

# Potomac ALMANAC

CELEBRATIONS  
& GRATITUDE  
THANKSGIVING 2017



## Seat a 'Silent Guest'

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Artists Ready for 10th Annual  
Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show

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Sharing Memories  
Of Thanksgivings Past

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KindWorks, based in Potomac, is resurrecting the "Silent Guest" program from 1947 to help the hungry in war-ravaged South Sudan.



# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

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

**Thang Ta.** Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. at Sutradhar Institute of Dance and Related Arts, 1525 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring. Learn the ancient art of the sword and spear. \$25. [www.dancesidra.org](http://www.dancesidra.org).

**Weekly Blues Dance.** Thursdays 8:15-11:30 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. Capital Blues presents rotating DJs and instructors with beginner workshop 8:15-9 p.m., no partner necessary. \$8 for all. [capitalblues.org](http://capitalblues.org)

**Weekly Swing Dance.** Saturdays, 8 p.m.-midnight. The DC Lindy Exchange presents a swing dance with live music in the Spanish Ballroom, Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Beginner swing dance lesson at 8 p.m., followed by dancing. Admission \$16-\$18, age 17 and under \$12. [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org).

**Argentine Tango with Lessons.** Most Sundays, 6:30-11 p.m. in the Back Room Annex at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Argentine Tango lessons followed by a Milonga most Sunday evenings. Beginner lesson 6:30-7:30 p.m. and intermediate lesson 7:30-8:30 p.m. Cost is \$15/lesson and includes the Milonga. For just the Milonga, cost is \$10 and the open dance with DJ runs 8:30-11 p.m. No partner required. [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org), 301-634-2222.

**Contra and Square Dance.** Fridays and Sundays 7-10:30 p.m. in the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd. The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. All Contra and Square dances are taught, no partner necessary. Lessons at 7 p.m., followed by the called dance with live music at 7:30. \$13 for nonmembers, \$10 for FSGW members, \$5 ages 17 and under. [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org), 301-634-2222.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 23

**Turkey Chase.** 8:30 a.m. at 9401 Old Georgetown Road at Spruce Street. The Turkey Chase 10K Run benefits the YMCA Bethesda-Chevy Chase, YMCA's Youth and Family Services and the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rotary Club Foundation. Includes a

two-mile walk/run; wheelchairs welcome. Registration is \$10 for the Kid's Run, \$20 for the 2 mile race, and \$35 for the 10K. See [www.turkeychase.com](http://www.turkeychase.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Terry Lee Ryan in Concert.** 7-11 p.m. at Margery's Lounge at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Potomac. Call 301-983-8838.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 25

**Try the Pottery Wheel.** 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at VisArts, 155 Gibbs St., Suite 300, Rockville. This class is especially designed for those who have never used the wheel or who are working on basic skills. Each student will create a cup, bowl or vase, and choose a glaze from the studio options. Visit [www.visartsatrockville.org/](http://www.visartsatrockville.org/).

## NOV. 25-DEC. 31

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

## DECEMBER 2017

**Christmas Tree Sale.** Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Road. Call 301-365-2255 or visit [www.cjpvfd.org](http://www.cjpvfd.org).

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

## DEC. 1-23

**Friends of the Yellow Barn.** The Yellow Barn Studio gives annual members show. Visit [www.glenechopark.org](http://www.glenechopark.org) or [www.yellowbarnstudio.com](http://www.yellowbarnstudio.com). Call 301-634-2222.

## SATURDAY/DEC 2

**German Christmas Market.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at 8617 Chateau Drive, Rockville. Traditional German food



## Holiday Concert

The National Philharmonic Singers will be playing Saturday, Dec. 2 at 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 109 S. Washington St., Rockville. Under the direction of conductors Stan Engebretson and Victoria Gau, will present a holiday concert. Call 301-762-2191 or email [info@cecrockville.org](mailto:info@cecrockville.org) for more.

and gifts. Visit [nextdoor.com/events/476521/](http://nextdoor.com/events/476521/).

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

**Pressenda Chamber Players Concert.** 8 p.m. at the Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. Washington Conservatory of Music Piano Trio Concert. Visit [www.westmorelanducc.org/](http://www.westmorelanducc.org/).

