



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Erica Armstrong Dunbar and La Toya Morgan lead a special wreathlaying ceremony.

Ceremony Honors Slaves

27th annual event
hosted by BWUFA
and Mount Vernon
Ladies' Association.

Hundreds of people attended the Black Women United for Action's (BWUFA) 27th Annual Slave Memorial Wreath-Laying Ceremony at George Washington's Mount Vernon on Saturday, Sept. 30. The event honored the 300 slaves who lived at Mount Vernon plantation during George Washington's life time. Hosted by BWUFA and the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, the event featured performances and music in recognition of the slaves' contributions to the early formation of this nation. The ceremony was dedicated to the memory of Oney "Ona" Judge, a personal slave to Martha Washington.

According to Catherine Hogan, spokesman for BWUFA: "We've been doing this for several years and our effort here is all about bringing life to the people who lived here. They're not just names;

they're not just property as they were once considered. They were people; they had lives; they had children; they had aspirations; and they had skills. And this event is about remembering that those were people and they were helpful and instrumental in building our nation."

Some of the performers included the Howard University Concert Choir, the Virginia State University Concert Choir, the Heritage Fellowship Church Choir of Reston, the Taratibu Youth Association of Drummers, and the Nikki Giovanni Youth Readers, among others. Students from Sandburg Middle, Whitman Middle, and Mount Vernon High School also participated in the ceremony.

After the program, guests proceeded to the Slave Memorial outside where screenwriter and producer La Toya Morgan and author Erica Armstrong Dunbar performed a special wreathlaying ceremony. Visitors placed boxwood sprigs on the Slave Memorial's stone steps emblazoned with "Faith, Hope, Love." The memorial with a gray granite column at the center of three concentric brick circles was designed by students of Howard University's School of Architecture.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Sarah Miller Coulson of the Mount Vernon Ladies Association addresses the crowd.



Deborah Tompkins Johnson, the mistress of ceremony.



Sheila B. Coates, president of the Black Women United for Action.

Supporting Rising Hope

Raising \$50,000 to help others.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Rising Hope Mission Church is holding its annual Hope Grows Gala on Friday, Oct. 13. The event is a fund-raiser for its mission to help the homeless, low-income families, and disabled veterans along the Route 1 Corridor between Alexandria and Ft. Belvoir. Money earned will help to provide food, clothing, emergency and job assistance, and support for the hypothermia shelter.

The event will include dinner, dancing to the Moon Daddies Band, and a silent and live auction. Gala tickets are \$100 per person; business promotion/sponsor opportunities start at \$300. They're hoping for 200 people to attend. The Gala will take place from 6:30-10:30 p.m. at The Waterford, 6715 Commerce

Street, in Springfield.

"We need to raise \$50,000," said Pastor Keary Kincannon, who founded the church in the back of his car 22 years ago. Since then, they've been at seven different locations, including the Russell Road church site in Alexandria for 12 years.

He said it costs \$1,500 a day to provide the programs at Rising Hope, which encompasses the food pantry, soup kitchen, fresh produce giveaway, clothing closet, emergency services, emergency referrals, HIV testing, counseling, hypothermia shelter, and drop-in center for the homeless.

In September alone, the food ministry benefited 2,718 individuals. And between August 2016 and July 2017, it provided nearly 200,000 meals in the community; 2,705 hypothermia shelter bed

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Wessynton Turns 50

Gala planned for Oct. 14.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE GAZETTE

Wessynton, a community of tree-lined streets off Route 235 near George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate, is celebrating its 50th anniversary. There's a big gala planned on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Belle Haven Country Club. The program will feature Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck presenting a proclamation honoring Wessynton's golden anniversary and reflections by its original architect, Nicholas Pappas, now age 90. He will speak about his inspi-

rations and visions for the "Wessynton style," including the architecture, exterior color palette, and unique mailboxes.

The 50th year commemoration also included a VIP evening for residents at the Mount Vernon Estate, featuring a reception, private tours of the mansion and the George Washington Library, and a lecture on the history of Wessynton lands, which were once part of Washington's five farms.

"Throughout its history, the common thread is the natural surroundings and intrinsic beauty of

SEE WESSYNTON, PAGE 6

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Team Fiona's Village takes time out from the walk for a group photo. The team is named for Fiona Rosaire Terebesi (in stroller), 1, from Alexandria.



PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING

Team Daniela is the last team to complete the walk. The team supports Aranda Daniela (left stroller), 2, from Alexandria.

Buddy Walk 2017 Event raises funds, awareness for Down syndrome.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN

At 10 months old, Emma Laukhuf isn't old enough to walk. But that didn't stop her from joining hundreds of others in the 13th annual Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia's Buddy Walk Oct. 1 on the campus of George Mason University.

Emma, born last December with Down syndrome, was carried along the Mason Pond course by her parents Kent and Dana. Surrounding the family were dozens of supporters as part of Team #EmmaStrong, which helped raise funds for programs to assist individuals with Down syndrome in the Northern Virginia area.

"We have been abundantly blessed by the Down Syndrome Northern Virginia team, who have welcomed us with open arms," said Dana Laukhuf. "DSANV was an important part of our life during prenatal diag-



Bishop Ireton cheerleaders greet 2-year-old **Oliver Humes** from Alexandria during the walk.

nosis and continues to be a huge support to us today. We are proud to walk with Emma and our new friends in an effort to give something back."

Team #EmmaStrong raised over \$1,900 through the Buddy Walk, which supports the local programs and services that DSANV provides to individuals with Down syn-

drome and their families living in Northern Virginia. A portion of the funds raised are directed towards the national advocacy initiatives of the National Down Syndrome Society. Locally, DSANV services includes: helping families adjust to the birth of a child with Down syndrome; provides individuals with Down syndrome and their families with educational, financial, medical, legal and social support and resources; provides social and educational events for individuals with Down syndrome and their families; works to increase community awareness of the capabilities and contributions of individuals with Down syndrome; provides financial support to families in need with camp scholarships, conference scholarships and donations of durable medical equipment; and supports local organizations that provide services to individuals with Down syndrome. For more information, visit www.dsanhv.org.



Dana Laukhuf carries 10-month old **Emma**, born last December with Down syndrome, during the DSANV Buddy Walk Oct. 1 at George Mason University.



The Mt. Vernon Adult Social Club participated in the Buddy Walk as part of their monthly events. The club is maintained through Fairfax County Therapeutic Recreation Services and is led by coordinator Donna James (back center in green tinted sunglasses).



Bradley Kuss, 3, from Alexandria, leads the way for his team, **Bradley's Brigade**.

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820 Mount Vernon Avenue. Leave your car at home! This expanded 3 bedroom, 2 bath Cape Cod with a garage is less than 2 blocks to METRO! Wonderful open floor plan, spacious gourmet kitchen with adjoining family room, living room with fireplace, main level bedroom suite, wood floors, replacement windows and freshly painted throughout. Unfinished lower level has potential to be finished.
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Arlington Forest **\$649,000**
117 South Buchanan Street. Delightful 3 bedroom, 2 bath brick colonial with 3 finished levels on a large level lot with off street parking. Inviting screened porch, updated kitchen with granite counters and new SS appliances with access to the fenced yard with large deck. Hardwood floors on 2 levels, freshly painted, replacement windows and new roof.
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COMING SOON



Kingstowne **\$489,900**
7241 Worsley Way. Wonderfully renovated, spacious & bright town home with beautiful view of treed parkland from deck & patio; in popular Kingstowne. Bamboo wood on main level, open & modern kitchen; walk-out level basement w/ bonus room & fireplace; 3 updated full baths; 2 assigned parking spaces. Minutes to amenities, shops, restaurants, metro, 495.
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Alexandria City **\$349,800**
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PHOTO BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church kicked off its 12th year Pumpkin Patch fundraising effort last weekend.

Pumpkin Sale Benefits Native Americans

This past weekend, Saint Luke's Episcopal Church kicked off its 12th year Pumpkin Patch fundraising effort by unloading a truckload of pumpkins raised and delivered by a Navajo Indian Reservation, with participation by the Pueblo, Zuni, and Hopi Native American tribes.

In the handout literature, Navajo Reservation Director Harry Descheene states that this effort is one of the most important sources of funds for the Native Americans on their Navajo Reservation.

According to Descheene, "The approximately \$1.3 million in harvest labor dollars makes a significant difference in the quality of the lives of my people." Unemployment on the Navajo Reservation is 42 percent. Locally, the Pumpkin Patch fundraising initiative is sponsored by Saint Luke's Episcopal Church. The volunteer chairperson is Caroline Tringali. Volunteers who helped unload the truck include local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

— GERALD A. FILL

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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates \$615,000
8331 Blowing Rock Road
Beautiful Mt. Vernon Colonial w/stunning renovations! 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 3 lvls, garage & deck. Gorgeous addition w/exquisite remodeling expands the kit & family rm. The quality & design are exceptional. Stunning kit w/all the bells & whistles (skylight, tile & bamboo flooring, SS appliances, silestone counters, high-end cabinetry, double wall oven, gas cooktop) & a casual eating area overlooking bkyd. Spectacular family rm w/gas FPL & sliding glass doors to the deck. Abundant windows provide natural lighting. 4BRs on the upper lvl. Lower lvl has a full bath, lg finished rec rm, & an additional rm that can be easily configured as a 5th BR. Roof replaced in '15. Wood FPL in living rm & lower lvl. This is a winner!

NEW LISTING



Alex/Riverside Estates \$539,900
8603 Cherry Valley Lane
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OPEN SUNDAY 1-4



Alex/Riverside Estates \$499,900
3007 Battersea Lane
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NEW LISTING



Alex/Riverside Estates \$599,900
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NEW LISTING



Alex/Riverside Estates \$558,000
8514 Cherry Valley Lane
Riverside's Popular Concord model w/2800 sq ft under roof plus spacious 2 car garage - Freshly painted on main level w/beautiful refinished hwd floors-updated kitchen & baths & newer double pane windows throughout - Large screened porch off the Kitchen, overlooking fenced bkyd & large hot tub. Lower level offers a large family rm w/gas FPL, a 5th bedroom & half bath, plus a large utility/workshop area w/walkout to the bkyd. - 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Alex (N). Walk to Schools. Great Buy!

