

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

MAY 23-29, 2018

Movers for Moms Supports Families in Shelters

Annual campaign coordinated by Two Men and a Truck franchises.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE CONNECTION

Despite the surge in parenting advice and information resources, some of the most spirit-breaking defeats happen when plans go astray, leaving parents suddenly without the means to meet even the most basic needs of their children. Parents in these situations count on community support.

And for a considerable number of moms, this kind of support comes from the national moving company Two Men and a Truck. Every spring, in the weeks leading up to Mother's Day, Two Men and a Truck locations all over the country — including the three Northern Virginia franchises — hold their Movers for Moms campaigns. Through this charity drive, they collect donations for mothers in shelters.

"During this year's Moving for Moms campaign, we collected around 1,200 donations," said Gabby Bonilla, marketing coordinator for Two Men and a Truck. "It was an overall really successful charity drive that ended May 4, so we were able to drop off all the donated items to the shelters we partnered with, all in time for Mother's Day. They were thrilled because this isn't the time of year when they get a lot of donations. We were happy to provide things so that moms could have a decent Mother's Day."

Bonilla organized Movers for Moms this year on behalf of all three Northern Virginia locations of Two Men and a Truck — in Arlington, Herndon and Springfield. A national franchise, the business has had a local presence since the Springfield location opened in 2013. The local team held its first Movers for Moms campaign in 2014, so it



Local franchises of Two Men and a Truck conducted its Movers for Moms campaign to collect donations for mothers living in shelters.

didn't take the local franchise long to start conducting nonprofit work alongside the growing business.

"One of my favorite quotes is Ronald Reagan's line, 'We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone,'" Bonilla said. "This is my second year hosting the drive in this area and what I love about it, besides making a difference in the community and helping those in need, is getting to meet more people and businesses in the Northern Virginia area with my team. Last year, our team collected a little over 1,000 donations. Our goal this year was to surpass that, and next year, even more so."

As part of this movement to honor mothers, Two Men and a Truck partners with businesses that then become designated donation drop-off locations. This year, there were 19 of these spots around the area.

On the other side of the equation, Two Men and a Truck also partners with local homeless shelters, where the donations will ultimately go. For the campaign, they ask for everyday items — the things so many people take for granted.

"With Northern Virginia being such a high income metropolitan area, our community is able to help by donating items that we use every day," she said. "Something as little

as canned food, or toiletries, can make a huge difference in someone else's world. This year we got a lot of baby wipes. We knew the shelters we partnered with needed a lot of baby care items and perishable food, so we specified this need to the community."

The shelters they worked with this year are run by FACETS and Bridges to Independence, both non-profit organizations devoted combating poverty and assisting those in the throes of it.

"Sullivan House provides individuals and families with a safe, supportive place to stay," said Jeanette Norton, director of development for Bridges to Independence, said. "Sullivan House is Arlington County's largest emergency shelter for families experiencing homelessness. The shelter, with 10 one- and two-bedroom apartments, can accommodate up to approximately 14 families at a time. The median length of stay is three months. While at Sullivan House, families not only receive the support they need during a time of crisis, but the tools and resources that will propel them toward a better future."

According to Bridges to Independence, homelessness is often an "episodic" plight. The staff and volunteers work hard to address the root of the problem so that when



The nonprofit Bridges to Independence in Arlington received donations from the Movers for Moms campaign.

the people they directly help move away from homelessness, it will remain in the rearview mirror. The whole process starts with meeting people's basic needs, so the many donations from Two Men and a Truck they welcomed this month were significant.

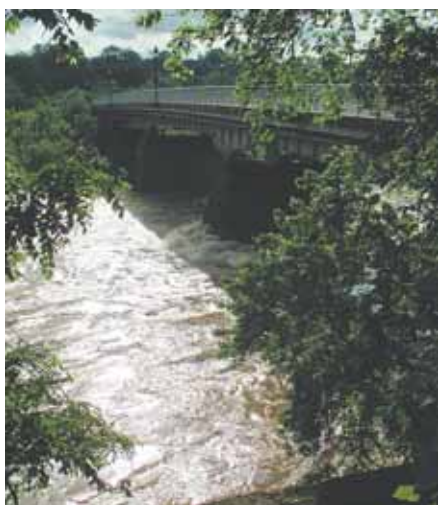
"The path from homelessness to independence is not easy, and requires ongoing support and assistance," Norton said. "This is Bridges' third year as a beneficiary of the Movers for Moms campaign. We're very grateful to Two Men and a Truck for their continued support of our mission and our community's most vulnerable families. Last year, Sullivan House provided a safe haven for 40 families, and we've already surpassed that number this year. Donations like those given through the Movers for Moms campaign are critical to supporting our mission."

This was the first year that Two Men and a Truck contributed to FACETS. While this added partnership was indeed a success, Bonilla sights are set on an even more impactful drive next year.

"This year went great, and I know it'll continue to get better every year we do this," Bonilla said. "Now that we've wrapped this year's Movers for Moms, I'm hoping to affect more mothers in shelters, and I'm hoping to establish more donation locations. We'd also like to host more events next year, similar to one we did this year with the Boys Scouts of the Capital Area. I'd like to plan more of these events because it's a good way to get a lot of the community behind the cause."

It was one mother's idea that launched Two Men and a Truck as a business more than 10 years ago, so it's only fitting that the company would pour so much heart into a nationwide initiative for moms.

"Two Men and a Truck was started by a mom, Mary Ellen Sheets, whose sons would assist the local neighbors with their moving needs in a pickup truck," Bonilla said. "The first profit she made, she donated to a local women's shelter. Even though it's called Two Men and a Truck, it's mainly run by women, who hold management and ownership titles within the company. It's symbolic, really, because none of us would be here without our moms."



Days of Rain: The Aftermath Chain Bridge, Sunday morning, May 20.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL MCMORROW/THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY VERNON MILES/THE CONNECTION



From left: Damon Jordan, Jackie Jordan, and Candice Kilby join the crowds for Taste of Arlington on Sunday.

