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ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Children's Crusade

Kaine hosts Northern Virginia gun control discussion.

By Vernon Miles
The Connection

One month after a school shooting in Parkland Florida, coming just after the highest-casualty mass shooting in American history in Las Vegas, the debate over gun control is once again in the public spotlight.

At a March 23 round-table discussion at George Mason University's Arlington campus. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine spoke with local leaders in gun reform and victims of gun violence. Kaine said he was normally optimistic, but felt particularly downtrodden after the gun control legislation failed repeatedly after the Sandy Hook shooting.

"These kids are giving me hope in a way I haven't had in a while," said Kaine. "I've found, in young activism a reason to not be

despairing."

Kaine pointed to a few items in the recent congressional budget that show signs of progress on gun control. Additional funding for school security was included in the budget, initially proposed to be cut in the President's budget proposal but found bipartisan support in Congress. Kaine said that probably would have happened anyway, but other changes like allowing the CDC to research gun violence and part of a background check fix, only came about as a result of activism from students. Kaine said if the floor is opened to allow discussion of gun control measures, the gun control advocates will need to meet to put together three pieces of legislation that can make effective progress and still be seen as palatable. Kaine said he believes that while outright banning assault weapons would be difficult, senators like Marco Rubio from Florida have begun to show a willingness to look at limiting magazine sizes.

Kaine said the wave of activism reminded him of the Children's Crusade in Birmingham, where students came out in waves to support Dr. Martin Luther King's march, arguing against his protests that the future of the country was of just as important to them, if not more.

Others around the table didn't share Kaine's optimism. Martina Leinz from the



Photo by Vernon Miles/The Connection

A Gun Control Round Table was held March 23 at George Mason University's Arlington campus.

Northern Virginia chapter of the Brady Campaign, said she doubted Republicans would touch gun control legislation any time before midterms. Andy and Barbara Parker, whose daughter Alison Parker was murdered on-camera in Roanoke in 2015, said they believed the only ways to get Congress to make any progress on gun-control issues was to vote out members who were receiving support from the National Rifle Association (NRA).

ciation (NRA).

State Sen. Adam Ebbin, representing the 30th District, confirmed that at the Virginia level gun safety legislation had been effectively stalled. Of the 69 gun control bills submitted in the 2018 session, all had failed.

"There's an idea of 'what's next' if we ban things like bump stocks," said Ebbin. "We need to reassure gun owners that we don't

See Mixed Expectations, Page 14

On the Cover

Annalisa James Reed is the daughter of Joe and Katrina Reed. Katrina Reed writes: "Watching these fierce young people mobilize across the country over the last few weeks has left me both awestruck and optimistic. As educators, we encourage our students to relentlessly pursue their passions; this is what teaching is all about."

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Photos by James Cullum

The Arlington Democratic Committee marched across the Memorial Bridge for the March For Our Lives.

Silent No More Students from Northern Virginia come out in force against gun violence.

By James Cullum
The Connection

Naomi Wadler touched the hearts of the world. On Saturday, the 11-year-old student at George Mason Elementary School in Alexandria, spoke in front of an estimated 200,000 people at the March For Our Lives demonstration in Washington, D.C. She recently helped organize her school walkout on March 14 in the aftermath of the Feb. 14 shooting that left 17 teachers and students dead at Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla.

"I am here today to acknowledge and represent the African American girls whose stories don't make the front page of every national newspaper, whose stories don't lead on the evening news," she said.

The March For Our Lives event on March 24 was led by students from across the country, and 800 events were held around the globe. Chants of "Vote them out!" rang out as Parkland survivors rallied their generation to take their message to the polls.

"This is a movement," Marjory Stoneman-Douglas High School senior Delaney Tarr told the audience. "We can not move on. If we move on, the NRA [National Rifle Association] and those against us will win."

T.C. Williams High School student leader Jay Falk, 18, who organized a day against gun violence at her school on Feb. 27, marched with hundreds of her classmates.

"Gun violence hits high schools with a very personalized terror," Falk said. "We see the victims in Parkland and they look very much like us. This Saturday we stood up for the very first time as a generation and proclaimed, 'Not one more!' This is only the beginning of a groundswell for young people in America. We are 30 percent of the electorate, and politicians with an A from the NRA are going to start feeling it at the polls in November."

Maya Nir, 18, a senior at H.B. Woodlawn High School, marched with 12 of her friends.

"We watch people our age and younger



Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (center) outside the Memorial Bridge with Arlington Democrats. Also pictured are Del. Mark Levine (D-45) and Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49).



Students from H.B. Woodlawn High School.

innocently lose their lives, like time and time again, their whole childhood and we think it's time for a change," she said. "We think there needs to be common sense gun control in America. We want to see a ban

on assault rifles, we want to see universal background checks, mental sanity checks and we want to set limits on the kind of ammo people can load in small periods of time. We don't think assault rifles belong in

our schools in the hands of people our age."

Kai Davis, 18, left Great Mills High School, Md., two months ago because he felt "unsafe." One 16-year-old student was killed and another injured when a 17-year-old opened fire outside the school at 7:57 a.m. on March 20.

"I didn't feel welcome or safe there," Davis said. "I'm transgender and it wasn't really, like, healthy for me to stay there. I thought my friends were killed in the last school shooting and it affected me personally."

Julia O'Brien, 13, drove nine hours to D.C. with her family and friends from Savannah, Ga.

"We see this in the news and we just think how we don't want it to ever happen again," O'Brien said. "I think that we should get rid of semi-automatic weapons and bump stocks and silencers."

Imani Scott-Blackwell, 22, is a student at the University of Georgia. She's running for the school board in Clarke County, wore a Black Lives Matter T-shirt and marched with 20 others belonging to the Athens Anti-Discrimination Movement.

"We don't want teachers armed," Scott-Blackwell said. "We don't want more officers, we don't want occupation in the schools. We want policy changes to make children the priority."

The NRA did not release a statement regarding the march.

U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (D), a former Democratic vice presidential candidate, governor and mayor marched in his hometown of Richmond.

"To all who participated in #MarchForOurLives yesterday — your activism is changing the equation and putting the right pressure on Congress to finally pass reforms that will make our communities safer," Kaine wrote on Facebook the following day. "We couldn't have passed the changes on background record checks and gun violence research that we did this week without you, and we're going to need your continued active engagement in order to go

See The March, Page 7

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Photos by Michael McMorrow/The Connection

Nottingham Elementary School grounds on March 20.

First Day of 'Spring'



Lee Community Center at Lee Highway at N. Lexington St.

The grounds of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, 5300 North 10th St.



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AIM Faces 20% Cut

Arlington Independent Media needs help of community it represents.

By Amber Healy
The Connection

Tucked into a corner off Wilson Boulevard, behind the Comcast office and mostly out of view from shoppers and commuters, Arlington Independent Media has been a mainstay of the community for more than 30 years.

People take classes in video and audio production and the organization hosts camps during breaks from school, teaching kids how to make movies.

But a 20 percent cut in funding from Arlington County — a reduction of about \$564,000 for operating support and \$110,000 for rent — could change all of that come April.

AIM has long had a running partnership both with the county and with Comcast, but cable revenues have decreased, which means the communication taxes collected by the county have decreased. Last year, the total contribution was about 5 percent less, said Paul LeValley, AIM's executive director. With this as the anticipated new normal, AIM has been notified to expect a similar 5 percent reduction each year for the next

four years.

"In hard numbers: Last year we received a total of \$564,000 ... this year they are proposing a total of \$363,000 with no rent support," LeValley said.

In addition to the county funding, AIM accepts donations and pledges and charges membership fees, ranging from \$25 for a basic membership to a \$680 per year organizational membership good for up to 12 individuals. There are also fees for the classes and camps conducted by AIM throughout the year; classes range from the \$20 introduction to community media seminar required of all new producers to several master-level classes at \$300 each.

Each year, AIM raises about \$405,595 through these fees, but the organization operates "very lean and efficient," LeValley said, with each television production staffed by volunteers. "Due to previous budget cuts, we've already reduced our staff, cut back hours and raised our fees."

By comparison, ATV, the county's own network, had a budget of \$727,598 for fiscal 2017, with 486 hours of programming and an average cost to the county of

See Targeting AIM, Page 12

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Opinion

'Channeling Outrage into Activism'

By Adam P. Ebbin
State Senator (D-30)



Ebbin spoke to students at Lewinsville Park in McLean during the walkout on March 14. The students, who attend schools across Northern Virginia, were participating in a rally for gun violence prevention organized by Students Demand Action DMV following a 17-minute National Student Walkout held that morning at 10 a.m. in memory of the 17 who were killed in the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Fla.

I'm Senator Adam Ebbin, and I have an "F" rating from the NRA. Across the country, the gun violence prevention movement is being led by students like you. You are doing more than just wearing an orange ribbon, you are taking action and leading a conversation. You are channeling your outrage into activism.

I've been moved and inspired by the bravery and resilience of the young people in Parkland. Today, we are amplifying their message. With your activism, we can make real progress.

Every day, 96 Americans are killed with a gun.

Every 10 hours a Virginian is killed with a gun.

153,000 students have been exposed to campus shootings since Columbine.

For decades, the corporate gun lobby has dictated our gun laws.

Elected leaders at the local, state, and national level can make a difference; implore us all to take action. Hold legislators accountable for their voting records.

While Washington is mired in empty expressions of thoughts and prayers, it's time for state legislators to step up.

I have worked for common sense gun laws for years. This year, over 60 bills addressing gun violence were introduced in the Virginia General Assembly, but every one was defeated.

Del. Kathleen Murphy [D-34] and I have formed a General Assembly Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, but we need more voices — loud voices, informed and passionate voices, particularly voices like yours.

I'm here to amplify your voice, to tell you that you don't have to be a voter yet to shape the debate.

Speak up by calling your elected officials. Engage the community by writing letters to the editor.

Get involved at election time.

Register to vote as soon as you are eligible. Stay informed and stay active.

Vote.

Repeat until no school in America has to wonder "Who's next?"

Refuse to accept the status quo. Demand an end to gun violence.

The NRA tells us the AR-15 shouldn't be banned.

When a soft nosed bullet leaves the barrel of an AR15, it is travelling at three times the speed of a bullet fired from a handgun. It will break the sound barrier leaving the gun, travelling at 3,000 feet per second, tumbling end over end until it makes contact with its target.

When its target is a human body, the bullet enters and exits in less than the time it takes to blink, shredding tissue in a process known

as cavitation, killing soft tissue for up to three inches around the entry path, and leaves an exit wound the size of an orange.

A high capacity magazine on an AR-15 can unleash 50 of these rounds in less than a minute.

Outfitted with an NRA-supported bump stock this weapon can empty this magazine in a matter of seconds.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned.

At Marjory Stoneman Douglas high school first responders saw the power of this weapon, the twitch of a finger painting the hallways of their school with blood.

Don't let the NRA tell you it shouldn't be banned. Don't tell us that kids have a right to carry these into our schools and movie theatres and malls and concerts and unleash the fury of this weapon on Americans.

Don't tell us that anyone has the right to carry a gun that holds 50 rounds and can be modified to fire them in under ten seconds.

Don't tell us we shouldn't be able to stop dangerous individuals from buying AR-15s at a sporting goods store.

Don't let the NRA tell you that thoughts and prayers are enough.

Enough is enough. We're telling the NRA times up, we're telling them no more.

No more fearing the next headline.

We're telling the corporate gun lobby we're done with being afraid that when your friends go to school they might not come back.

We cannot wait any longer.

The NRA can get out of the way, or they can get run over.

