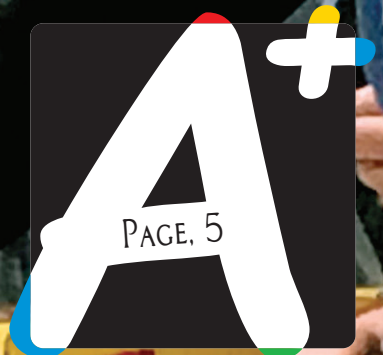


Reston CONNECTION

Erica Brasher, 17, of Burke and Ali Durrani of Reston sort toys for The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, a nonprofit organization that assists low-income families by selling used clothing and household goods at nominal prices. The volunteer service opportunity was one of the 33rd annual Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration events presented by the Reston Community Center.



Community Keeps the Promise

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Town Hall Told of 'Chaos-Causing Trump Effect'

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Dr. King's Dream In Our Times

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OBITUARY

Marjorie C. Hoffman

Marjorie C. Hoffman, 77, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, at Sleepy Hollow Skilled Nursing Unit in Annandale.

Marjorie was born May 26, 1940, in Waverly, N.Y., to Vern and Dorothy Cotton. She graduated from Athens High School in 1958, where she played the clarinet in the band and enjoyed singing in the chorus. After graduation, she worked at The Farmers National Bank in Athens.

Marjorie and her former husband, Donald Hoffman, moved to Virginia in 1962 and she remained there for the rest of her life working as a secretary for several companies including Equifax Services and Wells Fargo.

She is survived by her son and son-in-law, Jeffrey Hoffman and Michael Stanley of San Francisco, Calif.; daughter and son-in-law, Natalie and Michael Cohen, of Fairfax; daughter and son-in-law, Tracey and Paul Skafidas, of Bristow, Va.; grandchildren: Drew Cohen, Cole Loveman, Nicole Cohen, Kyle Skafidas and Cayden Skafidas; sister, Thelma O'Malley of Tonawanda, N.Y.; brother and sister-in-law, William and Mary Cotton of Athens, Pa; several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

A graveside service will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 22, 2018, at the Tioga Point Cemetery, Athens, Pa. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to a charity of one's choice.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to reston@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday.

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive, Reston, holds Sunday services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. during the summer. Nursery, Sunday school and adult education available. Call 703-437-6530 or visit www.stannes-reston.org.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups,

meeting on a weekly basis. Call 703-941-7000 or visit www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

The Mount Pleasant Baptist Church of Herndon invites the community to join them for praise and worship followed by a stirring message from the Word of God on Sundays starting at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. (with Sunday school at 7:30 and 9:30 a.m.). Visit www.mtpleasantbaptist.org or call 703-793-1196.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach
SEE FAITH, PAGE 10

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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 off-shore 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 shut-down," 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 commu-



Yasmeen Durrani and Naila Alan, both of Herndon, came to the meeting to ask what U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D) would do about the Trump travel bans. "Keep up the fight, work with those who oppose them," replied the senator.

nities. 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 approve 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."



Congregation members recently partnered with FACETS and the Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program to donate, cook and manage a Christmas Eve dinner at Epiphany Episcopal Church.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Congregation Beth Emeth members cooked, managed and served dinner for 140 at Embury Rucker Shelter during the winter months.

Congregation Beth Emeth Embraces Greater Community

Congregation joins partners to help a community in need this winter.

Congregation Beth Emeth announces the kick off of the winter season with multiple community outreach and fundraising events, embracing their focus on Tikkun Olam or “repairing the world.” Congregation members, with support from their Social Action Committee and Religious School, recently partnered with FACETS, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Part-

nership to Prevent and End Homelessness, and the Fairfax County Hypothermia Prevention Program, to donate, cook and manage a Christmas Eve dinner at Epiphany Episcopal Church on Dec. 24.

They’ll continue their partnership with FACETS by helping to provide a full week of support, Jan. 14-21, to people that are homeless, including hosting an annual signature dinner for 80 at St. John Neumann

Catholic Community.

Congregation Beth Emeth has a long tradition of community involvement through multiple volunteer projects, interfaith partnerships and educational programs, and is also a frequent collaborator with Cornerstones in Reston, including multiple food and personal care collection drives.