Taste of Arlington, hosted by the Ballston BID, raises funding for local charities like the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network.

Taste of Arlington All sun and smiles for annual Ballston event.

Even on a Sunday, Wilson Boulevard is usually crowded with cars in the early afternoon. But on May 20, along the length of the Ballston Corridor up to Clarendon, Wilson Boulevard was closed to traffic. Instead, it was packed with Arlingtonians and visitors from out of town sampling the best food and drinks the county has to offer at the

2018 Taste of Arlington. Taste of Arlington is an annual event hosted by the Ballston BID which raises funding for local charities like the Arlington Food Assistance Center and the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network.

"It's great," said Jackie Jordan, an "original Arlingtonian" from Bluemont Park. "We got to enjoy the VIP lounge and it was worth

the ticket. I'm looking forward to all the food here."

Like Jordan, many of the visitors to Taste of Arlington are former residents of the county returning for a visit home. Doug Jacobs lives in Reston, but said it was nice to bring his family back to Arlington where they used to live. His favorite part was getting ice cream for his children.

"We're trying all the food," said Jacobs.

"We're hanging out with family and enjoying the community."

After a week of constant rains and storms, some visitors were thankful for a one day reprieve of sunshine and warm weather.

"It's a little hot," said LeslieAnn Souders, enjoying a bruschetta from SER, "but after this week I'm not complaining."

— VERNON MILES

Contentious Framework County Board approves Four Mile Run plans.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

For County Board member Libby Garvey, a dissatisfied audience is the sign of a well done policy. By that measure, the County Board's approval of the Four Mile Run Policy Framework on May 19 was a resounding success. After years of planning and public meetings, the future plans for Four Mile Run Valley came down to two options. The County Board ultimately approved Concept One, a plan that highlights accessibility to park amenities and plans for longer term improvements to the park — contingent on the county being able to obtain a parcel of land from WETA.

"When we vote on something and nobody is totally happy, I figure we've probably got it right," said Garvey. "There just isn't a good solution that's going to make everyone happy."

Both Concept One and Concept Two had supporters at the meeting, though both sides admitted the plans were flawed.

"The policy framework for the study area, for the most part, embraces the status quo," said Robin Stompler. "That's not necessar-

ily a negative, the status quo means pride. Nauck is proud of its community. But if we cannot move the foundation of our plan beyond the status quo, how do we grow?"

Stompler pointed to several sub-areas of the plan where she said the project's ambitions were too limited. Stompler also noted that the majority of the working group members had voted against the draft version of the document and were not asked to vote on the final version.

"I would encourage you to think more creatively and innovatively," said Stompler.

The large piece of the Four Mile Run plans centered around the park's history with the Nauck neighborhood.

"Many in the Nauck community didn't get to choose where they lived," said Benedette Casille. "That's what makes Jennie Dean Park so important. There's a huge sense of community."

But the plan's reliance on being able to acquire the WETA property for future improvements left many Arlingtonians concerned. Residents of Shirlington were also concerned about the park. "Our community has been put on the defensive, and that troubles me," said Edie Wilson from the

Shirlington Civic Association. "We have been told we can come in the back door of Jennie Dean Park. [We've been told] that we should not voice opinions about best layout or amenities, that it is not our park. [We've been told] that all the field lights should point in our direction. [We've been told] that it's OK to leave rusty old fences along the stream. Over and over again the phrase "the neighborhood" has been used to describe one, albeit special, neighborhood. I don't experience life in the valley that way. We mingle. Everyone talks to everyone. Neighborhood to me in Arlington is a bigger concept. We live here too."

Residents of the local Nauck community, who would feel the brunt of the park's design, said there were details about the project from spotlights shining on homes to location of amenities that still raised concerns. "The Four Mile Run Policy Framework impacts Nauck greatly," said Portia Clark, president of the Nauck Civic Association. "80 percent of study area is in Nauck. There are two design options, but neither option is particularly inspiring. [We] strongly support Option Two. It's the only option that provides tangible, open space in front and

ball fields in back."

Clark said residents of the Nauck neighborhood were concerned that plans for the park would not include spaces open and accessible to the street.

"Nauck compromised significantly throughout process," said Clark. "The plan does not include amenities we requested. It does not go far enough in support of arts and industry district. It is silent on certain properties facing Shirlington. The designs for Jennie Dean Park are uninspiring. But we've been going along because it's what the county wanted. But if you compromise everything away, where do you stand? We've been waiting for decades for revitalization, we're comfortable waiting longer if it means we get everything right."

Ultimately, staff reported to the County Board that following the approval of the framework, plans will come forward later in 2018 for project implementation.

"This entire process has been terrific, even though I know it's been painful for some people," said County Board Vice Chair Christian Dorsey. "In totality it has been terrific. Jennie Dean Park is going to be at a better place than it's been in history."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Site of the 1960 lunch counter sit-in (Joan Trumpauer Mulholland in the middle).



PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Site of the day 1960 lunch counter sit-in today.

Cherrydale To Celebrate 125th Anniversary

Festivities will open with plaque commemorating historic 1960 lunch counter sit-in.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Step back into history at the 125th anniversary celebration of Cherrydale Neighborhood on June 9. The day will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the unveiling of a plaque reminding citizens of the lunch counter sit-in of June 9, 1960.

This brief ceremony will take place in the parking lot at 3815 Lee Highway outside the former Cherrydale Drug Fair where a small integrated group of college students conducted a peaceful civil rights sit-in after they were denied service at the lunch counter.

After the brief commemorative ceremony, a police officer will assist pedestrians in crossing Military Road to the nearby Cherrydale Library where Arlington



FILE PHOTO

Joan Trumpauer Mulholland, Arlington freedom fighter and sit-in veteran.

County Board Chair Katie Cristol will begin the main ceremony marking the opening of a photo exhibit entitled "It Hap-

pened in Cherrydale: Three Brushes With History." Joan Trumpauer Mulholland will relive her experience on the historic day of the sit-in, which was the first step toward integration of drug store and chain store lunch counters in Arlington and Alexandria.

