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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Home Life Style
PAGE 2



From left:
seventh graders Dilan
Batra, Ilias Cholakis,
Abhinav Angirekula
having some fun on
Nysmith's Winter
Olympic Theme Day.

Olympic Focused Learning and Fun

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Shares Her Story
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Local Historic Sites
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PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTIN COOPER

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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PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 • Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

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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

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.”

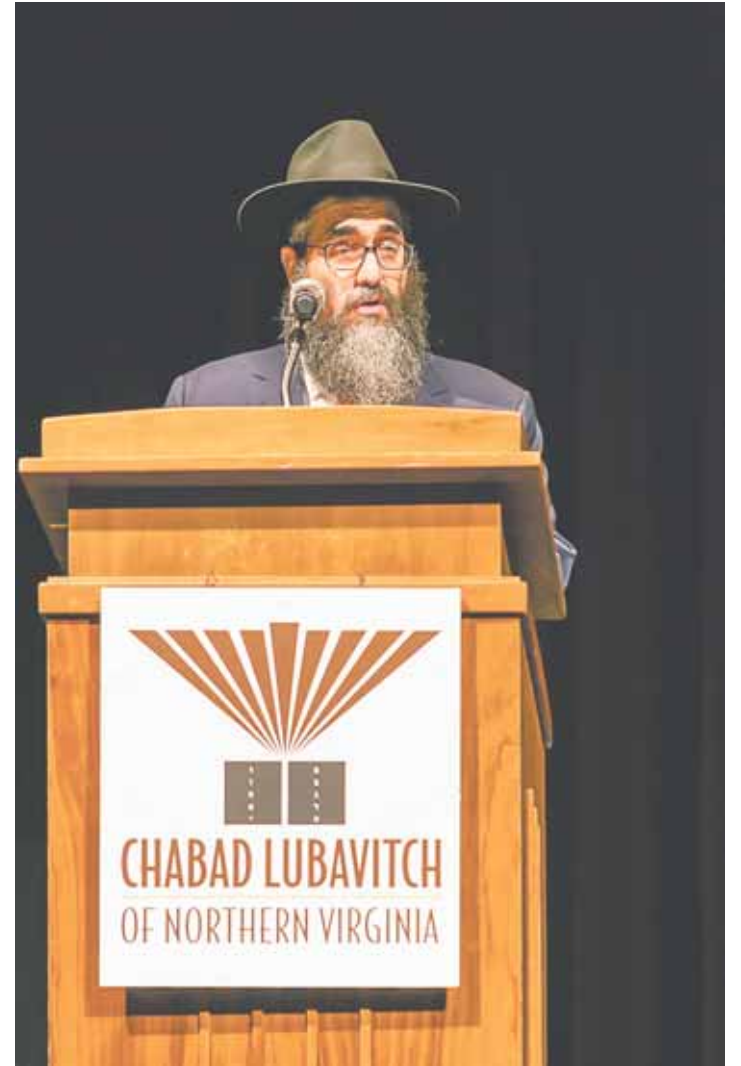
She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

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.

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 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).

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

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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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 12th 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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By e-mail:
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Mercia Hobson
Community Reporter
mhobson@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
dbfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
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News

Preserving Local Historic Sites

Applications for Herndon's Historic Ellmore Farmhouse under administrative review.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Historic buildings define a community's sense of character and identity. Whether by their unique architecture, age, or association with a significant event or period, the buildings bookmark a time and place. Without historic buildings, windows to the past are lost.

Fairfax County Park Authority is out to save another of historic Fairfax County properties, this time an 1891 structure that might well have otherwise deteriorated due to the elements, vandalism, or lack of funding. Through their Resident Curator Program, a talented individual or organization may soon be offered a long-term lease for no charge on a two-story, 3,300-square-foot structure nestled in a beautiful park-like setting in Herndon. All the selected tenant has to do is rehabilitate and maintain the structure as agreed.

