



## Therapeutic Riding To Expand in Area

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Town Hall Told of  
'Chaos-Causing  
Trump Effect'

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Burke Troop 1131  
Promotes 206th  
Eagle Scout

NEWS, PAGE 10

Blythe Champion and Leah  
Martin, riders at The Northern  
Virginia Therapeutic Riding  
Program, with shovels at the  
groundbreaking ceremony last  
Wednesday, Jan. 10.



# Northern Virginia Lawmakers Push for Menstrual Equity

## General Assembly to consider bills providing feminine hygiene products in schools and prisons.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

When a City of Alexandria woman was booked into the Fairfax County jail, she wasn't wearing white underwear, the only color allowed. It's not like she packed a bag, and she didn't know that she would be arrested on a shoplifting charge. So when the deputies confiscated her underwear she started worrying about what would happen when she started menstruating.

"They give you these pads after they have not given you any underwear, so there's really no place to hold the pads," she said. "If you start a menstrual cycle while you are in there with no underwear, they don't give you anything to protect yourself."

While she was behind bars in 2015, inmates were limited to two pads a day. She says they were the cheapest kind available, which means they were very thin and more than two were often needed. She said she heard some of the other inmates begging for more pads, but the deputies would not provide them.

"So I've had to sit on one pad for half of the day and then use the other pad to sleep through the night so that when I wake up in the morn-

ing I could get two more pads," she said. "It definitely makes you feel less than a person, like I'm not even worth a 50-cent pad."

**HER EXPERIENCE** in the Fairfax County jail is common say leaders of a nonprofit group known as Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters — known by the acronym BRAWS. That's why they are pushing members of the General Assembly to pass a number of laws to provide "menstrual equity," a growing movement in state capitals across the country.

"It's not right to charge them, especially charging prisoners who really don't have much access to money at all," said Del. Kaye Kory (D-38), who has a bill that would require jails and prisons to provide feminine hygiene products on demand. "So it's wrong. And we shouldn't do it."

Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86) has two bills that work toward menstrual equity. One would add feminine hygiene products to the list of products that are exempted from sales tax during the annual back-to-school tax holiday. The other bill would eliminate the sales tax for these products altogether.

"A woman doesn't have a choice whether or not she wants to buy menstrual products," said Boysko. "And because she's taxed on it that's

unfair and it's discrimination and so it's a parity issue and a fairness issue."

**THE ISSUE HAS** been gaining steam for several years, although lawmakers are still trying to get their bills out of committee and onto the floor. Del. Mark Keam (D-35) has been working on this issue since 2016, and he says every year the effort gains more supporters. He's currently working on a bill that will require public schools to provide feminine hygiene products in restrooms.

"Boys may snicker and joke about it, but the reality is that these are serious psychological as well as physical problems that girls have to deal with," said Keam. "I've talked to many young women who said this has happened to them and it's so embarrassing, and they can't study or focus on what's happening in the classroom."

Keam acknowledges that his bill would be an unfunded mandate for school divisions across Virginia. That's one of the reasons state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) is taking a different approach — a budget amendment that would provide funding for groups like BRAWS to distribute feminine hygiene products to prisons and homeless shelters.

"It's an area that's probably been overlooked just because it's not a subject that people talk about often in public," said Petersen. "Really what we are talking about is more matching funds for the community, and we are basically coming late to the party."

### SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Carlos Maldonado-Hurtado**, of Burke, has been named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Hannah Zakaria**, a senior business administration major of Burke, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

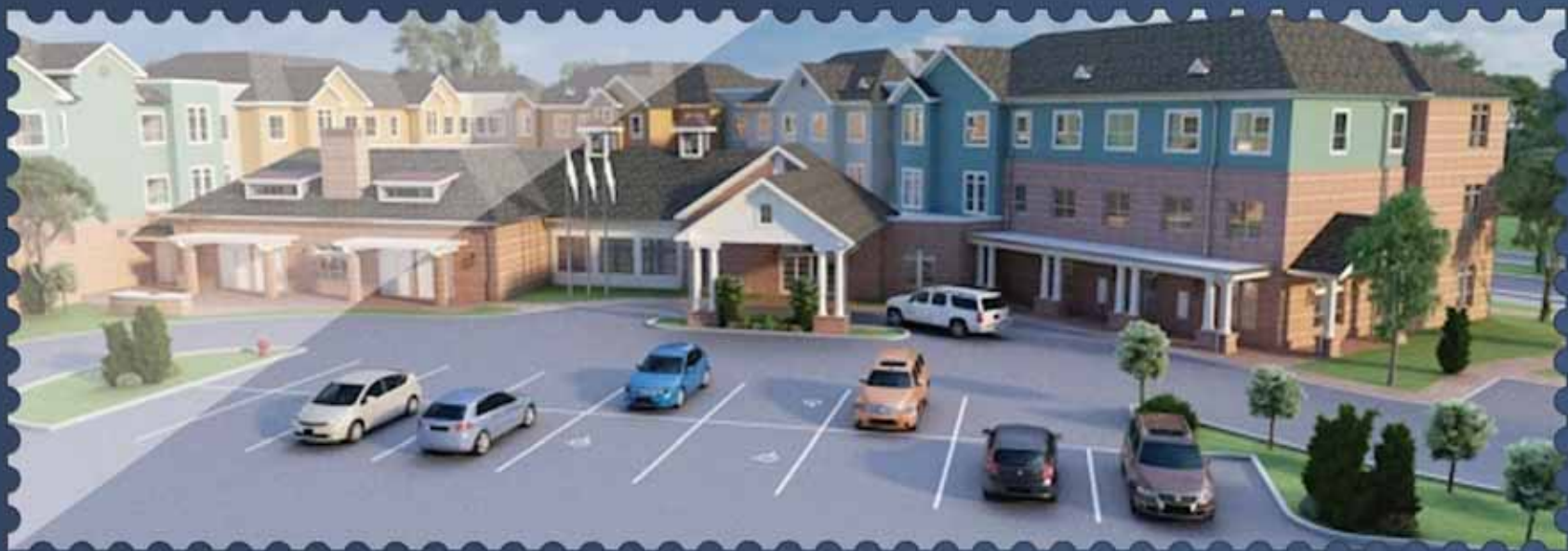
**Christopher Dejesus**, of Burke, a freshman intelligence analysis major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Andrew R. Cornes**, of Burke, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