**The National Philharmonic Singers.** 8 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 109 S. Washington St., Rockville. Under the direction of conductors Stan Engebretson and Victoria Gau, will present a holiday concert. Call 301-762-2191 or email [info@cecrockville.org](mailto:info@cecrockville.org).

## MONDAY/DEC. 4

**Christmas Concert.** 7 p.m. at the Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. R&B-jazz singer Selina Albright is heading your way as a featured performer on the Dave

Koz 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Christmas Tour with fellow smooth/contemporary jazz icons David Benoit, Rick Braun and Peter White. Visit [www.SelinaAlbright.com](http://www.SelinaAlbright.com).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6

**Mystery in the Library.** 4-6 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. A mystery where the king is missing and everyone can play a part. Call 240-777-0690.

## DEC. 9-10

**The Mini-Nut.** 8 p.m. at Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center, 7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring. An abbreviated version of The Nutcracker, designed to introduce children to the performance by the Maryland Youth Ballet. \$18 children, \$23 adults. At-the-Door: \$20 children, \$25 adults. Visit [www.marylandyouthballet.org](http://www.marylandyouthballet.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 10

**Jingle Bell Jog.** 9-10:30 a.m. at the Rockville Senior Center, 1150 Carnation Drive. Registration is free

for Montgomery County Road Runners Club, \$10 for non-members and \$5 for non-members under 18. See [www.mcrrc.org](http://www.mcrrc.org).

**Jazz Jam Session.** 3-5:30 p.m. at the Potomac River Jazz Club, at Normandie Farm Restaurant, 10710 Falls Road, Rockville. Bring instruments and sit in with the Conservatory Classic Jazz Band during the first set. Or just drop in to listen to the great sounds of classic jazz, Dixieland, and swing. \$10 admission, free for jammers and students. Call 301-762-3323, or visit [prjc.org](http://prjc.org).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 16-17

**Handel's "Messiah."** Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday, 3 p.m. at the Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Led by Artistic Director Stan Engebretson, the concert will feature the Philharmonic's nearly 200 voice all-volunteer Chorale, as well as soloists Esther Heideman (soprano); Yvette Smith (mezzo-soprano); Norman Shankle (tenor); and Trevor Scheunemann (baritone). \$28-\$88. Visit [www.nationalphilharmonic.org](http://www.nationalphilharmonic.org) or call 301-581-5100.

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## Happy Thanksgiving!

from your friends and neighbors at Potomac Community Village...

As we all give thanks for what we have, consider volunteering - right here in our Potomac community. PCV volunteers choose how, where and how often they want to serve.

To learn more: 240-221-1370

[www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org)



## Seat a 'Silent Guest' at Thanksgiving Dinner Table

**A broader sense of community.**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**I** was so moved when I looked in the people's eyes, I knew I had to do something," said Potomac's Karen Simon. After watching a gut-wrenching March episode of "60 Minutes" showing famine, poverty and malnourished children in war-ravaged South Sudan, Simon decided it was time to act. She and her colleagues from KindWorks resurrected the "Silent Guest" program — a 70-year-old American tradition which is perfect for Thanksgiving.

There's always room for one more at our Thanksgiving tables, so set a place for a "silent guest" at the Thanksgiving table and

donate the money it would cost for that meal to the World Food Program/Silent Guest program. "It's broadening our sense of community beyond our immediate neighbors," said Simon.

The "Silent Guest" program was created by Iris Gabriel in 1947 two years after WWII ended and before the Marshall Plan was instituted. The people of Europe had lived through the havoc of war and experienced a devastating drought, leading to life-threatening food shortages. Governors of all states embraced the "Silent Guest" program where all families would set aside a place at their holiday meals. Because of each family's small donations, the program of CARE packages was initiated to feed the hungry in Europe. Gabriel had said, "The silent guest meals will be spiritual bread, as well as physical bread, for discouraged, hungry people."

Simon and her fellow board members at KindWorks also launched a program to raise

funds to buy more meals for starving children and adults in South Sudan.

"I knew as one person I could not make an impact — but I also realized that I couldn't let this go on in my world and not take part," said Simon. "We determined that if we each gave \$10 — and then shared the need with 10 more people — together, we can bring about change. It only takes 50 cents to buy a meal so \$10 buys 20 meals." Thus far, they have raised \$15,000 towards their goal of \$50,000. Up until Friday, Nov. 17, anonymous donors matched the donated funds.

