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On the Town' Whitman students to perform 1944 Broadway musical.

BY PEGGY McEWAN The Almanac

here will be singing, dancing and merry making at Walt Whitman High School this weekend when students present their fall musical "On the Town."

"This show is kind of like the candy of shows," said Kevin Hatcher, student director and producer. "It's a comedy pure and fun with lots of music and dance."

"On the Town" is a 1944 Broadway musical with music by Leonard Bernstein and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green. It is the story of three sailors looking for love in New York City during a 24-hour shore leave.

"As pointless as [the plot] is, there is a lot going on behind the scene," Hatcher said. "There are 40 body mics, a lot of costumes, a lot of lighting and a lot of cues."

During a dress rehearsal Sunday there were a few technical glitches, mics that needed new batteries, songs and dances to be synched with the orchestra, and prop placement to be tweaked, but everyone was confident the show would come together in the three days left until opening night Thursday.

Actors and tech crew took changes in stride as Christopher Gerken, adjunct faculty at Whitman and adult director of the show, stopped and started scenes to make

See 'On the Town,' Page 11



Arianne Banda is Ivy Smith in Whitman High School's production of "On the Town."



Connor Johnson, Matthew Millin and Eli Banks play sailors with a 24-hour pass in New York City in Whitman High School's production of "On the Town."

Helping at Library, Girl Scouts Plant Fall Bulbs

Potomac Village Garden Club sponsors Nature Detective program.



Katie Lotz and Reese Miller hold milkweed seeds during the Girl Scout planting day at Potomac Library Sunday.

BY PEGGY McEWAN The Almanac

everal years ago, members of Potomac Village Garden Club realized many young people did not know how to plant flowers, seeds or bulbs. In response they started a Nature Detective Program to invite Girl Scouts to help in the gardens around Potomac Library as a way of teaching them basic gardening skills.

"We want to share the love of gardening with the next generation and to show them how plants help the environment," said Linda Rieger, chairwoman of the Nature Detective program for the garden club.

Rieger said they invite Scouts to spend a few hours digging in the dirt every fall close to the birthday of Juliet Low, founder of the Girl Scouts. Low was born Oct. 31, 1860 in Savannah, Ga. She founded the Girl Scouts in the United States in 1912.

Two Girl Scout Troops from Potomac Elementary School gathered at the library Sunday afternoon, Nov. 12, for a lesson on soil that included worms and their importance, plus practical help planting daffodils SEE NATURE DETECTIVES, PAGE 9



Tulsi Gupta, Katie Morey, Danya Levin, Anjali Kapur and Zoe Ireland from Potomac Elementary School Girl Scout Troop 2859 plant bulbs at **Potomac Library Sunday.**

Potomac Students Become Their Art

Whole-school collaboration makes one photo using all students.

BY PEGGY McEWAN The Almanac

tudents and staff at Potomac Elementary School did more than just collaborate in an art project this week, they were the

Each was a "paint dot" of color in an all school photo creating the head of a mustang, the school's mascot.

Artist in Residence Daniel Dancer was at the school last week working with the students and staff to create a living portrait to include all 450 students and 50 staff members.

Dancer, a former photo journalist, now runs Art for the Sky, a team building activity that, according to Dancer's website, is "a whole-body way of stimulating our imagination to see the elusive 'big picture' and help us better understand our interconnections with all life."

During the kick-off assembly, Dancer showed slides of many of his works, giving the children a picture of what they were creating. By wearing a designated colored t-shirt and crouching down so he could photograph them from high above the school playground, Dancer created the portrait.

For that, a bucket truck from the National Institutes of Health fire company came to the school to raise Dancer and school principal Catherine Allie 100 feet in the air.

"I thought this was a great way to celebrate our last year in this school," Allie said.

Fifth grader Sam Epstein agreed with Allie.

"I thought it was a smart idea because we are celebrating the school," he said.

Amprey and Isabella Ho talked about the photo at lunch Thursday, Nov. 9, the day the picture was taken.

