

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run CENTRE VIEW



JUNE 21-27, 2017

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Hats Off to the Class of 2017

Centreville High School's Class of 2017 throws their caps in the air as the ceremony ends.

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PHOTO BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/CENTRE VIEW

Remembering Reema, 10 Years Later

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Westfield High 2006 grad and Virginia Tech victim Reema-Samaha loved both theater and dance, both of which range from funny to deeply serious and moving. And the 10th annual Remembrance Cabaret in her honor contained all these emotions within skits, songs and dances.

It was held Saturday, June 17, on the Westfield stage where Reema once acted in shows such as “Fiddler on the Roof” and “Arsenic and Old Lace.” And making it even more special was the fact that – as has been the case each year – participating in the cabaret were both Westfield alumni and dancers from Virginia Tech’s Contemporary Dance Ensemble (CDE), with whom Reema used to perform.

However, the emotional highlight of the evening came when the four people who’ve been Westfield’s theater directors joined together at the podium. There, Scott Pafumi, the school’s first theater director – from 2000-2010 – read the senior essay he’d had Reema write, reflecting on her time in Westfield Theater and her hopes for the future. Standing next to him were former Westfield directors Zoe Dillard and Susie Pike and current director Rachel Harrington – who was a Westfield student when Reema was and who also performed in the cabaret.

The event raises money for the Reema J. Samaha Memorial Scholarship Fund, as well as Angel Fund, which supports the safety and wellbeing of youth and school-aged children. And at the end of Saturday’s show, Reema’s father, Joe Samaha, ad-



Laura Walsh sings “Pulled” from “The Addams Family” musical.

dressed the crowd.

He noted all the work Angel Fund has done in the past decade to make schools safer. And he praised its past president, Lu Ann McNabb, for getting four pieces of legislation passed toward that end, during her tenure. In the past 10 years, said Samaha, “We’ve given about \$60,000 in scholarships to Westfield and Herndon high school students and \$15,000 to \$16,000 to Actively Caring 4 People,” a positive-reinforcement program in schools.

He also expressed gratitude toward CDE

SEE REMEMBERING, PAGE 3



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

The Gin Dance Co. entertains in “Hello! Goodbye.”



Doing an improv sketch are (from left) Westfield alumni Branson Reese, Will Quinn, Sarah Cowdery, Joe Schumaker, Michelle Murgia, Megan Meadows, and Jesse Leahy.



Westfield Theater Directors (from left) Zoe Dillard, Susie Pike and Rachel Harrington listen to Scott Pafumi read Reema Samaha’s senior essay.



The Crtv Cmplx (Creative Complex) Dance Co. performs “The Preface.”



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

The band, Uncle Jesse, performs the song, "Torn."



Dancer Ahmad Maaty



The Contemporary Dance Ensemble during "Andaloosia." Reema choreographed and performed it with CDE as a VT freshman.



A dancer performs a number called "Tether."



Lauren DeVera dances to "Surfacing."



A dancer with Nomadic Artists performs to "The Weight."

Remembering Reema

FROM PAGE 2

and the Westfield theater alumni who've returned every year to honor his daughter, including sisters Ashley and Phoebe Dillard who produce and direct the annual cabaret. Said Samaha: "To all of you who've come back each year and supported us, our heartfelt thanks."

Also speaking was Reema's mother, Mona Samaha. "Besides the hardship of losing Reema, we've learned that love is the essence of life," she said. "And these remembrance events have been so special because they've been full



Rachel Harrington sings "She Used to be Mine" from "Waitress."

of loving, giving and receiving. [And through them all], Reema is still alive and kicking."



Bobby Hersey, Lauren Bobby and Alex Merrill perform "I Lived."

GRADUATION 2017



Westfield High School's Class of 2017 during graduation at the Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University.



Westfield Chamber Singers perform during graduation.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD

Westfield High Graduates 610 Students

Amid pomp and circumstance and a sea of black and gold, Westfield High School's Class of 2017 held its 16th commencement ceremony for 610 students at the Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason University in Fairfax on Thursday, June 15.

