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Home Life Style

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FEBRUARY 14-20, 2018

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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.

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ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU. but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

BY JENNIFER KAYE

More 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,



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



Eva Schloss thanks the crowd after the presentation.



Eugene Sidorov takes a bow after his musical tribute, Ani Maamin.

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

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-sister’s stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.



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

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KAYE

BULLETIN BOARD

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

Colin Powell Elementary School is holding kindergarten registration Thursday, April 5, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

and Monday, April 16, 9 a.m.-noon. Due to the time required to register children, the school requests that only parents come for registration. Forms and other information are available online at: www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements.

Brookfield Elementary School will host a kindergarten registration for the 2018-2019 school year on Monday, April 16. Parents of children who will be five years old on or before Sept.30, 2018, and are living within the Brookfield Elementary School boundaries, should contact the school at 703-814-8700 in order to make a registration appointment.

Centre Ridge Elementary School in Centreville is open for kindergarten registration for the school year 2018-19. Forms and other information are available on line at <https://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration>. They are also available in the front office. Call 703-227-2600 with questions.

TUESDAY/FEB. 13

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County’s Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month’s topic is Maintaining Relationships While Caregiving. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

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.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Building Healthy Relationships. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Navigating the social world is hard. It can be extremely difficult for children and teenagers with disabilities. This workshop, for parents of middle and high school students with disabilities, will provide important information to help your child build healthy relationships in the social world. Register at <http://bit.ly/2n15uCF>.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

REVIVE! Training. 3 p.m. at 4213 Walney Road, Chantilly. REVIVE! trains individuals on what to do and not do in an overdose situation, how to administer naloxone, and what to do afterwards. Each attendee also receives a free REVIVE! kit, which includes all the supplies needed to administer naloxone. The

medication itself can be acquired at a pharmacy after completing the training. REVIVE! is a program of the Commonwealth of Virginia that makes naloxone (Narcan) available to lay rescuers to reverse opioid overdoses. Opioids include licit medications like hydrocodone and oxycodone, in addition to illicit drugs like heroin. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/facility/a-new-beginning. Advance registration required at 703-502-7021.

MONDAY/FEB. 19

Assistance League Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to attend its regular monthly meeting. New members welcome. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. Free. Visit northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 15, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

Because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Discussing Mental Health Awareness

Mental Health Awareness is the topic of the next meeting of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. It's set for Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Road in Chantilly.

MPO Marshall Thielen, from the Fairfax County Police Crisis Intervention Team, and Steve Black, from the Mobile Crisis Unit, will explain how law enforcement and mental-health professionals are working together. Residents will also learn how to help others in the community by being aware of the resources available to everyone. For more information, contact MPO Sabrina Ruck (Crime Prevention Officer) at Sabrina.ruck@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Join Assistance League

The Assistance League of Northern Virginia invites community members to attend its regular monthly meeting on March 19, from 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard in Chantilly. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. New members are welcome. Learn about the nonprofit's 2017-2018 Operation School Bell programs, including Weekend Food for Kids and Reading Express. There are a few opportunities in its Reading Express program for new members with an interest in participating in this tutoring program. See www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org

Several Volunteers Needed

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries at 4511 Daly Dr. Suite J, Chantilly seeks individuals to volunteer for the following:

- ❖ Volunteer(s) to clean office and bathroom, Tuesday or Thursday, either 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 2:30-4 a.m.
- ❖ Volunteer(s) to answer phones and schedule appointments, Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Requirements: good phone skills, personable, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.
- ❖ Volunteer(s) for Client Services Intake, Monday and Friday, 9:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Requirements: Spanish speaker preferred, ability to work with clients, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.
- ❖ Volunteer for Food Pantry, bagging clients' food choices, Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Requirements: must be able to stand for long periods of time and lift at least 25 pounds. Interview and completed application required.

See <http://wfcmbva.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-program/>

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice; fruit juice; jelly; red, white or black beans (can or bagged); canned vegetables (no green beans of corn needed); macaroni and cheese; can pasta; pasta sauce; and pasta (spaghetti, rotini, elbow, etc.).

