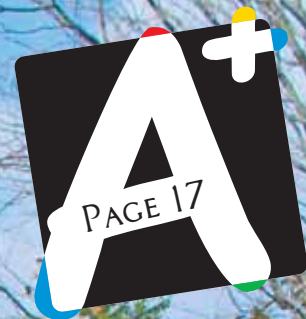


HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



# Great Falls CONNECTION



## Great Falls Honors Veterans

NEWS, PAGE 3

Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz greets kindergartners from the Village Green Day School who were sitting in the second row before the Veterans Day ceremony at the Freedom Memorial in Great Falls began.

## Holidays Are for Giving

OPINION, PAGE 8

## Comstock Wins 10th District Race

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 18

PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

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PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



The ceremony included a Marine Corps Color Guard, a four-member formation consisting of a Marine carrying the American flag, a Marine carrying the Marine Corps flag and two rifle bearers.

The Langley High School Madrigals, a choir of sophomores, juniors and seniors, sang the “Star-Spangled Banner,” “America the Beautiful” and “God Bless America” during the ceremony.

## Great Falls Remembers Its Veterans

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**W**orld War II Veteran Howard Jester, 90, was the guest of honor during a ceremony at the Freedom Memorial in Great Falls on Veterans Day.

“It’s easy to recognize active duty military, but most veterans blend into our communities,” said Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz, vice director of the Joint Improvised-Threat Defeat Agency, who was the keynote speaker at the ceremony.

“They are our friends, families and neighbors,” she said.

She recalled memories of the people she knew in her life who inspired her to join the military: her uncle, a World War II veteran; her best friend’s father, a Korean War veteran; and a childhood neighbor from where she grew up in Oregon, a Vietnam War veteran.

“People like them answered the nation’s call and blended back into the fabric of the USA,” she said. “Let us remember all who have served, for they are all heroes.”

The call to remember veterans and their stories was a theme echoed by speakers from the Friends of the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. They encouraged the crowd—including Virginia Delegate Kathleen Murphy, D-31, and Sharon Bulova, chairwoman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who were sitting in the first row—to obtain their military relatives’ service records so they could pass on their stories to younger generations.

Sandy Pidgeon encouraged the crowd to take flyers that contained information on how to request military personnel records from the National Archives.

When the ceremony finished, those who gathered at the memorial surrounded Jester, a Great Falls resident, to personally thank him. They may not have ever known that



People in the crowd surrounded World War II Veteran Howard Jester, 90, of Great Falls to shake his hand and personally thank him for his military service.



Kindergartners from the Village Green Day School in Great Falls lead the ceremony’s Pledge of Allegiance.

he was a combat parachutist with the Army’s 101st Airborne Division decades ago if his story wasn’t told.

### On a Mission: Military Appreciation Monday

For the last eight years, Bob Nelson, a realtor with Keller Williams Realty in Great Falls, has been organizing Military Appreciation Monday. The monthly fundraisers benefit military support organizations and groups.

Our Military Kids, Inc., a nonprofit organization based in McLean that provides grants to children of service members, holds a “very special place in [his] heart,” Nelson says.

The children of parents who were wounded or killed while serving in any branch of the military and children who have parents who are deployed National Guardsman or reservists in the Army Reserve are eligible for the grants, which fund activities that help children cope with the associated stress and anxiety.

“If you can’t take care of the kids of service members, you’ve got a country in trouble,” Nelson says.

Our Military has dropped its grants from \$500 per child to \$250 per child. This is because there has been a 35 percent increase in applicants, and donations have not caught up to the influx, says Linda Davidson, the founder and executive director of the nonprofit.

Her decision to decrease the grants was to make sure the nonprofit could provide some funding to all of the kids who are applying.

“Word is getting out in the military com

### The Freedom Memorial

The Freedom Memorial behind the Great Falls Library was inspired by a candlelight vigil that was held on Sept. 11, 2002. Six cherry trees located at the gateway to the plaza serve to honor the memory of the Great Falls residents who perished in the 9/11 attacks in 2001 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon:

- 1st Lt. Richard Gabriel
- Ann Judge
- Barbara Olson
- Lisa Raines
- Diane Simmons
- George Simmons

The memorial was dedicated on Nov. 13, 2004, and has been the location of memorial services on Memorial Day, Sept. 11 and Veterans Day ever since.

The centerpiece of the memorial is a rock that symbolizes the “ageless beauty of Great Falls and serves as remembrance of all those who have given themselves in the cause of liberty and freedom,” a plaque reads.

SEE VETERANS, PAGE 7

# Comstock Wins 10th District Race

Hotly contested seat targeted as a 'flip' for Democrats.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

From the outset, the race for Virginia's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional seat attracted national attention as a possible "flip" for Democrats in their bid to gain the 30 seats they needed to win back control of the House. Democrats poured money into the race, which many pollsters considered a bellwether race in a battleground state.

But in the end, freshman Republican Barbara Comstock swiftly and handily won her first reelection bid, defeating Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett by seven percentage points Tuesday night.

Just as Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump defied the predictions of pollsters and pundits to make Virginia a narrow victory for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, Comstock defied the "swing district" predictions and comfortably defeated Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett to hold the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District seat.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Barbara Comstock spoke to hundreds of supporters in Ashburn Tuesday night after her resounding victory over Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett.**

**WITH 99 PERCENT** of precincts reporting by 11 p.m., Comstock had 203,995 votes (53 percent), while Bennett had 181,999 votes (47 percent).

Bolstered by the Presidential election, voter turnout greatly exceeded the roughly 223,000 votes cast when Comstock won the seat in the 2014 midterm elections.

"This win is your win," Comstock declared

at a victory party in Ashburn Tuesday night to a crowd of about 200 supporters.

