

# and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Artistic and music director Mike Horanski helps the Vienna Choral Society rehearse Saturday, Oct. 21 before they perform several songs about nature in the circular sanctuary of Vienna Baptist Church at 541 Marshall Road, S.W.

## Harmonies of Nature Tune Out Urban Noise

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PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

NOVEMBER 15-21, 2017

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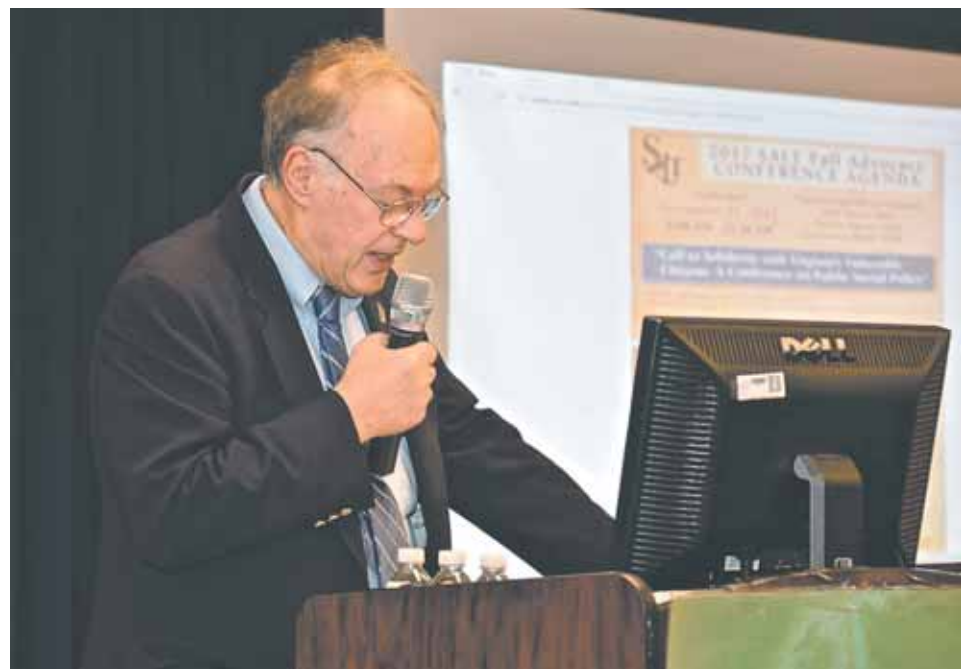
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**Social Action Linking Together (SALT) founder and coordinator John Horejsi welcomes attendees to the organization's 2017 Fall Advocacy Conference.**

PHOTO BY  
ANDREA WORKER/  
THE CONNECTION

## SALT Holds Annual Advocacy Conference

**Social justice advocates told: "Go and do good."**

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The agenda was full at the 2017 Social Action Linking Together (SALT) Fall Advocacy Conference. The annual forum was held at the Virginia International University in Fairfax on Saturday, Nov. 11 with a packed house in attendance.

SALT is a non-partisan faith-based network of individuals and organizations with the goal of bringing "the social and economic justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation." What started as eight socially conscious people about 20 years ago, has grown to a base of about 1,300, who educate themselves and the public on the facts surrounding social issues, and the actions that can be taken to address them.

"It's education, it's advocacy, building relationships with legislators, and bringing people together to strengthen the voices of all," said SALT Founder and Coordinator John Horejsi, who is no stranger to the halls of the Commonwealth's governmental chambers and offices in Richmond.

Each year, SALT selects new priority issues, or continues to address issues in progress, and rallies its troops to raise awareness and recommend actions. Horejsi was particularly pleased to announce that largely through the efforts of SALT members, many more Virginians in need will now benefit from the TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) program, simply by having consolidated the TANF categories.

Additional improvements to TANF, including an associated scholarship program is one of SALT's priorities for the 2018 Virginia legislative session.

**THE GROUP** has identified several other priorities upon which they will focus their attention in the coming year, including:

- ❖ Ending school lunch shaming: SALT supports legislation that would prohibit identifying – and stigmatizing – children who are unable to pay for school meals.
- ❖ Legislation to provide video visitation services to inmates, and not to ban in-person visits where video visits are provided.
- ❖ Limiting, and ultimately eliminating solitary confinement in prisons.
- ❖ Opposing block grants for all human service programs opposing block grants for Medicaid.

SEE ADVOCATES, PAGE 9

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# Fairfax County Leads Blue Wave

Democrats sweep statewide races, come close to taking over House of Delegates.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Democrats swept all three statewide seats last week and picked up so many seats in the House of Delegates that control of the chamber is now in doubt. A week later, three seats are too close to call, awaiting possible recounts.

Voters rejected Republican arguments about sanctuary cities and Confederate memorials, divisive issues that had moderate Republicans trying to win over extreme elements of President Donald Trump's coalition. It didn't work, and it may have signaled a new era in how Democrats can take on Republicans and win at the ballot box.

"The new Democratic Party is back," said Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez during a raucous Election Night party at George Mason University. "And we're back with a bang."

Democrat Ralph Northam won 54 percent of the vote against Republican Ed Gillespie, whose performance slipped a bit from his 2014 nail-biter against Democrat Mark Warner for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Back in 2014, Gillespie won 48 percent of the vote. This year he was only able to get 45 percent.

"The doctor is in," declared Northam, a pediatric neurologist, after Gillespie concede the race.

Voters in Fairfax County helped Democrats run up the numbers across Virginia and turn the blue wave into something Democratic House Leader David Toscano



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

**Democrat Ralph Northam declares victory in the hotly contested race for governor at George Mason University.**



Northam



Fairfax



Herring

calls a "tsunami." Northam took 80 percent of the vote in Arlington, 78 percent of the vote in Alexandria and 68 percent of the vote in Fairfax County. He also received about 40,000 more votes than Gov. Terry McAuliffe did four years ago.

Now Republicans say they are ready to

mount their own resistance.

"Our grassroots are now primed to hold Northam accountable during his time as governor, and we plan to do just that," said Americans for Prosperity-Virginia State Director J.C. Hernandez. "If the Northam administration tries to advance policies that

grow government and make life more costly, we stand ready, willing, and able to educate our neighbors on the issues."

**PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP** was not on the ballot in Virginia this year, but he loomed over every part of this campaign. The election cycle started when many Democrats were still in shock that the real-estate developer turned reality TV star was elected president. A historic women's march after Trump's inauguration led to an unprecedented number of female candidates taking on entrenched Republican elected officials this year, mostly men. The gamble paid off, and many of those defeated male incumbents are now preparing to leave office.

"Women are leading the resistance," said Emily's List president Stephanie Schriock. "A record number of women ran for office in Virginia, and now a record number of women will serve in the Virginia House of Delegates, fighting for improved public education, investment in infrastructure, economic growth, and access to health care."

Voters in key swing jurisdictions voted for Northam; he won 61 percent in Prince William County, 60 percent in Loudoun County, 60 percent in Henrico County and 52 percent in Virginia Beach. And although Gillespie performed well in traditional Republican strongholds like Rockingham and Pittsylvania, he struggled in the Richmond suburb of Chesterfield. Party leaders on both sides of the aisle say voters were reacting to Trump and sending a message.

"Voters turned out in droves in a direct rebuke of state Republicans and the Trump administration," said Jessica Post, executive director of the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee. "Americans from coast to coast sent a clear message that when faced with adversity, we will step up and defend our values, safeguard the progress we have

SEE BLUE WAVE, PAGE 11

## Unofficial Election Results 11-8-17

SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ELECTIONS, RESULTS.ELECTIONS.VIRGINIA.GOV  
\* Incumbent

### GOVERNOR

Ralph S. Northam (D) 1,409,086, 53.90%  
Edward W. "Ed" Gillespie (R) 1,175,698, 44.97%  
Clifford D. Hyra (L) 27,987, 1.07%  
In Fairfax County, Northam received 67.87%  
In Arlington, Northam received 80.00%  
In City of Alexandria, Northam received 78.36%

### LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Justin E. Fairfax (D) 1,368,179, 52.72%  
Jill H. Vogel (R) 1,224,481, 47.18%

### ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mark R. Herring (D)\* 1,385,304, 53.34%  
John D. Adams (R) 1,209,303, 46.56%

### HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**34th District**  
Kathleen Murphy (D)\* 20,522, 60.92%  
Cheryl Buford (R) 13,146, 39.02%  
**35th District**  
Mark Keam (D)\* unopposed 22,566, 93.04%  
**36th District**  
Ken Plum (D)\* unopposed 21,107, 93.01%  
**37th District**  
David Bulova (D)\* unopposed 18,856, 93.56%  
**38th District**  
Kay Kory (D)\* 16,023, 73.51%  
Paul Haring (R) 5,723, 26.26%  
**39th District**  
Vivian Watts (D)\* unopposed 21,392, 92.62%

### 40th District

Donte Tanner (D) 15,004, 49.74%  
Tim Hugo (R)\* 15,110, 50.10%

### 41st District

Eileen Filler-Corn (D)\* unopposed 22,959, 90.84%

### 42nd District

Kathy Tran (D) 18,761, 60.97%  
Lolita Mancheno-Smoak (R) 11,967, 38.89%

### 43rd District

Mark Sickles (D)\* unopposed 22,084, 93.34%

### 44th District

Paul Krizek (D)\* unopposed 18,330, 92.81%

### 45th District

Mark Levine (D)\* unopposed 31,360, 95.09%

### 46th District

Charniele Herring (D)\* unopposed 18,919, 96.40%

### 47th District

Patrick Hope (D)\* unopposed 29,672, 96.20%

### 48th District

Rip Sullivan (D)\* unopposed 27,625, 94.61%

### 49th District

Alfonso Lopez (D)\* 19,308, 81.30%  
Adam Roosevelt (R) 4,391, 18.49%

### 53rd District

Marcus Simon (D)\* 19,235, 74.28%  
Mike Casey (I) 6,362, 24.57%

### 67th District

Karrie Delaney (D) 17,036, 57.86%  
Jim LeMunyon (R)\* 12,365, 42.00%

### 86th District

Jennifer Boysko (D)\* 16,865, 68.52%  
Linda Schulz (R) 7,707, 31.31%

### FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOND,

**\$315 MILLION**  
YES 262,442, 73.35%  
NO 95,346, 26.65%



# OPINION

## Give Locally in Fairfax County

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger for tens of thousands of poor children in our area.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest

areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

In Fairfax County, more than 52,000 (28 percent) of FCPS students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals.

The median family income in Fairfax County rose to \$129,800. But among families with children, 6 percent have income below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. Median rent in Fairfax County is \$1,747, meaning the cost for half the rentals is more than that.

These are children living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who

may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger — a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### WHERE TO GIVE LOCALLY

- ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, [www.cornerstonesva.org](http://www.cornerstonesva.org). Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Thanksgiving Food Drive, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. Gifts will be collected at Cornerstones main office, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, VA 20190 on Thursday, Dec. 7 and Friday, Dec. 8, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 9, 9 a.m. – noon. Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.
- ❖ **Share of McLean** operates a food pantry; provides assistance to families to avoid eviction, keep utilities on and meet other needs in a crisis. Share of McLean will provide holiday assistance to more than 250 needy families (630-plus people) this year. Help neighbors in need by donating money, fulfilling a wish or donating Walmart, Target, Giant, or Safeway gift cards. Share's Furniture Program is in major need of drivers and helpers. Visit the Furniture Program page. The Food Pantry is in major need of supplies; visit the Food Pantry page and check Facebook to see how to help the Food Pantry. Visit [www.shareofmclean.org](http://www.shareofmclean.org) for more info about Share.
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105, [herndonrestonfish.org](http://herndonrestonfish.org). Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. FISH provides Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help by responding to emergency requests for rent, transportation, utilities, medical prescriptions and other needs. FISH operates The Bargain Loft, a thrift store, which needs donations of good quality saleable items, accepting and selling art, furniture, jewelry, household linens, dishes, pots and pans, books, women's designer clothing (clean and on hangers), puzzles, games, collectibles, small electronics and more. If you have store questions, call 703-437-0600. Herndon-Reston FISH also provides Holiday Food & Gift Baskets during the November and December season.
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. [holiday@linkagainsthunger.org](mailto:holiday@linkagainsthunger.org). 703-437-1776 [www.linkagainsthunger.org](http://www.linkagainsthunger.org).
- ❖ **Committee for Helping Others** (CHO), Vienna, organized in 1969 by a group of churches and individuals in the Dunn Loring, Merrifield, Oakton, Vienna community to provide simple, loving charity to those in need. Last year 450 children had a special Christmas through the annual Christmas Store. 703-281-7614, [www.cho-va.com](http://www.cho-va.com)
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50 provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate at [give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation](http://give.nvfs.org/holidaydonation) or via check payable to "NVFS" with "Operation Turkey" on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards.

Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124.

- ❖ **Second Story** — Abused and Homeless Children's Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna, VA 22182. 703-506-9191, [second-story.org](http://second-story.org). Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. Requests for food and clothing are up more than 50 percent.
- ❖ **Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna** providing services, personal enrichment, volunteer opportunities for adults 50 and over. Currently serving 3,000+ mature adults in the region. 703-281-0538, [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org).
- ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate children to have giving hearts. [www.touchingheart.com](http://www.touchingheart.com), 703-901-7355.
- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerview Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. [www.homeaidnova.org](http://www.homeaidnova.org).
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251, [volunteer@facetscares.org](mailto:volunteer@facetscares.org) or [www.facetscares.org](http://www.facetscares.org). 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. [britepaths.org](http://britepaths.org).
- ❖ **Fairfax City Area FISH** (For Immediate Sympathetic Help) helps local people who are in temporary need of life's basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880, [fairfaxfish.org](http://fairfaxfish.org).
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, day center for homeless, Fairfax. 703-691-3178, [www.thelambcenter.org](http://www.thelambcenter.org).
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031. 703-207-9173, [info@foodforothers.org](mailto:info@foodforothers.org) or [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org). Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
- ❖ **Ecumenical Community Helping Others** (ECHO). 703-569-9160, [www.foodforothers.org](http://www.foodforothers.org). Open to receive donations at 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Provides food and financial assistance to those in short-term emergencies, and provides clothing and household goods to low

income families, helping more than 5,000 people last year.

- ❖ **Lorton Community Action Center** (LCAC) will provide Thanksgiving and Holiday assistance to more than 450 families this year. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets along with fulfilling gift wishes for more than 1,000 children and teens will help low-income families More information at [lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/](http://lortonaction.org/seasonal-assistance/). Volunteers are needed for these events as well. Register online at [lortonaction.org](http://lortonaction.org) or call 703-339-5161, ext. 140 or email [Linda@LortonAction.org](mailto:Linda@LortonAction.org). Mailing address: LCAC, P.O. Box 154, Lorton, VA 22199-0154.
  - ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, email [alnorthernva@gmail.com](mailto:alnorthernva@gmail.com) or visit [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).
  - ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services** (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 1100 N Glebe Road, Suite 373, Arlington, VA 22201. 703-591-4968, [cause-usa.org](http://cause-usa.org).
  - ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. [www.shelterhouse.org/](http://www.shelterhouse.org/)
  - ❖ **United Community Ministries**, Mount Vernon, 703-768-7106, 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA 22306 assists low-income families and individuals living along the Route 1 Corridor, UCM provides four different housing programs as well as a Workforce Development Center to help prepare people for moving forward with their jobs. For the holidays, donations of nearly 10,000 toys, books, games, clothing, and other gifts ensured a joy-filled holiday for more than 1,200 children in 600 families. 7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria VA 22306. [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org)
- Donations of cash/checks and gift cards are also welcome.
- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia. 703-541-3063, [www.capitalareafoodbank.org](http://www.capitalareafoodbank.org).
  - ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email [jhenderson@homestretchva.org](mailto:jhenderson@homestretchva.org); 703-237-2035 x125; [homestretchva.org/](http://homestretchva.org/).
  - ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-

SEE GIVE LOCALLY. PAGE 10

Vienna & Oakton  
**CONNECTION**

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## SPORTS



PHOTO BY ADAM SHAYNE

**Warhawk Captain Jason Calem weaves thru a group of Yorktown players to tie the game with 36 seconds left.**

### Warhawk Ice Hockey Ties in Season Home Opener

The Madison varsity ice hockey team tied their home opener against Yorktown 4-4. The Warhawks scored early in the first period with an unassisted goal from Jay Stephens. The scoring drive would continue into the second period with goals from Matt Hetherington and Jeffery Hunter before Yorktown pulled ahead 4-3 midway in the third. Determined not to give up, Madison pulled its goalie with 2 minutes left in the

game to give the Warhawks the man advantage. This strategy paid off with the tying goal from Captain Jason Calem with 36 seconds left on the clock. Goal assists (2) came from Jay Stephens.

Madison goalie Ben D'Haiti turned away 29 shots and the Warhawks fired off 20 shots against Yorktown. The Warhawks' next game is Friday, Nov. 17 at 9:40 p.m. at Skatequest in Reston against Flint Hill.

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**McLean  
Community  
Center**  
*The Center of It All*



## Here's What's Happening at MCC

**The Alden Fall Production**  
**"Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate"**  
*by D. M. Larson*  
*(Freedrama.net)*

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 18 & 19, at 2 p.m.

Free admission  
The Old Firehouse  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.



**The Old Firehouse Family Event**  
**Unruly Theatre Project**

Friday Dec. 1, 7-9 p.m.

The Old Firehouse  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.

Free admission



The area's hottest professional teen improv company brings you a hilarious night of comedy, and more!

**McLean Traveler Day Trip**  
**Celebrating the Holidays**  
**in Lewes, Del.**

Saturday Dec. 2,  
6:45 a.m.-8 p.m.

\$153/\$138 MCC  
district residents



Presented by The Alden

**HOME ALONE**  
**Quote-Along Movie**

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2 p.m.

The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
Admission and popcorn are free.  
Prop bags are \$5 each.

**Old Firehouse Family Movie Night**  
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## ENTERTAINMENT

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

### ONGOING

**Broadway Exhibit.** Through Nov. 18, various times at Broadway Galleries, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Local photographer, Silvia Gonzalez Roman with a variety of work. Visit [www.broadwaygallery.net](http://www.broadwaygallery.net).

