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Gracy Dempsey, Grade 4, Silverbrook Elementary School



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Connection 2017



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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



Winter Fun, by Allyson Nguyen, Grade 8, Lake Braddock SS, Teacher: Victoria McGrath

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2018 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children

continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

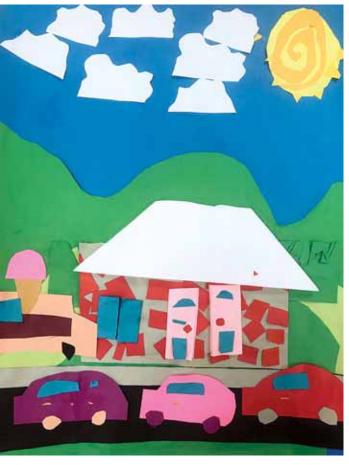
The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is email, which should be sent to south@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

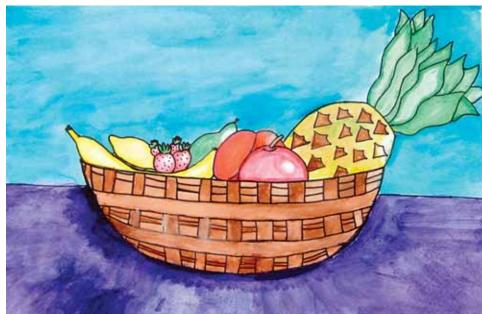
Editor Kemal Kurspahic



By Alexandra Weatherbee, Second Grade, Fairview Elementary, Art Teacher Vered Grossman.



By Brooke Twitchell, Grade 1, Silverbrook Elementary, Art Teacher Meredith Cosier,



By Madison Bedford, Fairview Elementary, Fifth Grade, Art Teacher Vered Grossman



Brooks McDowell, Grade 1, Silverbrook Elementary School



By Grace Andrews, Second Grade



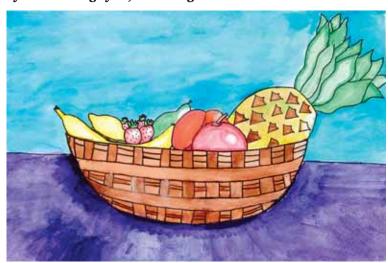
By Michael Barrett, Fifth Grade



By Cody Friesz, **Fourth Grade**



By Hannah Nguyen, Second grade



By Madison Bedford, Fifth Grade

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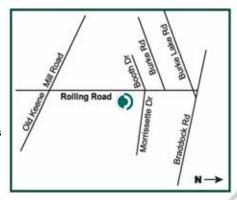
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CHERRY RUN

Fourth Graders' Opinions in Mary Zavaleta's class.

Favorite animal?

A human- because I'm a human and we can find a way to live peacefully (or not.)

—Evan Jones

Cheetahs- it must feel good to run that fast! I wish I could. Do you?

—Victoria Shea

Elephant- When I was younger, I thought an elephant could give me a shower. When I was 2 or 3, I wanted to be an elephant when I grew up. Even now, I still like elephants because they are very cool.

—FIONA MULCAHY

A Galapagos tortoise- I want to ride it! They were almost instinct.

—KESHAV PARIKH

A dog- It's a very interesting story about how dogs came to be real. They have super puppy cuteness that can make a heart melt. They are friendlywell, most of them. You can teach them tricks.

-SAMUEL GRIFFITH

Favorite game?

I like soccer because it's a sport that can burn your energy. If you're feeling squirrelly, you should play this sport. It requires a lot of stamina, endurance and brainpower and skill. Can you kick a ball?

-SAMUEL GRIFFITH

Roblox is a game I love to play. You

can play tons of different games on it. You can create an avatar. You can have friends. You can enjoy relaxation time.

—SAMUEL GRIFFITH

My favorite game is Rocket League. It's a game where you have cars and you can play hockey, soccer or basketball. You hit the ball or puck with the car and try to make a goal. I play it with my neighbor all the time.

-Nicolas Moreno

I think Minecraft is a very convenient game because you can play it on almost any device, from your X-box to your iphone! Minecraft is good to build things and has two main game modes: Creative and Survival. In Creative, you are free to do and build whatever you want, but in Survival you have limited resources.

-FIONA MULCAHY

Something you remember doing for the first time?

I remember the first time I rode my bike. It was on a soccer field. Then when I got the hang of it I rode on a tennis court. When I mastered that, I went on the sidewalk and road.