**Timothy Ray Davis**, of Springfield, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

**Dawoud Ameri**, of Springfield, graduated from Eastern New Mexico University.

## Get A New Lease on Life<sup>SM</sup> with Harmony.



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Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP, moderates the Town Hall-style conversation with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), in a community room above Giardino Italian Restaurant in West Springfield.



U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) speaks with Dr. Michelle Woody with the Fairfax County NAACP, the organization that hosted the Town Hall with the senator.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

## Town Hall Told of 'Chaos-Causing Trump Effect'

### Fairfax County NAACP hosts Town Hall gathering with Kaine.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**U**.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) spent almost two hours with area residents at a Town Hall-style gathering in West Springfield on the evening of Jan. 11, hosted by the Fairfax County NAACP and moderated by the organization's president, Kofi Annan.

Annan began: "From the outside, from our perspective, it looks like no one knows what's going on, it's chaos [on Capitol Hill]. How are things going in your view?"

The junior senator from Virginia since 2013, Kaine answered that in terms of the daily workings of the Senate, his response would be mostly unchanged from the last few years to this moment. "In our general work, more happens cooperatively than you think. A lot less happens than should. For example, Obama Care. We spent a year fighting to protect health care for 32 million Americans. Instead of repeal, we should have been working on improve, and we weren't."

But the real change today in Kaine's view is "the Trump Effect, not knowing, quite frankly what new surprise will come along."

Kaine spoke of the alleged vulgar remarks made by President Trump earlier in the day about immigrants and some of the countries from which they came. "I mean, you hear that and you just don't know what to say."

**THIS LATEST CONTROVERSY**, according to Kaine, makes the work being done to address the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Act (DACA) and immigrants in the country under Temporary Protection Status (TPS) that much more difficult.

"And then we didn't know that last week was going to be 'open season for offshore drilling week' around the country," Kaine

added, saying that this decision was followed this week by an exception for the state of Florida. "Why Florida? Because we listen to Floridians and the Governor there opposed it. Well, so do we in Virginia."

Kaine admitted that the "Trump Effect" was chaos-causing and frustrating when there "is so much critical work on the table, like hurricane emergency relief and avoiding a government shutdown," but instead, he says, that work gets side-tracked. "Every week it's left hooks, curve balls and surprises."

Annan also asked the senator his opinion of racism in America, including "Why isn't the Ku Klux Klan categorized as a terrorist organization?"

"I don't know," replied Kaine. "To me, it is. I am not sure of the process, but you know, I now plan to find out."

Racism has long been a societal scourge, Kaine said, but that it was the election of Donald Trump and the actions and comments made by the Trump administration that "gave permission to express those racist views" basically with impunity. But he still sees good that may come from this new attitude of "taking off the mask."

"You know who and what you are up against. To really deal with a problem you have to know its dimensions." It is Kaine's belief that the exposure of the depth and breadth to which racism continues to exist will help bring focus to the issue and aid in the fight against it.

The attendees questioned Kaine and the topics were wide-ranging.

Nayely Lopez is a field employment specialist with CASA, an organization that works with low-income immigrant communities. She attended the session with Sookyung Oh, area director for the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC), and Jung Bin Cho, also with NAKASEC. "Will you vote to ap-

Jung Bin Cho of Springfield works with NAKASEC – the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium.

