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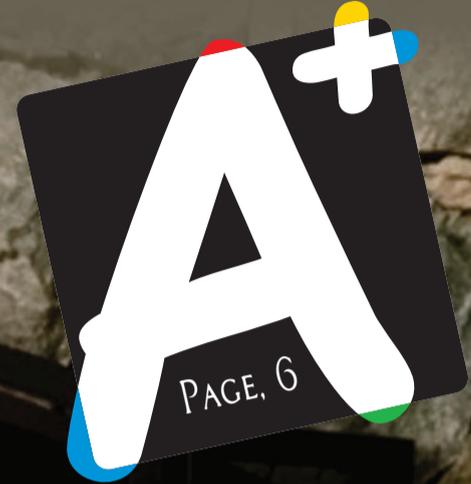
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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

# Burke CONNECTION



Skyler Foley of Burke won the young songwriter award in songwriting competition at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club and took home a \$2,500 prize.

## Burke Teen Wins Young Songwriter Award

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Birthday with a Cause

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Supposed to Be?'

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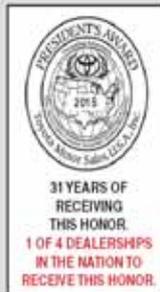
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## Robinson Teacher Celebrates Birthday with a Cause

**Megan Thrift collects donations to Everytown for Gun Safety.**

The day after Valentine's was unusually silent. At Robinson Secondary School, drama teacher Megan Thrift was accustomed to walking into a boisterous classroom filled with raucous voices and energetic teenagers.

"But it was so silent," she said about Feb. 15.

One day prior, 17 students and teachers were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla. by a former Stoneman Douglas student.

The more Thrift inquired about the stillness, the more she understood. Earlier, tweets among Robinson students had called for a day of silence in remembrance of those students killed in the Florida shooting.

"These kids really wanted to observe that," she said. "They needed not to talk about it for a little bit. I think they needed not to hear about it or have people discuss it or have it be around them or for whatever reason, feel guilty they were doing something else. And not thinking about it."

"The whole feeling of the school that day was different," she said. Robinson Secondary School, one of biggest secondary schools in Virginia, has 4,004 students in grades 7-12. "It was a day for kids to resonate and ruminate."

**FOR 90 MINUTES THAT DAY**, she said her students were tirelessly silent, all participating in quiet activities using playwriting prompts.

When Thrift got home, she needed an emotional outlet too.

For Thrift, the recent school shooting was



Students during a walkout.

PHOTO BY KENNYA PEREZ PAZ

very personal. Members of her family are teachers, either in profession or spirit, and her husband is a teacher. Since attending Westfield High School in her youth, she's always wanted to be a teacher.

"There are very few rooms and places in high school where kids get to be themselves and feel safe to do that and grow as people at the same time," she says about teaching drama.

More recently, Thrift lost a close friend to gun violence.

Following the recent mass shooting in Florida, Thrift decided in exchange for gifts on her birthday in February, she was going

to ask for donations to Everytown for Gun Safety. She began her fundraiser on Facebook, where it's raising one dollar for each Robinson student.

"My students were filled with a mix of fear, sadness, anger, and anxiety after the atrocities that occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. They wrote their representatives. Let their voices be heard," she writes on her fundraiser page.

"In this school, there are 4,004 babies, future citizens, little pockets of potential that exist," she said. "We need to keep them safe, we need to keep the school a mile away



Megan Thrift

safe."

"There's so much money making so many decisions that money shouldn't be making," she said. "We have to bring the human aspect back to awareness and back to politics. We have so

many incredible kids here that recognize that and are educating and communicating with each other about that."

During recent class "check ins," Thrift's students still talk about the shooting.

Students wonder if lockdown drills need to happen in hallways, the cafeteria or on the field. Students contemplate ways to escape from a potential shooter. Should they hide on toilet seats or use it as a weapon? Zig zag or just run? One student asked Thrift if she would stand between them and a shooter.

"And I was like, of course I would, without thinking about it," she said. "It's an ugly image. The fact that we have to think and talk about this."

**THRIFT**, a "Fairfax county public school kid" who also graduated from George Mason University with a bachelor's in Theatre and a master's in Education said she never experienced what her students are experiencing and it's heartbreaking.

But they're also informing themselves on issues by researching and joining youth groups.

"They're knowledgeable enough and

SEE GUNS. PAGE 10



Robert Law



Scoutmaster Dennis Wokeck, Scott Wheeler, Lyle Rasnick, Tim Williams with Robert Law.



