

Langston Hughes Middle and South Lakes High School students perform "World Will Know" from Newsies during the "Broadway Night" show last weekend where more than 200 students from South Lakes High Pyramid schools performed. Staged by South Lakes High choral students, the show featured 20 different Broadway show scenes.

# 'Broadway Night' At South Lakes High

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# Rocky Road Ahead

Governor, business leaders and analysts offer insights on regional economy.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The road signs along the highway to the region's economic future are a bit difficult to read, sometimes pointing positively one way, and at other times seeming to indicate slow downs and hazards ahead, according to speakers and panelists at last week's regional economic conference.

"Mapping New Economic Opportunities" was the title of the 25<sup>th</sup> annual conference, hosted by the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce (NVCC) in partnership with Cardinal Bank, George Mason University, and the Washington Business Journal, that played to a standing room only crowd on Feb. 1 at the Marriott Fairview Park in Falls Church.

Stephen S. Fuller, Ph.D. has been studying, analyzing and reporting on the region's economy for decades. A member of the faculty at George Mason University since 1994, from 2002 until May of 2015 he was the director of GMU's Center for Regional Analysis. After a brief retirement, Fuller is back as the Dwight Schar Faculty Chair and as the director of the university's Stephen S. Fuller Institute.

**FULLER'S SESSION** was billed as a "Progress Report" on the area's recent economic performance. He started with the "Downsides of Being a Company Town," noting the adverse effects that sequestration has had on the region. From the end of 2011 through 2014, sequestration and the reduction in Federal procurement and contracts has meant a loss of about \$2 billion in government wages and more than \$6



**Gov. Terry McAuliffe addresses the attendees at the 25<sup>th</sup> annual Northern Virginia Economic Conference, noting the Commonwealth's advancements in job growth and in certain segments of the state's economy. "We're number 5 in wine production. When I'm done, they'll think Napa is an auto parts store," he told the crowd. The governor also expressed his concerns about the new administration's immigration policies and the negative effects on business in Virginia and elsewhere.**

billion less in contract revenues.

Fuller and speaker Terry Clower, Ph.D. Northern Virginia chair and professor of Public Policy at GMU — and Fuller's successor at the Center for Regional Analysis — agree that business in the region has done surprisingly well over the last two years, slowly pulling away from its dependency on the Federal Government. "2015

and 2016 were our third best two years in history," said Fuller, "and that without booming Federal spending."

"Despite all of the campaign rhetoric," the overall trend in job growth has been positive since 2010, with 14 million jobs added since then, and 2.2 million just in the last year," said Clower. It's been a steady, but not "spectacular" climb, according to Clower, but both experts detect potential threats ahead unless addressed promptly.

Clower provided a list of "look out" items. Related to the new administration, the fac-

tors that will impact the region — and the nation's — economic growth ("positively or negatively remains to be seen") included changes to the corporate tax rate, spending on infrastructure, changes in interest rates, the ratio of spending vs. revenues vs. debt and the potential for the rise of inflation and changes in immigration policy.

Among the speakers, Clower was not in the minority on the subject of immigration. "There is no doubt we need immigrants" particularly in the science, health and technology fields. Clower, Fuller and others among the speakers insist that educated immigrants are vital to the companies that currently employ them, and key to the future viability of the economy. In many industry sectors, "they don't take jobs away," said Clower. "They help create jobs with their work and innovations. And if we can't attract them, someone else will."

In his remarks, Gov. Terry McAuliffe expressed his concerns that poorly crafted immigration policies can have disastrous effects, noting the recent cancellation of two foreign investor site visits to Virginia that had been in the works for months. "Businesses are afraid to take a chance that the people they need might not be able to get into the country."

While acknowledging the challenges and the uncertainties in navigating economic growth, McAuliffe, Clower, and panelists like Jennifer Aument, general manager, North America, Transurban Inc. and chair of the NVCC, Teresa Carlson, VP, Amazon Web Services Worldwide, S. Tien Wong, CEO, Tech 2000 & Appnetic, and chairman, Lore Systems, and Keynote Speaker Christopher Nassetta, president and CEO of McLean-based Hilton, offered positive comments on doing business in Northern Virginia.

Nassetta spoke about Hilton's decision to move its headquarters from Beverly Hills to McLean in 2009. "It was a major disruption and enormously expensive," but the benefits offered by the region, including a robust hospitality talent pool, lower cost of living, and the Eastern Time Zone that enhance global operations made sense to Hilton executives, and allowed the company to "accelerate cultural change."

**THE GOVERNOR** gave a high-speed update on achievements in job growth and business recruitment that have taken place during his administration, including the Commonwealth's surge to become the nation's leader in cybersecurity centers and the fact that the Port of Virginia now handles more cargo than any other in the country. He also informed the attendees that he was about to announce another major corporate relocation. After leaving the conference, the governor announced the upcoming relocation of Nestle, S.A. from Glendale, Calif. to Arlington.