**After the Town Hall meeting with U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), Cho said he still wasn't satisfied with the senator's unwillingness to pledge a "No" vote on a budget continuing resolution "unless we have a clean DACA Bill."**



Jorel Sabado of Springfield wondered how the senator's religious beliefs affect his political work. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) replied that it

**was not the job of any politician to impose his or her religious views or the rules of any religious organization on others. "Of course, my values help shape my actions and decisions, but my job is to represent all Virginians, not to oblige others to follow the rules of my religion."**

prove the continuing resolution [to fund the government] if there is not a clean DACA bill before then?" she asked.

Kaine was unwilling to commit to her request. Despite being a "passionate advocate" for immigrants, he also said "I am an anti-shutdown person" and cited the damage done to the Virginia economy and many of its citizens because of the government shutdown in 2013. "I need to see the details of the bills being put forth before I can make a decision. I think we are really close."

**THE QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS** kept coming — environmental protections and the effects of climate change, LGBT rights and the status of transgender persons in the military, protection against voter suppression, advancing opportunities for minorities at Governors Schools in Virginia (a program started in 1973 by then-Governor Linwood Holton who would later become Kaine's father-in-law), even the possibility of promoting programs like Fairfax County's Diversion First (aimed at diverting individuals with mental health issues to medical care versus the criminal justice system) on the national level.

Jorel Sabado of Springfield wanted to know how the senator's Catholic faith affected his political actions. "Of course, your values inform your decisions," replied

Kaine, but added that it was not his job to make everyone follow the rules of his church. "That is not why we are elected."

Naila Alam from Herndon, and a member of the All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS) worries about the travel bans that have been in and out of effect and in the courts since President Trump first introduced them as an Executive Order January last year. Kaine vowed to continue to fight against them.

Asked to comment on the election of more Democrats to the Virginia Legislature, Kaine responded that it gave him a level of energy and confidence for his own chances in Virginia, it bode well for the expansion of Medicaid in the state, and that as a member of the Senate Health and Education Committee there was a synergy that could result.

Kaine is seeking re-election in November, and has already made campaign stops "in some areas of our state that are really suffering," but said that the Town Hall meeting wasn't about campaigning, but about keeping up a dialogue with all Virginians. "Hearing what the concerns are, and keeping people informed — that's practicing democracy."

## First Week in Richmond

BY BARBARA FAVOLA  
STATE SENATOR (D-31)



It is always exhilarating and humbling to sit in the Chamber as the President of the Senate gavels an unruly body of 40 senators into order. On Jan. 10, Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam did just that. The next day, Lt. Gov. Northam presided over the Senate for the last time. We wished him well and sent him off to be inaugurated as the 72nd Governor of Virginia.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF MY WEEK

Transparency: Committee votes will now be recorded and live-streamed, so Virginians can hear the substantive debates on bills as they work their way through the process. Most bills, especially controversial ones, face their defeat

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in committee meetings. This long overdue bit of sunshine will enable Virginians to see for themselves how seriously lawmakers are tackling issues important to them. The link to view meetings can be found under the "Members and Session" tab of the [virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov) website.

Education: Option for Four-Year Teaching Degree: I am proud to say that my bill SB 76 to enable prospective teachers to potentially gain a teaching degree in four years, rather than five, passed out of the Senate Health & Education Committee unanimously. This will reduce the opportunity cost of becoming a teacher, a factor that weighs heavily on prospective teachers who have incurred a large school debt, yet they have the desire to enter

an important but low-paying profession.

Children & Families: Kinship Care Bill — My bill (SB 44) provides support payments to relatives who are willing to offer kin in foster care a permanent home. It passed out of the Rehab and Social Services Committee but was referred to Finance. More than 75 percent of the cost of this kingship program, called "Fostering Futures" is born by the Federal Government. I really hope the money committees can find the \$45,000 to start this program.

On a lighter note, my bill to help small business that bake alcohol infused confectionery products obtain an ABC license, so they may continue to grow their businesses, passed out of committee, as well.

Your emails and support are crucial to the legislative process. It is an honor to represent you and to fight for our values.

*The state senator represents parts of Arlington, Fairfax, and Loudoun.*

## Mr. speaker — Not Mr. Speaker

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



One of the first tasks in a new session of the Virginia General Assembly is to decide who is going to run the show. In the Senate of Virginia, the decision is made by the voters of the Commonwealth when they elect the Lieutenant Governor whose principal duty is to preside over the Senate.

In the House, the Speaker of the House is the presiding officer who is elected by the members of the House. The political party with the most members has control of the House and elects the Speaker. Republicans control of the House is 51 to 49 this session, a sharp drop in the 66-34 control of recent years. The closeness of the balance of power led to some meaningful discussions that should result in more transparency in the operation of the House.

My interest in becoming the presiding officer of the House by being elected Speaker was well known. Once the two disputed delegate elections were decided in favor of the

### COMMENTARY

Republicans there was no way I could reasonably expect to win. Only the Republican who had worked in his party and in the legislature for decades was nominated, and he was elected unanimously. That helped the session get underway in a cooperative spirit. There will be ample opportunity for debate when the many bills that reflect the issues before the General Assembly are considered.