The property is the historic Ellmore Farmhouse located in Frying Pan Farm Park at 2739 West Ox Road in Herndon. It is listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites and is a contributing structure within the Floris Historic District on the Virginia Landmarks Register.

IN FEBRUARY 2001, the Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the property as part of Frying Pan Farm Park. The farmhouse is significant due to its association with dairy farming and as the residence of Fairfax County Board of Supervisor member William H. Ellmore.

According to David Buchta, Heritage Conservation Branch Manager, Fairfax County Park Authority, the administrative review of selected applications filed in late 2016 is underway, and the public comment component of the review will be advertised. As for the timeframe of when the name of the curator is made public, Buchta said, "We hope to announce the new Resident Curator later this year."

As part of the application process, those interested, individuals and corporations, had to submit a detailed Treatment Plan of the historic farmhouse noting architectural, structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing recommendations with total costs per item required. Buchta said the Treatment Plan for the house would involve rehabilitating the interior from mixed residential and office use to, depending upon the applicant, possibly either "a residence or if the applicant is commercial, the interior work may be adapted."

All work undertaken, Buchta said must be in accord with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitating Historic Structures. In addition, the County of Fairfax states: "The proposed use must be compatible with the historic nature of the resource, the general management plan for the park, and the mission of Resource Management Division." Buchta said applicants are also being reviewed for



The historic Ellmore Farmhouse owned by Fairfax County Park Authority and located within Frying Pan Park will be getting its new Resident Curator later this year.



The person or organization selected as the Resident Curator for the Ellmore Farmhouse will enter into a contractual agreement with Fairfax County and provide the rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance in exchange for a long-term lease.

their financial capabilities, their experience in construction and contracting, and historic preservation.

Buchta noted the exterior of the Ellmore Farmhouse is already restored to its Period of Significance, 1891 to 1954, the date when the property was likely no longer used by the owners as a dairy farm.

AFTER FINAL APPROVAL, the person or organization selected as the Resident Curator for the Ellmore Farmhouse will enter into a contractual agreement with Fairfax County and provide the rehabilitation and ongoing maintenance in exchange for the long-term occupation.

The selected Resident Curator will be the County's second one named under its countywide program. Two other Resident Curator Program sites are either under rehabilitation or applications have closed. They are the Lorton 1937 Stempson House, part of the program due to its significant association with the Occoquan Workhouse and Reformatory. Its ceremonial lease signing was Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2017. The other is the 1905 Turner Farmhouse in Great Falls, an example of the type of farm that predominated in the area during the early years of the twentieth century. Like the Ellmore Farmhouse, its applications are also under administrative review.

The Park Authority has identified four other sites. Two will have open houses early this spring, Buchta shared. "We will have two open houses for properties in the Lorton and Tysons areas." Ash Grove House in Vienna was home to Thomas Fairfax and one of the few standing 18th century Virginia homes built by the Fairfax family. The Hannah P. Clark/Enyeid House, a late 19th-century vernacular farmhouse is in Lorton. For more information about the Resident Curator Program, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program or call 703-324-8586.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



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SPORTS

**Maame Biney, 18
of Reston, a mem-
ber of the U.S.
Olympic short-
track speedskating
team posted this
photo of herself on
her Instagram
account,
biney.biney on
January 26, 2018.
"For once I'm not
smiling. Want to
thank U.A. (Under
Armour, Inc.) for
this pretty awe-
some suit
#pyeongchang2018
#14daystogo."**



PHOTO POSTED TO INSTAGRAM BY MAAME BINEY

Reston Teen Shines at Winter Olympics

**Maame Biney,
18, of South
Lakes High
School, makes
quarterfinals.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

After sweeping the 500m races during December's U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Kearns, Utah, Reston speedskater Maame Biney, 18, made her Olympic debut as a member of Team USA at the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic Winter Games. The high school senior, who hails from Ghana and lives in Reston with her father Kweku Biney, is the youngest member of the U.S. Olympic short-track speed skating team, a medal contender, and the team's first African-American female speed skater to qualify.

