



# Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

From left are Jill Garcia of California and Oakton residents Sofia Upchurch, 8, her mother, Natalia Upchurch, Andrew Upchurch, 1, Nathaniel Upchurch, 3, and father, Chris Upchurch at Holy Transfiguration Church's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.

## Cultures Meet, Blend at Middle Eastern Food Festival

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## Democratic-Endorsed School Board Candidate Wins

**Keys-Gamarra overcomes Republican-advantage in low-turnout August.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**G**uardian ad litem and Fairfax County Planning Commission member Karen Keys-Gamarra swamped Republican Chris Grisafe and two other candidates in a special election Aug. 29, one that Democrats say is a sign of strength for their party heading into the fall. The seat was vacated by Republican-endorsed former School Board member Jeanette Hough in May, days before the deadline for the race to be on the ballot in November. Democrats cried foul, attacking the Republicans throughout the campaign for trying to rig the vote by engineering an August special election so the voters would be older and whiter and ostensibly more inclined to vote Republican than the much larger pool of voters in November.

"It backfired," said at-large School Board member Ryan McElveen, adding that the cost to taxpayers was about \$300,000 for the special election. "That became the narrative, and it's what people were talking about."

After it was clear that she had won more than 60 percent of the vote, Keys-Gamarra arrived to a raucous crowd of campaign volunteers and party faithful assembled at the Elks Lodge in Pine Ridge. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam introduced the victorious Democrat with a speech that some in the crowd compared to the kind of delivery popularized by professional wrestlers, a newfound sense of ebullience for the typically buttoned-down candidate for governor. Keys-Gamarra thanked those who worked on her campaign without the benefit of a list, which she said she said she had been too busy to

write.

"Today is so much bigger than me," said Keys-Gamarra. "This sends a message that every student, every citizen, deserves a voice."

**ON THE CAMPAIGN** trail, Keys-Gamarra focused on a theme of leveling the playing field for students across the county. She would frequently say that all students deserve the same opportunities no matter what ZIP code they live in. That was a message that resonated with voters in Virginia's most populous county, which has pockets of poverty scattered around some of the wealthiest neighborhoods in the county. Supporters say that was the right message for an at-large seat on the School Board, which represents all parts of the county.

"Karen was really focused on this issue of equity," said Tamara Derenak Kaufax, who represents the Lee District on the School Board. "She understands that poverty brings challenges, and that was something she talked about at every campaign appearance."

Some Democrats were worried that the controversy surrounding the recent vote on renaming J.E.B. Stuart High School might undermine Keys-Gamarra, who agreed with those wanting to change the name. But as the precinct numbers rolled in Tuesday night, it became clear that issue might not have been the flashpoint some had feared.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WÖRKER

**Karen Keys-Gamarra won the special election to fill the open school board seat vacated by Jeanette Hough.**

### Election Results

- ♦ Karen Keys-Gamarra: 41,436 votes, 64 percent
- ♦ Chris Grisafe: 21,315 votes, 33 percent
- ♦ Michael Owens: 1,408 votes, 2 percent
- ♦ Sandra Allen: 787 votes, 1 percent

**"Today is so much bigger than me. This sends a message that every student, every citizen, deserves a voice."**

**— Karen Keys-Gamarra**

Democrats were closely watching precincts like Belvedere and Barcroft for a sense that voters there might be pushing back against the move to strip the high school of its controversial Confederate name.

"If there was going to be a backlash, that's where you would have seen it," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11). "But she won those precincts."

Campaign manager Peter Dougherty acknowledged that turnout for the August special election was low compared to November. But he said the numbers this week exceeded his expectations, which he as-

sumed would be maybe 6 percent or 7 percent of registered voters. Instead turnout was closer to 10 percent. Keys-Gamarra ended up with more than 41,000 votes — 64 percent, almost doubling the turnout of her Republican-endorsed opponent. Dougherty said he was surprised to see his candidate win in precincts like Fairfax Station, which is traditionally GOP territory.

"I think this shows that Democrats are really excited right now," said Dougherty. "Voters wanted someone who would stand up to what we saw in Charlottesville, and I think Karen's message was the antidote to that."

## Vienna Resident Launches 'Hot New Release'

**Nan Kilmer Baker to make her first author appearance at Bards Alley in Vienna Friday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**riters ask all the time, "What are my chances of getting published?" Fact is the question is not about being published anymore. In today's markets of self-publishing companies and publishing boutiques, the more relevant question is, "What are the chances of people buying my book?" It is not a lottery, luck, or even discovering the effective keywords to drive consumers to an author's hardcover or e-

book. Whether a book sells or not, ultimately comes down to an author's ability to write, to present a polished product, a good story, and to stay the course.

Nan Kilmer Baker is the newly published author of "Naked Joy," her first book and one Amazon ranks as a "Hot New Release" in its Humorous Essays and Memoir categories. Amazon customers like it too. Reviewers rate it five stars out of five stars. So how did Baker write a book that ended up with such acclaim and why is she ready to give her first author appearance on Friday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. at Bards Alley, 110 Church Street

NW, Vienna? Simply put, Baker has been writing for years and has learned how to do it well.

In her author biography, Baker reports she began writing as a young girl and never looked back. She then moved on to being a ghostwriter, a copywriter, and then onto her "dependably quirky blog."

When asked by how she came to write "Naked Joy," Baker replied, "I began writing 'Naked Joy' over a decade ago. I worked intermittently, taking time off to relocate several times while working various jobs, which resulted in some good material for my book,



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRESTON BAKER

**Vienna resident Nan Kilmer Baker is the author of "Naked Joy," a book of humorous, quirky essays that follow her life adventures as a small town girl turned world traveler who eventually settles in Vienna, Virginia where she experiences "reverse cultural shock."**

I might add."