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include diapers, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry's new location at 4511 Daly Dr. Suite J, Chantilly from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Contact Terri Kelly at tkelly@wfcmbva.org if willing to coordinate a food drive.

NEWS

CENTRE VIEW EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR CENTREVIEW@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

Del. Marcus Simon (D-53), right, has enough seniority he could get a better seat, but he prefers to sit in a part of the House chamber known as Coffin Corner.

View from the Coffin Corner

Extreme position on House floor enjoys a storied history.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
CENTRE VIEW

As a freshman delegate in 1978, Ken Plum was assigned a desk in the far corner on the Democratic side of the House of Delegates — seat 17. It wasn't the best vantage point in the House because about a third of the Republican members were totally out of view. The senior members took the seats at the back of the chamber near the center, sticking Plum in the corner.

"In my very first session on my very first day, Speaker John Warren Cooke said, 'The speaker recognizes the gentleman from Fairfax, Mr. Plum, for a motion,'" recalled Plum, currently the senior member of the House. "I had no idea what he was doing, but I later learned it was to dispense with the reading of the journal. Everybody laughed their heads off as I was trying to get myself out of it."

It was a trial-by-fire for the freshman delegate from Reston, who would soon learn that he was occupying a rarified spot on the House floor — Coffin Corner. The term dates to the early 1970s, when a freshman Del. Dickie Cranwell arrived as a freshman Democrat from Roanoke. He created the term to underscore a generational divide in the House of Delegates.

"I would say that we were probably a newer breed of Democrats in Virginia than some of the older guard," said Cranwell, who later went on to be the Democratic leader before retiring in 2000. "A lot of times there would be close votes and we would carry the day in killing something, and we just decided that we were the corner that was putting a lot of stuff to sleep."

THE 1970S SAW a massive shift in Virginia politics, not necessarily from one party to the next. But within the Democratic Party as young members like Cranwell and Plum were moving the party to the left, away from the conservative racial politics of massive resistance that was the hallmark of the Byrd Machine that ran Virginia politics for half a century.

"We voted pretty much in block, so if there was a tight issue we would have 25 votes," said Cranwell. "The rest of that group was like throwing a firecracker in a covey of quail, they'd go everywhere."

The expression Coffin Corner was not just a reference to the ability of the junior lawmakers who sat

there to kill a bill they didn't like. It was also a reference to Cranwell's time as a punter at Virginia Tech, when he would kick the ball into the Coffin Corner out of bounds and place the opposing team deep into their own territory. The name stuck and the corner of junior seats took on a cache all its own.

"It was considered prestigious and kind of cool to be in the Coffin Corner," said former House Democratic Caucus Chairman Brian Moran, who chose to sit in the Coffin Corner even though he had enough seniority to get a better seat. "From the perspective of having a good view of the other side of the aisle, it was not the best seat. But it was seen as a corner where you melded freshman and more senior members together."

THESE DAYS, Coffin Corner is seeing a new generation taking their seats. The current House of Delegates has about a half dozen millennials who sit in the Coffin Corner, eager to make their mark on history and challenge the status quo. When Republicans criticized an attempt to tax streaming video at the same rate as cable TV, the expression "Netflix and chill" created a generational fault line among House members.

"What drove many of us to run and the high levels of support we receive from our peers across the commonwealth was not casual references to Netflix, which has become disturbingly popular on this floor," said Schuyler Van Valkenburg (D-72). "We ran on jobs, health care access, education and creating a Virginia that was open and welcome to everybody regardless of race, faith, gender, sexual orientation or county or origin."

Sitting at far end of Coffin Corner, that seat that Plum was assigned 40 years ago, is Del. Marcus Simon (D-53). He's been in the House long enough that he could take one of the more senior seats at the center of the chamber. But he chooses to sit in Coffin Corner. He says it's an ideal location for leading the resistance to the Republicans and sometimes even against his fellow Democrats. Last year, for example, he angered members of both parties by making a parliamentary inquiry about whether a Republican member who was facing domestic violence charges should be voting on changes to the code outlining assault and battery. The Republican leadership retaliated by delaying consideration of all Democratic bills that day.