Ed Gillespie, a longtime Comstock supporter favored to win the GOP nomination for Virginia Governor in 2017, said Comstock won the race because no one could "outwork or outsmart" her. Comstock is known as an unflagging campaigner, who typically attends or hosts a dozen district

## Unofficial Election Results

Source: <http://results.elections.virginia.gov/>

### PRESIDENT

#### Virginia Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	1,968,213	49.63%
Donald J. Trump (R)	1,765,599	44.53%
Gary Johnson (L)	118,464	2.99%
Evan McMullin (I)	53,877	1.36%
Jill Stein (G)	27,572	0.70%

#### Fairfax County Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	355,052	64.41%
Donald J. Trump (R)	157,820	28.63%
Gary Johnson (L)	15,654	2.84%
Evan McMullin (I)	10,383	1.88%
Jill Stein (G)	4,475	0.83%

### U.S. CONGRESS

#### Member House of Representatives (08)

Donald S. Beyer Jr. (D)	245,480	68.3%
Charles A. Hernick (R)	98,211	27.33%
Julio Gracia (I)	14,636	4.07%

#### Member House of Representatives (10)

Barbara Jean Comstock (R)	210,619	52.69%
LuAnn L. Bennett (D)	187,532	46.92%

#### Member House of Representatives (11)

G. E. "Gerry" Connolly (D)	247,586	87.89%
Write-in	34,103	12.11%
Unopposed		

#### Fairfax County Meals Tax

No	291,082	53.84%
Yes	249,604	46.16%

events and meetings each week.

Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), another longtime Comstock

SEE COMSTOCK, PAGE 6

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Listing on all Major Real Estate Websites including Trulia & Zillow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dedicated Agent assigned to your property	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Display Yard Sign	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Provide a Lock Box	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Schedule Open Houses*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Professional Team to Review Contracts	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Experienced Team to Conduct Negotiations	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Fees Paid only at Closing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>\$1,000 Flat Fee for Selling Your Home</b>						✓
Available 7 days a week, 365 days a year						✓
<b>EXAMPLE:** \$500,000 Home</b>	3% Commission \$15,000	3% Commission \$15,000	3% Commission \$15,000	3% Commission \$15,000	3% Commission \$15,000	<b>\$1,000 Flat Fee</b> <b>\$14,000 SAVINGS !</b>

\*Only in Select Markets  
\*\*Based on Full Priced Commission at 3%

\*Each name, logo, or trademark in the above chart is the property of the identified real estate broker, and each is used for the sole purpose of making the above comparison. Federated Realty does not claim or represent that it is either affiliated with or sought the permission of any of the above-identified real estate brokers for this comparison.

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## NEWS

# Comstock Wins 10th District Race

FROM PAGE 4

supporter who attended Tuesday's victory party, said Comstock is committed to her constituents in a hands-on way. "They know her, and they know they can count on her," Herrity said. "She shows up. She even attended my town hall forums on heroin abuse because she knows it matters to her constituents."

But Democrats also knew that voters in the 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District were, by and large, affluent, well-educated and likely to reject Trump. They were counting on polls that showed educated suburban women voting against Trump and, by association, any down-ballot Republicans. In 2008 the district went blue for President Barack Obama, and – four years later – Republican candidate Mitt Romney narrowly carried the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Although Clinton defeated Trump by more than eight percentage points on Election Day in Virginia, Bennett was not able to ride her coattails to victory, indicating that many in the district split their votes

between the major parties - voting for Clinton for President but for the Republican Comstock for Congress.

"I commend LuAnn Bennett and her team for a truly hard-fought race in Virginia's 10th Congressional District," said Susan Swecker, the chairman of the Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA), in a statement after the race was called for Comstock.

"LuAnn brought everything to the table: a penchant for public service, a strong business record, and pragmatic solutions to the problems that face Northern Virginia. I am confident that her role as a community leader won't stop here, and I know she will continue to fight for working families in whatever she pursues next."

**BENNETT** told supporters in Falls Church Tuesday night that, although the results of the election were "not what we hoped," she was "so proud of the campaign we've run, and vision we've put forward for... our country."

## WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

### Starshine Theater to Hold Auditions

Celebrating 24th year of Great Performances by students of all ages, Starshine Theater will present "Singin' Our Lives!" ~ Your Story is Your Song ~ and will be holding auditions for ages 6 through 18 for actors, singers, dancers and musicians.

Students will have the opportunity to bring their creative talents to this new show.

Performance Workshop sequence includes the cast's participation in composing their character roles, script, music, lyrics, vocals, dance / action choreography, scene direction and instrumental arrangements.

Rehearsals and performances in Great Falls. For information contact: Patricia Budwig, M.A., 703-790-9050, StarshineTheater@aol.com



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*An Event sponsored by Dara Global Arts Gallery*

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**Wahne Salman**  
Film Director  
Flamenco Dancer

  
**Elsa Ma**  
Opera Singer  
Covers Soprano

You are invited to our "Calling for Peace" event to support the production of a documentary-drama film "Sacred Connection" This will be a sequel to the award winning "Jasmenco".

### EVENT DETAILS

**Date & Time: Saturday, November 19th, 2016**  
**5:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Location: 1855 St Frances St, Reston, VA 20190 (Penthouse)**  
 Free parking available at 11900 Market St, Reston, VA 20190

**Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served**  
**Dress Code: Jacket for Gentlemen & Cocktail Dress for Ladies**  
**\$60 per ticket (Student discount offered at the door)**

Purchase tickets via  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/calling-for-peace-tickets-28919969407>

Please print your ticket and bring it with you  
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# NEWS

## Veterans Honored in Great Falls

FROM PAGE 3

munity and the number of deployments are up over the last year," says Davidson.

Last month, she was on the Fox & Friends weekday talk show on Fox News channel to talk about how she was forced to cut the grants.