SOLD



Alex/Wellington Heights \$930,000
7519 Ridgecrest Dr.
Beautiful 2 level Wellington Heights home with winter views of Potomac River, in fabulous location on sought after Ridgecrest Road. Stunning kitchen-5bedrooms, 4 baths, 2 car garage, large, private .58 acre lot. Open floor plan with expansive windows overlooking the private backyard oasis with swimming pool and large patio, perfect for relaxing and entertaining. Waynwood Elementary. This house is a gem!



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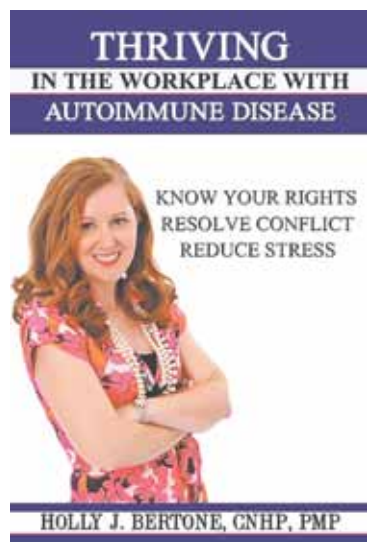
Advocate for Healthy Lifestyles Completes 7th Book

Resident writes “Thriving in the Workplace with Autoimmune Disease.”

BY MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

In the fall of 2016, Holly Bertone, a federal civil servant in Washington, encountered a stressful situation at work, not an uncommon challenge in the area. But the crunch arose at her agency not from extraordinary assignments with tight deadlines, but from her manager’s unwillingness, or inability, to accommodate Bertone’s health problems.

Diagnosed with breast cancer at age 39 in 2010, she endured a year’s radiation and chemo treatments. Then, in 2012, she came down with Hashimoto’s Disease, an autoimmune disorder of the thyroid. Her symptoms included chronic fatigue, joint pain and cognitive problems. She felt better early in the day, and “hit the



Holly Bertone, a Waynewood wife and stepmom, advocates healthy lifestyles and seeks to help women with breast cancer and people with autoimmune diseases. She is shown here on the cover of her new book.

wall” in the afternoon. “Workplace stress added to my already inflamed system,” Bertone said in a recent interview. “And the stress arose from agency’s insensitive reaction to my condition.”

In February 2017, she filed an Equal Employment Opportunity complaint and later appealed for relief through Family and Medical Leave Act. Ultimately, none of that worked.

“I was bullied as a child,” Bertone later wrote, “and I felt like I was back in the playground at my elementary school. Only this time, the bully was my boss. Someone who I was supposed to respect. I felt like I had no voice. I felt trapped with no way out.”

Bertone quit last April, and has since dedicated her life to helping others lead healthy

lives, cope with debilitating illness, and, most importantly, aid those with autoimmune diseases find stability and peace in the workplace.

BERTONE GREW UP in Waynesboro, a township in south central Pennsylvania. She graduated from nearby Elizabethtown College with a BA in psychology, and then earned a master’s degree in IT from Johns Hopkins University. Bertone began work at her agency as an onsite contractor in 2004 and became a federal employee in 2009.

Her breast cancer forced an exhaustive regimen of radiation treatment and chemotherapy that lasted for seven months. Her coworkers and managers reacted with heartfelt compassion and support. “When people hear cancer,” she said, “they immediately go into empathy mode, a visceral reaction.” Her fellow workers and managers went out of their way to help Bertone, who lost her hair during chemo. “They gave me special parking space, allowed me to take naps and allowed flexible hours. They did everything possible allow me to keep working and go through treatment.”

In March 2011, while still in treatment, she married Carter Bertone, a U.S. Army Special Forces officer who had retired two months earlier; he is now a federal employee. Her future seemed promising, both personally and professionally, but all that changed when Hashimoto’s invaded part of her autoimmune system in 2012.

Along with the fatigue and sluggishness, the chronic lymphocytic thyroiditis produces memory loss and a litany of aches and pains. “Since many autoimmune diseases are invisible to people around a victim, they think you’re tired or worse, lazy,” Bertone said. “Everyone told me to drink some coffee, or get more sleep at night.” Moreover, her division underwent a management change in the fall of 2016, and her new supervisor was less interested, according to Bertone, in accommodating her illness.

Bertone filed her unsuccessful EEO and

FMLA claims and petitions in February 2017, but with no significant satisfaction. After discussions with her husband, Bertone abandoned further legal action and resigned in April 2017.

WHILE A STEPMOTHER to a teenage son, Bertone set about becoming what she describes as a “health entrepreneur” to help others facing the challenges she has encountered. She is now a certified natural health professional and a certified essential oils coach. Additionally, she is enrolled in a naturopathic doctorate program at Trinity School of Natural Health.

She is president and CEO of Pink Fortitude, LLC, and runs much of her business through her website, <https://pinkfortitude.com/>. There she dispenses advice on healthy lifestyles, home and garden activities and promotes copies of her seven self-published books. The latest is titled, “Thriving in the Workplace with Autoimmune Disease: Know Your Rights, Resolve Conflict, Reduce Stress.” Shortly after it became available online in early September, the book became the #1 new release in the Law–Specialties–Disabilities category on Amazon.

Bertone is an active public speaker and was a headliner at last year’s Healing Hashimoto’s Summit; she is also a member of the National Cancer Survivor’s Day Speakers Bureau. She serves as an ambassador for the Tigerlily Foundation, which is dedicated to helping women diagnosed with breast cancer. That organization presented an Inspire Award to Bertone in 2015.

“Throughout her illnesses and treatments,” Carter Bertone said of his wife, “I never heard her complain or wallow in self-pity. It is my hope that through her outreach she can empower other individuals with chronic illnesses to develop these same characteristics of grit and fortitude.”

Bertone, her husband and stepson live in Waynewood. She loves gardening and is an inveterate flea market and garage sale shopper.

Wessynton Turns 50

FROM PAGE 1

the community,” said Chris Revere, president, Wessynton Homes Association. “It’s very wooded and convenient to work and recreational activities in Northern Virginia. Everyone sees a vibrancy in Wessynton that still exists today. It still looks the way it was envisioned 50 years ago. There’s a deep appreciation for that; it’s something that is unique and should be treasured and maintained.”

Built in 1967, the multi-generational community was once the hunting grounds of the Doeg Indians. The builder, Miller & Smith, created Wessynton as its first planned community in Fairfax County, bounded by Wessynton Way and Cunningham Drive. A number of cul-de-sacs

feed off those thoroughfares. It has its own pool, clubhouse, boat launch, tennis courts, playground for children, and Wessynton Forest, which is a pathway that runs through the woods.

The 156 contemporary-style homes had names like Forest House, Garden House, Manor House, Meadow House, and River House. They are mostly made of redwood, brick and glass with accent panels on the doors. Certain earth-tone colors are meant for the main wood siding, panels and doors (brown, tan, green, gray), all designed to blend in with the wooded surroundings.

“Some would characterize this community as mid-century modern. That’s a mischaracterization because we’re actually

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OPINION

Challenges Remain for Police Reform

Including communications and body cameras.

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER

Oct. 8 will be the second anniversary of the 2015 release of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission Final Report. The catalyst for the Ad Hoc Commission's formation by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer. The commission was charged with assessing the Police Department's performance against national best practices.

GUEST EDITORIAL

The commission made more than 200 recommendations for transforming an excellent Police Department into one that is "best in class" and for strengthening the public's trust and confidence in the department.

I served as commission member and as the chairman of Use of Force Subcommittee. I am also a member of a loosely configured Implementation Committee, a group of former commission members dedicated to helping to see that our recommendations are effectively implemented.

I commend both the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Police Department for their progress implementing the commission's recommendations. Significant reforms are underway that when fully realized will generate increased accountability and public confidence. Major reforms already in place include:

- ❖ forming the Office of the Independent Police Auditor to determine the thoroughness, completeness, accuracy, objectivity and impartiality of investigations of death or serious injury cases.

- ❖ convening a Civilian Review Panel to review civilian complaints regarding "abuse of authority" or "serious misconduct" by a police officer;

- ❖ creating "Diversion First," which offers alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities; and

- ❖ recrafting the Use of Force General Order to enshrine sanctity of human life as an organizing principle, with de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

WHILE MUCH HAS BEEN accomplished, more is work is needed. For example, the commission advocated in strong terms for information-sharing reform to promote timeliness, completeness and transparency. In this regard, a revised Police Department Communication Policy is still in process.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unity or Divisive?

To the Editor:

The latest incarnation of the NFL is dizzying. In what world is one man kneeling a display of unity but one man standing is divisive?

This version of the NFL takes away the



The commission also called for all officers to be outfitted with body worn cameras, contingent on the enactment of laws, policies and procedures that protect individual privacy. These cameras are to complement the dashboard cameras now mounted in each Fairfax patrol vehicle.

While a potential aid to criminal prosecution, the body-worn camera's equally important contribution is to foster greater transparency and the accountability of all parties during the interactions of the police with the public. As the American Civil Liberties Union noted in an October 2014 report, body-worn cameras "[have] the potential to be a win-win, helping protect the public against police misconduct, and at the same time helping protect police against false accusations of abuse."

While the county leadership has committed to deploying this technology, its approach has been appropriately methodical. Key considerations are operational, privacy, data security and cost. For example, the supervisors have approved a pilot project that will deploy cameras in two of the county's nine magisterial districts and the department is currently evaluating proposals from prospective suppliers.

THIS PILOT PROJECT needs to generate answers to following questions, among others: the county needs to establish when cameras will be running and how will the public know the cameras are on? When can biometric technology — such as facial recognition — be used? How will the video footage be secured from hackers? Who will have access to the data and under what procedures?

How will the massive amount of video data be stored and for how long? As the county understands and appreciates, the cost of deploying body-worn cameras is not in the cameras themselves, but the storage of the massive amount of data that is generated. As reported by the Center for Digital Government and Government Technology magazine, "When it comes to [body-worn cameras], data storage is the 800-pound gorilla in the room. Video ... is a data hog."

This reality generates cost-driven data-retention policy considerations. How long should non-evidentiary video be maintained? Some police departments say it should be 60-90 days,

others say less or more. With regard to evidentiary data used in criminal prosecutions, the Virginia Commonwealth requires that evidence be stored for 99 years.

Finally, who controls access to the data? This question is becoming an increasingly significant issue nationally. Protecting evidence chain-of-custody for purposes of criminal prosecution is a necessary but not sufficient role to warrant the cost and the data protection risks inherent in the deployment of body-worn cameras. The real return-on-investment is the potential for influencing the behavior, through greater transparency and accountability, of all parties in a law-enforcement engagement.