"This is where the troublemakers in the House sit, and it's a place from which you can throw bombs — to use another sports analogy," said Simon. "I think it fits my persona here in the body, which is somebody who's not afraid to ask questions and somebody who's not afraid to slow things down or disrupt the flow."

OPINION

Send in Pet Photos Now

The 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 assistance 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).

Email to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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— MARY KIMM

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Working Toward College Acceptance

By JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FACETS

COMMENTARY

For youth living in poverty, the struggle to make ends meet takes considerable energy and effort. So when the time

comes to think about higher education, the dream of going to college may seem insurmountable. After all, the process for preparing, getting into, and paying for a university is daunting ... even more so for those with little

to no family experience with college.

At FACETS, these are the youth we work with every day. Kids who have big dreams but no direct path to achieve them.

In four Fairfax County affordable housing

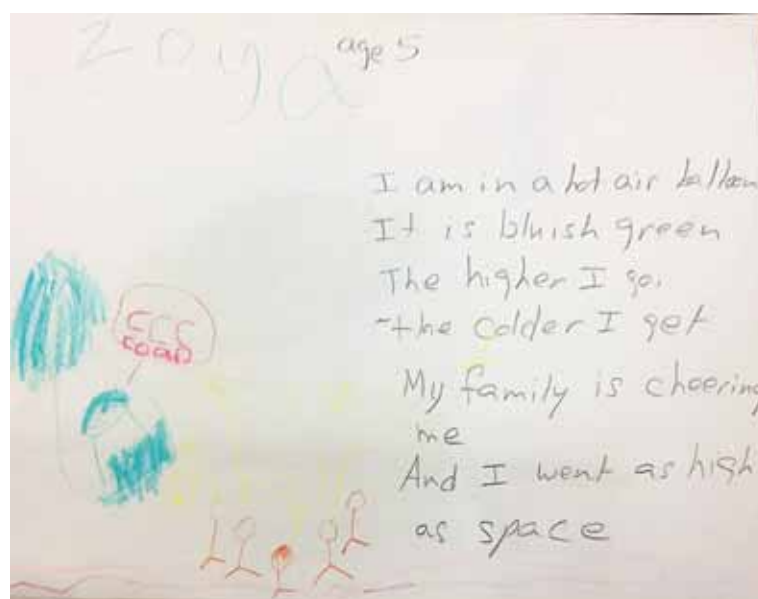
SEE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE, PAGE 6

POETRY AND ART

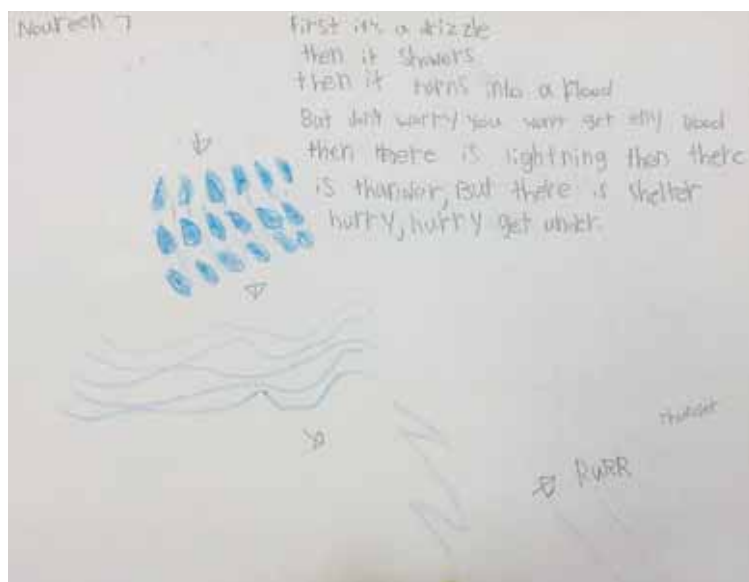
During the Poetry Workshop on Jan. 31, at the Chantilly Regional Library, the children wrote and illustrated a poem using descriptive words for cold and rain. Their teacher is Anita R. Mohan.