School Principal Dr. Anthony Copeland presented several statistics about the class of 2017, namely that the class received \$2,271,920 in scholarships, had 14 Cappies nominations for theater, had two National Merit Scholars, 110 Summa Cum Laude graduates (students with 4.0 GPAs or higher), eight Governor's School attendees, and nine students who will be attending U.S. Service Academies (Naval, Air Force, Military, Coast Guard, etc).

On top of that, the Westfield Bulldogs football team won the state championship Group 6A this year.

Student graduates who were singled out for excellence include: Pride Award winner Andrew Ssekikubo, and Carolyn Ziegler who won both the Leader of the Pack Award and the Student Award.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Westfield graduates Derek Knodt, Evan Kohnstam and Lauren Kohout.



Westfield graduates Gracie Wright, Orville E. Wright, Joel Yang, and Christine Yoon.



Westfield graduates Nick Jiang, Lilly Johnson, and Chase Johnson.



Westfield graduates Alan Zhai, Camilla Zhang, Lingyi Zhu, and Lucinda Zhu.



Westfield graduates Israt Jahan and Yash Jain.

‘Music to Do Good and Help People’

Project Joy will provide an income for Zambian orphans.

By BONNIE HOBBS

When Don Halterman was the praise and worship director at Centreville Presbyterian Church, he went on a mission trip to Zambia in 2012. And although he returned home to his life here, the orphans he’d met there stayed on his mind.

A musician, he was determined to better their lives in some way. And now, through a new venture called Project Joy — via which these children will perform and sell their original songs — he intends to do just that. But it’ll take some help from others to bring it to fruition, and he’s hoping members of the community will open their hearts and wallets to lend a hand.

“When I went to Zambia, I fell in love with the orphans there and became passionate about helping them,” said Halterman. “And since retiring from my position at Centreville Presbyterian, two-and-a-half years ago, I’ve wanted to start my own music company. But I wanted to do mean-



In their music studio are (back row, from left) Don Halterman and Kent Washburn and (front row, from left) John Nixon and Anders Arestad.

ingful music that impacts the world — which is my company’s mission statement.”

So he and the three others in the company, Grander Music — Centreville residents Kent Washburn and John Nixon, plus photographer Anders Arestad of Front Royal — looked for artists and organizations to promote, in line with their goal. Their vision statement is “Rite place, right people, write music.”

Halterman said the word “rite” is used as signifying a sacred spot. “We believe that God put us [the right people] together to do this — write music that can do good and help people,” he said. “What makes the music meaningful is its impact in the world after we create it.”

He returned to Zambia in 2014 and started singing with the orphans there and helping them write songs. “I loved the way

they sang so joyfully and passionately,” he said. “Their voices were untrained, but really beautiful.”

The following year, Halterman went back again. Accompanying him was Centreville’s Cathy Baker, a board member of Every Orphan’s Hope (EOH) — a national group that sponsors Zambian orphans and builds villages in Zambia. “I worked with the kids,

SEE ‘MUSIC TO DO’, PAGE 12



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DON HALTERMAN

The orphans gather around Don Halterman and his guitar to learn new music.

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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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beyond Father's Day

To the Editor:

"And remember the time when We took a covenant from the children of Israel: 'You shall worship nothing but Allah and show kindness to parents and to kindred and to the orphans and the poor, and speak to men kindly and observe Prayer, and pay the Zakat:' then you turned away in aversion, except a few of you" (2:84).

The verse above from the Holy Qur'an gives me an even greater appreciation for my father who in Urdu I refer to as Abu. I read this verse and think about how people have misconstrued view of the relationship between Muslim fathers and their daughters as one without love.

As I typed in Father's Day in the Google search engine, I expected a Wikipedia page about the history to show up as the first link. However, I was fascinated to see how many Groupon ad messages appeared with activities to do for the nation-wide celebration. It saddens me that every time a holiday comes and passes through the years some people tend to stray away from the meaning and true purpose of the holiday. These holi-

days are used as an excuse by marketers to encourage people to go out and pay for a "Father's Day 3 Course Meal" package deal. Families feel the need to spend money on one day due to deeply rooted societal pressures which they believe is necessary to go out and spend. Sure these pressures of going out with the family does have a positive side in that it brings everyone together which can be difficult for some families on any normal day.