-Nicolas Moreno

I remember going to a farm. The farm had roasting marshmallows, a mountain you could look up to see its beautiful land, and apple trees that had not-ready apples, rotten apples and good apples

SEE CHERRY RUN, PAGE 7

JANUARY 13TH

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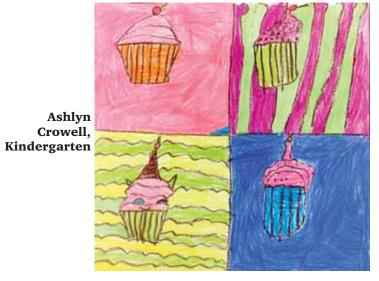


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SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY

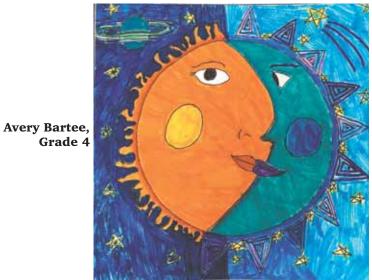
Artwork submitted by art teachers Laura Lajin and Andi Kim







Abigail Latham







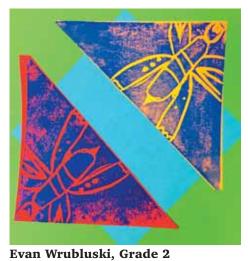
Andrew Drake, Grade 5

Aleks Lilaj, Kindergarten





Jadrien Pita, Grade 2









Lauren Gear, Grade 6

6 * Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection * Children's & Teens' Connection 2017-2018

CHILDREN

Cherry Run Elementary

FROM PAGE 5 on the ground.

—Brielle Crowell

The best thing that ever happened to me was when I caught a grass carp. It weighed 24 pounds and was three feet long. It was the biggest fish my family ever caught. It was the size of my little brother!

-Dalton Childress

Favorite restaurant?

I went to Cava. It had a handwash-omatic! You would roll up your sleeves then stick your hands in it. It would spin and spray water.

—Keshav Parikh

What would you like to do for your first paid job (as a teenager)?

I would like to work at the Nike store. I like Nike clothes and shoes. Nike and Adidas are my favorite brands.

-Nicolas Moreno

When I'm a teenager, I want to be a nature guide. The thought of spending all day in the forest makes me happy. I love watching animals, playing in the woods, and building shelters made from natural resources, so that's the job for me. I am good at talking to people about nature and I can memorize trails .I would like the job as a nature guide very much.

—FIONA MULCAHY

I want to be a lacrosse player because playing lacrosse makes me feel so happy when I'm with a team.

—Kiera Crowell

The Fairfax Station Clifton & Lorton

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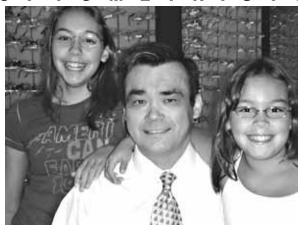
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SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by Art Teacher Meredith Cosier



By Damien Nguyen, Grade 6



By Danielle Roberston, Grade 5





SILVERBROOK ELEMENTARY



By Lilly Diedrich, Grade 2



By Maddie Goslee, **Grade 4**



By Mamie Trawalley, Grade 5

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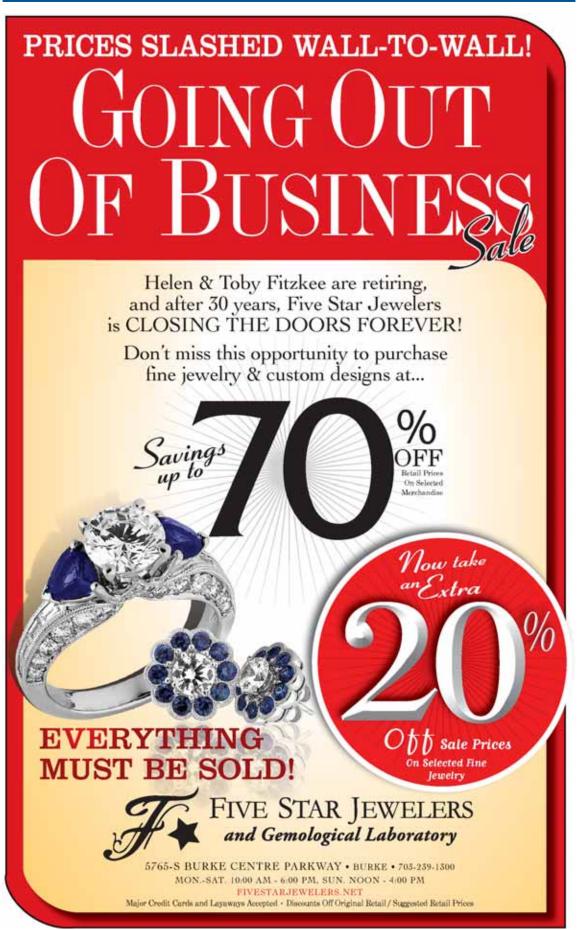