Biney attended South Lakes High School in Reston until she relocated to Salt Lake City to train with the U.S. short-track team in July 2017. Since then, Biney has lived in Utah with a host family who was with Biney's father at the Olympic trials to cheer her on.

Short-track skaters mass start each heat with four skaters and must finish in either first or second to place in their heat to advance. Skaters can reach speeds of up to 30 miles per hour as they race counterclockwise on a 111.2-meter oval course, bumping into each other and fighting centrifugal force on the tight corners. It is that low left bodyline and their rubber-tipped gloves skimming the ice that makes short-track speed skating unique.

Hopes and dreams are hinged on a competition that – from start to finish – is under a minute. Although speed, strategy, and planning are critical, sometimes unexpected events, come into play.

At the Gangneung Ice Arena on Saturday, Feb. 10, 19:52 EST, in Heat 5 of the 500-meter short-track speed skating race, Biney captured second place behind FAN Kexin (CHN) qualifying her for Tuesday's quarterfinals. The Reston teen, with a time of 43.665



Vice President Mike Pence @VP

Congrats to @BineyMaame on advancing in Women's 500M! @SecondLady & I are rooting for you! Let's go #TeamUSA #pyeongchang2018 🇺🇸

7:08 AM - Feb 10, 2018

4,228 943 people are talking about this

Vice President Mike Pence was at the Olympic Games Saturday and watched Biney compete in her race. Later he tweeted this message.



Maame Biney, 18, of Reston who crossed the finish line with a time of 43.665 seconds advancing to the Quarterfinals for the 500m short-track speed skating during the Pyeongchang 2018 Olympic Winter Games pictured with Team USA skater Adam Rippon who posted on his Instagram account, "Can we all take a moment to appreciate this ray of sunshine?"

seconds, edged out KIM Alang (KOR) with a time 43.724, a .059 second difference.

Biney and U.S. Short Track Coach Anthony Barthell had devised a plan before the 4 1/2-lap race – pull away with a strong start and then block South Korean KIM Alang, 22, the crowd favorite. The plan worked. Biney held off KIM Alang in the last lap with a great defensive move and with her sprint to finish, Biney advanced.

In the stands, Biney's father cheered as did Vice President Mike Pence who later tweeted, "Congrats to @BineyMaame on advancing in Women's 500M! @SecondLady & I are rooting for you! Let's go #TeamUSA #pyeongchang2018."

In Tuesday's Quarterfinal Heat 3, Biney sprinted off the line and was bumped by Sofia Prosvirnova from Russia throwing off her rhythm. Biney finished fourth out of four with a time of 44.772 seconds. Prosvirnova ranked first with a time of 43.466. Biney is planning to compete in the 1500m on Saturday, Feb. 17 and depending upon the outcome, may be bringing home more than determination and her infectious smile when she returns home to friends and former classmates in Reston.

TWEET BY VICE PRESIDENT MIKE PENCE

BULLETIN

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/kindergraten-registration.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

The Bottom Line. 8 a.m. at Hyatt Regency Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Boulevard, Herndon. What influences whether new businesses will open or successful companies will relocate to a neighborhood? Transportation strategies play an important role. But there's a lot more to bringing new enterprise to the region. Come explore the nexus between mobility management and economic development from the "financial" side of the road. Members free, non-members, \$35. RSVP to Kelly Woodward at kwoodward@dataatrans.org.

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.