Monica Yeonas is a former classmate and friend of Baker. "I found her collection of essays great fun to read," Yeonas wrote in her review. "By the way, Baker

SEE VIENNA AUTHOR, PAGE 8

# OPINION

## Disparity, Poverty Hidden by Communities' Wealth

**“How hard would it be for someone to invite me in for a bowl of soup?”**

COMMENTARY

BY STEPHANIE BERKOWITZ  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE

The U.S. Census Bureau confirmed in July what we already know: many Northern Virginia residents are doing well financially. In fact, Loudoun County, the City of Falls Church and Fairfax County are the three wealthiest jurisdictions in the U.S. while Arlington and Prince William counties and the City of Fairfax also rank in the top 20.

The new Census Bureau numbers mask the fact that there are pockets of poverty throughout our region, and many of our neighbors are struggling.

Having worked at Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) for 18 years, I have met countless residents who come to us for help finding affordable housing, food, healthcare, medications and job training. Without support, these issues continue to negatively impact the families around us, creating larger barriers to self-sufficiency and the opportunity to thrive in our booming region.

I'm thinking of Zaheer Iqbal, who emigrated to the U.S. from Pakistan with a master's degree in English literature, a Fulbright scholar-



ship and having worked with the U.S. military in Pakistan fighting the Taliban. In spite of his experience and education, the best job he could find was cleaning toilets and working as a cashier at an Annandale gas station. (Did I mention he also speaks seven languages?) Zaheer “graduated” to a job as a hotel night clerk in Fairfax, leaving that job every morning to go to our six-month Training Futures job program. Training Futures saw his potential and helped him make valuable connections within the business community.

He recently landed a job with a government contractor. But it took Zaheer four years of sleepless nights and uncertainty about how he would support himself and his twin boys to get to that point.

When I think about the disparity in our region, I think of the 77-year old woman who has been coming to our Hunger Resource Center in Manassas on and off for 20 years as her situation changes. (She asked that I not use her name because she doesn't want her family to know she continues to rely on the food bank.) When she was raising her son as a single mother and working as a waitress, there were times when she had to choose between paying the mortgage and feeding her family. At one point, her house was in foreclosure. Today, she is living off her monthly social security check, which doesn't cover her basic expenses. She is drawn

to the fruits and vegetables at the Hunger Resource Center and, on the days they have eggs, she “celebrates” by making an omelet. As a senior living alone, she says she feels invisible to her neighbors. “How hard would it be for someone to check up on me or invite me in for a bowl of soup?” she asks through tears.

And when I think of the challenges facing so many of our neighbors I am thinking of Carla Rocha, who grew up in Reston and graduated from high school in Sterling. All she wanted was a safe, affordable place to live with her son. Instead, she lived in her car, slept on friends' floors and stayed in transitional housing provided by Second Story – one of many outstanding nonprofits in Northern Virginia that provide a safety net for vulnerable children and youth.

Carla moved five times in six years. “I could adapt easily,” she told me. “It was harder on my son. That is a lot of change for a kid.”

With support from nonprofits like NVFS and Second Story, Carla has a great job and has been able to buy her own place. But for many other residents, living wage jobs and affordable housing remain elusive.

For nearly 100 years, NVFS has been committed to helping vulnerable residents become self-sufficient. If you are proud to call Northern Virginia home, help us in creating a stronger community where all families and individuals can thrive. Maybe you can start by inviting someone in for a bowl of soup.

*The writer is president and CEO of Northern Virginia Family Service.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Fomenting Disunity and Hate

To the Editor:

I was appalled to read the letter (“American Values,” Aug. 30) by a group of Democrat politicians, libeling Donald Trump. No fair-minded person could honestly construe anything Mr. Trump said as a “defense of Nazism.”

Mr. Trump's initial response was: “We condemn in the strongest possible terms this egregious display of hatred, bigotry, and violence on many sides.” Who but an actual fascist could disagree?

Trump then re-stated: “Racism is evil — and those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists, and other hate groups are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans.” No honest person — politician or not — could interpret this as support of Nazism.

As to the facts in Charlottesville, many of the original protestors were not neo-Nazis or Klansmen, but simply there to protest the re-

moval of Robert E. Lee's statue from the park named after him. Similarly, not all the counter-protestors were club-wielding, rock-throwing antifa — some just believed the statue should be removed. So again, Mr. Trump was undeniably correct that some [not all] on both sides were fine people.

It's hard to avoid the conclusion that the Democrat politicians who signed the defamatory letter to the Connection are primarily interested in fomenting disunity and hate by hyping fears of neo-Nazis among the voters.

**Michael Crawford**  
Great Falls

## For Tax Reform Benefiting All

To the Editor:

Trump wants to cut taxes for the rich who already have too much — who already translate their wealth into power to pervert our political and economic systems.

If Republicans are serious about tax reform, then why not go back to their favorite period in history — when Ike was president?

Under Ike's 90 percent top income tax, we had world-class living standards, science and research, public schools, road and media — we had Fairness Doctrine reporting with real investigative journalism.

Why? Because, instead of stealing from innocent hardworking Americans like my dad, the rich paid their fair share for membership in the society that benefits them most.

Go ahead and reform taxes, but do it to benefit all Americans, not just the top 1 percent.

