

# Reston CONNECTION

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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Enjoying the Rock 'N' Skate Party at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion are (from left): Tommy Edelmann, 15, of Vienna; Aidan Kenny, 15, of Great Falls; Marc James-Finell, 15, of McLean; McKean McConnell, 15, of Great Falls; and Thomas Ryan, 15, of Great Falls.

# Rock 'N' Skate Party at Reston Town Center

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NOVEMBER 15-21, 2017

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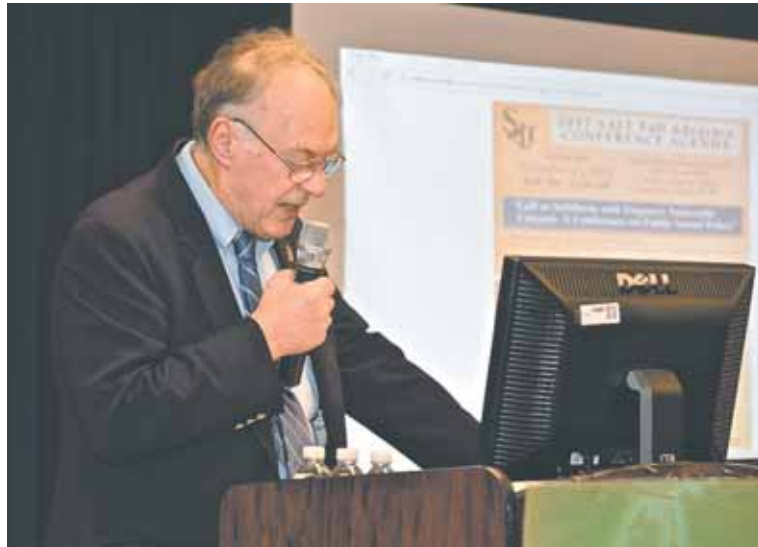
# SALT Holds Annual Advocacy Conference

Social justice advocates told: “Go and do good.”

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he 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



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

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



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**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.**

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

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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)\* 16865, 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 [alnorthervna@gmail.com](mailto:alnorthervna@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-

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Reston  
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## COMMENTARY

# Bloodless Revolution

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The recent election in Virginia brought about significant changes in the partisan composition of the House of Delegates. While the election of Dr. Ralph Northam as governor and attorney Justin Fairfax as lieutenant governor along with the re-election of Attorney General Mark Herring kept the executive branch of government in Democratic hands, election results in the 100 House of Delegates districts were dramatically different. Republicans went into the election with a strong advantage controlling 66 of the 100 seats. It appears with some recounts to take place that they will end up with 51 seats or maybe even tied with Democrats at 50 seats each. No one that I know predicted such a major shift; some refer to the outcome of the election as a political tsunami. It was not simply that Republicans lost 17 seats when the most optimistic prediction was that Democrats would gain maybe 10 or so seats. The majority party went into the election with a 66 to 34 advantage; they ended the election with the possibility of only a one member advantage or depending on the recount of votes a tie with Democrats. Beyond the number of seats lost, the majority party lost their caucus whip, chairs of three major committees and two members of the Appropriations Committee including one of its conferees. Their caucus chairman seemed to have lost until a transposition of numbers was discovered that allowed him to hang on by a thread. I served during the term begin-



ning in the year 2000 when a power sharing agreement was reached allowing an evenly split body to go forward with its business. I thought the system worked effectively as there was a process for working together. In such an arrangement there can be an emphasis on solving problems rather than simply getting credit. Most encouraging during this election cycle was the gain in the number of people voting in the election. The experience over many decades was that about 75 percent of voters go to the polls in presidential election years and less than 50 percent in years when the governor is elected. That number increased to about 60 percent this year. Those people who decided to go to the polls made the difference especially in the House of Delegates races.

A further exciting outcome of this election was the dramatic diversification of the membership of the House that had been dominated by white men throughout its history. Most of the losses of incumbents came about by women candidates defeating them. Not only are there more women, there are two Latino and two Asian women, the first transgender woman, and a lesbian. There will be more diversity in the General Assembly than ever before in its history. The Commonwealth will be better for it.

