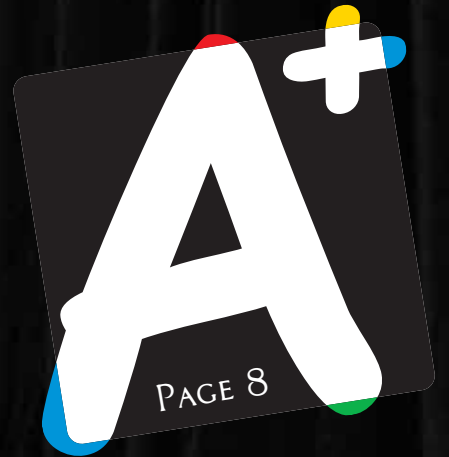




# Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Herndon High School Freshman Claire de la Paz, who has trained at the studio for nine years, danced the role of Odette in Herndon's Classical Ballet Theatre performance of "Swan Lake." Her dance partner was Philip Smith-Cobbs, a Classical Ballet Theatre graduate and professional dancer.



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PHOTO BY TONY DE LA PAZ

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## NEWS

# Swan Lake: Dancing And Teaching Odette

By FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**H**erndon's Classical Ballet Theatre performed Swan Lake on Saturday and Sunday, May 6-7, for young audiences at its studio on Victory Drive. Approximately 20 dancers, aged 11 to 18, performed six sold out shows.

"Swan Lake is one of the most well-known classics and it's a very challenging ballet," said Kathy Beyer, who teaches at the studio. "Technically, it's some of the hardest corps de ballet work that dancers can take on and we wanted our dancers to experience that as well as get to know this ballet."

The weekend performances highlighted one portion of the ballet's second act, which features Odette, the white swan princess. Herndon High School Freshman Claire de la Paz danced this lead role.

Love was in the air.

"Prince Siegfried gets a crossbow for his birthday and goes to hunt swans, but then he runs into Odette and it's love at first sight," de la Paz said.

**THE UNUSUAL USE** of the arms and upper-body movement to imitate swan movements that the 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian ballet dancer Lev Ivanov choreographed into the second act is Beyer's favorite element of the ballet.

"It's unique in all of the ballet repertoire," Beyer said. "It's brilliant choreography that's been handed down decade over decade, and I think the history of the choreography and how consistent it has stayed over the years is fascinating."

It was challenging for the lead ballerina.

"You're a swan, so you have to have mannerisms that are swanlike," de la Paz said. "That's really different from any other ballet because you're trying to portray an animal. What's really challenging is the port de bras [carriage of the arms] and trying to do swan arms."

But she enjoyed the task at hand.

"It's really different from what I usually do and it's nice to step out of my comfort zone and try new things," she said.

Dancing a pas de deux — a duet — with Philip Smith-Cobbs was de la Paz's favorite part of her performance. Smith-Cobbs, a professional dancer and alumnus of the studio, returned specially to dance the role of Odette's lover, Prince Siegfried.

"It's really fun to dance with somebody else," she said. "I only started partnering about a year ago, so it's kind of new for me."

Training for and performing the show was special for de la Paz and her teacher.

"It feels beautiful doing it and it's beautiful to watch," Beyer said.

When Beyer was 16 years old, she was coached to play the role of Odette in Swan Lake by Canadian ballerina Anna-Marie Holmes at the Kirov Ballet in Washington, D.C.

"It's a very fond memory for me," she said. "The emotion of the role, as well as the beauty of the movement, it's just one of my favorites."

**PASSING ON THE EXPERIENCE** to de la Paz and her other students in her adulthood was a gratifying experience for her.

"First of all, you help the young girls go through the technical challenge and then discover their own emotions and emotional response to the movement



PHOTOS BY TONY DE LA PAZ

**Children meet the dancers after each performance. Swan Lake, and other ballets in Classical Ballet Theatre's Children's Series, introduce classic ballet to the young and young-at-heart.**



**Maya Perrelli and Philip Smith-Cobbs enchant audiences with their pas de deux.**

and the story," she said. "Just to pass on the technical wisdom as well as guide them through their own emotional journey ... I've enjoyed it immensely."

Beyer's insight into the portrayal of the characters made it more interesting for the dancers.

"It wasn't just doing the steps because she gave us a story behind what we were doing," de la Paz said.

The ballet was part of the studio's Children's Series, which are shorter programs designed and performed specifically for younger audiences.

"It's our introduction in say a 45-minute performance that can introduce younger audiences to ballet and ballet classics where they can stay focused, concentrated and interested," Beyer said.

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# Fine Arts Conservatory Approved

Project in Floris receives unanimous approval at Hunter Mill Land Use Committee meeting.

By MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Hunter Mill Land Use Committee met April 18 at the North County Government Center in Reston regarding a rezoning application with special exception for land. The property is located at the intersection of Centerville and West Ox Roads, adjacent to Frying Pan Park. Six of the eight acres would need to be rezoned.

Andrew A. Painter of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley & Walsh, P.C. represented Scimores Academy LLC, the applicant. The company is based in McLean and headed by venture capitalist, Herman K. Balasundaram. Painter explained the applicant would like to use the land for the purposes of building a 48,000 s.f. Conservatory For Fine Arts for children 4-18 years of age. The project cost would be \$40 million. Classes would be held after school, early evenings and on the weekend thereby limiting traffic impact during rush hours.

