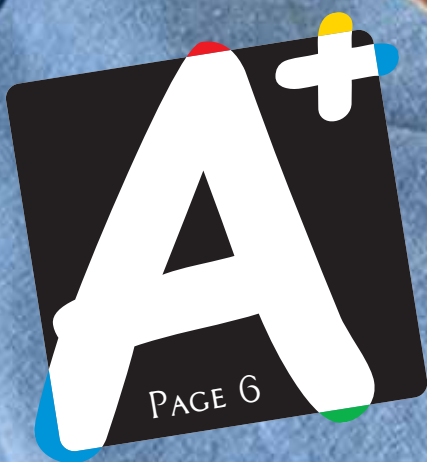


Giving Voice to the Voiceless, Hope to the Helpless

NEWS, PAGE 3



Mission: Inauguration

NEWS, PAGE 12

Oakton and Robinson: The Rivalry Ends

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Sam, waiting at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, wants someone to bring her home and love her. NoVa Cats founder Stefanie Sacripante cuddles the newly-homeless cat. NoVa Cats uses social media to help homeless animals find a forever home.



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WEEK IN VIENNA

Fatal Crash in Vienna

Officers were called to the scene of a crash in the 1500 block of Trap Road Jan. 10, just after 3 p.m. Once in the area, they found a 2007 Toyota Camry, with one occupant, 61-year-old Arsalos Cekci of Vienna, who was not breathing. Rescue personnel from the Fairfax County Fire Department arrived and initiated CPR. Cekci was taken to Inova Fairfax Hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit (CRU) are conducting the investigation.

It appears that Cekci was driving the Camry north on Trap Road, just south of the Dulles Toll Road when she drifted off the road, through a grassy median and struck a tree. The Camry continued over the southbound lanes of Trap Road, through a parking lot and into a wooded area where it struck a second tree and came to rest.

Anyone who might have witnessed this crash is asked to call the CRU witness line at 703-280-0543, or contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting “TIP187” plus your message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Speed and alcohol are not believed to factors in this crash.

Detectives are working with hospital personnel to determine if a medical emergency might have led to this crash.

Burglary Suspect Arrested

On Jan. 11, Vienna Police and Fairfax County Police detectives arrested a Vienna man at his home on Freda Drive in Vienna and charged him with several felony and misdemeanor crimes including Burglary, Attempted Burglary, Destruction of Property, Petit Larceny and Possession of Burglari-ous Tools. He is being held at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center without bond. The arrest comes as the result of a cooperative investigation conducted by detectives of the Vienna Police Department and detectives from the McLean and Reston District Stations of the Fairfax County Police Department. Vienna Police detectives are confident that they have identified and arrested the individual responsible for a residential burglary that occurred on Moorefield Creek Road SW in August of 2016 and an attempted burglary that occurred on Upham Place NW in December of 2016.

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NEWS

Giving Voice to the Voiceless, Hope to the Helpless

Community volunteers share their work to support animal rescue efforts programs.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Part I of a two-part story.

Most pet parents embrace their non-human family members as, well, as “family.” While the most common family pets are dogs and cats, there are people who count themselves as custodians of other creatures, from rabbits and snakes to rodents and birds. Not all animals are fortunate-enough to have a forever-home where they are loved, cared-for, protected, and pampered. Selfless humans step in on these animals’ behalf, promoting their welfare and publicizing their quest for a home.

Many people ask: “how can I help? I can’t keep a pet myself ...” For those who cannot permanently home a pet, there are diverse opportunities to lending a hand. Volunteers foster, take photographs of shelter/rescue pets for publicity, walk dogs at shelters or otherwise lend a hand to rescue groups, volunteer at thrift shops run by animal rescue groups, or donate supplies to shelters and rescue organizations. Never declined is financial support.

Most rescue groups do mobile rescues where they will travel to a high-kill shelter and bring the animals to safety and to an area where the animals have a greater chance at being adopted. The no-kill animal rescues keep safe pets not adopted through fostering or their own shelter facilities. The Fairfax County Animal Shelter currently is running at a 90 percent no-kill rate for adoptable pets, among the best in the country. Not all pets in shelters are abandoned, abused, or found as strays. Many are surrendered because their custodian has died, is deployed, or is no longer capable of caring for the animal; they are used to loving homes.

In part one of this feature on helping homeless pets, you meet some local volunteers who have reached out to the animal rescue community with selfless gifts of time and talent:

Emily Korff, owner – Veralana Photography; photographs pets at Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Korff uses her photographic skills to help the homeless animals of the county shelter to find a permanent home. Each photo pays tribute to the personality of the pets waiting for someone to love them. She gives them a face which, in turn, introduces them to citizens whose hearts are open to saving a life.