**A.J. O'Brien**  
Herndon

## Deer Hunting Effects Misrepresented

To the Editor:

Did you receive a disturbing flyer in the mail about archery hunting in Fairfax County? The flyer displays a graphic depiction of a deer with an arrow through its face (from N.J.) and claims that

bowhunting is responsible for deer vehicle collisions (DVCs). This flyer from an anonymous source has raised many questions, as it was designed to do. However, the question you should be asking is: Are these claims true?

To not bury the lead, the answer is no. This flyer goes beyond a simple misunderstanding of ecological systems or DVCs. It falsely represents an analysis of VDOT data and takes a single sentence from the scientific literature out of context with the dubious intent of convincing you that the science supports their position when it does not.

The VDOT data used in the flyer were acquired through a Freedom of Information Act request. The DVCs in the data were mapped against the Fairfax County Deer Management Program in order to investigate the flyer's claim that 92 percent (287 of 310) of the DVCs occur within 1 mile of a park undergoing deer management. We found that claim was false. In order to include 287 DVCs, we had to count DVCs within one and a half miles from parks, not one mile.

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Vienna & Oakton  
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# LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

Why does that matter? First, it is a lie in the flyer and shows the author's willingness to reject reality and replace it with their own fantasy. Second, 92 percent of Fairfax County is within one and half miles of a property in the Deer Management Program. Therefore, 92 percent of the DVCs happen on 92 percent of the area of Fairfax County. The VDOT data do not support the claim that DVCs increase because of deer management activities.

There is a research project in the City of Fairfax investigating an experimental deer sterilization method. The flyer claims that only three DVCs occurred in the city during the time of the study. However, the VDOT data shows seven. The flyer goes on to attempt to claim that the sterilization study has decreased DVCs. To investigate this claim, I used VDOT data from 2005 to 2016 for the City of Fairfax. Prior to the study being implemented in 2014, the City of Fairfax averaged 1.3 DVCs per year (12 DVCs in 9 years). During the study, the City of Fairfax averaged 2.3 DVCs per year (7 in 3 years). The number of DVCs has actually increased during the time of the deer sterilization study. However, as an honest man, I cannot suggest that this slight increase is a result of the sterilization project. The increase, while real, could be caused by any number of factors.

The flyer goes on to claim that an article published in the Journal of Wildlife Man-

agement in 1985 supports the long-held belief by those that oppose hunting that bowhunting actually increases deer populations. The article in question is "Reproductive Dynamics and Disjunct White-tailed Deer Herds in Florida" by Richter and Labisky. This study did find that female deer in hunted populations had an insignificant increase in fawns versus deer in non-hunted populations. Why? Here is where we lose the authors of the flyer because we have to apply a little ecological knowledge, or maybe read the entire article they misrepresent. This article goes on to explain that hunted deer populations are more healthy deer because they are in better balance with their environment and are better capable of reproducing than non-hunted deer because non-hunted deer are less healthy. That does not mean that hunting will increase the deer population.

In fact, hunting reduces the deer population because it overcomes the slight increase in reproduction associated with healthy deer. Hunting is how deer populations are managed in Virginia and the declining deer herd in the state is testament to the efficacy of the method.

There are other false claims in the anti-hunting flyer, but I hope that I have made my point. Perhaps there is a reason the author of the flyer did not sign their work. I will sign mine.

**Kevin R Rose**  
Certified Wildlife Biologist



**Colleen Webb**  
**Journalist**  
**EXPLORER**

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# Healthy and in Season

From juicy apples to hearty cabbage, how to reap the health benefits of fall produce.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**ith her one-year old daughter in tow, Ellen Knight poked at apples and caressed peppers on a Sunday morning at the Bethesda Farmers Market. The activity is part of her weekend ritual, searching for the freshest, most flavorful seasonal fruits and vegetables to use in meals throughout the rest of the week.

"I'm a little neurotic about produce and farmers markets," she said. "I try to only buy at farmers markets and only buy what's in season. I'm excited about fall and the new changes in what's coming in from the local farms."

As the weather gets cooler and temperatures drop, the bumper crops of fall can be found in flavorful abundance at farmers markets, grocery stores and even backyard gardens. Among the most nutritious and readily available produce are cabbage, peppers, squash, beets and other root vegetables, says Chef Pete Snaith of Culinary Cooking School in Vienna.

"The fall harvest is a glorious time for peak-of-the-season vegetables and fruits," he said. "Farmers markets will be piled high ...."

With a flavor that can be the basis of both sweet and savory dishes, sweet potatoes are



PHOTO COURTESY OF CULINARIA COOKING SCHOOL

**This roasted beet salad is an example of a healthy preparation method for fall produce, says Chef Pete Snaith of Culinary Cooking School.**

one of the most nutritious foods to debut in fall, says nutritionist Allison Speer of the Speer Nutrition Group in Alexandria. "They're loaded with potassium and vitamin E," she said. "In fall there's a greater variety available like Purple Stokes, Garnet and Hannah."

Choose small or medium-sized sweet potatoes that feel heavier than they look, advises Speer. "Store them in a dark place and keep them cool, but not cold," she said. "Letting them get cold ruins the flavor."

Winter squash is an umbrella term for a wide-range of squash varieties with thick, tough skins, such as butternut and acorn. Most readily available beginning in early

fall and slow to go bad, winter squash can be stored whole for several weeks, says Arlington-based dietitian Melissa Hawkins, RD. "They are full of vitamins A and C," she said. "The also have a lot of potassium and fiber, which can make you feel full and satisfied for a longer time."

