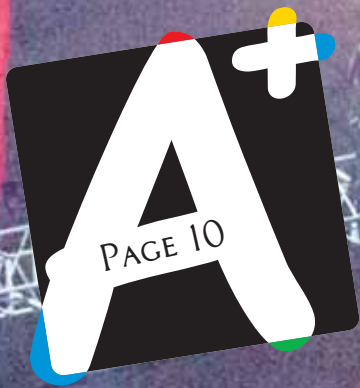




Great Falls CONNECTION



Military Appreciation Monday
Welcomes a True Hero

NEWS, PAGE 3

Music Lovers Groove Together
at 'Concerts on the Green'

NEWS, PAGE 5

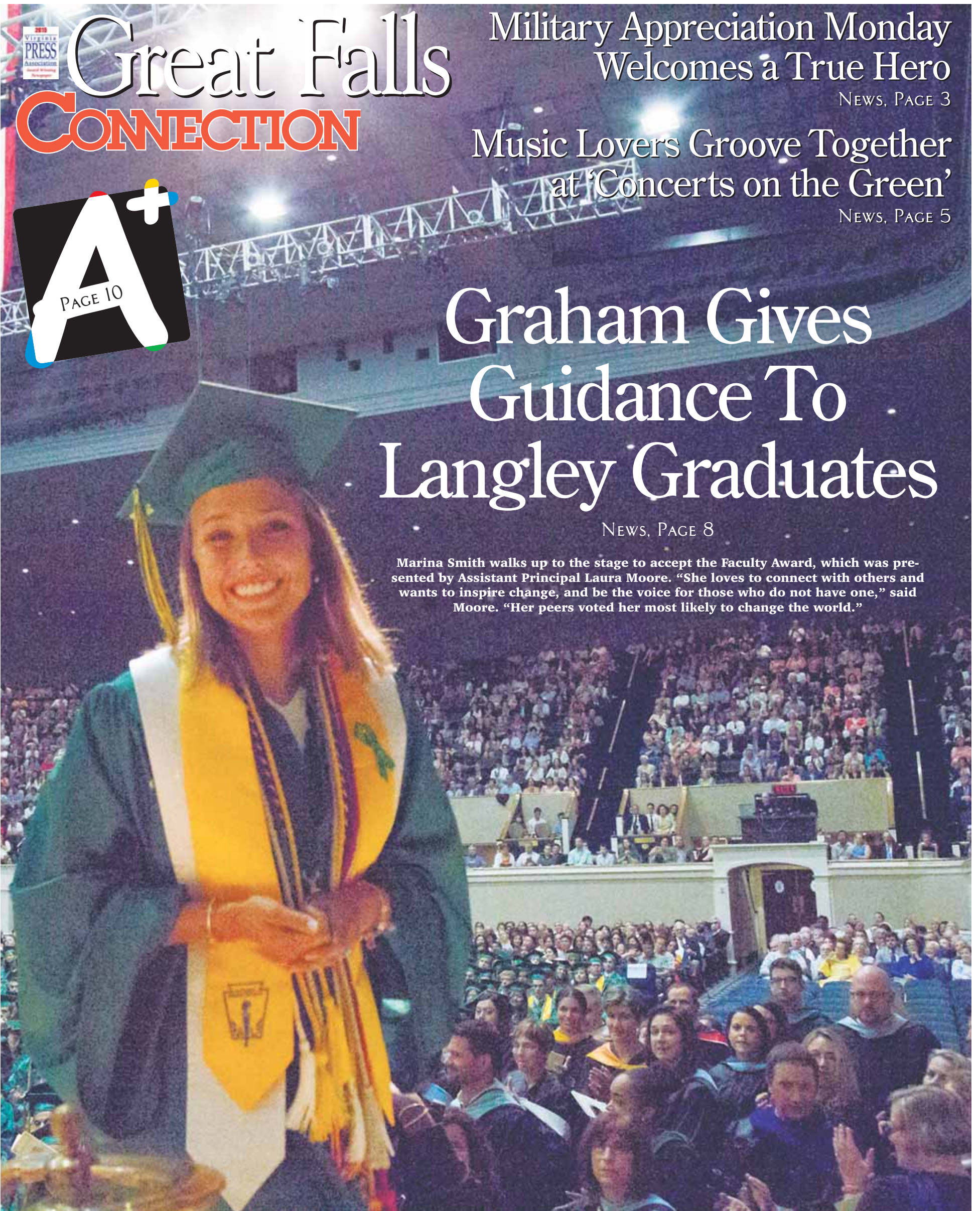
Graham Gives Guidance To Langley Graduates

NEWS, PAGE 8

Marina Smith walks up to the stage to accept the Faculty Award, which was presented by Assistant Principal Laura Moore. "She loves to connect with others and wants to inspire change, and be the voice for those who do not have one," said Moore. "Her peers voted her most likely to change the world."