The Law family

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

### Springfield's New Eagle Scout

Robert Allen Law IV, of Springfield, has earned the Boy Scouts of America's highest advancement award, the Eagle Scout Award. A member of Troop 1518, Law is one of only approximately five percent of

all Boy Scouts who attain the Eagle rank.

Law earned his Eagle rank on Jan. 29, 2018. His Eagle Scout Court of Honor was held Feb. 25, 2018 at the Pentagon.

Law is a parishioner at Nativity Catholic

Church, Burke, and is a member of the football team, crew team, and orchestra at West Springfield High School, where he is a sophomore.

He is the son of Col. Robert Law, Eagle Scout, and Sandy Law, and brother of Nicholas and Matthew Law, also scouts.

## When Is Passover Supposed to Be?

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND  
DIRECTOR CHABAD OF RESTON-  
HERNDON



This was the question recently asked of me by a close friend who is not Jewish. I, of course, was totally caught off guard by the question. I had no idea what he was asking. So, I asked him what he meant.

He replied: "Well, I have lots of Jewish friends. And over the last nearly two decades I have attended many Passover Seders. Almost every year, the conversation turns to either how 'early or late' Passover is that particular year. So, if every year Passover is either 'early or late', when is Passover supposed to be?"

For the uninitiated, the ancient Hebrews were enslaved to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, a little over 3,300 years ago. Passover commemorates the miraculous redemption from this slavery and the birth of the Jewish nation. Though the events took place a very long time ago, we believe that not only do they provide us with eternal lessons and instructions on how to live our lives, even in the most modern of times. We believe that they are also events that are to be relived and re-experienced by every one of us, in every time and place. So, to me, the question runs deeper:

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Alzheimer's Is a Growing Public Health Crisis

To the Editor:

According to the Alzheimer's Association, 140,000 Virginians over the age of 65 live with Alzheimer's. Additionally, Latinos are at one and a half times greater risk of Alzheimer's than older whites. Alzheimer's is the most expensive disease in the United States. Alzheimer's costs the country more than \$259 billion a year.

My grandfather, my "Abuelito" in Spanish, was an outgoing, social, and active man and a caring grandfather. One day, he was wandering nearby on surrounding streets, unable to find his way home after one of his daily walks. Luckily, a neighbor recognized him and knew where we lived. She brought him back to our house. My parents could not afford the increasing care he needed as a person living with Alzheimer's. My family decided he would return to Peru, where my aunts served as his caregivers.

I remember Abuelito sometimes picked me up from school. Every once in a while, we walked to McDonald's to get his favorite Big Mac meal and he would buy me a

Happy Meal, too. We used to go trick-or-treating together every Halloween. He gladly held my plastic pumpkin filled with candy. Due to Alzheimer's, I was unable to spend more quality time with my grandfather. We could not take day trips together to Luray Caverns or to the National Aquarium. I missed out on listening to him tell stories about his life experiences and family history.

Please join me in calling on U.S. Rep. Don Beyer to support an additional \$425 million for Alzheimer's research funding at the National Institutes of Health, with the goal of achieving breakthroughs in prevention and treatment. Together, we can end Alzheimer's. Visit [www.alz.org/nca](http://www.alz.org/nca) for more information.

**Jacqueline Calderon**  
Alzheimer's advocate  
Falls Church

#### Objecting to Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

I am writing to voice my objection to expanding Medicaid in Virginia.

#### Herndon-Reston Community Seder

This year, join friends and family at the Chabad Community Passover Seder. Relive the exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with songs & insights.

First Seder Night Friday, March 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.  
In the Herndon Kmart Center. 396 Elden St. Herndon 20170  
For more information or to reserve (a must) call 703-476-1829 email [rabbi@chabadrh.org](mailto:rabbi@chabadrh.org) or visit [www.chabadrh.org](http://www.chabadrh.org)

"When, indeed is Passover supposed to be?"

Well, it turns out, the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzrayim, comes from the same root as the word for "limitations or boundaries." Read this way, we can experience an "Exodus from Egypt" by "emancipating ourselves from our limitations and boundaries."

Every day we are faced with self, or societal-imposed limitations. It may be as big as some world-changing cause with which we would like to get involved, but feel like it is "beyond us." Or, it may be something as simple as a smile and a "hello" to someone next to us in line at the market, or in an elevator. Irrespective of the deed, it is our "limitations" which hold us back from a myriad of acts of goodness and kindness. And yet, it is precisely these acts which can change the world forever, and usher in an era of humanity, understanding and peace, exceeding our wildest dreams.