The World Food Programme assists 80 million people in about 80 countries, working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the International Fund for Agricultural Development. They are the leading humanitarian organization fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve

nutrition and build resilience. Their work extends from Afghanistan to Yemen, from Haiti to South Sudan.

They particularly focus on nutrition — and the necessity for children to consume wholesome meals in order to grow into healthy adults. Because of the multitude of strife in the world, famine is one of the most prevalent problems, particularly for the refugee population. As they escape from their countries, people are subsisting on very little, other than plants and tainted water.

Simon said, "As a nation, it is important that we join together to help the rest of the world."

Join the table — and set a place for a "silent guest." Make a vow to save lives by donating to the World Food Program at [wfpusa.org/silentguest](http://wfpusa.org/silentguest). After donating, spread the word to friends and family and look at the website to learn more about the situation in South Sudan.

## Artists' Works Fill Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show

**10th annual event returns Dec. 3.**

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

**M**ark your calendars now for the 10th annual Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-5 p.m. This bazaar will feature gifts from more than 50 artists, crafters, authors, potters, woodworkers and bakers. The Clara Barton Craft Show is a "must-do" for those looking for one-of-a-kind holiday gifts as well as the perfect present for that "hard-to-buy-for person." The craft show will be held at the Clara Barton Neighborhood Recreation Center, 7425 MacArthur Blvd, Cabin John.

"The Friends of Clara Barton Community sponsor the show each year. The funds we make from table rentals are used to support programs for the children, seniors and families who use the facility. We also make charitable contributions," said Leslie Barden, Craft Show coordinator. "The show is an opportunity to shop for imaginative holiday gifts and to meet the artists, crafters and authors who created them. We offer free admission, no traffic and plenty of free parking. A few spaces for the show are still available."



Stacey Fannon's Evil Eye earrings.



The year's show will feature quality crafts from a host of returning artists. Dot Proctor, a full-time artist who works out of her studio in Bethesda or on location with her portable easel, will display many of her paintings. Some of her paintings capture the ever-changing beauty of the C&O Canal. Potomac's Shirley Hendel will be presenting her fused glass, also known as kiln-formed glass or warm glass. Hendel, an award-winning decorative painter for many years, said, "Nine years ago, I discovered the possibilities for expression that fused glass materials and techniques offer and now I work exclusively in that medium." She specializes in animal-themed art as well as in geometric designs. Much of her fused glass is multifunctional; it can be hung on a wall, displayed on a stand or used as a serving piece. Stanley E Schaper, will bring his handmade picture frames, oil paintings and woodworking; Nancy Russo will feature her children's sweaters, gloves and pillowcases; Karyn Miele and daughter Gina McClimans will share their handcrafted jewelry — some created from snake skins. Edward Allen Faine, author of seven children's books will host a table. His "How to Cow-



Artwork by Inese Platere.



Artwork by Inese Platere.

**Artist Inese Platere with her work.**

boy" is one of his especially popular books.

New to the show this year is card-maker Joyce Mason. "I have been taking watercolor classes for a number of years and one pastel class recently. I had a lot of my art in my house and decided I would take pictures of it and have it printed into original cards," she said. "I got a good response so I am continuing it."



**Note cards by artist Joyce Mason will be featured at the Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show.**



Note cards by artist Joyce Mason.

Another new face will be Inese Platere — a Latvian oil painter who has been in America for two years. She said, "I am happy that I can share my joy of creating art and hope others like my paintings."

Sarah Krosner and her son Aaron will feature their professional photography, and spinner and weaver Susan Godell will bring her weavings.

These are just a few of the multitude of artists who will share their talents with shoppers on Dec. 3. Stop by to meet the artists and see creativity at work.



# OPINION

# Shop Locally, Give Locally

Every day is for shopping small and shopping locally.

**A**n effort to support locally owned businesses has resulted in the recognition of Small Business Saturday, the Saturday after Thanksgiving. This year that is Nov. 25. Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, is promoted as a day of national zeal for shopping. Presumably the next day shoppers can focus on local shopping.