“Through social action we have the largest impact on the community,” stated Beth

Emeth’s Rabbi Michelle “Mina” Goldsmith.

Additional winter programming includes a Martin Luther King Day educational Shabbat in coordination with Operation Understanding DC, dedicated to connecting Jewish and African-American teens to eliminate racism, and build understanding and friendship. The Congregation’s Sisterhood group will also lead a Knitzvah-Thon

SEE CONGREGATION, PAGE 10

Northern Virginia Lawmakers Push for Menstrual Equity

General Assembly to consider of 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 morning 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

“It’s an area that’s probably been overlooked just because it’s not a subject that people talk about often in public.”

— State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

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.”

New Year, New Order

Local organizers teach methods for streamlining a space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

With 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.

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



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODIE JACOBS

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

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."



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OPINION

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 gavel 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

COMMENTARY

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 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)



COMMENTARY

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 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 com-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 11

Historical Shift in Virginia Elections

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

On Nov. 7, 2017 there was a truly seismic political shift in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Women moved a giant step towards genuine sharing of political power with men in this last place you might expect it.

Ralph Northam was elected Governor, Justin Fairfax Lt. Governor, and Mark Herring re-elected Attorney General, capturing all three statewide races more easily than expected. But, the big news took place in House of Delegates races. With all 100 seats in play and Republicans holding a gaping 66 to 34 majority, the most optimistic Dems expected a gain of perhaps five or six seats due to the repugnant, toxic leader at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Instead, a tide of new-blood Democrats rolled up a 15-seat gain and came within one of creating a 50-50 tie in the House of Delegates. A dead tie in the 94th district ultimately was resolved by drawing the winner out of a bowl, a Republican. So, the House stands at 51-49, Republicans. The House Democratic Caucus stands at 25 men-24 women. Furthermore, the women whipped some of the longest term, hard-core conservatives and misogynists in the House, e.g., Bob Marshall, James LeMunyon and Scott Lingamfelter. And they beat them soundly.

What circumstances came to-

gether to lead to these astounding results in the staid old Commonwealth? 1)

Democrats decided to get serious about winning the House as new candidates surfaced determined to reverse the tide by running in 89 of 100 districts, unlike 2015 when they ran for just 55 seats; 2) New candidates knew their districts and local issues; 3) They generated huge additional voter turnout — up anywhere from 12.9 percent to 51.5 percent, according to BallotPedia, over the previous election in those districts; 4) Most won in districts which went for Hillary Clinton, and switched delegate votes to avoid Trump association; and, 5) They were ably assisted by EMERGE, a nonprofit set up to assist and train Democratic women candidates.

EMERGE (see EMERGE.org) is led by capable, experienced politicians like Reston's own Kate Hanley. EMERGE offered training and mentoring but not funding. Kate Hanley is the only person I am aware of who saw the wave coming and thought the women might actually lead to a new majority!

Implications. Few things motivate and empower like success.

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 7

Reston
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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

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Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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OPINION

Girls United Commend Connolly

BY NEHAL JAN AND MADELEINE MAI

Every year, James Madison High School buzzes with excitement of the new school year. With junior year fast approaching, we are excited to dive back into our studies, and one of our favorite activities is going back to school shopping. We love choosing binders and matching notebooks and buying the latest innovation in the pen world (this year it's erasable pens). But it also makes us think of the millions of refugee children who are denied an education. Children who won't have the opportunity to learn basic math or reading skills. Children who won't learn linear functions or about World War II, even though many of these kids are living in the world's biggest refugee crisis since World War II.

Today 65 million people globally are displaced from their home, and of these 65 million displaced people, 50 percent of them are under the age of 18. With the average refugee staying in exile for 20 years, many of these refugee children will live out their childhood away from home and school. Globally, the enrollment rate for primary school is 90 percent, but for refugee children it is 50 percent and that number drops dramatically with only 22 percent of refugee children being able to enroll in secondary school.