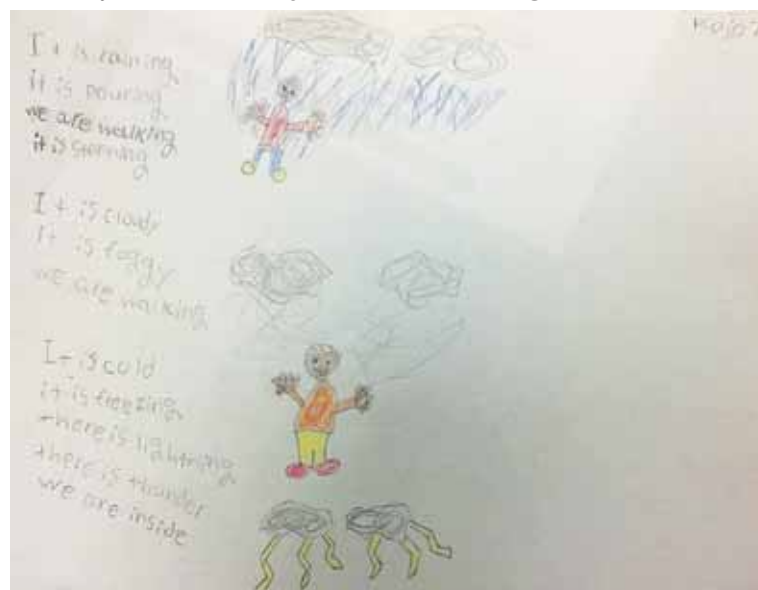
Maryam, age 6, wrote a tercet and drew herself in a purple dress carrying a red umbrella.



Zoya, age 5, told Mohan she cannot yet write and asked if Mohan would write the poem as she told it. She drew herself riding a hot air balloon in the cold. The poem is entirely hers, Mohan just did the writing.



Noureen, age 7, wrote and drew about drizzle, changing to rain, and then floods.



Kojo, 7, wrote a poem of three stanzas, all on his own.

CENTREVIEW

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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 pieces 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."

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Legals

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Announcements

OPINION

Working Toward College Acceptance

FROM PAGE 4

communities, we work to provide the infrastructure so that families and individuals can break the cycle of poverty. The median annual income at three of these communities is \$18,000 while families in our Wedgewood community have incomes below 60 percent of the area's median income. One important way we assist families to overcome the effects of poverty is by working with children in these communities to promote their academic and social well-being.

Year round, staff and volunteers offer an array of after school and evening educational and enrichment programs to help youth, including mentoring, tutoring and college prep. Participation provides many benefits, including ensuring a safe after-school and weekend environment, interaction with caring adults, vibrant programs, and access to resources and case management.

Helping remove barriers for these youth is critical to helping them succeed. According to an Urban Institute report, "adult achievement is related to childhood poverty ... and children who are poor are less likely to achieve important adult milestones, such as graduating from high school and enrolling in and completing college, than children who are never poor."

That's why we start demystifying the process. For our high school and middle school youth, we start taking field trips to universities in Virginia. We want to inspire them and help them dream about what's possible. For many, this is their first time seeing a university so we arrange for tours and explain the application process, funding strategies, and



Youngsters participate in a FACETS community program.

timelines. The programs work. This past year all of the graduating seniors who participated in our youth program moved on to higher education opportunities.

February means that our next round of seniors are waiting to see if they receive grants, scholarships, loans and, of course, admission to college, including for Nafisa. She is one of our long-time participants who lives in Ragan Oaks. She was inspired to apply to college after attending a FACETS-supported youth conference. Our team worked with her on her college applications to Longwood University, George Mason University, and Radford University and wrote her a recommendation. She has been accepted to all three of her choices. The next step will be to help her navigate her financial package to see which school will be the best fit for her to attend this fall.