Painter opened his remarks with the statement that as the appeal had been addressed two times before by the Hunter Mill Land Use Committee, the purpose of the meeting that night was to vote, to make a decision.

**DURING THE PUBLIC MEETING** attended by homeowners in the area, Painter addressed issues raised at the December meeting — the historic district status of the land, Park Authority coordination, reuse of existing homes, view and sight lines, as well as green building commitment, pedestrian signalization, parking in adjacent neighborhoods and widening of West Ox Road.

Painter opened saying his client would protect what's there, some of the only remaining historic buildings in the Floris area, homes and outbuildings currently on land not protected by the county — land that by right currently allows for 40,000 s.f. of commercial business, such as a strip mall. The applicant's layout is key, Painter continued in his remarks, as it would allow for the retention of the property's three historic farm buildings, provide scale changes between the road and the Conservatory and allow the property's rural character to be better understood by visitors.

The proposed layout would complement the adjacent Frying Pan Park owned by the Fairfax County Park Authority which, Painter said, "has no money to purchase the property."

According to Painter, the conservatory would be LEED-certified, the most widely used green building rating system, thereby enhancing environmental preservation through sustainable architecture and storm water management.

The build would feature wetland gardens, green roofs and permeable paving in the parking lot spaced for 236 vehicles. A parking coordinator would be hired to facilitate



Artist rendering of the Facade for The Conservatory of Fine Arts, a 48,000-square-foot project proposed by Scimores Academy, LLC. The Hunter Mill Land Use Committee recommended land use approval for their application.



Artist rendering of proposed Development Massing illustrating left to right and off Centerville Road — New entrance to Park and Conservatory, historic white farmhouse, existing church, second new entrance to Park and Conservatory, plantings, stormwater management system, sidewalk crossing and walkways through Conservatory; turning onto West Ox Road — New winding sidewalks, historic white house, former horse farm/ yellow house and widened entrance to park. Interior drawings illustrate permeable parking spaces, courtyard, and the surrounding Conservatory, which has a lower sight line than the main barn at Frying Pan Park.



cooperative parking between the park and the conservatory as well as monitor and address any neighborhood parking concerns.

Painter explained the project would provide pedestrian connectivity for surrounding communities as sidewalks are added while at the same time reducing traffic compared to what other potential developments could generate. The conservatory would synergize benefits for the church (adjacent to the proposed development on Centerville Road), Frying Pan Park, and the community. The proposal for the conservatory would preserve 58 percent of the property as open space.

**PHYSICALLY** the conservatory would include performance spaces, specialized classrooms, and studios of varying sizes for both individual instruction and ensemble groups. Painter said the applicant's proposed conservatory would offer classes in the fields of music, dance and movement, and creative and visual arts to students ages 4 through 18.

During the slide presentation, Painter depicted a program that would facilitate the dispersion of fine arts education in an underserved area of the county and augment arts educational programs offered by Fairfax County Public Schools, private and parochial schools, the Fairfax County Park Authority, and local arts organizations.

Painter stressed that Fairfax County is in need of additional arts education facilities, community-based arts centers, and performance spaces. He spoke on how arts education encourages discovery, connectedness, and challenges students to become sustained, self-directed learners and how the study of the fine arts positively impacts the learning of students of all socioeconomic levels and promotes social skills that enhance the awareness and respect of others.

In conclusion Painter said, "I've never seen a client so passionate to do the right thing.... It (the conservatory) will be a cultural gem, one linking Frying Pan Park with the school."

Leslie Adams, who lives across the street, asked about the number and location of entrances. Painter said there would be two new entrances on Centerville Road, positioned there to reduce traffic on the two-lane road in front of the current entrance to Frying Pan Park, which would be retained yet widened.

Edward Umbrell, committee member, said that he was excited to see the application especially with its respect for the historic nature of the site.

Motion to approve the received application passed by unanimous vote.

**A Scimores construction proposal revealing exterior designs and material at other locations.**

# Weird: Now Brewing In Herndon

Weird Brothers' coffee bar and roasting factory opens at the Sunset Hills Business Park.

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**W**eird. "It's just something that felt right," said Paul Olsen. "My brother and I, for our entire lives, have just always marched to the beat of a different drummer. It always turned out that when we were together, all these weird and strange things would happen. It just fit."

Weird Brothers Coffee was born.

"We thought it was fun and catchy and something people would remember," said Olsen, owner of the business and a 12-year resident of the town of Herndon.

First, Paul and his brother Kenny Olsen started serving their concoctions from a truck, the Weird Brothers Mobile Coffee Bar. Their success has progressed into a brick and mortar location within the town.

Opening its doors earlier this month, the Weird Brothers' coffee bar and roasting factory is now roasting and pouring at the Sunset Hills Business Park, 321 Sunset Park Drive.

The brothers' father Daryl Olsen also helps with the day-to-day operations of the business.

"He likes to call himself the 'Odd Dad' because we're the 'Weird Brothers,'" Olsen said with a smile.

Unlike most corporate coffee chains that rely on industrialized operations that roast coffee blends off-site, the Weird Brothers pride themselves on serving fresh coffee made from micro batches with beans that are roasted in their store.