Hawkins also touts the versatility of winter squash. "I like to use butternut squash or pumpkin in soup," she said. "Acorn squash can be made into a puree. One of my favorite things to do is to spiralize winter squash to make spaghetti or noodle-like



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Cabbage, a cousin of the trendy superfood kale, is packed with fiber and vitamins C and B6.**

strands that I use instead of pasta. It's super easy and deeply satisfying."

Though its trendier cousins kale and Brussels sprouts get more hype, Hawkins says that cabbage is a versatile superfood that should not be overlooked. "There are so many varieties like Savoy and Napa and it's full of vitamins C and B6 and fiber," she

SEE HEALTHY, PAGE 7

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PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**Peppers, such as these from the Bethesda Farmers Market, are found in abundance during fall.**

## Healthy and in Season

FROM PAGE 6

said. “Leafy greens in general, like chard, mustards and kale, are nutrition powerhouses and are at their best in the fall.”

Cabbage and other greens are low and calories and can be prepared in a myriad of ways, adds Speer. “One of the simplest ways to cook them is to roast them or stir fry them,” she said. “Cabbage can also be stuffed or turned into slaw.”

Most commonly seen in dark red, beets come a variety of colors like white, pink and orange. They’re earthy, sweet and nutritious, says Hawkins. “Eating beets is almost like taking a big multivitamin,” she said. “You’re getting vitamins, A, B and C, plus iron, potassium, folic acid and beta-carotene.”

Beets can be eaten raw or prepared in a variety of ways, says Speer. “You can roast them, puree them or even make beet chips,” she said. “They can stain your hands and clothing so you have to be careful when handling them.”

### Roasted Beet Salad

2 each, red and golden beets, wash but not peeled.  
2 TBSP, olive oil  
3 oranges, peeled and segmented  
1/4 cup, fresh mint, chiffonade  
4 oz., feta cheese, sliced into 1/2” cubes or crumbled\*  
1 mango, sliced in 1/2” cubes  
micro greens or pea shoots (optional)

Vinaigrette  
1/2 cup, olive oil  
2 TBSP., balsamic vinegar  
1 TBSP., orange juice  
salt and pepper to taste

1. Preheat the oven to 400° F.
2. Coat the beets with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Place the beets in a roasting dish and cover. Place in the oven and roast for about 1 to 1 and a half hours or until tender. Remove from the beets from the oven and let cool. Peel when cooled. Cut into 1/2” pieces
3. While the beets are roasting, prepare the vinaigrette. Place the ingredients in a bowl and whisk to combine.
4. Place the beets, mango, orange, and pea shoots in separate bowls. Drizzle each with a tablespoon of vinaigrette and toss to coat.
5. Arrange the salad attractively on the plate. Top with pea shoots and drizzle with the vinaigrette and top with the mint.

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## VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

*The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from Aug. 25-Sept. 1, 2017.*

### INCIDENTS

**Fraud** — 300 Block Maple Avenue West Between Jan. 21, noon and Aug. 30, noon. A business owner reported that someone cashed two checks that were payable to her business without her consent.

**Fraud** — 500 Block of John Marshall Drive, NE Between May 1, 12:01 a.m. and Aug. 30, 6:19 p.m. A citizen reported that someone has been using his personal information since May 2017 and has been repeatedly attempting to open credit accounts under his name.

**Vehicle Tampering** — 500 Block Marshall Road, SW Aug. 8, between 12:01 a.m. and 6:34 p.m. A citizen reported that someone entered his neighbor’s vehicles sometime during the night.

**Trespassing** — Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St. NE, Aug. 16, 9:10 p.m. A subject was trespassed from all town parks.

**Grand Larceny** — Aditi Spice Depot, 409 Maple Ave. East,

Between Aug. 17, 9 p.m. and Aug. 18, 3:30 p.m. A business owner reported that someone stole some parts from his air conditioning unit.

**Petit Larceny** — CVS, 337 Maple Ave. East, Aug. 25 between 1:19 p.m. and 1:22 p.m. An employee reported that someone attempted to steal some items. The subject left the scene prior to police arrival. Later, in the same night, police were able to locate the subject. The subject was transported back to the CVS. He was trespassed from CVS. The CVS employee did not want to prosecute the subject.

**Found Property** — Beulah Road NE / Church Street NE, Aug. 25, 6 p.m. A citizen turned in some property he found on the sidewalk.

**Animal Case** — Hope Advance Veterinary Center, 140 Park St. SE, Aug. 25 between 7:15 p.m. and 7:20 p.m. An employee was bitten by a dog.

**Arrest** — ABC Violation - Valley Drive SE / Branch Road SE, Aug. 17, 11:54 p.m. Officers were dispatched to the area for a loud party call. While searching the area two juveniles were located. Both juveniles had been drinking alcohol. They were given verbal counseling and released to their parents.

## JOIN THE FIGHT FOR ALZHEIMER’S FIRST SURVIVOR.

At the Alzheimer’s Association Walk to End Alzheimer’s®, people carry flowers representing their connection to Alzheimer’s — a disease that currently has no cure. But what if one day there was a flower for Alzheimer’s first survivor? What if there were millions of them? Help make that beautiful day happen by joining us for the world’s largest fundraiser to fight the disease. Register today at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

**Walk to End Alzheimer’s in Northern Virginia**  
**Reston Town Center**  
**September 24 | 2:00 pm**



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## Public Meetings

### Fall Transportation Meeting

You are invited to participate in public meetings held by the Commonwealth Transportation Board. The meetings will begin with an open house followed by a town hall style meeting. The open house will provide information on various transportation initiatives including proposed changes to Virginia's project prioritization process (SMART SCALE), recently funded projects in the Six-Year Improvement Program, Virginia's Statewide Transportation Improvement Program, VTrans Multimodal Transportation Plan, and Scenario Planning and Freight plans. Representatives from the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment, Departments of Transportation and Rail and Public Transportation, along with Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Planning District Commissions, and Transit organizations will be in attendance to highlight their transportation programs and to discuss your ideas and concerns on Virginia's transportation network. The open house will be followed by a town hall session, where you can engage in discussion and ask questions about the various initiatives. Comments will be accepted informally at the meeting and may also be submitted via email, or online.