What does a Speaker wannabe do when his party does not gain control of the legislative body? I have decided for myself that if I cannot be the formal Mr. Speaker of the House of Delegates then I can return to my role as Mr. speaker (small "s") speaking out on tough issues that some may want to duck, and I can speak out on institutional practices that are not transparent or fair. In this way, I can best serve my constituents and the long-term interest of the Commonwealth. I can also serve as a mentor to the many new exciting members that are joining the House of Delegates, and I can

help to reduce any feelings of intimidation they might be experiencing. Certainly the legislature provides experiences that are not replicated in any other role in life.

The techniques of mass communication through phone calls, postcards, rallies, opinion writings, and other practices that were so successful in helping to get candidates elected can be utilized in the legislative process to help influence the outcome of legislation. I have already been seeing groups shifting from advocacy for individual candidates to advocacy for issues. On issues like expansion of health care and independent redistricting, a strong public voice and advocacy are necessary for success.

There will be more opportunities for the public to follow the legislature in real-time this year than ever before. Video streams of meetings of House Full Committees can be accessed online. Download an instruction sheet at [https://publications.virginiageneralassembly.gov/display\\_publication/209](https://publications.virginiageneralassembly.gov/display_publication/209).

You can contact me in Richmond by using regular email, [kenplum@aol.com](mailto:kenplum@aol.com) or by calling my local telephone number 703-758-9733, which will ring in my Richmond office.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Redefining 'Temporary'

To the Editor:

The Connection Newspapers' editorial, "Pulling Legal Status" [Jan. 10-11], insists there is "no upside" to terminating "Temporary Protected Status" for immigrants, but even the editorial hints at upsides:

❖ Salvadorans send \$3.6 billion in remittances to their home country. In national accounting, these remittances are treated like im-

ports — money leaves the U.S., exacerbating our trade, or what economists term "balance of payments" deficit.

❖ Your editorial counts the losses to GDP of ending TPS, but many of those jobs will go to Americans, perhaps at a higher wage due to a tightened job market.

❖ Returning TPS recipients to their homelands before they become eligible to receive Social Security benefits increases the Social Security trust fund's solvency.

❖ Much of affordable housing's

disappearance is driven by demand. Repatriating people will suddenly create lots of vacant housing units, and thereby drive down rents — no government subsidies or zoning density bonuses for affordable housing needed.

Your editorial is essentially a non-sequitor, demanding permanent "Temporary Protected Status." Something permanent per se cannot be temporary or vice versa. The average person sees a sort of corruption in our government abusing language and legal concepts in this fashion and would

foreseeably oppose granting temporary protected status to others beset by future disasters if this one ended up being a sleight-of-hand. The fact that TPS recipients have mortgages, U.S.-born children, etc. is irrelevant to their reason for being here under temporary protected status. And if "temporary" really means permanent, our government is perpetrating a fraud on its citizens, much like developers calling a proposed new building's rooftop "open space."

**Dino Drudi**  
Alexandria

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# New Year, New Order

## Local organizers teach methods for streamlining a space.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL

**W**ith the holidays now a memory, local organizers are getting requests from those with overflowing buckets of ambition to create and maintain a clutter-free space.

"One of the first things to learn is that a few minutes spent on a few tasks each day can go a long way in maintaining order," said Jodie Jacobs of SOUPerior Organizing. "Decide how important a clean, clutter-free space is to you and follow through on keeping it that way. Prioritize it like other important things in your life."

One habit that Susan Unger of ClutterSOS teachers her clients to focus on simple things that can be done easily and frequently. "In general, I recommend keeping up with household duties on a daily basis so none of them become a bigger project," said Unger. "For example, don't leave dishes in the sink. Load the dishwasher after every meal and put all cooking and food prep items away so the counters are clear."

Establishing a daily routine so that tidying becomes second nature is a technique that Unger uses in her own life and teaches to her clients. "I always make my bed first thing in the morning," she said. "Having a neat bedroom is a great way to start the



**Teaching children to put away toys at the end of the day can create a peaceful environment.**



**Small tasks such as putting away clothes each day can lead to an organized space.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODIE JACOBS

day."

Also on her recommended list of daily tasks: apparel. "Be sure to put all clothes away on a daily basis rather than leaving them on a chair or the floor," said Unger. "Clean clothes should be hung up or put in drawers and dirty clothes in the laundry basket."

In fact, Unger tells clients to gather the entire family at the end of each day and spend 10 minutes tidying as a group. "Make a sweep of your house and determine which items need to be put in their proper place," she said. "It makes for a less stressful and

more pleasant morning when you're not waking up to clutter sitting around," said Unger.

Deal with mail on a daily basis so it doesn't pile up, advises Unger. "Immediately recycle or shred the junk mail and put bills, items to file and reading in an appropriate place."

Whether it's a small basket by the front door or storage boxes placed under a bed, one technique for tidiness is having a designated space for items. "Kids' homework should have a landing place like a backpack," said Jacobs. "The backpack should

go in a particular place, like on a hook. You have to figure out what works for your family."

