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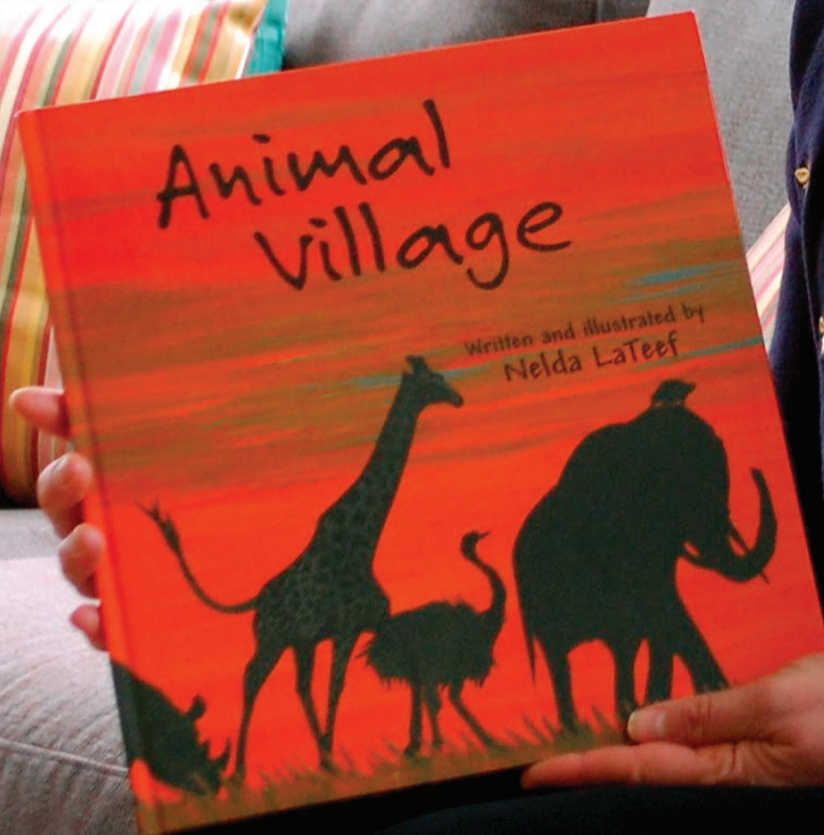
# Great Falls CONNECTION

Home Life Style  
PAGE 7

## ‘Animal Village’ Comes Alive in A New Book

NEWS, PAGE 9

Nelda LaTeef  
presents her first  
piece of artwork  
which happens  
to be the cover  
of her newest  
children’s book,  
“Animal Village.”



## Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Cooperation, Questions and Concerns

NEWS, PAGE 4

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY SHANZEH UMERANI/THE CONNECTION

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# Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

**Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU.**

BY JENNIFER KAYE  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than 1,100 people gathered in The George Mason University Center For The Arts in Fairfax on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, for “A Historic Evening With Eva Schloss.” Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, discussed her wartime experiences, stories of loss, and her hope for future generations and the World. The presentation, put on by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Northern Virginia, also included a video presentation and a musical tribute of Ani Maamin by oboist and conductor Eugene Sidorov.

Before the presentation, VIP guests gathered for a reception with guitar music played by Stanley Albert, and also were able to sit down and speak with Schloss one-on-one while getting her book, “Eva’s Story,” signed. There was a steady flow of people gathering around her the entire time, telling their childhood stories, discussing relatives they lost in the Holocaust, and asking her many questions about her experiences.

Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Special Investigations, led the talk and Schloss started off with a story about her first encounter with anti-Semitism.

She was 9 years old and went to play with her Catholic friend after school. When she arrived at her friend’s house, the mother slammed the door in her face and told her that she never wanted to see her there again.

A confused Schloss ran home to her mother hoping she could shed some light on the situation, and her mother replied with “This is how life is going to be now.”