But to appreciate fathers on just one day should not satisfy the soul of any child. It is very difficult for me personally to stay upset with my father at any time because I always remind myself of everything he must have to deal with on a daily basis and how he keeps his calm and composure while not mentioning any of it or bothering others with his stresses. It makes any pressures I may be dealing with seem so irrelevant and small.

I look at my dad and sometimes ponder at the fact that once upon a time he was my age and I wonder with amazement at how he has formed such a flawless character throughout his life. When I as a Muslim daughter hear the word "father," I automatically think of someone who can hold down a fort, someone who has leadership

qualities, is calm, collected and can recover from any and every situation with ease. A father is someone who only expresses his good strong characteristics in front of others and seems like he never sheds a tear. Ever. He is someone who loves watching gladiator or old western films because he admires and wishes to achieve or relate with those warrior-like traits. A father is someone who does not say much but when he does it means a lot! Every father may not have the qualities I laid out above but these are certainly the ones possessed by my dear father. He is my role model whom I

Celebrating Ramadan

To the Editor:

Currently, Muslims in Northern Virginia and around the world are celebrating the holy month of Ramadan which started on May 27 (10 days earlier than last year) in correlation with the Lunar Calendar. It was in this month that the holy scripture of Islam, the Quran, began to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and abstain from food and water for this time. This fast is not just physical in nature but also requires them to shun any wrongdoing or bad habits.

The Holy Quran states: "O ye

look up to everyday. Adulthood can be scary at times but when I see my dad I am reminded that at his age and with everything he has gone through, if he can keep his relaxed stature then I sure can too! Fathers will always be there. It takes time for some of us to learn and appreciate that simple fact but at the end of the day we do not realize everything they do since they are the guardian of the household or the captain of the fort and how everyday they get up to keep that fort from falling down.

Marium Sadia Sosan Malik
Chantilly

who believe! Fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous" (2:184). Therefore, the purpose of Ramadan is not only to abstain from food and drink, but to also practice self-restraint, focus on good deeds that help others and improve one's spirituality, and understand the struggles of those less fortunate who do not have ample food and water available for them. This month will conclude with the Eid-ul-Fitr festival on June 26.

Shumaila Ahmad
Chantilly

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GRADUATION 2017

Hats Off to Centreville's Class of 2017

Centreville High School sends off its senior class at the Eaglebank Arena on June 16.

BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville High School's Class of 2017 is ready for takeoff. Dressed in all light blue, Centreville sent off their most recent graduating class on June 16. The 549-student class, filled with 4.0 scholars, Division I athletes, musicians, future military and many more, showed nothing short of success.

The beginning of the ceremony included the presentation of the colors, national anthem, the pledge of allegiance and a welcoming statement from senior class administrator Amy Balint. Following that, Principal Dave Jagels gave encouraging words to the class.

Jagels discussed the value of hope, a trait he felt is often "underappreciated." He continued, talking about the power of a thank you, inviting all educators from Centreville and in the audience to stand up for applause.

Then came the presentation of the Faculty award, which went to future UVA student Pooja Karandikar. Balint recognized Karandikar as "well respected, empathetic and a good listener," someone who always encourages cooperation in the classroom.

The scholar address was given by Kourtnei McNeil, who plans to study at Northwestern University this upcoming fall. Her speech revolved around being a pilot and flying through life. She implied that she's "never flown a plane before," but every day in high school was an added page to her flying manual.

McNeil also touched on the insignificance of getting lost, but rather focusing on the importance



Cameron Stewart is attending Virginia Tech in the fall to study architecture.



Jack Dunn is studying music at Belmont University.

of "getting back where you need to go." The end of her speech was met with a loud applause from her fellow classmates and audience alike.

This year's guest speaker was Centreville 1994 graduate Curtis Taylor Jr., who went off to graduate from Purdue University. Right now, he serves as the executive vice president of Taylor Integrated



Lauren Fischer is heading to VCU in the fall as undecided.



Riley Prosser will be studying chemical engineering at the University of Delaware.

Services 3.

"What do you say to the millennials who know everything," said Taylor.