**EDITORIAL** There is a joy to shopping in local stores at the holidays, to walking along a sidewalk with the streets decked out for the holidays, to being greeted by someone likely to be the owner of the store, to finding gifts that are not mass-produced.

We all benefit when local stores thrive, when local business districts beckon.

Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive. Most small, locally owned businesses invest in community, helping to transform our towns and communities with a sense of place.

Supporting small businesses, locally owned businesses, has to be more than a one-day affair. And in this area, there doesn't have to be anything small about shopping locally.

But still, local families will shop and exchange gifts during the next month, spending tens of millions of dollars in a variety of

places.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of your shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season. Small retail shops are part of defining any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

The small business owner is often the leader for fundraising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

Local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores. Spend some time shopping in your own community, and also plan an excursion to a nearby town to check out the holiday spirit there.

See Connection's Holiday Calendar for great celebrations near you.

#### ❖ Fairfax County:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/16/holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Arlington:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/arlington-holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Potomac:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/15/potomac-almanac-holiday-calendar-2017/)

#### ❖ Alexandria:

[www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/nov/20/alexandria-holiday-calendar-2017/)

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Short Deadline for Children's Edition

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent via email, dropbox or google drive or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg

format.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. To be published, we must have first and last name of the student. Please include the student's age and/or grade, school attended and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Provide submissions by Friday, Dec. 1.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

## Give Locally in Potomac

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

**T**he 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.

Potomac is one of the wealthiest communities in the nation. The average family income in Potomac is \$269,900, with 55 percent of married couple families in

Potomac earning more than \$200,000.

But close to 68,000 people (6.7 percent) in Montgomery County live below the poverty level. That's \$20,420 for a family of three. That's about \$1,700 a month. The median rent in Montgomery County is \$1,627.

The children living in these families 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](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Potomac: Where to Give Locally

❖ Manna Food Center, 9311 Gaither Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20877, 301-424-1130, [www.mannafood.org](http://www.mannafood.org).

Manna Food Center, the main food bank in Montgomery County, strives to eliminate hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. Manna has distributed more than 43 million pounds of food to more than 2.7 million individuals. Manna provided food to 5 percent of Montgomery County residents this past year.

SEE GIVE LOCALLY, PAGE 7

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

[www.PotomacAlmanac.com](http://www.PotomacAlmanac.com)

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# Seniors Share Memories of Thanksgivings Past

The best part: the gathering of family.

BY PEGGY McEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

Members of Potomac Community Village met at the Potomac Library Thursday, Nov. 16, for a seminar on Cloud computing. It was packed with seniors wanting to learn about the future of computing and what it means to be “on the cloud.”

Several members, however, took time out to remember the past by sharing their Thanksgiving memories.

Almost everyone considered getting together with family and friends, even assorted strangers, their favorite part of the holiday. Not everyone, though, really liked the traditional foods but said they participated anyway.

Jane Blocher grew up in Cheyenne, Wyo. “We generally got a snowstorm or two in November,” she said. “We always hoped it would be around Thanksgiving ... that made it seem more seasonal.”

Blocher said her favorite memory was family gathering, and “always a person or two that realized they didn’t have a place to go so it was fun to get to know someone new.”



**Don Moldover** shared a frightening Thanksgiving story with a happy ending after the Potomac Community Village meeting Thursday, Nov. 16.

One more anecdote came to mind as she was talking:

“My mother and godmother and I were in the kitchen getting ready to put things on platters. My mother put the turkey on a platter and handed it to my godmother ... it slid off the platter and across the kitchen floor! They looked at each other and looked at me. ‘Don’t you dare say a word,’ they said.

“After wiping off the turkey and cleaning up the streak of grease in the floor, they served the turkey and no one ever knew. Under pain of death I was never to repeat that story.”

Don Moldover told an almost tragic Thanksgiving story that ended happily:

“This story hasn’t been told for about 40 years ... there probably was a disclosure agreement. My son was about 4 years old and we went with friends to the Macy’s



**Jane Blocher** grew up in Wyoming where they usually had snow on Thanksgiving.

PHOTOS BY  
PEGGY McEWAN

Thanksgiving Day Parade. We parked in a garage, it was a very cold day, and walked to the parade.