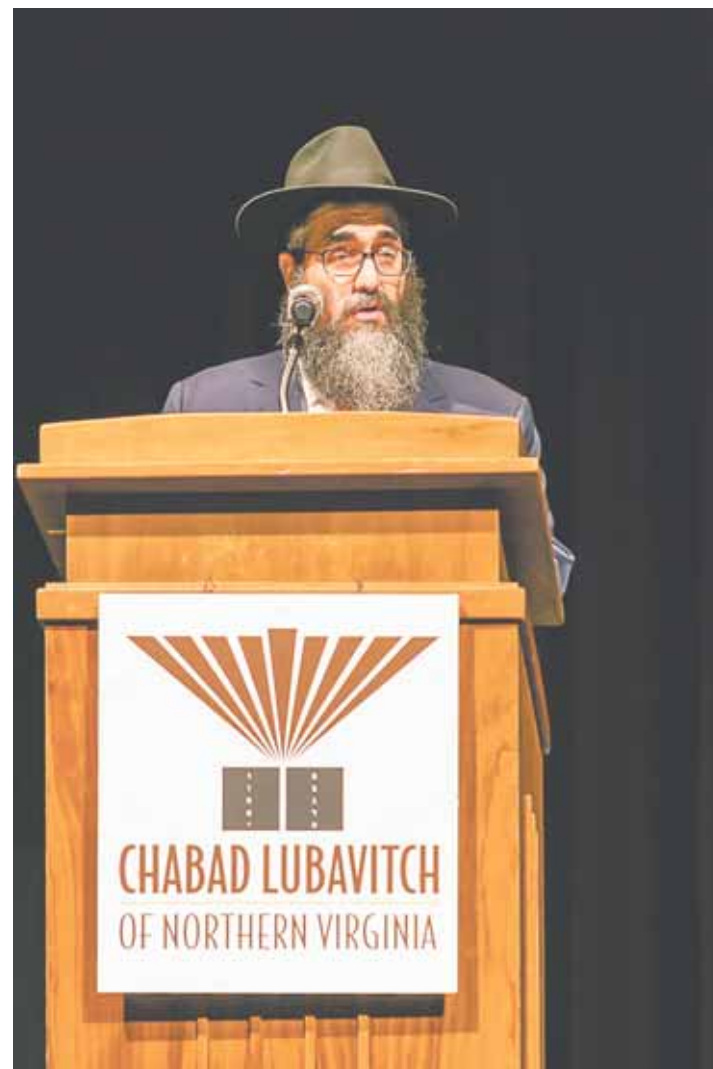
She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

With the audience silent and enthralled throughout the presentation, Schloss detailed her nine months spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the last moments she saw her father and brother. She ended her talk discussing the importance of education for everyone, and by telling the audience that all need to look after the planet. Schloss said, “It’s a wonderful gift from God for us to enjoy.”

The closing remarks by Rabbi Leibel



**Eva Schloss, step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, speaks to the crowd at George Mason’s Center for the Arts on Wednesday, Feb. 7.**



**Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, delivers the opening remarks to the audience.**

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KAYE/THE CONNECTION



**Co-director of Chabad Lubavitch of Northern Virginia, Raizel Deitsch, gives an introduction and talks about her family’s experiences.**

Fajnland, director Chabad of Reston-Herndon, echoed these thoughts by saying, “We must become better not bitter.”



**Eva Schloss answers one of Eli Rosenbaum’s questions about her life and experiences during the Holocaust.**

Schloss stayed quiet about her Holocaust experiences for 40 years, and it was not until 1985 that she decided to devote herself to Holocaust education and world peace. Since then, she has written three books, delivered more than 1,000 speeches

and had a play written about her life.

Schloss is currently on a speaking tour around the United States sharing her and her step-sisters stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.

# Cooperation, Questions and Concerns

Environment and Parks Committee reacts to County's plans for local watershed improvements.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**“D**on’t get me wrong,” cautioned William Denk, co-chair of the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment and Parks Committee. “I appreciate the partnership we have with the county, they have demonstrated a lot of cooperation with our citizens, but we still have questions and concerns.”

Denk was describing his “take-aways” from the group’s February meeting. Matthew Meyers, Chief, Watershed Project Implementation Branch/Storm Water Planning Division for Fairfax County’s Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and Jonathan Witt, an ecologist with the Watershed Assessment Branch accepted an invitation to speak at the meeting and bring the committee up to speed on watershed projects throughout the county. Denk noted that Meyers, and other county staff have met with the group on several occasions and have been accessible for questions and comments.

Despite the kudos for county personnel, however, Denk, and other members of the committee are not satisfied with the current state of affairs. “it seems like they are saying that we are just not losing ground as fast as we used to,” remarked Denk when considering the presentation made by Meyers.

Meyers provided an update on storm water management and watershed improvement activity throughout the region, but the two projects that raised the most concern among the attendees were the plans for Lake Werowance and for stream management along the Route 7 widening undertaking – plans that directly affect the residents of Great Falls.

**“WHERE THE LAKE ONCE WAS”** is how Meyers says many locals now refer to Lake Werowance. Major storms some five years ago effectively destroyed the dam that had turned the private lake into a Watershed Improvement reservoir to address flooding to roads like Walker Road, Murphy Drive and Manning Street that border it and to improve water quality as it flows toward the Potomac. Already affected by years of sediment build-up, once the dam went, so did Lake Werowance, spilling away from its enclosure, and leaving the area mostly dry.