Keep bathrooms in order by adding over-the-door hooks to hold towels, suggested Todd Martz, Home on Cameron in Alexandria. "This might make the room appear smaller, but it [offers] a place to put towels," he said. "Include a decorative bag on the door hook for toiletries so they're out of the way."

"Add an ottoman or coffee table with storage," continued Martz. "Maximize the space next to a utility or laundry room by adding a ... shelf to hold blankets."

Whether it's once a week or once a month, schedule time to spend on organization projects and record it on a calendar, advises Jacobs. "Tie it to something that you already do and select a time that won't be overrun by other events, she said. "If you know that every Sunday at nine o'clock, you always watch a television show, set aside that time to go through mail, pay bills and respond to invitations while you're watching. That way, your time won't get bumped for a soccer game or business meeting."

One caveat that Jacobs offers her clients is, "Maintaining a routine doesn't mean that you won't slip up at times," she said. "You have to hold yourself to realistic standards or you'll get discouraged."

**CALENDAR**

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
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19	20	21
22	23	24
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28	29	30
31		

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## CALENDAR



FILE PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

### Chocolate Festival

**A plate of cupcakes in the 2016 Chocolate Challenge. This year, the City of Fairfax will be all about chocolate on Feb. 2-4 in Old Town Fairfax.**

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

#### ONGOING

**Children's Science Center at Fair Oaks Mall.** Stop by the Experiment Bar in January and check out Lava Tubes! Learn about density and polarity in this small tube. And back by popular demand, DIY Snow is here for another month to celebrate winter. Visit [childsci.org](http://childsci.org).

**Second Saturdays.** 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**Senior Line Dancing.** Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation.** An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets on Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance,

Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

#### THURSDAY/JAN. 18

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building will speak on the history of the building. \$10. Call 703-323-4788 or visit [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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**Encore Dance  
Company in  
performance.**



PHOTO BY  
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DANCE COALITION

## Dancefest 2018 to Celebrate Northern Virginia Dance

Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 at George Mason University (GMU), 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, on Jan. 19 and 21, 2018.

❖ Gala Performance at GMU Harris Theatre on Jan. 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$25.

❖ Workshops including master classes and seminars at GMU DeLaski Performing Arts Building on Jan. 21, 2018 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$40 for observer

tickets for teachers and parents. Full two-day packages begin at \$125 for college students with ID, to \$140 for VADC member to \$170.

❖ Showcase performance of emerging talent at the GMU Harris Theatre on Jan. 21, 2018 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets \$20.

❖ For early bird rates, tickets, and registration go to [www.virginiadancecoalition.org](http://www.virginiadancecoalition.org) or call 703-409-7988

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

**Friday Morning Music Club.** noon-2 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. is a community of music lovers and musicians dedicated to promoting classical music throughout the metropolitan area. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Visit [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org).

**Burke Toastmasters Open House.** 6:30 p.m. at The Oaks Community Center, 5708 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Improve public speaking and presentation skills. Email [pmagnuson@hotmail.com](mailto:pmagnuson@hotmail.com).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 19

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com).

**Sherwood Family Movie.** 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Featuring "Smurfs Lost Village." Participants may bring their own snacks. Britepaths will accept donations of non perishable food. Call 703-385-7858.

**Dance Fest 2018.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Harris Theatre at George Mason University, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 Gala Performance highlighting 12 member companies. Visit [www.virginiadancecoalition.org](http://www.virginiadancecoalition.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 20

**African American Museum.** 1-3 p.m. at Kings Park Library, Large Meeting Room, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Dr. Johari Rashad will give an inside look at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, located in Washington, D.C. Free. Visit <http://Sprann-va.aauw.net>.

**Grand Opening.** Board & Brush Creative Studio, 11215 Lee Highway, Suite J, Fairfax. Join Board & Brush Creative Studio for an open house and introduction to a fun new DIY workshop concept in Fairfax. Free food, drinks and the first 50 guests

will receive gift bags full of Board & Brush Fairfax giveaways. One lucky person will win a free workshop for 10. Visit [boardandbrush.com/fairfax](http://boardandbrush.com/fairfax).

### MONDAY/JAN. 22

**Funday Monday.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Movement Monday-Kids Zumba. Free. Call 703-385-7858.

**Qigong and Tai Chi Easy.** 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. This six-week class will include Tai Chi Easy and other Qigong practices, with a focus on balance, flexibility and vitality — in all aspects of life. The class is suitable for all levels. Movements can be modified to suit individual needs. New students are welcome. Cost \$90. Pre-registration required. Call 703-378-7272 or email [churchoffice@kofk.org](mailto:churchoffice@kofk.org). Questions about the class contact Pauline at [reidpr@hotmail.com](mailto:reidpr@hotmail.com).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 25

**Fall for the Book.** 5:30 p.m. at the Great American Bistro, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Fall for the Book's New Pop Up Lit Nights invite the community to happy hour appreciations of literature and storytelling. Visit [fallforthebook.org](http://fallforthebook.org).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com).