The drive to use this technology is inexorable. A recent CATO Institute/YouGov poll found that 92 percent of the public supports the use of body-worn cameras. Implicit in this level of support are high public expectations that this technology will make a difference in law enforcement practices. Heightened expectations alone should give our policymakers pause, particularly when we know that no technology deployment is free of all mistakes and errors. The only thing worse in today's context than not collecting the data during a controversial use-of-force incident, is for the public to learn that video data under the Police Department's control is missing.

We should therefore challenge the assumption that video-camera data must be maintained under the sole access control of the Police Department. Options that should be given explicit consideration by the Board of Supervisors, Police Department and Commonwealth's Attorney include assigning video data access control to the Independent Police Auditor or alternatively assigning this role to a board composed of the Police Chief, Independent Auditor and Commonwealth's Attorney.

On this second anniversary of the Ad Hoc Policy Review Commission Report, the county and Police Department have many accomplishments to be proud of with regard to implementing the commission's recommendations.

Quality-driven change is hard; some changes are especially difficult. Body-worn camera deployment is one that requires careful study and diligent attention to complex legal and operational details. I commend the county for taking the appropriate measured response to meeting this recommendation and, especially with regard the matter of access to video data, challenge the conventional wisdom that access control to such data must be under the sole purview of the Police Department.

Phillip A. Niedzielski-Eichner is a member of the Fairfax County Planning Commission, served on the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission and a former member of the Fairfax County School Board.

team. The message is "Team Above Nation" I guess — except, of course, in England where the NFL thought it better to respect the host nation anthem. Disrespecting the host might not fill the stadium next time; no fear of that here, apparently.

In one fell swoop, the league has positioned

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PEOPLE

State Sen. Scott Surovell presented a commendation resolution to Anne Andrews at a recent meeting of the South County Task Force. Andrews started the Task Force in 1975 and retired last year. Del. Paul Krizek and Del. Vivian Watts joined Surovell to present the resolution.



Task Force Founder Honored

South County Task Force founder Anne Andrews was commended for her service to the community over 40 years with a resolution from state Sen. Scott Surovell and Delegates Paul Krizek and Vivian Watts at the Task Force meeting Sept. 13. The Senate Joint Resolution was also sponsored by Sen. Adam Ebbin and Del. Mark Sickles. Andrews stepped down as Task Force chair in 2016.

Andrews was presented with a framed certificate listing her accomplishments since her arrival in Mt. Vernon in 1960 from New York including founding the Route One Task Force (now the South County Task Force) in 1975. It noted that the Task Force “thrived and formed a subcommittee on housing, which eventually became one of the Route 1 Corridor’s most vibrant charities, New Hope Hous-

ing” and that she “was instrumental in the founding of the Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County, which manages numerous health clinics for lower income residents of Fairfax County and minimizes the need for services at area emergency rooms.”

It continued that “South County Task Force has facilitated cooperation on addressing homelessness, affordable housing, substance abuse, domestic violence, mental health, hunger, and poverty in the area; with Anne Andrews’ leadership and assistance, the task force restored a county nutritional program and helped consolidate county services in the South County Center, and Anne Andrews, as a past chair and member of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, was instrumental in preventing the closure and relocation of INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital from its location on Parkers Lane.”

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Metro – Fund It/Fix It. 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, 4301 Wilson Blvd. The League of Women Voters of the National Capital Area (LWVNA) and the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) will hold a free forum for the public to learn about funding and fixing our Washington D.C. area Metro system. Event is free. Lunch will be available for purchase (\$10), but a request for lunch must be made

at the time of registration. Register at www.eventbrite.com and search “Metro fund it.”

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Chamber Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. at Belle Haven Country Club, 6023 Fort Hunt Road. Meet the two candidates for Virginia Lieutenant Governor at Mount Vernon Lee Chamber’s October Business Breakfast. Competing in the November election, Justin Fairfax, Democrat, and Jill Vogel, Republican, will share their vision for the future of Virginia with the business community. \$25 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-Chamber. Register at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org or

call 703-360-6925.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area (LWVFA) will an in-person forum for the public and the press to learn about the candidates who are running for election to the Virginia House of Delegates at 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, Lecture Hall: 7630 Telegraph Road.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Fall Family Carnival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. To register and for additional information about the ASTEM Fall Family Carnival and Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org or call 703-836-2858.

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News

Rising Hope Gala Is Oct. 13

FROM PAGE 1

nights that saved lives from freezing; provided 19,696 gifts of clothing; 696 transportation assists; and 4,469 free produce. Rising Hope has more than 700 volunteers who assist with everything.

Kincannon continued: "We continue to leverage about \$1.2 million worth of food that is donated to us that we give out to the community. We continue to have 20,000 visits a year to our clothing closet. There are a number of ministries that remain very strong and we want them to stay strong."

Additionally, Rising Hope provides Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets, as well as Christmas gifts to people in need; and peer fellowship for others who are struggling to get on their feet. Nearly two-thirds of Rising Hope's members currently are, or have been, homeless.

During the Gala, two local people's stories will be highlighted. One honoree is Samantha Jacobs, who received help from Rising Hope, and was then featured in a National Geographic book about hunger in the U.S. and how food pantries try to help. The other honoree is Jeff Lisanick who spent 20 years in prison and was also helped by Rising Hope. He later became the coordinator of Residential Services at the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter in Ft. Belvoir and now serves on the Community Services Board. He was named Lord Fairfax for 2017 by the Board of Supervisors.

Kincannon, who serves on the Fairfax County Governing Board to Prevent and End Homelessness by year end 2018, said the mission of Rising Hope "is to bring the power of Christ and the support of the church to the least, the lost, the lonely, and the left out. I would say we are here to bring the most good we can to those people who are most in need."

Along those lines, Denene Crabbs, Strategic Partnership Director at Rising Hope, said they are working to develop strategic partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and individuals to optimize resources for empowering the homeless and low-income families to rise above poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

"We're also developing educational workshops, and building relationships with companies to provide job opportunities so we can empower them to help persons in transition be equipped and qualified to work," said Crabbs, who started out as a food pantry volunteer.

Kincannon said in addition to its mission work,



PHOTOS BY RICHARD LORD

Perry Taylor lives in his car and uses Rising Hope's services to get his life back on track.

they do everything that a traditional church does. "We have worship services, small groups, Bible studies, children's ministries, counseling, and prayer groups," he said.

And the support they receive from individuals, both financially and volunteer-wise, has remained strong. "The people that we are involved with see the good that we are doing in this community and they want to support it," he said.

In addressing the Route 1 Corridor, he said it has some of the highest rates of poverty, drug arrests, DUI rates, and domestic violence incidences in Fairfax County. "So there's a lot of problems related to poverty in the Route 1 Corridor. We fall far behind the rest of Fairfax County in terms of income and educational level," he said.

"We are a place where many of the people in this section of the community do not have the same kind of benefits, background, and support that a lot of the rest of Fairfax County has had," he added.

If planning to attend the Gala, some of the auction items include: A flight over the Shenandoah Mountains; a Wintergreen weekend; a Gunston Hall private tour; Redskins tickets; a set of HENN Stoneware; a silver bar set; a set of hand-painted wine glasses; \$250 Cedar Knoll Restaurant; and assorted gift baskets.

For Gala tickets, sponsorship opportunities or to give online donations, visit www.risinghopeumc.org/shop. To volunteer or donate auction items, contact Kat Roman kroman@risinghopeumc.org, 703-360-1976, or maria.ward@gmail.com.

Rising Hope Mission Church is located at 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria; call 703-360-1976 or risinghopeumc.org/shop, [facebook.com/RisingHope](https://www.facebook.com/RisingHope).



Debra Johnson, formerly homeless and helped by Rising Hope, now cooks hot meals in the Rising Hope Soup Kitchen.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Rising Hope Mission Church food pantry.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Volunteers prepare Thanksgiving meals for the homeless and families in need.

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Senior Living

A Household Re-Forms, and Looks Forward

Sun Design Remodeling's in-law addition complements existing architecture.

BY JOHN BYRD

Julia grew up in the Fort Hunt section of Alexandria in a close-knit family. She started dating a neighbor's son, Jack MacInnis, while still in high school and, in time, the two friends married. In the late 1990s Julia's father, Don Clark, died leaving her mother, Lita Clark, alone in the family home. A survivor of the Japanese occupation of the Philippines, Clark (as always) remained upbeat, independent; a loving mother and friend.

Fast forward a few years and Jack and Julia MacInnis own a house not far from Clark with whom they are in daily contact. Then, in 2010 — with two sons growing quickly — the couple purchased a four-bedroom contemporary on a 1.5 acre lot in Fairfax. It's only a half hour drive from Clark, but the timing for a larger house was just right.

In the intervening years, Clark (who turns 84 this month) would visit the MacInnis residence regularly, often staying over one or two nights a week. At this stage, the three of them began actively planning ways to augment the household by building an in-law suite on some part of the existing property. Eventually, attention focused on a side elevation of the existing house which offered views of sur-



PHOTO BY JULIA MACINNIS PHOTOGRAPHY

Lita Clark (who just turned 84) in the master bedroom of the in-law suite recently added to the home of her daughter Julia MacInnis and son-in-law, Jack. The room was designed to accommodate several heirlooms, including the twin beds under a course of Mi windows that assure privacy, yet allow abundant natural light.

rounding wooded acreage.

THE LOT ITSELF presented challenges. The grade sloped radically on the northeast side where the lower-level (the intended

site for the new in-law addition) exited from a pair of sliding glass doors to a small deck. Because of the slope, there were potential water run-off problems; also, Fairfax County's building code required that any

new construction had to allow for a full 25 feet of "set-back" from the rear of the property.

"We knew an addition of this size on this grade was going to require careful engineering," said Craig Duroske, whose firm Sun Design Remodeling found both the design and structural solutions that would make the project feasible. "Still, it's helpful when the homeowners are proactive in the decision-making process at every juncture."

Added Julia MacInnis: "We were looking for a plan that would provide privacy and independence for Mom, yet also fully incorporate her into the household. We've functioned as a family for our entire lives. Mom helped to raise the boys, and she was raised in a multi-generational culture. We saw this change as a way of creating an expanded environment that would work for everyone far into the foreseeable future."

Clark's new suite would be a 580-square-foot annex constructed outside the existing house directly parallel to the lower level. A sliding glass door that accesses the outside would be converted into an interior pocket door that opens into a downstairs recreation room.