Acceptance is only the next step, but it can open the door to a bright future for a student and their future generations.

Visit FACETS, a Fairfax nonprofit helping prevent and end homelessness, at <http://facetscares.org/>.

Vigil Honor

New Order of the Arrow Vigil members for Sully District, Boy Scouts of America include, from left, Aaron Bills, Eric McDonnell, Michael Dragone, Ben Miller, and Crista Daniel. The Order of the Arrow (OA) is the National Honor Society of the Boy Scouts of America. There are three levels of membership - Ordeal, Brotherhood, and Vigil. The Vigil Honor is the highest honor that the Order of the Arrow can bestow upon its members for service to lodge, council, and Scouting.



PHOTO BY CHRIS MILLER

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Annual Poetry Festival

In the formal Poetry Reading Competition at Foxcroft's annual Paul K. Bergan Poetry Festival on Feb. 9, Poet-in-Residence Teri Ellen Cross Davis (center) awarded laurels (from left) senior Pradyuta Padmanabhan of Chantilly; sophomore Bella Zhang of Anshan, China; freshman Julia Garrison of Morgantown, W.Va.; and junior Megan Pumphrey of Centreville. Foxcroft School is located in Middleburg.

CRIME

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 5600 block of Willoughby Newton Drive, Feb. 9 between 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Someone broke into the residence and stole cash and property.

POSSESSION WITH INTENT TO DISTRIBUTE NARCOTICS: 4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center, Feb. 6 around 11:45 p.m. Detectives from the Organized Crime and Narcotics Unit conducted a drug deal with a man who was soliciting to sell drugs online. Detectives met a 20-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman, both of Alexandria. After the transaction they were arrested and each charged with possession of marijuana with intent to distribute. The woman was a Prince William County Juvenile Probation Officer at the time.

MALICIOUS WOUNDING: 5700 Block of Newton Patent Drive, Feb. 1 at 4:27 a.m. Officers are investigating a report where a man who was shot in the arm. The injuries are considered non-life threatening. The event was found to have taken place near the listed address. This is an isolated event and police said there is no threat to the community.

ROBBERY: 4100 block of Meadowland Court, Jan. 30 at 10:38 p.m. The victim was in the area when he saw a man dressed in dark clothing. The man then came up to the victim and hit his head several times. The man then took some personal belongings from the victim and ran from the area. The victim did not need to go to the hospital for his injuries.

BURGLARY: 4429 Brookfield Corporate Drive (Sports Plus), between Jan. 28, 9 p.m., and Jan. 29, 6:25 a.m. An unknown person broke into the side door to the business and stole some property from the location.

FEB. 12 LARCENIES
4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center, check and cash from business

4900 block of Stonecroft Boulevard, license plates from vehicle

14600 block of Stone Range Drive, laptop computer from vehicle

FEB. 9 LARCENIES
15100 block of Old Lee Road, wallet and purse taken from vehicle

6000 block of Creekstone Lane, purse from vehicle

5700 block of Union Mill Road, wallet from business

600 block of Centreville Crest Lane, personal items from a business

5600 block of Pickwick Road, medication from a business

FEB. 8 LARCENIES
12100 block of Greenwood Court, package from residence

FEB. 7 LARCENIES
5000 block of Westone Plaza, cash from a business

5700 block of Union Mill Road, merchandise from a business

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos are welcome.

Mary Ann Settlemire, the STEAM and Outdoor Education Specialist at Centreville Elementary School, has been selected for EcoRise's 2017-18 Teacher Ambassador Program. Settlemire is one of six educators nationwide named to the program.

Mary Fesak, of Centreville, was initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Fesak was initiated at Clemson University (S.C.).

Natalie McCarthy, of Centreville, a sophomore business administration major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

Kylie T. LeBlanc, of Clifton, was recently named to the dean's list for the fall 2017 semester at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio. LeBlanc was also named Defensive Player of the Week for the MAC Conference for D1 Field Hockey. LeBlanc is a freshman.