Taylor reflected on his time back at Centreville; a time with no cell phones and students would get in trouble for having pagers in class instead. He reminded graduates that they need to set high expectations for themselves, as each of

PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/CENTRE VIEW



Graduating seniors wait in their seats for the ceremony to start.

them were created for a special purpose.

To the surprise of the everyone in the auditorium, there was another message to be given by a special guest — Ludacris. Set up as a video, Ludacris gave a congratulatory message to the class of

2017, as he attended Centreville in 1993 for one year.

A musical performance was given by Karandikar and Kobie Turner, who did a medley of songs by Ryan Cabrera and The Beatles. Senior class board member Jenna

SEE FAREWELL, PAGE 10

- lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way.
2. not appreciated or understood.
3. no longer owned or known



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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaire.org for more.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly

Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Practice English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223.

English as Second Language Book Club. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

Advanced English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road.

Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Find the full schedule at www.wineryatbullrun.com.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

One-on-One English Conversation. Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

THROUGH JUNE 30

Thrift Store Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday at Pender Regift Thrift Store, 4447-C Brookfield Corporate Drive. Storewide sale, 25

percent off. Visit www.penderthrift.org, or call 703-378-7371 for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Rockin' in the Park. 10-11 a.m. at the Ellanor C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Rocknocos is a three-man band from Fairfax that performs original children's songs and much-loved favorites. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances for more.

Colonial Medical Care Exhibition. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Tour Sully's garden, visit the 18th century kitchen and house, and learn about old-fashioned home remedies. See how they compare with today's modern medical treatments. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 25

Colonial Times Exhibition. 1-3 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. A tournament of hoop and stick, the game of graces and other childhood games of yesteryear. A scavenger hunt and ice cream. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

Nature Photography Fundamentals. 7-8:45 p.m. in the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Professional instructor Michael Glagola teaches how to get that perfect shot. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 28

Keeping a Travel Sketchbook/Journal. 7-8:30 p.m. in the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Bring the sketchbook and drawing material of choice. This is part of the The "Art at the Library" series which is held the fourth Wednesday of every month at Centreville Regional Library, 7-8:30 p.m. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

JUNE 30-JULY 1

Whys and Whey of Dairy. 1, 2 and 3 p.m. at the Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn how dairy products used to be made before the days of big grocery stores and chilly refrigerator sections. \$7. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Holiday Crafts Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The crafts will highlight the holiday and the railroads. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 16

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. \$4 for adults 16 and over \$2 for children 5-15 free for Museum members and children under 5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or phone 703-425-9225.



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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.

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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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GRADUATION 2017



Twins Karley (left) and Lexi Kofman spend their last memory of high school together before going their separate ways for college in the fall. Karley will be attending San Diego State and Lexi will be attending University of Colorado Boulder.



From left are Jaqueline Blaise, Elizabeth Murphy and Dylan Cooper. The gold stoles represent Key Club membership.

PHOTOS BY GRETCHEN KERNBACH/CENTRE VIEW

Farewell to Centreville High

FROM PAGE 7

Frisby gave the presentation of the class gift which was a statue for the school's stadium.

"I'm going to miss the people, friends and teachers, basically everyone who has impacted me over the past four years. Hopefully I will see them in the future," said Molly Thames.

After the presentation of the candidates and diplomas, the class of 2017 traditionally threw their caps up in the air.



The graduates sit alphabetically before the ceremony begins.

Legals

Legals

Employment

PUBLIC NOTICE: Centrewood Dr.

AT&T Mobility, LLC proposes to build an 88-foot Bell Tower Communications Tower. The overall height of the tower will be 88 feet above ground level and the site is located at a ground elevation of 345 feet above mean sea level. No lighting is anticipated. The Site location is 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, Fairfax County, VA 20121 (38-49-33.1 N, 77-26-20.6 W). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1082046.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS - Interested persons may review the application for this project at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the filing number. Interested persons may raise environmental concerns about the project under the National Environmental Policy Act rules of the FCC, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Requests for Environmental Review must be filed within 30 days of the date that notice of the project is published on the FCC's website and may only raise environmental concerns. The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file requests online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest, but paper requests can be sent to: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. A copy of the request should be provided to CBRE, Inc. at 4 West Red Oak Lane, White Plains, NY 10604.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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News