**Old Town Hall Concert.** 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Dave Anderson and Mike Wingo: Anderson-Wingo Duo with guest vocalist Kim Scudera. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org).

### SATURDAY/JAN. 27

**10th Anniversary Celebration.** Noon-4 p.m. at City of Fairfax Regional Library 10360 North St., Fairfax. Celebrate 10 years in the beautiful new library space. Please join for an open house featuring music, refreshments, crafts, a balloon artist, and much more fun for the

whole family. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library).

**Irish Dancing Show.** 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. "Stepping Out" by Dublin Irish Dance, an exploration of the Celtic experience through the fast footwork of Irish step-dancers and an eight-member traditional Irish band. Call calling 888-945-2468, or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

### THURSDAY/JAN. 28

**Railroad Story and Craft.** 1:15 and 2:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a day of fun for younger visitors with a railroad-theme story and a related craft. The Museum is open that day from 1-4 p.m. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, 16 and older, \$4. Cost of activities included in admission. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Birdland All-Stars Concert.** 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With drummer Tommy Igoe for a high-energy performance. Call 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

**Burke Historical Society.** 8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

### MONDAY/JAN. 29

**Acting, Art and More.** 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Spend the teacher workday indulging a creative side. Join for a full day of drama, art, and music with arts instructors who will share their craft in a fun, relaxed environment. \$60. Register at [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 2

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com).

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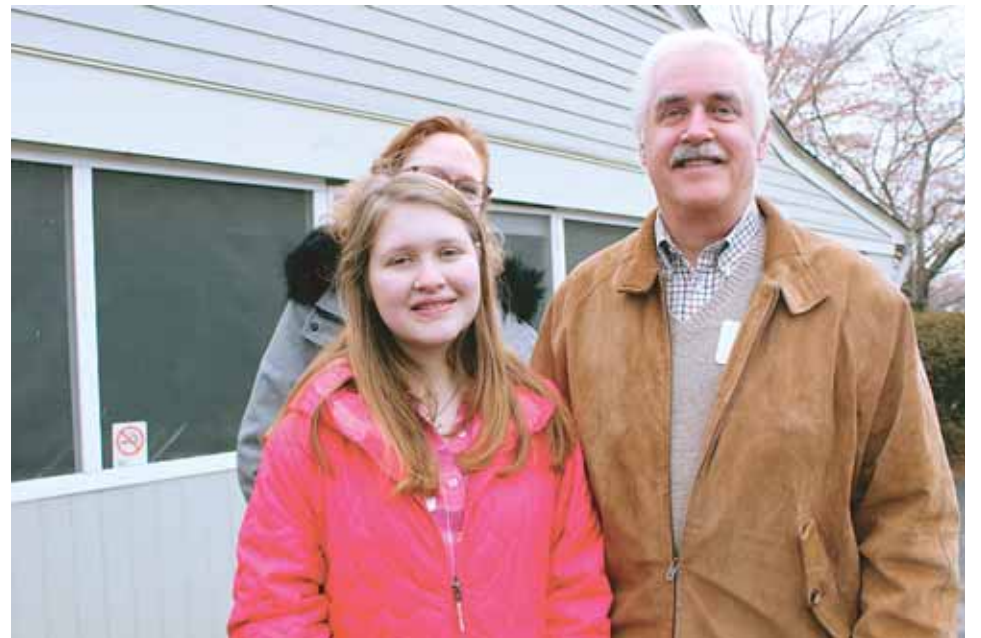
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PHOTOS BY HANAN DAQQA/THE CONNECTION

**Groundbreaking ceremony for Phase I was held Jan. 10, 2018**



**Leah Martin, a rider at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, and a senior at Centreville High School, with her parents.**

# Therapeutic Riding to Expand in Area

**Groundbreaking ceremony for new facilities for Clifton-based program.**

BY HANAN DAQQA  
THE CONNECTION

**G**ood news for children and adults with disability, Youth at Risk and military families: The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) broke ground on the first phase of their whole scale capital improvement project and set the footprint for the indoor arena and barn on Wednesday, Jan. 10, 2018.

The first phase will include extensive infrastructure and foundation work; a new, larger, lighted outdoor riding ring; expanded parking and improved access; and an accessible playground.

Blythe Champion, 30, has been riding at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) in Clifton for 19 or 20 years now. She has brain damage from infections.

"For me it is more of an emotional thing...I know the horses and I have a great relationship with Booker. I get on him and he is kind of ...sometimes I have trouble getting into canter but he is the kind of horse I will get on him and he can tell 'Okay, Blythe's legs go back, oh, I know what she wants, here we go...'

"It does not help me improve anything, because the brain damage is not going to change but I know for fact how it helped other riders. It helped them with their strength, their balance, their coordination. We had riders with autism. It helped with their speech and also it helps PTSD wounded warriors. It is very stressful and emotional all the time for them, so riding brings back basically a positive feeling in their lives," said Champion.