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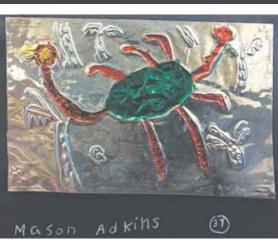
By Carter R, Grade 4



By Sholka E, Kindergarten



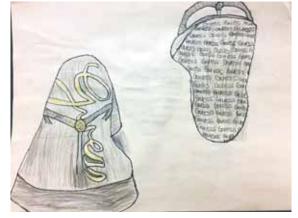
By Molly V, Grade 3



Grade 3



By Mosawir R, Grade 2



By LaMara L, Grade 5



By Carson L, Grade 1



By Grace J, Grade 2



By Anu S, Grade 6



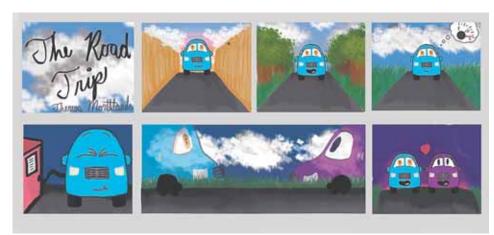
By Bisaj S, Grade 1



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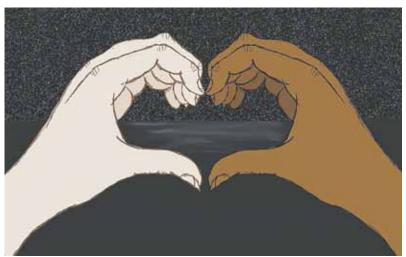
10 ♦ FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON CONNECTION ♦ CHILDREN'S & TEENS' CONNECTION 2017-2018

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Road Trip Comic, by Theresa Morthland, Grade: 12, Class: Digital Art 4, Teacher: Mr. Feeney

Love Knows No Bounds, by Theresa Morthland, Grade: 12, Class: Digital Art 4, Teacher: Mr. Feeney





Friends, by
Lily Miller,
Lake
Braddock
Secondary Middle
School,
Grade 8,
Teacher:
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More Than Money

If I could give my parents anything that didn't cost money, I would give them all the love I could. I would give them love out of anything that doesn't cost money because I think that is more meaningful than anything- even things that cost money. Also, love will never wear out. You could ALWAYS keep the love that is given.

—Samantha Lee, Age 9

Priceless

There is not only one gift that can be priceless to parents. Although, I'm not a parent, I think this is how they feel. They're ecstatic when their child succeeds, but I think their gladdest moment is when their child succeeds as a person. This is the gift I will so give to my parents. Not only kindness and love to my parents, but to all around me, so that they can be proud of me. Pride can also bring happiness. I want my parents to be happy. I cannot do much for my parents, but I will not neglect what I can do.

—Grace Im, Fifth Grade - Age II

Thanks

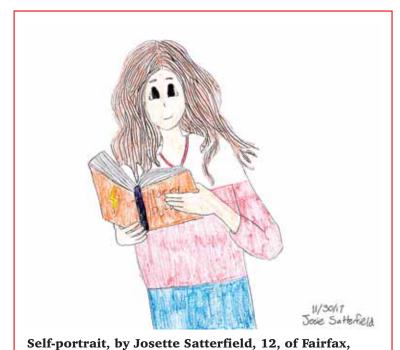
If I had the ability to give my parents, friends and family a gift that wouldn't cost a penny, I would give them the love and thanks from all of my heart. My parents have given me a home, food, water, attention and everything I need to be successful and happy. Without them, I can't imagine how hard life would be. My friends have given me hope when times were dark. They have always been there when I needed a helpful hand. If I didn't have my friends, my happiness and ability to do about everything would disappear. I really do appreciate everything my parents and friends have done for me.