The space plan would consist of a 17-foot-by-17-foot master bedroom surrounded by windows on three sides, a master bath with

SEE RE-FORMS, PAGE 13

Volunteering Keeps 70-Year-Old Former Hospital CEO Young

Finding the right volunteer opportunity.

BY ROB PAINE
RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer Ken Kozloff moves through the pool at Providence Recreation Center encouraging the child with special needs he is teaching to swim, to "stroke, breathe, and kick."

Kozloff high-fives his students at the end of each lap and asks, "Are you having a good time?" All the while he is keeping an eye on two other volunteers he is mentoring during a Fairfax County Park Authority Adapted Aquatics class.

Kozloff will continue to do this for about 90 minutes on a Sunday morning without much of a break. Sometimes he lifts students half his weight into the air so they can experience the joy of splashing into the pool. One would never guess that the former INOVA Alexandria Hospital CEO turned 70 years old in August. "I don't feel 70, I feel like 25," he said.

Kozloff donates more than 40 hours of

his time each month as an RSVP Northern Virginia volunteer, helping autistic children learn how to swim, mentoring economically disadvantaged citizens to manage their finances, and directing other volunteers at large events for RSVP, including the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics in September.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) is the region's largest volunteer network for people 55 and older and provides individualized support to seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

When he is not volunteering for other organizations, he is a volunteer engagement leader for RSVP, acting as a nonprofit evangelist of sorts, spreading the word on why RSVP is such a great program. "What's unique about RSVP is the approach it takes to new volunteers, helping them to find what they're looking to do, not where we are looking to place them," he said.

RSVP asks each prospective volunteer, "How can we help you find that volunteer



ROB PAINE/RSVP NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Ken Kozloff at NVSO indoor track meet

opportunity that is going to mean something to you?" Kozloff said. He has been with RSVP for over a year and a half.

Five years ago, he began volunteering with the Fairfax County Park Authority's Adaptive Aquatics program, teaching children on the autism spectrum to swim. He later added another afternoon of classes at Spring Hill Recreation Center in McLean, teaching special needs adults to swim, including those with neurological issues or

physical impairments. The park authority honored Kozloff in 2015 as the Adaptive Aquatics Outstanding Volunteer of the Year.

He then started working with Our Daily Bread (now called BritePaths) where he has volunteered for four years as a financial mentor. He is also a volunteer classroom instructor with Junior Achievement in Fairfax. He teaches business principles to elementary, middle, and high school students. He also teaches students with special needs in this program.

In an eight-day span in September, the RSVP volunteer managed volunteers at several community projects including the NVSO's indoor track meet in Arlington and its swimming championships in Sterling and a gardening project at River Farm in Alexandria.

"I love to help others," Kozloff said. "I enjoy volunteering with RSVP, not only for what I do as a volunteer, but also for the social aspect of working with other people." During the senior Olympics he managed anywhere from 10 to 30 volunteers at the different events.

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 14



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Senior Living

Age in Community

BY PETER B. CROUCH
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER, AT
HOME IN ALEXANDRIA



Most of us have heard of the phrase “Age in Place.” It reflects many mature Americans’ wish to remain in their long-time homes as they grow older. The home is comfortable, plus near friends and family, their doctors and dentists, familiar shopping and services. Often, it means modifying the home itself to make it easier to manage — converting a room/adding a first-floor bedroom, adding extra handrails or ramps, installing extra lighting. Plus, hiring people to handle the yard work such as mowing, leaf raking or snow shoveling. For many, it works well. However, it often means one or two people rattling around in a large house that is expensive to maintain.

There is, however, an important companion to Age in Place that is often an even better match — Age in Community. As the phrase implies, many people are deciding — some very early on after the kids leave — to move to more suitable housing locally for their next phase of life. The key is “locally.” They stay near the friends and family, doctors and dentists, shopping and ser-

vices. They just move to a more manageable home. Sometimes the move is from a single-family home to a townhouse, sometimes it is from a single to a condo or apartment, sometimes from a townhouse to a condo/apartment. Regardless of the scale of the move, the goal is to maintain all the famil-

ilarity that they have come to know over the years while making their housing more appropriate — to Age in Community.

The benefits are many. Obviously, maintenance is less, especially in a condo or apartment. Equally as important, people now have closer neighbors — which stimulates engagement. Sometimes it makes it much easier to travel — just lock up and head to the airport! If not to travel, then certainly to enjoy local activities more easily.

Another significant benefit of selling a long-time home can be financial. In our area, it can be relatively easy for folks to have accumulated a good bit of equity over the years. However, it is locked away in their homes — almost unusable. Freeing it up gives all sorts of options to move locally —

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 14



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A Household Re-Forms

FROM PAGE 11

a walk-in shower and heated floors, and a sitting room/kitchenette equipped with a small refrigerator, a sink and a microwave. The sitting area includes a bistro table for four with a view of the surrounding woodland. The entire household, nonetheless, share meals and kitchen duties together every day. By the same token, Julia and Jack MacInnis and sons (Jackson and Harry) are free to drop-in on Clark just about any time.

"It's a very comfortable, harmonious arrangement," Clark said. "Very much what we hoped for."

That said, engineering the suite's durable footprint was something of a feat.

"Because of the site's grading, we ended up designing a slab foundation with both stem walls and integral footings," said John Benedetto, the addition's lead designer. "To assure structural integrity, there were two concrete pours: one to form the stem walls on the new addition's left side; a second to form the slab with integral footings on which the addition is built."

Footings are placed 30-inches below grade; the slab itself is approximately one foot above grade. The goal: assure that the weight of the new structure is adequately supported — soil compaction being a key part of the equation.

FOR ALL THE DEFT engineering, it's the suite's interior that proves memorable. The three primary living areas were designed specifically to profile heir-

looms, furnishings and other personal items that Clark brought from the Fort Hunt residence.

"There were two twin beds that had been in the family for years," Julia MacInnis said. "A chest of drawers, an old vanity. Sun Design used these pieces as focal points for shaping the bedroom and sitting room. And it's not just that everything fits well ... but also that the floor plan is well-rationalized. The twin beds, for instance, fit perfectly under high windows that assure privacy, yet allow a lot of natural light. Overall, the entire suite is spacious, and quite comfortable."

On that note, the new addition has been fitted with a mini-split HVAC unit that allows Clark to adjust the suite's temperature to her requirements. Meanwhile, the bathroom has a heated floor with its own thermostat.

The addition's exterior elevations are blended with the existing house. Vinyl siding, fascia and soffits, gutters, and downspouts are all matched. Low-E Argon glass vinyl windows allow for abundant natural light and views while keeping temperatures where the thermostat requires.

In all, a comfortable accommodation ... within a thriving household.

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. For more information, call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

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

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FRIDAY Evening 10/20/17




Date: FRIDAY, October 20, 2017
Time: Main Event 6–10pm
Kids Event: 5:30–9pm
Where: Mount Vernon Athletic Club
7950 Audubon Ave.
Alexandria, VA
(703) 360-7300

Play Tennis, Socialize or Volunteer at our Breast Cancer Charity Event. Get involved for a good cause and meet a great group of **FUN** People!

About Swing for Pink!

Come support our fight against breast cancer. Eat, drink, socialize & play or watch tennis! All the proceeds benefit breast cancer research, education, screening, & treatment. The Breast Care Institute at **Inova Mount Vernon Hospital** and the Joseph Viar and Bonnie Christ Cancer Center at **Inova Alexandria Hospital**

- \$25 Pre-Registration - includes entry & tennis
- \$10 to Socialize & Support (no tennis play)
- \$30 Registration at the door

Register at the club or online here:
<https://swingforpinkmtvac.wordpress.com/>

Another Community Partnership for the Mount Vernon & Alexandria Editions of:










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Age in Community

FROM PAGE 12

and use the equity to enrich their quality of life. In addition, the current tax code gives qualifying owners an “exclusion” from capital gains tax of \$250,000 per owner, \$500,000 per couple when they sell a principal residence. If our area continues to be fortunate in its rising real estate values, each extra dollar of appreciation will likely have to be shared with the Tax Man! Alternatively, locking in the “gain” by selling, and re-investing in a different, more appropriate property, starts that exclusion clock all over again. (Consult your tax person for your personal situation.)

So how common is Age in Community becoming versus Age in Place? One of our local Senior Villages, At Home in Alexandria (AHA), which supports older Alexandrians with a variety of ser-

vices and social activities, has an almost evenly split membership. Roughly half seem to be Aging in Place. The other half has moved — and are Aging in Community. Mount Vernon at Home (MVAH), our Senior Village below the Beltway, has a mix as well. These Villages support both approaches to living well.

Our area is fortunate to have almost every option available to folks who wish to change their housing. We have apartments, condos, townhouses and even smaller single-family homes — for many budgets.

Is Aging in Community for you? Happy to brainstorm!

Peter B. Crouch is an associate broker, senior real estate specialist at McEneaney Associates. He is a sponsor and volunteer for At Home in Alexandria and Mount Vernon at Home. Call 703-244-4024 or email PCrouch@McEneaney.com.

Volunteer and Keep Young

FROM PAGE 11

RSVP will hold a special meet and greet event for current and prospective volunteers at Huntley

Meadows Park, Oct. 13.

Those interested in learning more about RSVP may visit the RSVP website at rsvpnova.org.

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—Colonel Philip (Phil) J. Saulnier, USA, Retired and Judith (Judy) Saulnier, Residents at The Fairfax for 3.5 Years

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Meet Carol and MJ. Carol and MJ are great buddies. They are also next door neighbors. Carol is 88 years old and MJ is 79. Carol moved to Hermitage Northern Virginia from Arlington about a year before MJ, who came from Montgomery County, Maryland. After moving, the two friends discovered a shared love of outdoor walks on the grounds of the community and around the quiet neighborhood streets. Carol focuses on her balance with a functional fitness class 4x a week and MJ enjoys reading in the library. Carol likes the many interesting people and MJ enjoys the many excursions and the reading club. It feels like a family here at Hermitage Northern Virginia.

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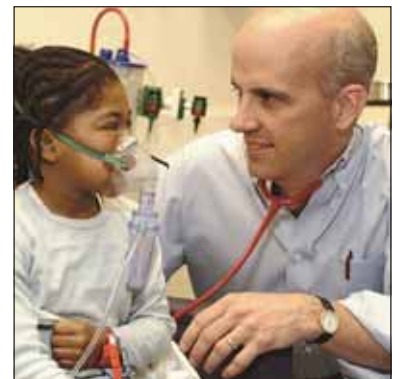
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The Uncertain Land of the DACAs

What happens next?