Even though the morning started with rain, school administrators decided to try to get the photo done that day.

Fortunately, the rain stopped and even in the chilly morning, the students filed out of the school in shirts of blue, black and white, predesignated to make up the colors in the head of the mustang.

"Everyone's together and happy," Isabella said. "We are all making memories."

Allie said she heard about Dancer's work last year, but it was only two weeks ago that he was able to work Potomac Elementary into his schedule.

'We did this all in two weeks," she said. "students and parents really cooperated ... you saw everyone in the same colored shirts."

Art teacher Victoria Wenger said the school's Parents Teachers Association helped make Dancer's visit a reality.

"It was a lesson in collaboration," she said. "What was great about this was the artist worked with the whole school."

Friday morning the student body and staff met in the all-purpose room for the photo reveal. Dancer had left to return home to Oregon but created a video of the process at Potomac for the children to see.

It wasn't until the end of the video that they saw the final product: the blue head of a mustang with flowing white mane outlined in black.

The children broke into ap-

"I thought it was really cool, the way we all blended together," Desi Epstein and classmates Desi said as she left the assembly.



Potomac Elementary School students and staff get into position for a photograph to be taken from 100 feet in



Students and staff get ready for their Mustang photo.



Student members of the Potomac Elementary School ART team fill buckets with black mulch for outlining their

POTOMAC ALMANAC

Newspaper of **Potomac** A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses

1606 King Street Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com @MaryKimm

EDITORIAL PHONE: 703-778-9415 **E-MAIL:**

almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITOR

Steven Mauren, 703-778-9415 smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Mike Salmon msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS Susan Belford, Carole Dell. Cissy Finley Grant, Carole Funger, Colleen Healy, Kenny Lourie Peggy McEwan, Ken Moore

Contributing **Photographers**

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh **Production Manager** Geovani Flores

ADVERTISING

For advertising information sales@connectionnewspapers.com 703-778-9431

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Display Advertising: **Kenny Lourie** 301-325-1398

Debbie Funk

National Sales & real Estate 703-778-9444 debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant 703-778-9431 dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President 703-549-0004 jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION

Potomac Almanac is published by Local Media Connection LLC

Five Time First Place **Award-Winner Public Service**

MDDC Press Association Four Time

Newspaper of the Year An Award-winning Newspaper

in Writing, Photography, Editing, Graphics and Design

'Mayfield Market' Returns to Holy Child

More than 60 vendors at this weekend's event.

By Susan Belford The Almanac

ayfield Market is coming Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 18 and 19. This is the 14th annual shopping extravaganza held at the Connelly School of the Holy Child – a mecca of gifts. The market will be open both mornings at 10 a.m. and will continue until 5 p.m. Admission is free.

The market will feature more than 60 vendors from around the U.S., selling monogrammed clothing, accessories and stationery, men's and women's clothing, hostess gifts, jewelry, handmade ceramics, original artwork, handbags, children's gifts and more. The event has a distinctive feel and offers a variety of distinctive items.

Holy Child alumna Jennifer Kress founded the Mayfield Market 14 years ago. "Years ago, I had my own company called Monkey Business and I used to sell at bazaars," she said. "I suggested to HC Director of Development and alum, Suzi Montes See 'Mayfield Market,' Page 11



Scene from a previous Mayfield Market at the Connelly School of the Holy Child.

Thinking about "aging in place" in the Potomac home you love?

Look for our newsletter and brochure in the Potomac Library entry area

10 Things You Can Do Using the Cloudand how it can help you age in place Free. Thurs. Nov 16, 7 p.m. Potomac Library

details at 240-221-1370 www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org

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mmunity Service National History Day Entreprene nce Ensemble Girl Up Experiential Education Trac stronomy Chorus Tennis Dance Ensemble Govern



HOLIDAY FUN

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Holiday Tree Lighting. 5-8 p.m. at Rockville Town Square, 155 Gibbs St, Rockville. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/.