Commemorative Bricks Sale Ends. Each year dozens of individuals leave their mark on Reston through a commemorative brick. The bricks are dedicated at Founder's Day - April 14, 2018 - and installed on Lake Anne Plaza. Bricks can be purchased from the Reston Historic Trust & Museum for a tax-deductible contribution of \$100 for a standard-sized brick and \$250 for a large brick. To order, visit the museum, go to www.restonmuseum.org/support, or contact Alexandra Campbell at rhtdirector@gmail.com or 703-709-7700.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

The MOMS Club of Herndon. 10 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dravnesville Road, Herndon. All Herndon at-home mothers and children (residents of zip codes 20170 and 20171) are invited for a presentation from Kingdom Destinations about Disney vacations (parks, resorts, cruises, etc.). For more information, or to RSVP, contact Colleen Steare, Membership VP at herndon_moms_info@yahoo.com.

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/2nISuCF>.

Community Food Packing. 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Herndon. Assistance League of Northern Virginia will hold its next monthly food packing. Email LynnB517@verizon.net or visit www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

Social Security: Understanding Your Benefits. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. This hour-long session explains the facets of Social Security (retirement, survivors, and disability benefits), discusses the options for when to claim your retirement benefits, and covers implications of working while collecting benefits. For more information or to register call 703-390-6157 or email karen.brutsche@fairfaxcounty.gov.

FRIDAY/FEB. 16

Application Deadline. Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) invites artists to submit a proposal for new artwork in response to the prompt, "If you could do anything, what would that be?" Five artists will be selected by Guest Curator Don Russell and GRACE Associate Curator Erica Harrison to participate in the 2018 Mary B. Howard Invitational: STRETCH. Selected artists will receive a \$250 honorarium and \$1,000 for materials. Visit restonarts.org.

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

"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.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

Homegrown Yoga. Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Alison Adams is bringing Homegrown Yoga to ArtSpace Herndon. All levels welcome. Drop in and take a class. \$25 two week unlimited pass or drop-in available. Visit www.homegrownpoweryoga.com to sign up.

The Elden Street Tea Shop.

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 14

Color Me Happy. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Relax, unwind, and color your cares away in our adult coloring session. Invite a friend, date or mate to come along! Coloring pages and pencils provided, or bring your own. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/FEB. 15

Reston Historic Trust to Host Program. 7 p.m. at the Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza N., Reston. On Diversity — An Exploration of Bob Simon’s Goal in Reston 2018. Join the Reston Historic Trust & Museum for an interesting panel discussion. The program will be held in the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at Reston Community Center Lake Anne and is free to the public. Seating is limited, so reservations are welcome. Contact 703-709-7700 or restonmuseum@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Great Decisions Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Watch the film produced by the Foreign Policy Association and participate in the roundtable discussion on current events and U.S. foreign policy options. The topic for this month is “Russia’s Foreign Policy”. Discussion materials will be available at the Info Desk two weeks before the event. Light refreshments will be served. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

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SATURDAY/FEB. 17

Bluegrass String Quintet. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Bluegrass String Quintet: Two Ton Twig, honoring a time and



Artwork by Craig Moran, a DC-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases.

Art Exhibit

Greater Reston Arts Center (GRACE) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Signature, Reston Town Center’s newest luxury apartment building. GRACE will present a year-round schedule of exhibitions of local artists at Signature’s ground floor gallery starting in February 2018, sponsored by Balducci’s Food Lover’s Market, which will open its newest market in the ground floor of the Signature building this spring. The first exhibit will open with a reception Thursday, March 1, 6-8 p.m. at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242, ext. 114 or visit www.restonarts.org.

spirit when music was more raw and honest, the string quintet combines emotion and depth with their raucous and carefree attitude. The result is both captivating and foot-stompin’ fun. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org/new-events/2018/2/17/two-ton-twig for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 18

Piedmont Bluz. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Piedmont Bluz Acoustic Duo plays traditional African American folk music. They help preserve this music through workshops and presentations. Sponsored by the Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

MONDAY/FEB. 19

Children’s Performing Arts Series. 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Rockneceros. Coach Cotton, Williebob, and Boogie Woogie Bennie perform wildly popular award-winning music for the whole family. Rockneceros has dominated the DC children’s music scene for many years. Ages 1-10. \$4 in advance/\$5 at the door per person, per show. Children under the age of one are free. Call 703-787-7300 or visit herndon-va.gov.