### Meeting Dates and Locations

Open House begins at 4:00 pm in each of the locations:

<b>Tuesday August 29, 2017</b> Germanna Community College Center for Workforce & Community Education 10000 Germanna Point Drive Fredericksburg, VA 22408	<b>Thursday, August 31, 2017</b> The Prior Center at UVA-Wise 437 Stadium Drive Wise, VA 24293	<b>Monday, September 11, 2017</b> Culpeper District Office Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
<b>Thursday, September 14, 2017</b> Chesapeake Conference Center 700 Conference Center Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	<b>Monday, September 18, 2017</b> NOVA District Office The Potomac Room 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030	<b>Monday, October 2, 2017</b> Hilton Garden Inn Richmond South/ Southpark 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
<b>Wednesday, October 4, 2017</b> Holiday Inn Lynchburg 601 Main Street Lynchburg, VA 24504	<b>Tuesday, October 10, 2017</b> Blue Ridge Community College Plecker Center for Continuing Education One College Lane Weyers Cave, VA 24486	<b>Thursday, October 12, 2017</b> Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive Roanoke, VA 24017

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/fallmeetings/> beginning August 29, 2017.

If you cannot attend a meeting, you may also send your comments on highway projects to Infrastructure Investment Director, VDOT, 1401 E. Broad St., Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov](mailto:SixYearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov) and on rail, public transportation and transportation demand management to Public Information Officer, DRPT, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, Virginia 23219, or [DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov](mailto:DRPTPR@drpt.Virginia.gov). Comments will be accepted until October 20, 2017.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIDGET PARKE

Vienna author Nan Kilmer Baker stands with Bob Gregg, Head of Green Hedges School, Vienna in front of Kilmer House located on the school grounds. Baker is related to the poet, Joyce Kilmer who was the father of Kenton Kilmer, one of the co-founders of Green Hedges School.

## Vienna Author Comes to Bards Alley

FROM PAGE 3

was known around our Gonzaga campus as a prolific writer and was not above whipping off a paper or two for a friend, in exchange for a beer or maybe a ride downtown."

"NAKED JOY" is a collection of mostly humorous and witty essays. More than a few of the stories are set in Northern Virginia, such as "The Spy Next Door" and "Moping and Moping," a story that describes Baker's short employment period working at a Tysons Mall store she called RESTRO-VERSIONS in the book.

Baker shared she considered that she might have a gene for writing if such even exists. Baker said she is related to the poet (Alfred) Joyce Kilmer, author of Trees. "I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree..." Robert E. Gregg III is the Head of Green Hedges School in Vienna. Gregg wrote in his review of the book, "[Nan Kilmer Baker's] grandfather, Freeman Lyle Kilmer, was a cousin of the famous American poet, Joyce Kilmer.... father of Kenton Kilmer... [who] founded our school, Green Hedges."

Baker's success is probably due more to her willingness to perfect her art, stick with it, and do the hard work rather than a possible genetic disposition. On

the acknowledgment page in "Naked Joy," Baker wrote, "No one ever said it would be easy."

Judith O'Brien is the author of the romance novel "Ashton's Bride." In her review of the book, O'Brien gave insight into the plot of "Naked Joy." "Enter the quirky, beguiling world of "Naked Joy" where an eccentric cast of characters is waiting to delight, charm and occasionally horrify..."

Steve Briglia is the Vienna Town Attorney and former Interim Mayor and Town Council Member. Briglia gave high praise to Baker when he reviewed her book: "Readers who grew up, live, or were ever stationed in the D.C. area will easily relate to Nan's life experiences.... those not familiar with the D.C. area would surely and incredulously say, 'Oh yeah right.' Sure, Nan worked as a surveillance agent... I especially loved the chapters of Nan's life in Vienna, as it is a quiet small town that occasionally makes international news."

**TO FIND OUT** why the book is named "Naked Joy," prospective readers can meet the author on Friday, Sept. 8, 7 p.m. at Bards Alley, in Vienna at 110 Church Street. "Naked Joy" is available as a paperback (\$14.95) and hardcover (\$25.95). The book can also be purchased through Amazon.



# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

### 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](http://Historicviennainc.org)

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

## SEPT. 7-9

**Quarterly Book Sale.** 11 a.m.-8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Tysons Library, 7700 and 7704 Leesburg Pike. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Visit [tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com](mailto:tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com) or 703-338-3307 for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

**Virginia Indian Festival.** 10 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Activities include hands-on activities and live demonstrations. Additional activities include building a dugout canoe, and a visit to a marketplace of American Indian crafts, pottery and jewelry. \$8. Call 703-759-9018 or visit online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park)

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 10

### The Old Dominion

**Chrysanthemum Society.** 2:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. A discussion and demonstration on preparing and presenting Mums for a flower show. Free. Call 703-560- 8776 or visit [www.odscmums.org](http://www.odscmums.org).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

**Riverboat Cruise.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) 541 Marshall Road SW, Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna hosts day trip to Georgetown Harbor via riverboat cruise from Alexandria to Georgetown for shopping, exploring and lunch. Will return by riverboat to Alexandria, then the bus trip home to Vienna. \$85 includes transportation and riverboat cruise. Call 703-281-0538 or visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org).