There’s little disagreement between county personnel and Great Falls residents that the “Once Was” lake needs attention. “It’s good to hear that there is a planning process underway,” said committee member Eric Knudsen, as Meyers discussed the awarding of a study contract for the project, but there was plenty of opposition to the solution that Meyers and the county are



**From left: Great Falls residents Robert Vickers, Jerry Peters and Glen Sjoblom all had concerns about the proposed plan for Lake Werowance and questions about how the county identifies and prioritizes stormwater and watershed management projects. If the process is not done thoroughly and with transparency “you lose credibility and then you lose the environmental argument,” said Peters.**



**Before and after photos of Lake Werowance in Great Falls. When the dam failed during major storms about five years earlier, the lake disappeared. The county’s plan to improve the Piney Run stream rather than rebuild the lake drew opposition from committee members.**

proposing.

“They don’t seem to be exploring the options,” said Knudsen.

Jerry Peters is also a member of the Environment and Parks Committee. Peters has a Masters Degree in Environmental Science and Engineering and a background that includes environmental consulting. He commented that “it seems they [the county] came to a conclusion on how to proceed with this significant project without much public involvement and without doing any comparisons between the stream project

they are suggesting, versus rebuilding the dam and restoring the lake, which is what many of us in Great Falls would like to see happen.” Peters believes that the more cost-effective option in the long run would be to revive the lake.

“I don’t have the answers,” said Denk, who knows people who once swam in the lake in years gone by, but he does think that a solid cost estimate for both, and perhaps other, options, should be developed and made known before more public funds are spent. “They are talking \$500k just for the



**Matthew Meyers, Chief, Watershed Project Implementation Branch/Storm Water Planning Division for Fairfax County’s Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, offers a presentation about watershed improvement projects at the February meeting of the Great Falls Citizens Association Environment and Parks committee.**

first study. Let’s make sure we are using the money wisely, now and going forward.”

**DURING THE MEETING**, Meyers and Witt both presented reasons why rebuilding the lake might not be the answer, including costs associated with maintaining it after restoration. The expense of periodic dredging and other maintenance needs were a few of the considerations that have the county looking at the stream restoration alternative, but Great Falls resident Glen Sjoblom responded, “You’re not answering our questions. You haven’t given us an estimate of rebuilding the dam or on the maintenance.” Sjoblom wonders why “so much dredging” is needed when the lake existed for years without such major interference. He also questioned the expense of supporting materials compared to the cost of the initial dredging and restoration of the lake to its original state.

More concerns were raised about the plan to have the stream modification along Route 7 be a “straight-shot channel” versus a more natural, meandering configuration, which the attendees noted that even Meyers said is the preferred outline to best control water flow.

Bill Canis pulled no punches in his comments. He acknowledged that the project is really under the control of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), and referenced another meeting during which he says VDOT employees expressed pleasure in being able to circumvent certain environmental regulations and recommendations because of having started the

SEE WATERSHED, PAGE 9



IMAGES FROM THE DEVELOPER'S APPLICATION TO FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

This rendering depicts the CVS pharmacy to be built at 1020 Seneca Road.

# Pharmacy Construction Means Headache for Some

Neighbors worry about the inevitable surge of traffic and noise to their corner of Great Falls.

BY ADRIENNE WEST  
THE CONNECTION

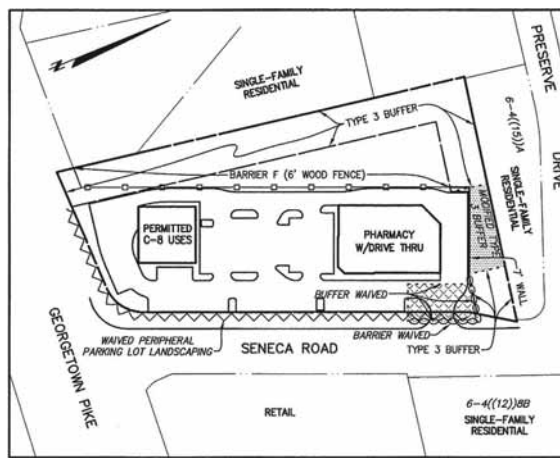
If you live near the intersection of Seneca Road and Georgetown Pike, your commute is about to get more hectic. A new CVS location was approved in November 2016 to be built in the heavily forested corner that separates the Seneca Square area from Route 7. The developer, Republic Land Development, has confirmed that construction should start on or about Feb. 24, with the grand opening about seven months later, barring any weather and construction delays.

Bill Canis, the president of the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA), shared that the developer was very cooperative during meetings and listened to the community's concerns. GFCA was actively involved in negotiating the original contract, hosting several town meetings between the residents, the developer, and county officials. Canis said, "We had many concerned residents at the meeting and the applicants did a good job trying to accommodate their concerns."

Walter Kim, a homeowner in the adjacent Great Falls Woods neighborhood, cites the current congestion in the intersection and the amount of cars driving quickly down Seneca Road as a huge problem already. "I wish the study had a more robust approach to figure out the estimated number of people that are going to be coming in and out, because I think there's going to be a lot more congestion than they're planning," Kim says, referencing the planning surveys done by Fairfax County early on.