THURSDAY/NOV. 23

Turkey Chase. 8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The Turkey Chase 10K Run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Registration is \$10 for the Kid's Run, \$20 for the 2 mile race, and \$35 for the 10K. See www.turkeychase.com.

NOV. 25-DEC. 31

Winter Lights Festival. Sunday-Thursday, 6-9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 6-10 p.m. at Seneca Creek Park, 11950 Clopper Road, Gaithersburg. Winter Lights is a 3.5-mile drive through a holiday light show at Seneca Creek Park with more than 360 illuminated displays. Additional events include Wine Under the Lights, Run Under the Lights, Leashes 'n' Lights, and, S'More Lights & Trolley Rides. Visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/leisure/ special-events/winter-lights-festival.

DECEMBER 2017

Christmas Tree Sale. Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.



Santa on Fire Engines Toy

Collection. A procession of fire engines run by the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, carry Santa on a tour of Potomac neighborhoods over the course of several evenings in December, collecting unwrapped new toys for needy children. Call 301-365-2255 or visit www.cjpvfd.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

German Christmas Market. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 8617 Chateau Drive, Rockville. Traditional German food and gifts. Visit nextdoor.com/events/ 476521/ for more.

Winter Wonderland. 1-4 p.m. at downtown Bethesda. Santa will be in Veterans Park, 7800 Woodmont Ave. The celebration features holiday performances, a live ice sculpting presentation and a visit from Santa Claus. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more.

The National Philharmonic
Singers. 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal
Church, 109 S. Washington St.,
Rockville. Under the direction of
conductors Stan Engebretson and
Victoria Gau, will present a holiday
concert. Call 301-762-2191 or email

info@cecrockville.org for more.



Winter Wonderland

On Saturday, Dec. 2, the Winter Wonderland comes to downtown Bethesda, 1-4 p.m. The celebration features holiday performances, a live ice sculpting presentation and a visit from Santa Claus. Call 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 4

Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. at the Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. R&B-jazz singer Selina Albright is heading your way as a featured performer on the Dave Koz 20thAnniversary Christmas Tour with fellow smooth/contemporary jazz icons David Benoit, Rick Braun and Peter White. Visit www.SelinaAlbright.com for more.

DEC. 9-10

The Mini-Nut. 8 p.m. at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995

Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. An abbreviated version of The Nutcracker, designed to introduce children to the performance by the Maryland Youth Ballet. \$18 children, \$23 adults. At-the-Door: \$20 children, \$25 adults. Visit www.marylandyouthballet.org.

SUNDAY/DEC. 10

Jingle Bell Jog. 9-10:30 a.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Registration is free for Montgomery County Road Runners Club, \$10 for non-members and \$5 for non-members under 18. See www.mcrrc.org.





Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Townscapes: Sketching as a Way **of Life.** Through Dec. 2, 1:30-4:30 p.m. at the VisArts Center, 155 Gibbs St., Rockville. Class will be sketching in the blocks surrounding VisArts, weather permitting. In inclement weather, sketching is done inside. Saturday classes. Call 301-315-8200.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Rockville's Annual Food Drive. 5 p.m. at Rockville Community Center, . 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville. Last day to donate. Find a list of food requested by the drive, a list of

holiday food items needed and more information at

www.rockvillemd.gov/holidaydrive. Technology Lecture. 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Victor Resmovic, an IT consultant and cybersecurity and technology teacher, will speak on "Ten Things You Can Do Using the Cloud." Call 240-221-1370 or email info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org.

Jamie Sandman in Concert. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac, Call 301-983-

NOV. 16-18

Musical Performance. Various times at Whitman High School, 7100 Whittier Blvd., Bethesda, Whitman High School's award-winning drama

program presents the Golden Age musical comedy "On the Town." Go to whitmandrama.com to learn more.

FRIDAY/NOV. 17

Meet the Artist. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, rooms 1 and 2, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Rachel Collins, a local watercolor artist, member of the National Watercolor Society, and teacher at the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, will be the presenter. Call 703 653-9519.