While they agreed that Northern Virginia does have an enviable talent pool in some



**Stephen Fuller, former director of George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis, current head of the school's Stephen S. Fuller Institute, and an acknowledged expert on the region's economic history and prospects, delivered a cautionary session to the Northern Virginia Economic Conference attendees.**

PHOTOS BY  
ANDREA WORKER/  
THE CONNECTION



**Joe O'Brien with CB Richard Ellis, and Mark Palmer of FVC Bank did some networking during the break.**

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Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe was so warmly welcomed by the crowd of ADAMS congregants and by their supporters, that it took him quite a while to finally head off to his next engagement. Time constraints did not keep him from participating in a selfie or two. Looking into the camera, McAuliffe shouted out “Register to vote, vote, take action and stand together!”

## Standing Together

Peace rally draws hundreds against immigration ban.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) campus has one foot in Fairfax County and the rest of the property in Loudoun. On Friday, it drew hundreds of people from all around the Northern Virginia region to show their support for the members of one of the largest mosques in the country at an event that featured appearances by Governor Terry McAuliffe and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring.

This was no months-in-the-works assembly, but more an impromptu response to President Trump’s Executive Orders that suspend immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries for at least 90 days and the entry of refugees for at least 120 days. The move has caused travel disruptions, airport detentions and deportations since it was dropped without notice last week. Numbers are being disputed between different government departments, but the estimates are between 60,000 and 100,00 visas that were summarily and abruptly cancelled.

**SUPPORTERS** who turned up to reassure their Muslim neighbors found out about the rally mostly by word-of-mouth and through social media outlets. Bruce Bailey, Janet Rider, Jolene McNamara and Julia Persing learned of the event via a church email chain from Christ the Servant Lutheran

Church of Reston and decided they had to attend. “This is not political for me,” said McNamara. “This is about basic human rights. The people here need to know that there are plenty of us out there who support and love them.”

“This is very emotional for me,” said Rider. “This is a free country, with freedom of religion. Being here to support our Muslim brothers and sisters is such a small thing to do.”

From about 11 a.m. until almost 2:30 p.m. the supporters lined either side of the steps leading into the Center. Their spirits were lifted and the cold temperatures kept at bay by their grateful hosts, who passed through the crowd with coffee, donuts, cookies and pizza.

As the congregants exited from their prayer service, funnelled through the middle of the crowd, they were greeted with shouts of “We’re here for you!” “We love you and ADAMS!” and a sea of men, women and children waving signs.

“United We Stand.” “Patriots Protect All Religions.” “Love They Neighbor. (No Exceptions).” These were just a few of the sentiments displayed in varying degrees of artistic talent.

Some of the recipients of this goodwill seemed almost overcome with emotion. Many walked shyly through the runway, heads down, but with their hands over their hearts. Others walked along with smiles and waves, calling out “Thank you! Thank you so much!” There were tears, and spontaneous hugs between strangers. Shannon Mashaal, one of the congregants, stopped with her children to meet and thank Dylan Rosenberg of Herndon, and within minutes the new friends were taking selfies.

“I believe truly in unity,” said Rosenberg. “What’s going on is just not right. We need



From left — Bruce Bailey of Centerville, Julia Persing of Reston, Janet Rider of Centerville and Jolene McNamara of Herndon, all members of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church in Reston, show their support for their “Muslim brothers and sisters” at the entrance to the ADAMS Center during the Friday Peace Rally.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel was on hand to lend her personal support to the rally. From left: Heela, 2, Venus Hashemee, Linda Mohrparaskevopoulos and Mayor Merkel.

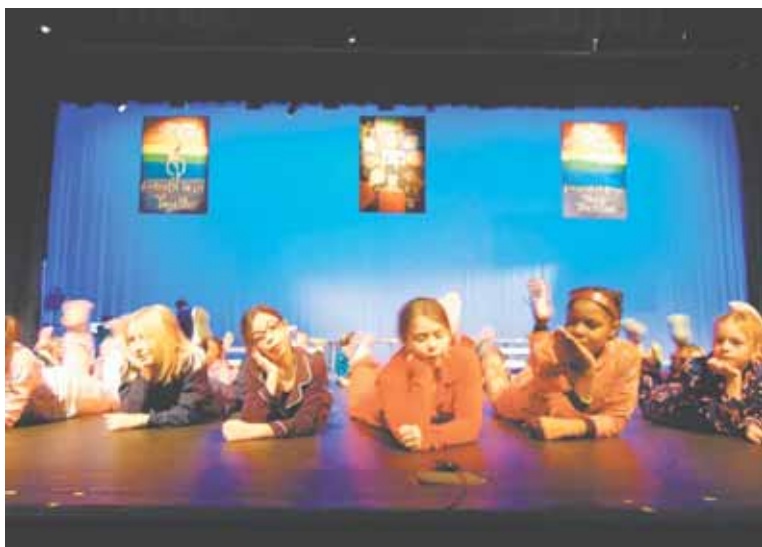
to stand together, just like this.”

Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel couldn’t agree more, and showed up to add her voice to those of the rally attendees. Carrying her “We The People – One Love” sign, Merkel praised the ADAMS Center. “I’ve been coming here for years. They are the most welcoming of people and have done so much to support the community. I’m here as a private citizen in their support, but also as Mayor to make sure everyone knows that we really believe that ‘Herndon is for Everyone.’”

When the last private prayer group had ended, the ADAMS officials opened wide their doors and invited the crowd to come in and listen to the numerous speakers. Friendly chaos ensued, as the ADAMS members helped the non-Muslim supporters find their way in, stacking their shoes on shelves before walking on the prayer carpets, and getting welcoming invitations to “please, sit here by us.” Marilyn Pierce of Reston admitted to the congregant beside her that this

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Elementary students perform “When I Grow Up” from *Matilda*.



Students perform “For Good” from *Wicked*.

## Economy Outlook

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

FROM PAGE 4

disciplines, and in general a well-educated population, the speakers and the governor all provided examples of difficulties in finding enough personnel with technology-specific knowledge and expertise.

McAuliffe said Virginia has about 36,000 openings for cyber-related jobs with starting salaries of \$80,000, and 149,000 vacancies in other tech fields. “This is our biggest roadblock. We need internships, externships, on the job training, and curriculums that are realistic.”

“A Bachelor’s Degree has been called the modern high school diploma,” said Clower. To compete as a region, and for individuals to compete in the job market, Clower says there needs to be “continuous personal educational upgrades.”

Using a series of statistical charts, Fuller showed the audience just where the growth in the region’s economy has been coming from and explained why this pattern is ultimately not sustainable. Dividing types of jobs into 11 main “clusters,” he illustrated that professional and business services, retail, and leisure and hospitality were three of the top four clusters in growth from February 2010 through December 2016. Biomedical and health services was third on the list, but it’s the smallest cluster in the region and the numbers don’t compare with the other three.

Those three clusters are the most vulnerable to economic pressures in Fuller’s estimation, and generally don’t pay as well as jobs in clusters like “information services” — an area that has lost ground, in spite of the fact that Northern Virginia has earned a reputation as a cybersecurity hub. “We are basically selling services to ourselves, and that is still the wrong focus.” Fuller’s research indicates that a failure to refocus job creation direction will lead to compounding money lost to the region totaling an estimated \$177.9 billion by 2025.

“And the longer it takes to get off this slow track, the harder it is to do. Remember, many of our competitors are on that fast track right now,” said Fuller. “It’s going to take a true regional approach, real regional cooperation and a redoubling of our efforts to get us there.”

— STEVE HIBBARD

## “Broadway Night” at South Lakes High

More than 200 students in South Lakes Pyramid perform 20 Broadway shows.

More than 200 students from South Lakes High Pyramid schools performed in “Broadway Night” last Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4, 2017, at the school. Staged by South Lakes High choral students, the show featured 20 different Broadway show scenes performed by students in grades 5-12. Based on the theme “Stronger Together,” music selected celebrated inclusion, diversity, love, unity and strength.

Among the show’s highlights were “Matilda,” “Charlie Brown,” “Shrek the Musical,” “Heathers,” “Hamilton,” “Waitress,” “West Side



Lauren Spar performs “I Have Confidence” from *The Sound of Music*.



Daniel Sprague performs “Light” from *Next to Normal*.

Story,” “The Sound of Music,” and “Newsies.” To prepare for the show, students worked with professional vocal and music coaches, theater coaches, technical theater

directors, and choreographers from FCPS and community theaters on scenes from a variety of Broadway shows while learning audition technique, dance, acting,

musicianship, characterization, and professionalism in the performing arts.



Langston Hughes and Rachel Carson Middle School students perform “America” from *West Side Story*.



Students perform “Shine a Light” from *Heathers*.



## NEWS

# Faith Communities Come Together to Feed And Protect Homeless from Hypothermia

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he county's Hypothermia Prevention Program is now offering homeless individuals refuge from the winter cold.

The program runs every year from Nov. 27 through April 1 and served 386 people last winter.

"We've seen over 170 unduplicated individuals throughout the program so far this season," says Chaka Meney, a case manager and hypothermia program assistant at FACETS, a nonprofit organization that helps the county run the program.

The program relies on faith communities that volunteer to give the needy a safe place to sleep and warm meals. Each volunteer faith community opens its houses of worship for a week at a time.

From Sunday, Jan. 29, to Saturday, Feb. 4, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax in Oakton was one of the churches that participated.

"A year before we got started, we had people die on the street from hypothermia," says Jerry Poje, a member of the church. "We said we wouldn't let that happen again."

He helped start the countywide program in 2003.

"Not everyone knows the plight of homelessness in our communities or how easy it is to tumble into homelessness," he says. "They may have been living in their house and paying a mortgage but it all goes away when a health crisis happens."

**MORE THAN 40** houses of worship, including churches, synagogues and mosques have volunteered space for the program this winter season in Annandale, Springfield, Fairfax, Burke, Herndon, Reston, Oakton, Vienna, Falls Church and Fairfax Station. "If you talked with some of the people here at night, it's not freezing but it's damn cold," Poje says. And if it's raining, it's a mortal damage to your life." The homeless are given a mat and blankets and can choose a spot to sleep for the night. Some houses of worship choose to separate guests by gender while some others do not. Some also provide showers if they have the ability.