—By Elena Paulson, Age 10

The Art of Giving

If I could give anyone in my vicinity a gift that didn't cost money, I would give them the gift of nature. It is beautiful and anyone who sees it will realize that it should never be bought. You should let it sprout and grow until you know this. Then keep it and let it grow and sprout inside of you. Nature is a blessing.

Dominic Stockard, Grade 4 - Age 10



The Gift from the Heart

Teacher: Ms. Schuetz

Grade 7, Rocky Run Middle School,

A true gift is a gift from the heart. If I had a gift to give to mom, it would be love. Love, because love is priceless. Love, love, love! It's the best think you could possibly need. Love, love, love! It's more precious than gold or silver. It's the most wonderful thing in the world!

—Henry Stockard, Grade 4- Age 10

The Gift Greater than Gold

I never know what to give my parents as a gift because nothing can show them how appreciative I am of them. If I had to give them one gift, I would give them the ability to know how much I love them and look up to them. I feel as if even when I try to show my love and appreciation, they never know the amount. There is no word that can show my thoughts. If my parents had the ability to know my gratitude, they would be able to know they would be able to know they have been the best they can get. I feel like my parents think they have to work harder for us, but they don't. They are mine and my sister's role models. My gift for my parents would be for them to know my appreciation for them so they can take a break and know they ARE loved to the fullest extent!

— Dahlia Hashish, Age 11

The Gift of Me

If I was to give someone a gift that was priceless, I would choose me. I am the best. Everything I say and do is loved by those around me. Of course, I wouldn't give this gift to my parents for two reasons: First of all, I did cost money and second of all, they live in the same house as me so my gift would mean nothing. Now that I think about it, I shouldn't give this gift to anyone in my family for the same reason I can't give this to my parents. I could give this to anyone who is within 5 feet of me. I could make them my friend and that would be my gift.

nd de my gmt. —Неnry Counts, Age 11

The Gift

If I could give a gift to my family, I would give them a memory. Then they could see things in my view and maybe they could understand me better. I wouldn't hear, "Oh, don't you give me excuses" as much because they would see my point of view. I could give my family further understanding. They could live young again through my experiences. I could give them knowledge they never could have gained. It would benefit both the receiver and the giver

of the gift. Peace could be achieved.

—XAVIER PARMENTIER,

GRADE 4 - AGE 10

The One Thing

If I were to give my parents one thing, I would give them nothing because they already have everything they could possibly want.- love, laughter, and family. And all of this is a pretty good present. They always tell me that they don't want a present , but that's pretty hard to believe. I think that everyone, no matter how old you are, deserves at least one present. It doesn't really matter what it is

—Kira Chojnacki, Grade 4 - Age 9

The One Thing

If I could give a gift to someone that didn't cost money, I would give my best friend my friendship. A gift of friendship is one of the best gifts because it's the one thing they will probably cherish for a long time. If you give them something like a necklace, they might not wear it after a while. A string of friendship is hard to break even if your best friend moves. Friendship is amazing!

ABIGAIL FRYAR,
GRADE 4- AGE 10

The One Thing

I would give my parents love or happiness because that is very peaceful and beautiful. Love and happiness is equal to a bar of gold. Love is very kind for everyone. Happiness gives you a big smile on your face and a calm and nice heart. If somebody has this, that person is very lucky. Love and happiness is something that makes you feel very excited. Imagine that you are a bird and you are trapped in the cage of stress and sadness. When you find the key of kindness, you can unlock yourself to the freedom of happiness and love.

—Nichole Billones, Grade 4

There's No Gift BETTER

Personally, I think either love, kindness or some music by Handel. Bach, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky or Dvorak. I think I would pick love, but my family is very musical, but kindness is also a possibility. They are really kindwell, as much as I've seen. So I think I'm down to love, or music. I really love them and they really love me. I also think they are really musical. My brother

owns at least 16 instruments! My sister is 26, my brother is 24 and my other brother is 21.

— Daniel Foote, Grade 4

Three Things

Most people stress about how much money a gift will cost or how good it is. But really, three things that don't cost a cent can be really, truly meaningful. These things are: Love, Happiness and (this will probably be in your parents top 10 best things) No fighting. The gift of love grows like vines. It spreads like a plague, but a good one - making everyone feel happy and appreciated. Happiness is like love, but it can be broken. This is why people should pick very special, caring people to give it to, or in other words, your parents. Most siblings fight as most parents know and it doesn't please them. "Why do they do it?" some people may ask. Well, it's in your nature, but try pushing that piece of your nature away. I would give these things to my parents because these items aren't even items- making them priceless.