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PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION



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People chat and laugh as every seat was filled for the 7:30 p.m. seating.



PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) came to support the families helped by the Gary Sinise Foundation. From left: Comstock, Capt. Jeremy Haynes, Chelsea Haynes holding their child Joseph, Claudia Avila, Luis Avila, Bob Nelson and Linda Lowry.

Military Appreciation Monday Welcomes a True Hero

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION

Military veteran, U.S. Army Capt. Luis Avila, sang "God Bless America" at Military Appreciation Monday on June 12. The dinner was hosted by Bob Nelson and the Gary Sinise Foundation at The Old Brogue.

Community members gathered for dinner at 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. People were able to enjoy drinks and food, proceeds of which went towards the Gary Sinise Foundation.

The Foundation was founded in 2011 by the actor Gary Sinise who is most commonly recognized as Lt. Dan in *Forrest Gump*.

The foundation has many programs to help veterans including RISE, which helps provide wounded heroes and families various resources, such as smart homes and vehicles specific to their needs.

Avila was injured in Afghanistan while on active duty on his fifth tour. He was pronounced dead three times and then put on life support. Despite what doctors told her, his wife Claudia refused to take him off.



Claudia Avila sings along to husband, Luis Avila, singing 'God Bless America.'

Today, Avila is in therapy that uses music to strengthen his diaphragm to help him speak. Dinner guests were able to listen and sing along to "God Bless America." Avila also played the harmonica for attendees, which he said he did not play before his injury. He recently sang in the 2017 PBS

National Memorial Day Concert as well.

Capt. Jeremy Haynes, a veteran who was injured and shot four times, came to share his story as well. He said he had a "phenomenal experience," with the Gary Sinise Foundation, which has given him a special wheelchair. His family is on the list for their own smart home.

Smart homes are homes built to fully adapt injured veterans in their own homes. It provides larger hallways and a lift throughout the house and other special modifications.

MILITARY APPRECIATION MONDAYS are held on the second Monday of each month, except for July and August. They support various groups and organizations that support military and feature different groups on the Mondays.

Both 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. dinner attendees were able to participate in a raffle. Prizes included handmade jewelry, stadium seats and gift cards and discounted services from a few Great Falls businesses. Two winners were able to win wooden Flags of Valor made by Brian Steorts, a veteran himself. The money from the auctions went directly to the Gary Sinise Foundation.

"This is not directed towards military people. It is directed towards civilians like myself. I have never served in the military. It is our way of saying thank you to those who have," MAM founder, Nelson, said.

To sign up for Military Appreciation Monday updates and information contact Nelson at bob@bobnelsonsteam.com.



Winners of the 7:30 p.m. Flags of Valor raffle, Jim and Judy Kuzmick. From left: Jeremy Haynes, Joseph Haynes, Chelsea Haynes, Claudia Avila, Luis Avila, Bob Nelson, Linda Lowry, Jim Kuzmick and Judy Kuzmick.



Military Appreciation Monday founder, Bob Nelson, saying hello to Joseph Haynes.



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Music Lovers Groove Together at ‘Concerts on the Green’

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION

Celebrate Great Falls Foundation and AV Architects + Builders hosted the June 18 “Concerts on the Green.” Tender Polman and Magic Bus serenaded the families on Father’s Day with songs from past decades.

“Our band will magically transport you to a place

and time years ago,” lead man and Jersey native, Polman said.

The other two members, Bryan Goddard (bassist) and Mickey Eckman (drummer), are both from Annapolis, Md. They had an eccentric sound of covers like “You Can’t Always Get What You Want” by the Rolling Stones, “Mrs. Robinson” by Simon and Garfunkel, “Penny Lane” by the Beatles and other

SEE CONCERTS, PAGE 7

Tender and Magic Bus playing in the Great Falls gazebo.



PHOTOS BY
MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION



Community members were able to sit back and listen to Tender and Magic Bus.

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OPINION

Losing One of Our Own

Worst fear of any parent of a teenager, losing a child to violence.

Later this week, when area Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan, a month of observance and daily fasting at Eid al-Fitr, the surrounding community grieves with them the loss of 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston.

Nabra was among a group of teenagers who were gathered at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society for an all-night event overnight Saturday during Ramadan, and who were returning to the center after going to eat at a fast food restaurant.

Fairfax County Police report: "At about 3:40 a.m. on Sunday, a group of as many as 15 teenagers was walking and riding bikes on Dranesville Road. The group of teens had been attending an overnight event at a mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society or ADAMS Center, and had left to go to a fast food restaurant. As they were returning to the mosque, some were on the sidewalk and others were on the road itself. Detectives believe [Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, of Sterling] came upon the teens while he was driving. The investigation reveals a teenaged boy on a bike began arguing with Torres. Torres then drove his car onto the curb as the group scattered. Witnesses say Torres

caught up with them a short time later in a nearby parking lot and got out of his car armed with a baseball bat and began chasing the group. Torres was able to catch Nabra. His anger over the encounter led to violence when he hit Nabra with a baseball bat. Torres then took Nabra with him in his car to a second location nearby in Loudoun County."