They are also adamant about using coffee beans that are grown and purchased in a manner that demonstrates respect for the people who produce them as well as for the environment. This is known as ethically sourcing ingredients.

"What we do, we try as hard as we can to source the best coffee that we can find and really work to be transparent about where it's coming from and what it's all about; what the story is, where the farms are, and what type of coffee it is," Olsen said.

**THE BROTHERS** source all their coffee beans from Café Imports, a Minneapolis-based company. The company has a mission of sourcing green coffee beans while also empowering farmers with fair trade pricing and using producers that employ environmentally friendly business practices.

Using his own coffee roaster, Olsen usually roasts between four- and 10-pound batches at a time. Ten pounds of beans can yield between eight to nine pounds of coffee, he said.

To Olsen, roasting coffee beans is a scientific process, but it's also an art form.

"Some people say it's a dark art and I tend to agree," he said. "There is much more into it than dumping beans into a machine and pressing a button and they come out when they're done."

When Olsen is roasting, he controls the



**Maddy Toland, assistant manager, serves up a latte on Wednesday, April 19. She is the Weird Brothers Coffee "master of latte art."**

airflow, the speed of the drum, the temperature throughout the process.

"Depending on the bean that I'm roasting and depending on what I want to get out of it, I make all of those adjustments," he said. "In a way, it's a lot more like being a chef and using all of your understanding of your product and your equipment and making some magic."

Turning his passion into a business was years in the making. Before selling coffee with his brother, he started roasting and brewing at home for himself. He is primarily self-taught.

"I actually started on a modified barbecue gas grill," he said. "I had the drum that the coffee beans go into built and was put onto an electric rotisserie motor."

This home-rigged device was where he began experimenting in the dark arts of weird coffee roasting.

"It was a fantastic way to learn all about roasting because when you do it that way, you're using all of your senses—sight, smell, touch, listening, everything," he said. "To me, it was a great way to learn all of the nuances in roasting."

Turning his hobby into a living was also an escape from his career that was beginning to confound his creative side that was begging to take over.

As an Army veteran who returned from deployment in Iraq in 2004, Olsen found himself medically retired from the military



**Paul Olsen, owner of Weird Brothers Coffee, roasts his coffee beans to temperatures of 450 degrees with his in-store roaster.**

and working as a government contractor.

"After a while, I realized that I wasn't enjoying working in a cubicle ... after a while it's soul crushing," he said. "Coffee is something that I've always been interested in and had a love affair with."

His budding relationship with java has blossomed into sourcing beans from seven different origins from all over the globe that customers can wet their palate with, including beans from Central South America, Africa and Indonesia.

"I tried to get a really nice variety of different types of beans from across the world," Olsen said. "They all have their own different nuances and original sourced flavors. I wanted to give people a different type of coffee to try and enjoy."

These beans are mixed together to make the Weird Brothers' five signature blends (from lightest to darkest):

❖ Walking on Sunshine Blend – Light Roast

❖ Kickstarter Blend – Medium Roast

❖ Time Bender Blend – Medium Roast

❖ Weird & Fierce Blend – Bold Roast

❖ Embrace the Dark Side Blend – Bold Roast

Bags of 12 ounces cost \$12.95; 16 ounces are \$14.95; and five-pound bags are \$59.95.

Customers can also buy Weird Brothers Coffee branded wide-mouthed packer jars. The 25-ounce jars are \$8.95 empty and \$11.95 filled with coffee. Customers can

bring it back into the store repeatedly for \$5 refills. "I wanted to get the best coffee at a really decent price so I wouldn't be shocking a lot of the people with these prices," he said. "That's one thing I've tried to do is have the best coffee at a reasonable price so I can have my prices for my coffee pretty much standard across the board."

**EMBRACE THE DARK SIDE** is the shop's boldest roast and is used to make its espresso drinks. However, nitro cold brew is quickly becoming Olsen's favorite coffee confection.

"I think it's a phenomenal new way to enjoy cold brew coffee and it's becoming one of our biggest sellers," he said.

Cold brew, coffee that is brewed with room temperature or cold water and not hot water, takes about 24 hours for Olsen to make and is served straight from a tap, like a Guinness. Customers can order the cold brew flat over ice or infused with nitrogen gas, which is released through a pressurized valve as the cold brew is poured from the tap.

The nitrogen creates a creamy, stout-like effect that requires no sweeteners or cream, Olsen's preferred way to enjoy the drink.

"Awareness is starting to get around and more people are starting to realize that we're here," Olsen said. "We're trucking through this month and working out the kinks."

# Friendly Bidding Raises Funds for Operation School Bell

**M**ore than 100 people gathered to mingle, dine and raise money for Assistance League of Northern Virginia's Operation School Bell programs. Every bid placed at the nonprofit's Annual Spring Fundraiser, a luncheon and silent auction, benefited children living in poverty in Northern Virginia. The all-volunteer organization strengthens communities by feeding, clothing and educating at-risk children in 11 Title I schools in the region.

This event raises funds to sustain and expand the nonprofit's 2017-18 Weekend Food for Kids, New Clothing for Kids and Reading Express programs which touch the lives of more than 6,000 children in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria each year. The fundraiser also supports the organization's Hugs Pillow program which provides comfort to very low income children undergoing medical procedures at Inova Cares Clinic, in Falls Church.