**Vienna-Wide Food Drive.** Through Dec. 31, bring food contributions to Vienna Town Hall - 127 Center St. S; Vienna Arts Society-115 Pleasant St. NW; Bikes@Vienna-128-A Church St. NW; Caffè Amouri-107 Church St., NE; Evolution Fitness- 216 Dominion Road, NE; Rexall Drug Store-150 Maple Ave. W; Drs. Covell, Stack and Henon- 120 Beulah Road, NE; Patrick Henry Library (co-sponsored by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins) and the Vienna Community Center. Girl Scout Troop 2684 will be helping NEVCA by picking up the food. Sponsored by Committee for Helping Others. Call 703-281-7614.

**Textures Exhibit.** Through Jan. 7, various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Great Falls Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email [kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](mailto:kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**McLean Farmers Market.** Fridays, through Nov. 17, 2017; 8 a.m. to noon, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Master Gardener Plant Clinic on site to answer questions about plants in your landscape.

**Fit for Life Classes.** Wednesdays through Nov. 22, 11 a.m.-noon at Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church, 3035 Cedar Lane, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults, taught by instructor, Michele DeGarmo. \$5. Call 703-281-0538 or email [eileentarr1@verizon.net](mailto:eileentarr1@verizon.net).

### WEDNESDAY/NOV. 15

**Meet the Silhouette Artist.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Barston's Childs Play, 1382 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Third Generation Silhouette Artist Karl Johnson will be on hand to create hand cut silhouettes. Call 703-448-3444.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**Model Train Show.** 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road, NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroad open house with model trains and trolleys running to get the holiday season started. Visit [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

### NOV. 16-18

**Christmas Craft Show.** Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Oakton Church of the Brethren's 24th Annual Christmas Craft Show is a three-day event featuring a wide variety of handmade creations and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org).

### FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**Meet the Artist.** 10 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, rooms 1 and 2, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Rachel



**Benefit Car and Bike Show on Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Rev your engines, bring some canned goods and come on out to the Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show. Visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) for more.**

Collins, a local watercolor artist and member of the National Watercolor Society, will be the presenter. Collins teaches classes at the Art League School in Alexandria, Va. and the Yellow Barn Studio in Glen Echo, Md. Call 703 653-9519.

**Movie Double Feature.** 3:30-10 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road. Trip to AMC Tysons for two movies and dinner at the food court. \$35/\$25 McLean Community Center members. Call 703-790-0123, or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Smart Driver Class.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton United Methodist Church, 2951 Chain Bridge Road. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna is sponsoring a refresher two-day driver course geared for drivers age 50 and older. \$15 for AARP members (bring AARP membership card) \$20 for AARP non-members. Call 703-281-0538.

### NOV. 17-19

**Big Sale, Small Works.** Various times at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. A variety of art available. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

### SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Benefit Car and Bike Show.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road. Rev your engines, bring some canned goods and come on out to the Thanksgiving Car and Bike Show. Visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

**Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate.** 2 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).  
**Community Labyrinth Walk.** 5-7 p.m. at Charles Wesley UMC - The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. A spiritual walk in contemplation, in search of guidance, in remembrance, in grief, in thanksgiving, to work on balance, or simply to try something new. Call 703-356-6336.

### SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Turkey Trot.** 8 a.m. Start and finish at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center St. S. Visit [www.viennaturkeytrot.org/](http://www.viennaturkeytrot.org/).

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

**Meet the Writer.** 11 a.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Meet David Baldacci just days after the release of "End Game." \$35 for

general admission and book; \$6 general admission only. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Peggy the Pint-Sized Pirate.** 2 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Live production with a pirate named Peggy. Free. Call 703-790-0123, or visit [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Emerging Artist Concert.** 4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Oscar Paz-Suaznabar, age 12, on the piano, and Julia Angelov, from Alexandria, play orchestra favorites. Visit [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com).

### NOV. 20-DEC. 10

**Toy Collection.** Sheehy Infiniti of Tysons, 8527 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will collect new and unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, which will distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

### TUESDAY/NOV. 21

**Female Re-Enactors of Distinction.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Re-enactment, dramatic readings and various other educational programs in Civil War period clothing transport you back in time to share their stories. Email [karen.emami@globalinfotek.com](mailto:karen.emami@globalinfotek.com) or call 703-938-6471.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Wagon Ride at Dusk.** 4:30-5:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Sunset trip through the park. Call 703-759-9018 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/).

### NOV. 24-26

**Thanksgiving Weekend Show.** Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spring Hill ReCenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Approximately 80 juried artisans offering original, handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. \$5, free for children 12 and under. Email [anneclark01@comcast.net](mailto:anneclark01@comcast.net) or call 703-391-5611.



## CAPPIES REVIEW

Nick Hovis in  
Madison High  
School's produc-  
tion of "Macbeth."

PHOTO BY  
SHANNON SIEFF



# Exploring the World of Power

James Madison High  
School's production  
of "Macbeth."

BY KEENAN PARKER  
THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

Witches and battles and kings, oh my! Toil and trouble falls upon Scotland as Macbeth moves to take the throne, and promises death to all who get in his way. James Madison High School's production of "Macbeth" explores this world of power and influence, and the horrifying ways to gain it.

"Macbeth" is a tragedy by William Shakespeare thought to have been first performed in 1606. The story follows Macbeth, a politically ambitious and well liked man, and his journey to power, while descending into madness and gaining a thirst for blood along the way. Through the telling of Macbeth's suffering, Madison High School's cast eloquently preached the damaging physical, emotional, and mental effects of excessive ambition on those who seek power for their own benefit.

Macbeth, while having scattered dialogue scenes, is almost entirely composed of long monologues and frequent soliloquies, making it incredibly challenging to perform in the correct context and with the intended expression.

Madison's cast and crew handled this challenge with the poise of professionals, perfectly embodying

and understanding the meaning behind Shakespeare's language. Along with the mastery of Macbeth's text, the cast also used impeccable diction and projection, the cherry on top of this immaculately performed Shakespeare play.