The challenge will be to bring the new members quickly into the process and embrace the strengths that diversity brings. The institution can accommodate the changes that the bloodless revolution of 2017 brought about to the degree that the leadership will permit it.

## WEEK IN RESTON

### Planning and Zoning Committee Seeks Volunteers

The Reston Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee is seeking volunteers to serve on the Committee. All residents of Reston over 18 years of age are eligible to serve on the committee. The committee consists of 15 members with five positions expiring each year, and three associate members that serve one year terms. Members' terms run for three years beginning in January of each year. Associate members terms run for one year, also beginning in January. Meetings are typically held the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. generally in the Community Room, North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston.

Those interested in volunteering to serve on the Reston P&Z Committee, may fill out an application at [rpz.myreston.org](http://rpz.myreston.org) and return it with their resume, as per the instructions on the application. The submission deadline for the application is Dec. 16, 2017. For more information about the Reston Planning and Zoning Committee visit [rpz.myreston.org](http://rpz.myreston.org).

## FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday.*

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute** offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Visit [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Hope Fellowship Church** will temporarily be meeting at Hyatt Place, 21481 Ridgeway Circle, Sterling. Sunday worship services are Sundays at 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., a Bible Study is on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. and a weekly prayer conference call is Thursdays at 9 p.m. The public is invited to join a Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. Call 703-599-3527 or visit [www.hopefellowshipchurchloudon.org](http://www.hopefellowshipchurchloudon.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Preschool**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3- to 4-year-old students. Call 703-938-2391 or visit [www.epiphanypreschool.com](http://www.epiphanypreschool.com).

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From left: Priscilla Jahanian; Giving Circle of Hope Governance Chair Cyndi Shanahan; Darcy Cunningham; Giving Circle of Hope Vice Chair Suzanne Weiss; Shaina Goldberg and Ashleigh Conrad, pose after the Giving Circle of Hope's officials announced Fairfax CASA as the event's first place grant winner. Cunningham, Goldberg and Conrad made a moving and effective presentation to highlight the work of CASA.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

The Giving Circle of Hope's "Big Give" was the place to be on Nov. 9. From left: The organization's Governance Chair Cyndi Shanahan greets newly re-elected Virginia Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86). Boysko is a staunch supporter of the "network of community" that the Giving Circle of Hope creates. "It's local, and shows the power of doing things together," said Boysko.

## The Big Give Giving Circle of Hope holds year-end event to celebrate collective giving.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Big Give of 2016, where the members of the Giving Circle of Hope celebrated another year of collective giving and invited the community at large to understand their mission, was such a success that, of course, the event had to become a new tradition. This year's gathering was held at Refraction in Reston Town Center on Nov. 9, and from the size of the crowd and the donations being made, it's clear that adopting the The Big Give was a good decision.

Voting members don't have to pay to attend, explained Suzanne Weiss, governance vice chair of Giving Circle of Hope, "although they still put something in the bowl!" Non-voting members and the general public added their \$25 per head to enjoy a real feast of hors d'oeuvres and libations.

"It's really great," said Weiss, because "the more they donate, the larger the amount we can award to our three final grantees for this year."

The founders of the Reston-based nonprofit have long since come to realize the power of collective giving. They began as four civic-minded women who got together around a kitchen table to ponder what they could do to create "fun with a purpose" and actively participate in aiding those in need in their community.

In the almost 15 years since officially becoming a 501 (c) 3 organization, Giving Circle of Hope has awarded 133 grants to 55 local nonprofits with budgets under \$2 million. The all-volunteer group, which now numbers over 100 members, has also awarded four Endowment Grants and a special \$25,000 Impact Grant to Connections for Hope of Herndon to celebrate Giving Circle of Hope's 10th anniversary. Over the years, they have awarded more than \$1



Vicky Hodges and Sara Mastro spoke eloquently on the work being done by BRAWS – Bringing Resources to Aid Women in Shelters – as one of the evening's grant recipients.

million to organizations engaged in caring for those in need, right in our own community.