John W. Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor, addressed questions about balancing the needs of the community against applications from retailers. "You look at the underlying zoning, what's being proposed, and you compare that to the by-right usage; then work with the residential community to mitigate the issues raised by them to the applicants."

Stacy Hornstein, Senior Vice President of Republic Land Development, feels they did as much as possible to appease the residents. "We met with the community 11 times. The property was commercially zoned for decades so we had the 'by right' to build, but the proposed drive-thru pharmacy required a special exemption from the county, which then opened it up to the public. Part of the process was



Aerial rendering of the site showing both buildings and parking lot.

describing to the residents how the drive-thru was to operate [for picking up prescriptions only, not do regular shopping]; once they understood, most were onboard."

**TO HELP** lessen the impact on the residents, Republic Land Development agreed to many concessions, including only developing two of the three acres and putting in a conservation easement that will act as an undisturbed buffer between CVS and residential lots. "We want to be a good citizen. These will be our neighbors for a long time and we want to make them happy," Hornstein added. They also worked with local architects to make the façade more closely match the aesthetic of existing Great Falls structures.

The CVS store isn't the only new addition, either. There will be a second building of retail spaces on the lot. Some residents are worried about what stores will be brought in and what that could do to the area. Hornstein clarified, "We've been marketing the space for neighborhood uses. We love the idea of getting a coffee shop in there, or a hair salon. We want stores that will provide the [most convenience] to the neighborhood. But we haven't made any decisions yet."

One last point of contention for some is the future of the CVS located at Georgetown Pike and Walker Road in the village. Hornstein admitted that he can't speak for them, but "the village location staying open is the way CVS has always publicly portrayed it. As far as I know, that is my understanding [that it will remain open]. But things can change."

**FOR MORE INFORMATION** on future land use matters that may affect you, visit the Great Falls Citizens Association at [gfca.org/](http://gfca.org/), or the Fairfax County website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/public-hearings-and-reports](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/public-hearings-and-reports).

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# OPINION

## Send in Pet Photos Now

**T**he Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assis-

tance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

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— MARY KIMM

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**Maddie, the treasured pet of Sharon Lewis, Vienna, celebrated her 11th birthday in great style on July, 2016.**

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Equity Is Impartial Justice

To the Editor:

The open letter by the TJ graduates ("An Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, February 7-8, 2018) was well-meaning but based on tragically false premises. They justify their call for racial quotas (by whatever euphemism) on grounds of being "more equitable." But equity is impartial justice, not artificial egalitarianism or racial favoritism. And what about simple honesty?

Pretending that all applicants are equally accomplished doesn't make it so. What could be more blatantly racist than lowering the bar for certain applicants because of their race? The only way to end racism is to stop classifying individuals on the basis of race and treating them differently according to such racial classification.

**Michael Crawford**  
Great Falls

responsibility of the student, the student's family and the applicable school system. All three are necessary to maximize the learning experience.

Black and Hispanic students have the same opportunities as Asian and White students to learn.

**David Elmore**  
Great Falls

## What Needs to Be Fixed?

To the Editor:

In your editorial ("What's Wrong with This Picture?" - Connection, Jan. 24-25, 2018) you wrote that the demographic disparity in enrollment this year at Thomas Jefferson High School (TJ) indicates something is wrong and needs to be fixed. To fix this wrong condition you noted that State Senator Surovell has proposed a bill that would consider economics and geography in the selection process.

Here is my concern: I thought that admission to TJ is open to any and all students and the administration strives to assist anyone interested in achieving admission to the school. Admission is based strictly on merit, academic ability and academic achievement.

Therefore, it begs the question, what is wrong and needs to be fixed?

If the demographics at TJ are wrong and the reason for this needs to be fixed, and the solution is to consider economics and geography in admissions, then the admissions standards will be compromised and no longer based on academic ability and academic

achievement.

As a final thought, if demographic percentages are so important and are the reason for the needed fix, why was the percentage of Asian students enrolled at TJ omitted?

**Dan McKim**  
Springfield

## Disappointing Letter

To the Editor:

The letter that 69 graduates of TJ sent to state Sen. Steve Newman was disappointing ("An Opportunity to Improve TJ," Connection, Feb. 7-8, 2018). All they did was repeat what has been said before. A person could expect that 69 who had gone through the system might have put their heads together and come up with valid suggestions.

**Betty Stacey**  
McLean

## Football Scholarships

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have

been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 6. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 22 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington.

The National Football Foundation was founded in 1947 to promote and develop amateur American football on all levels. The National Football Foundation has more than 115 chapters nationwide. The National Capital Region Chapter has awarded over 65 scholarships and honored over 230 deserving student-athletes in the past 10 years.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the National Capital Region.

For additional information, contact your head football coach.