"I'm thankful that I have a place to stay for the night because I have slept outside before," says a homeless man who was staying at the church and requested to remain anonymous. He is a veteran of the Army and has been homeless for the last three months.

"It's going to be about 25 degrees tonight and there's going to be some people out there that prob-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY CHAKA MENEY

**The Unitarian Universalist Church of Fairfax in Oakton could hold 38 homeless individuals overnight at a time.**

ably have on three pairs of pants and shirts, jackets and coats," he says. "Or you can stay up all night and wait until a library opens up and try to catch a nap in there, or you can sleep on a bus or go to a mall and hope that security doesn't kick you out."

He wants to study cybersecurity once he finds stable housing so he doesn't have to face homelessness ever again, he says.

In the meantime, he plans on saving up some money so that he can be a courier. But first he must save up enough money for a car.

"Guests are in different stages of homelessness, some are new and some have been for years," says Meney. "Some have mental illness, were recently evicted, released from jail or hospitals with no place to go." Meney arrives at the church's early to assist her clients in applying for benefits and works to get them housing and employment assistance.

"It can be a rewarding experience as a case manager because I feel like I help them get out of homelessness," she says. "The goal is to get them housed." The county's 2017 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness was conducted on Wednesday, Jan. 25.

"We don't have the numbers yet because we're still compiling the data," says Dean Klein, director of the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. "We have continued to see a decline in our homeless numbers, but we're certainly very concerned for those who are homeless currently."

**AS OF LAST YEAR'S COUNT** on Jan. 28, 2016, there were 1,059 people who were homeless in the county. This represents a 12 percent reduction from the number counted in January 2015, or 145 less people.

The new numbers will be published in the spring.

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## First Amendment Is Alive and Well

BY RONALD GOLDFARB

*"Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."*

Having worked in D.C. and lived in Alexandria since 1961 when I came to work for Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, I've experienced the First Amendment in real time action, by assembling and petitioning my government for redress of grievances.

In 1963 my wife and I stood near the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr. pleaded to the world for civil rights for all people, and delivered his immortal "I Have a Dream" speech. About 250,000 people — black and white — peacefully gathered in the nation's capital to plead for President Kennedy to provide 19 million Afro-American descendants the right to vote, travel, and work.

Fears abounded. The D.C. police and FBI were present on the streets. There were altogether over 8,000 guardians of the peace. The federal government and many businesses were closed. Hospitals canceled elective surgery so all beds would be available for riot-related emergencies. Jails were emptied to provide room for predicted arrests. Judges were on around-the-clock standby.

These precautions were not necessary. The assembly was non-violent. People arrived from all over the world and marched with dignity. Many swarmed around the Reflecting Pool in

a field of humanity that ran all the way to the Washington Monument.

On that day we listened to the greatest orator of his time pleading for racial justice, claiming that the time had come "to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood," calling for "the fierce urgency of now," then urged on by Mahalia Jackson, departed from his prepared text and segued into his immortal plea, "I have a dream," that reverberates still in the hearts and minds of all decent people.

The New York Times called the event "the most impressive assembly for a redress of grievances in America's history." The Washington Post reported that the assembly was a happy combination of prayer meeting, picnic, and political rally, a crowd "united in a sense of brotherhood and common humanity." The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Unfortunately, many of the social injustices deplored on that summer day in Washington, D.C., have not yet been overcome. But Aug. 28, 1963, was a seminal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power and dignity of democracy in action.

In 1971, the scene was more fractious when my wife and I joined Vietnam War protests on the streets of Washington D.C., a gathering which was rougher and more proactive than the 1963 event. We were gassed, with many others, near Dupont Circle by police overreacting to the noisy protests. Eventually the public demonstrations worked. The war was ended, too late, but it might not have ended when it did without these public pro-

tests. Critics of the war hastened the end of it, and resulted in a president leaving politics.

In 1986, my wife, daughter and two human rights activist friends, the late Pat Derian and Rose Styron and their daughters marched on a sunny day near Congress in a sea of women who came from across the country to support the ERA. But this time their pleas were not successful in terms of reaching the goal that gave rise to that march. But peace prevailed and eventually the goals they asserted then have been advanced in major ways.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, an estimated half million Americans filled the streets of Washington, as did huge crowds in other cities in America and around the world to claim rights they felt were disparaged by the Trump campaign and election. The Saturday crowds far surpassed Friday's relatively insignificant inaugural crowds. President Trump now argues about the relative size of his crowds — those applauding his election, and those crying out against it.

My children who attended here in D.C. and other locations reported a cheering good spirit, upbeat communal behavior, welcoming friendly law enforcement officials, filled bleachers, and an upbeat camaraderie.

Now what remains after people returned to their homes away from Washington, D.C. is the question: how does this experience change the future? Will the energy become harnessed into a movement that changes politics? We all ponder that question, bravo to the people who are trying.