During the welcome reception, members and their guests social-



**Assistance League of Northern Virginia's president and fundraiser chair pose with event sponsor ShounBach and featured guest speaker at the nonprofit's annual Spring Fundraiser. From left are Linda Shilts, Linda Stephens, Al Bonin, and Kimberly Suiters.**

ized with supporters and community volunteers while bidding on auction items, including resort packages, dinners, wine tastings, golf outings, tickets to the opera and more.

Linda Shilts, Assistance League's current president, hosted the fundraising event which was sponsored by Quadrant Inc. (Reston), ShounBach (Fairfax) and Griffin-Owens Insurance Group (Herndon). Special guests included sponsors, major contribu-

tors and representatives from several recipient schools.

For the third year, the event was held at International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, in Fairfax, on April 28. Project Chair Linda Stephens was pleased to welcome Kimberly Suiters, 7 On Your Side Consumer Investigator and ABC 7 Weekend Evening Anchor, as the keynote speaker. Suiters praised the nonprofit for its commitment to helping those in need.



**PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMAGES FOR GOOD/JARED WOOD. PHOTOGRAPHER Pine Spring Elementary School Principal Armando Peri encourages attendees to donate to a special appeal which would help provide weekend food to children living in food insecure households in Northern Virginia.**

The luncheon program included a special appeal for additional funding which was delivered by Armando Peri, principal of Pine Spring Elementary School in Falls Church. He thanked the nonprofit for supporting 75 of the 377 students eligible for free or reduced-price meals at Pine Spring and shared how difficult it is for counselors to decide which students should receive the food.

Auctioneer Daniel Sanders, owner of Four Sales Ltd in Alex-

andria, donated his services for the sixth year to the live auction and special appeal. Images for Good, a service photography nonprofit that cultivates student and veteran leadership, provided pro bono photography support.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is one of 120 chapters of a national organization that empowers ordinary citizens to make positive changes in their communities. To learn more, visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).

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**On the set of ABC News Channel 7**

# The Ugliness of Prejudice

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



COMMENTARY

Last week without provocation a woman in the check-out line at a local grocery store told another customer — a Muslim woman — “I wish they didn’t let you in the country.” In the exchange that was recorded on a camera phone, the woman to whom the remark was directed explained that she had been born in the United States. Rather than leave it at that, the first woman went on saying, “Obama’s not in office anymore; you don’t have a Muslim in there anymore. He’s gone — he may be in jail in the future.”

I realize that there are more people than I would like to acknowledge that have strong prejudices against others because of their race, religion, ethnicity or other reason. It continues to shock me when I see the ugliness of the expression of such prejudices as the recording of this event provided. As the woman to whom

the remarks were directed pointed out, it’s abnormal to start a conversation like that with someone you do not know. There really is something wrong with people who are so blinded by their prejudices that they feel compelled to lash out at a person who has done them no wrong. The comments reflect a deep-seated hatred that comes out for reasons only a mental health expert could help discover.

What is particularly troubling these days is the blurring of the line between political convictions and prejudice toward individuals. In our deeply divided political landscape, too often political views become opportunities to demonize people who hold different views. Unfortunately talk radio, social media and some cable news shows tend to invite this destructive phenomenon.

In addition to the repulsiveness I feel about the hateful comments, I was also saddened that social media and news accounts described the

scene as a store in Reston, Va. I know from a lot of personal experience the amount of effort that so many people have made over the years to ensure that Reston is an open, welcoming and inclusive community. While I understand why the store did nothing to address the situation, I wish somehow there had been a disclaimer on the video: The woman speaking does not represent the views of the people of Reston.

The situation reminds us that building community is not a one-time occurrence, a workshop, or a feel-good session. Building a community of respect and love is an ongoing process that we work at a little every day. We greet those we meet; we hug each other; we attend each other’s houses of worship; we show respect to others; we speak out against hate and prejudices; we listen to each other. We use appropriate channels to discuss political views, and whether in person or online we stick to the issues and don’t resort to personal attacks.

A display of hateful and ugly prejudice as we have just witnessed must bring us together in mutual support and respect as we want Reston and every other community to display.

## FCPS to Propose Increases in Class Sizes

BY MOLLIE REGAN

COMMENTARY

The lead-in for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Proposed FY 2018 Budget states the following: “The FCPS FY 2018 (2017-18 school year) budget reflects the school system’s priorities. It’s also a communications tool that informs parents, staff members, students, and community members about our values and goals.”

If that is true, then why is FCPS proposing to balance its FY18 budget by increasing class sizes by 0.5 students in all elementary, middle and high schools?

Large class sizes have a negative impact on students’ ability to learn and succeed, and on teachers’ ability to teach. Large classes burn out good teachers and affect teacher decisions about whether to continue working at a school. Every time a good teacher leaves the employ of FCPS, we forfeit our investment in hiring and training that person.

In many recent meetings about teacher compensation, the School Board has expressed concerns about teacher attrition. In FCPS, we lose about 40 percent of our teachers in their first five years of employment, and we lose many more teachers after their fifth year. Class size is cited — both in FCPS and in a national study — as a top factor in teachers’ decisions to leave the school district.

