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Thousands Come to Fine Arts Festival

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Reston Riders Join Bike to Work Day
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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Sean Dorsey Dance performed the Virginia premiere of ‘Boys in Trouble,’ at Center Stage in Reston.



PHOTO BY LYDIA DANILLER

Dance Theatre on Adrenaline

Sean Dorsey Dance unpacks trans/queer perspectives with sass and playful humor.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Reston Community Center presented the Virginia premiere of the cutting-edge dance theatre production, “Boys in Trouble” on Wednesday, May 16, 2018, at Center Stage, Hunters Wood Plaza in Reston. In his newest work, Sean Dorsey, transgender and queer choreographer, dancer, writer and longtime trans activist, broke the audiences’ hearts one moment, only to have them yelp with laughter and applaud the next, generating a melting pot of unabashedly raw emotions.

Dorsey created “Boys in Trouble” to be extremely accessible and deeply moving to LGBTQ persons and straight persons alike. It unpacks toxic masculinity from trans and queer perspectives in brutal honesty.

ASKED IN AN INTERVIEW why people laughed at such deep subjects, Dorsey conceded that they laugh for many reasons. First, he said, his show employs “a lot of sass and playful humor.” Also, as the artistic director, he and his dancers use humor as a way to crack open cur-



Sean Dorsey, visionary, transgender and queer choreographer and longtime trans activist wrote ‘Boys in Trouble,’ a dance theatre production which examines the trans revolution and attacks on trans and LGBTQ rights, and other issues on the forefront of American society.

rates the use of storytelling through narrative voice, the creation of dramatic situations and remarkable

rent loaded subjects such as gender expectations, transphobia, patriarchy, whiteness and white supremacy. And they do so through remarkable choreography and storytelling with irreverent humor. Dorsey said that his creative process, “Allows audiences to look at these subjects without judgment or shame.”

Sometimes it is easier to say what something is not. “Boys in Trouble” is neither a political show nor about making a statement. Neither is it modern dance as Dorsey described being “cryptic, abstract and incomprehensible.”

“Boys in Trouble” is dance theatre with stunningly gorgeous powerful movements; many in opposition, sweat illuminated in the stage lights arching above the strong dancers. Their movements possess clarity of line and body placement. The flow is communicative. “Boys in Trouble” incorpo-

SEE DANCE, PAGE 10

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Reston Riders Join Bike to Work Day

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Rain? What rain? The cyclists were all high and dry – at least as long as they enjoyed the Reston-Wiehle Station pit stop for the local edition of Bike to Work Day (BTWD) before pedalling off to their final destination.

May is National Bike Month and Friday was Bike to Work Day. Seventeen pit stops for participants were set up around Fairfax County. The five new ones added in 2018 are a testament to the growing popularity of cycling for transportation and not just for recreation.

The Reston-Wiehle group got creative, and established their rest and fun zone underground. With a nod to nearby Reston Town Center, the area resembled a typical Reston Festival event, with vendor and volunteer booths filling the space.

There were plenty of freebies, including food and drink to fortify the hardy riders who were braving some often-serious downpours, as well as cycling and fitness related products for sale.

There was even a massage therapist with portable massage table ready to work those riding kinks out. A DJ was keeping things lively with up-beat tunes guaranteed to crank up the pedalling tempo – if the cyclists could tear themselves away from the action and actually get back on those bikes.

BIKE SAFETY – for both rider and machine – were also addressed at the Reston-Wiehle pit stop. A contingent of Reston Bike Patrol police officers was on hand, and when not contributing a bit of humor to the proceedings – and keeping up the spirits of those manning outdoor spots – they were more than happy to dispense safety information.

Officer J. Lilly of the Metropolitan Transit Police fortunately was stationed inside in the dry where he also spoke about cyclist and cycle safety on the Metrorail System, and was available to register bikes “for easier tracking, just in case.”

Cyclists could be seen zooming in and out of the Station Plaza from all directions.