“After it was over we went back to our car. The garage operators were not prepared for the numbers of people leaving. There was only one exit open, with only one attendant taking fees. That led to a significant traffic jam. The [garage] exhaust system was not operating well ... the kids started falling asleep.

“My son was basically suffering from the fumes, so we got out of the car and walked to the hospital. At least five children were hospitalized.”

Fortunately for Moldover’s son, his vital signs were checked, and he was fine.

One more Thanksgiving memory was from Randy Kirkian. He was born in Palestine and grew up in Iraq. His first experi-



**Randy Kirkian** celebrated his first Thanksgiving after coming to the United States from Iraq at age 19.

ence with an American Thanksgiving was while attending a Jesuit High School in Iraq.

He came to the U.S. for college and joined in the annual celebration with family:

“My first Thanksgiving was with my aunt and uncle in Cleveland. I remember it because it snowed. That was my first experience with snow.

“We had the traditional foods but my uncle came from Turkey, so we had a mixture of American and Armenian foods.

“I think the best part is the family gathering, the food is unimportant.”

Many Potomac Community Village members will join family for Thanksgiving dinner this year, but the group has a Holiday Friends program which matches members with hosts, so no one has to be alone.

For more information on Holiday Friends call 240-221-1370.

## Churchill Student Selected To Perform at Kennedy Center

“Playing for others is more a sharing of that joy.”

BY PEGGY McEWAN  
THE ALMANAC

Harry Wang, a senior at Winston Churchill High School, was selected in July to play at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. as part of the Washington International Piano Festival.

Wang said he knew when he took part in the festival there was a possibility of playing at the Center’s millennium stage but did not worry about it.

“When Ms. Koras [his piano teacher] told me about the Kennedy Center she believed I had a good chance,” Harry said.

“I wasn’t putting pressure on myself, whatever happens, happens, that was my attitude.”

He said being part of the International Piano Festival was exciting enough.

“People come from all over the world,” he said.

“During the week we do Master Classes and some performances. You can look at it like an audition, people vying for the Kennedy Center.”

When he learned he was one of the students selected, he was happy.

“I had a chance to really share my passion with a huge audience,” he said.

Harry speaks often about his love for piano, the joy it brings him and others and sharing his passion.

“Playing for myself is fun,” he said. “Playing for others is more a sharing of that joy. After recitals I see people smiling and it makes me feel good.”

Harry, 17, grew up in China and moved with his parents to the United States when he was 14.

“I had visited before, mainly Los Angeles, the other side of America,” he said. “I thought America was a fun place because in L.A. they have Disneyland and all those theme parks and the movies.”

But now that he is living here, he said, he finds everybody really focused on their professions.

Harry was already an accomplished pianist when he moved here, having started playing when he was 5 years old.

Neither of his parents play the piano but they always thought the ability to make music a real joy, he said.

“It was something they always wanted to do,” he said. “They found I really liked music on the radio and all, so found a teacher for me.”

When he was 8 or 9, he said, his parents realized it was time for him to learn in a



**Harry Wang** after his performance at The Kennedy Center.

more professional way, so he changed teachers. That was when he was still in China.

Harry said what he likes most about playing the piano is the carefulness of it, the precision and the interpretation.

He studies with Aglaia Koras of Bethesda, herself a concert pianist.

“What is great about Ms. Koras is she gives me inspiration and also gives me space to be creative,” Harry said. “She is really understanding and loving towards her students. She wants us to do well. She really cares ... I think that is the best thing about Ms. Koras.”

Koras thinks highly of Harry too.

“He is just the kind of person you would like as your own son,” she said. “He is kind, respectful, polite, well trained, well brought up.”

As for his piano playing, she also had high praise.

“He is an electric performer and is capable of very sensitive music,” she said.

That “electricity” is something Harry said he can almost feel.

“Before I perform my hands are really cold, after the performance, they are hot,” he said.

Though piano is a “long-time passion” for Harry, he does not plan to be a full-time concert pianist.

“Piano is not really about competitions,” he said. “It is more about enjoying the music and the interpretations you do.”

For now, his focus is on college applications. He hopes to study law in the future, and is especially interested in entertainment law.