Education makes it easier for people to rebuild their lives and communities. It offers psychological stability and more economic opportunities. In particular, refugee girls, are the most vulnerable when not educated. These girls are more likely to be victims of sexual assault, be a child bride, fall victim to extremist ideology, and have less socioeconomic opportunities. We see when girls are educated they are more likely to have leadership positions whether it be in politics, business, or tech. Educated women are better able to lift themselves and their families out of poverty. When refugee children, especially girls, have access to education they can start to build more peaceful and prosperous communities.

This cause is close to our heart because we have always had access to a top quality education. Education was never a question mark in our life. Our school is filled with advanced placement classes, clean facilities, and amazing science labs. We have supportive parents and amazing resources at the touch of a button, but these resources aren't available to everyone around the world. We want to change that, and we know Congressman Gerry Connolly does too.

We are proud of Congressman Connolly for cosponsoring H.R. 2408, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act. By giving refugee children, especially girls, an education, we are allowing them to find their voice in their community.

Girl Up helped us develop a voice and passion for advocating on behalf of underprivileged girls. Developing a voice in a community is crucial for advancing in not just school, but in life.

Representative Connolly, one of the many cosponsors of H.R. 2408, is, "Glad to cosponsor H.R. 2408, the Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act, which would authorize the Secretary of State and the USAID Administrator to prioritize efforts to support access to primary and secondary education for displaced children. As the proud father of a young woman and a 14-year-veteran of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I understand the importance of a safe and well-rounded education. It is critical to ensure that children, particularly girls, displaced by conflicts overseas are able to receive a quality education and that the educational needs of women and girls are considered when developing and implementing U.S. foreign assistance policies."

Our Girl Up club and many community members commend Congressman Connolly's efforts in co-sponsoring this important bipartisan legislation. This legislation will help refugee girls have a voice and become leaders in their community. After all, an educated society is a more prosperous and free society.

Nehal Jan and Madeleine Mai are the president and vice president of Girls United Madison club.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 6

Given the amazing success of women driving up turnout and winning seats thought unwinnable, I do not think this genie, the sudden political successes of women in Virginia, can be put back in the bottle. Indeed, it seems more likely that their

success could spread and lead to broader victories for women and progressives in the Congressional races coming in 2018, certainly in the areas of districts flipped in 2017 and perhaps beyond. Think of a Virginia Congressional delegation flipping from its current 7 to 4 Republican to 7 to 4 the other way. Hopefully pro-Trumper Barbara Comstock just down the gerrymandered road will lead a parade of those defeated in 2018!



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Community Keeps the Promise

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Each year since 1985 on the third Monday in January, people in Reston and its surrounding communities have come together to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as they celebrate his birthday. This year Reston Community Center (RCC) presented the 33rd annual Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration with a week-long series of events held Jan. 13-21, 2018 all under the banner question: "Are We Keeping the Promise?"

RCC kicked off the series on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018, at 9 a.m. in the gym of the Southgate Community Center, 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston, with Community Service Projects. RCC had partnered with Southgate Community Center, Reston Association, Cornerstones, and The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area as they presented indoor and outdoor service opportunities.

DURING HER OPENING REMARKS to the crowd of volunteers assembled in the gym, Ha Brock, Volunteer Reston Manager, said, "As a local government, we are always looking for an extra hand." To those present she urged, "Live up to the dream of Martin Luther King."

Cate Fulkerson, Chief Executive Officer, Reston Association also addressed the assembled crowd. She spoke about the spirit of those in the room. "To see the amount of caring here today...the excitement of giving back."

When the remarks concluded, RCC staff directed the volunteers to project sites throughout the center and outdoors. Watching them were Lisa Sechrest-Ehrhardt and Bill Keefe, Board of Governors members, Reston Community Center. Before heading off to volunteer herself, Sechrest-Ehrhardt looked around. She said, "Actions speak louder than words. By doing it, you become part of the process."

Keefe, who stood next to Sechrest-Ehardt, also watched as teens and youth headed into different rooms to volunteer. Asked what he thought of the turnout, Keefe replied, "I think volunteerism is part of the ethic here in Reston. Bob Simon would be proud."