Korff herself has taken a foster animal into her home as a need arises; these days, she donates a couple of hours every week at



Liz DiFrancisco is of the mind that you can’t have too many foster dogs in your heart and home. She focuses on Great Pyrenees rescue.



Lona Ichikawa brings her rescue and best-friend Musashi to The Treasure Hound in Chantilly where Ichikawa volunteers two days a week. Six-year-old Musashi is a store ambassador of sorts.

the FCAS photographing pets there up for adoption. Another volunteer helps handle the animals that Emily will photograph. FCAS then used the dogs on their website and on social media. FCAS uses “Petango” search engine for rescue shelters to promote their pets.

“We usually get a pretty-good response from social media when the photos are posted. I believe that photos do help them get adopted,” Korff said.

Liz DiFrancisco, of Vienna, began fostering homeless dogs about six or seven years ago, when her children went off to school.



Emily Korff, a volunteer dog photographer for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, poses a lovable little pup up for adoption.

A former teacher who stayed home with her young children, Liz wanted to do something “beneficial” as a stay-at-home mom with family dogs. Her earliest fosters came from a golden retriever rescue. After adopting a puppy that was half-golden retriever, half-Great Pyrenees, DiFrancisco went into Great Pyrenees rescue. The DiFrancisco house is home to four “permanent” dogs and however many rescues come Liz’s way.

She says she loves taking in the unwanted babies and watching them grow. Although some come to her home as older dogs, the puppies who DiFrancisco fosters are not to be adopted out until they are over 11 weeks old. Her largest litter at one time was seven puppies and it’s not as hard as others imagine it is raising babies. “Housebreaking is easy with the big dogs showing them what to do; the older dogs do the training.”

Lots of dogs need foster families, to teach them how to live in a house and be part of a family, she said. “When natural disasters happen in Louisiana, South Carolina, Kentucky, thousands of animals are lost or left behind. Many end in kill shelters, where they stay for 2-3-4 days before they are put down.” Rescue groups and shelters take animals from the south and move them north, where they have a better chance of being adopted rather than being put-down quickly, DiFrancisco said.

“I feel as if I’m doing something beneficial for homeless pets.”

Lona Ichikawa, volunteer Treasure Hound thrift shop, grew up in Vienna in the 1960s. She served in the U.S. Army from 1977 to 1980, retiring from a government job in early summer of 2015. For years, Ichikawa walked dogs at the no-kill sanctuary operated and owned by Friends of Homeless Animals FOHA. When Ichikawa

developed severe knee problems, she remained supportive of FOHA, recognizing that FOHA’s thrift shop needed volunteers to stock and staff the store in Chantilly.

Her own “Little Man” was but one year’s old when he was picked up off a street in West Virginia and placed in a shelter in Morgantown. Ichikawa drove there to bring the fluffy little lap dog home. That was more than five years ago and since Dec. 7, 2011, Musashi has been best-friend to Ichikawa, even accompanying her to her volunteer stint at the Treasure Hound. Musashi, who, seemingly, takes his job to heart, interfaces with the other volunteers and some customers. Ichikawa volunteers in the shop two days a week and regularly posts photos of the store’s merchandise on her Facebook page.

“Even after my knees gave out, I wanted to support FOHA; they are a no-kill shelter. Volunteering there allows me to bring Musashi with me.”

The Treasure Hound is located at 14508-D Lee Road, Chantilly.

Stefanie Sacripante, founder of NoVa Cats, focuses on social media to promote and publicize cat adoption through photos and endearing captions.

Sacripante’s Facebook page, NoVa Cats, is credited with rehoming more than 25 cats who were available for adoption. She photographs many of the cats posted on her page and fosters cats in her home, usually, she said, senior cats or those with behavioral challenges.

Sacripante’s photos of senior cats well into their life spans are playful yet heart-tugging, and, her descriptions of their personalities – quirks and habits – give life to her images.

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 5

OPINION

Counting on Our Reps in Congress

Sound the call to action; resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters.

While most voters in the United States did not vote for Donald Trump for president, it was all the more so here in Northern Virginia. Hillary Clinton won the popular vote nationwide by 2.9 million votes.

In Virginia, Clinton won 49.75 percent to 44.43 percent over Trump; 1,981,473 votes for Clinton to 1,769,443 votes for Trump.

In the City of Alexandria, Clinton won 75.56 percent of the vote, with 17.54 percent voting for Trump; 57,242 to 13,285 votes.

In Arlington, Clinton won 75.83 percent of the vote, with 16.64 percent voting for Trump; 92,016 to 20,186 votes.

In Fairfax County, Clinton won 64.43 percent of the vote, with 28.61 percent voting for Trump; 355,133 to 157,710 votes.

Most people in this area didn't vote for the

kind of changes that might be coming with this change of administration and party. They didn't vote to repeal the Affordable Care Act. They didn't vote to give massive tax breaks to the nation's wealthiest families, in many cases millions of dollars per family. Certainly they didn't vote for broadside attacks on Medicare, or to undo progress on climate change. This list could go on for some time.

