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# Burke CONNECTION

## WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

PAGE 8

Danny DeVera plays Joseph in Church of the Good Shepherd's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

# Good Shepherd Players Stages 'Joseph'

WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

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GMU Professor on Cutting Edge of Lyme Disease  
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PHOTO BY LINDA BILOTTI



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## Naked Truth About Strip Searches at Traffic Stops

Northern Virginia Democrat advocates for strip searches to combat opioid crisis.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Police officers across Virginia would be able to strip search drivers at traffic stops under a bill proposed from Del. Patrick Hope (D-47). Hope says he introduced the bill as a reaction to the opioid crisis after being approached by sheriffs across the commonwealth who are concerned inmates might smuggle drugs into jails. Hope says sheriffs did not ask for strip searches at traffic stops, although he adds the two issues are linked in the code.

"The existing statute allows for strip searches for weapons at traffic stops and going into jail, and that's there for a reason — because you don't want to put someone in your squad car who might have a weapon," said Hope. "And so the question is whether opioids today are lethal enough where you need that same protection at a traffic stop where you are going to put somebody in your car."

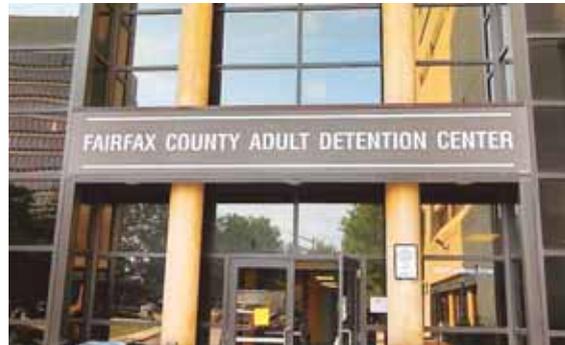
Advocates for civil liberties are concerned that strip searches would be based on nothing more than an arresting officer's "reasonable cause to believe" that a suspect has drugs. They worry that suspicion may often be based on nothing more than a hunch. And although courts have upheld the ability of sheriff's deputies to conduct strip searches at jails, they say allowing strip searches at minor traffic infractions would violate the dignity of the accused — a burden that would disproportionately fall on minorities.

"This proposal will fall more heavily on people of color because of disparate policing," said Claire Gastanaga, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia. "Keep in mind that people who are black are eight times more likely to be arrested for possession of marijuana in Arlington than white people, even though usage rates for both populations are the same, about 13 percent."

**RECENT YEARS** have seen the opioid crisis spiral out of control in Virginia. The number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased by more than 30 percent last year, according to a recent report from the Virginia Department of Health. Fentanyl is an opioid pain medication that's 100 times more potent than heroin. It's often used to treat pain after major surgeries, and it's frequently traded on the black market. A dose the size of a grain of sand can be lethal, creating a potential problem at jails.

"Google the words 'jail' and 'overdose,' and you'll come up with a number of hits of people who are sneaking in drugs like fentanyl and heroin and other opioid type drugs and people are overdosing on it," said Hope. "It's a very serious concern of the jails and the sheriffs asked me to carry the bill."

A Google search of "jail overdose" comes up with 8.7 million hits with horror stories from across the country. Four inmates overdosed in two days last year in Ohio. Two inmates were found dead last year after overdosing in a D.C. jail. In Miami, prosecutors are considering murder charges after two inmates were found dead after opioid overdoses. None of the



A spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office says there are no numbers that show smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

**"Google the words 'jail' and 'overdose,' and you'll come up with a number of hits of people who are sneaking in drugs like fentanyl and heroin and other opioid type drugs and people are overdosing on it."**

— Del. Patrick Hope (D-44)

stories seem to be from Virginia, though, which worries critics of the bill.

"My concern is that I'm not sure how common that is — how frequently that happens — that drugs are being smuggled in," said Cindy Cunningham, founder of a progressive group known as VA Plan. "A lot of people are concerned about police in general and I think at this point this is sort of encouraging civil rights violations."

Requests for data on opioid smuggling into the Arlington jail and the Alexandria jail received no response at press time. And spokesman for the Fairfax County Sheriff said no data existed to prove opioid smuggling was a problem.

"There are no numbers that show that smuggled opioids are a problem at the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center," wrote Jamel Perkins, public information officer for the Fairfax County Sheriff's Office in a response to written questions.

Hope acknowledges that his bill may end up changing significantly as it makes its way through the legislative sausage-making factory in Richmond, a process that starts this week with a subcommittee hearing followed by a hearing in the full committee. And then, if he's lucky, a vote on the House floor. Considering the heart of his bill allows for strip searches at jails rather than traffic stops, he says, that part may end up being stripped out before it's considered by member of the House of Delegates.