Wayne Wilentz in Concert. 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-983-

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

No-Sew Felt Family Portrait. 1-4p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Suite 300, Rockville. Work together as a family, or let everyone make their own canvas creations. Students will paint a 12-inch-by-12-inch canvas, develop felt shapes that represent family members, and glue them on the canvas. Up to four family members may work on one canvas. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/.

Family Day: Mosaics. 2-4 p.m. at VisÅrts, 155 Gibbs St., Suite 300, Rockville. Make 6-inch-by-6-inch trivets and provide grouting instructions and grout to take home. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/.

Pizza for NCCF. 5 p.m. at the National Center for Children and Families, 6301 Greentree Road, Bethesda. Eat pizza and support NCCF at Pieology in Bethesda, 25 percent of all proceeds come back to NCCF. Email DLevin@nccf-cares.org or call 301365-4480 x113.

Dinner of Champions. 7 p.m. at JCC of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The annual event honors those who have achieved success in the world of sports, and those who have made extraordinary contributions to the community. The dinner benefits the Jewish Community inclusion programs for individuals with special needs. Individual tickets are \$275. Visit www.jccgw.org.

Rob Patrick in Concert. 7-10:30 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-983-8838

SUNDAY/NOV. 19

Meet the Photographer. 6:30-8:30 a.m. at Photoworks, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Photographer David Myershas will discuss art. \$100. Visit

www.glenechophotoworks.org. **Tom Saputo in Concert.** 6:30–10 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. He brings the piano to life. Call 301-983-8838.

FRIDAY/NOV. 24

Terry Lee Ryan in Concert. 7-11

p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-983-

SATURDAY/NOV. 25

nce Fair emistry

tball Engineering

ing Photography

k Climbing Health

Try the Pottery Wheel. 11 a.m-1 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St.. Suite 300. Rockville. This class is especially designed for those who have never used the wheel or who are working

on basic skills. Each student will create a cup, bowl or vase, and choose a glaze from the studio options. Visit

www.visartsatrockville.org/.

SATURDAY/DEC 2

Pressenda Chamber Players

Concert. 8 p.m. at the Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Washington Conservatory of Music Piano Trio Concert. Visit www.westmorelanducc.org/.

DEC. 1-23

Friends of the Yellow Barn. The Yellow Barn Studio gives annual members show. Visit www.glenechopark.org or www.yellowbarnstudio.com. Call

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

301-634-2222

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SATURDAY/DEC. 30

Family Painting Fun. 2-5 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Suite 300, Rockville. Blank 16-inch-by-20-inch canvas, acrylic paint, brushes, easel, and aprons provided. Visit www.visartsatrockville.org/ Rockville with concerts, children's crafts



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Girl Scouts from Potomac Elementary School first grade Troop 33026 plant bulbs in the garden at Potomac Library Sunday.

Nature Detectives

and picking up walnuts from have food for monarch butterflies, around the library's black walnut

Anjali Kapur, a member of third grade troop 2859, was at the Nature Detective program for the sec-

"Last year we were picking up walnuts and also pulled up weeds and planted flowers," she said.

She expected to do the same on Sunday while working on her badge for community service.

"It also helps the world and our community," she said.

Aadya Verma, a first grader with Troop 33026, was planning bulbs for the first time.

"I planted two [bulbs] to make it more pretty," she said.

She is hoping to come back in the spring to see her daffodils in bloom.

troop leaders for the first-grade group.

'This is our first time," Tung said. "We are learning about dirt, how to plant bulbs and how to use resources wisely. And about making the world a better place."

All the girls got the opportunity

to see milkweed plants, a must and got to take one of the silky seed pods home to plant in their own yards.

The Nature Detective program is in its eighth year, said Carol Jarvis, president of the Garden Club.

"We were maintaining the library garden, but we were 'ghost gardeners," Jarvis said. "No one knew we were watering, weeding, planting. We thought to involve the girls so they can take pride in their community garden."