So, it seems that the correct answer to the question is: Passover is supposed to be every

minute, of every day. And, one certainly does not have to be Jewish, or celebrating Passover to experience their own "Exodus."

How about we start right now? Think of something noble and great you have hesitated to do, and do it. And watch the world change around you, for good!

Happy Passover to all!



Passover observances include conducting a Seder. The Seder is a fifteen step, family oriented, tradition and ritual packed feast.

The focal points of the Seder are:

- ❖ Eating Matzah.
- ❖ Eating bitter herbs to commemorate the bitter slavery endured by the Israelites.
- ❖ Drinking four cups of wine or grape juice, a royal drink, to celebrate the newfound freedom.
- ❖ The recitation of the Haggadah, a liturgy that describes in detail the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah is the fulfillment of the biblical obligation to recount to our children the story of the Exodus on the night of Passover.

Unfortunately, this will burden our state spending without any help from the Federal Government. States that have expanded Obamacare's Medicaid program have experienced a massive increase in their spending with no evidence of health improvements for new enrollees. Twenty percent of our state's doctors will not even accept Medicaid.

If we join this program, Virginians will have to fund billions of dollars per year. Let's spend it on something that has been proven to improve health for our citizens. Tragically, we know how this will turn out based on other state's experiences.

**Jamie Durkovic**  
Fairfax Station

reliability. In Virginia we were always faced with a hostile legislature that was controlled by downstate interests who did not see value in supporting mass transit. Meanwhile Metro suffered from the lack of a secure funding source.

This year we see a different picture with the results of last November's election which found the Democrats just one vote short of winning control of the House of Delegates. Elections matter and now we see the real impact of an election that empowers the Northern Virginia delegation to deliver support for Metro funding.

I was pleased to see the Northern Virginia delegation in the House and Senate take leadership on the Metro funding issue.

**Sue Boucher**  
Falls Church

#### Change in Richmond Brings Metro Funding

To the Editor:

As a long-term resident of Northern Virginia, I have been frustrated year after year to hear of a funding crisis for Metro or breakdowns affecting safety and

**Write** The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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# NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

## Becoming Eagle Scout in Burke

**Brian Leavitt (208) Passed his Eagle Scout Board of Review at BSA Troop 1131, Burke. Pictured, Eagle Scout Board of Review members: Paul Hoffman, Unit Commissioner, Alan Dunham, Carol Herrity-Tun, Eagle Scout Brian Leavitt (208), Philip Sternberg, Troop Committee Chair, C.P. Watkins, Patriot District, and Mark Blanchard, Scoutmaster. Not in photo G.C. 'Gary' Black, III. Brian is a senior at W.T. Woodson High School and attends Kol Ami – The Northern Virginia Reconstructionist Community in Arlington. His father is Noel Leavitt and his mother is Leah Dela Cruz.**



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THE CROSSINGS  
AT SPRING HILL

# Manners in the Tech Age

Etiquette classes aim to teach lost art of manners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**O**n a sunny, autumn day a group of 10-year-old children sat around an formal dining room table at a home in Arlington. The boys wore blazers, pressed khakis and shiny loafers, while the girls have donned festive dresses, nude stockings and wore grosgrain ribbons in their neatly combed hair. They had arrived at the home for a lesson in etiquette, but most of them would have rather been someplace else.

"I have to leave early for a soccer game," said Jimmy, who didn't bother hiding his glee over missing part of the class.

In an era when it's commonplace to order pizza on a smartphone and coordinate play dates by text, old-fashioned etiquette can appear obsolete. A recent survey of teachers shows that 73 percent of instructors believe that students are less polite than when the teachers themselves were students. In the age high-tech conveniences, children can become over scheduled and under socialized, which has led to an uptick in the number of parents who are enrolling their children in etiquette classes, say protocol instructors.

"Parents have a tremendous interest in etiquette classes because so many parents realize that they don't have that knowledge themselves, said Dorothea Johnson, who founded the Protocol School of Washington and is the author of the book "Modern Manners: Tools to Take You to the Top," which she co-authored with her granddaughter actress Liv Tyler.

"I think most parents know that good manners and etiquette will be important to their [children's] future," added Henryette Neal who teaches etiquette classes for children through the Fairfax County Park Authority. "Young people will be educated, but without proper social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly." Neal is also the owner of Steppin Out Charm and Imaging Studio.