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

“We live in the land of the DACAs. No one else really understands what this means.”

Katherine Garcia-Ortiz came into the United States illegally with her father when she was 7-and-a-half years old. “My mother left me in Bolivia when I was 4 years old to make a better life for the family in America.” She says her mother worked at a doughnut shop and a lot of other places with 3-4 jobs at the same time to make this possible.

Garcia-Ortiz remembers when she arrived in America she thought, “who is that lady; is that my mother? I had pictures of her but this wasn’t really my mother.” Garcia-Ortiz expected a house like they had in Bolivia, but her mother lived in a small apartment. The family situation is complicated with her mother and father entering the country illegally, her sister born here and thus an American citizen and her own DACA status.

Now due to the Executive Order issued by President Obama in 2012, Garcia-Ortiz has Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status that temporarily protects her from deportation and allows her to get a work permit. In addition, the state of Virginia has issued an opinion advising Virginia colleges and universities that DACA students who meet Virginia’s domicile requirements are eligible for in-state tuition. Also she is allowed to apply for a driver’s license. All of this ends when her current DACA status expires. Then it’s “no license, no in-state tuition, and hiding.”

This will affect over 800,000 DACA recipients nationwide with 12,000 in Virginia. Since DACA is not a path to citizenship for immigrants who entered the country illegally, it will take legislation to allow them to apply for permanent status.

On Sept. 5 U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Trump’s decision to rescind the DACA program. Garcia-Ortiz says when she heard this she cried for three days but she decided she had to get over it and do something.

Garcia-Ortiz sits in a room at the Arlington Community High School on Walter Reed with Lizzett Uria, from Fairfax, executive director of the Dream Project. This program was established in 2010 to assist students



Lizzett Uria, executive director of the Dream Project

with immigration barriers to education. Seventy-one percent are eligible for DACA status. The Dream Project provides mentoring, financial assistance for college and moral support to immigrant students to help them be successful. Garcia-Ortiz lives in Arlington and has just graduated from high school and received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Dream Project. She is enrolled in NOVA, majoring in biomedical engineering, and hopes to transfer to George Mason.

However, things are not easy for her family. “Our parents give up everything for us and then things in America are not easy for them. People back home in Bolivia think we are walking on petals. They say ‘why don’t you do more for your dad who has a hernia?’ Hospitals here are so expensive we can’t afford it.” Garcia-Ortiz says she is paying for school out of her pocket because her parents can’t help her. “I work so much. The scholarship from the Dream Project makes a big difference.”

“But with things the way they are now my parents are saying, ‘let’s just go back home.’ They are trying to convince me to go with them because of everything that has happened. It’s scary. Police officers are detaining people here and over here and over here. Life is better in Bolivia my parents say.” But if they return to Bolivia because of their illegal status, they won’t be able to return to America.

The culture in America is different, often most of the remaining family is still in the native country and financial struggles are common.

So why do they do it? Why do they decide to risk life in America? Sometimes it is because there is violence in their home country or conditions are bad but often the answer is reflected in a comment by Uria: “It’s about being able to be free.”

This year the Dream Project provided financial assistance to 76 students, and their goal is to increase the number each year. The program includes mentoring of high school students followed by application for a scholarship and visits to different colleges.

Uria says, “It’s important to the students



Katherine Garcia-Ortiz, scholarship recipient

that they know they have support.” As their brochure says, “Behind every student there is a personal story of struggle and commitment.” Uria says, “the students are our voice. They tell their stories and it helps people understand.

Uria’s own story began when she arrived from Bolivia at the age of 12 on a tourist visa with her one-year-old sister and her parents. She said her parents told her they would just visit their grandparents in America and then stop at Disney World. That seemed great to her. But they didn’t return to Bolivia. “I really didn’t know I was undocumented until I was a senior in high school and asked to get my driver’s license. My parents stalled because they didn’t know what to tell me.”

She said, “My friends were all driving. They didn’t know. They saw me as a cheerleader.

“It was a family secret. You couldn’t tell anyone. No one else knows the struggle you go through.” Uria continues, “in Bolivia my mother was an architect and my father was in politics.” But here her mother owns a cleaning company, and her father is a cashier. “My mother is not happy about who she has become.”

“But the one I feel most guilty about is my little sister. When she was young she would ask ‘where was mom?’ Mom was always working. ‘Where was dad?’ Dad was always working, too. She would ask could she have this and the answer was no because we couldn’t afford it. A birthday party is important to a 3-year-old. Now that she is 17 she says she can understand.

“I started working at 14 with no documentation but people believed in me.” She says, “that’s what I tell my students. Don’t give up.”

Uria knows people who have gone back to Bolivia to stay but regret it. In fact, she made a trip back recently. She was able to make this trip out of the country legally because she is now married to a U.S. citizen and has a temporary green card. “People think we got married for this reason but we were together for 8 years.” But after taking a trip back to visit, Uria says she couldn’t



Chelssi Jimenez-Flores, scholarship recipient

return to live in Bolivia. “Here you work all week but you get what you need. In Bolivia it is a struggle. But,” she stresses, “it’s not all financial; it’s about being able to be free, the American dream.”

Chelssi Jimenez-Flores, another DACA recipient and Dream Project scholarship recipient also sits at the table. She arrived from Bolivia when she was 6 years old to join her dad who had been here a long time. She is currently a freshman at Marymount University in nursing and plans to add on biology. Her grandfather was in America legally and had brought over the grandmother and other uncles. She says conditions in Bolivia are bad. “There are a lot of drugs. Teenagers drink at 12.”

Now she has finished her first year at Marymount and is a mentor to younger students in the Dream Project. “I feel like in America we can all walk (anywhere we want).” Although she lives in Arlington her parents have bought a house in Maryland in order to get a driver’s license. Maryland allows a driver’s license for undocumented immigrants who live in, and pay taxes, in Maryland. In Virginia a Senate Committee killed a bill in January 2017 that would have allowed illegal immigrants to get a driver’s “privilege card.”

Jimenez-Flores says if nothing permanent gets passed, “we’ll see how it goes.” She pauses and says, “I’m somewhat worried,” then wipes her eyes, “there’s nothing we can do.”

But Uria encourages her. “There is something we can do. I believe this has given us an opportunity to focus on enacting permanent legislation. We’ve been through this before DACA and we know what to do.” Although DACA protects immigrants from deportation, it is not a path to legal citizenship which can only be guaranteed through the enactment of legislation.

In the meantime they live with the uncertain future and the upcoming expiration of their status. Uria says, “That small piece of paper, it’s like magic.”

This is the second article in a series focusing on DACA.

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Fall 2017 Native Plant Sale.

Through Oct. 15 at the Jerome "Buddie" Ford Nature Center, 5750 Sanger Ave. The Department of Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Activities is offering a native plant sale to help grow Alexandria's tree canopy and undergrowth. Call 703-746-5559 or visit www.alexandriava.gov.

Artists Exhibit. Various times through Oct. 31 in the Fireplace Alcove, Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, 1909 Windmill Lane. Dolly Rowe's hooked artworks called "Painting in Wool and Silk" will be on display. Contact dollyrowe73@yahoo.com.

OCTOBER

Ghost and Graveyard Tour.

Throughout October, nightly at 7:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday second tour at 9 p.m. \$13 adults; \$7 ages 7-17. Tour departs from Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. Hear ghost stories, legends and folklore. Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 5

Essential Oil Workshop. noon-1 p.m. at Caring Acupuncture, 2111 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 402. Free class — Essential Skin Care: How to Nourish and Maintain Healthy, Beautiful Skin with doTerra Essential Oils. Email jennamdaniel@gmail.com or call 479-426-2525.

WEBA Happy Hour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. The West End Business Association (WEBA) will host a Networking Happy Hour. Visit www.alexandriaweba.com.

Swan Lake Ballet. 7:30 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 4915 East Campus Drive. The first time the Russian Grand Ballet has ever performed in Virginia. Visit www.RussianGrandBallet.com.

OCT. 5-NOV. 5

On the Stage. 8:30-12:30 p.m. at MetroStage, 1201 North Royal Street. "Are you Now or Have You Ever Been..." written and conceived by Carlyle Brown. Visit www.metrostage.org or call 703-548-9044.

FRIDAY/OCT. 6

Pilates. noon-1 p.m. at John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Part of the outdoor fitness series in Carlyle. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun

OCT. 6-8

21st Annual Fall Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy. Meet "George and Martha Washington" on the Mansion's piazza. Guests experience an evening tour of the Washingtons' home and are invited to visit the basement where he stored his wine. Call 703-780-2000 or visit www.MountVernon.org.

OCT. 6-14

Alexandria Live Music Week.

Various times at venues throughout the City of Alexandria. Over 50 venues and more than 175 artists are set to perform over the course of the nine days. Visit www.alexandrialive.com.



The cast of MetroStage's production of "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been ..."

Timely Lesson from History

BY CAROLYN GRIFFIN
PRODUCING ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
METROSTAGE

"Politics can be the graveyard of the poet. And only Poetry can be his resurrection." — Langston Hughes (1964).

Art and Politics. Two vital aspects of our lives, our society, our culture. And sometimes they clash and collide. In 1953 during the red scare, the government's witch hunt for Communist sympathizers in the entertainment industry and the arts was in full force with U.S. Sen. Joe McCarthy leading the troops. Many artists lost jobs, their livelihood and were ruined. This is the setting for "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been ..." when the Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes was called before Senator McCarthy's subcommittee.

MetroStage is very pleased to be presenting the second production of Carlyle Brown's timely, almost prescient play. In 2012 it was historic. In

2017 it is historic, timely and an important reminder of what can occur when a government is out of control and threatens the free speech and thoughts of its constituency.

Playwright Brown has fictionalized the account of Hughes being called before the Senate Subcommittee but as an audience you will be exposed to the evocative poetry and music that so reflects the Harlem Renaissance and the times, and you will also experience what was happening in the Senate Chambers to so many.

In addition to Langston Hughes there are actors playing the roles of Senators McCarthy and Everett Dirksen, counsel Roy Cohn and David Schine, and Langston's lawyer Frank Reeves. It is a fascinating window into the mind of a poet, an African American poet reflecting on the Harlem Renaissance and the times, and the inner workings of this Senate Committee that terrorized so many artists.