COMMENTARY

## How a Bill Does Not Become a Law in Virginia

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Most people can remember the flowchart from high school civics class that graphically showed how a bill becomes a law. According to the chart, a legislator gets an idea for a bill that is drafted, introduced into one house of the legislature where it is heard by a committee, sent to the floor for a vote if approved, and sent on to the other house for the same routine. Generally, that is what happens in the best of circumstances, but reality is much more complicated. I can best make my point about what really happens in too many cases by reviewing the erratic course of a couple of bills in this session of the Virginia General Assembly that will not become law.

There is an increasing realization that many legislatures—including the General Assembly in Virginia—are not as responsive to public opinion as would be ex-

pected from democratically elected bodies because of the way that legislative boundaries are drawn. An intense campaign by an organization named OneVirginia2021 has made many people aware that under the current system of having the legislature drawing its own district boundaries legislators are picking their voters rather than voters picking their representatives. By comparing voting histories with census numbers district boundaries can be drawn that are safe for incumbent legislators. The likelihood of incumbents being defeated is so slight that they go unchallenged. I have been working on this issue throughout my political career and once again introduced legislation to establish an independent legislative redistricting commission. My bill was sent to the Privileges and Elections Committee where it was assigned to a subcommittee. The subcommittee allowed me



and others with similar bills to make presentations with comments from the public. A survey of my district indicates that about 80 percent of my constituents support a nonpartisan approach to drawing district lines. Other legislators introduced bills to accomplish the same result. My bill and all the others were swept together in one motion and defeated by a vote of four to one. On this important issue four legislators made the decision for the entire 140 members of the General Assembly.

This is not an unusual situation. My bill that would have required universal background checks for gun purchases had the support of the Governor and 90 percent of my constituents. It was sent to the Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee and then to a subcommittee of five legislators, four of whom have an A+ rating by the National Rifle Association. There was little surprise when my bill

and all the other common-sense gun safety measures were defeated by a vote of four to one.

Under the Rules of the House, the Speaker of the House makes all committee assignments. Rather than a balance of points of views, the committee membership is stacked to reflect his position of the majority party. The Speaker also decides which committee will consider which bills. The rigged committee membership makes it easy to explain how a bill does not become a law in Virginia.

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.  
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Letters to the Editor  
The Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.  
By e-mail:  
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Fallon Forbush  
Reporter  
fforbush@connectionnewspapers.com

Kyle Kincaid  
Editorial Assistant  
reston@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk  
Display Advertising/National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith  
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411  
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief  
Steven Mauren  
Managing Editor  
Kemal Kurspahic  
Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher  
Jeanne Theismann  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





# CALENDAR

Send announcements to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 8

**Fracking "What's the Fuss?"** 7:15-9:00 p.m. Reston Community Center in Hunters Woods, Room 3, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Where is it taking place in Virginia, and what should we do about it? Join Reston LWV members as they continue a two-month study of this environmental issue currently being examined both nationally and in Virginia. Learn the facts about what is happening in Virginia, whether we should be concerned, and what we should do about it. Cost: Free. 703-471-6364 [www.lwv-fairfax.org](http://www.lwv-fairfax.org)

## THURSDAY/FEB. 9

**Relay For Life Kickoff** 7 - 9 p.m. Reston Association Conference Center 12001 Sunrise Valley Dr. Reston. This year marks the Reston Relay's 20th Anniversary. Guests will have the opportunity to register a team for the Relay For Life event, buy Luminaria, bid on auction items, and much more. It is a fun-filled, interactive kickoff! The community is invited and learn about how to help the American Cancer Society save more lives from cancer. [www.RelayForLife.org/RestonVA](http://www.RelayForLife.org/RestonVA) 703-937-1909 [RestonRelay@gmail.com](mailto:RestonRelay@gmail.com)

## SATURDAY/FEB. 11

**2017 Virginia Polar Dip** Registration at noon Plunge at 2 p.m. Reston Community Center, Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. With the strength of an event such as the 2017 Virginia Polar Dip and the resources of Camp Sunshine, the goal is to raise

in excess of \$100,000 in 2017. That is enough to send 40 families from the Mid-Atlantic area (including VA/MD/DC/DE/PA/WV/NC) to attend Camp Sunshine. All participants who raise at least \$100 will receive a highly coveted "I DID IT" event tshirt. [csun.convio.net](http://csun.convio.net)

**Pre-Valentine Cooking Class at Il Fornaio** 11 - 1 p.m. Il Fornaio, 11990 Market Street, Reston Town Center. Join us for our first men-only cooking class. Our chef will instruct you in an easy-to-prepare gourmet Valentine's Day dinner for your special someone at home. Recipes, shopping list, wine pairing and handy tips will be provided. \$75. [Facebook.com/IlFornaioReston](https://www.facebook.com/IlFornaioReston) Reservations: [banquets.reston@ilfo.com](mailto:banquets.reston@ilfo.com) or 703-437-5544