When asked about partnering with Fairfax County Public Schools to bring children with special needs to the farm as part of the school day once a week, Kelsey Gallagher, the executive director of NVTRP,



**Blythe Champion and Leah Martin, riders at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, with shovels at the groundbreaking ceremony last Wednesday, Jan. 10.**



**Blythe Champion has been riding at The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (NVTRP) in Clifton for 19 or 20 years now.**

said: "We just begun exploring [partnering with public schools as a possibility] when kids are in the farm they are motivated, they

work harder, try harder, they are more engaged. Recently, we started a partnership with a private school in Prince William County. They bring kids for part of the school day... there are a lot of children who are on the autism spectrum. Once a week, they come out for two hours... they have different academic or social goals working with the horses...[their goals] can be anything from leadership skills or interpersonal skills. We have different types of services, so for the schools, they pay a fee to participate. We fundraise for over half of our budget. Our therapeutic riders, children and



**Kelsey Gallagher, the executive director of The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, promotes partnership with area schools to introduce children to joy of riding.**

adults with disabilities, that come to us on their own, they pay about the third of that cost to put on the lesson. We have partnerships with different groups and they pay a fee for lessons. Youth at Risk riders and our military, we fundraise for them to ride at no cost... Loudoun County's budget supports the Special-Ed program to go out and ride."

For more information on the Build to Thrive campaign and ways you can support the project, visit [www.nvtrp.org](http://www.nvtrp.org) or contact Development Director Wendy Baird at 703-764-0269.



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**Announcements**

**NEWS**



PHOTO COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

**Troop 1131 in  
Burke Promotes  
206th Eagle Scout**

**Jackson Pitzer, Boy Scout Troop 1131, St. Stephen's United Methodist Church, Burke and a senior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review to become the 206th Eagle Scout in the troop. His mother, Rachel, and father, Brad, are with him in the photograph. In addition to his scouting, Jackson has been in the marching band and enjoys being on the crew team.**

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

**Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30?** If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

**FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET**

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019).

**CAREGIVER WORKSHOPS**

**Learn more about caregiving,** or brush up on a specific topic, in

education programs this year at Insight Memory Care Center, including:

- ❖ **Classes for Caregivers Series** — offered the third Wednesday of each month, programs are geared with family caregivers in mind. Classes begin with the basics, and move through more specialized topics throughout the year.
- ❖ **Wellness Workshops** — offered quarterly on Saturdays, these workshops are designed for caregivers to focus on their own health and well-being.
- ❖ **Engagement Workshops** — offered quarterly on the fifth Wednesday of the month, these workshops teach practical caregiving skills. Come prepared to learn and get engaged.
- ❖ **Caregiver Bootcamp** — Short on time? Caregiver Bootcamp is a full day training session offering many popular topics all in one place. Bootcamps are offered on a Saturday each spring and fall. Visit [www.insightmcc.org](http://www.insightmcc.org) for more.

**THURSDAY/JAN. 18**

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. **Are You 50 or Better?** Join in the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building, will speak on the history of the building. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by

**Jan.12.** The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

**SATURDAY/JAN. 20**

**Community Workshop.** 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. in the cafeteria of Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. The community is invited to participate in a comprehensive planning workshop for the former Northern Virginia Training Center site and the adjacent State Police site. Snow date is Saturday, Feb. 3. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. with the program beginning promptly at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be served. Read more at [bit.ly/2CZgLYC](http://bit.ly/2CZgLYC).

**Caregivers Workshop.** 10 a.m.-noon at Immanuel Church on the Hill, 3606 Seminary Road, Alexandria. Senior Services of Alexandria and AARP are hosting Bobbi Carducci, the author of "Confessions of an Imperfect Caregiver" for a discussion about her journey as a caregiver. Insight Memory Care Center and Legacy Navigator will also be discussing programs and resources available for those serving as caregivers. This workshop is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be provided. RSVP to Senior Services of Alexandria at 703-836 4414, ext. 110.

**FAITH NOTES**

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

[admin@franconiaumc.org](mailto:admin@franconiaumc.org) or [www.franconiaumc.org](http://www.franconiaumc.org).

Fairfax. Contact Laurie Albert, 703-537-3064 or [Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org](mailto:Laurie.Albert@jccnv.org).

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**JCCNV Mothers Circle** program, for women who are not Jewish but are raising Jewish children. Free education in Jewish rituals, practices and values, while respecting the participant's choice to retain her own religious identity. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike in

**Metropolitan Community Church** of Northern Virginia, 10383 Democracy Lane in Fairfax, presents worship services on Sundays at 11 a.m. and choir practice, open to all, on Sundays from 9-10:30 a.m. [www.mccnova.com](http://www.mccnova.com) or 703-691-0930.