So enjoy the play, the original music supporting the poetry, and also reflect on what we are witnessing as history continues to unfold before us daily. Poetry, Music and Politics are on stage at MetroStage this month.

OCT. 6-21

Drumming with Dishes on Stage.

Various times at Arts on the Horizon, The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. A children's story about a girl and her imaginary friend, who discover they can use ordinary kitchen objects to make extraordinary music together. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 7

Art on the Avenue. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. More than 300 artists such as jewelers to silversmith and beaders,

woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, glass makers, unique painters, sculptures, and fabric artists, and musicians. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.

Garden Experts Lecture. 8:30-12:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Presenter Marianne Wilburn shares "Big Dreams, Small Garden" and Pam Beck imparts "Movement Through the Landscape." Call 703-642-5173 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring/.

Port City Oktoberfest Party. noon-9 p.m. at Port City, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Call 703-778-0874 or visit [www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-](http://www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events)

[brewery/events](http://www.PortCityBrewing.com/the-brewery/events).

Adopt the Block. 1-4 p.m. at Lost Dog Cafe Alexandria, 808 N. Henry St. To continue the celebration around the release of Lost Dog's Limited Collaboration Beer with Port City Brewing Company, Lost Dog Cafe will be hosting the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for an adoption event. Have a pint, have a sandwich, and maybe even take home a new member of the family. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org or www.lostdogcafe.com.

Public Square Dedication. 2 p.m. at the Del Ray Farmers' Market site, 2311 Mt Vernon Ave. The Alexandria City Council will officially dedicate the Del Ray Farmers' Market site

"The Pat Miller Neighborhood Square." Visit www.alexandriava.gov.
'Rip the Runway' Benefit Fashion Show. 4:30-7 p.m. at the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. Every dollar raised will directly support the Vola Lawson Breast Cancer Memorial Fund, a memorial fund established to raise money that contributes to the cost of annual mammograms for the women in Northern Virginia. Call 909-245-9661.

Oktoberfest. 3-7 p.m. St. Aidan's Episcopal Church and Day School, 8531 Riverside Road. German food such as knockwurst, bratwurst, potato salad; sides, beer and cold drinks, live Oompa band, bake sale, children's games, petting zoo, moon bounce. Visit www.staidans.episcopal.com or call 703-360-4220.

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 6:41 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria. 300 John Carlyle St. Showtime is sundown. Popped Republic Food Truck will be on site. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

Mount Vernon's Blue Room

Reopens. 7-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. The Blue Room in the Mount Vernon Mansion will reopen marking the completion of a major seven-month restoration. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 8

Yoga. 9:30-10:30 a.m.-noon at John Carlyle Square Park, 300 John Carlyle St. Part of the outdoor fitness series in Carlyle. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun

Kidney Donation Story. 10 a.m. at Beth El Hebrew congregation at 3830 Seminary Road. Documentary showing "Harold Mintz: The Life changing Experience of saving a Life." Visit www.bethelhebrew.org/ or call 703) 370-9400.

Museum Geek Tour. noon-1 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Basement tour. Call 703-746-3852 or visit alexandriava.gov/apothecary.

TUESDAY/OCT. 10

Lord Fairfax Descendant. 6:30 p.m. at the The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The British author, Hugh Fairfax, a descendant of Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax, the Proprietor of the Northern Neck of Virginia and brother of Nicholas, 14th Lord Fairfax, will give a brief introduction to his new book "Fairfax of Virginia. The Forgotten Story of America's only Peerage." Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 11

Improve Arlandria Parks. 6:30 p.m. at the Leonard "Chick" Armstrong Recreation Center, 25 West Reed Ave. (formerly the Cora Kelly Recreation Center) with Rebuilding Together Alexandria to discuss improving 3550 Commonwealth Ave. and Four Mile Run Park at Dale St. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation.

Beautify Alexandria Lecture. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. The Alexandria Beautification Commission is partnering with the Virginia Cooperative Extension to bring a series of educational program to Alexandria. These programs focus on ways residents can beautify their homes and neighborhoods using sustainable landscaping practices. Email AlexandriaBeautification@gmail.com.

ENTERTAINMENT



Burgundy Fall Fair

Family fun for all ages at Burgundy's Fall Fair with Zombie run, pumpkin painting, moon bounce, live music, used book and kids' closet sale, food tent. Free admission. Proceeds from activity tickets and food and merchandise sale benefit student financial aid. Rain or shine. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 14 at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org or call 703-960-3431.

CALENDAR

THURSDAY/OCT. 12

Fashion Show and Luncheon. 10 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting their 34th annual Fashion Show and Luncheon, "Floral Fantasy." Proceeds will go to several agricultural projects. For information and tickets email Ichter@verizon.net or call 703-780-8700.

FRIDAY/OCT. 13

10,000 Maniacs in Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. A 1980's favorite, Julian Velard will open the show. \$35 Visit www.birchmere.com.

OCT. 13-15

2017 National Kids Yoga Conference. 7 p.m. at the Nannie J. Lee Community Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Learn the art of successfully bringing yoga, mindfulness, and social emotional learning to the youth in your community. Visit conference.yokid.org/.

SATURDAY/OCT. 14

Drawing Workshop. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Artist and instructor Caroline Hottenstein shows how to use pen and ink, watercolor, graphite and colored pencils to capture and highlight details in insect illustration. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/greenspring or call 703-642-5173.

Watershed Cleanup Day. 9-11:30 a.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Opportunity for individuals, students, families, scouts

and other community groups to be part of this year's International Coastal Cleanup. Help clear the earth's arteries by collecting tires, bed springs, bottles, cans and other debris from your local waterways. Visit bit.ly/FCPAwatershedClean.

Fall Family Carnival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. The Northern Virginia Urban League (NVUL), in partnership with Smart Learning Solutions, will host an ASTEAM Fall Family Carnival, with hands on learning activities for children and families, will feature a fun-filled day of Aviation, Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. To register and for additional information about the ASTEAM Fall Family Carnival and Northern Virginia Urban League, visit www.nvul.org or call 703-836-2858.

Burgundy Fall Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Burgundy Farm Country Day School, 3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria. Family fun for all ages: Zombie run, pumpkin painting, moon bounce, live music, used book and kids' closet sale, food tent. Free admission. Proceeds from activity tickets and food and merchandise sale benefit student financial aid. Rain or shine. Visit www.burgundyfarm.org or call 703-960-3431.

Touch-A-Truck. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. An interactive event that allows children to see, touch, and explore their favorite big trucks and heavy machinery, as well as to meet the personnel who protect, serve, & build the Alexandria community. \$5, children under 2 are free. Visit www.FortHuntPreschool.com.

Scottish Heritage Day. noon-4 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax

St. Scottish music, dancing, and fashion as well as tours of the Carlyle House. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.CarlyleHouse.org.

Painting in the Park. noon-4 p.m. at John Carlyle Square in the Carlyle District of Alexandria. 300 John Carlyle St. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun

Outlandish Event. 1-4 p.m. at the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax St. Tour the historic apothecary and learn about a few of the herbal medicines featured in Diana Gabaldon's "Outlander" series of novels from caskara to dauco seeds. \$18. Call 703-746-3852 or visit alexandriava.gov/shop.

Beer Tapping and Pet Adoption. 2-5 p.m. at Port City Brewing Company, 3950 Wheeler Ave. Port City Brewing Company and Lost Dog Café have partnered to support Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation by brewing a limited-edition IPA for National Adopt-a-Dog Month in October. Lost Dog Rescue Ale will be available for the first time in the Tasting Room that day. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/ or www.lostdogrescue.org.

Long Black Veil Happy Hour. 6-9 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy Port City beverages. \$25. Visit shop.alexandriava.gov/events.aspx.

Members Support Party. 7-9 p.m., at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association invites members and friends to join us for La Vie en Rose, a French evening in the Athenaeum Gallery. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

OCT. 14-15

42nd Annual Virginia Wine

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief fireworks display will take place as part of a private event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following date:

Tuesday, October 10,
between 7:30 p.m. and 7:50 p.m. (4 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to: Events@MountVernon.org.

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Burgundy Fall Fair

Saturday, October 14

11 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine!
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Free admission. Activities require tickets; buy ahead at www.burgundyfarm.org or at the Fair.

Proceeds benefit student financial aid, so spread the word—we'll see you there!

Burgundy Farm Country Day School
3700 Burgundy Road, Alexandria, VA
703.960.3431 www.burgundyfarm.org

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ENTERTAINMENT



Art Exhibit

M. Jane Johnson will be at the gallery with her "Splendid Fortitude" exhibit on Oct. 12, 6:30-8 p.m. at Studio 21 in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. Exhibit on display Oct. 5-Nov. 5. Visit www.theartleague.org or 703-683-1780.

"Four" by M. Jane Johnson

CALENDAR

Festival. noon-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Wine tasting from many Virginia wineries, festival access to the Virginia Oyster Pavilion, and all concessions and musical entertainment. \$35-65. Call 202-244-3700 or visit www.virginiawinefest.com.

DEADLINE OCT. 15

Photo Contest. Submit photos taken in the city with the theme "Support the well-being of Alexandria's residents by ensuring access to a variety of quality recreation, park and cultural experiences." Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Recreation for more information.

SUNDAY/OCT. 15

Walk to Bust Cancer. 8 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. National Breast Center Foundation's Walk to Bust Cancer to increase awareness and celebrate survivorship. Email Martha Carucci at Martha.carucci@nationalbreastcenter.org or visit www.walktobustcancer.org.

First Annual Dogs for Literacy Dog Walk. 2-4 p.m. at Cameron Run Park, 4001 Eisenhower Ave. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Tutoring Consortium's "Book Buddies" program for struggling readers. \$40 per dog. Call 703-228-2144.

George V. Johnson Quintet. 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Jazz at Meade, \$20 donation, free street parking, free intermission buffet. Call 267-463-7936.

Free Speech Forum. 7 p.m. at 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave. Visit www.wmal.com/freespeechforum/ or www.birchmere.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 17

Genealogy Lecture. 1-3 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. "Behind the Ived Walls," Sharon Hodges talks about records of genealogical interest found at colleges and universities. Call 703-768-4101 or visit www.mvgenalogy.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

4 Foodie Dates to Circle in October

BY HOPE NELSON attendees must be 21 or older.