Max Jackson (Macbeth) gave an incredible performance, supporting a tremendous character progression from the easy, well-liked army general to the paranoid, blood-soaked king of Scotland, and carried the monologue heavy show with ease. Jackson's revealing soliloquies and intense interactions with other characters revealed the deep desires of Macbeth, and bettered the show as a whole.

As the plot progresses not only Macbeth's own greed and maliciousness increases, but that of his wife's too. Charlotte Reed (Lady Macbeth) conveyed this increase in darkness with vigor. Like Jackson, Reed supported an enormous character progression while maintaining solid and intensely revealing in soliloquies, maintaining the poise of a seasoned actress.

The Weird Sisters' (Claire Ashby, Alison Sciuto, and Hunter Slingbaum) stunning performance transported the audience into the horrifying world of Macbeth with haunting body language and strong acting that reflected the tones of the show.

Impressive light and sound cues, tech functioned as a well-oiled machine, helping develop the well-known characters and dark plot of the play.

From tech, to acting, to understanding of the text, James Madison High School excelled in their production of Macbeth. All aspects of the production worked together to convey the dangers of ambition, and to show Macbeth's evolution from lighthearted to dark because of it.

IT IS A GOOD THING TO GIVE THANKS UNTO THE LORD -Pslam 92

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# Melodic Harmonies of Nature Tune Out Urban Noise

Local choir performs  
“Surround Sound” one  
night only in Vienna.

BY MARTI MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

“Doors opening,” is the cheerful chime heard several times a day by thousands of commuters in the District, Maryland and Virginia — including Vienna Choral Society executive director Sohini Baliga as she speaks on her smartphone while exiting a Metrorail train during rush hour on a Tuesday afternoon Oct. 17.

She tries to explain her chorus will teach listeners Saturday how to pay less attention to ordinary background noise of the daily grind and tune their ears into the sounds of nature at their new concert “Surround Sound” Oct. 21 in the Vienna Baptist Church at 541 Marshall Road, S.W.

The concert was a sanctuary from the cacophony a city at work makes every day — from the jarring staccato of jack hammers and other construction equipment, loud engines of buses and delivery trucks to the alarms of first responder vehicles.

“I picked music that made me think of nature and sound,” said VCS artistic and music director Mike Horanski as he introduced his second song “Adiemus” by Welsh composer Karl Jenkins.

Horanski told audience members they may recognize the tune from a 1990s television commercial for Delta Airlines. The ad campaign featured commercial jets flying in formation from Europe to the United States in a fashion that simulated the synchronized swimming of dolphins at high speed underwater before these sleek sea creatures burst through the surface of the water and fly through the air.

**THE SOFT CLASSICAL VOCALS** of this title song, combined with tribal notes and ethnic drumming gradually increase in volume. If hope has a sound, it is this particular work from Jenkins’ 1995 album “Adiemus: Songs of Sanctuary.”

Some passengers waiting for the commuter train are attuned to the whirling noise it makes as the rail cars breeze through an underground tunnel. “Step back to allow customers to exit,” continues the melodic message of Metrorail.

“When boarding, please move to the center of the car.” As pleasant as this familiar voice sounds, Baliga says her chorus is not making music out of urban noise.

Instead of an eye-opening experience, the Vienna Choral Society offers an “ear-opening” experience to listeners. She describes the performance as modern with traditional roots. The program features works by various international composers.

The circular sanctuary at Vienna Baptist Church provided the perfect environment for “Surround Sound.” The high ceilings



**Madrigals and select singers from a local high school help the Vienna Choral Society end their concert Saturday night on a positive note with a cheerful Harry Belafonte and Robert Freedman song “Turn the World Around.” Their “Surround Sound” concert kicked off their 30<sup>th</sup> season Oct. 21 in the circular sanctuary of Vienna Baptist Church at 541 Marshall Road, S.W. Students from the James Madison High School chorus and chamber orchestra were guest artists. Concert pianist is retired music educator Melvin Goodwyn.**

PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION



**Artistic and music director Mike Horanski helps the Vienna Choral Society rehearse Saturday, Oct. 21 before they perform several songs about nature in the circular sanctuary of Vienna Baptist Church at 541 Marshall Road, S.W. Their “Surround Sound” concert kicked off their 30<sup>th</sup> season and featured guest artists from the James Madison High School chorus and chamber orchestra. Music educator Melvin Goodwyn is accompanist.**

made of wood helped project the sound of VCS and their guest artists from the James Madison High School chorus and chamber orchestra.

“You don’t have to be Julie Andrews on a mountain top,” Baliga said and adds “the world around us is alive with music and art.”

“You have to know how to hear it,” she said. “You have to know how to look for it.”

The Saturday concert kicked off the choir’s 30<sup>th</sup> season. “It’s a major milestone for a small group that started out in a church basement and hoped to have a total of 30 singers someday,” Baliga says in her press release.

Her ensemble boasts more than 100 singers today and is a teaching choir for youth and emerging musicians — guided by the group’s slogan “raising voices, raising spirits.” They were outnumbered by the Vienna high school students — led by choral director Claire Rowan and orchestra conductor Erin Eberly.

Eberly said her students played two bass violins, four violas, six cellos and 20 violins. Rowan brought her madrigals and select singers to the concert. Both music teachers have worked at Madison for more than a decade.

“We have the best gig in the world,” said Rowan.

The Virginia Choral Society is “where the next generation of music lovers and music professionals will find their place and polish their craft,” Baliga said.

So it is for audience members, who helped make music at the “Surround Sound” concert following another Jenkins choral work with arrhythmic syllables called “Rain Dance.”

Horanski quickly instructed everyone in the sanctuary to rub their hands together, snap their fingers, pat their thighs as some of the performers jumped — in order to create the sound droplets, steady rain and thunder make in a rainforest as a transition to the next song “Tres Cantos Nativos Dos Indios Krao,” arranged by Marcos Leite.

“Step back, doors closing.” The artists at VCS and Madison High took their audience on a different trip to hear the music that still exists in our everyday lives.

Horanski believes one of the most beautiful sounds of nature is made by trees.

Although most people listen to leaves rustling in the wind, he notices “the creaking noises of the branches as they move back and forth,” Horanski said during his introduction to a song with harmonious melodies called “The Tree.”