The photo exhibit will focus on:

- ❖ The desegregation of Stratford Junior High on Feb. 2, 1959. This was the first Virginia public school to desegregate. The school is currently H. B. Woodlawn Secondary Program.

- ❖ The lunch counter sit-in at the Cherrydale Drug Fair on June 9, 1960.

- ❖ The contributions of the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department at the Pentagon fire on Sept. 11, 2001.

- ❖ Greg Embree, member of

"Cherrydale 125 Committee," says in addition there will be plaques devoted to famous people who were born or died in 1893, important 1893 inventions and books, as well as notable music composed in 1893.

Children can supplement their history lesson with free cake from Heidelberg Bakery, face painting and storybooks while octogenarians can recall the 1911 Stanley Steamer days with the still operational winner at the Greenbrier Concourse d'Elegance. Baby boomers can sway to the music of 1959 and 1960.

The afternoon will conclude with an invitation-only reunion of long-time Cherrydale residents, their descendants, "old time" former residents and special guests at the home of Scott and Kathy Springston at 1713 N Quebec St. Kathy Springston was born and raised in Cherrydale and today serves as the Smithsonian Institution's historian to Cherrydale and for Arlington County.

Rotary Club of Arlington Awards Students

The Rotary Club of Arlington named its 2018 award recipients:

- ❖ Undrakh Tsend, a student at Yorktown High School, was awarded an \$8,000 scholarship. Undrakh has been accepted to Virginia Tech and is waiting to hear from other schools before making her final decision. She hopes to become a diplomat or work in the nonprofit sector.

- ❖ Kervin Abimael Galdamez Carranza, a student at Arlington Community High School, was awarded an \$8,000 stipend. This award is spread over four semesters and the competition was

based on merit, educational goals and perseverance/work ethic. Kervin plans to attend Northern Virginia Community College and major in business management and hopes someday to own his own business.

- ❖ Rosaelena O'Neil, member of the College Board of the Northern Virginia Community College, was the keynote speaker for the event. O'Neil spoke about the rising cost of higher education and commended the Arlington Rotary club for offering student aid.

For more information about Rotary Club of Arlington visit www.arlingtonrotaryclub.com.



Speaker Rosaelena O'Neil (NVCC Trustee), Scholarship Winner Undrakh Tsend, AREF President Sherry Rock, Stipend Winner Kervin Galdamez-Carranza, and ARC President David Sutfin.

The
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PHOTO BY ALEX ENG/WASHINGTON-LEE STUDENT

From left: Sydney Miller, Ward LeHardy, Maggy Jenkins, Esteban Marmolejo-Suarez, and Nicolas Boone in Washington-Lee High School's production of "J.B."

Someone Is Always Job

BY OLIVIA PARKER
TEENS AND THEATRE COMPANY

Why do bad things happen to good people? The question — as old as humanity and enduring as time — was examined in Washington-Lee High School's poignant performance of "J.B."

Based on the biblical tale of Job, Archibald MacLeish's Pulitzer Prize winning drama transposes the original setting to a timeless but modern day incarnation that emphasizes the universal theme. Beneath a circus tent, carnies become deities and an unknowing person steps into the lead role of a play within a play.

J.B. is a devout man and a successful banker with a loving family. When his faith is tested through the loss of his children, his home, his wife, and his health, the story diverges from its ancient source material, and J.B. finds his own answer to the mystery of unattributable suffering.

Setting a precedent of surprise, energy, and at times discomfort are four clowns, who entertain the audience from the moment they enter the theater during an interactive pre-show performance. Jojo the jokester (Sylvain Chassagneux), Squeaks the ballerina (Cailyn Murray), Chuckles the saddest comedian (Will LeHardy), and Zhenya the cynical (Reilly Evans) skip, sashay, and contort the play along, moving props, assisting with multiple onstage costume changes, and acting as the unseen forces tearing J.B.'s life to shreds (at times literally).

Two unassuming vendors, who emerge from the aisles, launch this metatheatrical story by stepping into the roles of Satan and God. Nicolas Boone's performance as Mr. Nickles (Satan) oscillated between manic and menacing as he delivered weighty monologues and passionate outbursts. Ward LeHardy played the perfect foil as the inscrutable Mr. Zuss (God).

Esteban Marmolejo-Suarez's performance as the titular character J.B. was honest and

relatable, embodying the everyman without becoming bland. His wife Sarah was played by Maggy Jenkins, who intensely expressed a mother's grief, a woman's doubt, and a wife's love. Together, the two actors navigated the shattering of their picturesque world, the torment of the aftermath, and the bittersweet beginnings of recovery.

Playing several characters, Roustabouts Lily Pond and Sydney Miller brought crackling energy each of the many times they delivered tragic news. Comforters Bildad (Ainsley St. Clair), Zophar (Grace Fisher), and Eliphaz (Matthew Palacios) each represented a different explanation for hardship. The philosophies of religion, science, and apathy were all rejected by J.B. despite each subscriber's adamant arguments.

Multiple labo-intensive techniques were used to age the paint on Maddy Miller and Aidan Endo's highly atmospheric set, which included a high tower from which God looked down upon the circus ring. Three 20-foot, hand-painted, red and white circus curtain panels created one of the most impactful moments of the show, as they came crashing to the ground to represent a natural disaster razing the city within. Lighting by Christopher-Thomas Cordero, Abby Ryan, and Sarah Shaw also played a crucial role in striking a myriad of tones from dreadful anticipation to blissful contentment. The hard work of Stage Manager Abby Fry ensured that the show ran incredibly smoothly.

Given the cursed gift of foresight by the two narrators, the audience watched helplessly while J.B. was stripped of every worldly and heavenly comfort. Questions swirled in minds, and hearts felt the rousing sting of injustice as a startling truth left the lips of Nickles and settled in the souls of the audience: "There's always someone playing Job." War, loss, and malice touch everyone's lives, leaving them to ask, "Why me?" Like J.B., they may never receive a satisfactory answer, but cling to a flicker of hope, sometimes finding that all one needs is love and that a single candle can banish the darkness.