Nabra's body was found in a Loudoun pond. Torres is charged with her murder, which police describe as a road rage incident rather than a hate crime, although more charges could come later.

All parents who have successfully raised children into a teenagers know fear for their safety as they become more independent. We expect our teens to be safe participating in events based at a house of worship. We expect our teens to be safe from violence. Nabra's death means that all of us now have a diminished sense of safety; we all grieve with Nabra's parents, who lost their beautiful and beloved daughter during Ramadan, on Father's Day. We share their horror at what their daughter suffered.

Coming together in support of the Muslim community in vigil, prayers and other support has meant a great deal.



PHOTO COURTESY KHADIJAH ABDULLAH-LARDAS
Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston was a sophomore at South Lakes High School.

"Basically, the outpouring of support from the Christian community, the Jewish community, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahá'í; everyone is comforting to us," Rizwan Jaka of the ADAMS Center told a Connection reporter. "People care so much and it means so much to us."

But we will all feel the loss of Nabra Hassanen, and a loss of sense of safety here, in weeks and years to come.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

November General Elections

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

With the conclusion of the political party primaries last week the general election is now teed up for Nov. 7. There were some surprises coming out of the Democratic and Republican primaries. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam easily won the Democratic primary to be the nominee for governor even though there was discussion beforehand that polls indicated a tight race. Polling for primaries is notorious for being inaccurate because with a typically light turnout the universe of potential voters is almost impossible to determine. Former one-term U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello has a great deal to offer and will hopefully stay on the scene for future opportunities. Although the term "establishment" was grossly over-used in describing Ralph Northam, his service in the state senate plus his active role as lieutenant governor made him well known and greatly admired throughout the state.

Justin Fairfax gained everyone's admiration after a primary loss to Attorney General Mark Herring four years ago led to his active campaigning during the interim time making him well known for this primary. He was also well known for his work as an attorney. If you review the areas where Ralph Northam did well



and compare them with where Justin Fairfax was strongest, you create a strong statewide team that will be nearly impossible to defeat. Attorney General Mark Herring was not challenged in a primary and will be on the ballot to succeed himself in November. There is no one-term limitation with the attorney general and the lieutenant governor as there is with the governor.

The greatest surprise of the primaries may have been on the Republican side to pick a candidate for governor. Ed Gillespie who has been mentioned for years as the next Republican governor of Virginia barely got through the primary with a shockingly strong showing by Corey Stewart who is known for his anti-immigrant work in Prince William County and for campaigning with a Confederate flag. He has the distinction of being so over the top that he was fired by the Trump campaign. Turnout was especially low in the Republican primary, and Stewart was just over a percentage point in taking out Gillespie. It will be interesting to see if the folks who voted for Stewart will vote in the general election or decide to stay home.

The Republican primary for lieutenant governor was a slug-fest between two state senators with Jill Vogel winning after a mud-slinging campaign that left neither candidate looking good.

All 100 seats for the House of Delegates are

up for election this fall with a record number of contested elections.

Historically it has been difficult to recruit candidates to run for the House of Delegates, but events of the past year have brought forth more candidates than ever before. There was a record number 27 seats where the candidates were determined by the primary because there was so much interest in running. Democrats will certainly pick up seats in the House of Delegates getting closer to shifting or sharing power in that legislative body.

While I am uncontested in my race for the House of Delegates you can still expect to see me campaigning. It is a good way to stay in touch with constituents and to increase turn-out for the statewide elections. Expect a busy fall of campaigning leading up to the fall elections in Virginia that will send a signal to the nation as to the public's reaction to national events.

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. Send to:

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News

The AV Architects + Builders family, Lucas Alonso, Francisca Alonso, Sofia Alonso, Antonio Alonso, and Marcus Alonso.

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION



'Concerts on the Green'

FROM PAGE 5

songs of the '60s and '70s.

The summer-long concert series started this season on May 20 and continue every Saturday, 6-8 p.m. until Aug. 20. They will include The Alan Scott Band, Local Honey, Tom Principato and many other musicians.

Many different Great Falls businesses sponsor the "Concerts on the Green" and each company has one concert date designated to them. This particular concert was sponsored by AV Architects + Builders. They build custom homes and renovations that include a "Vacation Style Living." The family company, owned by Francisca Alonso and Antonio Alonso, is located at 9903 Georgetown Pike, Suite 102.

The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation orchestrates other events such as an annual charity golf tournament that was held on May 22 and the Great Falls Village Center and Turner Farm Park Fourth of July Celebration. The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation recently started Movies on the Green this summer, which will be showing "Finding Dory" on Sept. 9 as their next movie.