When it comes to reasons to celebrate, October packs a wallop. From the tail end of Oktoberfest (which began in September) all the way through to Halloween and its ensuing festivities, the month brings with it all sorts of activities for the taste buds (and their owners). Here are four events worth your time this month.

Jackson 20 Oktoberfest Celebration, Oct. 8

The local Oktoberfest celebrations continue apace, and Jackson 20 is taking its seat at the table. Nestled inside the Alexandrian hotel on King Street (formerly the Hotel Monaco), the well-appointed bar and dining room is getting its German festivities going in style. With a menu offering everything from bratwurst and pork loin to German potato salad and German chocolate cake, Jackson 20 is aiming to leave guests full and happy. An offering of five different Oktoberfest beers doesn't hurt, either. 4-8 p.m., 480 King St. \$25 for adults; free for children under 10.

Hank's OysterFest, Oct. 14

Hank's Oyster Bar is doubling down on its stock-in-trade with its 10th annual OysterFest, an all-you-can eat affair featuring all manner of oysters. Fried oysters, grilled oysters and oysters on the half shell pair with Old Bay fries, onion rings, and calamari in this seafood feast. Craft beers, wine, and punch are on tap at the open bar, making this a festival of both food and drink. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., 1026 King St. \$90;

Gadsby's Long Black Veil Happy Hour, Oct. 14

October is the perfect month for a good ghost story. Combine a spooky tour with a great beer and you've got a happy hour in the making. Port City Brewing releases its annual Long Black Veil black IPA on Oct. 6, but visit Gadsby's Tavern a week or so later and taste both the beer and the mystery behind one of Alexandria's best legends. The "Female Stranger" died in Room 8 at Gadsby's Tavern on Oct. 14, 1816, leaving behind a flurry of speculation that hasn't abated in the 201 years since. Join the teams from Port City and Gadsby's for a beer, appetizers, and a tour of the tavern (including the legendary Room 8). 6-9 p.m., 134 N. Royal St. \$25.

Rustico "Near and Far" Beer Dinner Series, Oct. 16

The fifth installment of Rustico's beer dinner series homes in on brews from The Answer Brewpub down in Richmond. The menu is still under a bit of construction, but Rustico's got the beers all lined up. This fifth dinner also brings with it five beers from The Answer, ranging from a session IPA to an imperial IPA to an imperial stout to round out the meal. The Answer also wins out on the best beer titles around; the "Well, You Can't Jump, But At Least You're Slow" imperial IPA sets the tone for the evening. 7-9 p.m., 827 Slaters Lane. \$60.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

OCT. 17-NOV. 26

Multiple Exposures Gallery. Various times at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union Street, #312. Photo exhibit. Visit www.multipleexposuresgallery.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 19

Film Screening, Discussion, and Book Signing. 7 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street. An Evening with Alexandria boxer Anthony Suggs, Sr. and moderator Michael Joyner. Free. Call 703-746-4356.

FRIDAY/OCT. 20

Ghosts and Grief Halloween Tours at Lee-Fendall House. starting at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern-day funeral practices. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door; free to members. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 21

Mega Bazaar/Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Over 30 crafters, silent auction, bake sale, and door prizes. Call 703-765-4573.

Master Class Program: Planning Spring. 9:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. In this extended Master Class, famed plantsman and author David Culp will share plant knowledge that will benefit the garden. \$28. Call 703-642-5173.

History of Candy Lecture. 11 a.m. at the Black History Museum, 902

Wythe St. Susan Benjamin, candy historian, returns to the Alexandria Black History Museum to talk about the historic origins of candy based on her book "Sweet as Sin: The Unwrapped Story of How Candy Became America's Favorite Pleasure." This program focuses on African-American contributions to sugar production and candy making. \$15. Call 703-746-4356 or visit www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory.

Bicentenary of the Birth of Baha'u'llah. 3-6 p.m. in the Madison Auditorium of the Patent and Trademark Office, 600 Dulany St. 200th anniversary of the birth of Baha'u'llah, the Founder of the Baha'i Faith. Visit alexandriavabahais.org/bicentennial/.

Tales from the Vault. 7-8 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Presented in Ivy Hill Cemetery's receiving vault, the closest thing Alexandria has to catacombs, come hear tales of Virginia's history. \$10. Call 703-549-7413 x112 or visit ivyhillcemetery.net.

Raven's Night Concert. 7:30 p.m. at The Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave. Belladonna and Ken Vegas take you back in time with an all new show inspired by the "Beautiful Age" in France, from 1871-1914. \$25. Call 703-549-7500 or visit www.ravensnight.com.

Brahms, Britten and Butterworth Concert. 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Fisher Art Gallery NOVA, Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive. Images of coastal shores and pastoral greens dominate their October concerts Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

SUNDAY/OCT. 22

Brahms, Britten and Butterworth

Concert. 8 p.m. at George Washington's Masonic Temple, 101 Callahan Drive. Images of coastal shores and pastoral greens dominate their October concerts with James Ross, guest conductor. Visit www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter/.

MONDAY/OCT. 23

Teamesteem. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mt Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. www.dormie.io/teamesteem. Fundraising event for a nonprofit mentorship organization that pairs young professionals with local college and high school students to help them learn leadership, entrepreneurship, technology skills, and personal finance as well as empower them to be fulfilled both personally and professionally. Visit www.dormie.io/teamesteem.

"Singing with Martin Luther." 7 p.m. at the Immanuel Chapel, Virginia Theological Seminary, 3737 Seminary Road. A hymn fest celebrating 500 Years of Reformation Hymns led by renowned liturgical scholar Gail Ramshaw. Visit singwithluther.eventbrite.com or call 703-461-1792.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 25

WPHS Orchestra Spooktacular. 5:30-7 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. West Potomac Orchestra's annual Spooktacular Carnival and Concert. Free. Call 703-718-2587.

THURSDAY/OCT. 26

Film and Discussion. 7-9 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. "Breathe

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ENTERTAINMENT



FILE PHOTO BY JOHN BORDNER

Art on the Avenue

On Saturday, Oct. 7, Mount Vernon Avenue will be the venue for the 22nd annual Art on the Avenue festival in Del Ray.

CALENDAR

in the Roots," film tells the story of Ty Christen Joseph, a young African-American English teacher, who takes a spiritual journey of discovery from Addis Ababa to Lalibela in Ethiopia. Following the film, Indrias G. Kassaye, the film's writer, photographer, and producer leads a discussion. \$10. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory.

colorful toy-filled pumpkins for local children to discover. Other activities include crafts to take home, a sticker station, temporary tattoos, spooky stories, a costume parade with prizes as well as drinks and refreshments. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Zombie Escape. 6:30-10 p.m. at the Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St. \$30 ages 13 and up. The group will have 20 minutes to crack a series of puzzles and physical feats to obtain all the supplies needed for your survival group back at the hotel. Call 703-549-2997 or visit www.CarlyleHouse.org.

Edgar Allan Poe Readings in the Vault. 7-8 p.m. in Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Presented in Ivy Hill Cemetery's receiving vault, the closest thing Alexandria has to catacombs, the Guillotine Theater Company will perform some of Edgar Allan Poe's readings. \$10. Visit ivyhillcemetery.net.

Nightmare on King Street. Judging at 11 p.m. at Daniel O'Connell's, 112 King St. Free. Halloween Party. Live music by Driven to Clarity. Prizes for Best Female Costume, Best Male Costume, and Best Group Costume. Call 703-739-1124 or visit www.danieloconnells.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 29

Doggie Trick-or-Treat. 1-3 p.m. at The Dog Park, 705 King St. Call 703-888-2818 or visit thedogparkva.biz.

Del Ray Halloween Parade. 2-4 p.m. at Mount Vernon and Commonwealth avenues through Del Ray. Children, pets and strollers in costumes are invited to march and show off their finest and scariest Halloween garb with prizes in different categories. Free. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Meet the Authors. 2-5 p.m. at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road. Three authors, and Robert Siegel, Host of NPR's "All Things Considered." \$25. Visit www.bethelhebrew.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 4

Ventures in Community Walk. 8-10 a.m. at Fort Hunt Park, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. Fund raising for Good Shepherd Housing, ICNA Relief Food Pantry, New Hope Housing, Rising Hope and United Community Ministries. Email kaddavey@gmail.com.

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FRIDAY/OCT. 27

Bark or Treat Canine Cruise. 6 and 7:30 p.m. at Alexandria City Marina, 1 Cameron St. Come out with your costumed canine and cruise to some Halloween tunes along the Potomac. \$18 adults; \$12 ages 2-11; dogs free. Call 703-684-0580 or visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

Ghosts and Grief Halloween Tours at Lee-Fendall House. starting at 7 p.m., 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Learn more about the rituals and customs behind our modern-day funeral practices. \$8 in advance; \$10 at the door; free to members. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

The Gadsby's Tavern Ghost Tour. 7-9 p.m. tours every 30 minutes at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Follow a colonial-costumed guide through the Alexandria streets, visit a cemetery and enter one of the most haunted buildings in Old Town. Call 703-519-1749 or visit www.alexcolonialtours.com.

OCT. 27-28

Trick-or-Treating at Mount Vernon. 3:30-6:30 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Wagon rides, chocolate making, costume parade. \$12 adults; \$6 ages 11 and under. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

OCT. 27-29

Worship Ceremonial Workshops. Various times at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road. Author John Philip Newell leads discussions and workshops from his book "Rebirthing of God." Visit www.centerforspiritualdeepening.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 28

4th Annual Halloween Pumpkin Hunt. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. Alexandria's ghosts and goblins will fill the garden with hundreds of



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Jeremy Fletcher, 41, moved into Wessynton last January from Los Angeles with wife Fawn, 39, children Locke, 6, and Rylen, 3.



An entrance sign to the Wessynton community on Cunningham Drive.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Wessynton Turns 50

FROM PAGE 6
post-mid-century modern,” said Revere. “In speaking to the architect Nicholas Pappas, he took inspiration from a lot of different sources. The intention was to make Wessynton its own unique style with its own unique color palette. They stole from a lot of different architectural styles. The idea was to build something very distinctive.”

A nine-year resident, Revere says what makes Wessynton special is the history and stewardship of the original vision of the community. “We’re a volunteer-driven community that depends very much on the involvement of its residents to continue to make it special to make sure that it endures. It’s a very unique spirit that makes Wessynton very special,” he said.