TUESDAY/FEB. 20

Sam’s Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Join former library director Sam Clay as he leads a lively book discussion. February’s title is Little Paris Bookshop by Nina George. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Live Music. 7:15 p.m. at Amphora’s Diner Deluxe, 1151 Elden St - Herndon. The RestonHerndon Folk Club presents an evening concert starring guitarist Jim Hurst. \$10 members, \$11 non-members. Tickets at the door or email

DAHurdSr@cs.com. Call 703-435-2402 or visit www.restonherndonfolkclub.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 21

Book Club. 12:15-1:15 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a lunch-time book club on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. The first book is Girl Waits with Gun by Amy Stewart. Visit scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

Author Discussion. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Scrawl Books is hosting a live video discussion with Amy Stewart, the author of Girl Waits with Gun.

THROUGH FEB. 23

Diva Central Dress Drive with Reston Community Center collection in building lobbies at Reston Town Center. The annual Diva Central Dress Drive’ mission is to promote confidence and self-esteem by providing high school students a free prom dress and other accessories. Donate new or lightly used formal dresses, shoes, jewelry, handbags and accessories, collected in boxes located in building lobbies. Visit restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Author Event. 4 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Author Dennis Woods will be discussing his memoir Black Flag Journals. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com/event/black-flag-journals-dennis-woods

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Opening Reception. 6-8 p.m. at Signature at Reston Town Center, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. The first exhibit features artwork by Craig Moran, a DC-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242, ext. 114 or visit www.restonarts.org.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTIN COOPER

From left: first graders Gia Jagadesh, Julie Zhao and Jason Cresswell, Jr. show off their own versions of the Olympic torch.

Olympic Focused Learning and Fun

Winter Olympics Theme Day at the Nysmith School.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

6,921.22 miles away from Herndon, Virginia, hundreds of athletes from 92 different countries have gathered to compete in the 2018 Winter Olympics. A lot closer to home, there was plenty of comparable spirit, enthusiasm and skill – albeit more mental than physical – on display at the Nysmith School for the Gifted as students, representing 55 different national backgrounds, participated in their own Winter Olympics Theme Day.

Staff and students dressed in a variety of sports regalia to go for the educational gold as each class undertook lesson plans that incorporated Olympic-related activities.

The second-graders in Ms. Jones’ class were busy measuring distances achieved in such events as marshmallow “snowball” tossing, ice cube luge runs and even marble curling.

The kindergarten science room gang were working on their hypotheses (and yes, they did use that word to describe their theories) as they tested whether a variety of items might or might not slide on homemade mini-ice rinks.

The third graders got in on

the action, as well, applying factoring mathematics to a number of Olympic events and moves.

The seventh grade environmental sciences class used their study of earthquakes to construct an Olympic stadium model designed to withstand the effects of quake waves. These young scientists/architects are planning ahead for the 2020 Summer Olympics that will be held in Tokyo, near the fault line of two geologic plates.

It wasn’t all classroom action, though. One half of the gym was converted into a pseudo hockey rink, while the other half hosted a Nysmith version of the biathlon competition, with students cross-country “skiing” and then taking aim at a line of targets set up on the auditorium stage.

Whether they are participating in the academic arenas or in fields of physical activity, the Nysmith students give it their all. “When we say ‘learning is fun,’ we all really mean it,” said school director Ken Nysmith. Shouts of “Yes!” “Got it!” and “Score!” from the classrooms and the sporting venues seem to echo through the hallways in agreement.

More information about the school is available at www.nysmith.com.



It’s not all about the classwork at the Nysmith School. Healthy activities are part of learning, too. On Winter Olympics Theme Day, students practiced “ice” sports, “skiing” and even the “biathlon.”