WHILE SOME hearty souls braved the cold wind and headed outdoors to clean up litter from pathways and natural areas, indoors volunteers prepared bag lunches for the Embury Rucker Community Shelter, sorted and organized toys for The Closet of the Greater Herndon area, and cleaned and helped beautify the Southgate Community Center.

Among those preparing ham and cheese sandwiches for clients at the shelter were Reston residents Liz Susla and her daughters Carolyn Susla, 12, and Katherine Susla, 10. Not skipping a beat as they rapidly kept pace assembling the sandwiches, Katherine



Carolyn Susla, 12, and her sister Katherine Susla, 10, both of Reston prepare ham and cheese sandwiches for clients at the Embury Rucker Community Shelter. The volunteer service activity presented by the Reston Community Center was held at the Southgate Community Center and kicked off a week of events for the 33rd annual Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration.

Erica Brasher, 17, of Burke and Ali Durrani of Reston sort toys for The Closet of the Greater Herndon Area, a nonprofit organization that assists low-income families by selling used clothing and household goods at nominal prices. The volunteer service opportunity was one of the 33rd annual Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration events presented by the Reston Community Center.



explained how long they had been volunteering and why. "This is our third year. It's fun. I like helping the community." Carolyn added: "We will be delivering the sand-

wiches to the Homeless Shelter later."

In the gym, volunteer Erica Brasher of Burke sorted through a massive pile of toys, verifying each box had all of its parts be-

Reston Community Center kicks off the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration with a multitude of volunteer opportunities.



From left: Mike Jones of Alexandria and Michael A. Welch of Reston, Brothers in Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. serving Reston/Herndon areas of Fairfax County, uplift their community at Reston Community Center's 33rd annual Reston Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration kick-off event held at Southgate Community Center in Reston.

fore it was to be packed and driven over to The Closet of the Greater Herndon area. Asked why she had come that morning, Brasher said she was there to meet her required volunteer service hours for National Honor Society, but then explained something bigger was involved other than service hours. "It helps the community. It is really important to do this, even though this is not my community," she said.

Also on hand were several Brothers of Omega Psi Phi, Inc., Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter serving the Greater Herndon and Reston areas. Brother Mike Welch told how the organization he was volunteering under was founded on the principles of providing service and uplifting the whole community.

"What we are doing correlates to the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," said Welch, keeping the promise alive.

TO VOLUNTEER for other opportunities through Reston Community Center, contact Ha Brock, Reston Association Volunteer & Community Outreach Coordinator, at 703-435-7986 or habrock@reston.org or for other Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration events visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

Activism in Action

Tamika D. Mallory delivers the Keynote Speech at the 33rd annual Reston, Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Tamika D. Mallory, a fiery activist for social justice, champion of the Civil Rights Movement, and one of four co-chairs for the Women's March on Washington was the Keynote Speaker for 33rd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration held on Jan. 15, 2018, at CenterStage, located in Fairfax County's Reston Community Center (RCC) at the Hunters Woods Village Center, Reston.

Mallory, who President Obama had publicly applauded as a leader, addressed the sold-out crowd as she delivered her keynote speech touching on topics including gun violence, gender and racial inequality, and the need to get "uncomfortable" in these strange times.

"There's a little tension in all of us, and people in good moral consciousness cannot let our country go up in smoke," Mallory said. She explained that although things that divide us are not as prevalent as before so much remains the same. "Today we celebrate Martin Luther King; we reflect on his body of work ... and his death."

Mallory recalled how King realized he was not in a "dream" but a disaster. She said that he woke up to the economic condition and became laser-focused on what black people need. She told how at one point King was called "the most dangerous man in America."

Mallory stressed to the audience, who applauded her throughout her speech, that it is not the time to give up but instead to be concerned about others. "Either



PHOTO COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY CENTER

Tamika D. Mallory, Keynote Speaker for the Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Birthday Celebration addressed a sold-out crowd at CenterStage in Reston on Monday, Jan. 15, 2018.

"...we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

— Tamika D. Mallory, co-chair for the Women's March on Washington

we go up together, or we go down together," she said.

Mallory spoke about the impact President Trump's recent Twitter blast had. "He reminds us [through his words] that hate still lives in this world," she said. Mallory added that inequality "...is still the fabric of this county."