Added Revere: “We’re on one of the original farms belonging to George Washington. They were careful to stay true to George Washington’s vision. When it was being developed, they were careful to keep a lot of the trees. Miller & Smith really did want to maintain the visual integrity and natural feel of this community. They built this community to be in harmony with its natural surroundings.”

Marguerite Blackwelder, age 91, paid \$49,500 for her mid-century modern Manor House on Wessynton Way when she moved there in June 1967. She was one of the 35 original homeowners to move in with husband Arthur “Blackie” (now deceased), sons Rankin (deceased), then 17, and Erick, then 11.

“It’s been a wonderful neighborhood. My son and his family are living in my house. There are children of the original owners who have inherited the homes. So we’re seeing a nice amount of second- and third-generation people,” she said.

She loved that the builder left a variety of trees in the community: hickory, persimmons, sassafras, black walnut, and holly. From the very beginning, she said the community had a strong social connection. It had an active women’s tennis league that played competitively in Fairfax County against other tennis clubs. What she especially liked was the variety of residents who followed the architectural guidelines.

“We do have an architectural committee/board so people can find the right paint colors if they’re going to change things,” she said. “Therefore, it stayed very much like it was planned to be, which most of us liked,” she said.

The community is also on a branch of Little Hunting Creek, which has a wharf with two channels that the builder dug so some residents have their own

docks. “We have a community dock and people on those channels have their own docks,” she said.

Architect Jeremy Fletcher, 41, moved into Wessynton’s River House model on Cunningham Drive from Los Angeles last January with wife Fawn, 39, and children Locke, 6, and Rylen, 3. They paid \$665,000 for the home.

“I grew up in Mt. Vernon and I’m aware of the neo-colonial nature of the area. We’ve come to appreciate modernness and openness and glass. And the way the houses are situated in the neighborhood is a great site plan. It was laid out very well,” said Fletcher.

He said the builders went to great efforts to maintain as many trees as they could. “They figured out the best way the houses could fit on the lots and oriented the windows to look into the wooded areas. You feel somewhat secluded because you’re looking at trees and not other houses,” he said.

His wife Fawn, who is active on the Social Committee, said Wessynton tries to do something for each major holiday: an Easter egg hunt down by the pool; a Memorial Day pool party; a Halloween Trick-or-Treat Party; Christmas Caroling; and a July 4th Parade. “We do a parade that starts in the middle of the community and goes down to the pool area,” she said. “There’s quite a few social events throughout the year.”

She said they have a monthly newsletter called “The Byways,” and they also have a Yahoo Group. “We can post internally within our neighborhood, like a lost dog or cat. Or if you need someone to house-sit their home. It’s a very open communications and everyone’s super friendly and outgoing.”



Maureen Vogel and Jamie Kim take a walk down a wooded path in Wessynton.

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A Question Which Begs What Answer

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Twice recently, in print, I have been asked the same question. Once on an evaluation of a previous doctor appointment, and within the last week, on a pre-registration form for an oral surgeon.

The question: "How is your health?" "Excellent." "Good." "Fair." "Poor." The two times I saw this question, I snickered. I mean, I have cancer: Stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer in fact, the terminal kind.

And even though I've lived way beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, (eight and a half years and counting, always counting), I'm still undergoing treatment. I see my oncologist every three months. I'm not in remission. My tumors, so far as I've been told, are not necrotic (dead). I'm still scheduling CT Scans, brain MRIs and PET Scans quarterly, semi-annually and yearly, respectively. And while amazingly thrilled to be still alive, my fate turns on the results of any one of these diagnostic scans so I wonder aloud: how is my health?

In the two most recent opportunities (I've had others) to answer this question, I have erred on the side of reality (my reality) and answered "Poor." Whether I'm up and about or down and out, cancer is sort of the definition of 'poor,' isn't it? Let's be honest: who wants to receive a diagnosis of cancer, regardless of type and/or stage. Moreover, it's hardly the gift that keeps on giving. Quite the opposite. It's like the houseguest who never leaves. It's always there and the more it's around, the worse it's likely to get.

As much as one tries, a cancer diagnosis is hard to forget. Whether you're still undergoing treatment as I am, or have been told you're cancer-free/in remission/N.E.D. (no evidence of disease), the prospect of a life unaltered by the experience is unrealistic, especially so when questions are asked pertaining to your health. It's not as if you become stigmatized by your cancer diagnosis and/or medical history, but you do become a lifetime member of a club you'd rather not have joined (the more serious and exact opposite of a feeling expressed by Groucho Marx when he so famously joked that he wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member). If only it were that simple – and funny.

A straight forward question about one's health which requires a thoughtful and honest answer. Yet, an answer which somehow must, in my opinion, educate the asker. I'm not a normal respondent (no comments from the peanut gallery). I'm a cancer patient/survivor. Presumably, my immune system is somewhat compromised. What's good for the goose is probably not good for this gander. My life expectancy is all fouled up. Cancer is likely in control.

As much as I want to delude myself otherwise, the writing, if not necessarily on the walls, is certainly in multiple books and journals. And not that there aren't exceptions to every rule (my survival is proof of that), generally speaking, a cancer diagnosis "spells trouble with a capital 'T,'" if I may invoke the late actor, Robert Preston, from his career-defining role as Harold Hill in the 1962 movie, "The Music Man." Still, life is going on, and not too badly, I may add. But on any given day ...

I suppose the solution then is an asterisk. But how does one add an asterisk to a standardized form. And given the evolving nature of our almost-entirely inhumane (non-human) electronic contact, where does one go/what does one say, to separate and be heard. I want to be treated equally, but as a cancer patient, I'm not. I'm different. If there's a box for that, I'll gladly check it. I want the best outcome, naturally. But not giving me the opportunity to properly define myself/my circumstances doesn't help either one of us. And does even less for the next respondent.

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

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

itself against law and order, against veterans and police who protect us and against American ideals. I take it as given that the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are all aspiration documents – we're not there yet but we're further along the path than any other country in history. Let's keep going in that direction.

I say again, in what world does one man kneeling while all others are standing represent unity while one man standing while the others kneel — oh, never mind — let's go play some baseball and get things back to normal.

Barry M. Meuse

President, Fort Hunt Little League

Not for All Virginians

To the Editor

Ed Gillespie's campaign slogan says he will be a Governor for all Virginians. Last week's letter to the editor, "Misguided Vote," said, "Ed Gillespie has demonstrated that he will put the interests of Virginians first;" except for those who are interested in public education (see his tax cut plan and the dollars that will be cut out of his budget for public education) and those who want to see Virginia enact some common sense gun laws, like universal background checks on all gun sales (A rating from the NRA). On those two issues alone, there is no way he can be the Governor for all Virginians.

John Kevin Bergen

Alexandria

How Bad Does It Have To Get?

To the Editor:

We have the worst gun violence in the world because Republicans are in the pocket of gun dealers. We have the most expensive health care in the world because Republicans are in the pocket of the healthcare industry.

We have the worst record fighting climate change because Republicans are in the pocket of the fossil fuel industry. How bad does it have to get before people stop voting for Republicans?

Republicans give bribes to the rich in the form of tax cuts and deregulation (trickle down) which explode our deficits until it wrecks our economy and Democrats are left to clean up the mess. Democrats invest in the middle class to grow the economy from the middle out, because it creates a stronger, more stable economy that works better for everyone. Republicans complain about how slow Democrats are at cleaning up their mess and then lie and cheat their way back into power, until they crash the economy again. How bad does it have to get before people stop voting for Republicans?

Todd Smyth

Alexandria

11

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Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **10/17**, **11/17**, or **12/17**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

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1902 Sherwood Hall Ln
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1111 Cameron Rd.
\$615,000

Substantially updated in Wayneswood School area!

Substantially updated in Wayneswood School area! Rare opportunity - Spacious home on beautiful lot, just off

GW Parkway minutes from Old Town in Wayneswood school area for remarkably reasonable price! Special features include 4 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, hardwood floors, thermal windows, and many other substantial upgrades. Gorgeous setting on spacious lot in premier location. Super Value!



9210 Cherrytree Dr.
\$584,500
Great Value!

Highly motivated seller! Fabulous home in premier Mt. Vernon neighborhood. Exceptionally spacious 5 BR, 3 BA home with bright, open floor plan. Major updated include: roof, windows, HVAC, Kitchen &

more. Features inc Chef's kitchen w/ gas cooking, beautiful stained hardwood floors, upgraded trim including custom wood handrail, sun room, and custom deck overlooking grounds adjoining wooded area



9211 Volunteer Dr.
\$550,000

Resort Living in Mount Vernon!

Your Own Private Oasis! Exceptionally spacious 5 BR home in prime location in one of the area's premier neighborhoods. Absolutely gorgeous pool &

grounds. Total privacy! Interior has been painted and beautiful hardwood floors just refinished. Exceptional value!



8307 Crown Court Rd.
\$729,900

Vacation at Home!

Owner invested over \$250,000 in renovating this spectacular 5 Bedroom, 5 Bath home featuring large room sizes, soaring cathedral ceilings, and oversize two car garage. Large deck overlooks truly

stunning back yard scene with custom pool, spa, and extensive hardscaping. Vacation at home in setting that resembles luxury upscale resort!



9024 Buckner Rd.
\$495,000
One Story Living!

Meticulously maintained home on gorgeous half acre level lot fronting quiet street ending at grounds of Mt. Vernon

Country Club. Many great features include: expanded kitchen with silestone counters, main level family room, thermal replacement windows, finished lower level, and gas heat. Expansive rear deck overlooks beautiful yard.



4708 Ferry Landing Rd.
\$475,000

Opportunity is knocking!

Spacious three level home on gorgeous level grounds in the heart of Mount Vernon's finest neighborhoods. Home

has huge potential and many positive features including: beautifully stained hardwoods, fireplace, finished lower level with walk out, covered parking, and large level lot.



4403 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy
\$925,000

3 new luxury homes by Wakefield Homes! This Radford Model provides all the new home bells & whistles at a remarkably reasonable price! Open floor plan enhanced by high ceilings and large

windows. Great setting just down the road from Mt. Vernon Estate. FREE finished basement rec room w/ bath & \$10,000 seller credit* for limited time! Visit our website for more info on this build & project!



9309 Maybrook Pl.
\$549,500
Great Value!

Super Value! Spacious 5 bedroom home in prime Mt. Vernon location at remarkably reasonable price!

Home in absolutely pristine condition with numerous features including: 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths, open floor plan, hardwood floors, thermal windows, gas cooking/heat/hot water, sun room and garage. Fabulous opportunity!



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