Ken Fisher, chairman and CEO of the Fisher House Foundation, saw the segment and wanted to help. His foundation cut a check for \$250,000 and challenged Americans across the country to step up and help too.

"I'm not quite sure how I'll do it, but I'm hoping to come up with a way to raise \$1 million for this great program," Nelson said in an email to the Connection.

In the meantime, Nelson is rolling out his Christmas Gift Wish List campaign for families of service members who have had a parent wounded or killed while deployed in military service.

"I get names and information of families that have lost parents or have a parent who is injured," he says. "It's a way to say thank you to these families for their sacrifices."



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

**Maj. Gen. Julie Bentz, addressing the crowd, was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in June 1986 and was promoted to her current rank in August 2013.**

People who sign up for his holiday campaign sign up to adopt a family and buy gifts for them. Last year, the campaign helped 336 kids from the northern Virginia area and all around the country.

While there is \$750,000 remaining to reach Nelson's ambitious goal, Davidson says, donations small and large can make a difference.

She says a quote she heard inspires her to do her work with Our Military Kids. A service member said: "Don't send cookies, care packages and socks. Just take care of our children."

"Helping veterans by helping their children is really the best way to recognize and say thanks to our military veterans," she says.

Not sure if this should be its own McLean article, but I thought it may be able to fit as a subhead

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# LETTERS

## Let Students Observe Veterans Day

To the Editor:

As my Fairfax County High School student was heading off to class on Nov. 11, I realized that Fairfax County Public Schools DO NOT observe Veterans Day as a National Holiday nor have they for quite some time.

As a product of the Fairfax County School system myself, I recall as a child heading down to Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day with my father (A WWII vet alive today at 103 years old) as we would spend a few hours meandering around Arlington National Cemetery stopping and reading the headstones of those great Americans who served this country proudly. One year, I watched President Ford lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier from the front row. This "tradition" became our "tradition" for years. I am not professing that Fairfax residents establish the traditions that my father and I had, but because our children must attend school on this hallowed day, a tradition such as I stated above never stands a chance of happening when our children are in school and we, as a nation, are honoring our Nation's Veterans.

The "Education Experts" of Fairfax County will probably say that they cannot afford to give students Veterans Day off because, "we need to save days-off during the year to account for inclement weather school closings."

Well, I visited the Fairfax County Public School website (so eloquently decorated and proudly displaying the American Flag mind

you) to look at the 2016-2017 Academic Year Calendar and I counted six student holidays not affiliated with any national observance that I am aware.

I did notice that Feb. 6, 2017 is a student holiday though. Is Feb. 6, 2017 a Student Holiday because the Super Bowl is the day before on Feb. 5, 2017?? Coincidental? I hope so. If not, that is shameful and disrespectful to the Veterans of this great Republic.

Let's get our priorities straight and allow the children of Fairfax County to acknowledge, observe, and learn about our veteran's service by observing this day as a National Holiday. I can think of no greater education.

**Joseph F. Sartiano, Jr**

Colonel, United States Army (Retired)  
Great Falls

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
north@connectionnewspapers.com

# 2016 Holiday Card Contest

Join us in spreading  
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We want you to help us  
design our Holiday cards!

Simply create a card that is  
in the Holiday spirit.

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- ◆ 3 Submissions will be selected for our printed holiday cards!
- ◆ Contest open to those 12 years of age and under
- ◆ Card design must be a Holiday theme
- ◆ Drawing must be completed on 8.5"x11" paper, may be landscape or portrait
- ◆ Entry form must be submitted with artwork
- ◆ All submitted artwork becomes property of Jan, Dan & Dianne
- ◆ Drawings may be altered for use on the card
- ◆ Drawings may be dropped at the Long & Foster Office at 9841 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Virginia
- ◆ Limit 1 entry per individual
- ◆ Questions? sold@longandfoster.com

### Entry Form

Entry Deadline: November 30, 2016 by 5:00 pm

Name of Artist: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Phone & Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Artist's Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### Required: Parental/Guardian Consent Form

Parental/Guardian Consent: I give permission for my child or dependent's artwork, name & age to be published in a 2016 Jan, Dan & Dianne, Great Falls Great Homes Holiday Card.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

How you would like to the child's name to be printed on the card: \_\_\_\_\_



# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## ONGOING

### CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike

**Drive** Nov. 1-Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap, canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.

**Drop-off boxes** are available at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S; Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E; Bikes @ Vienna, 128 Church Street NW; Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE; Doctors Covel, Stack, and Henon, 120 Beulah Road NE; Evolution Fitness, 216 Dominion Road NE; Rexall Drug Store, 150 Maple Avenue W; Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant Street NE.

**Gently-used bikes** are accepted on Nov. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at two locations: Vienna Presbyterian Church – Mill Street parking lot - and Antioch Christian Church at 1860 Beulah Road. Bicycles will be renewed as a courtesy by local bike shops.

Bring new unwrapped toys to Vienna Presbyterian Church, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, on Dec. 9 for distribution by CHO from 9:30 till noon. Gift cards from Target delight teens.

**Christmas Craft Show** Thursday Nov. 17 and 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Nov. 19, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This three-day event features a variety of handmade creations and craft supplies as well as a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Oakton church of the Brethren is located at 10025 Courthouse Road, near Rt. 123 in Oakton. [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org) or call 703-281-4411.

**Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** open every day beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. The walk of lights runs daily from 5:30 - 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m. This family-friendly six-week winter wonderland of spectacle is only a few years old but has garnered a loyal following from throughout the Northern Virginia area, particularly Vienna and its environs. To buy timed tickets online: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>

**Holiday Decorating Contest** We encourage all Great Falls businesses, organizations and neighborhoods to light up the night this December. The winner will receive \$200 and will be featured in an ad in the Great Falls Connection.

