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A+
PAGE, 7

Greenbriar resident Beth Pokorny holds two of the valentines she made for retired veterans at RSVP's volunteer event.

Valentines and Volunteers

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fairfax Teen Charged In Student's Murder

NEWS, PAGE 3

'When Is Passover Supposed to Be?'

OPINION, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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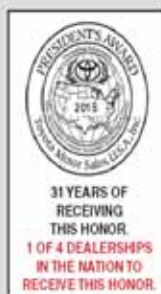
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Fairfax Teen Charged in Student's Murder

Victim was a junior at Centreville High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Nearly a month after Matthew Brian Ortega's lifeless body was found lying on a Centreville street, Fairfax County police have charged a Fairfax City teen with his murder. He is Uriel Josaphat Espinosa Cruz, 18, and officers arrested him last Tuesday afternoon, March 13.

Ortega, 17, was a junior at Centreville High and, initially, detectives sought the public's help to identify him. On Feb. 14, at 5:17 a.m., a delivery driver discovered him in the 13000 block of Jeb Stuart Square and notified police. Ortega had sustained upper-body trauma, and medics pronounced him dead at the scene.

No weapons were found there, and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy to determine the exact cause and manner of Ortega's death. Two days later, homicide detectives released his



The victim, Matthew Ortega



Uriel Espinosa Cruz

identity. And on Feb. 22, the medical examiner ruled that he died from a single, gunshot wound.

Again, police asked the public to contact them with any information that could possibly lead to Ortega's killer. Then last week, they took Espinosa Cruz into custody and charged him with murder and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony. Police say detectives "do not believe this to be a random incident."

THE INVESTIGATION is ongoing. Meanwhile, the suspect is being held without bond at the Adult Detention Center. And according to a jail spokeswoman, he also

has an ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) detainer on him. He was arraigned in court last Wednesday morning, March 14, and his next court date is slated for April 16.

After Ortega was identified, Centreville High School Principal Dave Jagels sent a message to all the school's parents, saying the Wildcat community was "deeply saddened by the death of Matthew Ortega." He said the incident was under police investigation and that anyone with information related to Ortega's death should call the police at 703-691-2131.

"I have contacted Matthew's family to offer them our condolences and support," wrote Jagels. "We are letting you know so that you can provide any support your child might need." He also told parents that crisis-team members would be available at the school that week "to work with individual students and class groups who ask for support."

"Understanding death, especially the death of a classmate, can be a very difficult experience," he continued. "For that reason, we hope that you will listen to your son or daughter, as well as discuss with them their feelings and reactions to this tragedy."

"On behalf of all members of the school staff, our deepest condolences are with Matthew's family and friends during this difficult time," wrote Jagels. "He was a bright and engaging student who will be greatly missed by our school community."

A Go Fund Me page was started on Facebook to help the family with Matthew's funeral expenses and raised more than \$16,000. On that page, a relative wrote that Matthew's mother was "the only parent Matthew had left."

"THE FAMILY had recently lost their dad, not too long ago. This tragedy isn't only difficult, but heartbreaking. Thank you all so much for all the love you have shown for little Matthew. God bless. Our Matthew will always be remembered. We love you, little brother."

Also on that page, he was described as a "son, brother, uncle and very loved by many." And on his own Facebook page, in mid-February, Matthew's older brother thanked everybody "for the overwhelming support during these last few days. My little brother is surely looking down from heaven and appreciating how you all have come together in love to support us."

Valentine's Day and Volunteers

Seniors learn about opportunities to serve their community.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The Valentine's Day meet-and-greet at Overture Fair Ridge was more than just a social event for the attendees.

It enabled them to learn about volunteer opportunities in Fairfax County; and while listening to the guest speakers, they created handmade valentines for members of the Vinson Hall Retirement Community in McLean.

Overture is a Fair Oaks apartment complex for people 62 and over. And hosting the Feb. 14 event there was RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program), a partnership of Volunteer Fairfax, Volunteer Arlington and Volunteer Alexandria.

"We match people 55 or older with volunteer organizations in their communities, and then we send volunteers their way," explained Carly Hubicki, a volunteer specialist with RSVP. Those interested choose how, where and how often they want to serve, with commitments ranging from a few hours to 40 hours a week.



From left: Linda Andrews, Mary Marple and daughter Barbara Marple with some of the valentines they created.

DESCRIPTIONS of many of the volunteer opportunities are on the organization's website, www.rsvpnova.org. After checking it out, said Hubicki, potential volunteers would come to an RSVP orientation and then fill out an application.

"They tell their experience, interests and skills, as well as the things they want to do," added RSVP volunteer Denise Mackie-Smith. "Then the volunteer coordinator in-

terviews them, and they're matched up with various organizations that need help." At last week's meet-and-greet, she said, "Today, people will find out about the program and, hopefully, meet others they'd like to volunteer with."