**Handmade Valentine Card Workshop at GRACE** 9:30 - 11 a.m. Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market Street, #103, Reston Town Center. Using punches, origami, and stamping techniques, create a one-of-a-kind Valentine for someone special! Sign up the whole family for this fun workshop led by GRACE staff. Note: Parents will need to assist children with the creation of cards, and children must be accompanied by a participating adult. Adults may come on their own and do not need to be accompanied by a child. [Facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter](https://www.facebook.com/GreaterRestonArtsCenter) Registration required. 703-471-9242 [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org)

**Parthenon Huxley at ARTSPACE HERNDON** 7 - 9 p.m. Alternate Rock Singer and Songwriter. Huxley has released nine albums of critically acclaimed, award-winning music. Huxley will be accompanied by the prodigiously talented violinist Ben

Hoyt of Baltimore's Peabody School of Music. Come out for this Valentines themed performance. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?ack=&ofedp465d7e09d76&tr=unpdpab>

## TUESDAY/FEB. 14

**Valentine's Day Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides** 5:30 - 9:30 p.m. A coach will be ready in front of Talbots for Valentine's Day. 11900 Market St. Reston.rain or shine, in front of Pavilion. [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com)

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

**Herndon Community Center Preschool Open House and Registration** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Cost: Free 703-435-6800, ext. 2119

## FRIDAY/FEB. 17 - SUNDAY FEB. 19

**All Star Weekend Watch Party at American Tap Room** 11 a.m. Feb. 17 through 11 p.m. Feb. 19 American Tap Room, 1811 Library Street, Reston Town Center Watch All Star Weekend festivities each day, including great food and drink features. 703-834-0400 [americantaproom.com](http://americantaproom.com)

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Using Adobe Lightroom to Organize, Edit and Share Your Photography** with Mary Louise Ravese 1 - 5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Over the course of two days, Mary Louise Ravese of Bella Vista Photography, will concentrate on the essentials of Adobe Lightroom's main modules: Library, Develop, and the output modules of Print, Web, Slideshow



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**The Reston Chorale Associate Director Allan Laino will conduct Camerata in concert on Sunday, Feb. 12, at 4 p.m. in the CenterStage.**

## Chorale Takes To CenterStage

Camerata, The Reston Chorale's 30-voice chamber ensemble, is presenting a concert on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Reston Community Center's CenterStage. "Inside Out" takes an introspective musical journey through darkness and light.

The concert will feature an eclectic mix of works by young contemporary composers, including Ola Gjeilo's "Dark Night of the Soul," Ysaye Barnwell's "Wanting Memories" and Jake

Runestad's "Nyon Nyon." Refreshing arrangements of popular songs, like "Pure Imagination" and "True Colors" will also be performed. Tickets are available online at [www.RestonChorale.org](http://www.RestonChorale.org) or at the RCC box office by calling 703-476-4500, ext. 3. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors aged 62 and older and free for active military service members and youth who are 17 years old and younger who are accompanied by a ticket holder.

and Book. Participants will learn how to organize their images so they can be easily found, quickly identify and optimize their images for tone, and more! Early Bird Discount: \$199 if

registered by February 4, 2017, \$225 if registered after February 4. 703-956-9560. <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event>



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# Fireplace as Focal Point

A hearth is in demand for cold weather.

BY JOHN BYRD

“Fireplaces have never fallen out of favor,” said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions. “We may be seeing a preference for gas over a traditional wood-burner, but the hearth itself is hugely popular — with homeowners continually seeking distinctions in style, building materials and, even, where it will be located.”

Foster says he’s currently working on several home remodeling projects that feature a fireplace as an interior focal point.

“A fireplace offers aesthetic and functional benefits at one price,” he said, “so it’s an attractive option.”

Fireplace-desire can also be a spur to creative thinking that stimulates a more engaging and original remodeling project.

Case in point, the new formal dining room created for Burke

homeowners Dennis Perzanowski and Jack Ellison. The goal: convert a three season-room into a year-around dining room complete with a gas-fueled hearth on one elevation.

“We were looking for a mix of old and new styles,” said Perzanowski. “We wanted to feature a traditional dining room set with sideboards, but there are modern touches such as an industrial-style chandelier.”

In this context, a gas fireplace with an brushed steel frame was a perfect offset. Mounted on the east wall elevation and with an oil painting just above, the stacked geometrical shapes lend balance and symmetry to an otherwise blank wall between two floor-to-ceiling windows.

Chris Arnold, a Foster partner who managed the project, knew there would be challenges in adding a hearth in a somewhat restricted available space, but with a little research found a 42” x



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Grems decide on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.**

38”gas insert that perfectly suits the spot allocated for an eye-catching focal point.

“This is something of a formal dining room,” Arnold notes, “yet the fireplace design is so understated it’s visually compatible the rest of the décor.”

## RAISE THE ROOF

Meanwhile, not far away, the interior design solution to a Vienna great room also depended on profiling a new hearth.

Ted and Wanda Rogers had asked had Foster to renovate the circa-1960’s ranch they had occupied for 30 years.