For a full list of sponsors and information on upcoming events, visit www.CelebrateGreatFalls.org.



Children were able to have more fun beyond the music with face paint. Lynn McWalters paints a Jack-O-Lantern on Nicholas Kondilas.

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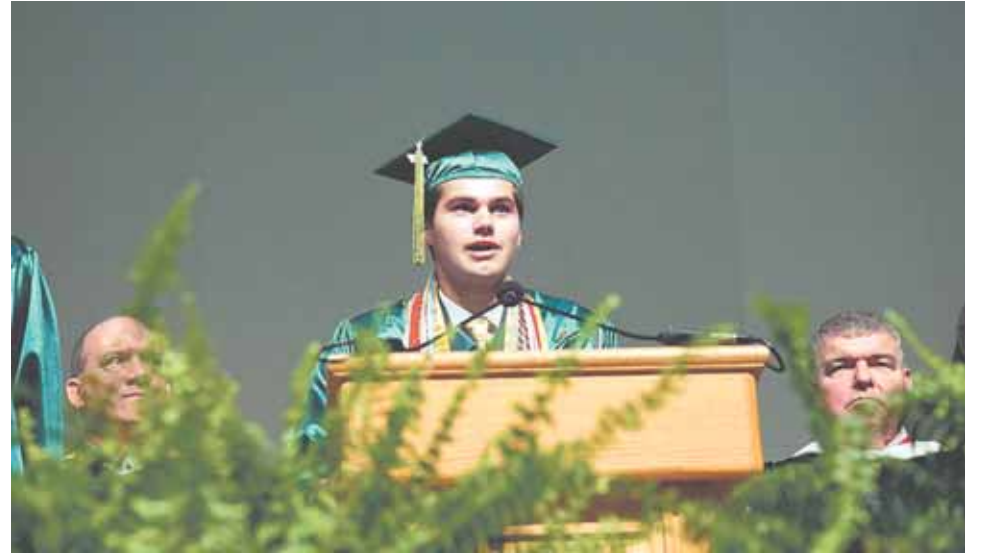
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Langley High School Principal Fred Amico bestowed the Principal's Award to Camron Saba. "His ability to achieve in the face of adversity is nothing less than inspirational," Amico said. "Mostly, I admire his un-failing optimism. Being around him makes me happy to be at Langley."



Andrew Craver, Langley High School Class of 2017 Student Government Association vice president, welcomed the crowd to the ceremony and wished his peers congratulations.

Graham Gives Guidance To Langley Graduates

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

Five hundred two graduates received their high school diplomas during Langley High School's commencement ceremony at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., on Thursday, June 15.

The ceremony raised a range of emotions and a celebrated alumna came back to town to offer words of wisdom for her alma mater's newest batch of budding adults.

Andrew Craver, the class of 2017 Student Government Association vice president, welcomed the audience and congratulated his peers to begin the ceremony. He also took a moment to mention a classmate who was missing from the celebration: Matthew Vernon Poyner.

Poyner died unexpectedly on Feb. 24, 2015, in his sleep of acute viral myocarditis, which is the inflammation of the myocardium heart muscle.

"This year, we raised over \$7,000 for the Matthew Vernon Poyner Memorial Foundation," Craver said to loud applause.

The charity organization is dedicated to honoring and preserving Poyner's legacy by awarding scholarships to college-bound seniors at area high schools; supporting the Warrior Canine Connection and its mission to help combat veterans through canine therapy; and supporting the work of the Johns Hopkins Medicine myocarditis research team to develop early detection and treatment of myocarditis through a fund established in Poyner's name.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance led by SGA Class of 2017 Representative Kareem Al-Attar and the national anthem sang by



Langley High School Class of 1984 alumna Lauren Graham, author, actor and producer most recognized for her role as Lorelai Gilmore on the popular TV series "Gilmore Girls," delivered the keynote address during the ceremony.

the Langley High School Madrigals, SGA Class of 2017 Representative Colin Dunne led the hall in a moment of silence and remembrance for "those who could not be with us today," he said.

THE OCCASION continued with the introduction of the keynote speaker from the school's class of 1984: alumna Lauren Graham.

Graham is a well-known author, actor and producer most recognized for her role as Lorelai Gilmore on the popular TV series "Gilmore Girls," which she reprised in a reunion miniseries on Netflix in 2016.

She talked to the students about a time before she was famous, before she appeared on Broadway, before she became a New York Times best-selling author and before she was nominated for Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild (SAG) awards.

She spoke of the early '80s when she was navigating the hurdles and social trappings of high

school. At the time, she said that she knew she wanted to be an actor, participating in the school's musical theater program all four years.

This path was not a steady climb.

As a freshman, she was cast as townspeople No. 3 in the school's spring musical "Li'l Abner."