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Community Meeting for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE)

The public is invited to a community meeting for the Virginia Railway Express (VRE) Crystal City Station Improvements project on:

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Open House from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM

At the Gallery Underground

The Shops at 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202

Come and learn about the concept design for the project and provide comments on the design for the station and access from Crystal Drive.

Review information posted on the project website:

vre.org/development/crystal-city-station-improvements

Submit **written comments** between **June 1, 2018** and **July 1, 2018**

Via online comment form on the project website

Email to: ssoneji@vre.org

Mail to Attention: Sonali Soneji, Project Manager

Virginia Railway Express

1500 King St. Suite 202, Alexandria VA 22314



VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS

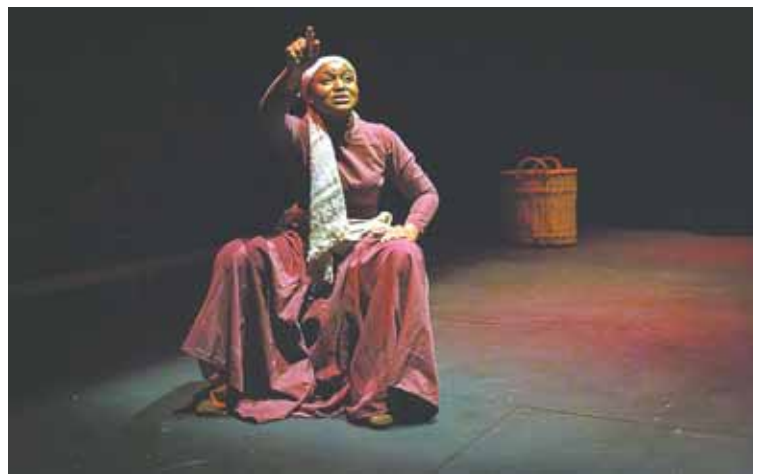
SUMMER FUN



Gus Grohmann



Elayna Simon



Bettina Atubire

Cassatt's To Raise Funds for Yorktown Theatre

Photographs of student performers on exhibit.

Jim Coates' photographs of Yorktown High School's Theatre IV students' One Person Shows will be on display at Cassatt's Kiwi Café and Gallery, 4536 Lee Hwy., now

through June 3. In connection with the photo exhibit, Cassatt's has once again agreed to host a dineout fundraiser for Yorktown Theatre, during the two weeks of the show. Eat at Cassatt's during that time and they will donate a portion of the proceeds to the theatre program. Diners need to mention Yorktown Theatre to their server.



Bibho Prasai



Sophia Paz



Laura Wade

CALENDAR

ONGOING

Wordless Shakespeare: "Titus Andronicus." Through May 27, Wednesday-Saturday, 8 p.m.; Sunday matinee, 2 p.m. at Synetic Theater, Crystal City, 1800 S. Bell St. Synetic Theater's Founding Artistic Director Paata Tsikurishvili will present the 13th installation of his Wordless Shakespeare series, "Titus Andronicus." The revenge-driven tragedy tells the bloody tale of Titus and Tamora with all of the fiery passion, energy, and vengeance only Synetic Theater can deliver. Recommended for ages 16 and older for violence and mature content. \$35 and up. Student tickets start at \$15. Seniors and military, \$5 off. Visit synetictheater.org.

Spring SOLOS 2018. Through June 2, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center (AAC) presents Spring SOLOS 2018, the second SOLOS presentation of its 2017-2018 season. The artists included in Spring SOLOS 2018 are Sean Derry, Adam Griffiths, Phaon Howng, Giulia Piersa Livi, Nick Primo, and Jerry Truong. AAC's long-running SOLOS exhibition program introduces talented regional artists to the community and give these artists an opportunity to present new work in solo-style exhibitions in one of AAC's seven gallery spaces. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org.

Art Exhibit: Fantasy Will Set You

Free. Through June 2, gallery hours in the Wyatt Resident Artists Gallery at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. AAC resident artist Negar Ahkami creates expressive, tactile paintings inspired by Iranian art and the many global visual traditions that intersect with Iran's rich art history. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org.

HB Woodlawn: Picturing Disaster: The Beauty of Bees. Through June 2, gallery hours in the Jenkins Community Gallery at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Organized by instructor Faylinda Kodis, this exhibition will present work from H-B Woodlawn seniors who have spent their high school careers focusing on the visual arts. Picturing Disaster: The Beauty of Bees explores the effects of environmental destruction on the honey bee population. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org.

Art Exhibit: Unnoticed Beauty. Through June 7 at 3700 S. Four Mile Run, Four Mile Run Valley. Exhibit courtesy of Arlington Arts in partnership with H-B Woodlawn visual arts students, Arlington Public Schools. "For most of us, knowledge of our world comes largely through sight, yet we look about with such unseeing eyes that we are partially blind. One way to open your eyes to unnoticed beauty is to ask yourself, 'What if I had never seen this before? What if I knew I would never see it again?'" - Rachel Carson, *The Sense of Wonder*.

"Girlfriend." Through June 10 in Signature Theatre's ARK Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. The D.C. area premiere of Todd Almond's coming-of-age musical, inspired by Matthew Sweet's 1991 alternative-rock album "Girlfriend." Visit SigTheatre.org.

Art Exhibit: 'Out of My Mind.' Through July 8, gallery hours at Fred Schnider Gallery, 888 N. Quincy St. David Carlson: Paintings and Drawings from Fields and Transformation series. Call 703-841-9404 or email galler@fredschnider.com.

Art Exhibit: Border (Untitled). Through July 28, gallery hours at Cody Gallery, Ballston Center, 1100 North Glebe Road, second floor and The Barry Gallery, located in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. Marymount University will present *Border (Untitled)*, an exhibition on the state of culture, art, and politics surrounding immigration and refugees. A fundraiser will be presented at both spaces for Love Without Borders. Works by refugees from around the globe will be available for sale, with all proceeds donated to support Love Without Borders and its work for refugee aid. Visit www.love-withoutborders.org/, www.marymount.edu/barrygallery or www.marymount.edu/ballston-center-gallery.