EDITORIAL

With all of this and much more under consideration, we rely on our members of Congress, including our two U.S. senators, to fight, to stand up and resist changes that are against the values and beliefs of most Virginia voters, to sound the call to action in every case it is needed.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer says he will not attend the inauguration.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly and U.S. Sen. Mark Warner rallied with thousands in Alexandria

last weekend to oppose the repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

Even the one Republican member of Congress from the region, U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10), spoke out against Trump during the election.

Comstock could play an important role standing up for the values of voters in her district, and will play an important role in representing the interests of the region.

Call your representatives and tell them what matters to you. Every Virginia resident is represented by Virginia's two U.S. senators and one member of Congress. Of course this pertains to those who supported Trump as well.

Beyer: 202-225-4376

Connolly: 202-225-1492

Comstock: 202-225-5136

Warner: 202-224-2023

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine: 202-224-4024

We welcome your letters to the editor; submit at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

An Apology to LGBTQ Community

To the Editor:

My community involvement began in 1989 with my opposition to Family Life Education (FLE). Among the reasons I opposed FLE were that it promoted the acceptance of homosexuality and said that gays cannot change. For 25 years I have made public statements that homosexuality was a choice and that it could be "prayed away." I was very wrong.

Feelings are generally not a choice, as is recognized by my church's website, mormonandgay.org. For my past statements, I apologize to the LGBTQ community.

I wish my social conservative friends would be more understand-

ing that probably most gay and transgender persons did not choose to have the feelings they have. Often these feelings begin at a very young age. A family member should be able to acknowledge same-sex attraction or gender preference without fear of rejection, loss of employment or opportunity. When we social conservatives ask gays to live celibate or ask transgender persons to use bathrooms for their biological gender, we should understand that we are asking a lot. We have not walked in their shoes.

I do not believe that most gay and transgender persons want to undermine Christian values; they want to be able to act on powerful feelings they did not ask to have. I do believe though that some who are promoting LGBTQ rights do oppose Christian values and advocate an androgynous society. For example a lawyer for

Gavin Grimm, whose bathroom case is before the Supreme Court, is the Secular Society Women's Rights Legal Fellow at the ACLU.

Eroding the standards of modesty between male and female makes society more dangerous for women. What may now seem to be a casual act for a man may be regarded as rape by a woman. The casualness we have introduced over recent decades I think is responsible for the well-publicized statistic that 20 percent of college coeds are sexually assaulted.

While I therefore believe bathroom use should be based on biological gender, I understand that this imposes a great hardship on transgender persons. I would hope that other social conservatives would understand this too.

Arthur Purves
Vienna

Stopping Gerrymandering in Virginia

To the Editor:

As the new legislative year begins in Richmond, I hope more voters will join the effort to stop gerrymandering in Virginia. An overwhelming majority of us (as well as Presidents Reagan and Kennedy in the past and Clinton, G.H.W. Bush, G. Bush, and Obama now) favor this cause.

To stop gerrymandering, we must change Virginia's constitution. And as long as our legislators can make law in back rooms and with voice votes (that record yea or nay but not individual legislator's votes), that won't happen. We'll all have to step up. To learn how, visit OneVirginia2021.org and look up "Delegate Jerry Mandering" on Facebook.

Dianne Thomas
Fairfax

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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

Bicycle Advocacy Workshop Feb. 4

Are you interested in making Fairfax County more bike-friendly? On Feb. 4, 2017, Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) is hosting a free workshop that will provide attendees the basic tools and strategies needed to help make bicycling conditions better in Fairfax County. The workshop will be held on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2017, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Rd in Springfield (across the street from the Springfield Golf and Country Club).

There is no charge for the workshop; however, participants are asked to pre-register before Jan. 29, 2017 (www.fabb-bikes.org). Lunch will be provided. Topics include: components of a successful advocacy campaign, developing an advo-

cacy plan, online advocacy tools, and why citizen advocates make a difference. Attendees will have time to develop their own campaigns. Presenters are local citizens with a proven record of leading advocacy campaigns: FABB members Sonya Breehey, Bruce Wright, and Alan Young, and Fionnuala Quinn of The Bureau of Good Roads.

FABB is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization dedicated to improving conditions for bicyclists of all ages, nationalities, and walks of life. Over the past decade FABB has played a key role in advancing bicycling in Fairfax County. More information about the organization and workshop can be found at www.fabb-bikes.org or by contacting Bruce Wright at info@fabb-bikes.org or 703-328-9619.