“Piano and law are similar,” he said. “They are both sharing a love to the world around you — law is spreading justice.”



# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

## September, 2017 Sales, \$750,000~\$850,000

IN SEPTEMBER 2017, 44 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD  
BETWEEN \$3,350,000-\$495,000.



**1** 10705  
Cloverbrooke Drive —  
\$850,000



**5** 9524 Woodington Drive  
— \$800,000



**2** 1523 Blue Meadow Road — \$845,000



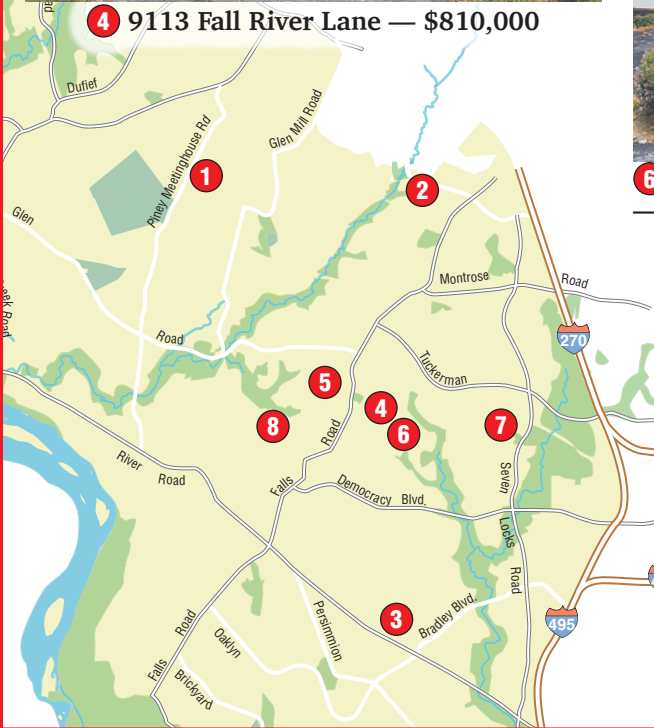
**4** 9113 Fall River Lane — \$810,000



**6** 8944 Barrowgate Court  
— \$795,000



**3** 9121 Harrington Drive — \$810,000



Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price.....	Type.....	Lot AC	Postal Code.....	Subdivision.....	Date Sold
<b>1</b> 10705 CLOVERBROOKE DR....	4	2	2	POTOMAC	\$850,000	Detached	0.26	20854	PINEY GLEN VILLAGE	09/27/17	
<b>2</b> 1523 BLUE MEADOW RD....	5	3	1	POTOMAC	\$845,000	Detached	0.27	20854	HORIZON HILL	09/12/17	
<b>3</b> 9121 HARRINGTON DR.....	4	3	0	POTOMAC	\$810,000	Detached	2.46	20854	BRADLEY FARMS	09/13/17	
<b>4</b> 9113 FALL RIVER LN.....	6	3	1	POTOMAC	\$810,000	Detached	0.36	20854	PINE KNOLLS	09/29/17	
<b>5</b> 9524 WOODINGTON DR.....	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$800,000	Detached	0.41	20854	BEDFORDSHIRE	09/29/17	
<b>6</b> 8944 BARROWGATE CT.....	4	2	2	POTOMAC	\$795,000	Townhouse	0.05	20854	FOX HILLS	09/06/17	
<b>7</b> 5 LAKENHEATH COURT CT....	5	3	1	POTOMAC	\$765,000	Detached	0.34	20854	INVERNESS FOREST	09/26/17	
<b>8</b> 10901 BROAD GREEN TER....	6	3	1	ROCKVILLE	\$750,000	Detached	0.32	20854	BEDFORDSHIRE	09/15/17	

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# OPINION

## Give Locally

FROM PAGE 4

❖ Mercy Health Clinic, [mercyhealthclinic.org](http://mercyhealthclinic.org), 7 Metropolitan Court, Suite 1, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Mercy Health Clinic is a free, community-based volunteer organization providing quality healthcare to uninsured, low-income residents of Montgomery County.

The clinic, located in Gaithersburg, depends on the expertise of volunteers, healthcare professionals and support from community partners to provide quality care to those in need.