**Live after Five.** 6-9 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Hors d'oeuvres and local musicians highlight the tour. Visit

## Vivian Attermeyer

**Painting Demonstration on Thursday, Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Learn how award-winning artist Vivian Attermeyer creates her original artworks capturing different seasons and light conditions. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) or call 703-319-3971 for more.**



[www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 14

**Remembering Jerry Halpin.** 7:30-9 a.m. at J. Gilbert's Wood-fired Steaks & Seafood, 6930 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Chaired by John Ulfelder, former West\*Group SVP and Partner, currently Dranesville Planning Commissioner. \$20, future members \$30. Visit [www.jgilberts.com](http://www.jgilberts.com) or call 703-893-1034 for more.

**Painting Demonstration.** 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Learn how award-winning artist Vivian Attermeyer creates her original artworks capturing different seasons and light conditions. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) or call 703-319-3971 for more.

## SEPT. 14-16

**Fall Book Sale.** Various times at Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/friends/ok/) or call 703-281-0300 for more.

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

**Chillin' on Church.** 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games, Chump Change band playing rock. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

**American Legion Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry, pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580

**John Eaton in Concert.** 2 p.m. at Vinson Hall Auditorium, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Jazz pianist, historian and local legend John Eaton will perform a concert of Great American Songbook tunes. \$20/\$14 MCC district residents. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) for more.

**Food Art Festival.** noon- 4 p.m. at Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro, 2750 Gallows Road, Vienna. The Second Annual Halstead Square Dunn Loring Metro Food, Wine & Art Festival combines wine tastings, culinary treats, pop up art exhibits, and free kids activities. Free. Visit [eventsathalsteadsquare.com](http://eventsathalsteadsquare.com).

## SEPT. 16-17

**Bonsai Show and Auction.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Sponsored by the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society and the Potomac Bonsai Association. Visit [www.potomacbonsai.com](http://www.potomacbonsai.com) for more.



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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips

**Dave & Buster's**

Friday, Sept. 8, 3:30-10 p.m.

\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Va. 22101



### The Old Firehouse Family Events Family Fun



Friday, Sept. 15, 7-9 p.m.

\$10/\$5 MCC district residents

1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Va. 22101



### Clear the Clutter!

**McLean Community  
Fall Garage Sale  
Featuring a Kids' Corner**

Saturday, Sept. 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Free Admission

1420 Beverly Rd., McLean, Va. 22101

### Presented by The Alden John Eaton in Concert

Saturday, Sept. 16, 2 p.m.

\$20/\$14 MCC district residents

Vinson Hall Auditorium

6251 Old Dominion Dr.

McLean, Va. 22101



### The Old Firehouse Teacher Workday Trip Kings Dominion

Friday, Sept. 22, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

\$80/\$70 MCC district residents

1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean, Va. 22101

### Presented by The Alden The Princess Bride Quote-Along Movie

Friday, Sept. 22, 7 p.m.

Admission and popcorn are free.

Prop bags are \$5 each.

The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.,  
McLean, Va. 22101



The McLean Community Center  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)  
Home of the Alden Theatre  
[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)



Administrative Offices  
6631 Old Dominion Dr.  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



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# NEWS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOV

**From left: Pastor Kyungsuk Cho, Wesley United Methodist Church; Rev. Dustin Parson Schwarz, Emmaus United Church of Christ; Pastor Jeff Haugh, Vale UMC; Pastor Austin Almaguer, Vienna Baptist Church; Rev. Kristin McBrayer, Emmaus United Church of Christ; Pastor Carl Sweatman, Antioch Christian Church; Rev. Jamie Samilio, Holy Cross Episcopal; Pastor CJ Cousins, Vienna Seventh Day Adventist; Rev. William Metzger, Our Lady of Good Counsel; Michelle Scott, ED Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna; and Rev. John Dolan, Our Lady of Good Counsel.**



## Local Clergy and Guests Gather for a Minister's Breakfast Networking Event

This summer the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) hosted a Minister's Breakfast with local clergy attending. The purpose of SCOV's Minister's Breakfast was to provide an opportunity for local clergy to introduce the "old and the new" pastors currently serving in the Northern Virginia area to each other and to share the many services offered by the Shepherd's Center. The event was sponsored by The Arbor Terrace of Fairfax Senior Living and held in the Vienna Baptist Church fellowship hall. For more information about SCOV's services and programs for seniors (50+), visit their website at [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/scov.org](http://www.facebook.com/scov.org).

Founded in 1998, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is a volunteer-based nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for adults (50+) to seek rewarding lives and to live independently in their homes for as long as possible. The unique approach employed by SCOV has also allowed for mature adults to volunteer their time and skills providing vital services to the more vulnerable seniors needing assistance. In 2018 SCOV will be celebrating twenty years of service to the community.

As the country's population is living longer and oftentimes isolated from family support, "aging in place" becomes a challenge. The concept of "Seniors

Helping Seniors" truly defines the spirit and purpose of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Their personal enrichment and volunteer opportunities reaches more than 3,000 older adults (50+) in the region.