**"COLLECTIVE GIVING"** means exactly that. Generous donors and various fundraisers contribute to the coffers, but most of the grants come from the \$415 minimum annual donation that individuals give to become "Voting Members," meaning that they are eligible to vote on how and to whom the funds are awarded. With a minimum donation of only \$50 per year, an individual can become a Service Member, enjoying the company of like-minded philanthropic neighbors, attending Giving Circle of Hope events, and volunteering for any of the service programs that are part of the organization's mission.

The grants are certainly critical, and much



Jeanne Comeau represented NAMI Northern Virginia as one of the three nonprofits explaining their missions and accepting grants at the Big Give event.

needed, but direct engagement is also a big part of what Giving Circle of Hope members do. Cyndi Shanahan, Giving Circle of Hope's governance chair, notes that Circle members have volunteered thousands of hours, and their energy and their talents in direct service of such programs as The Kids' Club at the Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston, and the annual Empty Bowls dinner that supports Food for Others.

In addition to raising more funds and to thank the membership for their efforts throughout the year, the Big Give also aims to give the general public a more in-depth look at some of the needs of the neighbors around us, and the opportunity to experience collective giving first-hand.

At the event, three nonprofits were selected to pitch their projects. The attendees left the buffet behind for a while to lis-

ten first to keynote speaker Catherine Read, a strategist, activist, and advocate for area nonprofits, then to the presentations by representatives of Fairfax CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for abused and neglected children, BRAWS (Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters) and NAMI Northern Virginia, a local mental health nonprofit.

Immediately following the eye-opening presentations, the entire audience – members and visiting public alike – were invited to cast their ballots.

All three worthy organizations receive a portion of the evening's proceeds, but the group with the most votes receives twice the amount as that which is awarded to the other two recipients.

There were a lot of "Oh, my gosh, I just don't know! They all deserve it!" comments to be heard as the audience made their selections, but eventually, with a champagne toast by Suzanne Weiss, Fairfax CASA was declared the winner of the largest grant.

But the representatives from the other two groups didn't see themselves as having lost. Sara Mastro and Vicky Hodges from BRAWS were still thrilled to have had the chance to spread their message, and receive some much needed funds for the feminine hygiene products and the garments they purchase and provide for women and girls in shelters, schools and prisons.

Jeanne Comeau was equally pleased to share the work of NAMI Northern Virginia, the launch of their "We are Here!" Project, and add a bit to the financial resources of the organization.

**IN ADDITION** to the funds awarded at the Big Give, Giving Circle of Hope in in the process of voting on grants to 31 other organizations for the 2017 grant-making season. Learn more about the Giving Circle of Hope at [www.givingcircleofhope.org](http://www.givingcircleofhope.org).

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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

**Art Exhibit.** Through Nov. 18 at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Artist Sue Wrbican, bringing her most recent photographic series inspired by the landscape paintings of American Surrealist Kay Sage (1898-1963). Free. Call 571-267-5000 or visit [restonarts.org](http://restonarts.org).

**Cotton Collective Art.** Through Dec. 2 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Exhibit called "The Fabric of Families Center Street Cotton Collective." Call 703-956-9560 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

**Reston Farm Market.** Saturdays, through Dec. 9, 8 a.m. - Noon, Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive, SNAP accepted, bonus dollar program. (CLOSED for Multicultural Festival Sept. 23)

## THROUGH NOV. 30

**Sweats for Vets Drive.** Not Your Average Joe's is partnering with the Northwest Federal Credit Union Foundation in Reston to raise money to help area veterans. Mention the "Sweats for Vets," drive while being served lunch or dinner in the restaurant and NYAJ's is donating 15 percent of the cost of your meal to our Sweats for Vets veterans program. Visit [nwfcufoundation.org](http://nwfcufoundation.org).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**Meet the Poet.** 7-9 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. How to Prove a Theory

event with poet Nicole Tong. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

**An Evenin' with Mark Twain and Henry H. Rogers.** 7 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Take in living history as actors bring Mark Twain and Industrialist Henry H. Rogers to life. Adults, teens. 703-689-2700.