**Bob Jarrell**  
Scholarship Selection  
Committee Chairman  
NCR Chapter, NFF

## Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

**Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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# Styling a Coffee Table

Using décor to make a table pop.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

There's an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she's helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

"It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop," she said. "I believe that there's a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it's not hard if you keep certain things in mind."

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. "If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed," said Tucker. "Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl."

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. "For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table," he said. "Along the same lines, too many large items on a coffee table can be overpowering. Instead select a few items and group them together by size."

Change items as the seasons or holidays



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE NEST EGG

**Books add visual interest and can provide topics of conversation when displayed on a coffee table.**

change. "As spring approaches, consider adding a small bouquet of fresh or silk spring flowers," said Tucker. "If you celebrate Easter, consider Easter décor, like a bunny or a basket with eggs. I picked up some elegant Easter items at a local home accessories store last spring. One or two simple items can breathe fresh life in a table design."

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room's design. "If you



**Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.**

have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, considering using one of those colors on your coffee table."

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. "It's a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot," said

Gambit. "Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don't feel compelled to fill every inch of space."

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. "An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it's holding smaller items," he said. "If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you're entertaining, a tray makes it easy."

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. "Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gazing down at it," she said. "Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can't see the main attraction — the photo — from behind."

Be practical and sentimental. "Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don't put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive piece on them," said Gambit. "Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby."

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16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)



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Communit  
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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### Presented by The Alden The Unruly Theatre Project



Thursday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.  
MPA@ChainBridge Gallery  
1446 Chain Bridge Rd.  
Free admission

Presented by The Alden

### BRIDESMAIDS Galentine's Day Quote-Along Movie

Friday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.  
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
Admission and popcorn are free.  
Prop bags are \$5 each.  
\* Must be 17 years old or older to attend.

### The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Washington Wizards vs Charlotte Hornets

Friday, Feb. 23, 4:30-11 p.m.  
The Old Firehouse  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents



### Presented by The Alden Intro to Djembe Drumming and Drum Circle (OFC)



Friday, March 2, 7-8:30 p.m.  
The Old Firehouse  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### Presented by The Alden Doktor Kaboom: "It's Just Rocket Science"

Sunday, March 4, 2 p.m.  
The Old Firehouse  
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



### McLean Traveler 2018 Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia, Pa.



Monday, March 5  
\$137 per person  
\$132 MCC district residents



The McLean Community Center  
www.mcleancenter.org  
Home of the Alden Theatre  
www.aldentheatre.org



Administrative Offices  
6631 Old Dominion Dr.  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**"Jazz It Up!"** Through March 3,  
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at  
Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St.,  
NW, Vienna. Art exhibit. Free and  
open to the public. Call 703-319-  
3971 or visit  
[www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

**The Unruly Theatre.** 7 p.m. at  
MPA@ChainBridge Gallery, 1446  
Chain Bridge Road, McLean.  
Sponsored by The Alden, the area's  
hottest professional teen improv  
troupe offers a night of comedy. Free  
admission. Call 571-296-8385 or visit  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Penny University.** 7-8 p.m. at Caffè  
Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna.  
A Penny University about  
international and adventure travel  
basics hosted by REI at Caffè Amouri.  
Free. Call 703-938-1623 or visit  
[www.caffeamouri.com](http://www.caffeamouri.com).

### FEB. 15-MARCH 11

**"The Farnsworth Invention."**  
Thursdays-Sundays, various times at  
1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill  
Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron  
Sorkin's signature style lends itself to  
the story of the invention that  
changed our lives. In 1929, two  
ambitious visionaries race against  
each other to invent a device called  
"television." Who will unlock the key  
to the greatest innovation of the 20th  
century: the ruthless media mogul, or  
the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33  
general admission, \$30 seniors  
(65+), \$15 students and military.  
Purchase at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or  
703-854-1856.

### FRIDAY/FEB. 16

**"Bridesmaids."** 8 p.m. at The Old  
Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road,  
McLean. Join The Alden staff as they  
quote along with the dialogue from  
"Bridesmaids" (R), recreating scenes  
with the help of props, onscreen  
subtitles and cues. There will be  
plenty of fun, including an ugly  
bridesmaid dress contest. Call 703-  
448-8336 or visit  
[www.mcleancenter.org/teens](http://www.mcleancenter.org/teens).

### SATURDAY/FEB. 17

**Model Railroaders Open House.** 1-  
5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231  
Dominion Road NE. Northern  
Virginia Model Railroaders hold an  
open house at the Vienna Depot each  
month and on Vienna celebration



From left:  
IONA –  
Chuck  
Lawhorn,  
Barbara  
Ryan,  
Bernard  
Argent,  
and Jim  
Queen.