Ball-Sellers House Open. Through Oct. 27, Saturdays 1-4 p.m. at Ball-

Sellers House, 5620 3rd St., South. Free tours by a knowledgeable docent transport you back to the colonial era in the historic artifact of a house built in the 1740s. See how John Ball built the house and imagine what life would have been like in it for a middle class farmer, his wife, and five daughters. The house was donated to the Arlington Historical Society by its last owner, Marion Sellers, in 1975. Something for all ages. Call 703-892-4204 or visit arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Arlington Historical Museum. Wednesdays, 12:30-3:30 p.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Arlington Historical Museum, owned and operated by the Arlington Historical Society, is located at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. The two-story brick structure was built in 1891 as the Hume School, named for Frank Hume who gave some of the property for the school. It is the oldest school building in Arlington County. Now a museum, it houses permanent and temporary local history exhibits ranging from pre-1607 to Sept. 11, 2001. Visit arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Civil War Artifact Display. Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park Visitor Center, 2411 24th St. N. The New Fort C.F. Smith Park Visitor Center features displays about Union soldiers and the Defenses of Washington between 1861 and 1865.

Artifacts from archaeological studies from Forts Ethan Allen and C.F. Smith are on display. Kids can try on replica Civil War uniforms and learn about camp life. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/fort-cf-smith-park/.

Arlington Farmer's Market. Every Saturday, 8 a.m.-noon at the corner of N. 14th Street and N. Courthouse Road. A weekly celebration of local food including fresh produce, meats, dairy, cheese, baked goods, free range eggs, specialty items, cut flowers, plants and herbs. Email csingiser@cfwdc.org or call 917-733-6402.

FRESHFARM Market. 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Shop from local farmers and producers with seasonal fruits and vegetables, fresh-cut flowers, container plants and herbs, farm-raised eggs, all-natural meats, artisan baked goods, and specialty foods. Visit www.crystallcity.org for more.

Mobile Bike Repair. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. on Thursdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Drop off your bike on Thursday morning and have it tuned up and ready to ride before heading home. Email DC@velofix.com, or phone 855-VELO-FIX for more.

Food Truck Thursdays. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at 1900 Crystal Drive and 201 12th St. Actual truck schedules are subject to change so be sure to follow your favorites. Visit www.crystallcity.org for more.

SUMMER FUN



See Here, 2017 by Giulia Piera Livi.

Spring SOLOS 2018

Arlington Arts Center (AAC) presents Spring SOLOS 2018, the second SOLOS presentation of its 2017-2018 season. The artists included in Spring SOLOS 2018 are Sean Derry, Adam Griffiths, Phaen Howng, Giulia Piera Livi, Nick Primo, and Jerry Truong. AAC's long-running SOLOS exhibition program introduces talented regional artists to the community and give these artists an opportunity to present new work in solo-style exhibitions in one of AAC's seven gallery spaces. Through June 2, gallery hours at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Gallery talk: Saturday, June 2, 1-3 p.m. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org.

Healthy Lifestyle Runs. Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/ for more.

Friday Night Live. 8 p.m. Fridays at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit 1bc.org for more.

Arlington's Historical Museum Open on First Wednesdays. The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County's history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Open Mic Comedy. Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21 and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or Visit www.RiRa.com/Arlington for more.

Invasive Plants Removal. Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or Visit registration.arlingtonva.us. Free, no registration required.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Visit www.galaxyhut.com or call 703-525-8646.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow's on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Storytime. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

Lego Club. Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs of legos and a special challenge and after the program

the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548 for more.

Crystal City Sparket. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on Wednesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparket — A Creative Market is an extension of DC's Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit www.crystalcity.org.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of each month. The Hyatt Regency Crystal City's "Art for Life" Partnership with National Kidney Foundation brings a new artist each month to The Hyatt for a reception. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Brunch at Freddie's. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd St. The Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance gathers for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet (\$9.99). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 23

Local History Talk: The Hume School. 7-8:30 p.m. at Aurora Hills Branch, Arlington Public Library, 735 18th St. S. Tom Dickinson of the Arlington Historical Society will speak about Frank Hume and the history of the Hume School. Located on Arlington Ridge Road, it is the oldest school building in Arlington County and home of the Arlington Historical Museum. Visit arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Author Event. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 North Westmoreland St. Seven writers share from "Grace In Darkness," Volume VIII of Grace & Gravity, an anthology series founded to highlight fiction written by talented local women. Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Local YA authors Jon Skovron and Jessica Spotswood founded Shut Up & Write: YA Author Writing, a bimonthly series of panels focused on the craft of writing. This month's panel will revolve around writing and editing anthologies. Robin Talley interviews Ellen Oh. Call 703-300-9746 or visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Marymount Farmers Market Opens. 9 a.m.-1

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SUMMER FUN

p.m. at Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road. The Marymount Farmers Market will launch its third season. A joint effort between Field to Table, Marymount, North Arlington neighbors, nearby civic associations and the Lee Highway Alliance, the market will be held each Saturday through Nov. 17. Visit www.marymountfarmersmarket.org/.

Fabulous Feet. 4-5 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Ages 6-10. Who is brave enough for a 'barefoot' hike? Take those shoes off and learn from your own feet and from animals who walk on tiptoes, have claws and pads, or backward-pointing toes. For information: 703-228-3403. \$5. #632828-I. Register at 703-228-4747 or registration.arlingtonva.us.

Turtle Campfire. 7-8 p.m. At Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road, Arlington. Cost is \$5. This program will be filled with entertaining activities that may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores. Call 703-228-3403.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Netherlands Carillon Concerts:

Edward M. Nassor. 2-4 p.m. at Netherlands Carillon, Arlington. The 50 bells of the Netherlands Carillon hang in an open steel tower, a symbol of Dutch regard for American aid during and after World War II. Enjoy views of Washington, D.C., while guest artists play patriotic music, jazz, and pop. Bring a blanket or folding chairs. Sunshades and free-standing tents are allowed, but stakes are not. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/netherlandscarillon.htm.