"As townspeople, we were taught by our teacher that an easy way to look like we were genuinely conversing with one another was to mouth the words, 'rutabaga, rutabaga,' while nodding and clapping and smiling when we weren't singing," Graham said. "For fun, a few of us occasionally went totally rogue with an unsanctioned, 'watermelon, watermelon,'" she added.

Sophomore year, she landed a speaking part in the musical "Anything Goes" and was also asked to understudy for a senior who was playing the lead role of Reno Sweeney.

"I was thrilled and I worked hard



Dane Hoover, 18, celebrates as he walks down the stage to accept his diploma from Principal Fred Amico.

with a voice teacher," she said. "I listened to the Broadway cast recording and tried my best to copy every single thing that Patti LuPone did on the album."

She would only stand in during a rehearsal while the senior was away for a chorale concert, she said.

Graham's big break came when she was cast as Dolly Levi in the musical "Hello, Dolly!" her junior year.

"That year, of course, I copied most of my performance from the Barbra Streisand movie version," she said.

After standing ovations for all of her performances in the lead role, auditions eventually rolled around for the musical the school would be performing during her senior year: "Once Upon a Mattress."

"There were not one, but two great leading roles," Graham said. "Friends rolled their eyes when I expressed any anxiety. They said, 'Please, it's just which role are you going to get. It's the only ques-

tion."

It was not the only question—by far.

"I opened my mouth and I was off," she said as she recalled her audition. "The key was wrong, my voice squeaked and I just lost it. I finished the song but I never really recovered."

She was not cast in a leading role nor a role that sang.

"It was a speaking part, but I don't even think my character had a name," she said.

She felt embarrassed and her friends felt embarrassed for her.

Her self-described "senior slump" continued the night of the first performance when she slid on ice on Georgetown Pike. She was fine but her car had to be towed and she was driven to the school in a police car.

Her teacher asked if she was OK to perform and she began to feel a sense of relief, imagining not performing or facing the embarrassment of her downgraded part. That's when she felt a tap on her shoulder from Jenny, "a pretty blonde sophomore" who didn't have a speaking role.

"She said, 'Lauren, I heard what happened. I'm so sorry. I just want you to know if you can't do the show tonight' ... and then she paused and her eyes narrowed and she got like a killer look ... she's like, 'I know all your lines.'"

Quickly, Graham snapped out of her funk.

"Suddenly, I was OK ... looking into Jenny's eyes, I saw ambition and fire and maybe just a little bit of greed," she said.

To Graham, her small role was a demotion, but it was an opportunity worth fighting for to Jenny.

"Maybe that's the way things always are," she told the graduates. "You don't own the heights

NEWS



Langley High School Class of 2017 Student Government Association President Kaitlin Bonacci presents actor and author Lauren Graham, alumna of the high school's class of 1984, with a bouquet of flowers for keynoting the commencement.

A celebrated alumna came back to town to offer words of wisdom.

any more than you do the lows. An experience that's unpleasant to you maybe someone else's dream next step. One thing is guaranteed: Neither state is personal to you; they're both just a part of life. No matter what, you're bound to experience both extremes."

Graham continued to philosophize.

OUT IN THE REAL WORLD, like on the Saxon Stage, she has had successes and slumps as "the girl who has the lead and the girl who wishes she had a bigger part," she told the graduates. "The secret is they're not that different from one another. They don't feel that different. The difference is not in what life brings you, it's truly in how you choose to handle it."

Graham admitted she was far from focused on her future when she sat in her cap and gown in 1984, telling the crowd that the envelope she received during her commencement just had a blank piece of paper inside, her diploma held hostage until she paid her long overdue library fines.

"The most thrilling event looming was not college or my summer internship, but the fact that I had been invited to the graduation after party that night at Jacky's house," she said.

Jacky, Graham said, was a popular classmate who was always throwing parties while her parents were out of town.

"I had never been invited to Jacky's house before," she said. "I didn't even think she knew who I was."

Later that night, she told the crowd, she sat on the hood of a football player's green Ford Bronco while sipping a purple wine cooler as everyone mingled.

Though she eventually achieved the dreams she had dreamt in high school, it wasn't without its challenges. An example she gave was when she appeared on Broadway as Miss Adelaide in the revival of the musical "Guys and Dolls" in 2009.

Graham wasn't a dancer, but her character was, so she struggled with choreography and audiences were both hot and cold, she said.

"Within just one week of performances, I cycled through the same waves I'd experienced in high school," she said. "Certain nights felt dreamy and joyous and others felt like senior slump."

She avoided reading the negative critics, until she walked into a deli where she came face-to-face with a photo of her and a cast member on the front of a publication staring at her from a newsstand bearing the headline, "Guys and Dulls," she said.

"It was so awful," she said. "I jumped away from the paper like it was on fire."

The entire experience wasn't anything close to her childhood dream of performing on Broadway, but she didn't pout, she said.