## SATURDAY/ NOV. 19

**Benefit Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show** at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) parking lot, 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna, 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Co-sponsored by the church and Mopar Club, the show benefits Family Pass Fairfax. Free for spectators, who are asked to bring canned food for the hungry. Entry fee for those who wish to show car or bike is \$20 (or \$15 plus five canned goods). Registration opens at 10 a.m.; judging at 12:30 p.m. [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 20

**Vienna Turkey Trot – 5K, 10K, and Fun Run** 8 a.m. Kids Fun Run; 8:30 a.m. 5K/10K. The James Madison High School Band hosts the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Vienna Turkey Trot 5K/10K and Fun Run. Starts/ends at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. All proceeds benefit the JMHS band and the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. The 5k/10k Course is USATF Certified. Race fee includes



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**The lighting of the Christmas Tree during the 25th Annual Celebration of Lights and Great Falls Holiday Fest on Dec. 6, 2015 at the Great Falls Village Center. This year's celebration takes place on Dec. 4 at the village Center 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. rain or shine.**

## Great Falls Church Announces Children's Christmas Program

Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, announces a free event on Sunday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m., open to the community, featuring the Christmas story told through narration, scripture and Christmas carols. The cast of children bring the Nativity scene to life with Mary, Joseph, animals, angels and shepherds. A potluck supper follows the program at 6 p.m.

The Christ the King Lutheran Church Children's Christmas Program features the church's Sunday School program students as lecturers, chorus and actors and the program's high school students will help with stage management.

With its mission to welcome all and equip Christian disciples to share God's love and grace through worship, prayer, relationship, learning, giving, and serving, Christ the King Lutheran Church aspires to be a vibrant community of Jesus' disciples, empowered by the Holy Spirit to bring God's grace into the world. It is an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Holiday Events at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Great Falls

### THANKSGIVING DAY

**Thursday, Nov. 24 - 10 a.m.**  
Please bring an offering of canned food.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship  
**Saturday, Dec. 24 - 5, 7 and 11 p.m.**

### CHRISTMAS DAY

**Sunday, Dec. 25**  
Lessons and Carols – 10 a.m.

### NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

**Sunday, Jan. 1**  
Lessons and Carols – 10 a.m.

a technical T shirt. 5k - \$35; 10k - \$40; Kids Fun Run - \$20. To register, go to <https://register.chronotrack.com/r/21497>. [turkeytrot@jmhsband.org](mailto:turkeytrot@jmhsband.org)

## TUESDAY/NOV. 22

**The 18th Annual Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** 7:30 p.m. Hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Clergy will lead the service with prayers for peace and thanksgiving. Local choirs will join together under one roof to provide an evening of inspirational music. An offering will be collected to support those in need this holiday season. Bring family or friends — this is a joyous way to begin celebrating the holidays.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 25-27

**Thanksgiving Art and Craft Show** presented by The Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild (NVHG) at the recently renovated Spring Hill RECenter, 1239 Spring Hill Rd., McLean. The show will feature the original handmade craft and artwork of approximately 80 juried artists and artisans offering original jewelry, woodworking, photography, painting, fiber art, pottery, fused and stained glass, and much more. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults (free for children 12 and under) and includes free return and free parking. For more information, visit [www.nvhg.org](http://www.nvhg.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 26

**The Nutcracker** 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Classical Ballet Theatre's Nutcracker includes stunning costumes, dancing, and enchantment, and it celebrates some of the most beautiful choreography and professional talent in the Washington Metropolitan Area. [www.virginiaballetcompany.org/performances/](http://www.virginiaballetcompany.org/performances/)

## SUNDAY/NOV. 27

**Young Soloists Recital at The Alden 3 p.m.** This free classical music series, features professional musicians who have won international recognition. The series also includes Young Soloists Recitals that showcase the talents of local school-age musicians. Cosponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and The Alden. [www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre](http://www.mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre)

## MONDAY/NOV. 28, 2016

**Church Street Holiday Stroll.** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Freeman House and Store, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Enjoy fun family-friendly activities including a visit from Santa, petting zoo, free hot chocolate and roasting marshmallows at supervised bonfires. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Redskins Personal Appearance** 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Ruth's Chris Steak House in Tysons Corner 8521 Leesburg Pike, Suite 150, Vienna. Join Ruth's Chris Steak House as we host our "Redskins Meet & Greet" for the 2016-17 NFL Season. Admission: \$15 [gmytysons@ruthschris.com](mailto:gmytysons@ruthschris.com) 703-848-4290 [www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/tysons-corner](http://www.ruthschris.com/restaurant-locations/tysons-corner)

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 2-4

**McLean Holiday Crafts Show.** 11 SEE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Singing holiday tunes are the St. Francis Creche Preschool, part of St. Francis Episcopal Church, in Great Falls during the 25th Annual Celebration of Lights and Great Falls Holiday Fest on Dec. 6, 2015.

Our Lady of Good Counsel presents...

## Holly & Ivy

A CHRISTMAS MARKETPLACE  
 Saturday, Dec. 3, 10-5  
 Sunday, Dec. 4, 9-3

Home Décor & Christmas Gifts  
 Fine Stationery, Jewelry, Ornaments  
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## HONEYBAKED HAM.

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAYS AROUND THE BEST-TASTING HAM



### HONEYBAKED HAM.

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Bone-In Half Ham,  
8 lbs or Larger



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### HONEYBAKED HAM.

**\$3 OFF**

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Turkey Breast, Boneless  
Ham or Quarter Ham



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### HONEYBAKED HAM.

**10% OFF**

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Catering Order  
of \$100 or More



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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Living Nativity at Great Falls United Methodist Church

Great Falls United Methodist Church will be holding its annual Living Nativity on Thursday Dec.18. Three 20 minute one act plays of this glorious event will begin at 5 p.m. and end at 6 p.m. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle your joy for Christmas! 10100 Georgetown Pike Great Falls www.greatfallsumc.org

FROM PAGE 10

www.jillshouse.org

a.m.-7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. This highly regarded, juried show features fiber arts, wood, ceramics, pottery, jewelry, glass, holiday decor, fashion, items for children, gourmet foods, paper art, photography, sculpture, paintings and more. Cost: Adults \$5, children free. Visit <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 4

**Celebration of Lights** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Hill Celebrate the beginning of the season with our Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire and listen to our local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep kids busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck.

**McLean WinterFest parade & celebration** 2016 Begins at 2:45 p.m. on Old Chain Bridge Road The star of the parade, Santa, will be riding on top of the McLean Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire engine. Visit: <http://www.mcleanvfd.org/2015-winterfest-parade/>

**Jill's House Event to Support Special Needs** 7:30 p.m. at McLean Bible Church 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The program is "A Star is Born, An Evening in December" with Ellie Lofaro, international speaker, and singing group, Point of Grace. This is an all women event. A quilt silent auction of 13 quilts will be featured in the church's Main Lobby with proceeds also going to Jill's House. The quilts have been generously donated by local quilting guilds including the Reston Quilters Unlimited and friends.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 11

**"Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas"** at 1 & 4 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. For ages 4+. What could be fancier than Christmas? This year, Nancy is especially excited. She has enough money to buy a brand-new sparkly Christmas-tree topper. But when things don't turn out the way Nancy planned, will Christmas still be splendiferous? Admission: \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents/ <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

### SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**A Holiday to Remember Concert** 8 p.m. Oakcrest School- 850 Balls Hill Rd, McLean. This concert will be a family friendly one hour matinee featuring holiday favorites like Trepak from Nutcracker and Caribbean Sleigh Ride. Parking will be available at the Chesterbrook School, 1753 Kirby Rd. <http://mclean-orchestra.org/our-season/>

### SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**A Holiday to Remember Concert** 3 p.m. Vinson Hall- 1735 Kirby Rd. McLean. This concert will be a family friendly one hour matinee featuring holiday favorites like "Trepak" from "TheNutcracker" and "Caribbean Sleigh Ride." <http://mclean-orchestra.org/our-season/>

### SATURDAY/DEC. 17

**"John Eaton's Holiday Songbook"** 2 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Jazz pianist and musicologist John Eaton's first-ever holiday concert last year was such a hit that we're

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR, PAGE 13



From left — Stan Shulman and Noah Schaefer in "Broadway Bound" at 1st Stage..

PHOTOS BY DOUG WILDER/ COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

## Joy, Tears and Laughter

### "Broadway Bound" from Neil Simon at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**A** finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, "Broadway Bound" is a treasure from the fertile mind of Tony Award winning playwright Neil Simon. Under the fine, perceptive direction of Shirley Serotsky, "Broadway Bound" is a remarkable production full of family love and pain with plenty of humor.

The play focuses on two brothers who want to make it as professional comedy writers. In their 20s, they still live at home with their parents and their grandfather. The time is right after WW II, the location New York City's Brighton Beach.

While setting their sights on show business the two brothers are also grappling with their parents' unstable marriage. Their parents are taking stock of their lives. Trust is not easy to come by, joy a tough commodity to find.

Needless to say, the brothers write comic sketches that are successful. Leaving home, however, is no easy undertaking.

Serotsky's casting is divine. As the concerned younger brother Eugene, Noah Schaefer is a droll presence. He has a quick, snappy delivery especially with pithy rejoinders playing off other characters. His sensitive manner in the show's dramatic moments are to be savored.

Older brother Stanley played by Scott Ward Abernethy is an anxious, self-centered character. He speaks and moves about the stage in interactions with family members with a sense of aggressive restlessness.

The father is given a performance full of regret and need by Andy Brownstein. He is a man who wants to experience life before his time runs out. Stan Shulman is a comic hoot as the grandfather. He is a man with a warm center even when roaring. As newly rich daughter, Kathleen Akerley gives depth and wisdom as a woman caught between her working-class background and her new status.



Teresa Castracane and Noah Schaefer in "Broadway Bound" at 1st Stage.

### Where and when

"Broadway Bound," performed at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through Dec. 18, 2016. Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets \$30 (adults.), \$27 (seniors) and \$15 students and military). Call 703-654-1856 or visit [www.1stStage.org](http://www.1stStage.org)

Then there is the mother. In a marvelous performance by Teresa Castracane, any scene she appears in becomes hers. Castracane is impressively touching and authentic. Whether angry or wistful she holds the audience's attention.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Stage technical design artisans is a theatrical joy. A gorgeous, fabricated two-story home designed by Jonathan Dahm Robertson greets the wide-eyed audience. It is full of detailed props from Kay Rzasas and Deb Creire. Robert Croghan's costumes are spot-on late 1940s.

"Broadway Bound" has a deep core that will especially touch Baby Boomers with a New York state of mind. They may well remember their own family lives full of joy, tears and laughter.

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

bringing it back! Hear your Great American Songbook favorites with a yuletide twist. Admission: \$35/\$20 MCC tax district residents. <http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre>

### SUNDAY/DEC. 18

**McLean Symphony Family Holiday Concert.** 3 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. Features Antonio Vivaldi's Winter from "The Seasons" and highlights from Gian-Carlo Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors." Admission: \$25/adults, \$20/seniors, \$15/students.

**Great Falls United Methodist Church Living Nativity** 5 - 6 p.m. Three 20 minute, one act plays will kick off the event. Come listen to the story, sing some carols, pet the animals, enjoy refreshments, and rekindle joy for Christmas. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. [www.greatfallsumc.org](http://www.greatfallsumc.org)

### SATURDAY/JAN. 7

**The Capitol Steps at The Alden** 8 p.m. 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. To recover from this off-the-wall election cycle, remain calm and walk, do not run, to The Alden and shelter-in-place with these master political satirists. \$50/\$35 MCC tax district residents. Visit: [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).

## 'Enchanted Forest' Returns to Tysons

Junior League of Northern Virginia (JLNV) will host the 16th annual "The Enchanted Forest," a weekend-long holiday festival featuring a variety of affordable events for the entire family on Nov. 19 and 20 at the Westin in Tysons Corner, located at 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. "The Enchanted Forest" is the JLNV's largest fundraiser and features a beautiful "forest" of more than 100 theme-decorated holiday trees for silent auction throughout the weekend, live entertainment, a model train display, hands-on activities for children, a festival holiday marketplace and An Enchanted Affair evening event for adults.

Proceeds from "The Enchanted Forest" directly support the Junior League of Northern Virginia's community initiatives, which are focused on empowering families to make healthy eating and active living a priority, and support the development of women who will build better communities for years to come. Purchase your tickets today at <http://tinyurl.com/TEF2016> or visit online at [www.jlcv.org/TEF](http://www.jlcv.org/TEF) for more information.



**Thanksgiving Art & Craft Show**  
Spring Hill RECenter  
1239 Spring Hill Rd., McLean, VA 22102

**Thanksgiving Weekend**  
Fri & Sat 10 - 5  
Sun 11 - 4

**New Location!**  
Formerly Vienna Art & Craft Show

**\$5 Admission**  
Free Return  
Free Parking

**NVHG**  
Northern Virginia Handcrafters Guild

[www.NVHG.org](http://www.NVHG.org)



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At The Kensington, we've developed a care model built around families and for families. We offer support that meets the needs unique to each individual, even when they're half of a couple.

We introduce new social, wellness and enrichment opportunities regularly, but we also go out of our way to preserve the familiarity of comfortable routines and favorite pastimes they shared together as one.

**Please call us at 703-992-9868 to learn more about our lifestyle options for couples. Or, visit our Information Center at 1212 West Broad Street, any day of the week from 9am-6pm.**

**THE KENSINGTON**  
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Information Center: 1212 W Broad St, Falls Church, VA | 703.992.9868 | [www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com](http://www.TheKensingtonFallsChurch.com)



## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE



**34<sup>th</sup> Annual**  
**McLean Holiday CRAFTS SHOW**  
*A Juried Arts and Crafts Show Since 1982*

**Friday-Sunday**  
**December 2-4**

Friday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.  
 Saturday: 10 a.m.-6 p.m.  
 Sunday: 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Admission:**  
 \$5 adults, children 12 and younger free.  
*Good all three days!*

This highly regarded juried show features stylish home decor, pottery, glass, mixed media, gourmet foods, fashion accessories, unique children's gifts, jewelry, organic and botanical body care, photography and more!

**The McLean Community Center**  
 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101  
 703-790-0123/TTY: 711  
[www.mcleancenter.org/special-events](http://www.mcleancenter.org/special-events)



PHOTO BY ANNE WALKER

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



PHOTO BY FRED/CASE

**Ensuring that major appliances are in proper working order should be on a guest-readiness checklist, advises Chuck Khiel of FRED Home Improvement.**

# Guest-Ready Home for the Holidays

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

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

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

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

— Anne M. Walker,  
 Anne Walker Design LLC

SEE GUEST READY, PAGE 15

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 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
 Sunday School: preschool - grade 2  
 Music: grades 3 - 7  
 10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
 Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
 11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
 5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
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 CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM  
 MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM**

# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

## Guest-Ready

FROM PAGE 14

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 Khiel, 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 Khiel. "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 Khiel. "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 Khiel. "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.



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.**

"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 might need with more people in the house. Everyone will have electronics to plug in," said Khiel. 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 Khiel. "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 Khiel. "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."



## Here's What's Happening at MCC



**Silent Movie with Live Music**  
**"Chicago" (1927)**  
 Tuesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
 \$12/\$8 MCC district residents

### Family Events @ The Old Firehouse

## Unruly Theatre Project Improv & Comedy Show

Friday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m.  
 Free admission

### Dallas Children's Theater

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### Closing Notice



## Happy Thanksgiving!

MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 24, and Friday, Nov. 25, for the Thanksgiving Day holidays.

### McLean Holiday Crafts Show

Friday, Dec. 2, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.  
 Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
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# EDITORIAL

## Give Locally

FROM PAGE 8

counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>

- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org)
- ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: [jhenderson@homestretchva.org](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>
- ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 [info@pathwayhomes.org](mailto:info@pathwayhomes.org) <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>

### Volunteer Locally Through Volunteer Fairfax

❖ **Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread):** Sponsor individuals and families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and/or gifts for children in December. Britepaths will send you information on a person/family who meets your criteria, and you will contact them and arrange to deliver food and/or gifts. You may also donate funds to help us assist those who are not sponsored. To sponsor a family or make a donation, visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

❖ **The Holiday Project:** Share the spirit of the season with The Holiday Project, a non-profit organization that organizes visits to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities during the holiday season. Bring the spirit of a holiday to those who might not otherwise have a celebration. Visits occur throughout the metropolitan area. Dates and times of visits vary by location; for more information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

❖ **Cornerstones:** Volunteer to accept gifts from donors and get them ready for distribution to local families, or assist families that are picking up gifts with getting items to their car. Several shifts are available. Good for adults, families and corporate groups. Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17. Times vary.

To sign-up or learn more please contact us at <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com/index.html?tab=volunteer-opportunity&ID=2144>

❖ **New Hope Housing:** Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday, New Hope Housing provides nearly 200 food baskets to clients living in our community housing programs. Volunteers ensure that families are able to have a special and memorable holiday. Volunteers can sign up to help by hosting a Thanksgiving or Christmas food drive, donating a food basket for a single adult or family, donating grocery store gift cards for clients to purchase turkeys (grocery stores along Route 1 are best), signing up to drop off Christmas dinner at one of our Permanent Supportive Housing sites. <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

Sign up to help ensure that children in those families receive holiday gifts this year. You can volunteer to help by adopting a child and fulfilling his or her holiday wish list. Wish lists are available now. Donating gift cards for parents to purchase their children new clothing. Stores along Route 1 are best. Hosting a special program for the children, such as holiday card and gift making for their parents.

To sign up, fill out the following form and a member of the New Hope Housing team will respond as soon as possible <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com>

❖ **Richard Byrd Library:** Semi-annual Holiday used book sale at Richard Byrd Library in Springfield. Pre-Sale: (Nov. 28 - 30) volunteers will set up tables, organize sale



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Pictured, from left, are: Ethan Addington, Ona Sinani, Kian Ambrose, Spencer Paulsen, Collin Togher, Ryan Duenkel, Alex Mavris, Boden Gentile, Jeffrey Stark, Aidan Connolly, Danny McGaughey and Coach Keith Osborne (missing Ryan Shiner, Eric Bellino and Max Alexander).

## Great Falls U13 Blue Win Virginia President's Cup

The GFSC U13 Blue, a travel soccer team based in Great Falls, recently capped off a fall 2016 season by winning the U13 Vir-

ginia Cup title with a 5-0 win over Virginia Beach. The U13 Blue will be representing Virginia in the national playoffs starting June 2017.

## Potomac School's Nardini to Play Tennis at University of Richmond

Joe Nardini, a senior at The Potomac School, has signed his national letter of intent to play Division I tennis for the University of Richmond.

Nardini is a four-year member of Potomac's varsity team and served as a team captain last year. In both his sophomore and junior years, he was named to the All-State First Team and received Washington Post All-Met honorable mentions in the sport. During his freshman year, Nardini was selected for the All-State Second Team. He has received All-MAC honors for the past three years and looks forward to his senior season at Potomac this spring.

Nardini cites Richmond coach Ben Johnson as positively influencing his decision to attend the university. He notes, "I am interested in majoring in business, and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Joe Nardini**

Richmond has great programs in that area. Plus, when I visited the campus and met the tennis team, I saw that they are super dedicated, great guys. I feel like I will be part of a family there."

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# Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

**Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.**

Ever since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugarcane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that in order to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that, if done at any other time of the year, might appear to be chocolate-covered-insanity.

In response, dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of holiday cooking classes this season. Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assembling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna, Virginia. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

Students at Culinary enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macarons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with



PHOTO COURTESY OF TERRI CARR

**Terri Carr bakes, decorates and packages holiday cookies, which she sends to friends and family.**

laughter and chatter," said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons, which she runs informally out of her home – students discover her through word of mouth – she demonstrates tooth-achingly rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes. A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies. "I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooks-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can

use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs.

In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies. There's even a gift class where they fill mason jars with ingredients for cookie dough. The project becomes present-ready when topped with shiny bows.

"We're giving them a nice way to participate with the holiday cooking," said Raguindin. "It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugar-plum fantasies. At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Maryland, kitchen to preserve a baking tradition that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues. "We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home. This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather and nosh on the fruits of their holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.

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## Feeling a Little Better



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just as last week's column attempted to describe the loss a surviving cancer patient feels when a fellow cancer patient succumbs to his disease, this week's column will attempt the opposite: describe the feeling a surviving cancer patient feels when a new lung cancer patient joins the club. Specifically, an individual (who I met this week, coincidentally) who exudes the kind of confidence and positive attitude necessary to endure the bumpy road ahead. Unfortunately, one doesn't always have the luxury to avoid the road/not join the club; to quote Grouch Marx: "I don't want to belong to a club that will accept me as a member." If only it were that funny - and simple.

With respect to lung cancer patients, typically a late-stage diagnosis: stage IV (there is no stage V), is heard early on the initial appointment with one's oncologist. Given that there is at present, no agreed-upon approach to screen for lung cancer and in many cases, patients are often symptom-free or experiencing discomfort not in the lungs; nor having any difficulty breathing, coughing or coughing up blood, among other symptoms, especially so for non-smokers who now represent upwards of 25 percent of new lung cancer patients, this is not uncommon. For multiple reasons then, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in this country, projected at 158,000 in 2016, as well the leading cause of new cases of cancer reported every year, projected at 225,000, "more than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined," according to cancer.org. One percent live beyond two years, according to cancer.net

Generally speaking then, one can say, with a reasonable amount of confidence, that receiving a diagnosis of lung cancer is devastating news and for a few days anyway, knocks the wind completely out of your sails, even if you don't own a sailboat. It's almost impossible, eight years post-diagnosis, to articulate exactly how I felt when a doctor (an oncologist) whom I had never met told me I had stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and advised me I had "13 months to two years" to live (I was 54 and a half at the time and a life-long non-smoker). Out of the blue doesn't even begin to describe my reaction. Surreal, which was my general sense of what I had just heard is also a very common description, as I have likewise heard and read from other newly diagnosed cancer patients.

So you need to find help anywhere you can get it. For me, the most valuable help was/is emotional: people being supportive, encouraging, funny, unafraid to face my reality and most importantly, positive - about the negative. Don't tell me anything that I'm doing is bad. Tell me everything I'm doing is good. Minimize the negative and maximize the positive. Don't be overconfident but do be underwhelmed. Take my circumstances in stride. Don't walk quietly and don't carry a big stick. Treat me normally - in spite of my cancer, as you would had I not been so diagnosed. If I am treated in these ways, I will - and think I have become, a welcome addition to the club. Because this is a club that needs individuals to step up and fight not only for themselves but for to others as well. And if in fact what goes around comes around, I will be similarly embraced and moreover, cared for and about; and it's the strength in these numbers that will empower me to be the best cancer patient I can. And when I meet a fellow cancer patient, this how I will roll: concerned but emotionally available, serious but funny, respectful but disarming, realistic but hopeful and always positive about their negative. If I am turn treated in a similar way and the patient expresses the kind of good-in-the-locker-room type of attitude necessary for the long journey ahead, I will feel stronger and more hopeful for my own circumstances than I would have had I not met this new patient.