## NOV. 16-18

**Herndon High School Theatre presents "Twelfth Night."** Various times at Herndon High School Auditorium, 700 Bennett St. William Shakespeare's holiday comedy set in the roaring '20s. \$6 per student and \$12 per adult. Visit [www.HerndonDrama.org](http://www.HerndonDrama.org).

## NOV. 18-19

**Children's Nutcracker.** Noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. shows at the Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. The Children's Series "Nutcracker," is a condensed version of the popular holiday classic. The approximately 40-minute performance followed by a short question and answer session and memorable photographs with dancers. Visit [www.cbtnva.org](http://www.cbtnva.org).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race.** 4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave. Runners and walkers, take your mark and get ready to conquer a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Visit [herndon-va/events](http://herndon-va/events).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Gray Goose Studios Class.** 2-4 p.m.



## Grand Opening

**Nando's newest location opens Nov. 18, 121210 Sunset Hills Road, Reston. 100 percent of sales donated to Herndon High School and South Lakes High School. This design is the bottom of one of four light fixtures in the restaurant from Ashanti Design out of South Africa, upcycled and hand woven from t-shirt off-cuts. Visit [www.nandosperiperi.com](http://www.nandosperiperi.com) for more.**

at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Children and teens can create art in the medium of their choice with assistance from the instructor as needed. Drawing, painting, collage, mosaic, and sculpture supplies provided. Artists can choose one medium or work in mixed media. \$25. Call 703-956-9560 or visit [www.artspaceherndon.com](http://www.artspaceherndon.com).

**Meet the Cat Expert/Author.** 4-6 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. "Purrs of Wisdom" discussion and signing with author/ cat expert Ingrid King. Email [info@scrawlbooks.com](mailto:info@scrawlbooks.com), call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## TUESDAY/NOV. 21

**Sam's Book Club.** 7 p.m. at the Reston Regional Library 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. The former library director leads a book discussion. Read "The Last Painting of Sara DeVos" by Dominic Smith. Call 703- 689-2700.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Black Friday Brunch.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Canteen in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Breakfast menu includes custom omelets, breakfast sandwiches, Belgian waffles, and more, plus fresh-

baked treats at the counter, Metropolis Coffee and Rishi Tea. Call 703-707-9442 or visit [communitycanteen.com](http://communitycanteen.com).

**27th Annual Reston Holiday Parade.** 11 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Day of holiday activities including tree lighting and singing. Call 703-709-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com).

**Meet the Authors.** 11:30 a.m. at Scrawl Books, in Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Lezlie Evans and Joan Waites will be doing a storytime and book signing with their new Christmas books "Finding Christmas" and "An Artist's Night Before Christmas." Call 703-966-2111, or visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

## NOV. 24-JAN. 4

**Gingerbread Village.** Various times at the Hyatt Regency Reston, Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. See the annual display in the hotel lobby. Call 703-709-1234 or visit [reston.hyatt.com](http://reston.hyatt.com).

## THURSDAY/NOV. 30

**Meet the Author.** 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Poet Alan King will read from and sign his new book "Point Blank." Visit [scrawlbooks.com](http://scrawlbooks.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Meet the Christmas Author.** 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Sue Fliess will be doing a storytime reading and book signing with her new Christmas book "We Wish for a Monster Christmas." Visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com).

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# Social Justice Advocates Told: 'Go and Do Good'

FROM PAGE 2

- 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.
- ❖ 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 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



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



**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.**

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, al-

most 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.”

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

**Passages DivorceCare.** For those experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church offers Passages DivorceCare. This 15-week program offers a path toward healing. Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to [www.viennapres.org](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to

[Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.org).  
The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs volunteers to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, mealtime, entertainment and much more. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.  
The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/).



# HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

## 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) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 18-19

**Children's Nutcracker.** Noon, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. shows at the Classical Ballet Theatre, 320 Victory Drive, Herndon. The Children's Series "Nutcracker," is a condensed version of the popular holiday classic. The approximately 40-minute performance followed by a short question and answer session and memorable photographs with dancers. Visit [www.cbntva.org](http://www.cbntva.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 18

**Herndon Turkey Trot 5K Race.** 4 p.m. at the Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Runners and walkers, take your mark and get ready to conquer a fun 5K trail course, which winds around the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Visit [herndon-va/events](http://herndon-va/events) for more.

**5th Annual Snowflake Stampede.** 5:30 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. At the Bull Run Festival of Lights, a 2.5 mile fun run or walk for holiday enthusiasts of all ages. Enjoy a special preview of the Festival of Lights on foot, and take a picture with your favorite display. Parking and check in are at the corporate barn pavilion; follow the signs for the Snowflake Stampede. \$22 per adult (13 and older); \$17 per child (3-12); 2 and younger, free. Visit [ticketfly.com](http://ticketfly.com) to sign up (search Snowflake Stampede). Prepayment required. More at [www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights/snowflake-stampede](http://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights/snowflake-stampede).

## 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/) for more.

## 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).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Black Friday Brunch.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Community Canteen in Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Breakfast menu includes custom omelets, breakfast sandwiches, Belgian waffles, and more, plus fresh-baked treats at the counter, Metropolis Coffee and Rishi Tea. Call 703-707-9442 or visit [communitycanteen.com](http://communitycanteen.com) for more.

**Holiday Celebration.** 8 a.m.-11 p.m. at Reston Town Center. 27th annual Reston Holiday Parade, tree lighting,



## Holiday Train

The train takes its laps through the Reston Town Centre during the holidays.

and a full day of events. Rain or shine. Ice skating all day. Festive, 1-hour procession of Macy's-style balloons, musicians, characters, community groups, VIPs, and the arrival of Santa & Mrs. Claus; Conservatory Ballet Performance in Fountain Square. Call 703-579-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://restontowncenter.com/holidays) for schedule.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24-THURSDAY/JAN. 4

**Gingerbread Village.** On display in the lobby of the Hyatt Regency Reston. See the Hyatt's annual Gingerbread Village. Call 703-709-1234 or visit [reston.hyatt.com](http://reston.hyatt.com) for more.

## 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.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 25

**Turkey Walk.** 10-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover the wild turkey's habits and secret ways during a walk through the cedar forest. Look for turkeys and their signs. This program for participants age 3 to adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Meet the Christmas Author.** 11 a.m. at Scrawl Books, Reston Town Center, 11862 Market St. Sue Fliess

will be doing a storytime reading and book signing with her new Christmas book "We Wish for a Monster Christmas." Visit [www.scrawlbooks.com](http://www.scrawlbooks.com) for more.

**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) for more.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 3

**Run with Santa 5K.** 8:30 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Jump into the season's spirit and wear the favorite holiday gear or costume. Free kids fun-run with finisher medals. Call 703-689-0999 or visit [praces.com/runwithsanta](http://praces.com/runwithsanta).

**Holiday Arts and Crafts Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Over 80 artisans and craftspeople will exhibit and sell their work at this annual arts and crafts show sponsored by the Town of Herndon Department of Parks and Recreation. Free admission and parking. Additional parking at the Herndon Centennial Golf Course. Visit [herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/holiday-arts-and-crafts-show](http://herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/holiday-arts-and-crafts-show).

**Mini-Train Rides.** noon-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Proceeds go to local charities. Call 703-709-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com) for more.

**Holiday Crafts Day.** Various times at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Enjoy Christmas at the Farm, write letters to Santa, decorate cookies, take a wagon ride with Santa, and enjoy seasonal craft projects. Call 703 -437-9101.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

**Supervisor Hudgins Holiday Open House.** 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. Email [huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 8

**Santa, Stars, and S'mores.** 6-7:30



## Gingerbread Village

**Gingerbread Village at the Hyatt in Reston Town Center** looks like something from the Dicken's tales.

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) for more.