Jarvis also said the club provides over \$1,800 worth of plantings, mulch, etc. for the grounds around the library and Friends of the Library Potomac donates about \$2,000.

One of the group's largest fundraisers each year is the annual Tian Tung and Nanita Sandal are Holiday Sale of arrangements made by club members.

> This year the sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec, 3 at Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive.

> "The price range is \$20-\$40 and all the profits go into this garden," Jarvis said.

Spring Hill Art and Craft Show

NOV 24 & 25: 10 AM - 5 PM NOV 26: 11 AM – 4 PM

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Reservations are now being accepted for the upcoming addition, Gardenside! Don't miss your opportunity to take advantage of priority choice locations!

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Ingleside at King Farm is a CARF accredited, not-for-profit, continuing care retirement community.

Ingleside at King Farm is expanding with the proposed building of 121 new independent living apartments, 32 private assisted living memory support suites, and a Center for Healthy Living subject to approval by the Maryland Department of Aging.

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.

WINTER GUIDE AVAILABLE

The 2017-2018 winter issue of the Montgomery County Guide for Recreation and Parks programs is now available to the public. The Winter Guide features a wide variety of classes and programs designed to help participants stay active and have fun. Residents may register for classes and programs beginning Monday, November 13, 2017. To view the Winter Guide online, visit

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/publications/WinterGuide2017-2018.pdf.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

Transportation Open House. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the East County
Regional Service Center - Main
Meeting Room, 3300 Briggs Chaney
Road, Silver Spring. The Montgomery
County Department of Transportation
(MCDOT) is hosting three open
houses regarding the Bus Rapid
Transit (BRT) line being developed
along a 13.5 mile stretch of U.S.
Route 29 between the Silver Spring
Transit Center and Burtonsville. The
new line is expected to begin service
in 2020. The three open houses will

provide identical information. Sign language interpretation and other assistive services will be provided upon request. Contact Darcy Buckley at 240-777-7166 or send a request to darcy.buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov.

THURSDAY/NOV. 16

Transportation Open House. 7-9 p.m. at the Montgomery Blair High School Cafeteria, 51 University Blvd, East Silver Spring. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is hosting three open houses regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line being developed along a 13.5 mile stretch of U.S. Route 29 between the Silver Spring Transit Center and Burtonsville. The

new line is expected to begin service in 2020. The three open houses will provide identical information. Sign language interpretation and other assistive services will be provided upon request. Contact Darcy Buckley at 240-777-7166 or send a request to darcy.buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SATURDAY/NOV. 18

Rotary Club Tech Clinic. 10 a.m.noon at Potomac Library, 10101
Glenolden Drive, Potomac. One-onOne help with computer, tablet, or
smart phone for seniors. Sponsored
by Rotary Club of Potomac
(www.potomacrotary.org). Register
for a 30-minute appointment at the
information desk or at 240-777-0690.

MONDAY/NOV. 20

Transportation Open House. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civic Center Great Hall, 1 Veterans Plaza, Silver Spring. The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) is hosting three open houses regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) line being developed along a 13.5 mile stretch of U.S. Route 29 between the Silver Spring Transit Center and Burtonsville. The new line is expected to begin service in 2020. The three open houses will provide identical information. Sign language interpretation and other assistive services will be provided upon request. Contact Darcy Buckley at 240-777-7166 or send a request to darcy.buckley@montgomerycountymd.gov.

SATURDAY/DEC. 2

Future Quest. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at GMU's Johnson Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. College and career conference for area middle and high school students with disabilities, as well as their parents, teachers and other professionals. Featuring more than 40 workshops and exhibits related to successful life after high school. Free. There is free parking in Lot K, or in the Mason Pond Parking Garage for \$8. Visit ww.futurequestgmu.org to register or

email futurequestnova@gmail.com. **Drop-in Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings at the Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. The Montgomery County Commission for Women and the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation will sponsor a free, drop-in support group to help and support women as they transition back into the community after being involved with the criminal justice system. Groups are open to women who live, or plan to live, in Montgomery County. Interested participants can get more information, exact room location, and request free child care by contacting the Montgomery County Commission for Women at 240-777-8333 or online at

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/reentry_referral_form.html. More information about the Commission for Women can be found at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw.