Cancer shouldn't be a singular pursuit. I need your help, and I'm willing to offer mine. If we help other, we'll both be better served because of it. This is not meant to be selfish, it is meant to be selfless. There is no "I" in cancer.

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

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OBITUARY



Nathalie Kuhlman Riordan

April 29, 1915 - November 11, 2016  
Nathalie K. Riordan passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on November 11, 2016. She was born in Wausau, WI 101 years ago and is survived by her loving children, David Riordan (Catherine) of Centerville, VA, Sandra Bohnsack of Chicago, IL, Michael Riordan (Linda) of Rochester, NY, Patrice Keegan of Fairfax, VA, and Jerris Riordan of Vienna, VA as well as 10 adoring grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. She is predeceased by her husband, John B. Riordan and her son, John P. Riordan.  
Nano balanced raising six children with her late husband, John, as his career took the family abroad to live in Egypt, Italy and South Vietnam. Upon John's death in 1969, Nano began her own career with the Central Intelligence Agency, which spanned 43 years and ended with her retirement in 2011 at the age of 96. She acted as President of her condominium association until her death. A loving, gracious, intelligent and compassionate woman, Nano, as she was known, was a person of boundless energy who fervently embraced the lives and interests her family of 51 as well as all those she met. She will be remembered for her open door, open mind and open heart.

A memorial service will be held on November 19 at 3:30 PM at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, Vienna, VA, followed by a reception at the Fairfax Hunt Club, 1321 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston, VA. In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be sent to the American Legion, Dyer-Gunnell Post 180, 330 North Center Street, Vienna, VA 22180 or the American Heart Association, 4301 Fairfax Drive #530, Arlington, VA 22203.

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E-mail ad with zone choices to: [classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com) or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

**EMPLOYMENT**

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**ZONES**

**Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection  
**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection  
The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection  
**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette  
**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South  
**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac  
**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection

**7TH ANNUAL FOOD FOR TREES EVENT**  
<http://foodfortrees.org> (The flyer is also attached)  
Share and the McLean Rotary Club are collaborating to offer Christmas trees and wreaths at cost in exchange for a food donation to the Share food pantry. Not only do you get a lovely, fresh cut Fraser fir tree and/or wreath, but you also participate in the spirit of Christmas by helping needy individuals and families living in our area. The attached flyer lists the tree and wreath sizes and has an order form. This information can also be found at [www.foodfortrees.org](http://www.foodfortrees.org). You can order online using PayPal. Or, you can mail your order form with a check (payable to McLean Rotary Club) to McLean Rotary Club, P.O. Box 561, McLean, VA 22101.  
Tree pickup will be held Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 4 p.m. in the McLean Baptist Church parking lot, 1367 Chain Bridge Road. Please bring \$35 worth of groceries, grocery gift cards or a donation in cash or check (checks payable to McLean Rotary Club).  
Please share this information with your friends. The more trees and wreaths we sell, the more we help the needy in our community.  
Volunteers Needed  
We will need help Friday, Dec. 2 [time to be determined] when the trees are delivered from a farm in southern Virginia, and on tree pick-up day, Saturday, Dec. 3. Please let us know if you can help. Please feel free to call us with questions. Thanks very much for your continued support. [jauerbach@cox.net](mailto:jauerbach@cox.net) [iauerbach@cox.net](mailto:iauerbach@cox.net) 703-893-6953

**FRIDAY/NOV. 18**  
**Citrus Sales** begin at American Legion Post 270. Freshly picked Florida grapefruit, oranges, and tangerines will arrive at the Post Home (1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean) and can be on your table the third weekend of every month from November 2016 through March 2017. Proceeds from these sales are used to support veteran needs, youth programs, the local community, and patriotic activities. For additional information or to place your citrus order in advance, call 703-356-8259. To get on the American Legion citrus mailing list email: [McLeanPost270@yahoo.com](mailto:McLeanPost270@yahoo.com).

**WEDNESDAY/DEC. 7**  
**Decluttering Seminar.** The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar for December, 2016, on Decluttering (McLean High School, 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and seminar registration go to Retiree- RealEstate.org.

**TUESDAY/DEC. 13**  
**Aging in Place Seminars.** The Retiree Real Estate Education Association announces free public service seminar for December, 2016, on Aging in Place (Falls Church H.S., 7 p.m.). The seminar is a part of a series of 8 free seminars on real estate issues unique to retirees. Seminars are free, in the evenings at County public schools. For more information and seminar registration go to Retiree- RealEstate.org.

**ONGOING**  
**Passages Divorce Care.** Tuesdays 6:45 to 9:00 p.m. beginning September 13th. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna, Virginia. Cost to cover materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938-9050, [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**The Lights, Camera, Save! Video Contest** is a competition that encourages teens to write and produce a 90-second video to explore the value of saving and use their creativity to inspire others to become lifelong savers. This program inspires students to take an active role in being smart money managers and ties in well with new state financial literacy requirements. The Contest is open to students age 13 - 18 years old and is free and easy to enter. Students can win up to \$5000 in the national competition. Burke & Herbert Bank is awarding \$350, \$100, and \$50 to the top three local winners. The entry deadline is December 1. [save@burkeandherbertbank.com](mailto:save@burkeandherbertbank.com)



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