Under his artistic leadership Baliga says VCS saw its largest audiences last year, “complete with standing ovations.”

The “Surround Sound” concert ended on a positive note with “Turn the World Around” by Harry Belafonte and Robert Freedman, which made a reporter whistle the catchy tune as she walked through the church parking lot.

**THE VIENNA CHORAL SOCIETY** performs again Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. in the Annandale United Methodist Church at 6935 Columbia Pike. Their holiday concert “Sounds of the Season: Rutter’s Gloria” features guest artists from Oakton High School. Admission is \$25 for adults. Discounts apply to seniors and teenagers, who pay \$20 each. Children 14 years and younger get in free with a paying ticket holder. Tickets are available online at [www.viennachoralsociety.org](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org).





State Del. Ken Plum (D-36) makes a presentation to the forum attendees on the State of the Commonwealth.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Kevin Raymond of Fairfax listens as Gay Gardner with International Action for Human Rights responds to his question on why improvements to the Virginia corrections systems and its facilities were taking so long.

# Social Justice Advocates Told: ‘Go and Do Good’

FROM PAGE 2

❖ Supporting greater equity in Kinship Guardian situations, granting more funds to family members caring for children — where foster carers now receive, in some cases, almost five times the funds allotted to family carers.

To illustrate the scope of the needs of the citizens of Virginia, Horejsi recruited Sister Simone Campbell and state Del. Ken Plum (D-36) as speakers for the forum.

Sister Campbell, a member of the international Roman Catholic religious congregation Sisters of Social Service is often referred to as one of the “Nuns on a Bus.” As the director of NETWORK, a Catholic advocacy group for social justice, Sister Campbell leads a group of nuns who, since 2012, conduct bus tours around the country as part of their advocacy work, educating and leading discussions on a variety of issues, from healthcare to immigration, voter suppression to advocating for a “living wage” for all.

The need to provide a “living wage” was a central element in Sister Campbell’s keynote address on “21<sup>st</sup> Century Poverty.”

Sister Campbell advised the audience to throw away the old stereotypes of the “typically impoverished.” Today’s poor are increasingly “the working poor,” she said, recounting the story of a young woman she encountered at a special White House luncheon. The woman was filled with excitement for having been chosen to attend the event, yet before the end of the meal, she confessed that despite having a “good, full-time job” at a well-known retailer, she lived at a homeless shelter because she couldn’t afford the high cost of rents in the D.C. area. Her dream was to work and save her way out of this dilemma.

Sister Campbell doesn’t believe that anyone working a full-time job — and some working more than one job — should not be earning enough to pay for a place to live and the means to exist.

“There’s something wrong here. We say we are a nation based on family, yet we do



Sister Simone Campbell — often referred to as “the nun on the bus” for the bus tours she and other nuns undertake on their mission to bring about social justice — was the keynote speaker at the SALT conference.

so little to support families and hardworking individuals.”

The “nun on a bus” expressed her scepticism regarding the tax reform proposals currently being put forth on the Hill. “Trickle down does not work. We have already proven this, time and again. And you know the definition of insanity, right? Doing the same thing over and over, expecting a different result.”

Before concluding her remarks, Sister Campbell challenged the attendees to embrace certain “virtues,” including remembering to keep a “modicum of joy” in your efforts.

Secondly, she added to “use your ‘holy curiosity,’ by asking people about themselves and their situations as the way to truly know the face of 21<sup>st</sup> century poverty. Practice “sacred gossip” by sharing the stories that you hear and encouraging others to take action, and finally, just figuring out what your part is and doing it.”

Sister Campbell cautioned against trying to “do it all” or needing to take charge. “Learn whether you’re the head, the feet, the hands, whatever you do best to contribute.”

She says it took awhile, but now she knows what she does best and where she fits in. “I am the stomach acid ... there to churn everybody and everything up.”

Plum followed Sister Campbell’s address, giving a mini-history of the Commonwealth, particularly in relation to slavery, the birth of a culture of racism, and the reasons why he feels the issue of monuments to Confederate war participants is far from over.

“Virginia has more such monuments than any other state,” said Plum, “with 223, almost all of them built in either the early 1900s or during the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. What’s the message there?”

Like Sister Campbell, Plum also addressed the issue of poverty and the widening gap between the wealthy and the less fortunate, using a series of charts and graphs that illustrated how statistics may not tell the whole story, unless you look a little deeper.

Despite always being categorized as one of the richest states in the union, Plum showed how the “real” numbers show one geographically small portion of Virginia, the “Golden Crescent” of Northern Virginia to Hampton Roads, having a median income of \$150,000. “For the rest of Virginia, that

number is closer to \$40,000. What do we do with that information? We have to find ways to share economic opportunities and all that comes with it to rural Virginia, as well.”

**LOOKING AHEAD** to the 2018 legislative session, Plum thinks redistricting could be a hot topic — and that it should be. Fighting for more school funding and the expansion of Medicaid is also on his agenda. “\$10.4 billion by not expanding it. Who leaves that kind of money on the table, especially in ‘fiscally conservative’ Virginia?”

Plum warns that it “might not be pretty” when the session begins, as both parties readjust after the Democratic wins in the Nov. 7 election, but the delegate is hopeful that all the new faces bring fresh new perspectives and new solutions.

The final speaker at the forum was Gay Gardner, from Interfaith Action for Human Rights, (IAHR) speaking about her organization’s efforts to “make solitary confinement truly a last resort.”

Gardner cited numerous studies that attest to the physical and mental harm done by long-term solitary confinement.

Kimberly Jenkins-Snodgrass, a board member with IAHR spoke briefly about her own son, an inmate who has been kept in solitary for four years. Other prisoners they have contact with have been held in isolation for even longer, one for 14 years.

“Getting a straight answer as to why these men have been so confined is not easy,” Gardner said. Sometimes, solitary is employed as a response to an inmate who exhibits signs of mental illness or distress, “but solitary confinement only makes the condition worse.”

A question-and-answer session followed the speakers’ presentations. Horejsi noted that the energy in the room remained high, despite the almost overwhelming number of issues that had been brought to the table. “Must be that joy that Sister Simone told us to keep handy,” he said, before adjourning the forum and exhorting attendees to “Go and do good.”