The clinic is staffed with medical professionals including family practice physicians, cardiologists, endocrinologists, nurse practitioners, nurse assistants, translators and behavioral health counselors.

❖ Interfaith Works, [www.iworksmc.org](http://www.iworksmc.org), 114 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850.

Interfaith Works provides shelter, food, and clothing to low-income and homeless neighbors.

❖ Potomac Community Resources, <http://pcr-inc.org/> 9200 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac, MD 20854, 301-365-0561.

Potomac Community Resources, Inc. (PCR) provides therapeutic, recreational, social, and respite care programs for teens and adults with developmental differences, as well as information about community resources for families.

❖ Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, [www.mcch.net](http://www.mcch.net), 600-B East Gude Drive, Rockville, MD 20850, 301-217-0314.

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless (MCCH), a community-based nonprofit organization, is a leading provider of permanent housing, intermediate housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services for people experiencing homelessness. MCCH programs serve 1,600 men,

women and children each year, providing 60 percent of the emergency shelter beds in the county.

❖ Shepherd's Table, [www.shepherdstable.org](http://www.shepherdstable.org), 8210 Dixon Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910, 301-585-646.

Shepherd's Table is a nonprofit organization in downtown Silver Spring, supported by volunteers, religious organizations, government, businesses, foundations, and individual donors. Shepherd's Table provides help to people who are homeless or in need by providing basic services, including meals, social services, medical support, clothing, and other assistance.

❖ Fisher House, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, [www.fisherhouse.org](http://www.fisherhouse.org), 111 Rockville Pike, Suite 420, Rockville, MD 20850, 888-294-8560.

The Fisher House program supports members of the military and their families when they travel great distances for specialized medical care. Fisher House Foundation donates "comfort homes," built on the grounds of major military and Veterans medical centers, including Walter Reed in Bethesda.

These homes enable family members to be close to a loved one at the most stressful times.

❖ Friends in Action, [www.iworksmc.org/friends-in-action](http://www.iworksmc.org/friends-in-action), 114 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville, MD 20850, 301-762-8682.

Founded by Interfaith Works (formerly Community Ministry of Montgomery County) in 1986, Friends In Action recruits and trains a network of people from all faiths and ethnic backgrounds. Volunteer mentoring teams are linked for one year in a supportive relationship to a needy family in their community. The goal of the program is to help the family identify their strengths and develop attainable and manageable goals that guide them toward financial independence and personal well being.

about PCV, or have been thinking about joining or volunteering to meet some current members and volunteers and to chat over coffee, tea and other goodies. For questions, directions, and to RSVP by Nov. 30, call 240-221-1370 or email [info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org](mailto:info@PotomacCommunityVillage.org). Visit [www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org) or [www.facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage](https://www.facebook.com/PotomacCommunityVillage).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 16

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

### SUPPORT GROUPS

**The Alzheimer's Association's Memory Cafes** offer a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to get connected with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. The memory cafe in Rockville (4860 Boiling Brook Parkway) operates the third Wednesday of each month from 2:30-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 240-428-1342 or [lvajpeyi@alz.org](mailto:lvajpeyi@alz.org).

**Suicide Grief Support Group.** At JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. This ongoing bereavement support group is for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This group meets every first and third Monday. No charge. Pre-registration is required to attend. Call 301-816-2708.

**Because I Love You** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting parents of troubled children of any age. The group helps parents deal with drugs, runaways, truancy, verbal abuse, physical abuse, curfew violations and other misbehavior, as well as help parents deal with themselves, to manage and live their own lives without obsessing over their child's behavior. The group meets 7:30-9:30 every Thursday at Bethesda United Methodist Church Room 209, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Visit [www.becauseiloveyou.org](http://www.becauseiloveyou.org), email [hbrite1@netzero.com](mailto:hbrite1@netzero.com) or call 301-530-3597.