"If law enforcement feels like that's not necessary, we'll take it out," said Hope.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: PFC Christina Gaizick and PFC Sheila Ayers of Traffic Safety Services, Fairfax County Police Department, were the guests at the January meeting of Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling, held at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

## Promoting Safe Bicycling

Cycling advocacy group hosts county law enforcement reps at monthly meeting.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

At its first monthly meeting of the New Year, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB) got right to work, inviting two Fairfax County Traffic Safety Police Officers to attend and expand the dialogue between law enforcement and cyclists in the county. FABB member Charlie Bobbish introduced Officers PFC Sheila Ayers, and PFC Christina Gaizick and began the conversation by asking them to comment on the "state of traffic safety" in Fairfax County.

Safety of all county residents is a priority, according to Ayers, be they drivers, cyclists or pedestrians, but the officer added that she and her colleague were particularly pleased to be invited to the FABB meeting to gain a better understanding of the concerns of the pedal-powered citizenry and to have an opportunity to discuss safe cycling practices and education.

According to Ayers, statistics show a decrease in cycling-related incidents, with only one fatality recently reported in 2015. Early figures for 2017 indicate 72 reportable bicycle incidents, although the fact that there are no clearly defined categories for bicycle accidents in the statewide reporting system TRENDS (Traffic Records Electronic Data System) and that "reportable" incidents must



Sally Smallwood is the Safe Routes to School coordinator for the Fairfax County Public Schools. Smallwood brought the FABB members up to speed on school-related bicycling events and activities and encouraged people to nominate a School Crossing Guard of the Year by the Jan. 26 deadline.

meet a \$1,500 damage or a reportable injury threshold in order to be included in the TRENDS data, left some attendees somewhat in doubt as to the accuracy or usefulness of the information.

Jeff Anderson, president of FABB, Steve Ward, the organization's secretary, and board member Bruce Wright all indicated that advocating for more specific reporting tools might be on the FABB work menu in the future.

**SEVERAL QUESTIONS** were posed to the officers regarding how to stay safe as a cyclist on the road, and what to do when witnessing or experiencing in

SEE BICYCLING, PAGE 11

# OPINION

## What's Wrong with This Picture?

**Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent;  
less than 2 percent poor; less than 2 percent  
African American; less than 2 percent Latino.**

If these are the demographics to something, you know it needs to be fixed, no matter what "it" is. Especially something paid for with public dollars.

Male, 60 percent; female 40 percent.

Less than 2 percent poor.

Less than 2 percent African American.

Less than 2 percent Latino.

These are the demographics of this year's freshman class at our Governor's school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, known as TJ.

We also know that there are geographic disparities (some middle schools have many more students admitted than others; some have none).

State Sen. Scott Surovell represents a part of the county that tends to be under represented at Thomas Jefferson, and he is kicking off what no doubt will be a lively discussion by introducing SB787, Governor's Schools;

enrollment, which would use both economics and geography to change the admissions dynamics at Jefferson.

Summary:

**EDITORIAL** "Requires any academic school Governor's School that has a focus on math, science, and technology and that has an overall enrollment of over 1,000 students to accept for enrollment (i) a sufficient number of students eligible to receive free or reduced price meals such that the total of such students is at least 50 percent of the weighted average of the participating divisions' percentage of such students in the previous school year and (ii) at least five students but no more than 15 students from each middle school in each school division eligible to matriculate students to such Governor's school who have completed at least two full years at such middle school."

The school divisions currently participating in TJHSST are: Arlington County, Fairfax

County (includes City of Fairfax), Falls Church City, Loudoun County, Prince William County.

We've said this before, because these demographics have been trending in this direction for more than a decade.

Fairfax County Public Schools has a single elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson, and TJ is frequently referred to as the top high school in the country. Dramatic disparity in the makeup of admissions at TJ is an indicator of disparity in early identification of students as gifted and talented, of access to advanced classes and enrichment, and in the basic education that the Fairfax County Public school system offers to all of its students.

School leadership can't continue to act like there are things they can't do anything about. Surovell deserves credit for giving an incentive to get started.

Learn about the referral and screening and selection process for full-time (Level IV) and school-based (Levels II-III) Advanced Academic Programs at [www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/advanced-academics-identification-and-placement).

— MARY KIMM

[KIMM.MARY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KIMM.MARY@GMAIL.COM)

### LETTERS

## Our American Story

To the Editor:

One hundred years ago, my grandparents left eastern Europe to take a chance in making it in America. They were poor, spoke no English, had little formal education and were probably not seen as particularly desirable immigrants.

They worked hard and started small businesses, a laundry and a candy store. Their sons fought in WWII and then they, our parents, got mostly blue-collar jobs. They, in turn worked hard, made sure we studied hard and we all got college educations.