The result of fast-paced lifestyles combined with overloaded schedules is a generation of children who place more value on social media savvy than on knowledge of social graces. Family dinners are replaced by fast food, says one parent. "Who needs good manners to gobble down a slice of pizza," said Carole Mincey of Alexandria, whose 14-year old daughter and 11-year old son have taken etiquette and ballroom dance from Mrs. Simpson's Classes, one of the area's invitation-only etiquette schools. "Because everyone is so busy and technology is so advanced, reality television shows are setting standards of behavior and handwritten thank you notes have been replaced by emails and texts."

Good manners are as important to a child's future success as academics, says another parent. "I feel like if people know what do to in social situations it empowers them," said Sarah Henry of Chevy Chase, mother of a 10-year old daughter and a 12-year old son. "If you're unsure of what to do it can make you feel intimidated. So it's all about empowering chil-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Henryette Neal teaches etiquette classes for children.**

dren with knowledge. And it's good for them to be exposed to proper etiquette in case they're not getting it at home. And if they are getting it at home, etiquette classes can reinforce it."

Interactive class sessions help keep their children engaged in the etiquette lessons. "The key is to keep the children occupied," said Johnson. "For example, when teaching proper introductions, I would call two children up to the front of the room and have them introduce themselves to each other."

In addition to learning such common courtesies such as saying "Please," "Thank you" and "You're welcome," children learn to write thank-you notes and introduce themselves to others by making direct eye contact and offering a firm handshake.

"Knowing how to give a proper handshake is important. When I took my seven-year-old granddaughter Liv to formal events, her little hand went out as she was being introduced to someone," said Johnson. "I could take her anywhere because she had impeccable manners."

Henry says that in a class that she coordinated for her daughter's Girl Scout troop, part of the curriculum included having the children form a receiving

line with parents where they practiced handshakes and eye contact.

"We also printed proper table setting samples online and give the girls n plastic forks spoons, knives, napkins and a copy of the place setting," said Henry. "We talked about how to talked about the placement of the utensils, how to hold a knife and fork properly. One of my pet peeves is watching people hold a knife like it's a stick."

These are good life lessons, says Neal. "Etiquette classes are important because people still need to be respectful of others, and it starts with our children," she said. "A simple please and thank you is important."

**"Young people will be educated, but without good social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly."**

**— Henryette Neal, etiquette instructor**

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBARD/THE CONNECTION

### Promoting Human Rights

**Lake Braddock Secondary School: Zahra Alisa was honored for her work with the Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission's fair housing committee and mental health project. She is with U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11).**

### Burke Teen Wins Young Songwriter Award

The fourth annual Bernard/Ebb Songwriting Awards, produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District, concluded on Wednesday evening, March 14, with a live concert performed by the competition's finalists. Performing before a panel of judges, six finalists and three young songwriters shared their original songs.

At the close of the show, Rochelle Rice from Washington, D.C. was named the Grand Prize winner and recipient of the \$10,000 prize and 25 hours of recording studio time.

Skyler Foley of Burke won the young songwriter award and took home a \$2,500 prize.

Foley, a sixteen-year-old songwriter from Burke found her love of music at a young age. At age five she began voice lessons, shortly followed by piano. It was in sixth grade that she discovered the guitar and joined the band The Outliers, of which she's still a lead member. Skyler began writing songs when she was thirteen, originally inspired to write for the band, she has also branched out to write for solo performances. She is in 10th grade at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

The 2018 Young Songwriter finalists were Eliza Costello & Charlotte Corcoran, Bethesda,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Skyler Foley of Burke won the young songwriter award in songwriting competition at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Club and took home a \$2,500 prize.**

Md.; Skyler Foley, Burke, and Thomas & Isabel LaRosa, Annapolis, Md.

The competition was founded by philanthropist and local resident, Cathy Bernard and was created in honor of her uncle, Fred Ebb. Ebb was a renowned American songwriter and creator of Broadway hits such as Cabaret and Chicago and iconic songs including New York, New York.

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

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# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press.** Through March 31, 5 p.m.-midnight, daily, at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Nasrin Navab and Epicure Cafe present: Artists & Poets: Freedom of Expression-Freedom of the Press. Instigated by Helen Frederick, the DC art community came together two years ago in solidarity with people of Iraq and the Middle East to support the "Al Mutanabbi Street Starts Here!" Project. Al-Mutanabbi Street is Baghdad's bookselling street that has created space for books for hundreds of years. In 2007, the street was destroyed in a car bombing. Visit [www.epicurecafe.org/](http://www.epicurecafe.org/).

**Second Saturdays.** 6-9 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. The Second Saturday Art Walk is the perfect time to meet nearly 85 Resident and Associate Artists, creating art in the studios or exhibiting in our galleries. Experience performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the globe. Enjoy art exhibitions in nine galleries of the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art works. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/](http://www.workhousearts.org/).