Memorial Moon Hike. 8-9 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Families ages 5 and up. Discover the nature center's trails in a whole new way. Under the glow of a full moon come out to hike with and enjoy the first fireflies and the night life of the forest. For information: 703-228-3403. \$5. #632858-N. Register at 703-228-4747 or registration.arlingtonva.us.



The Netherlands Carillon is part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

Netherlands Carillon Concerts

The 50 bells of the Netherlands Carillon hang in an open steel tower, a symbol of Dutch regard for American aid during and after World War II. Enjoy views of Washington, D.C., while guest artists play patriotic music, jazz, and pop. Bring a blanket or folding chairs. Sunshades and free-standing tents are allowed, but stakes are not. Mondays, May 28 and Sept. 3, 2-4 p.m.; Saturdays, June 9-Aug. 25, 6-8 p.m. at Netherlands Carillon, Arlington. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/netherlandscarillon.htm.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

Reception: Border (Untitled). 6-8 p.m. at The Barry Gallery, located in the Reinsch Library at Marymount, 2807 North Glebe Road. A narrative of experiences from organizations aiding Syrian refugees and the refugees themselves compiled by Associate Professor Barry Erdeljon and his students. Portraits will also be shown from the "Inside Out"

project by photographer Josh Mojica, as well as portraits of Syrian refugee students associated with the Karam Foundation. Admission is free. Visit www.marymount.edu/barrygallery.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Mosquitoes and Ticks: Identification and Control. 3-4:30 p.m. at Cherrydale Library, 2190 North Military Road. In this

presentation, learn the science of how best to control mosquitoes and ticks. This includes learning how to identify the mosquitoes and ticks common in this area, as well as learning about their life cycle, how they reproduce, and where they go in the winter. Free. Advance registration requested at mgmv.org. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Walk the Walk on Arlington's Trails. Celebrate Arlington's fantastic trail network on National Trails Day. Rated the top outdoor recreation amenity by residents, Arlington has nearly 49 miles of paved multi-use trails and even more hiking trails. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/off-street-trails/.

Arlington Women in Public Safety Outreach Event. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Arlington Traditional School, located at 855 N. Edison St. The Arlington County Police Department, Fire Department, Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management, the Sheriff's Office, and their public safety partners invite the public to join the 2nd Annual Arlington Women in Public Safety Outreach Event. Visit newsroom.arlingtonva.us/release/public-invited-to-arlington-women-in-public-safety-outreach-event-2/.

Synetic Teen Company Auditions. Noon-3 p.m. at Synetic Theater's Studio, 2155 Crystal Plaza Arcade, T-19, Crystal City. Synetic Theater's Teen Company is a year-round training program dedicated to developing the next generation of artistic performers. Email tori@synetictheater.org to request an audition date.

Gallery Talk: Spring SOLOS 2018. 1-3 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. Arlington Arts Center (AAC) presents Spring SOLOS 2018, the second SOLOS presentation of its 2017-2018 season. The artists included in Spring SOLOS 2018 are Sean Derry, Adam Griffiths,

Phaan Howng, Giulia Piera Livi, Nick Primo, and Jerry Truong. A walking tour and discussion of Spring SOLOS 2018, with the artists in the exhibition. Visit arlingtonartscenter.org.

Free Play Day. 1:30-3 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 N. Military Road. Give ages 5-9 unstructured time they can call their own at Gulf Branch Nature Center. Children will love this chance to explore the center's woods, make mud pies, throw rocks in the creek and just be free. Dress to get wet and dirty, and wear closed-toe shoes. Call 703-228-3403, email gulfbranch@arlingtonva.us or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/.

Netherlands Carillon Concerts:

Robert B. Grogan. 6-8 p.m. at Netherlands Carillon, Arlington. The 50 bells of the Netherlands Carillon hang in an open steel tower, a symbol of Dutch regard for American aid during and after World War II. Enjoy views of Washington, D.C., while guest artists play patriotic music, jazz, and pop. Bring a blanket or folding chairs. Sunshades and free-standing tents are allowed, but stakes are not. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/netherlandscarillon.htm.

Big Bullfrogs Campfire. 7-8 p.m. at the Gulf Branch Fire Ring, 3608 N. Military Road. The whole family is invited to join us at the Gulf Branch Fire Ring for lots of old-fashioned fun Sat., June 2, 7-8 p.m. These engaging programs will be filled with entertaining activities which may include stories, special animal guests, games, songs and of course, S'mores! Register for just \$5. Call 703-228-3403, email gulfbranch@arlingtonva.us or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Green Home and Garden Tour. 1-5 p.m. at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S. 16th St., Arlington. The 16th annual tour will include a mixture of new green homes, green renovations, and watershed-friendly gardens. See homes and gardens featuring energy efficient technologies, solar elements, water saving technologies, native plants, rain gardens, and rain barrels, wildlife habitat, and more. The tour will kick off at the Walter Reed Community Center with experts to help with sustainable landscape management practices, native plants, stormwater management, soil nutrient management, tree planting, and energy conservation. There will also be a small native plant sale. \$5 per person. Visit www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/ for more.

Water Games. 2:30-4 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 415 S. Lexington St., in the yard on the 5th Street side. St. John's Episcopal Church will host an afternoon of water games with slip n' slides, sprinklers and more activities for children of all ages. Bring a swimsuit and towel and wear a dry set of clothes. There will also be snacks and some "dry" activities related to water. Children under 8 should be accompanied by an adult. Email familyprograms@stjohnsarlingtonva.org or call 703-400-7172 for more information.

Washington Balalaika Society Concert. 3 p.m. at Wakefield High School, Door 1, 1325 South Dinwiddie St., Arlington. 55 members on stage with balalaikas, domras, and other Russian folk instruments. Adults, \$25; seniors, \$20; students, \$25; 12 and under, free. Visit www.balalaika.org for tickets.