Addressing the audience, Mallory said that what is needed is to "...put a little more action in our activism." She stressed that there are ways each person in the room could be part of the effort citing the need to check

voting records of politicians and making sure the politicians are working on the individual's behalf.

Mallory talked about how on the upcoming first anniversary of the Women's March they would not be marching. Instead, they are going

to "Turn marches into movements." She said this year they would present a "Power to the Polls event" in Las Vegas, Nev. aimed at registering voters in swing states, Nevada being one of them, and facing voter suppression laws.

As Mallory concluded her 45-minute speech, she urged those in the

audience to be as loud as they could be; to speak up for others and work on behalf of those who have less than they do, saying in the end "...we will not remember the words of our enemies but the silence of our friends."

At the conclusion of the Keynote Address, a community lunch was served with the welcome by Beverly Cosham, chair, RCC Board of Governors, followed by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

Dr. King's Dream in Our Times

John Lovaas, Host/Producer Reston Impact and Reston Farmers Market Co-chair

"Unfortunately his words are more important today than 20 years ago because of the man in the White House and the amazing following he has in at least one major political party. Dr. King's message of love bringing together little white and black children in our schools, for example, is directly contravened by messages of hatred and division coming from the highest levels of our country today."



Paul Thomas, Reston Community Center, Reston

"We live in a time when many people live in echo chambers. Divisiveness is a common strategy that feeds political, social, and economic ends. Dr. King's dream is a reminder to break down barriers. We must listen, watch, care, and help. Just a few years ago, it felt like progress was happening, but now we know there is a lot of work to do."



Nancy D. Hall, former higher education administrator, Annandale

"It is more important than ever that we adhere to the tenets of Dr. King. Social justice for all. Dignity for all. Equal voice. A place at the table."

Every day now brings a fresh assault on our community's sense of fairness and what is right."



Eliza Seigel, high school student, McLean

"With the increasingly polarized times that we live in, sometimes it feels like the differences between one another are becoming more decisive. With every political and social event that has happened these past years both locally and nationally that was meant to divide us or separate us, there have been reactions that brought all kinds of people from all walks of life together."

"With every event like what happened in Charlottesville, there was a community that came together to say that hatred and violence are intolerable and we must progress to make the world a better place."

"That community in the aftermath brought people together, and in that particular sense, Dr. King's dream is very much alive."



Tammi Petrine, Community Activist, Reston for 42 years

"I was a huge fan of Martin Luther King Jr. as a young person in high school. My political science teacher had said, 'the greatest fan Martin Luther King had.' His non-violent change model is the epitome of humanity. It's being one family is where we want to be. We cannot allow parts of our society to be impotent. Their strength and talents are needed to make our world function."



David Roach, Retired Teacher, Annandale

"After what I consider great advancement in race relations, things are going backward. Dr. King's dream of one society has taken a step back. I personally believe that the younger generation is wonderful as far as the dream. Older people seem unable to accept his thought. I hope that younger people will embrace Dr. King's dream and stop listening to the ideas of a past time. It is hard for some people to accept the idea of white privilege and we must work to overcome that for the future of our society."



Betty Collins, Real Estate Agent, Long and Foster, Sterling

"At the present, I think we are back in the '60s when Martin Luther King, Jr. was tired of the injustice and started the marches. I have seen more people who now understand the unjust acts that were imposed on those who felt they could not make a change. We still need to understand that we all want the same things in life and we all have to live with love for one each other. 'Love your neighbor as you love yourself.' Dr. King fought for equality. Thanks for women today who are standing up for equality."



Laura Warrington, student, Great Falls

"Since Dr. King's time, there has been much progress in our society, especially in Northern Virginia, which has become a diverse and welcoming community. However, there are still instances that make me think my country is taking a step backward. Like the march in Charlottesville. I think Reston, in particular, has maintained its welcoming position through difficult times in the past year and serves as an example of Dr. King's dream for other communities to follow."



— MERCIA HOBSON

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-Werner Heisenberg

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NEWS

Congregation Embraces Community

FROM PAGE 4

beginning Jan. 14, hand knitting and crocheting chemotherapy caps for children fighting cancer.