**Senior Line Dancing.** Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8-week session. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation.** An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). [www.fpow.org](mailto:www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. at Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays, 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun



## Fairfax Band Concert

PHOTO COURTESY OF CFBA

The City of Fairfax Band presents a program designed to make you want to get on your feet and dance away the winter blues. Selections range from Weinberger's classic Polka and Fugue from "Schwanda the Bagpiper" to Ira Hearshen's Aragon: 1945-1952, a collection of popular dances from the post-WWII swing era. \$10-15, students free. Saturday, March 24, 7:30-9 p.m. at Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 571-336-2322 or visit [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxvd.com](http://www.fairfaxvd.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 21-25

**Junior Golf Tournament.** The Hurricane Junior Golf Tour will host the Laurel Hill Jr. Shootout at the Laurel Hill Golf Club. This year the Laurel Hill Jr. Shootout will hold an active field of 72 players. The tournament will consist of a 36-hole two-day format and golfers will compete in six divisions. The event is open to the public and free for spectators. Visit [www.hjgt.org](http://www.hjgt.org), call 407-614-2962, or email [info@hjgt.org](mailto:info@hjgt.org).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**Teacher Basketball Game.** 6:45-8:15 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. The staff from two different elementary schools will play a basketball game to raise money for charity. \$3. Visit [www2.fcps.edu/MosbyWoodsES/](http://www2.fcps.edu/MosbyWoodsES/) or call 703-937-11600.

## FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**Sushi Fest.** 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Bluefin Tuna cutting, noon; at Wegmans, 11620 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Sushi Fest, a celebration of Japanese cuisine at Wegmans, is bringing the excitement of Tokyo's famed Tsukiji fish market to customers in the store. A large space within the Market Café will be transformed by ice tables filled with stunning displays of exotic

fresh fish flown in overnight from Tokyo. Admission is free. Visit [www.wegmans.com/events/0318/sushi-fest.html](http://www.wegmans.com/events/0318/sushi-fest.html).

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvf.com](http://www.fairfaxvf.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**Family Movie Night: "Despicable Me 3."** 7 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a free, family friendly (movies are PG) movie night. An adult must accompany anyone under the age of 14. "Britepaths" Food Drive at Family Fun Nights. Britepaths is a volunteer-based organization that identifies and addresses the unmet fundamental needs of Fairfax area residents. Call 703-385-7858.

**The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series.** 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Marc Ramirez and Olivia Hajioff form the violin and violin/viola duo Marcolivia. Free and open to the public, first-come, first-served basis. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 23-24

**The 2018 Mason School of Dance Gala Concert.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. George Mason University's School of Dance presents its 2018 Mason School of Dance Gala Concert, which is the Mason Dance Company's crowning season event. The program features four exceptional works from the contemporary repertoire: Mass by Doug Varone, Within Reach by Yin Yue, Flesh by Iván Pérez, and A Brahms Symphony by Lar Lubovitch. \$25 for adults; \$15 for students, staff, and seniors; and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. Visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) for tickets.

## SATURDAY/MARCH 24

**Easter Egg Hunt.** 9 a.m.-noon at Franconia United Methodist Church, 6037 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Come Join FUMC for a free community Easter Egg Hunt with candy, refreshments, and a bake sale. Toddlers (5-7 years old) will hunt first around 9:30, followed by early elementary school children (8-10) and finally the older school children (11-12). Free. Call 703-971-5151 or visit [franconiaumc.org](http://franconiaumc.org).

**Susan Shields, Professor of Dance, George Mason University, College of Visual and Performing Arts**



PHOTO BY EVAN CANTWELL/ COURTESY GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

## Lighting Up the Stage

### Mason Dance Gala Concert Ready for Prime Time

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

Performing works by renowned choreographers, the Mason Dance Company's crowning season event is coming to the Center for the Arts for two performances the evenings of March 23 and 24. The Mason performances will be full evenings of dance by talented Mason students performing technically demanding, intensely driven works

"We are excited to show the public what Mason dancers can do," said Professor of Dance Susan Shields. Before Mason, Shields had a career that included dancing with Mikhail Baryshnikov's White Oak Dance Project as well as the Lar Lubovitch Dance Company and the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Mason's Dance Gala Concert will feature four contemporary works including Mass by Doug Varone, Within Reach by Yin Yue, Flesh by Iván Pérez, and A Brahms Symphony by Lar Lubovitch. These four "provide our Mason students with the opportunity to learn different dance languages, techniques and working methods," said Shields.