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

'Innovation of Flight'

The Steven Udvar-Hazy Center National Air and Space museum hosted its annual "Innovation of Flight," one of two events in which the museum attracts in excess of 15,000 visitors. Pilots were on hand to talk about the aircraft which were on display from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 17. Visitors were allowed to walk on the tarmac on the exterior of the museum grounds which connect to Dulles International Airport. Fairfax County Police department's helicopter was one of many helicopters on display for guests. Two of the crowd favorites were the F-16, and the C-17 which were on display for an up close personal experience for the guests. The C-17 (top) was left open so visitors could walk through and see first-hand how U.S. Military Service members are transported. The highlight of the day for many was seeing a B-2 Stealth Bomber (bottom) do two flyovers above the museum's grounds.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

Fundraiser. Shop at a Whole Foods Market located in Fair Lakes, Reston, Springfield, Tysons or Vienna and 5 percent of net sales will be donated to the Fairfax County Park Foundation to help Frying Pan Farm Park, Hidden Pond Nature Center, and other Fairfax County park programs.

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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.

'Music to Do Good and Help People'

FROM PAGE 5

singing songs and helping a couple of them write original songs, and Cathy recorded them," said Halterman.

One in five Zambian children became orphans after that country's AIDS epidemic; and in 25 percent of households there — some 625,000 — the primary caregiver is a child. And there's such widespread poverty in Zambia that it's extremely difficult for orphans to find a sustainable source of income.

"The Zambian community doesn't support employment opportunities for the younger generation, so they have to find their own things to do," said Halterman. "So EOH works on sustainability projects for them, and I'm adding in my project to theirs." (To see a video about it, go to <https://www.gofundme.com/project-joy>).

Via Project Joy, he plans to produce a full-fledged documentary on the entire process of teaching the children new, original songs, plus dances to their music. Then the goal is to have them perform



Don Halterman with some of the orphans.

their songs and dances at various community churches and functions throughout Zambia — but mainly in Lusaka, the capital and most-modernized part of the country.

"These kids have no money or material goods, yet they're happier and more joyful than anyone in the U.S.," said Halterman. "It just takes me aback. I believe it's be-

cause of the joy of the Lord — only He can give it to you. We all have joy as humans; but when you connect it with God, it bursts out so other people can see it."

Ironically, he said, when he was a boy in Sunday School, he remembers saying, "I'll do anything for God; just don't send me to Africa to be a missionary." Said Halterman: "It was just the un-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DON HALTERMAN

Project Joy will help Zambian orphans make a living through music.

known, so it was scary to me then. So this project is God's sense of humor."

Basically, he said, "It's tough over there. These kids have so little; their parents have either died of AIDS or left them. But I want them to have a sustainable, meaningful life so they can be part of the solution, not the problem."

EOH supports more than 100

orphans there, and 25 have been identified as having the skills to perform the songs and dances. "We'll produce seven, original songs — two of them written by one of the orphans and five written by me," said Halterman. "They'll have reggae and island rhythms."

They'll be recorded as both a CD and a DVD, and people who donate at the Website, www.musicprojectjoy.com, will be able to download them. "It's all tax-deductible because we teamed up with a nonprofit called PCI — Public Communications Inc. — which will collect the donations and send 100 percent of the money to Project Joy," said Halterman.

"There are no salaries; but we need to raise \$58,000 to help us travel to Zambia, produce the CDs and DVDs and prepare the kids to go out and perform."

Then the orphans can both sell the CDs and perform for money, which will provide an income for them. On the DVDs, available to contributors, each song will be accompanied by a video.

"We plan to return to Zambia in August, for about two weeks, to do the project," said Halterman. "The kids are excited about it; they love singing and interacting with others."

And I did the music tracks to go with their songs."

He's hoping people will contribute to the cause at the website because, unlike many other projects, this one will have an immediate, positive impact on the children's lives. "They could do a concert the week after we leave," he said. "And this is a way people can help kids in Africa, even if they can't go there. They can still be an integral part of these orphans' lives and really make a huge difference."

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