## 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) for more.

## 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).

**New Year's Eve Scramble.** 10 a.m. at Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Shotgun start. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. \$60 per player. Call 703-471-5769 or visit [www.herndongolf.com](http://www.herndongolf.com).

## 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).

**New Year's Day 5K.** 10 a.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music, food, awards, and fun celebration following the race. Presented by Potomac River Running. Call 703-709-6720 or visit [restontowncenter.com](http://restontowncenter.com) for more.

## 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).



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**Employment**

Verisign Inc. seeks Network Engineer in Reston, VA to identify & mitigate denial of service attacks against critical infrastructure services. Mail resume to Attn: Dave Carney, 12061 Bluemont Way, Reston, VA 20190. EOE.

**Announcements**



**Announcements**

## GIVE LOCALLY

FROM PAGE 4

0390, info@pathwayhomes.org, www.pathwayhomes.org, 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/. 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.

❖ **Christian Relief Services**, 8301 Richmond Highway, Suite 900, Alexandria, VA 22309, 703-317-9086, 703-317-9690, 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, friendsofguesthouse.org/

❖ **Wright to Read** 703-299-9854, 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.

❖ **Alice's Kids** (@alicewillhelp)

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.

## 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.

### THROUGH NOV. 26

**Parking Garage Closing.** Due to construction of the new Fairfax County commuter parking garage at the future Metrorail Silver Line's Herndon Station site, the access road from Sunrise Valley Drive to the Herndon-Monroe Park and Ride facility will be closed starting Friday, Nov. 10, through Sunday, Nov. 26. Commuters who wish to use the existing Herndon-Monroe garage during this time will need to enter and exit the facility via the Dulles Toll Road (Rt. 267). This detour will require drivers to pay a \$1 toll upon exiting the garage with an E-Z Pass or exact change. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

### ORNAMENT FUNDRAISER

**White House Ornaments Sale.** Through Dec. 15, 2017 White House Ornaments available for purchase from Assistance League of Northern Virginia for \$22 per ornament. Proceeds benefit the nonprofit's children's programs. Local delivery can be arranged. Visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org for more.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Herndon High School Library** needs volunteers. Training available to help with re-shelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email hhs\_library@fcps.edu.

### DEADLINE NOV. 13

**Apply for Fuel Assistance.** The Virginia Department of Social Services is currently accepting applications for fuel assistance. To qualify for fuel assistance, the maximum gross monthly income for a one-person household must not exceed \$1,307. For a household of four, the maximum gross monthly income is \$2,665. Families and individuals can apply through their local department of social services office. To apply online or to check eligibility for services, visit the CommonHelp website at

commonhelp.virginia.gov. Applications may also be submitted by telephone by contacting the Enterprise Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. at 855-635-4370.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 16

**Blood Donations Needed.** 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Amazon Web Services, 12900 Worldgate Drive, Suite 800. With the holiday season comes a decline in donations. By giving blood or platelets, donors may give patients more time – and more holidays – with loved ones. Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

**DMV2Go at the Pavilion.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. With the DMV wireless office on wheels, apply for or renew an ID card and driver's license; get driving records; obtain vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services online at dmv.virginia.gov.

**Public Hearing – Planning Commission.** 8:15 p.m. in the Board Auditorium of the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Board of Supervisors authorized the consideration of a Comprehensive Plan amendment to restore inadvertently omitted noise impacts guidance into the Transit Station Areas section of the Reston Plan. The proposed amendment integrates the guidelines for these areas with the guidance for the Reston Transit Station areas that was adopted in 2016 at the conclusion of Phase I. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/pa/restontsasnoise/.

### NOV. 16-17

**Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive.** To support this year's Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive, confirm your donation commitment by Oct. 31 at www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives. Call 571-323-9569 or nate.king@cornerstonesva.org.