One of the speakers seeking volunteers was Jessie Wilson, representing Insight Memory Care in Fairfax. "I'm specifically looking for volunteers for our early-stage,

Reconnections program for people recently diagnosed with dementia," she said. "We need outside speakers to come and provide a special program about history, travel or a particular passion they have."

Doing so, said Wilson, would help the listeners become active and engaged. "The speakers could share photos from their vacation and talk about it or reminisce about life events, such as a wedding. That way, they'd be offering a different perspective from someone new."

Guests can come there any of three days a week, any time between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. They could lead chair exercises, show people how to dance, sing songs or play musical instruments. "People who want to share whatever talents they have are welcome," said Wilson. "We use visual aids, and I'm happy to help put the program together."

INSIGHT is also flexible with scheduling. "Volunteers can come for an hour or more, depending on their availability," said Wilson. And for those attending the program, she said, "It's an opportunity for them to learn and give their opinions and feedback. They love meeting new people, interacting and socializing."

"It makes them feel like they can give back and keep their abilities as long as possible," she continued. "It doesn't focus on their limitations, and they're be

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 9

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 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 or visit 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 down-state 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

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

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Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Fire Fatality in the Hotel Room

On March 15, at 7:23 a.m., Fairfax City and County Fire and rescue units were dispatched to a reported fire with a victim reportedly trapped at 9865 Fairfax Blvd., in the City of Fairfax. Units arrived on the scene at 7:27 a.m. to find heavy smoke and fire showing from a one-story hotel complex. A second alarm was requested to bring additional resources to the scene. Crews initiated an aggressive attack of the fire quickly knocking down the bulk of the fire and made entry to find a 35-year-old female deceased in the hotel room. Smoke detectors and hotel staff alerted and safely evacuated other nearby guests. No additional civilian injuries were reported. The medical examiner's office identified the victim as 35-year-old Megan Shuman, from Sterling. The victim's next of kin have been notified. The medical examiner's office will determine the exact cause of death. The hotel management is working to relocate approximately 25 guests to other properties. The origin and cause of the fire is under investigation.

Man Receiving Mental Health Evaluation after Barricade

A 41-year-old man is being evaluated after a 2-hour barricade situation ended early March 14. Officers were initially called to the 2800 block of Hunter Road for the report of an armed suicidal man who had discharged a round from his firearm around 11 p.m. the previous night.

Patrol officers isolated the area and negotiations began while crisis negotiators and SWAT officers responded to the scene to continue with the de-escalation efforts. A couple of hours into the event, the man ignored commands to surrender peacefully and exited his home armed with a firearm. The man presented a deadly force threat to the officers. During this confrontation, an officer assigned to the Special Operations Division with 10-years of service, deployed deadly force in the form of one round from their assigned weapon, which did not hit the man. Officers also deployed less-lethal force in the form of an Electronic Control Weapon, bean bag rounds, and a .40mm foam projectile. Officers were then able to safely take him into custody. He had minor injuries and was taken to the hospital to be evaluated, and was expected to be transferred to a mental health facility. Charges are possible.

According to FCPD, Major Crimes Bureau is conducting a criminal investigation into the deployment of deadly force. When this investigation is complete, the findings will be presented to the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney for Fairfax County. Additionally, the department's Internal Affairs Bureau is conducting an administrative investigation in accordance with policy. The Police Auditor for the County of Fairfax will monitor the ongoing investigations, and will conduct a review of the investigations when they are completed.

The involved officer is on routine administrative leave while the investigations are being conducted. The Chief of Police, Colonel Edwin C. Roessler Jr., will provide additional updates within the next 10 days in accordance with prescribed policies.

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
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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.,

SEE BLOOD, PAGE 9

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Manners in the Tech Age

Etiquette classes aim to teach lost art of manners.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

On a sunny, autumn day a group of 10-year-old children sat around an a 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 to do 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 talk 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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CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at 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/.

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/.

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 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 for each month’s location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at www.fpow.org/volunteer. www.fpow.org, 703-324-5424 or 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.

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 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.

and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP 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. 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

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.

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, call 407-614-2962, or email 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/ 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.

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.fairfaxvfd.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.

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 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.

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^oby Doug Varone, ^oWithin Reach^oby Yin Yue, ^oFlesh^oby Iván Pérez, and ^oA Brahms Symphony^oby 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^o“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”^ois 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^owww.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. ^oPerez 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^o“A Brahms Symphony”^oby 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^ohow^olucky 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.

Volunteers Needed

FROM PAGE 3

ing productive with their day. It also gives their family members a break." To volunteer at Insight, contact her at jessica.wilson@insightmcc.org.

ALSO AT RSVP'S EVENT was Emily Thomas with Volunteer Solutions. She works for the county's Area Agency on Aging and has 3,000 volunteers. "We provide volunteers for various programs, such as Meals on Wheels, to 14 senior centers and to adult, day, health-care centers," she said. "We need volunteers to supervise social visiting, do grocery shopping, drive people to medical visits and check in on them."

Besides working with RSVP, Mackie-Smith also volunteers with New Hope Housing, which manages homeless shelters. She said her organization is always looking for volunteers to help with coat drives, read to children and help adults write resumés for jobs.

Holly Booker, with the nonprofit Junior Achievement, also made her pitch during the Valentine's Day event. She coordinates the in-classroom programs for Northern Virginia students in grades kindergarten through 12.

"We teach financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship," she said. "All our programs are taught by volunteers, not teachers. The volunteers teach

Local Woman Honored For Volunteer Work

RSVP Northern Virginia held its annual volunteer recognition event on March 7 at Wolf Trap. At that time, some 20 RSVP Northern Virginia volunteers, who each performed 100 or more hours of service in 2017, received the President's Volunteer Service Award. One of them was Fairfax resident Shelley Brosnan, who volunteered the most of any area RSVP member in 2017, logging more than 540 service hours.

The President's Volunteer Service Award recognizes American citizens and lawfully admitted, permanent residents of the United States who have achieved the required number of hours of service over a 12-



Shelley Brosnan

month time period or cumulative hours over the course of a lifetime.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB PAINE

from a book, and no experience is necessary. As long as they can read, they can do it."

Patti Senft, Junior Achievement's manager of program engagement, said, "We need at least 18-25 volunteers a day because we need a minimum of 2,500 volunteers every school year. But we have a goal of 3,000." The organization runs Finance Park, at 4099 Pickett Road in Fairfax, near Woodson High and Frost Middle School, and serves 15,000 students a year.

"But we can't do this without our wonderful community of volun-

teers," said Senft. "It's a fantastic program, and we're happy to have people volunteer so that these kids are ready to take on challenges in a 21st-century, global economy. We've gotten a number of great volunteers from Volunteer Fairfax and RSVP." For more information or to sign up for an orientation, go to www.rsvpnova.org, call 703-403-5360 or email rsvp@volunteerfairfax.org. An upcoming orientation is set for Thursday, March 22, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at Junior Achievement's Finance Park in Fairfax.

Blood Donation

FROM PAGE 5

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
4/4/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/5/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/6/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/7/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center,

2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/8/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/9/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/10/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/11/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/12/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/13/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/14/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/15/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.,
Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
Springfield
4/10/2018: 1:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.,
American Legion Post 176, 6520 Amherst Ave

Burke
4/2/2018: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Rd

Volunteers needed

Another way to support the life-saving mission of the American Red Cross is to become a volunteer transportation specialist and deliver lifesaving blood products to local area hospitals. Volunteer transportation specialists play a very important role in ensuring an ample blood supply for patients in need by transporting blood and blood products. For more information and to apply for a volunteer transportation specialist position, visit rdcrss.org/ driver.

For more information, visit RedCross.org or CruzRojAmerica.org, or visit on Twitter at @RedCross.

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News



Walkout at Robinson Secondary.

PHOTO BY
KENNYA
PEREZ PAZ

Keeping Guns Away from Schools

FROM PAGE 6

ing 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 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 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/>

Legals

Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 commencing at 10:30 AM, at 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia 22152, in order to enforce the warehouseman's lien for storage and related services, we will sell by Public Auction the items in the accounts of: Michael Arellano, Cassandra Asberry, Patricia Askew, Jacquelyn L. Calbert, Josiah E. Fritz, Beatrice Geelhaar, Erick O. Hall, Tiffany Harris-Baldwin, Douglas B. Hitt, Michael A. Johnson, Maureen Jules, Iyad Kayyal, Edmund K. Kowalski, Thomas Manski, Micah Morris, Dustin Mueller, Lorenzo Parker, Zachariah Parvi, Michael Ware, Jason White, David Williams and New Vision Engineering Group.

Those effects are stored with any of the following: Ace Van & Storage Co., Inc.; Boxcart Inc.; Interstate Moving & Storage, Inc.; Interstate Moving Systems, Inc.; Interstate Relocation Services, Inc. dba Ambassador International, Ltd; Ambassador Relocations, Inc.; Ambassador Worldwide Moving, Inc.; or Interstate Van Lines, Inc., at 3901 Ironwood Place, Landover, Maryland; 22455 Powers Court, Sterling, Virginia; or 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, Virginia. All parties in interest please take notice.

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

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/hirevetsmarch22.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 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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