PHOTO BY  
STAVE PARKE

## Winter Traditional Celtic Concert

The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 29th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. The March 4 concert will feature IONA. The band has just released their 30th anniversary CD, "Signature" featuring traditional music from across the Celtic diaspora. Concert seatings are at 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

days, including Viva! Vienna and the  
Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free  
admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit  
[www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

**Eya: Marian Meditation.** 7:30-8:30  
p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran  
Church, 3022 Woodlawn Ave., Falls  
Church. Award-winning early music  
vocal ensemble Eya will perform A  
Marian Meditation, a restorative,  
soul-filled musical program featuring  
a wide-range of medieval chant and  
polyphony from England, France,  
Italy and Spain. Free. Visit  
[www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/](http://www.holytrinityfallschurch.org/music/)  
[music/](http://music/).

must be purchased in advance  
through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com):  
\$18 general admission/\$12 children  
under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60  
children. Call 703-759-3309.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 20

**Sally Ride History Event.** 10 a.m. to  
1 p.m. at the St. Francis Episcopal  
Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike,  
Great Falls. Mary Ann Jung will  
recreate Sally Ride The event is  
hosted by the Great Falls Senior  
Center. Email Polly Fitzgerald at  
[pollyfitz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfitz1@verizon.net), call 703-759-  
4345, or visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

**Art Reception.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at  
Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown  
Pike. Featured artists include Linda  
Jones, exhibiting 40 watercolors,  
acrylics and mixed media paintings  
titled "Evolving Landscapes," and the  
pottery of Laura Nichols of Pig Pen  
Pottery, and her students.  
Refreshments included. There will be  
an artists' talk at 7:30 p.m. Contact  
Linda Jones at 703-442-9251.

**Film Screening: Just Eat It.** 7-9 p.m.  
at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven  
Place, Oakton. Filmmakers and food  
lovers Grant

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

## Next for Langley Drama: 'Evita'

The article on Langley High School "one-acts" (Connection, Jan. 24-30, 2018) omitted to mention that "The Insanity of Mary Girard," Langley High School's entry into the VHSL one-act festival, was directed by Langley senior Elenitsa Sgouros. Anneka Noe was the stage manager for that play.

All of the one-acts rehearsed primarily in class, until after school rehearsals were added as performance time approached. At each rehearsal, a teacher/director was available to help guide students in their efforts. Students were encouraged to make creative decisions and to guide their one-acts from first reading to full production, but always under the guidance of an adult.

The Langley High School main stage production scheduled for the spring is "Evita."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Langley High  
School senior  
Elenitsa  
Sgouros  
directed "The  
Insanity of  
Mary  
Girard,"  
Langley High  
School's  
entry into the  
VHSL one-act  
festival.

## NEWS

# 'Animal Village' Comes Alive in a New Book

Great Falls resident Nelda LaTeef writes and illustrates her children's books.

BY SHANZEH UMERANI  
THE CONNECTION

Swipes of a paintbrush and the clicking on a computer are the only sounds heard in Nelda LaTeef's house as she works. The Harvard alum, and resident of Great Falls, is an author of children's books, writing and illustrating all herself, providing colorful stories with equally vibrant pictures. "I love reading to children," LaTeef said. "It brings me joy, to see their eyes and have them ask such interesting questions that you wouldn't get from anyone else."

LaTeef created her books based on stories she heard from a griot (storyteller) during a trip to the Republic of Niger. "I used to love going into the bush part of Niger, you would see such amazing sites, and that's what helped in creating the illustrations so that children in sub-Saharan Africa and all over the world could hear the story of the Zarma culture."

Her friend acted as a translator so that LaTeef was able to write down the story in a notebook to recall later.

Her latest children's book, "Animal Village," is based on a story from the Zarma, told by the griot she met in the bush of Niger. The tale is about a turtle who was able to save her village of animals while they were in a drought.

LaTeef was able to convey the moral of the story and enjoys being able to draw in listeners from any age group. Her ability to not only spread the oral tradition of the Zarma, but also captivating people with illustrations she created with acrylic paints and collaging. The vibrancy and composition of the pictures creates a whole new element to the story and has readers as well as listeners craning their necks to see the works of art.

"Animal Village" tells a wonderful story that is sure to have its moral apply to those young and old, as well as exposing a culture otherwise unknown to most people. The book is translated into Gaelic, Korean and Italian as well to have children read the novel all over the world.

Director of the Smithsonian National Museum of



Nelda LaTeef presents her first piece of artwork which happens to be the cover of her newest children's book, "Animal Village."

PHOTOS BY SHANZEH UMERANI/THE CONNECTION



These two illustrations are some of Nelda LaTeef's compositions; all her illustrations are created from acrylic paint and collaging.

African Art, Johnnetta Betsch Cole said, "Animal Village" [has] such mighty lessons [that] Nelda LaTeef teaches the young and those of us who are not so young. Listen to the 'old stories' passed down from 'the ancestors.' It is always better to pull together rather than stand against each other; keep at task until it is done; [And] everything is possible, by and by."