Now, three and four (and beginning five!) generations into our American Story, we are teachers, social workers, engineers, counselors, and business people, working to improve our country and our communities.

Our family story has been repeated millions of times over. It may be your story, too.

All because America saw the value of allowing a large, diverse influx of people who were willing to work hard for the American Dream. The value of continuing that diversity is as true today as it was 100 years ago.

**Mark Menzer**

Reston

## A Matter of Style

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

The experiences of the Virginia colonists with King George III taught them a lesson not forgotten even until today. Executive authorities are not to be trusted. Monarchies are likely to try to take away the people's rights and property.

The assertions of the Declaration of Independence were to make it clear that the people of America had sworn off monarchical government. They were not about to replace a king with a president or a government who might try to exert the kind of absolute executive power they had under the king.

Instead, controls were incorporated in the U.S. Constitution as well as state constitutions to keep the executive authority in check. Virginia's limitations on the governor were especially limiting. For example, the governor's term was one year. He could run for re-election more than once, but likewise he could be turned out after just one year.

We have loosened up somewhat in modern times by extending the term to four years, but there is a limitation of one consecutive term. The governor can run for an additional term, but it cannot be consecutive with the first. I think the one-term limitation is unnecessarily restrictive and have voted on more than one time to allow the governor to run for a second consecutive term. One term may keep a governor under control, but it can also limit his or her effectiveness.

Governor Terry McAuliffe was a high-energy, strongly motivated, hard-charging governor whose accomplishments exceeded those of his predecessors. He accepted the fact he had just one term, and he



worked energetically to get all he could done in the relatively short four-year term.

He pushed the legislature to get things done, and he did not hesitate to use executive authority when necessary. He was taken to court by the Republicans for restoring citizenship rights to those who had been incarcerated, but he won and restored citizenship rights to 172,000 ex-felons. He brought about a New Virginia Economy of high employment, job growth, and attractiveness to those seeking to locate a company here.

Governor Ralph Northam who served under the shadow of Governor McAuliffe as lieutenant governor was always recognized as being extremely able but without the show of high-energy and flair of the Governor. No one questioned his ability, but it was widely concluded that he would bring a different style to the governorship. Most expected a mild-mannered, cordial leader who would govern more by consensus.

Clearly the styles are different, but there may have been a bit of selling short Governor Northam because of his easy Eastern Shore manner. His inauguration speech as well his first speech to the General Assembly was anything but mild or equivocal. It was as strong and as direct as any that Governor McAuliffe delivered.

Calling upon his background as a physician, he built a hard case for the expansion of health services to the people in need in the Commonwealth. He is as direct as anyone I have heard speak about the need for common-sense gun control measures. He is emphatic in his defense of women's reproductive rights.

We may not have a second term for the governor in Virginia, but we have a governor taking over who is going to continue the policies of the first. The difference in the two will simply be a matter of style.

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# GMU Professor on Cutting Edge of Lyme Disease

**Lyme Innovation Team with goal to make disease easy to diagnose wins \$5,000 in Hackathon.**

By STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**B**urke resident and associate professor at GMU Alessandra Luchini, Ph.D., is one of the winners in the second annual Lyme Innovation Hackathon held at the Spalding Rehabilitation Center at Harvard Medical School last October. Her team, which won \$5,000, competed against 11 groups of about 50 top physicians, scientists, and business people from across the U.S. The Hackathon's goal was to make Lyme Disease easy to diagnose and simple to cure.

"I was very proud and excited, and it increased my confidence in the project and the idea behind the group project," she said of the award. "I loved the experience. It allowed me to interact with colleagues on site. I saw a lot of enthusiasm in young scientists and I



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Dr. Alessandra Luchini, Ph.D., a resident of Burke and associate professor at GMU.**

think it works well for the democratization of science."

Lyme Disease is a tick-borne illness that is caused by bacteria transmitted via tick bites. In the U.S. alone, some 329,000 people are infected each year with the disease. In Northern Virginia, she said a lot of the ticks carry the disease that usually stay on the skin



PHOTO COURTESY OF BAY AREA LYME FOUNDATION

**Dr. Alessandra Luchini and her Lyme Innovation Team were awarded \$5,000 to help kickstart their winning concept for a Lyme diagnostic. The team includes (front row, from left): Luchini and Deborah Hoadley; (back row, from left): Charles Ma, Tej Ganti, Ather Adnan, David Donna, and Adil Akif.**

for 36 hours in order to transmit the disease.

She said the disease is thought to have multiple stages. It takes a few days or weeks for the body to recognize the bacteria and have the first symptoms, which is a skin rash with a circle, a white area and another circle – similar to the Target sign. If the disease is not treated, over the course of months it can give acute pain in the joints, and also neurological involvement, state of confusion in the brain, and

a sense of weakness. For the long term, it can go in the heart. "It can be a serious condition if we don't treat it early," she said.