"All I could do was try to stay positive for myself and all of the Jennies out there who hoped to one day stand in those shoes," she said.

She told the graduates that enjoying life isn't about successes, but rather satisfaction is when people love what they do.

"Maybe it's not theater for you," she said. "Maybe it's baseball or writing or coding, but whatever path you choose; the important thing is you keep finding your joy in what you're doing, especially when the joy is not finding you."



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The Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College is designed to address challenges faced by young women in higher education.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
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Finding the Right Mentor

A mentor can brighten a young person's future.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tamyka Mason says that she was struggling with academics, finances and time management. She knew that she needed to make a change, but didn't have a source for guidance. Mason discovered the Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College and her life began to change.

"When I joined WISE, [I] was assigned [a] mentor and learned how to speak about the challenges I was facing and the goals I had," said Mason. "[My mentor] helped me dramatically ... plan for future events."

The upcoming summer months offer teens an opportunity to connect with adults other than parents who can offer guidance through mentorship programs. Finding the right mentoring match can be a life-altering experience, say experts.

"Through supportive relationships with adult mentors, teens can learn how to develop practical goals, identify resources to accomplish goals ... regulate emotions, communicate effectively with others and cope better with stress," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

The Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) is a source for those who are looking for a mentor or those who want to mentor others. The organization's program managers train mentoring program coordinators and mentors. Their goal is to increase the number and quality of mentoring programs in Virginia. VMP maintains a database where prospective mentors or mentees can plug in a ZIP code and find the closest mentoring program.

"We provide support across the State of Virginia to help align program practices that research shows make high quality mentorship programs," said Betsy Bilharz, Virginia Mentoring Partnership. "We recruit, screen and match mentors with young people using that set of standards."

Recognizing that a mentoring relationship is not usually a relationship of equals is an important aspect

of mentorships, says Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "There are really two types of mentors: those who provide guidance and willingly share knowledge they have accrued from their experience in the field," she said. "The second type are those who facilitate opportunity, vouching for someone or helping the person with points of contact in their area of interest. Both are important."

THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP develops best when mentors listen to a young person's concerns and expectations [and] empathize and tailor support and skill building around the teen's needs and with their input, says Short. "The relationship should benefit both the mentor and the teen through expressions of gratitude, a sense of accomplishment, and expectations for future support and success."

Effective mentors are as interested as they are interesting and are forthcoming with accounts of their own struggles and the strategies they used to overcome them, says Best. "The best mentors listen first and then lead. It's not a one size fits all relationship," she said. "The best mentors are concrete in their guidance and work with attainable and flexible goals. [They] don't play favorites, but work to create an ethos of fairness and mutual respect."

Tykesha R. Myrick works as a financial aid manager at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and is the founder of the WISE program on campus. The program, which targets minority women, pairs students with adult professionals who offer guidance to the students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. "The relationships go beyond academic accomplishments and are life changing and life lasting," said Myrick. "The goal is to provide a holistic environment for these young women."

Mentorship programs such as WISE work best when those being mentored are receptive. "The [best] mentees [respect] the mentor's gift of time [and] recognize the importance of learning by listening and ask thoughtful questions, and they are open and responsive to guidance," said Best. "It is equally important to invest not simply in the best and brightest, but those with the smallest glimmer of promise. Good mentors move mountains."

Details

For more on Virginia Mentoring Partnership, visit vamentoring.org or connect.mentoring.org.



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NEWS



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

The Langley High School Class of 2017 toss their mortar boards high into the air as soon as Principal Fred Amico read the declaration of graduation.

VIEWPOINTS

Langley graduates discuss where they see themselves in five years.

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO

Sayeh Hamrah

"I am going to Virginia Tech next year. In five years I hope to be in grad school. College is for deciding what to do and I hope to be in a medical program or something like that."



Sonia Prasad

"I am also taking a gap year, we will be traveling and doing service working with animals and children in conservation. I am really excited. I am also going to Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. I will most likely major in psychology or international relations, but I do not know what career I want yet."



Luke Young

"I will be going to Cornell. In five years, hopefully, I will be working for the Federal Government at the EPA or the Environmental Agency. I want to make the planet better and protect the environment."



Sarina Prasad

"I am going to take a gap year next year and then I am going to Williams College the year after that in Massachusetts. In five years I will be graduating from Williams because I will be the class of '22. I will be majoring in either psychology or international relations."



Daniel Hulett

"I am going to Christopher Newport University and playing soccer there. I will be studying either finance or accounting. In the future I will probably be working in an office, probably an accounting firm."



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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

"On the Bay" Photographs. Normal business hours through July 1 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/ or call 703-759-2759 for more.

"Slice of Life: Great Falls." Normal business hours through July 1 at in the TD Bank, 9901 Georgetown Pike. Jill Banks exhibits her oil paintings during bank opening hours seven days a week including "First Friday Art Walk" on June 2 until 7 p.m. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com/ for more.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005 for more.