At this critical time when we already suffer from teacher shortages and large class sizes, FCPS should not be considering additional class size increases as a means to save \$14.7 million. There are alternatives that could better address the FY18 budget gap. Some alternatives actually reduce expenses. Others just change budget assumptions.

For example, the School Board could cut \$15 million of other expenses with the understanding that in July, it would use the “found money” from the year-end FY 2017 budget review to restore those programs. This is exactly what the board did about six years ago, when Jack Dale was the FCPS superintendent.

Alternatively, FCPS could find \$14.7 million by using more realistic assumptions about employee attrition. Every year, FCPS prepares its budget using unrealistically low attrition assumptions, which in turn consistently produce about \$30 million/year of “found money” from higher-than-projected teacher attrition during the budget reviews.

Of course, if FCPS made a sustained commitment to reasonable class sizes, it could arguably avoid increasing the costs associated with that teacher attrition. Imagine the cost savings from retaining our teachers. What additional

innovations could be used to reduce the expense of endlessly restaffing our classrooms and training a new workforce?

The FCPS Strategic Plan, “Ignite,” affirms its commitment to student success and a caring culture. Seeing “Ignite” in action would mean that our School Board representatives resolve the FCPS financial shortfall without again balancing its budget on the backs of our teachers and students.

Class Size Counts created an

online petition asking the School Board not to increase elementary, middle and high school class sizes by 0.5 students across the board as part of the FY 2018 budget. Please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-public-schools-join-class-size-counts-to-oppose-the-core-academic-class-sizes-in-fcps> and join in the advocacy.

*Mollie Regan is Vienna resident and a Class Size Matters advocate.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Press Needed More Than Ever

To the Editor:

Dear Members of the Press: We need you now more than ever. Republican Congressmen Jason Chaffetz and Devin Nunes quit their positions as chairmen of Congressional committees rather than have to investigate General Flynn, the Russian interference with our national elections, and the Russian involvement with the Trump administration.

President Trump has fired New York’s U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara, Attorney General Sally Yates and FBI Director James Comey, when they each turned up their investigatory heat. The American public is being given various explanations by various members of the Trump administration as to what’s going on. We

need you now more than ever.

Vice President Pence advocates for all of President Trump’s actions.

Attorney General Sessions refuses to recuse himself. The prospect for an Independent prosecutor is tenuous. I hope the Senate Intelligence Committee stays strong. But we need you now more than ever.

The President may call you names. He may call you “fake news” or “the enemy of the people.” But he can’t fire you. Thank goodness for the First Amendment. We need you now more than ever. Don’t let us down.

**Barbara Glakas**  
Herndon

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## THEATER

# Inspired Lunacy

NextStop Theater presents  
“Urinetown,” satirical musical.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

“What kind of musical is NextStop Theatre’s production of the multi-Tony Award winning ‘Urinetown’? According to Evan Hoffmann, artistic director, NextStop Theatre, the musical is a ‘brilliant’ satire in which nothing is safe or sacred.

“What is great about this show is that it does such a remarkable job of balancing some very harsh and topical political satire with a dose of ridiculous humor,” said Hoffmann. “That allows the show to provide a heartfelt message without becoming too preachy or weighty.”

With music by Mark Hollmann, lyrics by Hollmann and Greg Kotis, and book by Kotis, the musical pokes fun at irresponsible behavior, flaws of capitalism, entrenched bureaucracy, as well as corporate

maleficence, reckless politics and the rise of populism.

The show’s set-up is this: there is an ongoing water shortage in a big city. The city government bans private toilets to save water. Citizens must use public restrooms when the need arises. The public facilities are run by a mean-spirited company that profits by charging admission to use its rest rooms.

With about 20 musical numbers, “It’s so fun. ‘Urinetown’ very knowingly and carefully parodies many musicals that will be very familiar to theater lovers,” said Elisa Rosman, music director. “You’ll catch glimpses in there from everything from ‘West Side Story’ to ‘Les Miserables.’” Rosman will direct a band of five.

Northern Virginia’s Walter Ware III will direct the inspired lunacy of “Urinetown” and Kelly d’Amboise, George Mason University School of Dance faculty, has developed new spirited dance sequences to further animate the



PHOTOS BY  
TRACI J. BROOKS  
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NEXTSTOP THEATRE

**Jennifer Lambert as Penelope Pennywise in “Urinetown” at NextStop Theatre in Herndon.**

production.

Jennifer Lambert plays Penelope Pennywise, who runs one of the city’s public restrooms. “I think people will enjoy Penelope’s attitude, comedic moments, and songs,” said Lambert. “And all the characters are fun to dive into and the music is great.”

Ryan Manning plays Officer Lockstock who is both a character and the production’s narrator. As narrator, he guides the audience throughout the show. Asked how

## Where and When

NextStop Theatre Company presents “Urinetown” at 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Performances: May 25 - June 25. Thursdays, May 25, June 8 and June 15 at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturday, May 27 at 7 p.m., June 2, 9, 16 and 23 at 8 p.m., Sunday May 28 at 2 p.m., June 4 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., June 11, 18 and 25 at 2 p.m. Tickets \$40. Call 866-811-4111 or visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org).

audiences should take the show, Manning said, “sit back and get ready to laugh, a lot, and enjoy this amazing world.”