Commentary



Adding Their Voices

Tanaquil Eltskov, 14, helped lead protest chants in front of Trump International Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue at the March For Our Lives, Saturday, March 24. An eighth grader at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, she said, "I feel unsafe in school. Since Sandy Hook, kids of our nation have shown that we are not content with what's going on in our country to address gun violence." As a follow up to the march, Tanaquil said she will organize a Young Politicians TJMS club and podcast to involve her classmates in political action.



Tanaquil stands with her mother, U.S. Army Lt. Col. (retired) Vitessa Del Prete, during the protest rally in front of the Trump hotel.

Photos by
Bill Bronrott

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The March For Our Lives

From Page 3

further. Next step: universal background checks and an assault weapons ban."

Kaine's counterpart, U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D) did not march, but his office noted a recent interview on CBS' Face The Nation, where Warner discussed the rallies and need for Congress to act on gun legislation.

"I think it's time to change our positions and re-examine them," Warner said. "I think this time it's going to be different ... I think we can actually get it done."

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8) was unable to march since he was on a fact finding mission at Yellowstone National Park.

"After years of inaction, students and young people across the country have inspired millions to demand real gun reform," Beyer said in a statement. "Their sustained pressure over the past month is why this time feels different. I applaud their grassroots organizing, commitment and dedication to ensure this remains a movement, not just a moment. Because of them, I am more optimistic than ever that we can actually get something done to reduce gun violence in this country."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who met with Parkland students in his office prior to the event, marched with Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41).

"Inspiring day down on the National Mall for the March For Our Lives!" Connolly wrote on Facebook. "Our young people are leading the way and Congress must honor their activism with action. The times we live in demand no less."

U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) did not march, "and was in the District for a job fair, a school event and a number of other community events she was already committed to," according to Jeff Marschner, her deputy chief of staff. "Coming from a family of educators, the congresswoman is committed to finding common sense solutions for school safety and preventing gun violence."

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam marched with Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax and Attorney General Mark Herring in Washington.

State Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), co-chair of the General Assembly's Gun Violence Prevention Caucus, met with over 70 Alexandria Democrats at the King Street Metro station and took the train into D.C.

"I attended this march to both show solidarity with the student organizers and to recommit my efforts to prevent gun violence legislatively and in every way that I can," Ebbin said. "For too many years, the corporate gun lobby - the NRA - has dictated the terms of any public conversation at all. They have rolled over gun safety advocates and now they can get out of the way or be rolled over themselves."

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) is a victim of gun violence, when his sister, Janet Levine March, was murdered by her husband, Perry March. Levine led the effort to track down



Photo by James Cullum

Former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe speaks outside the Memorial Bridge with Arlington Democrats.

March and put him in jail and marched across the Memorial Bridge with Arlington Democrats.

"I'm marching today because we need a movement to stop gun violence," Levine said. "We need legislation in Virginia and in the nation and our politicians are not doing enough, and we need help."

Del. Patrick Hope (D-47) also marched across the Memorial Bridge, and said that the march was just the beginning.

"I don't care whether you're a Democrat, an Independent or Republican," Hope said. "We can't support people who don't support common sense gun regulations. That's common sense. Universal background checks, a ban on assault weapons, not letting kids get their hands on assault weapons ... close the gun show loophole. I could talk to you for hours about that."

Del. Alfonso Lopez (D-49), who marched with his son across the Memorial Bridge, spoke before the appearance of former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe.

"It's scary when I have to listen to constituents who are scared about their kids going to school and what might happen, who say every day, 'God, please let my baby get home safe tonight,'" Lopez said. "I thought Terry McAuliffe was an amazing governor and I think he's an amazing leader and I'm looking forward to seeing what we can do today and it's going to be amazing to have everyone together fighting for the same cause."

McAuliffe, who walked to the Memorial Bridge meeting point with Arlington Democrats, said he was only a former governor and took the microphone.

"It's the students who are going to lead this revolt, and it is not only the march today but we've got to make sure we're marching in '18 in the elections," McAuliffe said. "We've got to make sure we pick up four Democratic members of Congress, we've got to take control of the Democratic Congress. The first thing out of the box will be background checks for all Americans. And then we're going to come back in '19 and we're going to pick up those two seats in the House of Delegates and we're going to pick up the State Senate, because folks, for four straight years as governor I proposed gun restrictions — common sense, background checks, getting rid of assault weapons, putting back one gun a month — every single

See The March, Page 13



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Spring Fun

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ONGOING

You, If No One Else. Through March 31, Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center presents You, if no one else, featuring 10 contemporary artists and artist collaborations. You, if no one else, looks at the ways in which artists record, reflect, contribute to, rail against, and engage with politics and civic life, bringing dialogue, beauty, and nuance to their involvement in the public sphere. The title of the exhibition was inspired by poet Tino Villanueva, whose poem of the same name was included in his 1994 collection Chronicle of My Worst Years. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

Michèle Colburn: The More Things Change. Through March 31, Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Michèle Colburn's work explores socio-political themes related to domestic terrorism, war, and the costs associated with both. A multidisciplinary artist, Colburn makes mixed-media objects with forays into endurance performance on the streets. Her two- and three-dimensional work incorporates gunpowder, spent bullet casings, and vintage surplus military tripwire. Visit www.arlingtonartscenter.org or call 703-248-6800.

"Personal Worlds." Through April 2, gallery hours at The Barry Gallery in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. "Personal Worlds," features oil paintings, drawings and prints by faculty member Mary Proenza. Admission is free. Visit www.marymount.edu/barrygallery.

"HALO-HALO." Through April 7, open 24/7 at Metro Micro Gallery, 3409 Wilson Blvd., on the corner of Kansas Street and Wilson Boulevard. An exhibition of new works by Nico Fertakis. The exhibition's title, "HALO-HALO," refers to a popular dessert in the Philippines and means "mix-mix" or "mixed together" in the Filipino dialect, Tagalog. With an opening reception Sunday, March 25, 1-3 p.m. Visit www.metromicrogallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 28

Easter Egg Hunt. At Upton Hill Park, Arlington. Children, 2-11 years old, are invited to celebrate spring with coloring, games and photo opportunities with the Easter Bunny. Bring an Easter basket to collect eggs, a raincoat if it's sprinkling, and a camera to take photos with the

Easter Bunny. Each hunt is \$10 per child, plus a \$3 online service fee. Visit apm.activecommunities.com/novaparks for details and to register.

Civil War Discoveries: Infantry Drills. 9-10 a.m. at Fort C. F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Ages 7 to 11. Using replica wood rifles, learn how to "load in nine times" and how to march as a well-drilled unit conducting skirmish drills. For information: 703-228-7033. \$5. #632728-A. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.

Civil War Discovery: Skirmish Drills. 11 a.m.-noon at Fort C. F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. Ages 7 to 11. Skirmishers played a special role in Civil War armies. Learn their functions and practice their drills. For information: 703-228-7033. \$5. #632728-B. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.

THURSDAY/MARCH 29

Civil War Discoveries: Build a Fort. 9-10 a.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N 24th St. Ages 7 to 11. Investigate how and why forts were built in Arlington during the Civil War. Then work as a team to design forts to defend the city. For information: 703-228-7033. \$5. #632728-C. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.

Civil War Discoveries: Artillery Drills. 11 a.m.-noon at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N 24th St. Ages 7 to 11. Learn to work as a team to load and aim a replica Civil War cannon. Learn about the types of artillery used in the Civil War and "bombard" a replica fort. For information: 703-228-7033. \$5. #632728-D. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.

Crowning Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Washington Golf and Country Club, 3017 N. Glebe Road. The Society of Virginia's 2018 Cherry Blossom Princess Crowning Luncheon will take place at the Washington Golf and Country Club. \$21-\$56. A ticketed event, the Crowning Luncheon is open to all. Tickets are available at: www.eventbrite.com/e/society-of-virginia-2018-cherry-blossom-princess-crowning-luncheon-tickets-40806434143.

Meet the Author. 1-2 p.m. at Walter Reed Senior Center, 2909 S. 16th St. Dr. Charles Toftoy discusses his book, "Amazing Fireside Talks" about finding inspiration and hope. Free. Call 703-228-0955 or email ikanuit@arlingtonva.us for more.

Author Event. 7 p.m. at the Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Local Young Adult authors Jon Skovron ("Hope and Red") and Jessica Spotswood ("Wild Swans") host Shut Up and Write, a bimonthly



A 36" by 24" oil-on-panel image from Mary Proenza. Her exhibition, "Personal Worlds," will run through April 2.

'Personal Worlds'

Marymount University invites the public for the exhibition "Personal Worlds," which features oil paintings, drawings and prints by faculty member Mary Proenza. Gallery hours through April 2 at The Barry Gallery in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. Visit www.marymount.edu/barrygallery.

series of panels focused on the craft of writing. Join them at Central Library every other month as Jon interviews other YA authors and discusses the ins and outs of fiction writing. Call 703-300-9746 or visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

Live Comedy: Carlos Mencia. 7:45 p.m. at Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Carlos Mencia from Mind of Mencia. \$30-\$35. Visit

ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 30

Spring Peeper Prowl. 7-8 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Families ages 5 and up. Register children and adults; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Hop on over, join the fun and learn about and search for these tiny tree frogs and other amphibians during this sunset hike.

For information: 703-228-6535. \$5. #632958-J. To register, call 703-228-4747 or visit registration.arlingtonva.us.

Live Comedy: Carlos Mencia. 7:30 and 10 p.m. at Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Carlos Mencia from Mind of Mencia. \$30-\$35. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

Talent Showcase Open Mic. 10 p.m. at Busboys and Poets 4251 South Campbell Ave., Shirlington. LIVE! Talent Showcase Open Mic hosted by Beny Blaq. Register at busboysandpoets.com/events/info/get-tickets.

SATURDAY/MARCH 31

Fort C.F. Smith Visitor Center Grand Opening. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. N. Join park staff for the grand opening of the Fort C.F. Smith Visitor Center. The celebration will include living historians, drilling activities, specialized fort tours and more. The new Visitor Center will include museum exhibits that highlight Civil War life at Fort C.F. Smith and across Arlington County. All are welcome, free. For information: 703-243-4342.

Live Comedy: Carlos Mencia. 7 and 10 p.m. at Arlington Cinema and Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike. Carlos Mencia from Mind of Mencia. \$30-\$35. Visit ArlingtonDrafthouse.com.

SUNDAY/APRIL 1

Raise A Shark. 1-2 p.m. Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Take home a shark or just a piece, like a one-inch or larger tooth from our collection. Learn about these apex predators. Ages 5-14. \$5 per person. Registration required. Call 703-228-4747, using activity code 632828-G.

APRIL 2-27

Art Exhibit: "Spring Break." Gallery hours at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. "Spring Break," a seasonally-themed and colorful member show features works depicting scenes of spring and vacation locales. Also featured, along with new works by Gallery members, is artwork by Marsha Brown, a painter, sculptor and ceramic artist in the local area. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

APRIL 3-29

"John." At Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave., Annie Baker's "John" at the Tony-winning Signature Theatre plays for four weeks, running April 3 through April 29, 2018. Visit SigTheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 4

National Walking Day. Walking is a great way to promote health and wellness amongst employees, tenants, and friends. Form a walking team with coworkers, friends, or neighbors and register for the event. Arlington Transportation Partners will host several pit stops around Arlington from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Visit arlingtontransportationpartners.com/NWD for more.

Interior Design Panel. 7 p.m. at Marymount University in the Ballston Center Auditorium, 1000 North Glebe Road. Marymount University invites the public to "Design Conversations: An Evening with Distinguished Marymount University Interior Design Alums." Panelists include Tama Duffy Day of Gensler,

Opening Day for Trails Fun Run 5K

Outdoor enthusiasts and families from the Capital area will unite at Bluemont Park on Saturday, April 7, for a 5K fun run on the W&OD and Four Mile Run trails to kick off the spring trail season for Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's (RTC) sixth annual Opening Day for Trails (Opening Day).

RTC's Opening Day Fun Run 5K is a free and family-friendly way to explore two of the region's iconic trails while showing support for the Capital Trails Coalition vision

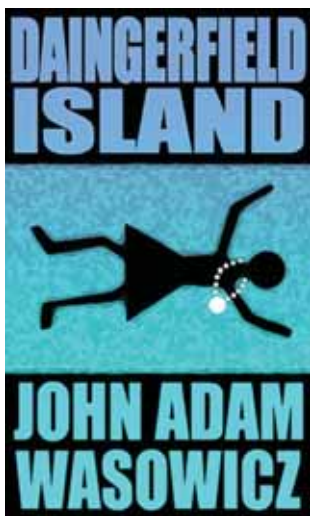
of creating a world-class regional trail network. RTC is one of the founding partners of the Capital Trails Coalition, along with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association and the National Park Service.

This event is one of more than 125 events being organized to celebrate Opening Day nationwide. RTC expects over 20,000 trail users to participate in hiking, biking, running and other outdoor activities to celebrate trails and the benefits they bring to their communities,

including more than 100 bike rides organized by Performance Bicycle.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., the run starts at 10 a.m., festivities (including live music, face painting and giveaways) continue until 1 p.m. The 5K starts at the Bluemont Park Picnic Pavilion.

Parking available in the lots near the intersections Wilson Blvd. and N. Manchester St. and 4th St. N and N. Manchester Street. See www.railstotrails.org/funrun.



Newman

Book Event: 'Daingerfield Island'

Bill Newman will read excerpts from "Daingerfield Island" by John A. Wasowicz, an attorney and former assistant county prosecutor in Arlington. "Daingerfield Island" introduces readers to Mo Katz., Esq., a fictional Alexandria attorney. Fifty percent of the proceeds from book sales at the reading will be donated to the Arlington Community Foundation's William T. Newman Jr. fund, which provides scholarships to high school graduates who attend a four-year undergraduate college. Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Call 703-300-9746 or visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

Eileen Vitelli from Studio3877 and HGTV's Tyler Wisler. Free. Those attending are asked to reserve their spots at marymount.edu/design-conversations.

THURSDAY/APRIL 5

Book Event: "Daingerfield Island." 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St. Bill Newman will read excerpts from "Daingerfield Island" by John A. Wasowicz, an attorney and former assistant county prosecutor in Arlington. "Daingerfield Island" introduces readers to Mo Katz., Esq., a fictional Alexandria attorney. Fifty percent of the proceeds from book sales at the reading will be donated to the Arlington Community Foundation's William T. Newman Jr. fund, which provides scholarships to high school graduates who attend a four-year undergraduate college. Call 703-300-9746 or visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 6

Northern Virginia Bird Club Walk. 8:30-11 a.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join members of the Northern Virginia Bird Club for its monthly informal walk through Long Branch and Glencarlyn Parks in search of resident and migratory birds. Experienced and beginning birders welcome. Bring binoculars and field guides if you have them. No registration is required. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/long-branch-nature-center-park/.

Opening Reception: "Spring Break." 6-8 p.m. at at Gallery Underground, in the Crystal City

Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive. "Spring Break," a seasonally-themed and colorful member show features works depicting scenes of spring and vacation locales. Also featured, along with new works by Gallery members, is artwork by Marsha Brown, a painter, sculptor and ceramic artist in the local area. Visit www.galleryunderground.org or call 571-483-0652.

Animal Pajama Party. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Dress in cozy pajamas and bring a stuffed animal friend to the nature center to listen to stories and learn about wildlife at night. Ages 2-10. \$5 per person. Registration required. Register online or call 703-228-4747, using activity code 632918-Y.

Family Fun Night - Therapeutic Recreation. 6:30-8 p.m. at Langston-Brown Community Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. Once a month drop-in program designed for families of children with disabilities ages 4-17. Each month features a different activity, as well as self-guided activity stations including gross motor, sensory, art, games, a quiet room and more. This night out as a family, is an opportunity to meet other families, and to have fun. No pre-registration required. \$1.50 per person, cash only. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/langston-brown-community-center-park.

Families Giving Back Family Night. 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. A night of fun and community service. Complete multiple family-friendly service projects together; families who complete three or more projects get the chance to bounce on the inflatables. Free; no registration

required. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/arlington-mill-community-center.

SATURDAY/APRIL 7

Fort C.F. Smith History. 9-10 a.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 24th St. N. Fort C.F. Smith was one of the last Union forts built to protect Washington during the Civil War. Learn about the park's history, role of the Fort and the soldiers stationed there in the Civil War. Terrain will be uneven and possibly muddy. Free. Registration required. Register online or call 703-228-4747, using activity code 632758-B.

Trash and Treasure. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Aurora Hills Community Center, 735 18th St. S. The Aurora Hills 55+ Advisory Committee will present their annual Trash and Treasure Sale. Choose from a selection of household goods, decorative items, small electrics, games and toys, books, jewelry, luggage and craft supplies galore. All proceeds benefit the Aurora Hills 55+ Advisory Committee special events and programs. Free; no registration required. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/aurora-hills-community-center.

Lichens 101. 10 a.m.-noon at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road. Join lichenologist Manuela Dal Forno, a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Biology, as she reveals the inner workings of lichens. Teens ages 16 and up are welcome, but must be accompanied by a registered adult. \$10 per person. Registration required. Register online or call 703-228-4747, using activity code 632948-E.



Tama Duffy Day



Eileen Vitelli



Tyler Wisler

Interior Design Panel

Marymount University invites the public to "Design Conversations: An Evening with Distinguished Marymount University Interior Design Alums." Panelists include Tama Duffy Day of Gensler, Eileen Vitelli from Studio3877 and HGTV's Tyler Wisler. Free. Those attending are asked to reserve their spots at marymount.edu/design-conversations. Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m. at Marymount University in the Ballston Center Auditorium, 1000 North Glebe Road.

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The fake prince bowls everyone over.



Cinderella and her prince.

Photos by Paul Schomburg

'La Cenerentola' Opera Entertains School Children

By Michael Doan

Hundreds of local children saw grand opera for the first time as Opera NOVA tried to show that this art form isn't just for rich old people.

Its production of Rossini's "La Cenerentola," or "Cinderella," was less than an hour long and full of action, drama and comedy. Teachers had a study guide to explain it to their students in advance.

"I liked it when the bad guys fell off the chair," said one third grader from Our Savior Lutheran School in Arlington. "I liked it when the silly men danced," said another. "I liked the drama," said a more sophisticated fifth grader. One told Elise Jenkins, "Hey weren't you Treemonisha in last year's opera?"

One child shouted into the orchestra pit, "You guys did a good job." But a couple of them thought there should have been a glass slipper instead of a bracelet. One actor told them, "This opera is almost 100 years before Disney."

"La Cenerentola" resembles the more popular version, but in this story the prince visits Cinderella's home in disguise beforehand, falling in love with the embattled girl dressed in rags. A fake prince enters, charm-

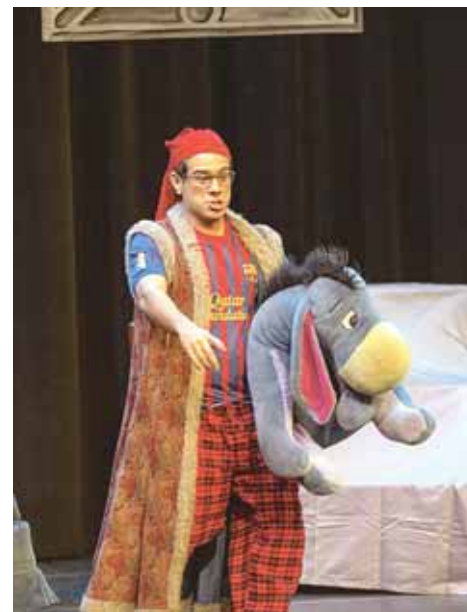


The stepsisters plot their next move against Cinderella.

ing the stepsisters. There is a ball at which Cinderella and the real prince again meet, but there is no carriage that turns into a pumpkin at midnight. Two children dressed as cranes roamed the stage to emphasize the birds' endangered status.

The four days of opera March 20 to 23 at

Thomas Jefferson Middle School were shortened to three by the snowstorm, but adults and more children will get to see "La Cenerentola" again on June 30 at 2 p.m. at Gunston Middle School. There will be several performances that weekend for seniors, summer campers, homeschoolers and chil-



Cinderella's Dad dreams he is a donkey.

dren of inmates.

Opera NOVA, with Jose Sacin as artistic director, has presented operas such as the "Barber of Seville," "The Magic Flute," and "Monkey See, Monkey Do" for many years, and will present "Charlotte's Web" by Charles Strouse in spring 2019.

"Flourishing After 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs for April 2-7.

Senior centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

Senior trips: Woodlawn &

Pope-Leighey House, Alex plus lunch, Wednesday, April 4, \$59; Museum of the Bible, D.C., Friday, April 6, \$19. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS:

Musical Monday, April 2, 11:15 a.m., Just Playin' Country; 1:30 p.m., folk music sing-a-long. Details, 703-228-0555.

Current events discussion, Monday, April 2, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Details, 703-228-0955.

Build strong bones for life, Wednesday, April 4, 11 a.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

Living large in a small place, Wednesday, April 4, 6:30 p.m., Arlington Mill. Register, 703-228-7369.

Local history group to discuss popular restaurants and eateries,

Wednesday, April 4, 12:30 p.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

Arlington Walking Club to walk along the Tidal Basin, D.C., Wednesday, April 4, 9:30 a.m., \$4. Register, 703-228-4403.

Line dancing party, Thursday, April 5, 1:30 p.m., Lee. All levels welcome. Register, 703-228-0555.

Ballroom dance, Friday, April 6, 1 p.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Trash and Treasure Sale, Saturday, April 7, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Aurora hills. Details, 703-228-5722.

Coffee House with live music, Saturday, April 7, 7-9 p.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteer, Saturday, April 7, 9:15 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

News



Photos by Eden Brown/The Connection

Preparing for Thrive 5K

From left: Pam Silberstein, Gwen McQueeney, and her daughter Neave McQueeney train for the Arlington Thrive 5K. The runners appreciate those who make their run worth it by contributing to the fundraiser website at www.youcaring.com and searching under “Community” and Arlington Thrive. Neave is the youngest runner on the W&OD trail on a cold Saturday morning in March.

A runner trying to raise money for Arlington Thrive stops to see what trash is in the Four Mile Run below the bridge in Benjamin Banneker Park. Runners in Sweden and India are “plogging” — picking up trash along the way as they jog.



Saint Ann Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, and 11:00 AM
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy

5312 North 10th Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22205
Parish Office: 703-528-6276

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Public Hearings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320	Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501	Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834
Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030 *meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.	Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402	Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701
Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408	Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017	Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

Targeting Arlington Independent Media

From Page 5
\$1,497.11 per programming hour. AIM, with a budget of \$484,140 for fiscal 2017 and 5,711 hours of programming between its television and radio programming (it is also home to WERA 96.7, a low-power FM station), the average cost to the county per programming hour is \$84.77.

LeValley said the budget cuts were announced “with no warning and no suggestions as to what we ought to do to cope with it. AIM has, however, made a proposal to the county whereby we would produce their programming in exchange for some additional money to hire personnel and full rent support. If they did this, they would

save more than what the county manager’s proposed budget cut saves them.”

County Board Chair Katie Cristol confirms that the county has received a proposal from AIM, which will be discussed by the board at the end of April.

In December 2016, the county entered into a new agreement

with Comcast that removed the “dedicated funding to AIM and other nonprofit cable entities,” according to the county. It also details that the funding to AIM was cut by \$70,783, “as the first step in a multi-year plan to reduce AIM’s reliance on county net tax support.”

“This has been a sobering and

difficult series of budget conversations for our community, as challenges in our commercial assessments resulting from a high office vacancy rate have led to a gap of about \$20 million, mirrored by a similar gap for Arlington Public Schools’ budget,” Cristol said. The county manager has introduced several proposals, “all of which will be painful,” to try to make ends meet, all of which are under consideration.

“Final determinations about funding reductions to AIM and/or other county programs, as well as any possible solutions we can take to mitigate impacts on those programs, will be made at the end of April,” she said.

In a budget summary, the county says the 20 percent reduction “will require AIM to reallocate resources and reprioritize activities within its existing budget or find new funding to continue its current level or services. There is no impact to county programs and services.”

AIM’s board of directors is still trying to figure out what might happen and how to make up the financial difference.

“The worst-case scenario involves cutting our hours even further and cutting back the amount of training that we do now,” said Kim Phillips, a board member. “Cutting back our training will hurt AIM badly and this will trickle out into the community we serve. Cutting back our hours means that producers and volunteers will have less access to the facility than they do now. This affects programs and those who want to make programs.”

AIM’s board also is considering possibly making the facility available as an arts and media center, providing a space for meetings in addition to classes and some art functions. “This idea takes time, though, and the AIM board realizes that it is not an instantaneous fix. We are also looking at a number of different scenarios to stay open and on the air, both for TV and radio.”

Phillips stressed the role AIM plays in Arlington.

“AIM is media created by and for the community. All of our programs are volunteer created and curated ... we record and broadcast high school sports, meetings and events in the local community, including Arlington Committee of 100 and Rosslyn Jazz Fest and the Columbia Pike Blues Festival. We participate as video techs at Nauck Day,” she said. “We celebrate the diversity of Arlington through our programs.”

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The March For Our Lives

From Page 7

year they defeated us. They did it in committee, they did it without recording votes and this year before I left office I put a whole slew of them up again. Every single one of those gun laws were defeated. It's time we defeat them."

Alexandria Mayor Allison Silberberg also traveled with Alexandria Democrats at the King Street Metro.

"What a memorable, meaningful and important day at the March For Our Lives," Silberberg said. "I was glad to see so many Alexandria residents. We must continue to stand up and speak out for common sense gun reform laws now. So proud of all the young people who spoke, including our own fifth grade student from George Mason Elementary School, Naomi Wadler. The youth of today inspire us all as we fight for the causes we all hold dear."

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chair Sharon Bulova did not march, but said she was "incredibly moved and impressed with the students and young people who organized in D.C. and all over the world around a very important issue. They are offering ideas to solve a serious problem and are engaged in making our communities and schools safer."

Alexandria Vice Mayor Justin Wilson, who is running against Silberberg in the upcoming Democratic primary for mayor was unable to attend the march, but spent the morning packing donuts for marchers at Sugar Shack Donuts in Arlington, Sugar Shack Donuts in Alexandria with Sheriff Dana Lawhorne and delivering Meals on Wheels for Senior Services of Alexandria.

"I cannot tell you how exciting it is to see youth

leaders using their voices to make change in their communities," Wilson said. "I was excited to be able to support those efforts and look forward to working side by side for change."

Alexandria City Councilor John Chapman marched in D.C. and said that it was an energizing experience.

"It was so inspiring to see so many young people from across the country coming together, supported by so many older people. It gives me real hope for the future of our country — that together we can make meaningful change," Chapman said.

Jill Caiazzo, chair of the Arlington Democratic Committee, said that her mission is to put the lives of children first before guns.

"We're not anti-gun. We're simply pro-common sense gun safety measures," Caiazzo said.

Clarence Tong, chair of the Alexandria Democratic Committee, was also at the King Street Metro station.

"Our group was led by T.C. Williams High School moms, who had their sons and daughters participate, so our objective was to support the efforts of the students to raise awareness of gun violence," Tong said.

Alexandrian Gail Gordon Donegan founded the Alexandria chapter of Moms For Action and marched across the Memorial Bridge with her husband and several Democratic friends. She said that when Donald Trump began openly disparaging certain groups and promoting violence at his rallies, the mood of the country soured and pockets of hate emerged around the country by people who are frus

See Gun Violence, Page 15

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News



U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine (center) meets with students Laura Kirk (left) and Ella Wogaman from West Springfield High School.



Photos by Vernon Miles/The Connection

Andy and Barbara Parker, whose daughter Alison Parker was murdered on-camera in Roanoke in 2015.

Mixed Expectations on Gun Control

From Page 2

want to take away their guns.

While the panel hosted a wide range of gun control advocates, there were a few notably missing parties. While one of the major topics of the day was working together with moderate gun owners to find a compromising solution, there were no pro-gun or anti-gun reform panelists present.

Philip Thompson, representing the Loudoun chapter of the NAACP, said the gun control gathering was good to see but lamented that he was the only African-American present for an issue that had disproportionately affected black communities in America.

"We have to work with those who suffered through this for years," said Thompson. "I lost a sister-in-law and had a brother-in-law that was shot. There's a joke in our community, that if we all open carried around D.C. we'd have gun reform."

Among the policy discussion of how to change gun laws, survivors of gun violence also reminded the panelists of the human toll. Peter Read's daughter was killed at Virginia Tech and said that it's been important in the years after the massacre to see other members of her peer group moving on and continuing with their lives. Read also agreed with Thompson, saying that the kind of violence his family experienced is one that black communities in America are forced to live with on a constant basis, and that any gun control legislation had to work with that in mind.