Each year more than 250 volunteers at SCOV serve as medical drivers, companion drivers, friendly callers and visitors, health and wellness educators, office assistants, fundraisers, and grant writers. Volunteers also run programs such as SCOV's Lunch n' Life, Adventures in Learning, trips and outings, special events, and the caregivers' support group and caregivers treat event. Please LIKE and SHARE their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/scov.org](http://www.facebook.com/scov.org)

Brought back by popular demand, SCOV's signature fundraiser to be held on Sunday, Oct. 22, 2017, 3 p.m. will again feature the Capitol Steps – Making DC laugh for over 35 years. Tickets are \$35. Organizers are suggesting tickets be purchased early as this show is expected to sell out. Visit [www.scov.org/fundraiser-tickets](http://www.scov.org/fundraiser-tickets) or call 703-281-0538. Sponsorships are still available. Visit [www.scov.org/Fundraiser-Sponsorship](http://www.scov.org/Fundraiser-Sponsorship) to view the corporate benefits provided with a sponsorship.

To volunteer, donate or learn more about how you can help, visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or contact the office at 703-281-0538, [office@scov.org](mailto:office@scov.org).

## Senior Center to Host David E. Hoffman, Author

The Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) will welcome David E. Hoffman as its guest speaker for Oct. 17 event. Hoffman is an American writer and a contributing editor at the Washington Post and has been a journalist for 30 years. He won a Pulitzer Prize in 2010 for a book about the legacy of the nuclear arms race.

Hoffman came to Washington, D.C., in 1977 to work for the Capitol Hill News Service. He covered Ronald Reagan's 1980 presidential campaign. In 1982 he joined the Washington Post to help cover the Reagan White House; he also covered the first two years of the George H.W. Bush presidency. His White House coverage won three national journalism awards. Later, he was diplomatic correspondent at the time the Soviet Union collapsed, and then served as Jerusalem correspondent, covering the Oslo

peace accords. From 1995 to 2001, he served as Moscow Bureau Chief. He was also the Foreign Editor and Assistant Managing Editor for Foreign News. His first book was "The Oligarchs: The Wealth and Power in the New Russia" followed by "Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and its Dangerous Legacy," and "The Billion Dollar Spy: A True Story of Cold War Espionage and Betrayal."

The Oct. 17 event will be held at St. Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls, 9220 Georgetown Pike, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and includes lunch. Reservations are required, contact Karen Emami at [Karen.emami@globalinfotek.com](mailto:Karen.emami@globalinfotek.com) or call 703-938-6411. Visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

The event sponsor is Adams-Green Funeral Home and Crematory, family owned and operated since 1885, 721 Elden St., Herndon.



## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### SENIOR VOLUNTEERS

**RSVP**, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at [chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org) or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit [www.rsvpnova.org](http://www.rsvpnova.org).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 7

**Shepherd's Center Caregivers Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This support group is designed for caregivers of adult family members. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838, [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

**Adventures In Learning.** 10 a.m.-noon at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Open House to see what's on the Shepherd's Center's fall semester of Adventures in Learning. Call 703-281-0538 or visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org).

### MONDAY/SEPT. 11

**Grupo Hispano de Unity of Fairfax.** 7-9 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, Conference Room, Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. This new ongoing Spanish-speaking group will celebrate spirituality with music, messages from The Daily Word, guided meditations and prayers. Weekly event every Monday. All are welcome. Free. Email [grupohispano@unityoffairfax.org](mailto:grupohispano@unityoffairfax.org) for more.

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 12

**MCC Finance Committee Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Residents of Dranesville District 1-A are invited to attend a meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12, when the full MCC Governing Board will meet as a Finance Committee of the Whole to work on the details of the Center's FY 2019 draft budget proposal. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org) for more.

**Emergency Preparedness Class.** The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will offer CERT 129, a basic training class, on seven Tuesday evenings in September and October at the McLean Fire Station, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean beginning Sept. 12 from 7-10:30 p.m. Students are required to attend all seven class sessions and the final. This training does not require any physical strength or agility. For more information and to apply, visit [bit.ly/2tXrP3L](http://bit.ly/2tXrP3L).

### IN-PERSON, TV DEBATES

**The League of Women Voters** of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will hold four in-person forums and three televised forums for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates. The League invited all certified candidates campaigning for office in their respective districts. At the in-person forums, question-and-answer sessions will be followed by an opportunity for informal conversations with individual candidates. The public and press are encouraged to attend. For more information about the candidates' priorities and positions, visit [www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org).

In-person forums:

- ♦ **Sunday, Sept. 17** at 2:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center: Hunters Woods Village Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston.
- ♦ **Thursday, Sept. 28** at 7 p.m. at Providence Community Center: 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax.

The televised forums at Fairfax County Public Access are on Channel 10 or livestreamed on YouTube "Inside Scoop Livestream." The public can submit questions by email to [theinsidescoopvtv@gmail.com](mailto:theinsidescoopvtv@gmail.com) or call 571-749-1142 between 7-8:30 p.m. Tune in on:

**Monday, Sept. 11** at 8 p.m.; **Monday, Sept. 18** at 8 p.m.; and **Monday, Oct. 2** at 8 p.m.

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

## Nothing To Do With Cancer, Almost



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How lucky am I? In the last two days, I have been the extremely lucky, though presumably random, recipient, of not one but two unsolicited phone calls offering me FREE accommodations at any number of Marriott and Hilton hotels, fairly reputable brands, I'd say. All I have to do is transport my wife, Dina, and myself to the agreed-upon hotel during the designated window of opportunity and voila, a semi-unencumbered vacation for two awaits. And believe me, the offer couldn't have come at a better time. Let's be honest, what more than a cure does a "terminal" cancer patient need than a reasonably priced, stress-free get away from his every day? Need I even characterize that previous question as rhetorical?