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left: Committee co-chair Karen Keegan, members Bill Canis and Eric Knudsen participate in the discussion. Knudsen raised concerns over stream management along the Route 7 widening project. "It looks like they are cutting corners to keep the costs down" by designing the waterway as a straight-shot channel rather than in a more natural meandering configuration.

## Watershed Improvement Projects Discussed

FROM PAGE 4

project before new rules went into effect. "It's appalling to hear State officials say this. It's beyond the pale. I hope that the county will stand up for us."

After the Lake Werowance and Route 7 projects, the topics that garnered the most commentary were the budgeting and funding processes and the methods employed to prioritize projects for consideration.

"It was helpful to see how the funds are divided," said Peters, referring to a pie chart that Meyers presented that breaks down how monies are allocated, and "it seems reasonable." Less pleasing was the news that the funds that developers contribute to offset the environmental impact of their projects are not required to be utilized where the project is located. Denk and others questioned the equality of that equation.

When Denk reports back to

the Great Falls Citizens Association on the results of the meeting, he plans to tell them that the good news is there is still positive dialogue between the residents' representatives and the county personnel. Meyers and Witt both agreed that the committee's concerns and suggestions would be reviewed and considered and answered.

Denk will also report that the community must continue to be involved in order to protect the welfare of its citizens. He hopes to see more of his friends and neighbors at meetings like this one, keeping themselves informed and insuring that the residents' voices are heard.

**INFORMATION** about all of the watershed and stormwater management projects is available on the county's website at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov). The Great Falls Citizens Association website is [www.gfca.org](http://www.gfca.org) for more information and to learn how to get involved.

## Visit These Houses of Worship

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

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM  
CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM  
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

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- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Gainesville Connection

## News



### Winning Spelling Bee at Great Falls Elementary

**On Tuesday, Feb. 6, Great Falls Elementary School held its Annual Spelling Bee. The 20 contestants from grades 4-6 were spelling for nearly two hours. Sixth grader Preston Brown emerged as the winner and fifth grader Caitlyn Carpo-Wang as runner-up. Preston will represent Great Falls Elementary on March 18, 2018 at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee to be held at Lake Braddock Secondary School.**



## Calendar

FROM PAGE 8

and Jen explore the topic of food waste (from farm to retail to fridge) as they pledge to survive on discarded food for a year. Free. Contact Susan Weltz at [sweltz@yahoo.com](mailto:sweltz@yahoo.com) or visit [virginia2.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/](http://virginia2.sierraclub.org/greatfalls/).

**Travel Presentation and Wine Tasting.** 6:30 p.m. at Total Wine and More, McLean. Learn about the Galapagos Islands and travel in Ecuador and Peru. Complementary South American wine tasting. Meet former and repeat Galapagos travelers, as well as cruise line representatives. Free and open to the public, although due to space requirements an RSVP is requested. To RSVP, contact Peter Himmelberger at 703-496-4125 or at [www.travelcruiseandtour.com/galapagos](http://www.travelcruiseandtour.com/galapagos).

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 22

**KGB Dead or Alive?** 7-9 p.m. at St. Catherine of Siena, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. An evening with Jack Dziak. Learn about the history of the KGB and Putin's Russia. Dziak has had a career in intelligence, counterintelligence, counter-deception, national security affairs and technology transfer. Free. Email [bfroio@gmail.com](mailto:bfroio@gmail.com) for more.

**Successful Writing Collaborations.** 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Learn from experienced mystery short story writer and anthology collaborator, Josh Pachter. Find out about this growing trend and how the collaboration process works. James Patterson, Clive Cussler and Catherine Coulter, among others, are now working with lesser known authors in collaborations that extend their reach and give "a leg up" to new talent. Adults. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3756858](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3756858).

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 22-25**

**Captioned Performances of "The Farnsworth Invention."** See detailed schedule online. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin's signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent a device called "television." Who will unlock the key to the greatest innovation of the 20th century: the ruthless media mogul, or the self-taught Idaho farm boy? \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 23

**Art Society Meeting.** 9 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Glen Kessler, a renowned pet portrait artist will be the featured demonstrator. His artwork is collected internationally and he has won many prizes including The Elizabeth Greenshields Grant for outstanding figure work. Guests welcome. Call 703-653-9519.

**Washington Wizards vs Charlotte Hornets.** 4:30-11 p.m., leaving from The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Old Firehouse staffers as they watch John Wall, Bradley Beal and the rest of the Washington Wizards face off against the Charlotte Hornets. \$50/\$40 MCC district residents, tickets and transportation are included. Participants should bring \$20 for dinner and additional money for souvenirs if desired. Register online or at the Center, using Activity No. 5304.318. Call 703-448-8336 or visit [www.mcleancenter.org/teens](http://www.mcleancenter.org/teens).