Jane Franklin Dance

Charlotte Hollister Annual Gala

Join creative peers for a classy, arts-filled evening in support of Jane Franklin Dance, a local nonprofit whose 2018-19 Season includes both cutting-edge collaborations and wide-ranging community outreach. Fine performances await plus food and refreshment including a wine tasting and light supper. Saturday, June 9, 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Cost is \$40-\$200. Visit www.janefranklin.com/ or call 703-933-1111 to purchase a student ticket.

PEOPLE

From left are Jack Lechner, Jonathan Martin, Charlie Clark, Jonathan Kinney, Meg Baldwin, Ian McWethy, and Nancy McFarlane.



PHOTO BY SARAH GUTWIRTH

Yorktown's Hall of Fame Grows

Seven inductees honored.

Seven accomplished alumni of Yorktown High School were inducted in the school's Hall of Fame and Inspiration at a ceremony Friday evening, May 18. The event, held in Patriot Hall, welcomed inductees, their families, students, alumni, parents and community officials for whom presenters dedicated seven plaques containing photographs and biographies mounted on the wall in the gym lobby.

The Hall of Fame and Inspiration was created in 2004 and includes such notable alumni as broadcaster Katie Couric (class of '75), Google CEO Eric Schmidt ('72), Olympic swimmer Tom Dolan ('93), the late astronaut David Brown ('74) and Hilton Hotels CEO Chris Nassetta ('80).

The addition of seven in 2018 brings the total inductees to 35, after rounds of inductions in 2004, 2008 and 2014.

The selections of distinguished alumni are made by a committee of alumni, a former teacher and a student member. Nominations are solicited from former students and the community via local news outlets and the website Yorktownalums.org seeking suggestions based on the following criteria: "alumni (including faculty and staff) who went on to become well known for achievement in any area of endeavor that brings credit to the school and whose story is compelling and inspiring." The committee then votes on the individual inductees.

"The fame can be local and national, but the accomplishments should have meaning to the students who walk by the plaques every day," said current committee chair Sara Jane Knight, a retired Yorktown government teacher. Funding for the project came from donations. "The committee had some tough choices to make."

The alumni inducted in the 2018 round include:

- ❖ Meg Baldwin ('71), a women and children's rights advocate who leads a sexual violence resource center called Refuge House in Tallahassee, Fla.;

- ❖ Charlie Clark ('71), a columnist, journalist and local historian who has written two books and many articles on Arlington history;

- ❖ Jonathan Kinney ('64), an Arlington attorney and land-use expert with many community awards;

- ❖ Jack Lechner ('80), a New York City film and TV producer, lyricist and book author who produced the award-winning documentary "The Fog of War";

- ❖ Jonathan Martin ('95), national political correspondent for The New York Times and frequent guest on CNN and "Meet the Press";

- ❖ Nancy Pletcher McFarlane ('74), the mayor of Raleigh, N.C., who founded a pharmacy company that serves the chronically ill at home.

- ❖ Ian McWethy ('01), a New York City-based playwright whose 40 works have been staged more than 4,000 times in 50 states and 32 countries.

The Friday night ceremony was hosted by Arlington native, public relations executive Bob Witeck (Yorktown Class of '70), and was followed by a reception with light refreshments.

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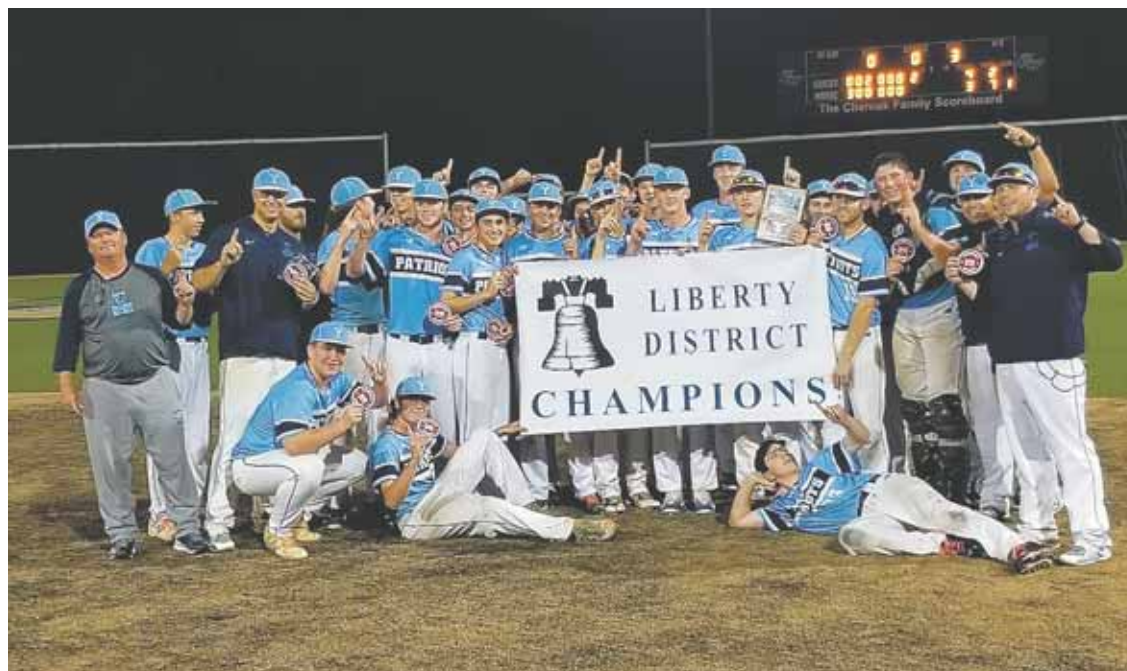


PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Yorktown baseball team beat South Lakes 4-3 on Saturday to win the Liberty District championship.