### DEADLINE NOV. 17

**Gifts for Kids Drive.** Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives by Nov. 17 to request a child's personalized wish list (average \$60-\$75 per child). Call 571-323-9569 or

nate.king@cornerstonesva.org.

### FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**Television-How to Buy and Use.** 2 p.m. at Reston Community Center at Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road. The Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services explains the features of high-definition televisions, including the clarity of picture, as well as additional advantages. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com, or call 703-390-6157 for more.

### MONDAY/NOV. 20

**Planning and Zoning Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. The Reston Planning and Zoning Committee will meet. On the agenda: Renaissance Centro 1801, LLC - vote. For additional information, visit rpz.korchy.com.

### THURSDAY/NOV. 21

**Blood Donations Needed.** 2-7:30 p.m. at Sheraton Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive. With the holiday season comes a decline in donations. By giving blood or platelets, donors may give patients more time – and more holidays – with loved ones. Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

### THURSDAY/NOV. 22

**Blood Donations Needed.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr. With the holiday season comes a decline in donations. By giving blood or platelets, donors may give patients more time – and more holidays – with loved ones. Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

**Supervisor Hudgins Holiday Open House.** 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the North County Governmental Center Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive. Email huntermillRSVP@fairfaxcounty.gov.



# 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.





Ice skaters enjoy the Rock 'N' Skate Party at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017.



Forming a train at the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion are McKean McConnell, 15, of Great Falls; Marc James-Finel, 15, of McLean; Thomas Ryan, 15, of Great Falls; and Aidan Kenny, 15, of Great Falls.

# Rock 'N' Skate Party at Reston Town Center

Cooler winter weather is coming. So that means the Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion has officially opened for the season on Friday, Nov. 10, 2017, with a Rock 'N' Skate Party. The event on Fridays from 8-10 p.m. is for mostly teens but allows all age groups; and included a deejay who played family-friendly music. Admission is \$10, plus \$6 for skate rentals. In future events, they will be offering games such as the Hula Hoop Challenge and the Mannequin Challenge as well as prizes, \$5-off coupons, and gift certificates from local merchants, according to Dayna Doukara, a spokesman for Rink Management Services Corporation, which manages the rink.

In addition, they hold Cartoon Skates on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during which performers dressed as Scooby Doo, Tweety Bird, Teddy Bear, Snowman, and Dalmatian Dog entertain youngsters ages 4-8 on the ice. Admission is \$9; plus \$6 skate rental.

College Skate Night is Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. If college students show their IDs, they get \$2 off the admission, so the cost is \$8; plus \$6 skate rental.

The rink has a Learn-to-Skate Program on Saturday mornings from 9:30-11 a.m.; cost is \$125 for four lessons. They host private and corporate parties as well; cost is \$1,250 for two hours for 100 people on Sundays through Tuesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m.

For birthday parties, the cost is \$175 for 10 people plus skate rentals. They get a table set up for use for two hours, plus the birthday person receives two free admissions for another day.

For \$10, you can rent skate aids, which are statue-like penguins and snowmen for the little ones to help them balance on the ice.

The rink, which employs a staff of 18 high school and college students, offers ice skates in sizes 7 Juniors to 15 Adults.

The public skating hours are: Sundays to Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



Dad Greg Fletcher with son Patrick, 13, of Reston.

The pricing is as follows: adult admission \$10; youth (under 12)/senior (55+)/military \$9; skate rentals \$6; and 10 admission pass \$85.

The Reston Town Center Ice Skating Pavilion is located at 1818 Discovery Street, Reston. Call 703-709-6300 or email [skating@restontowncenter.com](mailto:skating@restontowncenter.com).

— STEVE HIBBARD

**Lillian Claire Pennington, 10, of Reston.**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION



Matt Pugh, 24, of Vienna and Olivia Kamm, 24, of Reston.



Melina Seng, 17, of Fairfax and Melanie Kurapatti, 17, of Herndon.



Lindsay Stembridge, 17, and Luke Thomas, 19, of Ashburn.