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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Zoe Barth hangs a live balsam wreath at the gravesite of William Frederick Enderle, Lieutenant commander, and US Navy World War II. After hanging the wreath, Zoe stepped back and said aloud, "William Frederick Enderle, thank you."

HOLIDAY
CALENDAR

PAGE 7

Herndon Observes Wreaths Across America Day

NEWS, PAGE 3

Herndon 'Dressed Up'
For the Holidays

NEWS, PAGE 4

Herndon-Reston FISH Plays
Santa's Helpers Once Again

NEWS, PAGE 8

Christmas at trinity

Christmas Eve - 12/24

11 am - Lunch for the Soul Fiesta & Worship
5 pm - Family Service
10 pm - Traditional Candlelight Communion Service

Christmas Day - 12/25

11 am - Service of Lessons & Carols

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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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2/28/2016.....Children's Connection 2016

JANUARY

1/4/2017.....Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/11/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

1/18/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

1/25/2017.....Community Guide

1/25/2017.....Winter Fun, Food, Arts &
Entertainment; Valentine's Preview

FEBRUARY

2/1/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/1/2017.....Wellbeing - National Children's Dental
Health Month

2/8/2017.....HomeLifeStyle

2/8/2017.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Valentine's Day is February 14

2/15/2017.....A+ Camps & Schools

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News



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND RESCUE

When firefighters arrived, fire was visible from the balcony of a third-floor apartment.

Improperly Discarded Fireplace Ashes Cause Apartment Fire

Approximately 60 firefighters responded to a fire at an apartment building in the 2500 block of Farmcrest Drive in Herndon on Monday, Dec. 12, at 3:30 a.m. One person was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and two adults were displaced because of the fire. The Red Cross provided assistance. There were no injuries to firefighters. Fire Investigators determined the fire was caused accidentally by someone who discarded fireplace ashes onto the balcony.

When firefighters arrived, fire was visible from the balcony of a third-floor apartment. Firefighters attacked the fire from ground level, which extinguished most of the visible fire. However, fire had extended into the attic of the building.

Crews then brought the fire hose to the third floor through the outside of an open stairwell and were able to extinguish the remaining fire.

The estimated property damage is \$40,000.

—FALLON FORBUSH

Dulles Regional Chamber Presents Stars Over Dulles Awards

The Dulles Regional Chamber hosted its annual Stars Over Dulles Awards Luncheon at the Westin Washington Dulles on Dec. 13. Award recipients included Veteran Star Col. Bob Shawn, a fighter pilot of three wars. Patty Nicoson was named Transportation Star for her leadership in bringing the Silver Line to Dulles and beyond. Hospitality Star The National Conference Center was recognized for its recent successes and multiple awards. Signe Friedrichs and Arts Herndon won the Arts Award for successfully uniting two arts organizations and producing outstanding programming. Health & Wellness Star went to Inova's Institute for Personalized Health for leading the way in the integration of genomics into personalized medicine. Global Star TriVision Creative was recognized for winning the large Dept. of Commerce marketing bid, as well as for their signal

campaign for Afghan Women's Rights. Mike O'Reilly was presented with the Community Star for his long-time leadership as Mayor of Herndon, Board Member of MWAA and Chair of Fairfax County's Initiative to prevent and End Homelessness.

Madhu Garlanka and Allwyn Corporation received the Workforce Award for their outstanding software app GetAJob that links employers with entry-level applicants in the Dulles footprint.

The Valor Award was presented to James Estep, who volunteers with both the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department and Sterling Rescue. A special Youth Award was presented by Loudoun County Chair Phyllis Randall to Gavin Stone and Cameron Rogers, students from Riverside High, who demonstrated uncommon bravery and maturity at the scene of a fatal car crash.

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Herndon Observes Wreaths Across America Day

Even with an ice storm, it was a beautiful day to remember, honor and teach.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Town of Herndon, in partnership with Herndon Woman's Club, joined in to support National Wreaths Across America Day Saturday, Dec. 17 at Chestnut Grove Cemetery. Kathy Herbert, President of Herndon Woman's Club, said, "Today, we show a united front of gratitude and respect across the United States of America as we remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom." Seven service members who represented the five branches of the U.S Armed Forces, Merchant Marines and POWs & MIAs laid wreaths to honor those who served the country.

According to Nancy Farr, Executive Board Member, Herndon Woman's Club, the event took a year to plan, fundraise and identify the 739 gravesites of deceased veterans.

Susy Legerwood, a member of Herndon Woman's Club, was key in the identification. "It was a labor of love," Legerwood said. "Every time we went out, we found more. We just located 10 who have no markers. We made tags with their names and the gravesite locations. We'll hang a nametag on a wreath. Even though a marker



Shannon Stoner holds a wreath given to her by volunteer, Thomas Carney, Boy Scout Troop 1577, Trinity Presbyterian Church, Herndon, during National Wreaths Across America Day.



Dressed for the icy weather, a volunteer begins to hand out wreaths to participants waiting in line at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, an official National Wreaths Across America Day site.

doesn't say their name, we will say the name aloud, so the veteran is not forgotten."

Carol Wright, Committee co-chair, said that the theme for 2016 was "Say Their Name." In Herbert's remarks, she encouraged volunteers to say the veteran's name aloud when they placed the wreath and take a moment to thank the veteran for their service.

"Each wreath is a gift of appreciation," Herbert said, "from a grateful America."

An ice storm had threatened to postpone or cancel the ceremony but Herndon's Department of Public Works treated area streets and roads in the cemetery. Earlier that morning, David Roscoe, Cemetery Manager, said, "We've got the salt. We're moving forward with it."



Colonel Alan Chambers, US Air Force, 779th Surgical Operations Squadron Joint Base Andrews, Fort Belvoir and Walter Reed, lays a remembrance wreath in memory of those who served and are serving in the United States Air Force during National Wreaths Across America Day held at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, Saturday, Dec. 17.

Wright added: "These veterans had been in so much worse weather than this. It is really a beautiful day, any day you can honor our veterans."

As noon approached, hundreds of citizens from the Town of Herndon arrived.

Young and old, boy scouts and girl scouts, families holding the hands of very young children and

families supporting the arms of their elderly. They came in holiday stocking hats and headscarves, and each was offered a live balsam wreath to place on a veteran's grave.

Jennifer Baker, Vice Mayor of Herndon, said, "We treasure that we have a town cemetery with which we can honor all 739 of our veterans."

Fire Displaces 2 Adults and 2 Dogs

Firefighters quickly extinguished a house fire on Parkstream Terrace in Herndon on Monday, Dec. 12, around 8 p.m. The two adults and two dogs who lived in the house safely evacuated before the fire department arrived. There were no reported injuries, but the occupants were displaced and damages are estimated to amount to \$93,750. Fire investigators determined the fire originated in a second-floor bedroom, where the bulk of the damage was contained. The cause of the fire is currently under investigation.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND RESCUE





The judges were impressed with the Nelson family on Dominion Ridge Lane for their use of reindeers. They were dubbed this year's "Reindeer Run" winners.



PHOTOS BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

Vanessa Bush and Richard Scott of Summerfield Drive are the "Christmas Critters" winners for their use of a wide array of light-up animals and characters.

Herndon 'Dressed Up' for the Holidays

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The winners of the town's "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" home decoration contest were selected by judges on Monday, Dec. 12.

Neighbors were asked to submit nominees, but the judges took it upon themselves to look beyond the submission and to travel around the town to see which homes made them go "wow." The judges, Barbara Glakas, John Dudzinsky and Mercia Hobson, piled into a town van and drove around the town for three hours before they made their selections. The judges are all members of the committee that organizes Herndon's Cultivating Community Initiative, which promotes neighborhood beautification and community spirit. The committee has put on the decoration contest for many years.

"We get to reward people for doing something good," says Barbara Glakas, who has been on the committee since the initiative started. Each home received a visit from the judges where they were given a sign to display throughout the holiday season. Mayor Lisa Merkel will also send each home a certificate that recognizes the homeowners for their holiday spirit.



From left: Dress Up Herndon for the Holiday judges Barbara Glakas, John Dudzinsky and Mercia Hobson of the town's Cultivating Community Committee met at the Herndon Community Center lobby, which was decorated for the season, to start their tour of the town.



When Vanessa Bush of Summerfield Drive opened the front door, judges saw that there were many more Christmas critter decorations inside the home.

2016 Winners

- Vanessa Bush and Richard Scott, 1327 Summerfield Drive – "Christmas Critters"
- David and Gay Huffman, 1409 Summerfield Drive – "All-American Christmas"
- Chris and Jennifer Nelson, 1371 Dominion Ridge Lane – "Reindeer Run"
- Harry and Sally Block, 1195 Monroe Street – "Traditional"
- Tom and Laurie Whalen, 117 Anthem Avenue – "Lighting Up the Trail"
- Alina and Candido Lopez, 618 Merlins Lane – "Whimsical"



Harry Block of Monroe Street and his wife Sally were selected by the judges as the "Traditional" winners for the classic wreaths and bows that adorned their front door and all the windows of their home.



The Huffman family on Summerfield Drive caught the judges' attention by using red, white and blue lights on their home. The homeowners, David and Gay Huffman, displayed a service flag in the front window to indicate they had a family member serving in the Armed Forces. They are the "All-American Christmas" winners.



Alina and Candido Lopez of Merlins Lane were the "Whimsical" winners for their use of blow-up decorations and lights.

FAITH

Burn, Burn, Burn!

The story of Chanukah.

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNALND
DIRECTOR CHABAD OF
RESTON - HERNDON

The story of Chanukah happened more than 2,000 years ago. Alexander the Great marched across the Middle East and into the land of Israel. While he allowed the Jews autonomy, Antiochos Epiphanes, who ruled Greek Syria after him, and in time Judea as well, was a harsh and brutal tyrant.

Antiochus strove to unite his empire under the Hellenist banner. Jewish study and worship were prohibited; Torah scrolls were burned; pagan altars were set up in villages all across the land. Many died heroically, standing true to their faith.

And then, a small band of brave men and women, fled into the hills of Judea, and the great revolt broke out. Known as the Maccabees, these warriors — small in number but great in faith and courage — miraculously defeated an enemy more numerous and better trained than they.

Upon arriving in Jerusalem, the Maccabees found their Temple desecrated; its holy vessels destroyed or stolen, the sacred oil tainted and defiled; the seal on each flask broken by the enemy. Miraculously a small flask of pure olive oil was found — complete with an unbroken seal. Though pure and fit for the kindling of the great Menorah, it was enough for just one day! A full week was needed to produce new oil.

And wonder of wonders, that tiny amount of oil kept burning and burning for eight days and nights.

The Spiritual Battle

If we think for a moment about the story of Chanukah, it does seem odd that the enemy, upon entering the holy Temple, went about breaking the seal on every flask of oil. Why did they not destroy the oil, spill it on the ground, or even take it for their own needs? What is the point of merely breaking the seal?

In truth, the battle that was fought was not merely about territory — it was a spiritual battle as well. The oil is the spiritual fiber that burns in every one of us. The tyrannical Antiochus and his armies were intent on polluting it. Modernizing and secularizing it. It was for our right to be different that the Maccabees fought. It was to preserve the unique oil that makes us who we are, that they sacrificed their lives. This Chanukah, as we munch on crispy fried potato latkes or dig into a delicious jelly donut, let us consider our own faith in God and the life purpose that He has ordained for us. Just as the Maccabees restored and rededicated the Holy Temple, let us rededicate our lives to the pursuit of goodness and righteousness, and bring light into our own homes and lives. Better yet, into the world at large...Burn bright like a menorah on a winter night. For more information on the above, email Rabbi Leibel Fajnlnd at rabbi@chabadrh.org

Community Chanukah Events (RSVP at www.chabadrh.org)

Chanukah on Ice

Join us and enjoy... Ice-skate to lively Chanukah music with family and friends. Grand Menorah lighting with Mr. & Mrs. "Voice of the Wizards" Steve Buckhantz. Hot latkes and donuts. Dreidels and Chocolate Gelt for all. Grand Raffle and more.

Sunday, Dec. 25, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center Ice Skating Rink, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Admission: FREE. \$12 to skate. Event Sponsorship: Dreidle Sponsor \$50. Menorah Sponsor \$100. Macabee \$180.

Chanukah Magic at Lake Anne
Join us for an amazing night of Chanukah fun for your entire family.

Enjoy: the hilarious pirate magic of Captain Silly Bones, lighting of our giant cupcake Menorah, face-painting, balloon shaping, mac & cheese dinner, chocolate coins, dreidels,

latekes Chanukah activities and much more.

Tuesday, Dec. 27, 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center. 1609 Washington Plz N, Reston. Fee: \$5 per person. \$18 per family. Event Sponsorship: Dreidle Sponsor \$50. Menorah Sponsor \$100. Macabee \$180.

Menorah Making Competition for Children

Get creative and build a unique menorah according to the rules below. Bring your completed menorah to Chanukah Magic at Reston Community Center Lake Anne on Tuesday, Dec. 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Rules: Menorah must have a total of nine branches (including the shamash). Eight branches must be in a straight line and of even height.

SEE CHANUKAH. PAGE 8

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I Have Ca, Ca, Ca, Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Here I am thinking, believing, writing that I'm Mr. Well-Adjusted cancer patient and all it took was one conversation in a restaurant the other night at the Connection Christmas party to prove that I'm not. It was a casual, festive atmosphere with everybody enjoying food and drink. I was sitting in a booth with my wife, Dina, my co-worker, David, and his mother Sherry, who I had never met before, who was in-town visiting her sons and planning a drive downtown to see the National Christmas Tree. We were all exchanging pleasantries and getting on quite well when I remembered that David's mother is a nurse. I thought she would be the perfect person to ask about my oncology nurse. But to give the question some context, I thought I had to tell her I had cancer. And when I did, I could barely get the word out. After I stammered I asked, if there was any professional reason/advisory explaining why I haven't heard back from my long-time (seven years) oncology nurse who, I had learned four weeks earlier at my last infusion when he wasn't there to tend to me, retired early. He didn't exactly leave me adrift but a month later, he still hasn't returned my cellphone message (an email to his Verizon account bounced back and he hasn't posted anything current on Facebook).

Obviously he's entitled. Nevertheless, I'm perplexed. We were buddies. We were extremely compatible: sports, humor, from the Northeast, same age, Jewish and both spoke a little Yiddish. Heck, I had even been to his house for a Super Bowl party; plus we've been out to lunch a couple of times after my infusion, met locally for a medical follow up (not exactly a house call but he did come to me), and as I may have written in a previous column, he likely saved my life when I showed up at the Infusion Center with an oxygen level of 85. (Subsequent to that reading, he went into high gear making the necessary arrangements to get me transferred to on-site urgent care and ultimately "ambulanced" to Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring where I spent the next week. Though he didn't visit me; he later explained that he rarely visited patients, he did call to check on me.) The short story is: our relationship went beyond patient-nurse. I wouldn't say I looked forward to my infusions, but because of him, I didn't dread them either.

It's not as if he has to do anything for me or acknowledge me or even stay in contact with me. He has his own life; he's made a change and presumably, his oncology patients are not part of it. I can understand that. In the medical specialty field, oncology is one of, if not the most, emotionally demanding/wrenching: patients with whom you've developed a relationship often die. I can imagine how there's only so much loss of life one can take. However, I thought our relationship went beyond that, in spite of the challenging demands that dealing with a "terminal" patient can exact.

Oddly enough, I'm not taking it personally. My feelings are not hurt, really. Until I know more of the circumstances surrounding his retirement (health, family, lifestyle, etc.), I'm not begrudging him at all. Moreover, he doesn't owe me an explanation. His retiring is not about me. It's about him and because of that, I want to know why he decided to leave and whether we can still stay in touch. So far, we haven't; he hasn't.

There's no doubt that he's been an important part of my cancer-patient life, and in a way, I thought — through my personality and survival, important to him also. Perhaps I was, professionally. Personally, I thought so as well. I just haven't heard any evidence of it in the last month. Still, I will always be grateful for his care and concern.

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

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Unleashing champions for children and families.

Send announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

All-comers Group Fun Run at Potomac

River Running Every Tuesday and Thursday, 6:30 p.m. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a free, fun, low-key run that's safe and social. 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com

One to One English Conversation Dec. 1 - Dec. 31 Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Dr. Reston. Practice your conversation skills with a volunteer. Call to register Mondays after 1 p.m.

Retrospective Photography Exhibit Dec. 1 - 31 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Daily except Sunday when the RCC facility closes at 8 p.m. Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This exhibit includes more than 70 color and monochrome photos by Reston photographer Fran Bastress taken from 2007 to the present. She specializes in landscape, nature, and fine art photography. Cost: Free. www.restoncommunitycenter.com/attend-shows-events-exhibits/exhibits-and-galleries

LRA PenFed Realty Hosts Sievers' Paintings

The League of Reston Artists is showing the oil paintings of Ruth Sievers during December 2016 and January 2017 at the office of PenFed Realty, 1886 Metro Center Dr. Reston. The exhibit is free and the office is open to visitors Monday through Friday from 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. www.leagueofrestonartists.org

Art in Public Places by League of Reston Artists LRA

Through Dec. 31 Art in Public Places (AIPP) program is managed by the League of Reston Artists (LRA) and provides exhibition venues for its members at 16 locations in northern Virginia, with a majority in the Reston-Herndon area. Most of the venues are office and government buildings with a great deal of traffic. The program was initially developed and managed by Ms. Pat Macintyre, one of the founders of LRA. president.lra@gmail.com 202-746-0304 <http://www.leagueofrestonartists.org/>

Explorations in Color Exhibit

Featuring Artist Kristin Herzog December 7, 2016 - January 8, 2017. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Explorations in Color is an exhibit featuring abstract paintings executed in vibrant color. Kristin Herzog's paintings are all about color and its power to convey emotion. With color she explores her reactions to the physical and emotional landscapes of daily life. For more information call 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com

Exercise for Parkinson's Every Monday, 1:15 - 2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free.parkinsonsfoundation.org. ckacenga@sportandhealth.com 703-621-4148.

Teen and Adult Art Classes ArtSpace

Herndon Every Monday from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. Drawing and Mixed Media with Melanie Stanley - During Fall and Winter of 2016. Cost: \$45/class. The class will use a variety of techniques for drawing, painting, mark making, and collage using fine arts tools and materials. Students will be taken down a creative path to learn to use drawing tools and brushes more effectively. Register by emailing Melanie, and she will send you the supply list and payment options/information: ridingfree2@gmail.com. 703-956-9560. www.artspaceherndon.com

All-comers' Group Fun Run at Potomac

River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. For more information, call 703-689-0999 <https://potomacriverrunning.com>.

Herndon Regional Wind Ensemble Practice.

Every Tuesday 7-9 p.m. through May. Herndon Middle School, 901 Locust St., Herndon. For advanced high school students, college students, and adults who play a brass, woodwind or percussion instrument. 703-904-4800 HerndonRegionalWindEnsemble@gmail.com Cost: Free

Senior Tea ARTSPACE Herndon

10:30 - 12 p.m. Every month seniors are invited to visit the gallery to view the current exhibit and enjoy a cup of tea on the second Friday of the month,

from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. 750 Center Street, Herndon. All teas are free and open to the public. <http://www.artspaceherndon.com/events-2/senior-tea/>

College Night Skate, Rock N Skate, Cartoon Skate at the Ice Skating Pavilion

Every Thursday, 6 - 9 p.m. - Every Friday, 8 - 10 p.m. Skate Shop, 1818 Discovery Street, Reston Town Center. 11900 Market Street. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. Live DJ & music, games & prizes; skating continues until 11 pm. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

Ice Skating in the Pavilion 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. open daily, November until March

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 21

Meet Me at the Movies - Senior Movie Day

at Bow Tie Cinemas 10 a.m. doors open at 9:15 a.m. 11940 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents "Me Before You." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information: Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org

Open Acrylic Painting Art Studio Tuesday - Friday 10 - 6 p.m. at Art Frame Solutions 11529 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Pick a theme, instruction, acrylic paints and complete a masterpiece. No experience necessary. Beginners welcome. ages 7-adult. If interested in booking room you'll need 8 people. Weekend times 6 - 8 p.m. Cost: \$30 per person, price includes all art supplies, 2-3 hours in room and instruction. artframesolutions1@gmail.com 703-648-3800 www.artframesolutions.com

THURSDAY/DEC. 22

College Night Skate at the Ice Skating

Pavilion Every Thursday 6 - 9 p.m. 11900 Market St. Reston. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. 703.709.6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running

Every Tuesday and Thursday 6:30 p.m. 11900 Market St. Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a free, fun, low-key run that's safe and social. 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Rock N Skate at the Ice Skating Pavilion 8-10 p.m. Every Friday. Live DJ & music, games & prizes; skating continues until 11 pm. 11900 Market St. Reston. Receive \$2 off admission with valid college ID. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

SATURDAY/DEC. 24

Cartoon Skate at the Ice Skating Pavilion

11- 1 p.m. Share the ice with Scooby-Doo, Cat in the Hat and more. 11900 Market St. Reston. 703-709-6300 skating@restontowncenter.com restontowncenter.com/skating

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

Inova Blood Drive

12 - 7 p.m. beside the Pavilion 11900 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Schedule appointments at 1-866-256-6372 or inova.org/donateblood. On-site registration.