"People are with us," said Read, "they're willing to act. Money isn't everything. It's votes. Young people have fear, but also hope."



Ella Wogaman (left) and Laura Kirk from West Springfield High School.

Two high school students from West Springfield were in attendance and were planning on marching the next day.

"We're screaming as loud as we can," said Ella Wogaman. "Find the kids in your district. We are organizing. We are trying. Listen to the kids, we're doing what we can."

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Gun Violence

From Page 13

trated and felt left behind and were looking for someone to blame for their troubles. Violence has begun to seem normal.

"Groups like Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety and Gabby Giffords' Americans for Responsible Solutions responded to that hate with a strong movement for rational gun legislation, and for years it felt like they were pushing a boulder up a mountain. I think Parkland was the tipping point, and I'm really, really proud of these kids that have taken over and are pushing this movement forward," she said. "These kids are fast and furious and they're pushing that boulder down the other side of the mountain now and they're going to mow the NRA right over with it and I'm so proud of them."

Alexandrian Boyd Walker marched and said that such an event should be unnecessary and that students should not have to take such drastic steps.

"Looking around today, it is easy to see that these young people will be or are voters, passionate activists and that they won't stop until we change the laws and the politicians who prevent gun safety laws from happening," Walker said.

Marcher Alexandrian Tom Gibson, a former captain in the U.S. Marines, said that many people do not understand the power that comes with knowing how to treat a weapon.

"We were trained in a classroom for two weeks before we were allowed to touch a weapon," he said. I feel like our legislators have failed us and we need to stand up for better gun control laws and just show how much support there is for change."

Alexandrian Megan Challender, a domestic violence attorney, marched across the Memorial Bridge with her teacher husband, Daniel Baldwin, and her two-year-old son Eli. "My clients, who are often domestic violence victims, are at great risk of getting killed by guns and we need greater protections for them. For my husband, we need protections in our schools, and for my son we need protections in our schools and for the country to make sure that our children are safe," she said.

Darryl Green, of Baltimore, marched down Pennsylvania Avenue promoting his website, www.deepforgiveness.com. His younger brother was killed in 1988, just six days after turning 17 – stabbed in a bowling alley when an altercation broke out over a pair of shoes. The murderer, 14-year-old Kimyon Marshall, spent 25 years in prison, and Green and his family later testified for his release.

"There were 343 murders in Baltimore last year," Green said. "So, now Kimyon and I work together saving lives all across the country and internationally. Therein lies deep forgiveness. Hurt people hurt people, and as a result of that, if I can forgive the man who took my brother's life, surely we can forgive our neighbors, or brothers and sisters. He has taken my brother's place. He's like my younger brother now. He's an outstanding young man. We're changing lives."

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The Daze Continue To Go Bye



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

You know, if my feet didn't hurt so much, I could almost forget that I have cancer, other than being aware of my upcoming infusion: April 6; my upcoming CT Scan and MRI: April 18; and my upcoming follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results: April 27.

Nevertheless, the goal is to not think about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. The kind for which there is no cure; made clear by my oncologist at the initial Team Lourie meeting when he advised me that he "could treat me but that he couldn't cure me." What?! At that surreal moment, what goes in one ear flies out the other.

But here I am, nine years and counting; you bet I'm counting. That's one of the recurring thoughts I have as a multi-year cancer survivor; although, as my friend Frank has said to me: "you're in pretty good condition for the condition you're in."

Other than schedules and my underlying diagnosis (and my original "13 month to two year" prognosis), I regularly consider how long I've lived, one month now into year 10. It's both scary and reassuring: Am I further from the beginning or closer to the end? See. I can't stop thinking about it.

Generally speaking however, I am not bogged down by my diagnosis/circumstances, as anybody who knows me, knows. Nor am I preoccupied with the imminent danger in which my diagnosis places me everyday. And I'm certainly not bemoaning the likely reduction in my life expectancy from what I assumed it would be: mid to late 80s, given how long both my parents lived, to what is logical to believe it will now be: late 60s; considering all the statistics for similarly diagnosed individuals. Typically, one diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer doesn't just live with it (as a chronic-type disease), rather you die because of it.

This column is more for public consumption than it is about private perception. In truth, although a second, minute or hour doesn't go by when I don't think/remember/acknowledge the facts of my case, I am able, most of the time, to keep a smile on my face and not bring a frown to others.

Moreover, I want/need those others to forget that I have cancer as much as it is possible for it to be forgotten. And I want my behavior to be a contributing factor to their forgetting. If I don't start it then there's no reason for them to finish it.

And I'm being selfish in saying so? Absolutely! Because the better vibrations I receive from others, the better I'll feel about myself. And the better I feel about myself, the better and more able I'll be to deal with my disease and all its emotional and physical side- and straight-on effects. Effects which are hardly the stuff with which dreams are made. To invoke and rework a quote from the legendary screen actress Bette Davis: Having cancer is not for sissies.

But it is indiscriminate and projections into the not-to-distant future are frightening: for both males and females, one in three have a "lifetime risk of developing or dying from cancer," according to the U.S. National Cancer Institute's Surveillance Epidemiology and End Results (SEER) Database, based on "data compiled between 2012 and 2014, the most recent available."

So how do you put that in your pipe and not smoke it? If you're unlucky enough to be one of these new "diagnosees," you either roll with the punches or get rolled over instead. The choice is yours, as it was mine.

"Get busy living or get busy dying," as Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red," (Morgan Freeman), in the Oscar-nominated "The Shawshank Redemption" (1994). And I try to remind myself of that every day, and every night, too.

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

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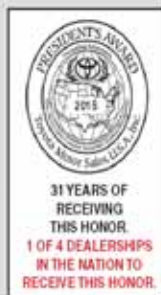
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