Chris Gillespie, as character Caldwell B. Cladwell, “takes advantage of the poor” as he bribes

politicians and pays off the police. He totally wants “to squash any hint of resistance” to his hold on power. “Without a doubt, ‘Urinetown’ is going to be a blast.” added Gillespie. “It’s hysterical, it is timely and thought provoking.”



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# Safety in the Water

Water Safety Month designed to educate public in advance of summer swimming.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**D**uring the month of May, National Water Safety Month, water safety educators are waging a month-long campaign to educate the public about responsible water practices before the start of summer. The campaign is designed to help prevent drowning and water-related illness and injuries.

“The most important tip from swim experts [is] to have your child in perpetual swim lessons,” said Gina Bewersdorf, who owns Goldfish Swim School in Reston. “Situations will always arise in which we or our children are around water, [like] at a friend’s pool party, vacation near a lake, or a boating trip, so learning the necessary skills to stay safe is vital. It only takes a second for a child or adult to unsuspectingly fall into a body of water.”

Constant adult supervision is the first and best way to prevent accidents in and around water, says Lisa S. Grepps, director, Marketing & Communications, The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals in Alexandria. She also recommends additional safeguards to help prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to a pool or spa or to warn of a child’s presence. “But don’t get lulled



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL

**Learn to swim no matter the age. This is one of the best ways to be safer in and around the water.**

into a false sense of security with barriers and other devices as they are just backups to the primary means of accident prevention which is constant adult supervision,”

said Grepps.

Keeping a cell phone nearby to make a call to 911 in case of an emergency and avoiding swimming at the first sign of bad

weather are two tips that Ann Thompson of Ann’s Aquatics in Bethesda offers to her students and their parents. “I tell parents that certain flotation devices are great, but they are in no way a replacement for responsible adult supervision,” she said. “And the supervision should be undistracted. Don’t get lost in a conversation or a phone call and divert attention away from your children, not even for a second. If you leave the pool area, no matter how brief the period of time, take the children with you.”

In addition to learning to swim, Bewersdorf recommends making sure that children are taught water safety skills as well as how to perform CPR on both adults and children. “We recommend a child enroll in swim lessons as early as possible [and] year round, not just during the warmer months. Persistent swim lessons are proven to be incredibly beneficial in order to keep these life-saving skills sharp” she said. “We offer classes as young as four months old in which the parents are constantly with their infants. This gets the child used to simply being in and around water and they learn simple safety skills.”

When choosing a pool, check for an on-duty lifeguard. In cases where a lifeguard is not available, look for accessible safety

SEE SAFETY, PAGE 9





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**Private Summer Flex Lessons**-Choose 4, 6, or 8 days/times that fit YOUR busy schedule for private lessons. Students that continue with lessons over the summer will not need to “re-learn” the same skills and techniques that they would have otherwise lost during their time off. In fact, most students who study during the summer enjoy substantial gains in their playing ability due to more time and less stress from school.



**(703) 956-6563**



# Safety in the Water

FROM PAGE 8

equipment such as a rescue ring or pole.

“We want people to have a safe and fun time swimming and that’s why [we] issue permits to all public pool facilities and routinely inspect them to ensure they are being operated in a safe and healthy manner, in accordance with Fairfax County Code,” said Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health supervisor for Fairfax County. “It’s also important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury or illness to themselves and others.”

Thompson advises adhering to other safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which include looking to see if the drain at the bottom of the deep end is visible, stay-

**“It’s ... important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury ....”**

— **Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health Supervisor, Fairfax County**

ing out of the pool if you have diarrhea, covering any open wounds with waterproof bandages, showering before entering the pool and only using flotation devices that are Coast Guard approved.

## Three Receive Strauss Artist Grants

Three \$5,000 Strauss Artist Grants have been awarded by the Arts Council of Fairfax County to Mount Vernon-based visual artist Linda Hesh, Mason-based painter Scott Hutchison, and Mason-based theatre designer Margaret (Margie) Jervis.

Linda Hesh’s public art explores human connections, concentrating on personal and political themes.

Scott Hutchison’s paintings and drawings are conceived through a combination of photography, animation, projections, and digital manipulations to create multifaceted figures that appear to be in motion.

Margie Jervis, a Falls Church native, is the resident scenic, costume and puppet designer for Creative Cauldron in Falls Church and is also a teaching artist for their educational programs for children.

The Strauss Artist Grants, funded by Fairfax County, are named after Bill Strauss (1947-2007), writer and cofounder of the Capitol Steps and the Cappies. The grants are an investment in the sustained growth and development of the arts in Fairfax County as well as a way to honor contemporary artists’ commitment to an artistic discipline and their contributions to Fairfax County.

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**Employment**

**NEWS**



PHOTO BY MONTI LACOMBE /HERNDON WOMEN'S CLUB

From left: Teri Lumsden, Herndon Women's Club; Elmer Cudra; Andy Crawford, Town of Herndon; Fermina Rochac, Town of Herndon and Herndon Women's Club; Andy Taylor, Town of Herndon; Janet Hulme, Herndon Women's Club; Chris Conroy, Town of Herndon; Diane Stanley, Herndon Women's Club; and Gulf War Veteran Todd Stanley.