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pathway/](http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/).

❖ **Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services**, 8305-17B Richmond Highway, PO Box 15096, Alexandria, VA, 22309. 703-768-9419, [www.goodhousing.org/](http://www.goodhousing.org/). The mission of Good Shepherd Housing (GSH) is to reduce homelessness, increase community support, and promote self-sufficiency. GSH housing manages more than 70 housing units.

❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. [www.bgcgw.org/fairfax](http://www.bgcgw.org/fairfax).

❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, [christianrelief.org/](http://christianrelief.org/)

❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure,

supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, [info@friendsofguesthouse.org](mailto:info@friendsofguesthouse.org), [friendsofguesthouse.org/](http://friendsofguesthouse.org/)

❖ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, [www.wrighttoread.org](http://www.wrighttoread.org). Provides volunteer-based, one-to-one tutoring and mentoring to City of Alexandria public elementary school children in need. Funds are needed to provide field trips and enrichment activities, books and other resources. For more information about Wright to Read and becoming a "Tutor/Mentor" see website.

❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at [www.habitatnova.org](http://www.habitatnova.org).

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp)

[aliceskids.org](http://aliceskids.org) P.O. Box 60, Mount Vernon, VA 22121 When a child is raised in poverty they suffer both publicly and privately. When there is no food in the refrigerator, no electricity nor heat, these are hardships that they can keep hidden from their peers. But, when that same child can't afford to pay for the band field trip, a pair of glasses, a chorus outfit or a new pair of shoes, these are indignities that are evident to their classmates. Alice's Kids pays for these relatively inexpensive items in the hopes of preserving the dignity of the child. Alice's Kids helps children from all over the Mount Vernon area through small acts of kindness.

❖ **The Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** has launched its Permanent Fund campaign, a community endowment which is a forever source to provide critical support for those in need in the Northern Virginia region; Consider leaving a legacy through a current or planned gift to the Permanent Fund at the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia. [www.cfnova.org/permanentfund](http://www.cfnova.org/permanentfund).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

Alex Leon. Free. Space is limited, call to reserve a spot 571-529-6699, option 3. Visit [rosewellness.com](http://rosewellness.com).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**Vietnam Veterans Chapter 227 Meeting**, 7 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Gregory D. Foster, West Point graduate and Vietnam War veteran, will discuss senior U.S. military

constitutional command responsibility. Visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).  
**Police-Public Forum**, 7-9 p.m. Heritage Human Resources Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Forum will provide information on the panel as well as the Independent Police Auditor, the scope of their responsibilities, how complaints can be submitted, and how complaints will be investigated and processed. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police).

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**THE CONNECTION**  
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# News Blue Wave

FROM PAGE 3

made, and push onward.”

**JUSTIN FAIRFAX** beat state Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27). Some Democrats feared that Vogel might end up being the lone Republican to win a statewide seat, potentially yielding a key tie-breaking vote in the state Senate on issues like immigration or reproductive rights. But Fairfax, former federal prosecutor, sailed to victory with 53 percent.

“As just the second African-American to ever win statewide office in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Justin Fairfax has already made history just by winning this seat,” said Charles Chamberlain, executive director of Democracy for America. “For Democrats, he’s also made history by showing doubters in Richmond and Washington that progressives dedicated to an inclusive populist political agenda can win big in Virginia.”

Democrat Mark Herring was the only part of the statewide ticket running for reelection, so his campaign was largely a referendum on his time in office. On the campaign trail, Herring talked about his work tackling the opioid crisis and taking on the gun lobby. Voters agreed, and gave him 53 percent of the vote against lawyer John Adams.

“Attorney General Mark Herring came under attack from the gun lobby for doing exactly what he was elected to do: prioritizing the safety of Virginia families over gun lobby profits,” said former U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords in a written statement. “I am proud to stand by Attorney General Herring as a true champion for safer communities, and I am thrilled to see Virginia voters stand by him as well.”

**THE NEXT YEAR** in Virginia politics is likely to be one of the most tumultuous periods since Reconstruction. With Democrats poised to take some measure of control of the House, the composition of committees and their chairmen is bound to change. Those details have yet to be worked out, a week after the election. But one thing is clear: When members of the House of Delegates elect a new speaker of the House in January, they will be setting the stage for a session that will have more liberal members than ever before.

“Voters in Virginia soundly rejected the politics of division and bigotry and instead converted hate into political power,” said Julio Lainez, director of America’s Voice Virginia in a written statement. “This, however, is a first step, and it sends a clear message to candidates running in 2018: The Trump/Corey Stewart Political Playbook leads to political oblivion.”

## FAITH NOTES

**Blue Christmas Service** - a non-traditional service of remembrance and hope - will be held at Katie’s Coffee House 760 Walker Road, Great Falls on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 3:30 p.m. brought to you by Great Falls Area Ministries. For more information call Carol Wright 703-582-1640.

**Wesley United Methodist Church** located at 711 Spring St., SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. fellowship time in the fellowship hall; 11 a.m. traditional family worship in sanctuary.

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## 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 week-end. 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 too 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.



# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS



FILE PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARK KEAM

**Mayor Laurie DiRocco, State Senator Chap Petersen, and Del. Mark Keam welcome Santa as they kick off the 2016 Church Street Holiday Stroll, hosted by the Town of Vienna, Historic Vienna, Inc., and the merchants of Church Street.**

## NOV. 16-18

**Christmas Craft Show.** Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Oakton Church of the Brethren's 24th Annual Christmas Craft Show is a three-day event featuring a wide variety of handmade creations and craft supplies for purchase, plus a soup and sandwich lunch and bake sale. Visit [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**Tree Lighting in Tysons.** 6-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Join Tysons Corner Center and 97.1-WASH-FM's Chili & Sabrina Conte, Chief Meteorologist Bill Kelly, and Tysons very own Santa Claus as they light the tree, followed by anacoustic duo performance by American Idol David Cook. After the concert, enjoy a ballet performance by the The Kintz-Mejia Academy of Ballet. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 18-19

**The Enchanted Forest.** Saturday, 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The Junior League of Northern Virginia's 17th Annual The Enchanted Forest will feature live entertainment, Kids in the Kitchen holiday activities, visits from Santa, a model train display, kids' crafts, gifts for purchase, premium events for adults and kids, and a silent auction of more than 80 decorated themed trees and wreaths. Admission: \$10 adults, \$15 child (includes two crafts), under 2 free. Premium events: \$25-\$40. Visit [www.jlnv.org/tef/](http://www.jlnv.org/tef/).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Turkey Trot.** 8 a.m. Start and finish at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Dept., 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Visit [www.viennaturkeytrot.org/](http://www.viennaturkeytrot.org/).

