



McLean CONNECTION



Children's Connection 2016

By Athena Georgelas,
Spring Hill Elementary, grade 6

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

McLEAN CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC
703-778-9414 OR MCLEAN@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



By Tianna Wang, 10, Churchill Road Elementary, Mclean, Grade 5,
Teacher: Mrs. Stets.



"Fall Foliage" picture taken by Ridhi Sharma, 9, Grade 4, Mr. Biggs class
at Lemon Road Elementary.

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the McLean Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2017 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children

continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is e-mail, which should be sent to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

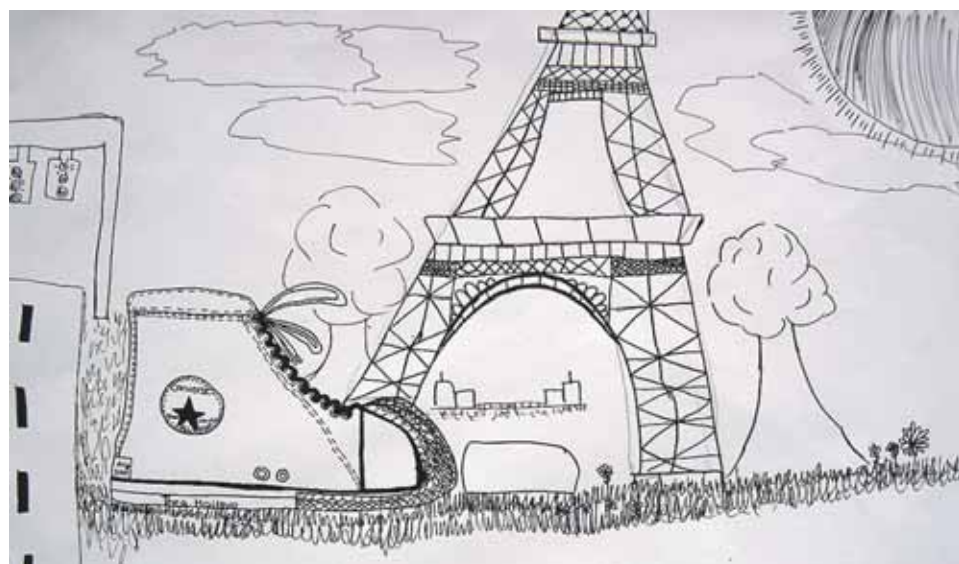
EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHC



"In Our Backyard,"
by Valerie Li, 12,
Longfellow Middle
School.



By Sophie Zhang, Grade 4, Haycock Elementary.



By Thea Haith, Spring Hill Elementary, Grade 5.

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

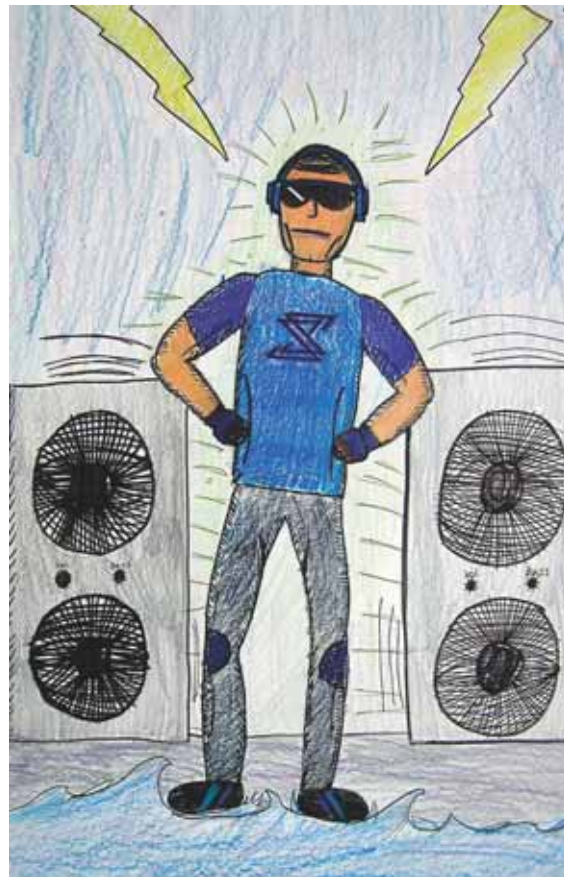
SPRING HILL ELEMENTARY - ARTWORK

Dorothy Moon, Art Specialist at Spring Hill Elementary, submitted the artwork of her students.

