or add a permanent and decorative accent box nearby for the remote if a gas fireplace."

"Check that the dryer vent is clear, adding guests may mean more laundry," he added. "Make sure the heat vents are not obstructed. Since guests often stay in rooms that are not frequently used, make sure stored items are not in the way of airflow."

Electrical outlets that are infrequently used are often forgotten until guests arrive. "Fix nonworking electrical outlets that you



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER/MARIKA MEYER

Small bud vases on bedside tables and fresh bedding can give guest spaces a very inviting feeling, advises designer Katie McCarthy of Marika Meyer Interiors.

might need with more people in the house. Everyone will be have electronics to plug in," said Khriel. He said this is also a good time to take care of other simple projects like painting or putting in a new backsplash.

"Oil those squeaky interior and exterior doors so they don't wake up guests during the night," said Khriel. "Think about replacing broken or worn door knobs and locks."

The outside of a home should not be overlooked when preparing for guests, either. "Fall is a great time to tackle outdoor projects," said Walker. "If your shutters needs a fresh coat of paint, now's the time to do it. Have your windows professionally cleaned so that your holiday decorations will be seen on a pristine backdrop."

Power-washing your porches, walkways and patios offers guests a pristine first impression of your home. Inspect all walkways, especially flagstone and brick walkways and repair loose stones, advises Khriel. "Check exterior light fixtures to be sure they are in working order and that the bulbs are good. If exterior lights operate off a motion sensor, make sure it is adjusted properly."

"The bottom line," said Walker, "is that an organized, clean home, a stocked bar and kitchen, and happy, relaxed hosts will undoubtedly result in happy holiday guests."



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Feeling a Little Low



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In spite of mostly-successfully not being preoccupied with my condition/circumstances/disease, when a lung cancer survivor dies, even one with whom I've had minimal contact; one whom I could barely call an acquaintance, the link in the chain that makes all of us lung cancer patients/survivors stronger is most definitely effected.

Not that every lung cancer patient's diagnosis is identical; be it the staging (1-4), the type (non-small, small, etc.), the molecular profiling (ALK, EGFR, KRAS, HER2, etc.), the treatment or whether they were smokers or not, one cancer survivor's death is not necessarily related to another's. Like most things in life, more information is needed.

Nevertheless, it doesn't minimize the loss. When one survivor dies, we all die, a little bit. Recently, a prominent figure in the lung cancer world, Jerome Sorkin, a nine-plus year lung cancer survivor died. I did not know him, though I knew of him. I passed him once while walking in a hallway at The Key Bridge Marriott after attending the annual LUNGevity Foundation conference held every year in late April. We were both leaving but heading in opposite directions. He saw me and said "Love your column." I replied "Thanks," and that was the extent of our interaction.

In general, and in the lung cancer world in particular, typically one wants to hear positive news/be around positive people. Otherwise, maintaining your emotional equilibrium and your living/dying existence is simply too damn difficult. The razor thin line on which all of us lung cancer survivors teeter-totter cannot tolerate too much interference. Who knows exactly what news — personally or publicly, will cause one's cancer do what it so often does: inflict more damage followed by an inevitable decline.

This does not imply/encourage that cancer patients should or could quite frankly, live in an emotional bubble where only positive feedback and life-affirming words are allowed in. As my deceased father would have said: "The idea has merit." The reality is however, that such an option is impractical and unrealistic (except on Seinfeld; see "Bubble Boy"). Still, it doesn't diminish the fact that cancer survivors need to be "infused with positivity," as I like to say. Moreover, anecdotal evidence suggest that a good attitude and a positive environment affects a cancer patient's prognosis and enhances their lives.

Not only do I joke about having cancer, I want to be around others who joke as well and who can go with my flow and not bring me back to my reality. I spend enough time there on my own; I don't need any help returning. Nor do I do well when I hear bad news; specifically, the death of a fellow lung cancer survivor. Intellectually, I understand that lung cancer survivors are all different, live different lives, have different motivations, etc. Nevertheless, I feel for Jerome Sorkin, I feel for his family and friends and I feel for LUNGevity where Mr. Sorkin was Vice Chairman of LUNGevity's Board of Directors. I don't want any lung cancer survivors to die before their presumptive time. I want lung cancer to, at the very least, become a chronic/treatable disease (like diabetes) where one can live their life to a relatively normal expectancy; and if I were to dream really big, I want lung cancer and all cancers of course, to be curable/reversible.

Until these days arrive, all of us patients live on the edge. Just as I am strengthened by stories of resolve, I am weakened by stories of fellow survivors succumbing to their disease. Right now I am weakened.

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

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