The remodeler added more than 1,000 square feet of additional living space. But the question that generated really serious discussion was how best to introduce a new hearth.

Wanda Rogers wanted to eliminate the original builder-grade brick-facing fireplace, which was situated in the middle of the house and too drafty and cold.

Ted Rogers agreed in principal, but was attracted to a gas-fueled fireplace alternative, which offers considerable heating efficiencies.

As all soon learned, the existing 8-ft ceiling to the Rogers home was too low to yield much design ben-

efit. That’s when Foster proposed re-working the entire mid-house interior by opening sightlines out and up.

To implement changes that now called for connecting the new kitchen to a front-facing family room, the remodeler replaced an obstructive bearing wall with concealed structural supports.

Giving sightlines free-reign, likewise, meant removing the living room ceiling and shelling-in previously concealed roofing rafters.

An ascending vertical accent was now introduced: a floor-to-ceiling hearth constructed of dry stacked Ledgesones.

The new hearth is designed for a gas-fueled insert equipped with blowers and remote control. Vents draw air in from the outside. The couple can adjust a thermostat for the desired temperature. This is a useful since, at full speed, the unit can generate 55,000 BTUs of heat — enough to keep the entire great room toasty and warm even during the dead of winter.

Foster’s architect proposed a wood-trimmed ledge above the fireplace, a simple motif that draws the eye upwards to the accent-lighted vaulted ceiling.

As a housewarming gesture, Foster fashioned a rustic mantle from

the rough-sawn oak previously deployed in the rafters of the original structure. It’s a little keepsake of the old place.

Though higher interior ceilings, theoretically, make a room harder to heat, the remodeler re-insulated the ceiling and installed an e-slate roofing, dramatically improving the thermal efficiency of the entire residence.

The new fireplace is flanked by arches: a recess for shelving and cabinetry on the left; a sympathetically curvilinear entry to the new master suite on the right.

“The effect in all directions is exciting,” Wanda Rogers said. “Looking in from the kitchen, the room opens out and up; it feels really warm.”

The new vaulted wall expanse also doubles as display space for her private art collection, which is now illuminated by tract lights.

## FAMILY-GATHERING PLACE

In nearby McLean, a Foster client was looking for a floorplan re-configuration that would include a front-facing family-gathering niche — with a window wall and a fireplace.

“We all saw the aesthetic oppor-

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE. PAGE 9

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## Fireplace as Focal Point

FROM PAGE 8

tunity,” Foster said. “There would be larger windows on all sides. But also a new front-facing family room — with an 11' cathedral ceiling dominated by an extensive window wall, and an appropriately post-modern hearth as the central interior focal point.”

The window wall would help to contextualize a more symmetrical front elevation — one defined by a processional entrance way with double French glass doors and sidelights.

Taken as a whole, however, the floor plan is functionally a “great room” formed by clever variances in room width and ceiling height differentiated as clearly identified “use” spaces.

“The slightly narrower width confers a degree of intimacy on the family room that suits its purpose,” Foster observes. “The hearth, in particular, really defines this.”

### FROM BRICK TO ELEVATED HEARTH

Ed and Kelly Grems of Vienna have worked with Foster on a number of projects over a decade,

but held off on upgrading the family room because the family’s design process was gestating slowly.

“We’re particular; we let the look come to us piece by piece,” Kelly Grems said.

One notable piece, was deciding on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room.

In the end, FRS designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the excess of brick that came with the original circa-1990s house.

The earlier half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

“It’s an entirely different mood from the sun room,” Grems said, “and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle.”

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling topics. For information call: 703-550-1371, or [www.fosterremodeling.com](http://www.fosterremodeling.com)

John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

FEB. 11<sup>TH</sup>

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## Completely Off Topic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That topic not being cancer. The topic being candy, or rather the disappearance of candy, from my hiding place at home. The reason I'm even discussing/divulging this publicly is that I've been forced by circumstances beyond my control to already involve my wife, Dina, in the disappearance of said topic: my post-holiday purchase of 75-percent-off-the-regular-price of snack-size type candy, typically available the day after a holiday.

Before I proceed, let me provide a bit of context for some of you irregular readers: I love chocolate. I don't just have a sweet tooth, I have sweet teeth. However, given certain realities/habits in my life, I almost always (unless times/circumstances are desperate) only buy these delicacies when the items are on sale and even more so when the items are both on sale and I have coupons. Now add into that mix an extra \$5 off a \$15 purchase — or a percentage off \$20 or \$30 store-specific coupon, and I'm spending pennies (almost literally) on the dollar. On these occasions — and Rebecca, you should probably stop reading — I load up. ('Load up' for a typical person might mean months. For yours truly, honestly, it means weeks, sometimes even days.)

Now when I bring this much volume into the house, my wife, Dina, need not know anything about it. Generally, I will stash the non-cash in places where I'll doubt she'll look (and I'm not saying the oven; that's an old Henny Youngman joke), and when I do indulge, it won't be in her presence, nor will there be any sign that I've unwrapped anything.