Now since I hung up rather quickly, I don't have all the details, other than their phone numbers of course. Because, as you might imagine, I still have a few questions I'd like answered — you know, to optimize the benefits/coordinate the timing of our vacation. But the 'unsolicited' nature of the call didn't enable me to organize my thoughts and ask all the appropriate questions. Nevertheless, the opportunity seems worthy of a follow-up phone call.

Ideally, what I'd like to do is bracket my vacation/air fare and the miscellaneous travel expenses I'm undoubtedly going to incur around the respective properties' availability. Meaning, I'd like to fly once and stay twice; staying in their respective properties in the same city/location switching out of Marriott after my first free weekend stay and then booking into the Hilton for my next free weekend stay (and I'd be willing to pay for my mid-week excursion during the transition). In effect, making the trip a two-for-one as opposed to a not-going-at-all. And in so arranging, using as much of corporate America's largess and marketing budget as is cleverly possible for a non-corporate America employee to exploit. Not having pursued this possible presumption quite yet because I've just had chemotherapy on Friday and I'm not really in the mood to tangle with a fast-talking, smooth operator, who though he/she may have my best travel plans at heart, may not exactly be feeling my strain. So I'm going to wait a few days until I regain my bearings — and patience, and tolerance and call them back unsolicited at a time convenient for me but possibly not so for them and see if we can make a deal.

Because, to tell you the truth, if I could coordinate two hotel reservations — along with all the amenities with which I'm likely to be showered for accepting these extraordinarily generous offers, combined with some free air miles I've accumulated with United Airlines/their travel partners, this indeed could be the trip that my oncologist encouraged us to take when he first delivered the life-changing/life-ending prognosis: "13 months to two years" back in late February 2009. Further adding that, before starting chemotherapy, was as good as I would likely feel for a long time. And as I have come to learn, the quality of my life is very important to my oncologist.

At that time however, I didn't feel the need and/or wasn't motivated to follow my oncologist's suggestion; I wanted to get started on my treatment. Now, eight and half years later, perhaps the timing is better, especially given that it presents itself at the beginning of a new Redskins football season. And if I may quote the late, great, former, head coach of the "Over the hill gang," George Allen: "The future is now." So let me sift through the offers this week and see if I can indeed take the "trip we've always dreamed of." I know it's often said that you can't go back. Maybe we can still go forward.

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





**From left: Jill Garcia of California and Oakton residents Sofia Upchurch, 8, her mother, Natalia Upchurch, Andrew Upchurch, 1, Nathaniel Upchurch, 3, and father, Chris Upchurch at Holy Transfiguration Church's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.**



PHOTOS BY COLIN STOECKER/THE CONNECTION

**From left: U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10); Ash Youssef, church member; Muhammad Akbar; and Ed Gillespie, Virginia gubernatorial candidate, at Holy Transfiguration's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.**

# Cultures Meet, Blend at Middle Eastern Food Festival

**McLean Transfiguration Church festival brings together communities.**

BY COLIN STOECKER  
THE CONNECTION

**F**ather Joseph Francavilla, a McLean resident, has been the pastor at Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in McLean for 45 years, and for 27 of those has been leading the Middle Eastern Food Festival at his church. The Middle Eastern Food Festival that took place Saturday and Sunday attracted community members, churchgoers, and politicians like U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) and gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie to enjoy the wonders of traditional Middle Eastern cooking in McLean.

The Middle Eastern food served symbolizes the bringing together of Holy Transfiguration and the local community, but it also represents the roots of Christians who brought their religion west where it was historically practiced in ancient places like Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, and Palestine.

"Sometimes people mistake our outreach for the notion of all middle easterners being Muslims. But this is not true, Christians are in the Middle East too and we want to



**Father Joseph Francavilla, pastor at Holy Transfiguration for 45 years poses for a picture at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.**

be conscious of our biblical past," said Francavilla.

The festival was focused around the food, and there was a lot of it handmade treats



**Pastries made by women of Holy Transfiguration Church for 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday. Baklava, Atayef Pancake stuffed with clotted cream, and pistachio and date stuffed pastries are pictured here.**

by the women church members. Traditional Kibbee is the most popular, and is sometimes served raw, although it was cooked at the festival. Pita bread, rice, and eggplant

Baba ganoush, were also available. So were the grape leaves stuffed with meat and rice.

Washington D.C. has a large Middle Eastern population and that has expanded in recent years to outlying communities like McLean.

"Our festival has become the thing to do on labor day weekend, as in the past it has been an orphaned weekend with not a lot going on for people," said Francavilla.

"This festival really shows how international our community is in McLean," said Comstock. "The food is great; these are some of the best meals you can get in the area!"

Homemade pastries hand-made from pancakes, called Atayef and stuffed with clotted cream, dates, and pistachios were available for lunch and for sale. Baklava was present in its traditional form.

"The women of the church are proud of their hospitality, and in Middle Eastern cultures it is important for the host to be hospitable even if he doesn't agree with the visitor in politics," said Francavilla.

Kimberly Metzger, a Vienna resident, who belongs to the church, was new this year as a volunteer. "It's been wonderful. I met a lot of people, for the first time in 18 years I felt like I belong!" she said.



**From left: McLean residents, Joe Baker of the Knights of Columbus, and Chris Hudson, grill chicken kabobs under a tent at the Holy Transfiguration's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.**



**Vienna resident and Holy Transfiguration member, Kimberly Metzger worked to organize pastries at Holy Transfiguration's 27<sup>th</sup> annual Middle Eastern Food Festival Saturday.**