Congregation Beth Emeth stays busy throughout the year with diverse social action and outreach projects, impacting various segments of the community. Significant projects have included:

❖ Support the Girls: toiletries and undergarment collection for women in local shelters.

❖ Annual Good Deeds Day: volunteers made blankets for children in shelters and greeting cards for new United States citizens and hospitalized military veterans, along with numerous other projects.

❖ Group Home Maintenance: volunteers painted an entire townhouse and planted flowers and herbs at group care homes.

❖ The Closet in Herndon: volunteers staff and assist at The Closet twice monthly

❖ Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Food Drive: benefitted Cornerstones Emergency Food Pantry resulting in the collection of 3,600 pounds of food, exceeding their previous record by 1,000 pounds

❖ Embury Rucker Shelter Dinner: cooked, managed and served dinner for 140 during the winter months

❖ Organ Donor and Transplant Awareness Shabbat: shared the Jewish perspective on organ donation as a mitzvah (a good deed).

❖ Comedy Night: featured four nationally recognized stand-up comedians with a portion of proceeds benefiting The Wounded Warrior Project

"I'm always proud of our Congregation. Our members have very huge hearts," said Rabbi Mina, as she's known by the Congregation. Since 2013, Rabbi Mina has guided members in finding services and supporting one another, and extending that warmth and support to the greater community.

Congregation Beth Emeth is a Conservative congregation meaning they observe Jewish traditions while weaving them together with modern life. Tikkun Olam is one way the Congregation embraces the greater community and builds a welcoming environment. Rabbi Mina explains the concept of Tikkun Olam as "Making the world better, bringing light to the world and rebuilding the world around us."

Congregation Beth Emeth is a welcoming, egalitarian Conservative Jewish Congregation located at 12523 Lawyers Road, Herndon, serving Western Fairfax and Eastern Loudoun counties in Northern Virginia.

With nearly 400 families, Congregation Beth Emeth is "just the right-size" — large enough to meet the spiritual, educational, and social needs of members while preserving the warmth of a close-knit community. Call 703-860-4515 or visit bethemeth.org.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Ellen Barker, of Reston, qualified for the fall 2017 dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.).

Calista Somer, of Reston, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

Deeksha Milagani, of Reston, graduated with a Master of Business Administration from Fontbonne University (St. Louis, Mo.).

Megan K. O'Hara, daughter of Cathie and Brian O'Hara of Reston, has been named to the dean's list at Hamilton College (Clinton, N.Y.) for the 2017 fall semester.

Mary Clougherty, of Herndon, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list

at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

The following Herndon High School students were named to the All-District Band.

❖ Wind Ensemble (and All-State eligible): **James Adams**, first percussion; **Emma Rood**, first harp; and **Nathan Coughlin**, first string bass.

❖ Symphonic Band: **Ethan Morad**, Bb clarinet; **William Logan**, Bb clarinet; **Jordan Meyer**, Bb clarinet; **Zoe Birman**, tenor sax; **Matthew Disinger**, horn; **Kacey Hillebrand**, trombone; **Coby Chiu**, euphonium; and **Carla Nicolini**, percussion

❖ Alternate: **Matt Procopio**, bass clarinet.

Ari Snaevansson, of Herndon, will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Health Sciences from Gettysburg College (Pa.).

Brendan McDonough, of Oakton, a sophomore Intelligence Analysis major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

Margaret V. Baule, of Oakton, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Adam Joseph Putch, of Oakton, was named to the dean's academic honor roll for the 2017 fall semester at Baylor University (Waco, Texas).

Blake Prather-Johnson, of Vienna, earned dean's list status for the fall 2017 semester at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

Stephen Yenouskas, of Vienna, earned dean's list status for the fall 2017 semester at Lehigh University (Bethlehem, Pa.).

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Visit ShalomDC.org.