Koomey's Blast Yields Championship

**Patriots come from behind
to beat South Lakes
on Saturday.**

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Yorktown baseball team had managed just one hit when junior catcher Ben Koomey strolled to the plate with one on and one out in the top of the seventh inning during Saturday's Liberty District championship game.

South Lakes held a 3-2 lead and its pitcher, senior Josh Taylor, had retired 11 consecutive batters before walking Yorktown third baseman John Merlene. Now, Koomey, owner of the Patriots' lone hit, represented the go-ahead run with a chance to make Yorktown fans forget about the previous six innings of offensive struggle.

"I just knew," Koomey said, "I had to hit it hard up the middle, get a base hit, maybe more."

Koomey's version of "maybe more" would help deliver Yorktown's first district championship since 2012.

Koomey blasted a two-run homerun over the right-field wall and the Patriots came from behind to beat South Lakes 4-3 and capture the Liberty District title on May 19 at Barcroft Park.

A Koomey single, two walks, a fielder's choice and a South Lakes throwing error produced two Yorktown runs in the third inning. Otherwise, Taylor shut down the Patriots lineup for most of the evening, finishing with 12 strikeouts during his complete game two-hitter.

Yorktown, however, managed to come out victorious and earn a No. 1 seed in the Region D tournament.

Did Koomey know his seventh-inning fly ball to right would sail out of the park?

"I knew," he said, "right off the bat."

South Lakes jumped out to an early lead with three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Yorktown starting pitcher Michael Lowen struggled with his con-

trol, allowing three hits, two walks and hitting a batter in the opening frame. If Lowen hadn't struck out Seahawks left fielder Jack Howard with the bases loaded and two outs, the damage could have been worse.

Luckily for the Patriots, they were able to draw from recent experience to remain confident. Yorktown overcame an early deficit to beat South Lakes 6-5 during a regular season meeting less than two weeks prior.

"That's what we said after they got those three runs," Yorktown head coach John Skaggs said. "Guys, we've been here before against the same team at their home field. This is their home field tonight, so let's do it. We're not done, and it worked out."

Lowen settled down after the opening frame, allowing just three hits over the next 3 2/3 innings.

"He came back and showed the Michael Lowen that we know," Skaggs said. "He got mad, he got angry and he attacked the zone and then he started getting three-, four-pitch at-bats against guys."

Lowen allowed three runs on six hits over 4 2/3 innings. He walked two, struck out five and hit a batter. The senior said he started to work at a quicker pace and changed his release point after struggling in the first.

"I was talking to my pitching coach and Koomey," Lowen said, "and we worked on going through a faster pace, playing more of a mind game just to get them not feeling comfortable so that way I could do what I've got to do."

Junior left-hander Aidan Henning earned the win in relief for Yorktown, pitching 2 1/3 scoreless innings. He allowed just one hit and struck out two.

With Yorktown trailing 3-2 in the bottom of the fifth, the Patriots made a key defensive play to keep the deficit at one run.

With two outs and a runner on, South Lakes pitcher Taylor drove a base hit into right field off Henning. Yorktown right fielder Brendan Matarese tracked the ball down and threw to the cutoff man, second baseman Will Porter, who threw home in time to tag out a South Lakes baserunner at the plate.

Next up for Yorktown is the Region D tournament.

"It's insane," Lowen said about winning the district title. "I've been on this team since I was a freshman. It's pretty wild that we finally made it."

News

Opera NOVA Volunteer Awarded

David Ryan of Opera NOVA in Arlington is one of five nationwide recipients of a certificate of excellence award from Opera Volunteers International to be presented June 20-23 at its annual convention.



Ryan has volunteered with Opera NOVA for 12 years, and is now the treasurer and administrator of Opera NOVA. President Miriam Miller said, "He has given countless volunteer hours clocking in more than 30 hours most weeks."

Opera NOVA seeks to provide audiences with the chance to enjoy opera performances locally, to create performance opportunities for aspiring artists in the community, and to produce inspiring programs for youth and seniors.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

Pet Loss and Bereavement. 1:15 p.m. at the first floor auditorium of the Central Library on North Quincy Street. Arlington AARP Chapter #284 will meet, program will be "Pet Loss and Bereavement" by certified counselor Julia Mohler from the Association for Pet Loss and Bereavement. There is no requirement to be a member of AARP or to be a senior. Call 703-819-5631 or visit www.aplb.org.

TUESDAY/MAY 29

Disaster Preparedness Class. 5-9:30 p.m. at Virginia Hospital Center, 1701 N George Mason Drive, Parking B, Zone B, Ground Floor, Arlington. Virginia Hospital Center and Arlington County have joined forces to offer this disaster preparedness classes. Dr. Reed Smith, from Virginia Hospital Center's Emergency Department, will teach participants how to provide life saving measures in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, before first responders arrive. Registration required, space is limited. Free. To register, email sdubik@virginiahospitalcenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 30

Suicide Prevention Program. 6:30-8 p.m. at Arlington County Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Arlington County's Department of Human Services hosts "Talk Saves Lives" presented by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Visit afsp.org for more.

Clean Air Community Forum. 7-8:15 p.m. at Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Ave., Arlington. Celebrate Clean Air Awareness Month with a free community forum on the impact of vehicle idling on children's health and the environment and how to make a difference. Learn to engage in the community to reduce idling and to improve health in Arlington. Organizing partners are the Environmental Health & Asthma Subcommittee (EHAS) of the APS School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) and EcoAction Arlington (formerly Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment). RSVP to tinyurl.com/arlingtoncleanair.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Visit www.novatransit.org.

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the "fairy tale" wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I'll try not to self-indulge too much; it's boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, "Mot," my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: "Dina, train the new man." After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: "Dina, I think I love you." I don't recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn't seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.'s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don't remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was "Yes."

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina's maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with as serious a look as he could muster: "I can't marry you on Sunday."

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. "What!?", we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: "I'm a Pennsylvania judge. I can't legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we're trying to process what we're hearing.) He goes on: "Just come by my chambers on Friday and we'll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I'll do it for show." The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their "fairy tale," but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

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