— KATE NAGLER, AGE 10

What They Deserve

I would give all the love and peace my parents deserve. What is there in your everyday life that your parents don't do for you? I bet everyone reading the Connection right now can't think of ten things. I mean, they gave birth to you, make you food, they buy food- heck, I bet they'll even pay for my instant ramen every day in college! My Mom and Dad will some day pass away, and I will be sad. But they will still be looking over me and caring for me. I will always love my parents and for everything they do for me, I owe them lots.

—RILEY KURTZ, GRADE 4 - AGE 9

A Gift Greater than Money

I would give my parents happiness. I feel like they deserve happiness more than I need it. They have given me their happiness and it is time for me to give it back to them. Happiness is very special. Everyone should have happiness in their life. It is more special and rarer than money. I would love to see my parents walk around with happiness in their hearts. I would give up all my money to see them with happiness. It is truly a blessing to see them so happy. That would give my heart happiness. Happiness is special and so are they!

-Kirsten Ngo, Age 10

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

"A long time ago," by Thomas Pratt, 10, Grade 5, **Fairview** Elementary, Teacher: Ms. Roca





By Hannah Dai, 9, Grade 4, Navy Elementary School of Fairfax, Teacher: Miss Escolero

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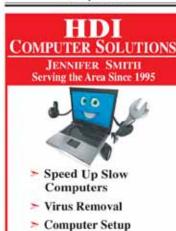
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Application for Watercraft Registration/Title will be made in accordance with Section 29.1-733.25 of the Code of Virginia if this watercraft is not claimed and removed within 30 days of the first publication of this notice, Please contact the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries with questions.

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POETRY CORNER

Heart of Ice, Cave I Dwelled

My eyes drifted to the snow Feelings faster than the storm I saw my joy fade The sun's light fading

Foggy mist

I couldn't see My steps led me to snow

Like being buried Beneath it all

My heart stung The wolves hungry for my soul

I started forward

I didn't look back

Mind swirling

Tears a blizzard

White scattered my path Icicles dripped like how I faded

I Wish you could know

I'm sorry

But I knew I must keep going

The fog then lifted

Bringing the sun to my heart

It reached out its hand I opened my eyes

The frozen dew sparkled

The snow endless mountains of white

I cried for it

I didn't know why

As the wind shifted my coat

My heart as well

I found myself on a cliff I slipped on pure ice

And started to fall

The ice was so pure

It's cold, the sparkling crystals swept me off my feet

It wasn't just my feet

I hung paralyzed

Lost

Afraid

Alone My iov ran away

It leaped so fast a blur

Swallowed by shadow My heart of ice

But it came back to me

Back to me as wonder

With wonder came joy

As I hung with shadows growling

The jagged peaks begged for gloom

I only held on tighter

I then knew I must not fall... Delicate snowflakes stroked my skin

I knew those who need me

I hung

My eyes glistening with glaze

If you were to throw an arrow at my heart

It wouldn't pierce my heart of ice

I'm so sorry

I let go

My heart was glowing

Brighter than that below

Fell to the cliffs..

Fell to the peak of my life... The shadow...

The snow that scarred me...

Landed on a cloud

I lived

I velled

I velled because of it that haunted me

For the snow that had me survive

No, I'm going back

I started to run The frozen pond singing

Tears dripping

Heart knowing not

But to keep going

Not today..

Not today.

I will run till I die

Death's scythe will not touch me...

It's not my time...

I grasped onto my life

I knew And I ran home

That it wasn't I But my wonder

Than the light

It came through the clouds Not a seep

But the entire sky

I hugged my life Only I will touch

You will not haunt me

I had run away

I had fallen

But had gotten up again The birds of past screeched

The present birds cried

The future eagle looked with its eyes

So that it pierced so much

My heart of ice melted I do not know why

The ice wrapped around me

And then I flew

By Hannah Bang, 12, 6th grade

GRADE 6. FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

Can you guess my favorite season?