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

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

Washington Plaza Baptist Church will hold Adult Bible Study at 9:30 a.m. Sundays at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church needs knitters the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m., at 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Prayer Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. Email shawl@saint-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and noon Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 10 a.m. during the summer. Nursery and childcare are provided starting at 8 a.m. until the end of the service. Call 703-437-5500 or visit www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds weekly classes starting Sept. 12, Thursdays 7:30-8:30 p.m., for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. \$12 or \$6 for students, seniors and unemployed. Call 202-986-2257 or visit www.meditation-dc.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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.

THROUGH JAN. 26

Coat Drive to Benefit Cornerstones.

Collection in building lobbies. Help us help those in need in our community stay warm this winter. Reston Town Center will be accepting new or gently used winter coats (in good condition and cleaned), and new hats, gloves and scarves. Items will be collected in boxes located in building lobbies for donation to Cornerstones.

Visit restontowncenter.com.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold its annual public comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting for more.

JAN. 19-FEB. 20

Boys Girls Lacrosse Registration. Herndon Reston Youth Lacrosse (HRYL): 2018 boys and girls spring lacrosse early registration is open. Base cost: \$195; early bird discount: \$30 through Jan. 20. New players welcome, accepting all youth ages. Visit hrylax.org.

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

munication 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.

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

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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.

CALENDAR

Harried Americans Roadshow

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

“45 Plays for 45 Presidents.” Through Feb. 4 at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. NextStop Theatre Company opens a hysterical take on history with the play “45 Plays for 45 Presidents.” The play, which is already, presents a series of 45 two-minute plays — one for each American President. In a female-forward twist to the amusing premise, NextStop’s production also casts five women as all the presidents. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays. General admission, \$20-\$55 at www.NextStopTheatre.org or by calling 866-811-4111.

Art Exhibit. Through Feb. 17, various times at the Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Featuring the work of Paulina Peavy, namesake of “Paulina Peavy: A Message to Paulina,” the first exhibition to bring together a selection of Peavy’s works across disciplines including works on paper, paintings, films, texts, and numerous mixed media masks. Visit www.restonarts.org for more.

The Elden Street Tea Shop. Saturdays in ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Sip tea and enjoy a variety of locally made snacks and pastries while enjoying the latest art installations in the gallery. Visit www.eldenstreettea.com.

Small Business Support Sundays. Visit independent stores and restaurants, and those that support small businesses at Reston Town Center, offering specials, discounts, tastings, and localized treats every Sunday. Visit SmallBusinessSupportSundays.com.

All-comers’ Group Fun Run at Potomac River Running. Tuesdays and Thursdays. Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. For beginners or competitive runners, come out for a fun, low-key run that is safe and social. Call 703-689-0999 potomacriverrunning.com.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders - played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more information.

THURSDAY/JAN. 18

Yoga Storytime with Little Twisters. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Read a classic children’s book, then act it out using yoga moves and poses. Cosponsored by the Friends of Reston Library. Age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its next monthly Weekend Food for Kids packing. For further information contact Lynn Barron: LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Design and Wine. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring Stopping in the Woods on a Snowy Night with Melanie Stanley. \$40 per person which covers wine, light snacks and supplies. Registration is required with payment in advance. No prior art experience necessary. Call 703-956-9560.

FRIDAY/JAN. 19

Improv-Extravaganza. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. For one-night-only, The Alden’s (the) Unruly Theatre Project and Loudoun County High School’s Improvasaurus will bring their signature improv styles to ArtSpace Herndon. Suggested Donation of \$10. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/ for more.

Swing Dance. 8:30 at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Swing Dance with Gina DeSimone and The Moaners. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9-midnight dance. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 20

French Cooking Class. 10 a.m.-noon at Mon Ami Gabi, 11950 Democracy Drive. Join Chef



The Harried Americans.

The Harried Americans will present their newest variety show and smarty-pants brand of Americana, Jazz, Blues and original songs, Friday, Jan. 26, 7-9 p.m. at Cafe Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza N., Reston. The show will



The “45 Plays for 45 Presidents” ensemble includes Caroline Kashner, Brittany Martz, Chloe Mikala, Mary Myers, and Sarah Anne Sillers.