Doug Varone's "Mass" is an intensely intimate, emotionally insightful work, said Shields. Beyond work for his own dance company, Doug Varone and Dancers, he has been commissioned to develop choreography by notable dance companies including the Martha Graham Dance Company and Paul Taylor Dance Company.

"Within Reach" is by choreographer and performer Yin Yue who is originally from China. She is now the Artistic

### Where and When

2018 George Mason University School of Dance Gala Concert featuring the Mason Dance Company at Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: March 23 and March 24, at 8 p.m. Tickets \$25 for adults; \$15 for students, staff, and seniors; and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. To purchase tickets visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu) or call 703-993-8888.

Director of her own the New York-based company called YYDC. Recipient of many awards and fellowships, Yin Yue is known for originating the "Folk Contemporary" style inspired by earthy elements of root, wood, water, fire, and metal.

Spanish choreographer Ivan Pérez's emotional work, "Flesh" was inspired by Keith Douglas's poem "Knife." It has a narrative about memory, loss, and love. Pérez has helmed his own Netherlands-based dance company INNS. Next season, he will serve as Artistic Director, Dance Theater Heidelberg (Germany).

The Mason Dance Concert's grand finale is "A Brahms Symphony" by Lar Lubovitch. It is a masterwork that premiered three decades ago, and set to Johannes Brahms's "Symphony No. 3." Lubovitch has choreographed more than 100 works for his company, as well as done creative work for film and musical theater productions.

George Mason University dance student and Virginia native Julianne Kannon, praised the Mason School of Dance for being challenging. "I remember thinking how lucky I would be if I got into the program. I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to perform" at this year's Mason Dance Concert.

## Blood Donation Opportunities

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March. Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives.

Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area, March 20 to April 15

Fairfax  
 3/20/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/21/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/22/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/23/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

3/24/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/25/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/26/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/27/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/28/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/29/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/30/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 3/31/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 4/1/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 4/2/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200  
 4/3/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200

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

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# HOME SALES

In February 2018, 34 Burke homes sold between \$677,000-\$250,000.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
6916 SPANKER DR	5	3	1	BURKE	\$677,000	Detached	0.27	22015	LONGWOOD KNOLLS	
6605 BESTWICKE CT	4	3	1	BURKE	\$645,000	Detached	0.26	22015	CHERRY RUN	
6304 FALLING BROOK DR	5	2	1	BURKE	\$612,000	Detached	0.29	22015	SUMMERDAY	
9022 BROOK FORD RD	4	3	0	BURKE	\$611,000	Detached	0.20	22015	BURKE STATION SQUARE	
5961 OAKLAND PARK DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$610,000	Detached	0.58	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
6409 GLENBARD RD	5	3	0	BURKE	\$600,000	Detached	0.21	22015	ROLLING VALLEY WEST	
9526 KIRKFIELD RD	4	3	0	BURKE	\$595,000	Detached	0.26	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK	
9505 IRONMASTER DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$590,000	Detached	0.22	22015	ORANGE HUNT WEST	
8918 LAKE BRADDOCK DR	4	2	1	BURKE	\$565,000	Detached	0.22	22015	SIGNAL HILL	
5505 BURLEY CT	5	2	1	BURKE	\$559,900	Detached	0.35	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK	
6200 FUSHIMI CT	4	2	1	BURKE	\$535,000	Detached	0.24	22015	BENT TREE	
6220 ERMAN ST	5	3	0	BURKE	\$535,000	Detached	0.24	22015	ROLLING VALLEY WEST	
9117 FOX LAIR DR	4	3	0	BURKE	\$518,000	Detached	0.20	22015	FOX LAIR	
9464 BACKSTAY CT	4	3	0	BURKE	\$510,000	Detached	0.29	22015	LONGWOOD KNOLLS	
6360 TISBURY DR	3	2	2	BURKE	\$500,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BRITTFORD	
5910 WOOD SORRELS CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$485,000	Semi-Detached	0.18	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
5428 BROMYARD CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$482,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK	
5912 CROSSIN CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$465,000	Detached	0.19	22015	BURKE STATION SQUARE	
10145 WOOD GREEN WAY	4	3	1	BURKE	\$461,000	Townhouse	0.06	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
9390 PETER ROY CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$435,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	CAROLINE OAKS	
5988 POWELLS LANDING RD	3	2	1	BURKE	\$424,000	Townhouse	0.09	22015	TOWNHOUSE	
5983 CLERKENWELL CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$419,900	Townhouse	0.04	22015	CARDINAL GLEN	
5858 WOOD FLOWER CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$405,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
5802 WOOD POPPY CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$402,500	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
5748 BURKE TOWNE CT	3	2	1	BURKE	\$399,900	Townhouse	0.03	22015	TOWNES OF BURKE	
10350 POND SPICE TER	3	3	1	BURKE	\$388,500	Townhouse	0.04	22015	BURKE CENTRE	
6012 LIBERTY BELL CT	3	2	2	BURKE	\$380,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	HERITAGE SQUARE	
4947 TIBBITT LN	3	2	1	BURKE	\$356,500	Townhouse	0.03	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK	
5025 TIBBITT LN	3	2	1	BURKE	\$333,000	Townhouse	0.03	22015	LAKE BRADDOCK	
5912 ANNABERG PL #206	3	3	0	BURKE	\$328,000	Townhouse	0.04	22015	OAKWOOD COMMONS BURKE	
5940 COVE LANDING RD #301	3	2	0	BURKE	\$265,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	22015	BURKE COVE	
5904 COVE LANDING RD #101	2	2	0	BURKE	\$264,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	22015	BURKE COVE	
6502 FENESTRA CT #60A	2	2	0	BURKE	\$253,650	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	22015	KEENE MILL WOODS	
9212 HICKORY TREE CT #4A	2	2	0	BURKE	\$250,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.04	22015	KEENE MILL WOODS	