Some of those riders included:

Brenda Huber of Alexandria. Yes, it’s a long way from there to Reston, but Huber mixes things up on her commute. Some days she takes the train to the Vienna Metro station, then hops on her bike for the remaining segment of her trip to work in Reston.

James Gustilo from Sterling was actually off work on Bike to Work Day. Instead, he was biking to Falls Church and then to a doctor’s appointment. With all that cycling, he probably doesn’t spend too much time in the doctor’s office. He mostly rides on the weekends, but likes to get in a Bike To Work run at least once or twice a month.

Terri Haskell of Herndon, Tom Crotty from Reston, and Kim Sigle from South



No, she’s not getting a ticket at the Reston-Wiehle Bike to Work Day pit stop. Officer J. Lilly of the Metro Police is registering Brenda Huber’s bicycle. It’s just one piece in the loss prevention plan employed by Metro for cyclists’ safety.



James Gustilo wasn’t actually biking to work on Bike to Work Day. Riding in from Sterling, he stopped on his way to Falls Church and then to Tysons for a doctor’s appointment, then home again. “Biking can be for any reason.”

Reston were riding together. “Not too far to go,” said Crotty. The three all work at Lake Anne Elementary School in Reston and pedal power is their preferred method of transportation. Even with the rain, Haskell was pretty sure that most days, cycling was faster than driving, as area traffic continues to increase.

THESE FIVE RIDERS joined an estimated 17,000-plus Metropolitan Washington area residents expected to leave their cars at home and use old-fashioned people power



From left — Terri Haskell from Herndon, and Tom Crotty and Kim Sigle from Reston joined up at the Reston-Wiehle Bike to Work pit stop to check out the action, before pedalling off to Lake Anne Elementary in Reston, where all three work.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Fairfax County police had a presence at the Reston pit stop. The Bike Patrol officers were certainly prepared to perform their law enforcement duties, and provide tips on cycling safety, but they also provided entertainment with their quick jokes and poking-fun-at-each-other humor.

to get where they were going. The annual event is co-sponsored by Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), the Washington Area Bicyclists Association and local governments like Fairfax County.

In a statement released during the event, MWCOC cited encouraging statistics from the 2016 Bike to Work Day survey, which found that 14 percent of the participants that year were first-time cyclists, while 2

percent of the veteran cyclists reported increasing the number of times they road per week after joining in the BTWD fun.

The festivities of Bike to Work Day may only roll around once a year, but there are plenty of resources available to encourage new riders and offer advice and information to the most experienced. Visit www.commuterconnections.org/bicycling/ for more information, and stop by your local bike shop for personal assistance and to experience the friendly, and growing, area cycling community.

OPINION

Keep Teens Safe for Summer

BY JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties teen parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department



COMMENTARY

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driv-

ing, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

School Resource Officers—In Need of Reform

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/
HOST

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

In the last 12 years, there's been a dramatic increase in School Resource Officers in public secondary schools in the U.S. While there may be benefits to having SROs in schools, there are clearly downsides as well.

Both middle schools and high schools have an SRO, uniformed Fairfax County Police officer, assigned to them. The SRO functions are defined in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into between the Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools and the Chief of Fairfax County Police, with the blessing of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. SROs presence is largely justified on grounds of safety and security. And some of us think it is beneficial for kids to have a positive image of, and relationship with, a police officer.

Regarding safety, many these days think in terms of protecting kids from gunmen frequently in the news following mass killings. In fact, even including the recent Parkland and Santa Fe killings, the odds of any child getting killed in school are less than 1 in 1 mil-

lion! Besides, gunmen armed with readily available AR-15s or other semiautomatic weapons of war designed to kill people have so many other venues (churches, theaters, places of entertainment, streets, etc) that schools constitute just a small portion of U.S. killing fields.