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(www.potomacrotary.org). Register
for a 30-minute appointment at the
information desk or at 240-777-0690.

Get To Know PCV

Potomac Community Village (PCV), with a mission of empowering older Potomac residents to age in place in their existing homes, strengthen existing social connections and build new ones, is hosting a "Get to Know PCV" Social Get-Together on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m., at a private Potomac home. The gathering is designed to encourage community members to consider joining and volunteering.

The event will offer an opportunity for those who want to know more about PCV, or have been thinking about joining or volunteering to meet some current members and volunteers and to chat over coffee, tea and other goodies.

"We want to make sure that people know about the many benefits of being a PCV member and about the many ways in which you can help others in our Potomac community, even as a non-member. In fact, some of our very active volunteers are not members," PCV President Barry Perlis said.

For questions, directions, and to RSVP by Nov. 30, call 240-221-1370 or email info@Potomac CommunityVillage.org. Visit www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org or www.facebook.com/Potomac CommunityVillage.





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The 14th annual Mayfield Market will be held this weekend.

'Mayfield Market' Returns

From Page 5

de Oca that we hold our own. We started very small, and, as the word has spread, we have grown each year. Vendors come back year after year because they know that customers return again and again. I send out the applications in May, and we are filled by July."

"This year, we have an excellent variety of vendors," Kress said. "We have local artists, potters, hand-made wood furniture, unique clothing, gorgeous jewelry and much more — and we also have many alums who are thrilled to be included in the Mayfield Market. Because we have so many dedicated volunteers, we are now like a well-oiled machine and everything runs very smoothly."

Montes de Oca confirms that this is a huge Holy Child weekend. "We have over 75 parent and student volunteers each day. Dads will direct our customers about where to park and moms and daughters will greet you at the door and sell you delicious homemade treats from the Tiger Bakery. Shoppers love to take home the fancy, homebaked goods including cakes, pies, breads, cake pops, homemade granola and pumpkin cookies. Plan to stay for lunch — two food trucks serving delectable foods will be on hand."

Kress added that "the annual bazaar is a wonderful community builder; the holiday spirit is evident throughout the Market. It is a great activity for the overall Potomac community as well as our parents, students, and alumnae."

Connelly School of the Holy Child is located at 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac. For more information, visit www.holychild.org.

On the Town' at Whitman

From Page 3 improvements.

There are 38 students in the cast, about 40 in the orchestra and 110 doing tech work, Gerken said.

"I have more kids in the [show] than in all fall sports combined," he said. "We are not a magnet school but are known for our arts departments. The music department is really a crown jewel."

Gerken said he tries to create a high school version of a regional theatre, giving the students responsibility for all aspects of the show.

That works well for Harley Pomper who is the scenic designer and assistant technical director.

"I've learned a lot about problem solving and etiquette – how to treat your colleagues," she said. "It's a lot of practical skills ... an exercise in adulthood."

Hatcher agrees.

"This is a good opportunity for me to broaden my horizons," he said. "I've learned a lot of responsibility. I trust myself more."

On stage, the three sailors are played by Connor Johnson, Matthew Millin and Eli Banks. They see a poster of the month's "Miss Turnstile," Ivy Smith, while riding the subway and split up to look for her in the places she mentions as interests on the poster.

Millin, as Gabey, the part played by Gene Kelly in the 1949 film version, sings and dances his way through New York sites looking for Ivy Smith and finds her at Carnegie Hall taking a singing lesson.

Of course, there are twists and turns keeping Gabey from his love and when his buddies return with woman they have hooked up with he is still alone.

Ariana Banda is Ivy Smith. She has been in every show at Whitman except one in her freshman year, she said. "In a lot of ways, it reminds me of my first show here, 'Catch Me If You Can," she said. "I think this [musical] is super fun for the whole family. This is something fun to watch."