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## Keeping Guns Away from Schools

FROM PAGE 3

they're filled with enough potential and boy, do they have the manpower," she said. "These kids do feel empowered and a lot of it has to do with Robinson. I think it's a wonderful place to learn and teach.

"I think other kids' voices being heard [from the #NeverAgain movement] and experiencing the effect of listening to each other and seeing it truly catch on as a movement, now [students] feel like, we're not just a kid, we're not just powerless," said Thrift. "We have a voice. We were born and raised in the generation of connecting people and voices, even if it was through a screen."

As for arming teachers in school Thrift said, "Not having a gun in a school, ever, is a good choice.

"What I don't want for my students is for them to



PHOTO BY KENNYA PEREZ PAZ

### Walkout at Robinson Secondary

be known as the generation of mass shootings," she said. "They are so filled with so much potential that to label them as that does the world a disservice."

To donate to Thrift's cause, visit: <https://www.facebook.com/donate/981910925296289/>

### WEEK IN BURKE

## Improperly Discarded Fireplace Ashes Cause House Fire

On Sunday, March 4, at 7:19 a.m., fire units responded for a reported house fire in the 9500 block of Yardarm Lane in the Burke section of Fairfax County.

Units arrived on scene of a two-story, single family home with heavy smoke showing from the garage area of the house. Firefighters quickly located and extinguished the fire. There were no reported civilian or firefighter injuries.

Three occupants were home at the time of the fire. One of the occupants noticed smoke inside the house, alerted the others, and called 9-1-1. All occupants safely evacuated prior to fire department arrival. Smoke alarms in the home activated after the fire was discovered.

Fire Investigators determined that the fire was accidental in nature and started in the garage. The cause of the fire was hot fireplace ashes that

were placed inside a plastic container located in the garage.

Three occupants were displaced as a result of the fire. Red Cross assistance was offered and accepted. Damages as a result of the fire are approximately \$165,100.

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department would like to remind all residents to be cautious and keep safety in mind when handling fireplace ashes. Following a few simple safety tips can help keep you and your loved ones safe.

- ❖ Do not discard your ashes into any combustible container such as a paper or plastic bag, a cardboard box, or a plastic trash can.

- ❖ Do not place ash containers on decks, porches, or in garages.

- ❖ Put ashes into a non-combustible metal container with a lid.

- ❖ Pour water into the container to make sure the ashes are cool.

- ❖ Keep your can outside the home, away from your fireplace or stove and anything combustible.

- ❖ Teach all family members to be safe with ashes from your fireplace or wood stove.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 22

**Hire Vets Now Networking Reception.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir Community Center, 10300 Taylor Road. Transitioning service members and veterans will have the opportunity to connect with many of Virginia's top civilian employers in high growth industries such as medical, IT and cyber security at the Hire Vets Now hiring and networking event. Free. Includes a free "Grab and Go" lunch. Walk-ins welcome or register at [www.vachamber.com/hirevetmarch22](http://www.vachamber.com/hirevetmarch22).

**Springfield CBC Commuter Parking Garage Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Edison High School, Cafeteria A, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. To discuss the Springfield Community Business Center (CBC) Commuter Parking Garage project. County staff will present the revised ground floor plan and answer questions. Sponsored by Fairfax County Department of Transportation and Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/springfield-garage](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/projects/springfield-garage).