**LUCHINI'S WINNING PROPOSAL** was to develop mass spectrometry and nanoparticle technology so that it can evaluate tick-borne infections through urine samples, achieving a sensitivity that is greater than current methods.

She said diagnosing Lyme Disease is very challenging because

the current tests have low sensitivity, so a lot of people go undiagnosed and they don't realize they have the disease; it can progress and cause serious health issues.

She said we currently have a diagnostic problem for Lyme Disease that is inconclusive and indirect. "What we are trying to do is have a better test that will tell people if they're sick right now," she said.

"The current test looks for the immune reaction that cannot tell you if you are currently sick or if you have been sick in the past...The current test is only 50 percent sensitive; you have the same chances of flipping a coin to see if you're positive or not," she said.

She continued, "We are looking for components of the bacteria in the urine. It's very hard because they're very rare. It's low quantities of the marker in the urine. So, at Mason we developed this technology that can concentrate markers. It's nanotechnology and it works like a lobster trap, so we are actually trapping markers inside these cages. They have a molecular bait that captures the markers. Now

SEE LYME DISEASE, PAGE 6

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## NEWS

# Detecting and Treating Lyme Disease

FROM PAGE 5

they are concentrated, and we can see them... What is cool about this project is we have a tool that can allow us to discover new markers and understand better how the bacteria behaves in the human body."

She said what was novel about this project is they can see any kind of marker that comes from this bacteria. "We use mass spectrometry, so the cool thing is up to this point, we know how the bacteria behaves in the lab, but we think when it's in the human body it behaves very differently."

"Having a direct test that measures components of the bacteria can help us identify the disease early and monitor if the therapy is successful," she said.

She said there were a number of IT experts and medical students present at the Hackathon who helped with the development of the project. "What we did was figure out how to validate this technology. Thanks to this event, we were able to put together a team

with a larger number of patients to validate this technology."

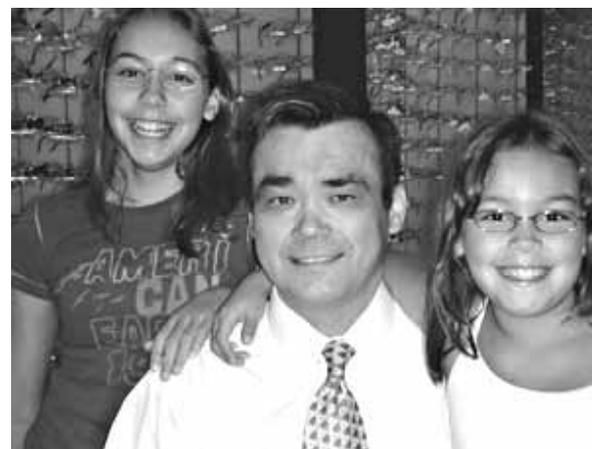
While she was at the Hackathon, she said, "I was fortunate to meet Deborah Hoadley, a medical doctor and expert in Lyme Disease. She's been treating patients for ages. I met industry expert Charles Ma, so he gave insights from business on how to make the project more attractive."

An associate professor at GMU for 11 years, Luchini teaches an undergrad class on Infectious Disease and Society as well as a graduate class on Creativity and Innovation. She is originally from Udine, Italy, near Venice, and has a background in bioengineering. She originally worked with cancer diagnostics and infectious diseases.

**THE LYME INNOVATION HACKATHON** was sponsored by the Bay Area Lyme Foundation, in collaboration with Spaulding Rehabilitation Network's Dean Center for Tick-Borne Illness, Harvard Medical School Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, MIT Hacking Medicine, and the Veterans Affairs Center for Innovation.

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### 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/kinder-garten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration)

open-2017-virginia-outstanding-crossing-guard for more.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 1

**Award Nomination Deadline.** 5 p.m. Nominate a volunteer or volunteer group that has made a positive impact on the Fairfax County community at [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org). The Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards is a community-wide celebration of volunteerism. See [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org) or call Kristen Moore at Volunteer Fairfax at 703-246-3531.

**Comment Period Closes.** The public is invited to share their perspectives on the proposals with the Park Authority Board either at the meeting, via correspondence or by email. Information outlining all proposed fee changes is now available for review online, and at staffed park facilities, including RECenters, golf courses, nature centers and historic sites. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting) for more.

**Registration Opens: Two-way and Immersion Programs.** Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) online registration for the county-wide lottery. Current prekindergarten students and current kindergarten students may apply for the 2018-19 school year. Applications must be submitted by 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 1, for the first grade immersion program and by 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 5, for the kindergarten immersion program. Visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/world-language-immersion-programs-registration).

### FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand presented 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 held a budget work session on Jan. 22, and will hold 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)

### FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**Nomination Deadline.** Nominations are being accepted by the Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia's 2017 Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year. Parents, students, and teachers are welcome to submit a nomination and photo online. Visit [www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-](http://www.fcps.edu/news/nominations-)

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## WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTOS BY LINDA BILOTTI

Joseph's brothers rehearse in Church of the Good Shepherd's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."



Actors rehearse a scene from "Pharaoh, what do my dreams mean?" in Church of the Good Shepherd's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

# Good Shepherd Players Stages 'Joseph'

Church of the Good Shepherd presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

In business since 1982, the Good Shepherd Players is presenting its 36<sup>th</sup> show, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," at Church of the Good Shepherd on Braddock Road in Burke.

"It's a musical interpretation of the story of Joseph and his Coat of his Many Colors from the book of Genesis. It's written by Andrew Lloyd Weber and Tim Rice who wrote 'Evita' and 'Jesus Christ Superstar,'" said Director Nancy Lavallee.

In rehearsals for four months, Lavallee said they're doing a modern take on the show, with no spoken dialogue, which is all sung through music and has modern-day rockers, preppies and hippies in costumes. "It's a collection of 20<sup>th</sup>-century dance styles; we have calypso, tango and a '60s-style twist," she said. "It's very high energy. It keeps moving. It's all music and high-energy dance."

She said the cast of 30 people ages 8-80 are from Good Shepherd and other local Episcopal and Catholic churches and synagogues "that come together in fellowship to use our gifts to put on a show for the Fairfax County community."

**THE CHALLENGE** is that for some people it's their first show, and for others, they're at a professional level, she said. "To knit people together into an ensemble is always a director's challenge. We have people of varying levels of experience but they all came together very well," she said.

Charlotte Vincent, who is the treasurer of the Production Board and costume man-



Joseph's brothers and wives rehearse a scene from Church of the Good Shepherd's production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

ager, said the shows, which are a vital ministry of the parish, are about creativity in the community. "It gives us a chance to build community in the parish. There's a community of people who come to the show every year; it's great, inexpensive family theater."

Howard Lincoln, the Technical Director of the Board who did his first show with "Oklahoma" in 1997, said it's a family-friendly show. "It's a Broadway show at discount prices because we have the lights, the orchestra, the sound. It's always impressive."

He added, "Within the last 10 years, we have blossomed out to the community. We've opened up the productions to anyone in the community and we have people from other churches, other faiths. So, it's become the community theater we've envisioned it to be."

Music Director Mitch Bassman, who is also the music director of the choir at Adat Reyim in Springfield and the principal clari-

netist in the Annandale Symphony Orchestra, said they are using a 15-piece orchestra. "The music is fascinating in this show because there's so many different styles. We have a French ballad, '50s rock and roll, a Western song, and Elvis Presley makes an appearance. There's even jazz. The orchestra has to be very flexible to play all of these styles of music," he said. His wife Margie plays the viola in the pit.

Phil Selz, who is also a member of Adat Reyim, plays the role of Naphtali and the baker. "As Naphtali, I'm one of the brothers who plot against Joseph and then try to make up with him at the end. As the baker, I'm one of the prisoners in jail with Joseph and he interprets my dream to let me know that I'm going to get killed. In fact, I'm the only character in the entire play that dies," he said.

He added, "I love this show because it's driven by the ensemble. Really, it's the ensemble that drives the whole thing. That's a challenge because you have to have so many people."

**GOOD SHEPHERD** was open to having people who are not part of the community here as a way of reaching out in an ecumenical sense, LaNave said, "They have a clear spiritual component to the experience as well, always sharing prayer concerns and praying together before rehearsals."

Lisa Anne Bailey of Manassas, who plays the role of the narrator, said she sings throughout the entire show. "The challenge for me personally is it's a very rangy score, with alto soprano all over the map. And remembering all of the words - It's probably the most wordy role in the show," she said.

She's directed, choreographed, produced, and performed with the Reston Community Players and the Arlington Players, and will be directing "Jesus Christ Superstar" at the Little Theatre of Alexandria in the summer. "I go wherever the show is right for me," she said.

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," at Church of the Good Shepherd runs Jan. 26, and Feb. 1, 2, and 3 at 7:30 p.m.; and Jan. 27 and Feb. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15/adults; \$10/students. Tickets available online at [www.goodshepherdplayers.com/](http://www.goodshepherdplayers.com/). The venue is the Grand Hall of Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke.