It's a season where people may get fevers or shivers from the cold

It's a season where divine, decorative, and delightful snowflakes unfold

It's a season with laughter and soft and warm dinks where we hit them together and they go CLINK! This season gives you a reason to go to the ice skating rink Did you guess it, it should be clear, so grab your coats because my favorite season winter is here

-Rugiatu Aisha Wurie, 11, Fairfax, Grade 6, Colin Powell Elementary

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Announcements

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BULLETIN

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

HOLIDAY SOBER-RIDE

Free Sober Rides. The annual Holiday SoberRider program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on www.SoberRide.com

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December. In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift - give blood and give more life. All those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. 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).

* Springfield

Dec. 26: 1-5 p.m., South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive

❖ Fairfax - Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200 (unless otherwise

Dec. 26: 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m.

Dec. 27: 12:45-8 p.m.
Dec. 28: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Pennino Building 10th Floor Conf Rm, 12011 Government Center Parkway

Dec. 28: 12:45-5:45 p.m. Dec. 29: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 30: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 31: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m

TUESDAY/JAN. 9

American Legion Post 177 Luncheon, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Presentation on "Advanced preparation and arrangement for funeral/memorial" by Peter Hause, Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home. \$11. Call 703-280-2356 for more

SUPPORT GROUPS

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403- 5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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-Thomas Fuller

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not one worth embracing anyway. But definitely one which needs engaging. Treating and living with lung cancer shouldn't be a vertical-type, up or down, either-or set of options. There should be more integration with non-Western, holistic and alternative approaches rather than, as has

Though I want to treat the disease - and

It's an affliction, not an affection. Certainly

my having been diagnosed with the disease,

with respect, I don't want to treat it with the

utmost reverence. I mean, it's not the Pope.

"Cansir"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

been my experience: you're on your own; and your oncologist, generally speaking - or potentially legally-liable from speaking, knows/say less about it than you the patient.

I've tried to straddle this line going on nearly nine years now. Adhering to the conventional wisdom/treatment didn't seem like enough. Perhaps hearing the extremely grim prognosis that I received on Feb. 27, 2009: "13 months to two years," affected my thinking. Perhaps hearing the equally grim likelihood – statistically referencing, of living beyond five years (low single digit percentage); heck, even living beyond two years, might have given me pause as to what course of treatment: chemotherapy, I was starting and why. But what did I know? I had just been blindsided and then bewildered as to why and how I was going to live the rest of my life.

Yet here I sit, nine-years old, so to speak. Some days I believe my amazing good fortune has to do with the treatment and care I've received from my oncologist and staff at the Infusion Center. Other days, I think it has to do with some of the alternatives I've assimilated into my life. Though I can't honestly include exercise in that life, I have modified my diet somewhat and most definitely can mention vitamins, supplements, alkaline water and apple cider vinegar, among a few others; along with a positive attitude with mostly good humor, as important elements. It hasn't been easy, but it has been me. Meaning, I am proud of how I've managed a bad situation and so far, not made it worse.

Though I am somewhat unique, statistically measuring, in how long I've survived (however, I'm not exactly 108-year old Paul Edgecomb/Tom Hanks from the movie "The Green Mile"), I don't know that the varied steps I've taken and the humor and attitude with which I've put one foot in front of the other are likewise unique.

Of the many patients/survivors I've met along this way, many, if not all, have exhibited similar good humor and more of a can-do attitude quite frankly, than I. I've always been happy to make their acquaintance and eager to hear their stories, as they have been interested in hearing mine. Although cancer is not exactly catchy, I've found that, in speaking/ sharing with fellow cancer survivors, what goes around comes around. And what 'that' is that is going around is, to invoke The Beach Boys: "Good Vibrations," and that is catchy and healthy too!

When I was first diagnosed - and caught up in my own circumstances, I was not interested - too much, in interacting with other lung cancer patients/survivors. I was more concerned with my own fragile emotional state and was afraid that exposing myself to more bad news: other "terminal" lung cancer patients' stories would weaken my resolve.

I don't recall how many months or years it was before I realized how wrong I had been. Weaken? My involvement with fellow lung cancer patient/survivors has only strengthened my resolve. Has that openness and appreciation for my fellow lung cancer patient extended my life? I'd like to think it has.

But if it hasn't, I guess the jokes on cancer. And that's a laugh with which we can all live.

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



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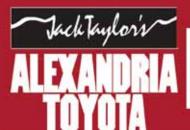




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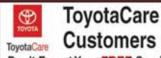






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