**Yellow Daffodils in Honor of Gulf War Veterans**

Where have all the flow-ers gone? Earlier this month you might have had the chance to savor the bright yellow daffodils in bloom on Sterling Road/606 near Herndon Parkway. Thanks to the Herndon Women's Club Conservation Department's donation of 990 bulbs, and help from the Town crew planting the bulbs, anyone

driving past the Gulf War Veterans Memorial Roadway had the chance to enjoy the beauty of many yellow daffodils. If you missed the flowers, wait till next spring. HWC plans to triple the number of bulbs this fall.

— MONTI LACOMBE

**Happy 104th Birthday**

Virginia M. Calloway, the oldest member of the Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road in Reston, is turning 104 on June 4. The church members and the Rev. Dr. Norman T. Tate, senior pastor, wish her a happy birthday.



PHOTO BY JIM RYAN

From left: Gerry Washburn, Program Chairman; Anne Ryan, Past President; Colonel Nickisch and Patrick McCann, Club President.

**Reston Lions Learns About Search for 'Unaccounted For'**

U.S. Army Col. Ward B. Nickisch, Retired, spoke to the Reston Lions and their guests at their regular meeting on May 3, held at the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston. He spoke, with the use of colored slides, about actual search and recovery operations to bring home the remains

of service members who remain "unaccounted for" from Southeast Asia, Korea and World War II. There are about 80,000 service members who remain "unaccounted for." He explained some of the scientific processes (including mtDNA) used to identify remains that are recovered.

# BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](mailto:connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) by noon on Friday.

## THURSDAY/MAY 18

**Blood Drive.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at National Realty, 11890 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston. National Realty is teaming up with Inova Blood Donor Services to sponsor a blood drive. Everyone is invited to participate in the event; donors must be in good health, at least 16 years old, and weigh 110 pounds or more. There are two slots available every 15 minutes so make an appointment and encourage family, friends and neighbors to join. To schedule an appointment visit [bit.ly/May-18-Blood-Drive](http://bit.ly/May-18-Blood-Drive). Check the updated eligibility requirements at [www.inova.org/DonateBlood/](http://www.inova.org/DonateBlood/) or call 1-866-BLOODSAVES.

## ONGOING

**Sunrise at Reston Town Center** offers a monthly Caregiver Support Group on the fourth Wednesday of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. Monthly support group offers a safe place for family caregivers, to meet and develop a mutual support system and to exchange practical information and possible solutions. Learn about resources available in the community and how to manage caregiver related stress. Call 703-956-8930 or email [Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com](mailto:Reston.ED@sunriseseniorliving.com) to RSVP.

**Exercise for Parkinson's.** Every Monday, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Reston Sport&Health, 11445 Isaac Newton Square, Reston. This program brings together people impacted by Parkinson's Disease to participate in various physical exercises aimed at improving posture, balance and circulation and increasing strength, muscle control and mobility. Free. [parkinsonfoundation.org](http://parkinsonfoundation.org). Call Natalie McCall [nmccall@onellifitness.com](mailto:nmccall@onellifitness.com) 703-904-7600 for more.

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute** offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. 703-938-2391 or [www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

**St. Timothy's Episcopal Church** needs knitters the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email [shawl@saint-timothys.org](mailto:shawl@saint-timothys.org) or visit the Pastoral Care page at [www.saint-timothys.org](http://www.saint-timothys.org).

**Nondenominational Christian businessmen** meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and noon Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

## New To Some, Old News To Others



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you unfamiliar with my column: in Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, welcome aboard the Kenny train. I have been writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers since December 1997 appearing primarily in our "Tuesday papers," as we call them: Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Arlington, Chantilly, Centre View and Potomac. The question has persisted among friends and family: Ken he continue to, as my older brother Richard jokes, "churn out this dribble?" Apparently so, if the last 19 and half years are any indication.

Back in the day when I first had to characterize my column for various local yearly Press Association editorial contests (of which I have won nearly a dozen awards), I would write "Everything in general about nothing in particular." A great friend of mine, Edward Faine, himself an accomplished author — of children's and jazz books, and a small press publisher as well, has described my columns as "Thoughtful humor and insightful commentary." Perhaps between these two quotes you'll get a sense of what you're likely to get from my weekly wondering.

And so it continued until June 2009. That's when I published my first column about a diagnostic process which had been ongoing since New Years Day which ultimately led to a lung cancer diagnosis delivered to "Team Lourie" on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet you remember the date). That column, entitled "Dying to Find Out, Sort Of," chronicled the process, excruciating as it was/is that one often endures attempting to determine the cause of a medical problem; in my case, a pain in my left-side rib cage which a day or so later, migrated to my right-side and eventually took my breath away — almost literally, especially when inhaling and/or bending over. This difficulty forced me off the couch and into my car for a drive over to the Emergency Room. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, I wrote another column entitled "Dying to Tell You, Sort Of" which detailed the findings of the nearly eight weeks the process took to specify my diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Out of the blue, I had become "terminal," as my oncologist described me, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. Surreal, which is a common description offered by many in similar situations, is how one feels after receiving news of this kind, and only begins to tell the tale of the change and evolution in the individual's life living forward into treatment and subsequently beyond into the great unknown.