**Jinglin Jingan,
grade 6.**



By Eesha Madan, grade 6.



By Judge Chalk, grade 6.



By Kevin Farnsworth, grade 6.

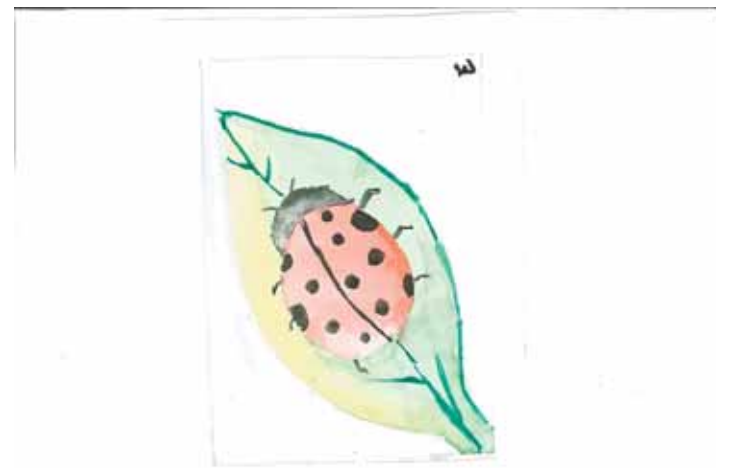


By Athena Georgelas, grade 6.

CHURCHILL ROAD ELEMENTARY - ARTWORK



By Ella Abend, Grade 6.



By Ella Abend, Grade 6.



By Sophia Stagaescu, Grade 6: "A Bearded Seagull Striding Through Swift Waves." To me this picture represents how even something so simple can turn out beautiful."

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

The Raspberry Pi

Over summer break, I got a Raspberry Pi. I found it an awesome tool, and here's why. The Raspberry Pi is a computer chip with many ports that allow you to access and use many programming interfaces to create applications, hack things, and even create a cool mod for an application.

But first, you will need to assemble it. You can simply buy a kit and follow instructions from raspberrypi.org's help area. Check out the video section of it. You will be all set in less than an hour. Now let's get to programming on it.

An example of this would be writing this code in a Python 3 shell for Minecraft Pi (A version of minecraft specifically for Raspberry Pi):

```
>>>from mcpi import
Minecraft
>>>mc = Minecraft.create()
>>>x, y, z =
mc.player.getPos()
>>>mc.player.setPos (x, y +
200, z)
```

This code has the power to teleport you 200 blocks above your current position in-game! There is even a command that you can do to spawn in TNT that explodes when broken!

The best part is that you don't have any limits as to what you can do! You could open a franchise that creates apps using Raspberry Pi's or even upgrade Minecraft Pi to make it as good as the full version of minecraft!

—NEEL SHARMA, GRADE 6,
LOUISE ARCHER ELEMENTARY

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is published by
Local Media Connection, LLC.

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For care tips during the holidays and when they're over,
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The holiday season is a great time to share the joys of togetherness and tradition. But for families whose aging relatives are showing signs of decline, the holidays can also be stressful and even, sad.

If you notice that a senior family member seems more overwhelmed than overjoyed during the holidays, then use this opportunity to pay close attention to signs of concern, such as depression or confusion. While family is all together, talk among yourselves to consider the benefits of assisted living at The Kensington, such as:

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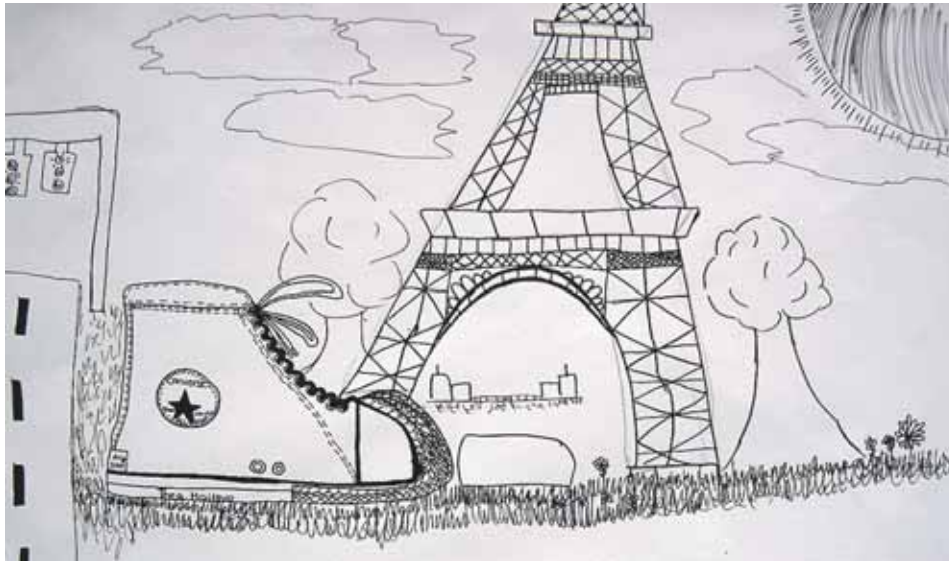



CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

SPRING HILL ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Carolyn Gore-Ashe, Art Teacher at Spring Hill Elementary School, submitted her students' artwork.

By Thea Haith,
grade 5.



By Reina Washington, grade 6.



By Zeyan Chaabane, grade 6.



By Naomi Mattis, grade 6.



By Audrey Leyva, grade 6.



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

POETRY CORNER

There Is Nothing

It's as shapeless as a cloud
White wisps with no true form
It can have no meaning
Or all the meaning we give it

The soul within us
Intrigued by the small things
Moved on a whim
Taking flight above the cotton beds

The freedom to go anywhere
But with no direction
Roaming the skies
Until it reaches the end

While the sun is setting
Tucked under its satin blanket
It seems as if there is nothing
But from nothing comes everything

—RYAN MAI, OF OAKTON, GRADE 7,
WESTMINSTER SCHOOL

Summer in the Woods

The willow tree screams in silence as the wood-
pecker
Pecked, pecked, pecked
The fish glide along the water like tiny torpedoes
Passing the tree as if they don't care
The flower strokes the butterfly as it collects the
yellow pollen
Storing it for lunch
The fish spray a light mist
As the kind willow trees create a tunnel for me to
walk through
The rain pounds on the plants, punishing them for
taking their water
The curious animals gather close to see this ruckus

—ARTI MARZBAN, OF DUNN LORING, GRADE
3, WESTMINSTER SCHOOL



Watching fireworks with friends,
by Marissa Lin, age 6, Grade 1,
Freedom Hill Elementary, Vienna.

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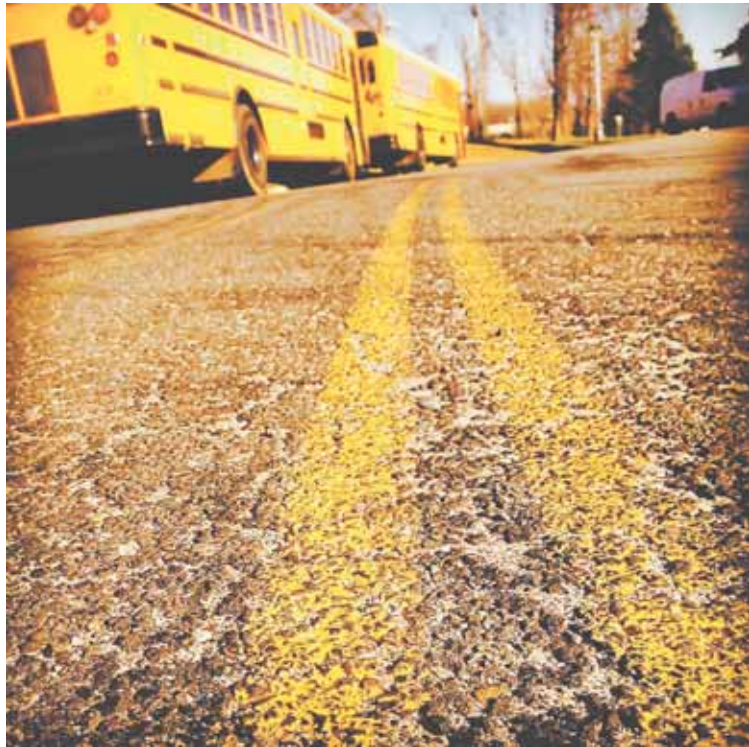
CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

COOPER MIDDLE SCHOOL

From Lindsay Bovenzi's
Creative Writing Class



"Dog," by Lexie Gagnon 13, of Mclean:
"I am thankful for my dog Winnie, she brightens my day when no one else can."



Lohita Sunkara, 13, of Great Falls:
"My photo represents that I am thankful to have wonderful education and I am thankful for my teachers."

By Jocelyn Chen, 14, of Great Falls: "I am thankful for the many friends, boys and girls, I earned at this camp because unlike regular schools, this place was for Taiwanese kids so there was no discrimination or bullying."



Andrea Karam, 12, of Great Falls:
"I am thankful for Lebanon, the summer and the beach!"



By Keelin Byrne, 13, Mclean:
"I am thankful for my love of the water, because without it, I would never know what it feels like to do a duck dive under a wave."

Odyssey of the Mind

BY MULAN PAN

I'm sure many of you have heard of it, and some of you might even be in Odyssey of the Mind competition, but for those who aren't, I wanted to give you an insider's view of what it's all about. I've been participating in Odyssey of the Mind, which I will refer to as OotM, since fourth grade, and I absolutely love it! It's a great enrichment activity for me, and it helps me relax and have fun with friends.

When I first started out, our team chose the balsa wood problem. In this problem, we had to build a structure that could support the most weight possible. It could only be made of balsa wood and glue and could weigh no more than fifteen grams. The amount of weight held translated into points. This part of the problem took the most time and effort, where we experimented with many different designs. Every week, teammates would bring in their newly made structure, and we would carefully load weights onto it until it smashed. After we recorded the weight held, we would then analyze it to figure out how it broke so we could improve the design. Guess how much weight our final structure held? Over five hundred pounds!

While trying to build a balsa wood structure, we were presented a long-term problem. We had to come up with a solution to the problem, which had to incorporate the structure, and turn the solution into an eight-minute skit. The judges would decide how creative and effective our solution was and



"Mutant Penguins Celebrating Christmas"

Artwork by Mulan Pan, grade 6, resident of Great Falls and student at Forestville Elementary School.

award us points. They would also look at our handmade props, costumes, and other things along those lines, and award us Style points for those.

The Spontaneous part must be my favorite. We were presented a problem, and we had no clue beforehand what it would be. They gave us a limited amount of time to solve it, so we had to think on our feet, getting our creative juices really flowing. An example of a problem would be, "What was the best thing since sliced bread?", in which each member would give a

different response. The more creative responses our team gave, the more points we would get.

Last March, our team got first place in Regional Competition. It was the best day of my life! I must admit, we weren't the best sports about it though. We kept jumping around, screaming, "We won! We won!", the shining gold medal bouncing on our chest. Later in April, we attended the State Competition, where we got third place! This year, our team is determined to get to the World Competition (and maybe even win!).

Overall, OotM is a great sport for the mind. You get to make new friends, exercise creativity, and crush your rivals in the competition. You also learn how to cooperate with your teammates. OotM allowed me to delve deeper into my strengths, as well as find new ones. Although I've only been participating in this event for two years, I have no trouble saying that it's become my favorite part of my after-school life.

Mulan Pan, 12, is a sixth grader at Forestville Elementary School, Teachers: Ms. Conner, Ms. Donlon, and Ms. Kroog

HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY: WEEKEND REPORT



Weekend Report, by Evie Thomas, age 5.



Weekend Report, by Leena Melkote, age 5.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

HAYCOCK ELEMENTARY
ART GALLERY

By Nora
Bartkowski,
Kindergarten.



By Katie Ockerman, Grade 1.



By Lemya Annous, Grade 1.



By Sabrina Rosenweig,
Grade 1.

By Calyn Yamauchi,
Grade 2.



Gretchen Proctor, art teacher at Haycock Elementary, sent us a few photos. This one shows the Fall Community Art Show at the United Bank Branch in Falls Church in November, 2016.

Arts Happenings at Haycock Elementary



A student using abstract vocabulary words to create a human portrait with tempera paint.



Sandra holding her oil pastel cornucopia for Thanksgiving.

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Blue Bird in a Tree, by Crystal Xia, 12, Grade 8, Congressional School, Falls Church, Art Teacher: Mrs. Rula Brock

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COLVIN RUN ELEMENTARY ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Sandy
Pugh Art Instructor.

By Cameron Crawford of
McLean, Grade 3.



By Alexis Woosley
Anderson, Grade 2.



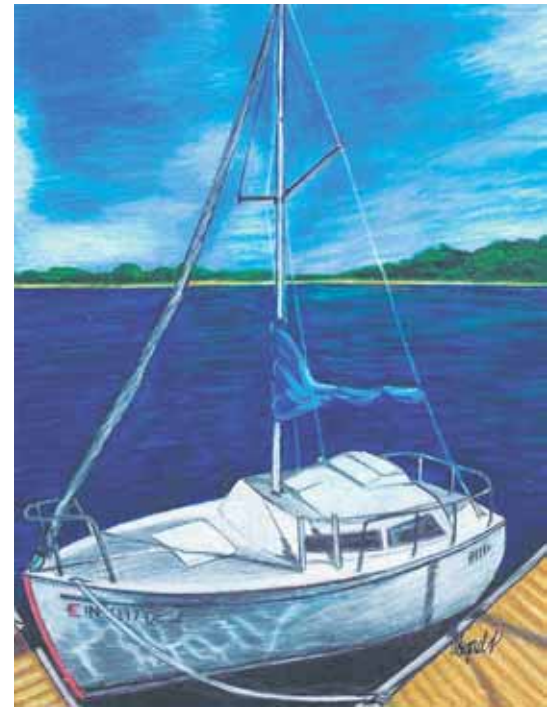
By Kyra Ranakusuma, Grade 2.

PAREDES GALLERY

Abigail Paredes, 14, of Great Falls, attends Dominion High School in Sterling.



“A Girl”, by Abigail Paredes



“Docked,” by Abigail Paredes



“The Journey,” by Abigail Paredes



“Room with a View,” by Abigail Paredes

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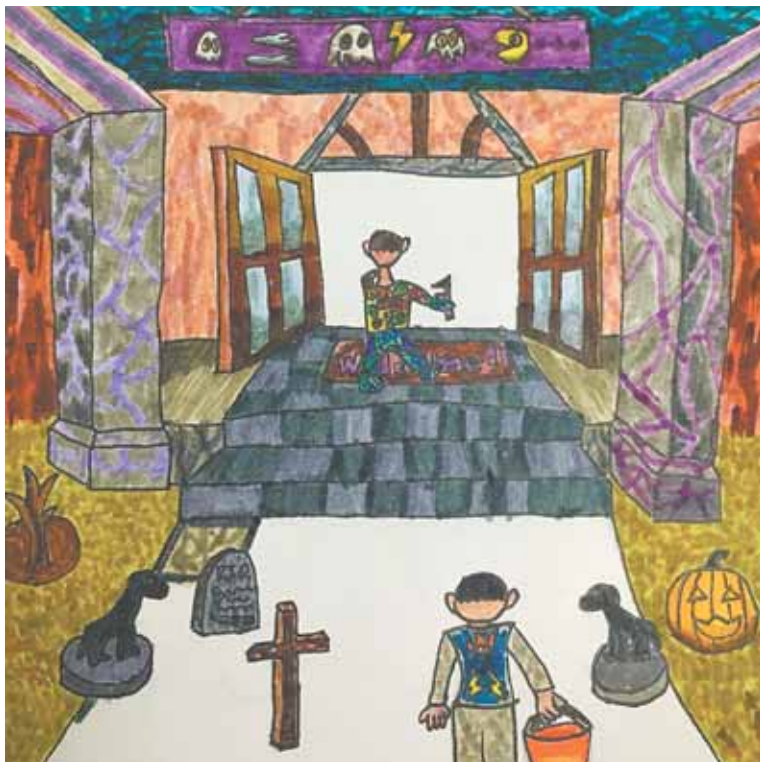
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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Derek Li, 11, Haycock Elementary School.

LEMON ROAD ELEMENTARY



"My Mandala," a symbolic self-portrait, by Aaryashree Sapkota, 11, Grade 6.



"My Mandala," a symbolic self-portrait, by Diana Kim, age 11, Grade 6.

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Seldom Wrong But This Time I'm Write

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Because of the change in some of our publication deadlines for December, I have had to write multiple columns weeks in advance, somewhat unusual for me. Typically, I write my column five days before publication, so time-wise, I'm fairly current and emotionally present as well. Writing ahead, as December dead-lines (it's nothing new. I've been managing to accommodate these deadlines for years) is still a bit off-putting. Though I want to think ahead and live like I have a future; as a cancer patient, it's difficult not to live in the present. Thinking, feeling, projecting ahead, seems presumptuous almost.

This is not to imply that I have to somehow presume a future and write about cancer subjects — or not, which have not yet happened. Hardly. My columns are rarely time-sensitive or date-specific. Still, my columns are generally better written when I'm writing from current feelings, facts, circumstances, etc. And though many of the feelings, facts and circumstances relating to my condition don't exactly change on a daily, weekly or even monthly basis (thank God!), surprisingly, my reaction to them sometimes does. Moreover, writing multiple columns at one time also forces me to pile onto myself emotionally the effects of my disease. Which, if you must know, I'd rather not do. In fact, if there's any way I can not think about my situation, that's a 'way' I'd like to be.

Not that I moan and groan or woe is me about my age 54-and-half-terminal-diagnosis, as those who know me or have regularly read my columns likewise know; but sometimes I'd prefer not to have my hand forced. And even though reading or hearing about other people who have been diagnosed with lung cancer, or who have succumbed to its ravages, doesn't bother me — too much, really (I've matured); occasionally, I'd rather be blissfully ignorant.

Although I readily admit that being ignorant too long concerning my disease is hardly penny-wise but it is most definitely pound-foolish. The trick is, somehow not getting consumed by one's circumstances and maintaining an optimistic point of view. And since I'm a funny guy (though not really fun), I am able to humor myself — and others, so these less-than-ideal circumstances under which I attempt to thrive are not overwhelming, except when forced to confront my demons and focus on myself when newspaper deadlines are advanced and jumbled and I'm having to write four columns in two weeks instead of writing one column in one week.

Though it's not exactly trouble, it is to quote Jerry Seinfeld from a long-ago Seinfeld episode, "something." 'Something' I could likely live without, but 'something' unfortunately I must live with, every December. But I'm a "big boy," as my father used to tell me, with "broad shoulders" (figuratively speaking to my ability to handle the load), so I'll manage. In fact, in another paragraph, I will have completed the task and the presumptive weight of it will be off my 'broad shoulders.'

Now I can relax a little bit, exactly what one (especially this one with cancer) needs. Between the holidays and advanced deadlines, the column-writing and the ad-selling; I'm living and learning with my ever-evolving circumstances (further from the beginning or closer to the end; I never know).

Nevertheless, I am extremely happy to have been there and finished doing it yet again. I hope to see you all back here next year. Happy Holidays!

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

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OBITUARY

Johnson, Richard Lee, 88, of Radnor, PA, formerly of Vienna, VA. Beloved husband of Anne Chapman (nee Hungerford) Johnson, Father of Anne Johnson Graf (Chappy) (Bayard H.) of Strafford, PA and Jessie Edwards Johnson of Purcellville, VA. Also survived by five grandchildren and his sister Lois Johnson Held of Milwaukee, WI. Funeral service will be at St. John's Episcopal Church, McLean, VA on Wednesday, December 28th at noon. In lieu of flowers contributions in his name may be made to St. John's Church Memorial Fund, St. John's Episcopal Church, 671 5 Georgetown Pike, Post Office Box 457, McLean, VA 221 01-0457.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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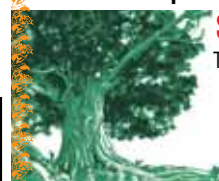
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