"Summer in the City" Art Show. Normal business hours through August 15 at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

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

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner

Center, McLean. Themes and titles vary. Free admission.

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

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 -9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/ clothed figure from a



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ENTERTAINMENT



On the Green

Summer on the Green Concert featuring Hickory Grove, Friday, June 23, 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.
Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

James Arthur Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23

White Elephant and Bingo Ice Cream Social. noon-3 p.m. at American Legion, 330 N. Center St., Vienna. Call 703-281-0538 for more.
Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Hickory Grove. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Freedom 5K. 8 a.m. at Tyson's Corner Center Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. To support the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Call 202-316-3298 or email at ashley@nardimedia.com.
Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave.

E., Vienna. Collecting CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks, in good condition. The proceeds provide scholarships for women. Email aauwbookfair@gmail.com or call 703-527-4206 for more.

Historic Marker Dedication. 10 a.m. at Observatory Park at The Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The marker honors the work of the U.S. Army Map Service and its contribution to the Global Positioning System, better known as GPS, that is now used worldwide for navigation. Call 703-324-8662 or visit Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Football Players Autograph Session. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Navy Federal Credit Union, 820 Follin Lane SE, Vienna. Navy Federal will host a meet-and-greet with Ryan Kerrigan from the Washington Redskins and Keenan Reynolds from the Baltimore Ravens. Debit card users and service members will enjoy autographs from players, discussion from the Navy Federal Debit Team and light refreshments. Visit www.navyfederal.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 25

Musical Instrument Drive. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Donate used musical instruments to Hungry for Music, a D.C. nonprofit dedicated to expanding opportunities in music for children globally by collecting and redistributing more than 500 instruments annually. Visit

www.hungryformusic.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

McLean Racquet and Health Club Nats Game. 7:05 p.m. at the Nationals Ballpark, 1500 South Capitol St. S.E., Washington, D.C. Seats are located in the lower level outfield reserved section, transportation not provided. Call the club at 703-356-3300 for tickets.

EVERY WEDNESDAY JUNE 28-AUG. 2

Stories and Sprinklers. 1:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna (behind the Freeman Store). Hear a story. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Shenandoah Run. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.
For King and Country Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401 for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Oceans Quartet Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Varied musical styles include bagpipes and Beatles music. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

July 4 Festival and Fireworks. 6:30 p.m. at 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.
McLean Independence Day. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Musical entertainment by a local disc jockey, as well as food trucks selling a variety of entrees and snacks. Off-site parking and shuttles available. Admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks show will be presented at 8 p.m. on the rain date, Wednesday, July 5. Call 703-790-0123, or visit www.mcleancenter.org/specialevents for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 7

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Richard Walton Group. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

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**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

LETTERS

TD Bank Becomes a Member of Great Falls Family

To the Editor:

As a long-time Great Falls resident and the current chair of The Arts of Great Falls, I would like to publicly thank TD Bank for quickly becoming a vital and very generous member of the Great Falls family. From their tasteful branch design to an over-the-top grand opening party, it was clear from the beginning that they wanted to connect with our small community. But what has impressed me the most is their immediate and tangible monetary support of many of the local organizations that make Great Falls the wonderful place it is.

TD Foundation and TD Bank have partnered with The Arts of Great Falls, providing us with the vital support necessary to teach art classes, rent studio space to artists, and to underwrite exhibitions and festivals for this Artful Place. They have also provided Great Falls Studios with prize money and an ongoing "Petite Gallery" exhibition wall right in the bank, joining the other studios for the First

Friday Art Walk in the Village.

Their community support has gone well beyond Great Falls art organizations. TD Bank has also provided support for the Great Falls Trailblazers, helping to keep our rural community walkable, and next month underwrite the Great Falls Fireworks – a long-time family favorite that has been perennially underfunded – as a Platinum Sponsor. Finally, they sponsored and have been a welcome presence to our Saturday Farmer's Market.

So, thank you to TD Bank for realizing that having a location in Great Falls can go well beyond simply setting up shop and doing business with our residents. They have shown that they not only understand, but are willing to very generously support many of the organizations that help keep this community the Great Place it is. On behalf of all of us, thank you.

Richard Kelly

Chairman, Board of Directors
The Arts of Great Falls

WEEK IN GREAT FALLS

Donate Instruments to Hungry for Music

Donate used musical instruments on Sunday, June 25, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in front of the Great Falls Library located at 9830 Georgetown Pike. Instruments will be donated to Hungry for Music, a D.C. non-profit dedicated to expanding opportunities in music for children by collecting and redistributing more than 500 instruments annually. All donors will be issued a receipt for tax deduction.