## NOV. 22-JAN. 7

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m., \$15 per car; Fridays-Sundays and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m., \$20 per car. Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Bull Run

Festival of Lights is more than just a light show. After enjoying two and a half miles of light displays, stop at the Holiday Village, complete with bonfires, s'mores, holiday merchandise and free activities, the Holiday Village is fun for the whole family. Have a photo taken with Santa. Call 703-631-0550 or visit [www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights](http://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights).

## NOV. 24-26

### Thanksgiving Weekend Show.

Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Spring Hill ReCenter, 1239 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Approximately 80 juried artisans offering original, handmade arts and crafts, including decorative painting, fused, etched, painted and stained glass, ceramics and pottery, hand-painted silk, woodworking handweaving, photography, paintings and drawings, clothing and functional textiles, jewelry and much more. All of the artists and artisans will be on hand to answer questions and talk about their work. \$5, Free for children 12 and under. Call 703-391-5611.

## NOV. 25-26

### Fairfax Ballet Company's

**Nutcracker.** Nov. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Ana Victoria Smith of Clifton, dances the role of Clara. Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists. Call 703-665-9427.

## MONDAY/NOV. 27

**Tree Lighting in Vienna.** 6-9 p.m. Ring in the holiday season at this annual event along Church Street. After his arrival at 6:15 p.m. on a fire truck, Santa will greet children at the historic Freeman Store and Museum and help the mayor light the holiday tree at 6:20 p.m. Various local musical groups perform throughout the evening. Marshmallow-roasting stations and hot chocolate add to the festive atmosphere. Call Historic Vienna Inc. at 703-938-5187.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

### Festival of Lights and Carols.

2-7

p.m. at 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Children ages 12 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa at Sherwood Community Center. Lunch seatings will be offered at 11:30 a.m., and 12:30 p.m., must pre-register. Listen to live holiday music and enjoy s'mores and hot cider at Old Town Square from 2-7 p.m. Enjoy caroling and lighting of the Christmas Tree at Old Town Square at 6 p.m. Visit [fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols](http://fairfaxva.gov/about-us/special-events/festival-of-lights-and-carols).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 3

**Breakfast with Santa.** 8-10 a.m. at Tysons Corner Center, Upper Level Food Court by AMC. Guests are encouraged to participate in Help Through Holiday Giving by bringing an unwrapped toy to Santa Breakfast to be donated to Second Story. Santa will be leaving promptly at 10am and the line will be closed accordingly. Breakfast begins at 8 a.m. and is first come first serve while supplies last. Guests are permitted to take 1 photo per person/group. Visit [www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com/Events).

**McLean WinterFest Parade.** Pre-parade entertainment begins at 2:30 p.m. and the parade will step off at 3:30 p.m. sharp. The parade route will be the same as previous years: Old Chain Bridge Road from Fleetwood Road to Elm Street. WinterFest 2017 will have food trucks again this year in the Langley Shopping Center. Visit [www.mcleanwinterfest.org](http://www.mcleanwinterfest.org).

**Home for the Holidays Concert.** 4-6 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. Main Street Community Band plays a mix of seasonal favorites. Visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

**Tree Lighting in Great Falls.** 4-6:30 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Hill. Celebrate the beginning of the season with the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting. Drink hot cider or cocoa next to the fire and listen to local children's choral groups sing seasonal music. The petting zoo and pony rides will keep children busy until Mr. and Mrs. Claus arrive by antique fire truck. Free. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/celebration-of-lights).

## DEC. 8-9

### Christmas Store Help Needed.

Friday night for set up and Saturday



**Children swarm Santa as he alights from his perch on the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's antique fire truck at the 2016 Church Street Holiday Stroll.**

to escort shoppers at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE. Call 703-938-7213.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Lunch with Santa.** 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Children ages 10 and under can enjoy lunch with Santa. \$6. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

**Horse-drawn Carriage Rides.** 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 16

**Horse-drawn Carriage Rides.** 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 17

**Handel's "Messiah."** 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Enjoy a free performance of Handel's "Messiah" by the choirs of Unity of Fairfax and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Visit [www.unityoffairfax.org/events](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/events).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 23

**Horse-drawn Carriage Rides.** 4-9 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. \$5 per person; children 5 and under ride free with adult. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 24

### Christmas Eve Celebrations.

Celebrate Christmas in a positive, welcoming and inclusive spiritual community. Meditation service at 9 a.m., family-oriented service at 11 a.m.; candlelight service at 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, Oakton. Free. Visit [www.unityoffairfax.org/events](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/events).

## THROUGH DEC. 24

**Santa's Flight Academy.** Various times at at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Santa surrounded by a space motif. Visit [www.santaexpresslane.com](http://www.santaexpresslane.com).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 31

**Burning Bowl Ceremony.** 9 and 11 a.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Experience this ritual of releasing what no longer serves you and envisioning the year ahead. Free. Visit [www.unityoffairfax.org/events](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/events).

## MONDAY/JAN. 1

**New Year's Labyrinth.** noon-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Set your intentions for 2018 while walking Unity's indoor labyrinth. Free. Visit [www.unityoffairfax.org/events](http://www.unityoffairfax.org/events).

## THROUGH EARLY JANUARY

**Winter Walk of Lights.** At Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. During the Winter Walk of Lights, the garden is transformed into a half-mile, walk of lights. Revisit perennial favorites such as the animated Lakeside Lights, the Fountain of Lights, and the Holiday Nature Walk – and look for new displays each year. Round out a visit roasting marshmallows and sipping on hot beverages, available for purchase. Visit [www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights](http://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights).