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News

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

By Jennifer Kaye

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

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-onone 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-

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.

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 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.

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 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 orientationor visit

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

www.fcps.edu/registration/

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-registrationrequirements.

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/2nI5uCf.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

KEVIVE! 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/communityservices-board/facility/a-newbeginning. 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.

Helping Students Succeed in His Own Community

Local resident Scott Poole happy to be Chantilly High's principal.

By Bonnie Hobbs

rowing up in Miami, Scott Poole never thought about becoming a teacher or principal. But all that changed when he attended Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia.

Not only did he obtain a bachelor's in economics, he also found his calling. "My experience there was instrumental in my becoming a principal," he said. "Their outstanding educators inspired me and motivated me to learn, and I wanted to do that for other people."

Now Chantilly High's new principal, Poole received his master's in education from GWU and began teaching social studies in 1992 at Cooper Middle School. He later taught AP Government at Langley High while earning his Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Public Administration from GMII

Moving to administration, he became assistant principal at Lanier Middle in 2002 and then served as a subschool principal at Centreville High. Afterward, he spent nine years as Lanier Middle School's principal before taking over the reins at Woodson High from 2015 until October 2017, when he started at Chantilly. (Former principal, Teresa Johnson, became assistant superintendent for FCPS' Department of Special Services).

For Poole, it also meant coming home, since he and his family have lived in Chantilly for 17 years. Wife Christy is a Spanish teacher and department chair at Franklin Middle, daughter Caroline is a Chantilly High freshman and son Jake is a fifth-grader at Lees Corner Elementary.

"I feel very fortunate to be here," said Poole. "It's kind of a dream job because I've served kids in FCPS for 25 years, so I couldn't pass up the opportunity to be principal of the school my daughter attends. And it's innately appealing to serve the kids in the community where I live, so it motivates me even more to try to do the best I can"

A former CYA girls' lacrosse coach, he said it's also fun "to walk the halls at Chantilly and see kids I used to coach, help them grow and help set them up for success." He even discovered familiar faces among the teachers. He taught social studies at Langley to Choral Director Evan Ayars and math teacher Craig Primus; and science teacher Allison Prell is the daughter of a Langley colleague.

At Chantilly, Poole wants to share the message that "different students take off, hit their stride, find their passion and accelerate in their motivation and learning at different times. It happens when they find something they're drawn to. You need to give kids encouragement and hope they find what really inspires them. My role is to give them as many opportunities to be successful as I can."

He also believes that, at Chantilly, "There's a route to success for everybody." That's because, besides the regular high school preparing graduates for college, there's the Academy offering career and technical training for other paths, plus the military, too. So, said Poole, "I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a place that offers as many programs and opportunities."

For example, at a Hair Cuttery, he recently met a barber who told him she'd completed her cosmetology certification at the Chantilly Academy, gotten a job immediately and was using her earnings to put herself through GMU. And he's now begun a program called Recent Student Successes.

"Teachers and staff members nominate current students who've shown recent improvement and growth in academics, behavior or citizenship," explained Poole. "All these students then get certificates, and I send a weekly message to the parent community telling what they did. Last week we



Photo by Bonnie Hobbs

Chantilly High Principal Scott Poole wants to encourage students to find what inspires them.

honored 12 students."

One of them was Joshua Gray-Pitcock, a student with special needs, who works with the school's Secondary Transitions for Employment (STEP) program. "We have a partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, and he had an unpaid internship at Dulles Airport at LSG Sky Chefs, learning basic skills," said Poole. "He did such a good job, they hired him part time at a parking company at the airport."

Poole also praised the efforts of Academy students Caleb Mitchell and Christopher Wolf, who are studying to become firefighters. While driving last Monday, Feb. 5, they stopped at Sully and Walney roads to help a woman whose car was on fire. They kept other motorists away and got the woman to safety.

"Students like these illustrate why Chantilly is so special," said Poole. "There's a positive, school culture among students and staff, and a lot of good things are happening here. So first and foremost, I want to build on the things that are working

well '

He's already met with every department, listened to what their representatives had to say and got to know the staff, programs and initiatives already in place. And while pleased with the positives and planning to honor "the traditions and all the good people working here," he said it's always important for students and staff to keep growing.

Poole is also trying to improve the communication between the school and home. So each Friday, he sends parents an email. Besides relaying school news and Recent Student Successes, it enables him to address issues of concern. These include, for example, the increase in student anxiety and what parents can do to help, as well as the dangers of vaping and its rise across the whole county.

"It's to keep parents informed and elicit their involvement when needed," said Poole. "It also tells them what we're doing and why. And moving forward, I want to find out better ways of listening to the community and finding out students' and parents' needs — and responding to them."

Chantilly's enrollment is some 2,700 students, and Poole said the challenge of running a big school is "really staying in touch and never losing sight that what happens in the classroom is the most important. The daily interaction between students and teachers and keeping students achieving is what matters most. Even though I'm an administrator, I still see things from a teacher's perspective. I'm still trying to teach kids to be better people, make better decisions and make the most of their opportunities."

His greatest satisfaction, said Poole, is "Anytime I see students excel — especially those who overcome obstacles and challenges to succeed. There's nothing better. The relationships you form with students are also gratifying. At graduation, when you know what the kids have been through to get there, and what they've achieved, it's a very special experience."

Top-Notch Space for Generations to Come'

Charger Innovation Lab is on the horizon at Chantilly High.

By Bonnie Hobbs

cott Poole, Chantilly High's principal, says he's excited about a number of things happening at his new school. Among them are a place where students may create high-tech projects and a plan to better ensure success for Hispanic students.

"We're in the midst of creating an innovation lab in our library," said Poole. "And we're getting support from a volunteer-based nonprofit, Asha-Jyothi, which serves the needs of the underprivileged. It's run by Chantilly parents who've donated a substantial amount of money to the school to create this lab."

According to the proposal, the lab will provide diverse tools that will grow with the students and "enable them to be 21-cen-

tury learners." It will have access to new technology and programs to make the "student-centered environment more engaging and, ultimately, more meaningful."

The goal is to make this an active and stimulating spot where students may create imaginative and innovative work. The proposal says this Charger Innovation Lab will be "all-inclusive, catering to every student by including multi-functional furniture and flexible seating options." It will also offer the latest technology that students may use in both individual and collaborative projects.

"It's for kids to explore their interests, innovate and create," said Poole. "They'll be able to build things and create learning communities. And if they want, they can work with kids with similar interests. It will

be a place to try things out and give access to STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math)-oriented topics to kids who might not otherwise have this access."

Even if they're interested in working on their hobbies — such as building a robot out of LEGOs — they could do it here. Other topics they could explore would include coding, 2D/3D design and prototyping, robotics, electronics, photography, video editing, audio mixing and engineering. This experience will enable them to develop the skills demanded by many of today's colleges and employers.

The lab will be open before and after school, during lunch and during "Charger Time" that students may use at their discretion. There'll be six, different stations, and teachers may also bring their classes

there to work on a project or supplement the classroom work they're doing. Said Poole, "We want to create a top-notch space for generations to come."

On the Hispanic-students front, the Chantilly High Pyramid is creating the Latino Partnership for Success. "Our Hispanic parent liaison, Ana Bauserman, and I are working on this together," said Poole. He also noted that a similar thing was done with the Fairfax High Pyramid and Lanier Middle School.

"Our Hispanic community is one of our fastest-growing subgroup of students at Chantilly," said Poole. "The goal is to better connect our Hispanic families with the schools and other support services and resources to help their children be successful in school and in life."

OPINION

Send in Pet Photos Now

special edition, will publish the last week of February, and pho tos 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 EDITORIAL life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of 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 703-778-9431. pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature,

he Pet Connection, a twice-yearly how you came to adopt your pet, or examples 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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Working Toward College Acceptance

BY JOE FAY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

FACETS or youth living in poverty, the struggle

to make ends meet takes considerable

energy and effort. So when the time

COMMENTARY

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

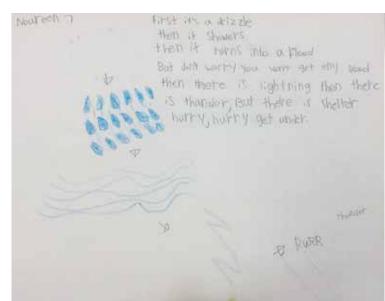
SEE COLLEGE ACCEPTANCE, PAGE 6

POETRY AND ART

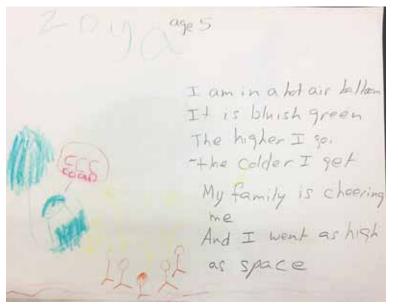
During the Poetry Workshop on Jan. 31, at the Chantilly Regional Library, the children wrote and illustrated a poem using descriptive words for cold and rain. Their teacher is Anita R. Mohan.



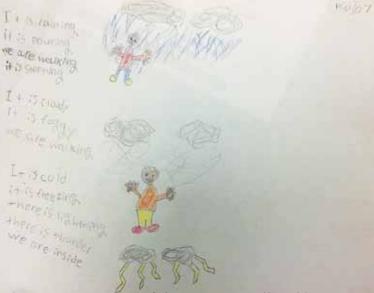
Maryam, age 6, wrote a tercet and drew herself in a purple dress carrying a red umbrella.



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



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.



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



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Newspaper of Chantilly Fair Oaks / Fair Lakes A Connection Newspaper

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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A Connection Newspaper

HomeLifeStyle

Styling a Coffee Table Using décor to make a table pop.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

here'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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Announcements



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Employment

ENGINEERING

Keysight Technologies, Inc. has a Software Quality Assurance Engineer position available in Chantilly, VA: Work on QA Testing of Windcatcher Product. Submit resume by mail to: Keysight Technologies c/o Cielo Talent, 200 South Executive Drive, Suite 400, Brookfield, WI 53005. Must reference job title and job code (SQAVL-VA).

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CONNECTION

Newspapers & Debut

The Downstron to Your Conveniently

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 child-hood 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.



Hali

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.

News

Sports Coach Arrested

A Manassas man is facing several charges for sending sexually explicit messages to a minor. Detec-



tives from the Child Exploitation Unit arrested 26-year-old Joshua Schroeder on Saturday, Feb. 10 at around 10 a.m. for three counts of solicitation of a minor and one count of attempted contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

On Feb. 5, a school resource officer took a report of a minor who received sexually explicit messages through social media. Detectives conducted an investigation and determined Schroeder was inappropriately communicating with a minor.

Schroeder was the general manager at The Sport and Speed Institute at 14290-A Sullyfield Circle in Chantilly.

If anyone has a concern that their child might have had inappropriate contact with Schroeder, contact Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7800 or contact Crime Solvers electronically by visiting http:// www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text-a-tip by texting "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES(274637) or by calling 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Fair Oaks District Police Station.

ROBBERY: 2990 Centreville Road (Exxon), Feb. 10 around 1:55 a.m. A man entered the store, displayed a gun and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect took an undisclosed amount of cash and ran away. The suspect is described as either a white man or a light-skinned black man, 25 years old, about 6' tall, wearing a black coat with a hood. No injuries. The investigation is ongoing.

STOLEN AUTO/RECOVERY/ARREST: 12000 block of Green Ledge Court, Feb. 9, at 1:59 a.m. Two teens were sitting inside a vehicle parked in someone else's reserved parking space. Police were called to investigate and found the car with two people inside, listed as stolen. One of the teens was found to be a juvenile, charges pending. The other teen, a 19-year-old from Suitland, Md., was charged with auto theft and contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

VEHICLE TRESPASS: 4600 block of Superior Square, Jan. 26 around 5:20 a.m. Officers were called to the area for the report of someone breaking into vehicles. When they arrived, they found a 22-year-old man of no fixed address, being detained by two citizens. The citizens observed the man breaking into a vehicle. The man was charged with possession of burglarious tools, wearing a mask to conceal identity, and vehicle trespass. It was also discovered that he had two active warrants for burglary and destruction of property.

ASSAULT ON LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFIC-ERS: 13300 block of Tannery Court, Jan. 23 around 6:30 p.m. Officers responded to the area for a report of a person needing assistance. While on scene, two officers were punched by a man. A 24year-old man from Fairfax was charged with two counts of assault on a law enforcement officer.

FEB. 12 - LARCENIES

2900 block of Centreville Road, cash from resi-

12200 block of Fair Lakes Circle merchandise from business

13100 block of Nestlewood Court, license plate from vehicle

2700 block of Oak Valley Drive, cash and credit cards from vehicle

FEB. 9 - LARCENIES

14000 block of Park Center Road, wallet from vehicle

3065 block of Centreville Road, wallet from ve-

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-Werner Heisenberg

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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 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.

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

www.westfieldtheatre.com.

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, daylong 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 (nonresident). 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

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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 out.... Feb. 25 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Dulles Expo Center – 4320 Chantilly Shopping Cen-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

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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 capitalremodelandgarden.com/ for

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

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-ofcounty. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ eclawrence.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 7

History Tots at E.C. Lawrence. 9:45 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-ofcounty. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

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