## 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.

### WINTER GUIDE AVAILABLE

**The 2017-2018 winter issue of the Montgomery County Guide for Recreation and Parks programs** is now available to the public. The Winter Guide features a wide variety of classes and programs designed to help participants stay active and have fun. Residents may register for classes and programs beginning Monday, November 13, 2017. To view the Winter Guide online, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/publications/WinterGuide2017-2018.pdf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/rec/Resources/Files/publications/WinterGuide2017-2018.pdf).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Drop-in Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings at the Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Ave. The Montgomery County Commission for Women and the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation will sponsor a free, drop-in support group to help and support women as they transition back into the community after being involved with the criminal justice system. Groups are open to women who live, or plan to live, in Montgomery County. Interested participants can get more information, exact room location, and request free child care by contacting the Montgomery County Commission for Women at 240-777-8333 or online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/reentry\\_referral\\_form.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw/reentry_referral_form.html). More information about the Commission for Women can be found at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cfw).

### TUESDAY/DEC. 5

**"Get to Know PCV."** 2 p.m. Potomac Community Village (PCV), with a mission of empowering older Potomac residents to age in place in their existing homes, strengthen existing social connections and build new ones, is hosting a "Get to Know PCV" Social Get-Together at a private Potomac home. The event will offer an opportunity for those who want to know more

## Welcome to the Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Some club," as my late mother would likely scoff. And the club to which I refer is, to spin an old Groucho Marx joke: a club you'd rather not join especially if they'd have you as a member. This is of course, the cancer club, a club whose membership continues to grow despite worldwide efforts to the contrary. According to Medscope.com, one in two men and one in three women will be affected by cancer in their lifetime. Hardly a statistic to be ignored. And so, even though I had a rather uneventful/healthy upbringing and further on into adulthood, in late middle age, 54 and five months, Feb. 27, 2009, I was impacted and rudely awakened with a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV diagnosis – out of the blue, and given a "13 month to two-year" prognosis to boot. As a life long non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer, whose parents both lived well into their 80s, I was more inclined to worry about the Boston Red Sox pitching depth than I was about cancer.

But cancer, for the past nearly nine years has been my life and amazingly, so far anyway, not the cause of my premature death (what death isn't 'premature?'). And what brightens my day and lifts my spirits more than anything else (other than a Red Sox World Series Championship) is when I meet a newly-diagnosed lung cancer patient who exhibits the can/will do positive-type attitude necessary to endure the inevitable ups and downs to follow. To be selfish, it empowers me and strengthens my own resolve to live life to the fullest (it's not as simple as saying it) and damn the torpedoes.

Within the last few months, I have met, over the phone, two such individuals. The first man, Lee, I met before he even had his first infusion. The second man, Mark, a bit more experienced, I met a year and a half after his first infusion. Each man was engaging, outgoing, confident, enthusiastic and quite frankly, happy to make my acquaintance. You see, after being given a less-than-desirable prognosis, it's helpful to meet someone who, despite having received a similar diagnosis, has nevertheless managed to live almost nine years post diagnosis. (If he can do it, I can do it kind of feeling.)

As for me, the nearly nine-year survivor, meeting cancer patients who are at the beginning of their respective cancer journeys, helps me to reconnect with my roots, so to speak, and share and share alike some memorable experiences, both cancer-related and not. In a way, we get to live vicariously through one another which for me reinforces how lucky I've been to survive for as long as I have.

And not that I need reminding, but it's easy to take for granted one's good fortune and forget – occasionally, the seriousness of my situation and the cloud that hangs over my head. The sword of Damocles has got nothing on me, literally or figuratively. Living with cancer is akin to nothing really. The chance that you'll survive beyond your prognosis, maybe even have your tumors shrink, or see your scans show "no evidence of disease," creates a kind of tease that cause your emotions to run the gamut. The possibility of living after being told you're dying – and vice versa, perhaps more than once, over your abbreviated – or not, life expectancy, is simply too much to handle/absorb sometimes. It's a roller coaster for sure, but one that rarely comes to a complete stop and never allows you to get off. Moreover, it's not multiple rides, it's one long, endless ride with no guarantees about what happens next – or where it even happens.

Meeting people who are ready, willing and able to confront their cancer future is just as important and stimulating as meeting someone like me who hasn't succumbed to this terrible disease. It's a win-win situation. Particularly significant when at date of diagnosis, it appeared to be a lose-lose. I'm proud to be a member of the cancer club, especially so when I meet people like Lee and Mark.

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



# POTOMAC PIZZA LUNCH COMBOS

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