One of my hiding places, which will now be changed, was downstairs in our cellar in a top drawer of an old bureau I use for collecting miscellaneous bank statements, credit card bills, insurance forms, etc., and for years, my candy and previously unmentioned consumables. On the particular day in question — a day now seared into my memory — as I am habitually wont to do, I went to my downstairs drawer to replenish my upstairs drawer (in yet another hiding place) and was shocked and awed to find my two remaining bags of Kisses and Rolos empty, both gutted like a fish, ripped along their sides with nary a wrapper to be seen, 40-50 bite-size pieces gone.

My first reaction was of course to accuse my wife. Doing so however, would have exposed my secret: I buy candy and hide it (although, she probably knows it, and since I'm not exactly losing any weight ...). But what other cause/culprit could be behind such a dastardly deed? A break-in? No. A ghost who loves chocolate? (We do live in a 250-year-old house.) Mice? Squirrels? It's possible. There are some animal-friendly access points under our foundation. And even though the bureau is flush up against a retaining wall/crawl space for critters, I did notice that the bureau drawer was open an inch or two. Barely enough access. Otherwise, there is no entry. But if critters were responsible, where are all the wrappers and/or feces or any other evidence of their transgression? There weren't any. If the candy was indeed pilfered, it was "The Great Escape" of candy heists. Forced with this dilemma and daring-do, I was forced to confront my wife with these facts and ask if she in fact was responsible. She denied everything and blamed either a ghost or an animal. She was surprised, or so she claimed, at where I had hid the candy, not that I hid candy, so we weren't breaking any new ground, but apparently, my secret had been safe.

It's been a few weeks since this non-insurance loss, and there's been no sign or evidence to indicate what happened to my chocolate. My wife seems to have forgotten the incident. As for me, I bought a 3.4-pound container of Kirkland-brand chocolate-covered raisins from Costco so my inventory is back where I want it to be. I just wish my Kisses and Rolos were back as well.

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

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## News



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left — Robert Marro, executive director Alliance for an Indivisible America 2020 and a trustee and co-chair of government relations and media for ADAMS, Gov. Terry McAuliffe, Rizwan Jaka, chairman of the board, ADAMS, and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring.

## Hundreds Join Peace Rally

FROM PAGE 3

was her first experience inside a mosque. "I'm kind of nervous. Please let me know if I do something wrong." She was quickly assured that there was no problem and nothing to worry about.

**ALL OF THE SPEAKERS** were welcomed with applause, but the appearance of Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe was greeted with a standing ovation and shouts of "We love you!" and "Thank you!"

McAuliffe declared loudly to the crowd that immigrants were the foundation and the fabric of America, part of the "great mosaic that makes us strong" and vowed to fight the new administration's immigration policies and any other order or direction that discriminates or impedes human rights and dignity. He also urged people to register to vote, to always vote, and to keep in contact with their elected representatives.

Before turning the microphone over to the Attorney General, McAuliffe announced that Virginia had just won the right to par-

ticipate in litigation against the immigration ban and had also been granted the right to have the Commonwealth provided with a list of all persons who have been denied entry or removed from the United States since the Executive Order titled "Protecting the Nation from Foreign Terrorist Entry into the United States" was signed.

Attorney General Herring provided a brief update on the legal proceedings and finished his remarks by urging everyone to stay focused and active. "These actions are unlawful, unconstitutional and un-American. Let's stand together." Before the assembly dispersed, representatives from a number of non-Muslim faith communities in the area stepped up to offer support from the communities they represented.

As the event came to a close, many of the rally participants acknowledged that it would take more than this one gathering to effect change. "It's the proverbial marathon, not the sprint," was how Linda Mohrparaskevopoulos of Herndon described what is needed. "But we're prepared to keep coming back."



About three hundred supporters turned out with signs calling for inclusion, tolerance and religious freedom at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center on Friday.



# RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

## Community Relations and Program/Policy Joint Committee Meeting

**Monday, February 13 • 6:30 p.m.**

**RCC Hunters Woods - 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA 20191**

To be sure we are focused on our community's priorities, the RCC Board of Governors invites the public to discuss new programming approaches. In addition, the Terry L. Smith Aquatics Center will require extensive capital project planning to replace major equipment systems and potentially renovate the pool amenities. The Board will share progress in meeting the new Strategic Plan goals and objectives. We look forward to hearing from our patrons and partners. Please RSVP to [RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov) by February 10. If you are unable to attend, input may also be sent to [RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:RCCContact@fairfaxcounty.gov).



# Dress Drive

## Now – February 28



RCC is collecting the following for Diva Central :

**DRESSES • SHOES • JEWELRY  
HANDBAGS • ACCESSORIES**

Please drop off items at RCC Hunters Woods – 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston  
or RCC Lake Anne - 1609-A Washington Plaza, Reston

All donations are appreciated, however, we ask that donations are in good condition, no older than 5 years old (circa 2012) and dry cleaned before they are donated. If dry cleaning is not possible please inform us at the time of drop-off. Dress donations will benefit students in Reston and other communities.

[www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com)  
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191  
To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call 703-476-4500, TTY 711.