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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.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

www.westfieldtheatre.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Lunch and Learn: Black History.

Noon at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. In 1926, historian Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week, encouraging people to study black history, which has since grown to Black History Month. In recognition of historian Woodson's message, bring a lunch to Sully Historic Site to learn about the enslaved men, women and children who lived at Sully in the 18th century. Bring lunch and questions, as discussion is encouraged. This program includes a visual presentation and hands-on elements. \$5 per person. Food is not provided. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully or call 703-437-1794.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 16-18

Avenue Q: School Edition. Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Westfield High School's Theatre Arts Department presents their winter musical, Avenue Q: School Edition. Setting out to find his purpose, college graduate Princeton moves to the run-down neighborhood of Avenue Q in New York City. Facing challenges with his new neighbors, finding love, and losing love, Princeton must pave his way in the big city. \$10 in advance, \$10 with a student ID, and \$12 at the door. This production is rated PG-13. Parents strongly cautioned. Visit

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 17-18

Lunar New Year Festival. 1-5 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall – Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Fair Oaks Mall will host its 15th annual Lunar New Year Festival to usher in the Year of the Dog. Presented by the Washington Hai Hua Community Center, the event will feature free, family-friendly performances, ceremonies and exhibitions. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2 and 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/FEB. 19

Historic Survival Skills Workshop. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. In this immersive, day-long workshop, jump through three centuries in one day. Learn about the Native Americans who lived here, make butter and ice cream to learn the ins and outs of a dairy farm, and drill like soldiers. Download camp forms from website. Ages 8-14. \$65 (county resident); \$80 (non-resident). Call 703-631-0013 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence. **Raising Monarch Butterflies.** 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAPITAL REMODEL + GARDEN SHOW

Five local garden and landscape companies will be featured throughout the 4,500 square foot exhibit space.

Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Centreville Garden Club hosts a presentation by Kathleen Larson. Meetings generally 3rd Monday each month. Visitors and new members welcome. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com or email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com. Visitors and new members welcome.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Travel Presentation and Wine Tasting. 3 p.m. at Total Wine and More, Greenbriar Shopping Center, Chantilly. 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.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

Capital Remodel and Garden Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center – 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the 2018 Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Going Yard stars Chris and Peyton Lambton plus TLC's Trading Spaces Joanie Sprague. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and

Capital Remodel & Garden Show

Headlining the 2018 Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Going Yard stars Chris and Peyton Lambton plus TLC's Trading Spaces Joanie Sprague. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. \$9 online, \$12 at door; \$3 children 6-12, 5 and under free. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 23-24, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 25 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center – 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Visit capitalremodelandgarden.com/ for more.

services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. \$9 online, \$12 at door; \$3 children 6-12, 5 and under free. Visit capitalremodelandgarden.com/ for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Capital Remodel and Garden Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center – 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the 2018 Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Going Yard stars Chris and Peyton Lambton plus TLC's Trading Spaces Joanie Sprague. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. \$9 online, \$12 at door; \$3 children 6-12, 5 and under free. Visit capitalremodelandgarden.com/ for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Capital Remodel and Garden Show. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center – 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Headlining the 2018 Capital Remodel and Garden Show at the Dulles Expo Center will be HGTV's Going Yard stars Chris and Peyton Lambton plus TLC's Trading Spaces Joanie Sprague. More than 300 companies will be on hand to showcase the latest products and services in home remodeling, renovation, home décor, landscape and garden design. \$9 online, \$12 at door; \$3 children 6-12, 5 and under free. Visit capitalremodelandgarden.com/ for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 4

Outdoor Kids at E.C. Lawrence. 2 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, children ages 4-6 explore different habitats, trails, wild animals and wild places. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 and 11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. In this program, youngsters ages 1-3 will explore history through sight, sound, taste and touch. Topics vary by month. \$6 in-county or \$8 out-of-county. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

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