For questions, contact Derek Kartalian at donateyourinstrument@gmail.com

For information about Hungry for Music, visit www.hungryformusic.org

Great Falls Senior Center To Host Pianist

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) event for July 18 features Robert R. "Mitch" Mitchell, pianist. Mitchell's local affiliations include Great Falls Methodist Church where he is the director of music ministries. His many worldwide appearances have included the Seattle Opera House; the Palais de Beaux Arts in Brussels, Belgium; Avery Fisher Hall in Manhattan's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts; the Kennedy Center; and the Filene Center at Wolf Trap. Mitchell has also performed for numerous heads of states including U.S. Presidents Gerald Ford and George H. Bush, and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. He has performed every musical style from classical fare with members of the New York Philharmonic to modern music with recording artists such as Lou Rawls, Clark Terry, and Sesame Street's Bob McGrath.

The July 18 event will be held at the Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Reservations are a must. Contact Karen Emami at karen.emami@globalinfotek.com or call 703-938-6471. Visit gfseniors.org.

The event sponsor is the Great Falls Rotary Club. The Rotary Club meets at the River Bend Country Club on Thursdays at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast and the public is invited. For more information, visit www.rotarygreatfalls.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

❖ **The Lewinsville Senior Center** in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Art, Self-Defense, Chair Exercise, Indoor Gardening, Basic Spanish, Basic French, Ballroom Dance and Basic Guitar.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

Hispanic Connect Networking Event. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Main Conference Room, 4th Floor, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Free member event, guests receive first complimentary visit. Visit www.vahcc.com/events.html.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park Authority has started an update of the Turner Farm Park master plan and would like to gather input on the plan from community residents. Information session and discussion is open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/turnerfarm.htm, call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmafc.org. The Center's website is www.scmafc.org

ONGOING

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 or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. The games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit www.goldengirls.org.

Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

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

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

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Relatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you live long enough, it's quite likely that many of the family members/generations born before you will have predeceased you. Moreover, the family members born before them, two generations-plus behind, are most surely to be geshtorbin (Yiddish for dead) as well. The effect: memory loss. Specifically, the memories lost of a generation of great grandparents – and beyond, you probably never knew or for whom you have extremely limited knowledge; after all, you were an infant when your maternal grandmother died. And when your widowed mother died nearly nine years ago, you lost what may very well have been that final anecdotal connection to your family's history, especially if your Jewish and your grandparents immigrated from Russia, Romania, The Baltic States, etc. before World War II where recorded history of Jews was evidence not documentation.

It just so happens that in my family, in fact, our closest surviving cousins, Ronnie and Gil, who themselves are in their 80s, are alive and extremely well and living with their daughter, Jayne, in Massachusetts. This past weekend, Ronnie and Gil drove eight hours to visit my brother Richard and me. And though we are regularly in touch over the phone, it has been years since we were all together in Washington, D.C. And being in their company, naturally we reminisced – ALL WEEKEND. What spawned this column was a comment Ronnie (a singer/pianist in Boston for 25 years) made in response to a question we asked about whether there was any other musical talent in the family. She said quite matter of factly that my maternal great-grandfather – who I had never met or even heard of before, "was a cantor in Russia – with a beautiful voice" (who never left Russia). "What! I never knew that." I don't recall knowing anything about my great grandparents, maternal or paternal.

You see, Ronnie was there almost at the beginning. She was the first born to my mother's oldest sibling and only sister, my Auntie Lee. My mother was the baby of the family – after two brothers were born. As such, the age difference between my mother and Ronnie was about 14 years, atypical for a niece and an aunt. As a result, Ronnie was witness to lots of family history that I thought might have been lost forever when my mother died in 2008. As a few examples, Ronnie knows who was present at my mother's "Auntie's" house for Passover Cedar in the early 1960s. She knew that "Auntie" was my mother's mother's brother's widow, not my mother's mother's sister. I certainly didn't. She knew that three families/our cousins lived together in this three-story home and all worked together in the family market: Levine's. Still more that I didn't I know.

Another family connection Ronnie and Gil reminded us of was a family line we have in South America. Again, before World War II, one of my maternal grandfather's (Hyman) brother's Simon (Shimon) immigrated to Argentina where to this day exists first (Eduardo) and second cousins (names I'm afraid don't know) I've never met, though Ronnie and Gil have met numerous times in Miami and in Argentina (Ronnie and Gil used to live in South Florida). The more we talked, the more we travelled back in time. But I won't self-indulge myself and bore you any longer. I will try to wrap it up in the next paragraph.

My mother, Celia died in December 2008, my father died in December 2006. With their passing, my brother and I lost – among a million other things, their first-hand, on-site accounts of our Lourie/Blacker history dating back 150 years or so to Russia/Eastern Europe, before any of my relatives immigrated to America. Ronnie, my mother's cherished niece, knows as much about our family history as there is still to know and her husband of nearly 63 years, Gil, knows almost as much. Their visit wasn't just a weekend. It was a lifetime. A weekend of a lifetime for which Richard and I are extraordinarily grateful.

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



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