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NEWS

Oakton Women's Club Makes Donation to The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna

Each year the Oakton Women's Club hosts their fashion show in Oakton at their spring fashion show to raise money to support the local community. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) was the recipient of the net proceeds for the 2016 fashion show and received a generous \$1,000 donation. Pictured, from left, are Nancy Rice, President of the Board Oakton Women's Club and Jayne Young, Director of Operations/Events of SCOV. To volunteer, donate or learn more about how you can help, visit their website at www.scov.org or contact the office at 703 281-0538, office@scov.org



Volunteers Help Rescue

FROM PAGE 3

"You are giving a voice to the voiceless... Anyone can foster [through a rescue organization]; it's great for people who travel because it allows you to have a pet in the home while having a resource to relieve you

when you travel."

See adoptable cats waiting for a forever home at Sacripante's NoVA Cats Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/novacats/?fref=ts>.

Go to search engine www.petango.com to find your new best friend.

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A Education Learning Fun



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIDS4PEACE

The Kids4Peace Interfaith Summer Camp is aimed at helping to break down religious stereotypes.

Planning for Summer Camp

Local camp fairs help families navigate the maze of summer camp offerings.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

In an effort to confront religious intolerance, a group of local middle school students will attend a camp aimed at bringing together children from different religions and giving them the chance to come together, make new friendships, visit houses of worship, learn about other traditions and practice dialogue to confront Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism.

"Campers will get experiences in synagogues, mosques and churches," said Shoshana Abrams of Kids4Peace. "They'll see how others pray, how they celebrate and what they believe. It's helping to break down stereotypes. A lot of interfaith action is needed to combat Islamophobia and bring together people of different faiths."

Kids4Peace's Interfaith Day Camp is one of a diverse variety of summer camps available to local children. From performing arts, wilderness adventures and sports to language immersion, standardized test prep and community service, the summer offerings in the Washington region are plentiful. Though warm weather is months away, this is the time to start planning for camp and finding the best fit, say child development experts. "You want to include your child from the beginning of the process," said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Explore options by following their interests. I like to ask kids 'What problem would you like to solve?' For instance, would they like to learn how to play basketball, how to make a rocket, how to see other galaxies, how to paint with acrylics, how to star in a play? These [questions] will point you in a direction that is good for both you and your child."

Local camps fairs such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, offer access to a variety of both day and overnight options in one location. "We want parents to know that there are many different options out there, and they're going to find out all the specif-

ics about many camps," said Jacky Dooly, of Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo and Washington Parent in Bethesda, Maryland. "There will be specific sports camps like swimming and martial arts. Maybe child has academic issues and they need to get caught up. If so, there are academic programs."

Before attending a camp fair, Dooly suggests that families prepare themselves, and there are questions that she recommends parents ask prospective camp officials. "Does the camp offer early morning care as well as later evening care?" she asks. "Find out information about the food that is offered at the camp. How much activity will your child get during the day? If you're interested in a particular camp, find out if it fits within your budget."

"I'd also want to know how they are going to keep your child safe, how they encourage participation, and the percentage of returning camp counselors and campers," added Lorente. "If you have a camp with



PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON PARENT

Face painting will be one of the activities available at the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo.



Camp fairs, such as the Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo, give families an opportunity to see the variety of summer camps available.

PHOTO COURTESY OF WASHINGTON PARENT

high return rates that indicates that it is a place where people want to be.”

Mandarin immersion, public speaking and science exploration are among the choices that will be available this summer at BASIS Independent Summer McLean. Noting that this will be the camp’s inaugural summer, Asha Bruot, spokeswoman for McLean BASIS, says that there will also be “a traditional day camp for students in first through fifth [grades] with thematically-linked activities, classroom projects, outdoor games, drama, music, and art.”

“Summer camp should be a place for your child to explore, play [and] become,” said Lorente. “The school year has become so structured. I would want a camp that has embedded in it time for child-directed exploration [and] free-time.”

For More Information

2017 CAMP & SUMMER FUN EXPOS

Sunday, Jan. 29: The Montgomery County Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Hilton Hotel & Executive Meeting Center/Rockville, Md.

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 25-26: The Northern Virginia Camp & Summer Fun Expo/Dulles Town Center Mall, Dulles, VA.

www.washingtonparent.com/

Kids4Peace Camp: <http://www.k4p.org/chapters/washington-dc/>

Tips on Trips and Camps: (Feb. 12, 1-3:30 p.m.), Walt Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd. Bethesda, Md., 301-881-0547 or <http://tipsontripsandcamps.com/dc/>



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CALENDAR

Send announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon
11:30 a.m. Duangrat's Thai, 5878 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA. Patrick Lucas of the Fairfax County Police Crime Prevention Unit will speak. Cost of the luncheon: \$22. To R.S.V.P. for the luncheon, e-mail Gloria Cohan, gloriacohan@gmail.com by January 12. Prospective members are invited. www.McLeanNewcomers.org