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 24

**Winter Wine Tasting.** 7-10 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Enjoy fine food, wines and friendship at a new venue and with Classic Wines of Great Falls and the chefs at

Passionfish and Barcelona restaurants over in Reston. In addition, a selection of cheeses and wines by the glass will be available. Email Erin Lobato or Missy Perkins at [info@celebrategreatfalls.org](mailto:info@celebrategreatfalls.org) about volunteering. \$75. Tickets at [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 25

**Yoga for Dogs.** 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at SourceCore Studio, 144 Church St NW #102, Vienna. SourceCore Studio is hosting a "Donations for Dogs" yoga fundraiser for the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. "Paws and reflect" in this all-levels class dedicated to functional movement and wellness. Free, the event is donation-based. Call 703-755-0891 or visit [www.sourcecorestudio.com/workshops](http://www.sourcecorestudio.com/workshops) for more.

**Maple Syrup Boil-Down.** Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time at Colvin Run Mill. Watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. \$5 per person. No reservations required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup).

**Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts.** 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Robin Bullock and Sue Richards perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com): \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

**Artist Reception.** 5-7 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Artist reception with featured 10th Anniversary gallery artists.

All are welcome. \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at [www.1ststage.org](http://www.1ststage.org) or 703-854-1856.

# BULLETIN

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

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

## GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

**The McLean Community Center (MCC)** is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- Friday, March 16: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 19: Candidates' Orientation, 7 p.m., The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
- Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1>.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

**Ash Wednesday.** 6:30-8:30 a.m. at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Commuters and area residents are invited to take part in "Drive-Thru Ashes" with Pastor Eric Song administering ashes and distributing copies of the church's 19<sup>th</sup> annual "Devotions for Lent" publication. Good Shepherd will hold a traditional Ash Wednesday service at the church at 7:30 p.m. Call 703-281-3987 or visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com).

**1 Million Cups.** 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit [www.1millioncups.com/](http://www.1millioncups.com/).

**Grant Application Deadline.** The Community Investment Funds are the signature grant cycle managed by the Community Foundation in which funds are invested in organizations serving the Northern Virginia community. This year funding will be provided in four areas of focus: Child and Youth Development, Education, Poverty Relief, and Aging. Visit [www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds](http://www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/community-investment-funds).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

**Shape of the Region Conference.** 8 a.m.-11:45 p.m. at Valo Park, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The inaugural Shape of the Region Conference, co-hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia and the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, exploring issues facing our region's future as illuminated by data from the Community Foundation's Opportunity Index. \$65. Call 703-879-7636 for more.

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## "AutoMadic"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize that given the growth and evolution of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase actually, whose very existence is threatened: "Bill me." "C.O.D.," "Cash on delivery" is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a dodo bird if there ever was one. However, since "Money makes the world go 'round," – or at least it made the hit musical "Cabaret" go 'round in 1966, credit and one's good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills have to be paid or else the world doesn't "go 'round" so far. Moreover, if the money is missing, there's less to sing about.

Ergo an idea/system was devised whereby people/entities to whom you owed money would have semi unfettered access to your money – without having to talk to you/ask permission. Once the consumer/"ower" had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn (debited) regularly, as agreed to.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his money/accounts to such plundering. But eventually, the process became all the rage. Meaning, consumers couldn't transact business any other way, and despite any hesitations or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this system didn't cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I've added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments which I was given no other realistic choice/method to pay other than all at once (not happening,) or once a month, automatically from my bank. And not that I felt held up by the process, but I did feel as if the highway awaited if I didn't pay their way.

So now I have six monthly debits drafting on five different but recurring days, save for holidays and weekends of course. In addition, I have granted additional bank access to retailers, service providers, Internet-only companies, Amazon, pharmaceutical warehouses and on and on and on; all of whom have keys – so to speak – to my kingdom, such as it is.

Still, I think I know what's being debited at any given time, but in the context of and conjunction with, all the other transactions that I or my wife make, sometimes I don't know if I do know, actually, whether my money is coming in or going out or finding a new home somewhere – and one not in this country and likely irretrievable, or disappearing altogether with any other money I may have accumulated.

All of those worst case, possibly everyday scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I don't play and in turn, don't pay, then I am likely having to fend for myself. I may still have plenty places to go to, but what am I going to do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George Costanza's) isn't big enough to hold all the cash I'd need to conclude just a few of my transactions. I don't like ceding control this way, but the joke may already be on me: I don't have any control. It was taken away a long time ago when the first authorization was signed allowing a second/third party to withdraw money – automatically, and regularly, from the "signee's" bank account. From that point on, it was, as we say in New England: "Katie bar the door," meaning: bad news, among a variety of other "unpleasantries."

Regardless of how I fear all of these companies/"withdrawers" having a way into my bank account in order to get my money out, the reality is, there isn't a damn thing I can do about it. I just have to pay attention, literally – and figuratively. Otherwise, I'll be a victim of their circumstance.

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

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