This 'great unknown' is mostly what I have written about and published ever since; "cancer columns" (original I know) is what I call them. Occasionally, I will write a non-cancer column, one a month or so, depending on my experiences. These columns will address non-cancer issues of the day, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Most recently topics have included the movie "The Exorcist," "Exercising a Demon," paying for things with a credit card: "Credit the Card," reacting to advertising for grass seed and riding mowers: "And So It Begins," and buying in bulk: "Bulky Boy," but never/well, almost never do I write about my wife, Dina; I have been warned.

Though the recurring theme of these columns is cancer, the content is rarely morbid or dare I say, self-indulgent, believe it or not. I try to make fun a very "unfun" set of circumstances. I'm still writing about life; now however, it's life in the cancer lane, a road unlike any I had ever traveled before. Nevertheless, I've gotten through eight years and nearly three months of it relatively incident free, save for a week in the hospital three and a half years ago. And yes, I am still undergoing treatment.

I hope you readers will be semi amused at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune upon which my columns are based. Please know: the significance of their content is not that it is me writing them, it is that cancer is being written about.

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

# CALENDAR



## Celtic Duo

**Celtic Duo Kevin Elam and Sean Heely play traditional Scottish and Irish fiddle tunes on Saturday, May 20, 4-6 p.m. Art Space, 750 Center St. \$12 Online, \$15 at the door. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) for more.**

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

### THURSDAY/MAY 18

**Junior Farmers Day.** 4-5 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Children and parents will get the chance to go behind the scenes to help farmers with chores such as milking the cows, feeding animals and shelling corn. Learn how busy farm life can be. \$7. Call 703-437-9101 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/).

**Art Crawl.** 6-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Arts Come Alive is the theme. Call 703-956-9560 for more.

### FRIDAY/MAY 19

**Bike to Work Day 2017.** Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org). Email Megan Goodman at [mgoodman@mwccog.org](mailto:mgoodman@mwccog.org), or call 202-962-3209 for more.

### Northern Virginia Fine Arts

**Festival Party.** 6-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. Party kicks off the art festival, which runs Saturday and Sunday, May 20-21, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Call 703-471-9242, email [info@restonarts.org](mailto:info@restonarts.org) or visit

[restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org) for more.

### MAY 19-20

**“Running Days are Done.”** Friday, 7 p.m. and Saturday at 2 p.m. at Washington Plaza Baptist Church, 1615 Washington Plaza West, Reston. An original play based on interviews with women survivors of child sexual abuse. Email [administrator@washingtonplazachurch.com](mailto:administrator@washingtonplazachurch.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/MAY 20

**Celtic Duo.** 4-6 p.m. Art Space, 750 Center St. Kevin Elam and Sean Heely play traditional Scottish and Irish fiddle tunes. \$12 Online, \$15 at the door. Visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com) for more.

### SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 20-21

**Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 1818 Discovery St., Reston. Art, art and more art, on display and sale. Call 703-471-9242, email [info@restonarts.org](mailto:info@restonarts.org) or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org) for more.

### MONDAY/MAY 22

**Design Workshop.** 6-8 p.m. at Bechtel-ASCE Conference Center, 1801 Alexander Bell Drive. Interactive workshop to help create the future science museum's exhibits and experiences. Email [imagine@childsci.org](mailto:imagine@childsci.org) for more.

Glass by Richard Ryan



Metal by Matthew Naftzger

## Fine Arts Festival Returns to Reston Town Center

Abstract is a good description for artworks featured at this year's Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival (NVFAF) the weekend of May 20-21, presented by Greater Reston Arts Center, at Reston Town Center. The festival is ranked in the top 20 outdoor art fairs in North America. In addition to interacting with more than 200 artists from across the nation, all ages can also make and take their own creations at the Family Art Park in the Pavilion. The festival is produced by a bona fide arts organization, Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE). Technically admission is free, but a \$5 donation to GRACE is requested. Garage parking is free every weekend at Reston Town Center.

On Friday, May 19, the Festival Party in the Pavilion from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. is a “creative cocktail attire” celebration hosted by GRACE that includes food, wine, an opportunity to mingle with the artists, and a silent auction of getaways, culinary adventures, spa and golf packages, and more. Party tickets are \$50 and can be purchased at [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

Dance performances are going to be a highlight of the festival and a wide variety of local performers are scheduled throughout the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, the Hyatt Park Gin Dance Company doing “Hello! Goodbye!” will start at 11 a.m., followed by the Reston Town Square Park



Mixed media by Michael Madzo

GroundShare Arts Alliance, Hyatt Park Classical Ballet Theatre, and Reston Town Square Park Ravel Dance Co.

The dance performances presented by Reston Community Center are commissioned with choreography responding to the public art sculptures at Reston Town Center – the “Reston Rondo” sculpture by Mary Anne Mears in Hyatt Park, and “A Bird in the Hand” by Patrick Dougherty in Reston Town Square Park.

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9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
Sunday School: preschool - grade 2  
Music: grades 3 - 7  
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service  
Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service  
The Rev. John C. N. Hall, Rector  
The Rev. Laura Cochran  
703-437-6530  
[www.stannes-reston.org](http://www.stannes-reston.org)  
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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.  
2. not appreciated or understood.  
3. no longer owned or known

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