General admission tickets are \$10 for students, \$15 for adults, all reserved seats are \$20 — reserved seats must be purchased in advance. Tickets can be purchased online at https://whitmandrama.ticketleap.com/ or at the door on show nights beginning at 5:30 pm. Cash or checks only accepted for in-person sales. Visit the Whitman Drama website for details on all the ways to purchase tickets and request special seating.



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OR VISIT

Not About Me, Mostly



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, as in a few weeks ago, Mindy, who none of you regular readers know, died of lung cancer. She was my decade's long best friend's wife. And she was my friend too, going back almost 40 years. Married to my oldest friend (starting in 10th grade), Cary, for over 35 years, Mindy was originally classified as stage I five years ago. Cary didn't tell me for a year or so after because he didn't want to burden me with another piece of bad news, and Mindy being diagnosed with lung cancer would most definitely have been bad news. She had a lobectomy (part of the lung is surgically removed), back then and that's pretty much all I know about the beginning stages. After the surgery however, she was told she was cancer free

Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend Mindy's funeral. I had my own post-scan appointment on the Monday morning following the Sunday funeral and night-time shiva and the logistics of traveling back and forth from Washington, D.C., to Boston and back were unworkable. Two week ends later, last weekend in fact, I flew up to Boston and spent four days with Cary, just him and me in the house - without Mindy, of course. We shared an awful lot about Mindy and life, reminiscing backward and contemplating forward. One afternoon, along with Mindy's first cousin, Julie, Cary and I visited Mindy's grave, about 20 minutes from the house, where I was able to pay my respects and say a few words in private. After standing alongside the grave site for a few minutes, Cary took out his smart phone, bent over toward the ground and played "their" song, sniffling and wiping away tears in the process. A very touching moment. Another afternoon, I sat with Cary at their kitchen table and read through all the condolence cards with Cary explaining all the relationships to Mindy. One night, Cary and I went to dinner with his two sons, Jonathan and Jordon (along with Jon's girlfriend, Coleen and Jordy's wife, Lauren). At dinner, I shared two jokes with the boys that Mindy had told years ago, that to this day, I keep in my repertoire; they had not heard them before. One involved an elephant, another had to do with Jesus Christ becoming a bell ringer. Cary's third and oldest son, Jeffrey, was not present as he had flown back to California on Tuesday where, after spending three weeks at home with his father and brothers watching his mother struggle to survive, he returned a few days after the funeral.

As for me, I teared up throughout the weekend. Over the years, especially after my parents moved to Florida, I didn't see Cary and Mindy as regularly as I had while my parents were still living in Massachusetts (four times a year, generally). From 1989 on, maybe we visited one another a dozen times in person: high school reunions, bar mitzvahs, a couple of Celtic's games and the odd occasion where the timing/opportunity presented itself. All the while, going on 45 years now, we spoke/speak every couple of weeks, picking up in conversation without ever missing a beat.

What was particularly/uniquely difficult for me and I don't think it is as difficult as losing one's "soul mate," as Cary described Mindy, just as they were beginning to embark on their final journey together: retirement - was that I too have lung cancer. As such, it was a peculiar position in which I found myself. Not only was I grieving the loss of a close friend: Mindy, way too young; she was younger than me by a couple of years, and the effect it had on my best friend, Cary, I was also witnessing first hand, up close and extremely personally, the ravages and devastating impact of a lung cancer diagnosis, a diagnosis with which I am all to familiar. Of course, I felt bad for Cary losing his beautiful wife. Of course, I felt bad for the boys losing a fabulous, devoted mother. But there was a part of me that felt bad for me. As a cancer survivor, it's easy to pretend that this disease isn't killing you until you attend a funeral/spend time with the family of someone who has succumbed to this terrible disease. Then it hits home, with a vengeance. "Cancer sucks," as so many of us know, but life must go on, as difficult as it sometimes is.

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

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