THURSDAY/JAN. 19

"All For Aleppo" A Comedy Show To Benefit Those Suffering in Syria Doors open 7 p.m. 8 - 10 p.m. Jammin Java 27 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Do you like to laugh and be a good person? Then this show is for you. Get a babysitter. Come be part of a wonderful cause. You won't regret it. 2016 has been a tough year, especially for the people of Syria. Thousands of people have been injured in the fighting. Thankfully, Doctors Without Borders have been there to provide aid and medicine to those in need. Please help us in supporting their efforts by joining us for a night of laughter and good will. 100% of the net profits from this show will go directly to Doctors Without Borders. Cost: \$15 benafd@gmail.com 571-230-9177

FRIDAY & SATURDAY/JAN. 27 & 28

The Art of Marriage Friday 6:45 - 9 p.m. Saturday 9 - 3 p.m.

When you were standing at the altar reciting your marriage vows, did you have any idea that marriage would be so complex? It probably didn't take you long to understand that your spouse is not as much like you as you thought. But figuring them out is more than just an equation. Marriage is more than a science; it's an art. And like any art form, requires an investment of time, focused study and the right tools. If you need to soften some of the edges in your relationship, or want to brighten the landscape of your marriage, The Art of Marriage is for you. \$60 Early Registration by January 12. viennapres.org/strengthen-your-marriage

SATURDAY/JAN. 28

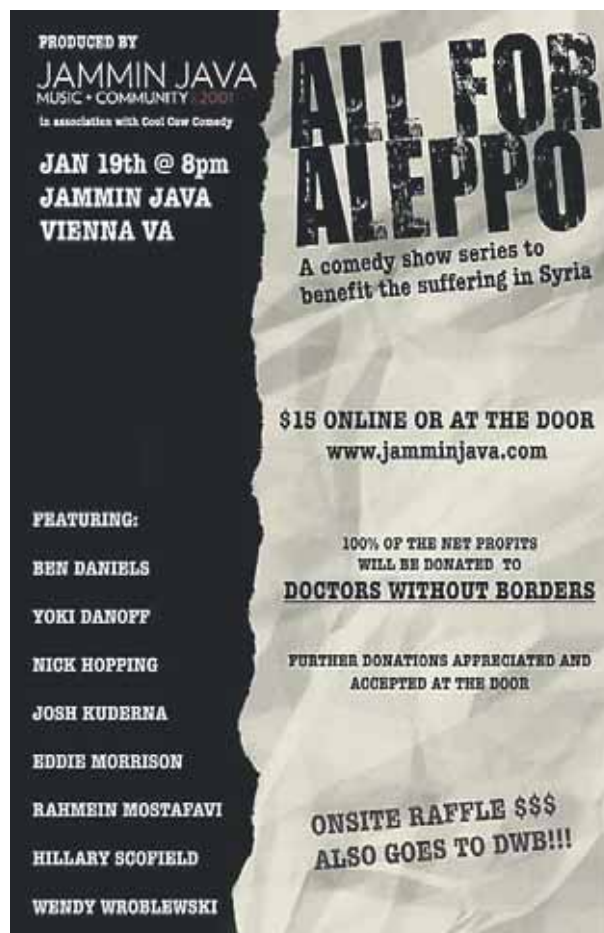
Virginia's Indian Tribes 10 - 12 a.m. McClean Community Center 1234 Ingleside Ave. Most Virginians have no idea about the 11 present-day Virginia tribes, the issues they've encountered, or how they continue to thrive. For a fascinating look at their past and present the McLean Area AAUW invites you to hear Karenne Wood, a member of the Monacan Indian Nation and director, Virginia Indian Heritage Program, Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. Cost: free.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

The Sixth Annual McLean Chocolate Festival, 1 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The admission fee is \$2 per person. Children age six and under are admitted free. Buy treats to eat on site or stock up for Valentine's Day. Featured on the Festival Stage will be performances by Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids at 1:30 p.m., and bluegrass music by Mike Mitchell and the Wildman's at 11:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Ongoing demonstrations of



The Art of Marriage Seminar will take place Friday & Saturday/Jan. 27 & 28 at Vienna Presbyterian Church located at 124 Park St NE, Vienna. The Friday session runs from 6:45 - 9 p.m. the Saturday session runs from Saturday 9 - 3 p.m. When you were standing at the altar reciting your marriage vows, did you have any idea that marriage would be so complex? It probably didn't take you long to understand that your spouse is not as much like you as you thought. But figuring them out is more than just an equation. Marriage is more than a science; it's an art. And like any art form, requires an investment of time, focused study and the right tools. If you need to soften some of the edges in your relationship, or want to brighten the landscape of your marriage, The Art of Marriage is for you. \$60 Early Registration by January 12. viennapres.org/strengthen-your-marriage.



Jammin Java will host "All For Aleppo" A Comedy Show To Benefit Those Suffering in Syria on Thursday Jan. 19. Doors will open at 7 p.m. The show will run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Jammin Java 27 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Come be part of a wonderful cause. 2016 has been a tough year, especially for the people of Syria. Thousands of people have been injured in the fighting. Thankfully, Doctors Without Borders have been there to provide aid and medicine to those in need — 100% of the net profits from this show will go directly to Doctors Without Borders. Cost: \$15



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BAILEY/COURTESY OF MCLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Romeo and Juliet in American Shakespeare Center's production of 'Romeo and Juliet.'

'Hungry Hearts Tour' Comes to McLean

American Shakespeare Center's "Hungry Hearts Tour" performing William Shakespeare's "Two Gentlemen of Verona," "Romeo and Juliet" and Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances are Jan. 21 & 22, 2017. "Romeo and Juliet," on Saturday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m. "The Two Gentlemen of Verona" on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m. and "Our Town" on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m. For each performance the doors open and pre-show music starts 30 minutes before the performance. Tickets \$35/\$25MCC tax district residents. Tickets: visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123.

colonial American chocolate-making will be presented by American Heritage, a Mars company. There will be plenty of free parking. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org

ONGOING

The Freeman Store & Museum

Wednesday through Sunday noon - 4 p.m. 131 Church Street NE Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Weekly Storytime.

Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

"Thrifty Thursdays" Basic Budgeting Classes in Annandale, Chantilly and Alexandria 7-9 p.m. Heritage Building 7611 Little River Turnpike, East Wing 1st Floor Conference Room D Annandale.

Thursday, January 19, 2017 & Thursday, April 20, 2017. South County Government Center 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253) For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at crogers@britepaths.org or 703-273-8829

Plan Ahead Vienna

FRIDAYS-SUNDAYS/FEB. 3-19

McLean Community Players "Company." 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit <http://www.mcleanplayers.org/>.

SUNDAY/FEB. 19

Concert: The Daraja Ensemble 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church 9220 Georgetown Pike Great Falls, VA 22066. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for "bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. Cost: Season pass \$150 or \$30 at the door. Visit: <http://amadeusconcerts.com/>

News

Madison High Students Participate in Service Learning Project

As part of a Service Learning Project, the senior class at James Madison HS spent part of the school day supporting multiple local organizations. With grant funding from Walmart, sandwiches for Martha's Table, a homeless shelter in D.C. were made and individually packaged. Using t-shirts donated by the school's faculty and staff, students made dog toys for the Humane Society of Fairfax County. Jill's House is an organization that provides respite for several of Madison students with special needs and part of this service project was to make craft kits to be donated to Jill's House. An additional component of the project focused on members of the senior class writing letters to residents at The Sunrise Assisted Living home in Vienna. The work done was a part of the school's mission of one school, one community, one world.



PHOTOS BY ILANA MAY

A member of the Class of 2017 rolls lunchmeat and cheese together to create sandwiches.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

American Shakespeare Center Shakespeare Weekend @ The Alden



Shakespeare's "The Two Gentlemen of Verona"

Saturday, Jan. 21, 2 p.m.

Live music at 1:30 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"

Saturday, Jan. 21, 8 p.m.

Live music at 7:30 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents



Thornton Wilder's "Our Town"

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2 p.m.

Live music at 1:30 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

Onstage @ The Alden

Flamenco Vivo/ Carlota Santana

Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m.

\$35/\$20 MCC district residents



Just in Time for Valentine's Day!

Better Than Bling Jewelry & Fashion Accessories Show

Saturday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Admission: \$5; Free, children age 12 or younger

Onstage @ The Alden

The Amazing Max

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2 p.m.

\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



The McLean Community Center

www.mcleancenter.org

Home of the Alden Theatre

www.aldentheatre.org

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I Think Therefore I'm Not

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As much as I write a good game, and talk a good game, I don't think as good a game as I write and talk. As I sit and write this column, on Saturday, January 14, I am four days away from my regular, recurring, quarterly CT Scan, scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, followed up almost immediately by my normal post-scan, face-to-face appointment (I have had telephone appointments) with my oncologist two days later on Friday, January 20. As you all are reading this column, it's almost like real time, except you only know my feelings and some dates, but not the results/facts.

Nor do I, of course, as of this column's publication and of your reading it, and therein lies the reason for this column. Waiting, wondering, worrying and hoping is what I/Team Lourie will be doing for the next six days. And though we've all been through it before (nearly eight years of 'it'), enduring 'it' never gets any easier. In fact, it gets more difficult in a way. Partially because, given my original "13 month to two-year prognosis, this waiting for scan results shouldn't be happening. I can't help thinking that I'm borrowing time. I wasn't diagnosed as "terminal" for nothing. I was/am a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer, meaning the cancer had (1) metastasized (spread) which is never good and (2) was inoperable, which is self-explanatory. Both of which determine a stage IV diagnosis thereby minimizing one's options. Ergo, my prognosis. Yet here I am, nearly eight years later, anticipating the results of my next CT Scan to learn whether I've been given another reprieve or another reminder of why I was diagnosed stage IV in the first place: tumor growth and/or movement.

Somehow, I must ignore the facts and the statistics, ignore the reality; and as Andy Dufresne said to "Red" in "The Shawshank Redemption:" Get busy living or get busy dying." Which as you regular readers know is what I try to do, or at least write like I try to do. And to friends and family, it appears to be what I'm doing. However, in my head, six days away from learning my fate (at least for the next three months until my next CT Scan/brain MRI), I am not exactly 'living' it. I'm stuck, more or less, between "why worry" and "what if?" As a consequence, I can't get out of my own way, sort of; heck, I can barely get out of other people's way.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not moping around "woeing-is-me;" that's not my nature. But I am having some difficulty deluding myself into thinking (living) that the next few days are somehow a random-type meaningless occurrence that will have no bearing on my life. Quite the contrary, it's everything. There's no more important time in my life than waiting for the results of the varying diagnostic tests that I have. And though I remain mostly asymptomatic now, (last week's column: "Slippery Hope" notwithstanding), I was also asymptomatic (generally speaking) when I was first diagnosed in February 2009. Consequently, feeling nothing does not provide the same comfort and joy as you might think. Granted, feeling symptoms would be worse. But considering that over the years feeling/not feeling symptoms have both lead to encouraging and discouraging results, I'm not comforted by anything until after my oncologist tells me if my warranty has been extended.

Feeling something, feeling nothing; I never know what to feel except fear — of the unknown, and for the next few days, my future is what's unknown. Living through that is always a challenge. If I've convinced readers and friends and family otherwise, all the better. Personally speaking, it's only easy writing and talking about it. Living it is another story entirely.

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

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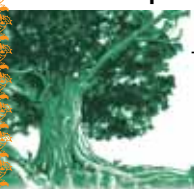
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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

SUNDAY/JAN. 29

Home Seller Seminar: Become A Savvy Seller. Free, no obligation, offered by Lyons McGuire Homes & Estates of Keller Williams Realty. Speakers include a professional stager, organizer, & photographer. Learn insider secrets to getting the most money for your home. 1-4 p.m. at Keller Williams, Great Falls, 774-A Walker Rd. Great Falls. RSVP: LyonsMcGuire@LyonsMcGuire.com

FEBRUARY

Free public service seminars -
-Decluttering: Feb. 2, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean.
-Aging in Place: Feb. 8, Falls Church H.S., 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church.
-Downsizing: Feb. 14, Marshall H.S. 7731 Leesburg Pk., Falls Church.
-Retirement Communities Feb. 22, Madison H.S., 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna.
For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

Fairfax-based non-profit Britepaths offers free Financial Education classes and sessions at various locations in the Fairfax County area to low- and middle-income adults who reside throughout Northern Virginia. The offerings are free and open to the public, but reservations are required.

Below is a listing of our Winter/Spring offerings. A graphic with information is also available at: <https://britepaths.org/news/get-financially-fit-new-year>

ONGOING

Volunteers Needed. PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: <https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/>. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs.** For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The **Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean** needs a **Certified Arthritis Exercise Instructor.** For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

Vienna Toastmasters. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7:30-9 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
JD Sisters, Inc., trading as Aroma Indian Cuisine, 4052 Campbell Ave. Arlington, VA 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages.
Jyoti Chhatwal, President
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.

21 Announcements

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Mission: Inauguration

Officer with Vienna, Langley High roots leads inaugural military ceremonial activities.

By ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Brigadier General George M. Degnon, U.S. Air Force, has come along way from his native Vienna and his school days at Langley High School in McLean, but his next mission will play out practically in his old home backyard. Degnon was appointed as the Joint Task Force – National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) Deputy for Inaugural Support, reporting to Maj. Gen. Bradley A. Becker, U.S. Army. It's a posting that he accepted with pride, "even if it's still a bit surreal."

The JTF-NCR is tasked with all components of the ceremonial aspects of the event, from the planning, coordination and execution, through the final moments of an inauguration period that runs from Jan. 15 to Jan. 24, "and all of the moving parts in between," reported Degnon during a phone interview.

U.S. Armed Forces personnel provide musical units, color guards, honor cordons, marching elements, and more, all designed to honor the incoming Commander-In-Chief

and to demonstrate control of the military by our civilian populace. Those personnel form a true "integrated Total Force" meaning Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Coast Guard will all be participating and representing their branch of service. Brigadier Gen. Degnon and his team – about 820 strong – will be at the helm, coordinating that integrated effort of more than 5,000 service members.

THEIR ROLE may be strictly ceremonial, but just like all of the military who will be in attendance in a variety of roles, the men and women under Degnon's command for the Inaugural events are always on hand to "about face" and perform as what is termed as "quick reaction forces" in case of emergency.

Civilian law enforcement officers are the ones responsible for the safety and security of all personnel during the proceedings, according to the JTF-NCR's 58th Presidential

Inauguration Fact Sheet. The United States Secret Service is the primary Federal agency for security purposes, FEMA the primary for "consequence management operations," and the FBI leading the way for crisis management operations.

The military has been contributing to the inaugural process since April 30, 1789, when members of the Continental Army and veterans were among those who escorted General George Washington to Federal Hall in New York City for his swearing-in as the nation's first president. The JTF-NCR (formerly the Armed Forces Inaugural Committee) first supported a modern-day Inaugural Pa-

rade for President Eisenhower in 1953. A quick check of the JTF-NCR archives will tell you that Eisenhower's parade lasted more than five hours – the longest to date. No one knows how long the parade marking the inauguration of Donald J. Trump as the 45th president of the United States will be, but Degnon says they are prepared for any and all eventualities.

At the time of the interview with the General, there were no specific requests from the Inaugural Committee or from the Presi-

dent-Elect or others of his representatives that were cause for anything other than the normal concern associated with such a major moment in our democratic activities. "Much of what takes place on the actual Inauguration day is done according to Constitutional requirements," said Degnon. "That aids in the planning and execution, but we are prepared to handle changes and requests wherever possible."

If those ceremonial obligations weren't duties enough, the JTF-NCR also serves as the official Department of Defense liaison to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inauguration Ceremonies and the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC). They are also tasked with collecting, compiling, organizing and offering their analysis and historical perspective concerning the applications submitted to the PIC for parade participation. "Good thing we have a great team to get us through," said the Brigadier General.

DEGNON has been involved in previous inaugurations as part of his military duties, but "not at this level." Any length of conversation with the Brigadier General and the listener is convinced that he and the team really do have their bases covered, and that a local boy will make his hometown and the country proud when doing his part toward the peaceful transition of power.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
**Brigadier General
George M. Degnon**

Oakton and Robinson: The Rivalry Ends

The Oakton and Robinson rivalry in Conference 5 continued with the last week's meet: The Oakton girls lost their one win streak with a 33 point deficit, only scoring 141 points to Robinson's 174. However, the Oakton boys remain undefeated, while giving Robinson their first loss of the season, with a score of 168 to 147, a 21 point win for the Cougars.

For the past six years, Oakton and Robinson have had seven dual meets to battle head-to-head as rivals. Before last night, both the boys' and girls' teams were tied to Robinson 3-3. As Robinson moves to a different conference at the end of this year, the Oakton and Robinson rivalry will be cut short during the regular season. However, this doesn't mean that regions and states won't be any different in the future.

On the bright side, two former coaches, Ray Rieling and Holly Wheeler, came to the meet to support the teams and visit the swimmers they coached for the past few years. All of the returning swimmers were ecstatic to see and catch up with them at the meet. Head coach Parker Ramsdell was also excited to see them, and even asked Rieling and Wheeler to take splits for a few of the races.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Oakton's team cheering before the meet begins. In the background is senior and Virginia Tech commit Tommy Hallock, who placed first in the 50 and 100 freestyle.

Both Oakton teams swam well, even though the results of the meet didn't go as hoped for the girls. On the boys' side, sophomore Anthony Arcomona placed third place in the 100 backstroke and 100

butterfly. Albert Xu, another sophomore, earned second place in the 200 freestyle, where he earned his first regional cut. Senior Drew Weber earned first in 100 butterfly and second in 100 backstroke.

Sophomore Daniel Gyenis took first place in both of his events, 200 IM and 500 freestyle, and senior and Virginia Tech commit Tommy Hallock also placed first in 50 and 100 free. For the girls, senior Caroline McCleskey placed first in both of her events, the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke. Freshman Leaya Ma placed first in the 50 freestyle and third in the 100 freestyle. McKenna Witlin, a sophomore, placed first in the 500 freestyle and second in the 200 freestyle. Another freshman, Brynn Curtis, placed second in both the 200 IM and 100 breaststroke, both of which were season bests and within .5 seconds of state cuts. On the other half of the pool, Joe Perreault, a sophomore, took third place for diving.

Despite the girls' loss, Oakton will be looking forward to next week's meet and the postseason. Because of Inauguration Day, Oakton will be hosting their last meet of the season against Centreville High School on Saturday, Jan. 21. This will be the second dual meet against Centreville this season and senior night for Oakton, where 23 seniors will be celebrated for their time on the team. The meet will start at 6:30 p.m. but senior night will be held before the meet starts.