**Springfield District Budget Town Hall.** 7 p.m. at Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The new County Executive and CFO will be in attendance. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2019-budget-town-hall-meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2019-budget-town-hall-meetings).

### FRIDAY/MARCH 23

**Good Friday Meditation.** 7-8 p.m. at Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite B205, Springfield. Meditation to a Compline Service with sacred music. Free. Call 703-623-5400 or visit [unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com](http://unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 25

**Palm Sunday Experience.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Unity Spiritual Center of Springfield, 8136 Old Keene Mill Road, Suite 205, Springfield. A special experience celebrating Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and the major events of Holy Thursday. Special music provided. Free. Visit [unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com](http://unityspiritualcenterofspringfieldva.com).

### SUNDAY/MARCH 25-SUNDAY/APRIL 1

**Holy Week Worship.** At King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Palm Sunday, March 25 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.; Maundy Thursday, March 29 - 7 p.m.; Good Friday, March 30 - 12:15 and 7 p.m.; Easter Sunday, April 1 - 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Visit [www.kokf.org](http://www.kokf.org) or contact the church office 703-378-7272.

### MONDAY/MARCH 26

**Learn About Becoming a Foster Parent.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. For those who have made the decision to open their home to a child or simply want to learn more. To foster or adopt, people must be 18 or older; may be married, single, or divorced; may work outside the home; and must be able to provide a safe, loving home. Call 703-324-7919.

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## Almost Exactly Four Days ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... was the length of time during which we were powerless a few weeks back when the wind nearly brought down the house; yet it was no laughing matter. I might have written this column sooner but until Tuesday, March 6 – when the power finally came back on, we were semi-frozen to the bone. The old-fashioned thermostat in our living room indicated 42 degrees at its most frigid.

Aside from the obvious physical discomfort – made a bit more bearable while wearing hats, gloves, coats and scarfs – inside, the toll the cold took on my mental acuity was much less manageable. My brain still worked, but not overtime. It was, to invoke a "Star Trek" reference: "On impulse power," somewhere between barely functioning and imminent danger.

This power outage was the most significant we had experienced at "Belly Acres" in the 26 years since we took ownership in late May 1992. And though this four-day non-sojourn was difficult, it was for us not a return down power-outage lane. We have been lucky in our time here; very little has upset the apple cart. Considering the hundreds of trees that surround our house, and the many thuds they all made as they fell and hit the ground that extremely late Friday night/early Saturday morning, the miracle is that not one of them hit the house, or either of our two cars parked in the driveway.

I wouldn't say I woke up in the morning to find our house relatively unscathed because as of 3:30 a.m. when I felt the house shudder for the first time, I never was able to fall back asleep as I kept bracing myself for incoming trees and limbs. Given the potential damage and hassle a direct hit likely would have caused, a power outage seemed a minor inconvenience, all things considered.

As it happened, when the power came back on, I was not at home. I was en route to the Glenmont Metro station in Wheaton to pick up Dina. When I came to a stop at "Kiss and Ride," I looked at my cell phone and noticed a "missed call" from one of my neighbors. I immediately called back and soon heard my neighbor, Helene, singing "We're in heaven, ..." with the explanation – not in verse – that power had returned to New Birmingham Manor (the official name of our 10-home dead-end street). BG&E, our utility company, had finally come by to cut/trim the tree that had been uprooted in the storm and fallen across the power line which electrifies our neighborhood.

As difficult as it had been for some of us, it had not been nearly as difficult for the four neighbors who had generators and thus were prepared and able to keep the lights on and the heat circulating. One of whom was kind enough to call around the neighborhood and offer hot showers as well as refrigerator and freezer storage to anyone interested. Given that the previous week was a post-chemotherapy week for me when I'm not eating much and shopping at supermarkets even less, we had minimal food in the freezer - all of which ended up being a loss, and a bit less than usual in the refrigerator which, after putting the contents into two coolers filled with ice, ended up being a gain.

Oddly enough, I haven't re-inventoried the refrigerator/freezer as yet. I don't know if I'm being paranoid or just plain lazy, but I haven't felt inclined to stop and shop, not even at the Giant. I imagine the feeling will pass because after eating out every night; some fast, some slow, over the last week or so, I'm probably way over our imaginary budget and way under prepared for the next go around. But as is often heard on basketball courts on playgrounds all over America: "No harm. No foul."

The four days without power weren't particularly pleasant but we survived the ordeal nonetheless and may have even learned something in the process: our long underwear still fits.

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



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