SUNDAY/JAN. 1

New Year's Day 5K 10 a.m. Fountain Square 11900 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Kick off the New Year with a run from Reston Town Center with music, food, and fun celebration following the race. Presented by Potomac River Running. 703-689-0999 at praces.com/newyearsday

Plan Ahead Reston & Herndon

SATURDAY/JAN. 21

NextStop's Theater Presents Much Ado

About Nothing 7 p.m. NextStop's Theater 269 Sunset Park Drive Herndon, VA 20170. The Shakespeare tale of Beatrice and Benedick, the original romantic comedy. The pair are locked in a constant battle of wits and share a mutual disdain for love. Cost: \$25 -average per ticket. www.nextstoptheatre.org/contact/



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Making a list and checking it twice are FISH volunteers, from left: Ellen Scheinfeld, James Bell of Life Ticket Church – waving in the back row – Susan Markel, and Gracy Olmeda, another volunteer from Life Ticket Church.

Herndon-Reston FISH Plays Santa's Helpers Once Again

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Robyn Kampf thinks it was about forty (Yes, 4-0!) years ago that she first got involved in the Herndon-Reston Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help (FISH) holiday toy and food drive. "I'm not in charge any more, [she ran the event for several years] but it continues on, always in good hands and doing good things."

This year the nonprofit will play "Santa's Helpers" for 160 families whose children would be facing a less-than-Merry-Christmas without all of the people, organizations, schools, clubs and companies who donated toys, food items and gift cards, along with their time to collect, sort and distribute what was collected. "I know without this help," said Maria A. of Herndon, "we just couldn't make Christmas for our kids, even though my husband and me both work. There's just not enough money left over."

The United Christian Parish Church in Reston provided the venue for this year's distribution, which took place on Saturday, Dec. 17 and Sunday, the 18. The FISH volunteers had the room well set up with tables of toys organized by type – Legos, dolls, board games, etc. – and then again by



Well organized. All of the unwrapped, new toys were sorted by type and age group, which kept the process moving smoothly.

age group so as each adult entered, making their choices was a breeze, while other volunteers helped keep the youngsters occupied in the lobby area. Wouldn't want them to get a sneak peek at what's in store for Christmas morning!

In addition to the toy give-away, each family received some goodies for the adults, as well, and gift cards to Safeway and Target to

make sure the holiday was truly bright.

Some of those toy items were pretty big and shopping bags got a bit heavy, but the FISH folks were ready to lend a helping hand getting things out to cars.

There was even a volunteer cheerfully helping to wrap and decorate packages in another room in the church complex. Again, no little ones allowed in



PHOTO BY AMANDA MORROW KERTZ

Oath of Office

An oath of office was administered to Mary Elizabeth Burgess (center, hand raised), the town's newly hired zoning administrator, on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at the Herndon Municipal Center lobby.

Community Chanukah Events (RSVP at www.chabadrh.org)

FROM PAGE 5

Scoring: At the party, each Menorah will be tagged and guests will vote for the best one. Winner receives a \$30 Amazon Gift Card

and a Menorah. Contestants will be divided into 2 groups: Ages 5 - 8 and ages 9 - 12. One winner from each group. If we've got enough entries, we may pick a runner up, too!



Once the toys were selected, there were still some gift cards from stores like Safeway and Target to collect, as well as some food items – and smiling, helpful volunteers to help shoppers get their goods out to the cars. From left — Marcus Bradley and David Zahraie hand out the gift cards and provide the muscle to the cars, while FISH board member Janie Odlem manned the food goods table and made sure to wish each recipient a Merry Christmas and the Happiest of New Years.

that space while the wrapping was underway.

On the weekend before Christmas there was probably a lot of things the volunteers could have

been doing to prepare for their own festivities, but as volunteer Ellen Scheinfeld put it, "What better way to really prepare for Christmas? I'm happy to be here."