‘45 Plays for 45 Presidents’

NextStop Theatre Company opens a hysterical take on history with the play “45 Plays for 45 Presidents.” The play, which is already selling out performances, presents a series of 45 two-minute plays — one for each American President. In a female-forward twist to the amusing premise, NextStop’s production also casts five women as all the presidents. Performances are Thursdays through Sundays from Jan. 11 to Feb. 4 at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. General admission, \$20-\$55 at www.NextStopTheatre.org or by calling 866-811-4111.

Phil Frederick and learn to prepare wild mushroom tartare with cheese toast, Merquez burger with cream cheese spread and hand-cut fries, and malted chocolate chip cookie ice cream sandwiches for dessert. Recipe booklet included. \$55 per person. Call 703-707-0233 or visit monamigabi.com/news.

Basic Fundamentals of Drawing. 1-2:45 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Eight-week series of classes with John Koebert. \$150 for the eight-week session. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

Weaving Workshop at GRACE. 5 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Exploratory weaving workshop for ages 18 and up. Students will leave with a completed wall hanging. \$45 for Reston residents/\$55 for nonresidents. Register at restoncommunitycenter.com. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org.

Meet the Tattoo Artist. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Meet Gilda Acosta and explore getting a tattoo. Her work will be on display Jan. 9-Feb. 10. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/ for more.

Flower Photography Expert. 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Room 6 at the Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road. The Reston Photographic Society invites photography enthusiasts to learn how to take fabulous photographs of flowers, both in the garden and in the wild. Hankins is the author of “Wildflower Meditations: A Gift for the Spirit”

and BeautifulFlowerPictures.com. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org for more.

SUNDAY/JAN. 21

Multi Cultural Hip Hop. 3 p.m. at RCC-Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Color Orange: A Hip-Hop Concert about friendship and multiculturalism. Call 703-435-7986 or visit www.reston.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 24

Red Cross Blood Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

Meet Me at the Movies. 10 a.m. at at Bow Tie Cinemas, Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St. Reston Association presents “LBJ.”Refreshments, door prizes prior to movie. Free to 55+. Email Ashleigh@reston.org or call 703-435-6577.

THURSDAY/JAN. 25

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. The discussion will focus on “Boomerang: Travels in the New Third World” by Michael Lewis. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

Creative Responses at GRACE. 7-8 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St #103, Reston. Creative professionals respond to



Aloha Boys.

feature musical guests, The Aloha Boys and their acoustic down-home, backyard-style Hawai’ian music. The show also includes poet Rod Deacey and comedian Jon Yeager. \$10 at harriedamericans.com or the door.

the work on view in the gallery. The short presentation will be followed by open conversation. Presenters may include poets, dancers, writers, musicians, visual artists, and more. All ages. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 26

Harried Americans Roadshow. 7-9 p.m. at Cafe Montmartre, 1625 Washington Plaza N., Reston. The Harried Americans will present their newest variety show and smarty-pants brand of Americana, Jazz, Blues and original songs. The show will feature musical guests, The Aloha Boys and their acoustic down-home, backyard-style Hawai’ian music. The show also includes poet Rod Deacey and comedian Jon Yeager. \$10 at harriedamericans.com or the door.

Swing Dance. 8:30 at Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Swing Dance with King Teddy. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9-midnight dance. \$15. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

SATURDAY/JAN. 27

Post-Rock, Jazz Band . 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featuring the Touch Combo band where pop, blues, and folk meld with classic melodies and rhythmic innovation. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/

THURSDAY/FEB. 1

Millennials Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Title is “Life After lifeÓ by Kate Atkinson. Check out Library copy or pick up a copy of one’s own. Adults from early 20s to early 30s. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/FEB. 2

Open Mic Poetry Night. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Featured members of the Poetry Society of Virginia will be present to share their poetry. An open mic will follow, allowing for anyone attending to have a moment on stage. Free and open to the public. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Book To Movie “The Color Purple.” 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/FEB. 4

Soiree Chamber Music Series. 4-5:30 p.m. at UCP Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. An intimate salon style performance by members of the Pro Arte Chamber Orchestra of Greater Washington. Reception to follow the performance. Adults, \$30; seniors, \$25; students, \$20; and children 12 and younger, free. Visit bit.ly/2D2wEcL for tickets. Call 571-483-8444 or visit www.PACOdC.org for more.