# WINTER FUN & ENTERTAINMENT

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

## ONGOING

**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.

**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).

**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? 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)

## JAN. 24-FEB. 25

**"Uncommon Visions."** Various times at 2905 District Ave., Suite 115 (in the Mosaic District), Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) presents "Uncommon Visions," the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Each of the artists, through use of form, color, technique, or materials, aim to guide the audience into unexpected avenues and share their own personal perceptions. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/)

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 24

**Music Showcase.** 7:15 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway (at route 29), Fairfax. An evening of mini-concerts. \$10 suggested donation goes to the featured act. Visit [EpicureCafe.org](http://EpicureCafe.org) for more.

## 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)

## JAN. 25-28

**"Honk!"** At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The Fairfax Academy's Musical Theatre Actors' Studio presents "Honk!" a children's show with a timely message. Show times are Thursday-Friday, Jan. 25-26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at



PHOTO COURTESY OF SAMANTHA PRICE

**Grace, Ugly, Ida and the Cat look toward bright futures once they're reunited and home at last. (From left) are Tatiana Jones (Grace/Bullfrog), Craig Goeringer, Samantha Price and Eila Nash.**

## Honk!

The Fairfax Academy's Musical Theatre Actors' Studio presents "Honk!" a children's show with a timely message. At Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Show times are Thursday-Friday, Jan. 25-26, at 7 p.m.; Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Tickets are available via [fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk](http://fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk). Tickets for the 11 a.m. Young Artists Series shows are \$5 online ([fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk-yas](http://fxdance.ticketleap.com/honk-yas)) or at the door.

11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 28, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. See above.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**Artist Reception.** 6-9 p.m. at 2905 District Ave Suite 115 (in the Mosaic District), Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists' Association (TFAA) presents "Uncommon Visions," the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Visit [www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/](http://www.torpedofactoryartists.com/event/uncommon-visions/).

**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) for more.

**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).

## JAN. 26-FEB. 4

**"Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat."** At Church of the Good Shepherd, 9350 Braddock Road, Burke. Good Shepherd presents the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," a fun family show, with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Sensory-friendly performance on Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. \$15 adult; \$10 students. Visit [goodshepherdplayers.com](http://goodshepherdplayers.com).

## 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. Music, refreshments, crafts, a balloon artist, and much more fun. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

**Irish Dancing Show.** 7 p.m. the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 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. Call 888-945-2468, or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu).

## SUNDAY/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. 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)

## 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. \$60. [www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html](http://www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org/one-day-camps-spring-break.html).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 31

**Music Showcase.** 7:30 p.m. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway (at route 29), Fairfax. An evening of mini-concerts. \$10 suggested donation goes to the featured act. Visit [EpicureCafe.org](http://EpicureCafe.org)

## FEB. 2-4

**Chocolate Lovers Festival.** Various times Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Historic Downtown Fairfax. Chocolate-oriented activities all weekend, including a Kiwanis Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. The "love of chocolate" is the unifying theme. Visit [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) or call 703-385-7858.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 3

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Special performance by 22-year-old Korean string virtuoso, In Mo Yang and the premiere of the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra. Tickets are \$39, \$53 and \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu).



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

**Fairfax County All Stars (2017) performing with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.**

## Inspiring Performance

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra inspiring next generation of music makers and music lovers.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where & When

The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra (FSO) will be saluting the next generation of classical musicians with a special performance by the 22-year-old Korean string virtuoso, In Mo Yang and the premiere of the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra. The Youth Orchestra features outstanding high school student musicians from across Fairfax County selected through a competitive audition process.

"We are thrilled to build on the success of last year's pilot program and showcase the 2018 All-Stars," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director, Fairfax Symphony. "The FSO is unique in the orchestra field by programming such a significant education initiative on our main series. Inspiring the next generation of classical musicians is vital to the FSO's mission, and this program is invaluable to maintain the artistic excellence of the next generation of orchestral musicians."

The Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra is composed of nearly 20 musicians. Under the musical direction of FSO's Christopher Zimmerman, the young musicians will perform excerpts from Prokofiev's "Romeo and Juliet" side-by-side with the professional musicians of the FSO. "The All Stars reflect Fairfax County's diverse, artistic achievements and cultural leadership and is an indication of its vibrant future," said Zimmerman.

FSO mentor Patti Reid said, "I love the idea of sharing with the young musicians so that they can experience what it's like to be in the symphony. Knowing

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra in performance with special guest In Mo Yang and the Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra at George Mason University, Center for Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Feb. 3, 2018 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$39, \$53 and \$65. Call 703-993-8888 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu)

that the students are being affected by this is fabulous."

For Dean Woods, another FSO mentor, "Working with the students is such an important part of development as a musician and as a person."

In Mo Yang will perform Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, playing the unique "Joachim-Ma" Stradivari of 1714, the violin used by Joseph Joachim for the premiere performance of the Brahms Concerto through the generosity of the New England Conservatory.