**Church of the Nativity** offers a free general bereavement support group open to all adults on the first and third Thursday of each month 7:30-9 p.m. The church is located at 6400 Nativty Lane, Burke. Call 703-455-2400, ext. 17.

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,** 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, offers casual worship services on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. featuring contemporary music. More traditional services take place on Sunday mornings at 8:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday School is from 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children and adults. The church also offers discussion groups for adults. 703-451-5855 or [www.poplc.org](http://www.poplc.org).

**Franconia United Methodist Church,** 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria, offers traditional Sunday church services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. plus Sunday School classes for all ages at 9:45 a.m. Childcare is available 8:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. 703-971-5151 or

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## POETRY CORNER



**Molly Thames**

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## Home

I would close my eyes and walk down the stairs

I never needed to see to know what's there.

My small gray house so perfectly placed.

I had memorized every crack in the driveway that my house faced.

I would tiptoe over the squeaky wooden floors.

I remember hide-and-seek behind every swinging door.

The comforting gold sofa and all of its ripped seams.

I loved our memories from Christmases when we all still believed.

I remember the whispers between the bedroom walls

I miss the interruption of my mom's dinner calls.

But most of all I remember the sound

of when the men first dug into the ground.

— MOLLY THAMES  
CLIFTON

## AREA ROUNDUPS

## Scholarship to Be Given for Research of Local Civil War history

The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville, a 501 (3) c organization, offers a \$2,000 scholarship to a public or private high school senior who resides either in Fairfax County, Prince William County, or the City of Fairfax, Manassas, or Manassas Park. Applicants should plan to attend college in the fall of 2018. The deadline is April 2, 2018. Information and application instructions can be found at [bullruncwrt.org](http://bullruncwrt.org).

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Carlos Maldonado-Hurtado**, of Burke, has been named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Hannah Zakaria**, a senior business administration major of Burke, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

**Andrew R. Cornes**, of Burke, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

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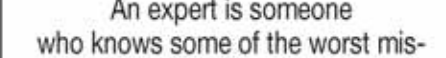
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## Seasons Gratings



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a baby-boomer, I've transitioned from black and white television to color to "H.D." - and of course now to "Smart Television;" and within that evolution, so too has the variety, content and number of channels- and the "demand" that we consumers can make - from home, transitioned as well. And I don't suppose much of it could have happened without advertising and the revenue it has generated. Promoted by people, places and things. From sports heroes to celebrities to news makers to cartoon characters to puppets and on to anthropomorphic agents/avatars and other creative mouthpieces.

I grew up watching television - without a remote, not listening to the radio. I remember seeing "Mr. Clean," "The Jolly Green Giant," "Mr. Magoo," "Speedy" - from Alka Seltzer - among other iconic creatures of the creative, all of whom sent so many messages to so many consumers, ripe for the plucking. A brand new medium had arrived: television, and its audience was extra large and extra eager.

And even though these spokes-things were not exactly speaking from the heart (what heart?), they were speaking/symbolizing with conviction - and repetition. The impressions made on impressionable future consumers were incalculable. It launched a generation. Not the "Greatest Generation," mind you, but a generation nonetheless, prepped and ready to make its mark: in the drug store, the convenience store, the supermarket, the box store and now the on-line store. We are not merely what we buy, we are what and how we are advertised to.

Previously I had written a column about how I loathe the computer-generated characters which have been utilized on television in an attempt to capture consumers' interest. As soon as they appear on television, I switch rather than fight. For me, it's an immediate turn off, literally and figuratively. I am not listening to inanimate objects/creations tell an "animate" (yours truly) object what to do. And though I understand the humanity behind the message, as far as I'm concerned, the delivery system does not compute (an old-fashioned usage). Artificial spokes-things are not worth the computer screens they're drawn on.

What has brought this rant on is a new element in the artificially-intelligent world in which many of us are subjected: holiday greetings from a computer. Mass emails sent by manufacturers from whom as a consumer we've emailed, inquired, bought, sold, etc., wishing me a "happy, healthy, prosperous holiday/New Year," yada, yada, yada; click/delete. As fast as I can. Are you kidding me? It's not bad enough that as consumers we are regularly watching/listening to fake spokes-things on television, I am now being directly interacted with through my personal emails too. No. That's where I draw the line/terminate my attention span.

However well-conceived, I am not getting involved with what is in effect, a thing. Pre-programmed messages of this kind are the unkindest cut of all; "Et tu, Brute?" If you/your company can only treat me like a number - and not as a person, don't treat me at all. Don't think for a nanosecond that a holiday missive to a massive holiday audience carries any substantial weight. It doesn't. It provides the exact opposite: a greater wait until I respond. It's akin to be weightless in outer space. It's for bemusement. It serves no functional purpose. And though I can certainly appreciate how getting into thousands/millions of personal email accounts with one keystroke has an appeal, you risk squandering a previously hard-earned resource: goodwill.

You want me as a customer? Don't email me feelings. Email me facts and figures. You really want me as a customer? Then speak to me, really. Save your greetings; and not for next year either.

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





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