Students in the 2018 Fairfax County All-Stars Youth Orchestra include: Benjamin Ascoli, Soni Bae, Huay Din Angel Estrada, Andrew Gantzer, Colin Hill, Liam Johansson, Michael Lee, Stephanie Manning, Anna Paek, Irene Paek, George Pekarsky, Daniel Shen, Katherine Yang, Alan Zhen and Yilun Zhou.

Impacts of the musical mentoring program can be found in this comment from 2017 All Star, Courtney Tern, "playing music with so many accomplished adults...I want to play as well as they do."

"I can't wait to hear these talented, student musicians from across Fairfax County in this rare opportunity to perform with the Fairfax Symphony," said Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

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**NEWS**

**Artists Bring Art into Schools**

The Arts Council of Fairfax County has placed three Fairfax artists at middle schools in Fairfax County as a part of the Artist Residency Program. The artists are connecting visual art and theatre with language arts, social studies, technology, music and physical education study areas to offer students engaging, unique and innovative learning experiences.

❖ Photographer, writer and editor Glenn Cook will engage Holmes Middle School art students in "The Resilience Project." His residency will connect visual and digital art with language arts, social studies and technology.

❖ 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Artistic Director Alex Levy will involve Lake Braddock Secondary School speech and drama students in a residency titled "Discovering your story: Solo-Performance Workshop." His residency will connect theatre with language arts.

❖ Stage combat teacher and actor Brad Waller will work with Glasgow Middle School English students for his residency, "The Art of the Sword." His residency will connect theatre with movement and physical education, visual art and music.

Levy's residency program will challenge students to discover the power of their individual voice and lives by discovering and telling their story. Using a series of active exercises and a variety of theatrical styles, students will identify, create and perform a solo performance based on their personal stories. Participation in this workshop will enable students to recognize the power of their own voices, gain empathy through active listening and collaboration, and develop their dramatic performance skills

"Solo performance requires artistic creativity but also helps a young person recognize the value of their place in the world and the power of their own voice," said Alex Levy about the importance of his residency program.

The Arts Council, in collaboration with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), launched the Artist



**Alex Levy**

Residency Program in 2014. The program is designed to create opportunities for professional artists to share their expertise through arts education programming that supplements the FCPS curriculum. Students are engaged in cross-curricular learning through the arts, enhancing their skills in creativity, critical thinking, communication, and collaboration. To date, 12 Fairfax County artists have been trained and placed in FCPS middle schools through the Artist Residency Program.

"We are excited to bring the professional talents of Glenn Cook, Alex Levy and Brad Waller to Fairfax County middle schools," said Linda S. Sullivan, President & CEO of the Arts Council of Fairfax County. "The artists, with guidance from our FCPS arts educator and curriculum specialist, have designed highly engaging workshops that provide new opportunities for students to express themselves artistically while utilizing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking."

To learn more about the program or to host a teaching artist for your middle school, visit [artsfairfax.org/resources/opportunities/artist-residency-program](http://artsfairfax.org/resources/opportunities/artist-residency-program).

**Burke Songwriter Named Finalist in Bethesda Contest**

Skylar Foley of Burke (folk/acoustic) has been selected as a finalist for the fourth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. The event will feature a live concert performed by the competition's finalists on Friday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., in downtown Bethesda. Tickets will be \$15 and \$20 and available at [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists and one will win the \$10,000 grand prize and 25 hours of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music.

Foley has been named a finalist in a Young Songwriter category (applicants who are under 18 years of age) who will also perform live and compete for \$2,500.

The winners will be announced at the close of the show.

"We are thrilled to celebrate the fourth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards with a concert that will once again showcase phenomenal re-



**Skylar Foley**

gional songwriters," said Bethesda resident and Awards' founder, Cathy Bernard. "The Greater Washington, D.C. area is a vibrant and culturally diverse community to which music and art are essential. I am proud to produce this competition that highlights inspiring artists and that culminates with a fun night of live music in Bethesda for all to enjoy."

To honor her late uncle, Fred Ebb, who was a renowned American songwriter, Cathy Bernard founded the competition in 2015. Ebb is known for Broad-

way hits such as "Cabaret" and "Chicago" and for iconic songs, including "New York, New York."

Remaining tickets will be sold at the door. Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club will feature a dinner menu. Audience members can arrive beginning at 5:30 p.m. to enjoy dinner and drinks at the theater before the 7:30 p.m. concert. Food and drink is not included in the ticket price.

The finalists were selected from a competitive pool of more than 200 entries from songwriters across Maryland, D.C. and Virginia. The Grand Prize Jury will attend the concert on Friday, March 2 to select the award winners.

Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org) or call 301-215-6660 for more information.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**Bitter temperatures and slick roads did not keep Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling member Ken Lutz of Vienna from riding his bike to the January meeting from work in Falls Church and then home.**

# Bicycling

FROM PAGE 3  
Interaction with aggressive drivers.

Although the answers did not provide the cyclists with many solutions, Ayers and Gaizick both stressed that the first thing to do was “get out of the way and be safe.” Even when the incident is not deemed “reportable,” the officers still encouraged the riders to “be the best witness you can be and call it in.” Calling in and providing as much detail about the alleged offender is still helpful, and could cause the police to issue a “look out” for the vehicle.

In addition to the presentation and conversation with Ayers and Gaizick, a report by Sally Smallwood, Safe Routes to School coordinator for Fairfax County Public Schools was on the agenda. Smallwood brought the members up to speed on educational events scheduled for Fairfax County schools, a significant donation that would allow for a number of shareable bicycles to be purchased for several elementary and middle schools, and preparation for this year’s “Bike to School Day” scheduled for May 18.

Smallwood also wanted to spread the word that nominations for Outstanding Crossing Guard of the Year for 2017 were still wanted, with the deadline being Jan. 26 for the Feb. 14 announcement of the honorees on Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Anyone can nominate a crossing guard by going to the Virginia Department of Transportation website at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org) and searching Safe Routes to School.

**FAAB** encourages all cycling enthusiasts of all levels of ability and cycling usage to join their organization to stay informed, to be better educated on cycling safety, and to participate in social rides and other FAAB activities. FAAB is on the web at [www.fabbikes.org](http://www.fabbikes.org) and has a Facebook page, as well. Its next meeting is Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. at the Patrick Henry Public Library in Vienna.

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# Lost in Space



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not a reference to the iconic television series of my youth, but there was “danger,” Ken Lourie, and it wasn’t caused by Dr. Zachary Smith nor by “robot,” (Robbie) either. And it wasn’t a conspiracy. It was simply a confluence of absenteeism by my health care providers. Both my oncologist and internal medicine doctor were absent with leave and yours truly was caught in the crossfire, so to speak. Let me provide some context to help you appreciate my dilemma.

I have chemotherapy every six weeks. Accordingly, I have lab work the Wednesday before the Friday to check for anomalies – anomalies which over the years have occasionally delayed my infusion by up to two weeks waiting for my body to settle. In the early days of treatment, my white blood cell count was crucial; too low and no treatment; too high, it was never too high. No treatment and the cancer was left unchecked. An incredibly stressful occurrence when your treatment is stopped. Whether or not a week or two delay ultimately mattered in checking the cancer, it certainly mattered – emotionally, to the patient. You feel adrift, sort of, which is exactly how I felt during the first two weeks of January.

Typically, what my current lab work presents is my creatinine level and the associated glomerular filtration rate, measuring kidney function/efficiency. After nearly nine years of infused toxicity, I have suffered some collateral damage to a major organ. My oncologist and internal medicine doctor are incredibly sensitive and concerned about this damage. Per these results, every medical decision made concerning me; from prescriptions approved to “normal” internal medicine stuff to whether I get “contrast” when I have my scans and MRIs to what chemotherapy drug I infuse and how frequently its infused, is decided with my kidneys in mind. Nothing happens medically until my kidneys sign off on it, if you know what I mean?

As it happened, my creatinine level for my Jan. 12 infusion was higher than usual. When this measure occurs, I know to call the Infusion Center and ask the head nurse if I should come in for treatment. She will contact my oncologist and with his direction, will advise me what to do, except for this week. My oncologist was away and though another oncologist – whom I’ve never met – was covering, I’m not really sure she knows enough about my situation. Specifically that I’m a bit of a special case, per my oncologist’s own characterization of me, and I’ve never gone seven weeks, let alone eight weeks without treatment. Delaying my infusion would break a multi-year precedent. In fact, around the holidays when I asked my oncologist if I could extend my infusion interval from six to seven weeks (to accommodate life), he emphatically said “No.” Moreover (to complicate a covering physician’s decision), my oncologist has also told me that if I were a new patient with creatinine levels as chronically high as mine, he wouldn’t/couldn’t treat me until those levels reduced.

So not only was I in the middle of an unprecedented one to possibly two-week delay in my infusion, but I also needed an oncologist – who I don’t know and who doesn’t know me – to decide/make an exception/maybe risk her medical license (if something were to happen to me), to authorize treatment for a patient whose creatinine levels fall outside of protocol, and me not having either of my two primary-care physicians available for consultation. And other than the default emails advising that both were out of town, I had nowhere to go and no one to turn to.

Heck, I might as well have been on another planet, given the limited choices I had.

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

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