It turns out that SROs are unlikely to ever face armed intruders, but once in our school systems they do find other ways to perform law enforcement tasks, like arresting kids. Sadly, recent data, e.g., 2015-16, show that most arrests of students by SROs are not safety related: 75 arrests were for disorderly conduct, 29 for trespassing, and 23 for "grand larceny." The latter makes what would be a school disciplinary matter into a police record potentially for kids as young as 12.

Then there is the troubling fact that arrests fall disproportionately on minority students. In one Fairfax County school (Sandburg MS) 32 or 36 of kids arrested were Latino or African American. Countywide nearly 30 percent of those arrested were African-Americans, who constitute about 11 percent of

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 10

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

COMMENTARY

As the General Assembly heads back into Special Session on May 23 to continue work on the biennium budget impasse, I looked back at how long we've been fighting to expand Medicaid — the major sticking point in our current budget stand-off. Here's what I wrote in September 2014 — nearly four years ago!

"Recently the New York Times editorial board wrote about the 'health care showdown in Virginia.' Their comments were not favorable. 'In Virginia, there are 400,000 low-income people who can't afford health care coverage but don't qualify for federal subsidies,' they wrote. 'If they lived across the state line in Maryland, West Virginia or Kentucky, which have expanded their Medicaid programs, they could get the coverage they need.' The reason they cannot; 'a group of recalcitrant Republicans in the House of Delegates' have blocked Medicaid expansion at every opportunity."

Highly regarded retired editorial writer for the Virginian Pilot, Margaret Edds, wrote about the current impasse in Virginia two weeks ago. Drawing on her extensive command of Virginia's history, Edds points out that Virginia was the last state to join Social Security in the 1930s. She argues that

there is a moral imperative that "we cannot afford to take this risk" of not expanding Medicaid. She writes that "designing a health care system that embraces everyone is the right thing to do." Reston resident, Elliot Wicks, in a recent letter to the editor makes the same argument that closing the coverage gap morally is the right thing to do.

In an unprecedented move, the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) called a press conference to announce that letters sent by the Speaker of the House and other Republican lawmakers to their constituents over age 60 contained "inaccurate information about changes in Medicare." These letters from Speaker Howell and other lawmakers implied that expanding Medicaid in Virginia would hurt Medicare beneficiaries. "Expanding Medicaid to uninsured Virginians won't harm the Medicare program or its beneficiaries," the AARP spokesperson said.

Revenues for the Commonwealth are expected to fall short of projection for this year by as much as \$300 million. Ironically, Virginia is losing \$5 million a day amounting now to three-fourths of

SEE PLUM, PAGE 10

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Craig Moran: Spaced Out. Through May 29 at GRACE at Signature, 11850 Freedom Drive, Reston. A D.C.-based painter known for his boldly patterned canvases, Moran's newest body of work is a whirl-wind of exuberant colors and energetic shapes, evoking elements of the natural world and portraiture in a dynamic flattened space. Call 703-471-9242 or visit www.restonarts.org.

Reston Concerts on the Town. 7:30-10 p.m. Saturdays, June through August. At Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. Music genres from around the nation are performed by live bands each week. Bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets for seating. Free. Rain or shine. Alcohol permitted at restaurants only. Visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts.

Reston Farmers Market. Open Saturdays, through Dec. 1, 8 a.m.-noon at 1609 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Fairfax County Park Authority markets are strictly producer-only meaning that vendors must grow or make from scratch everything they bring to market. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

DMV2Go. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates,

decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

FRIDAY/MAY 25

Ballet: Swan Lake. 7:30 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. The Ravel Dance Studio has 24 highly trained ballerinas to perform the roles of the entranced Swan Maidens. Eighty other ballerinas ages 8 and older will perform in Act III of the ballet. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

Submission Deadline. The Reston Photographic Society, a special interest group of the League of Reston Artists, invites photographers to enter photographs in the RPS at Lake Anne show by May 25 through the web site. Entries will be judged and \$1,000 in prizes will be awarded at the reception on Sunday, June 3, from 2-4 p.m. at the gallery. The exhibit runs from May 29 through June 25 and is free and open to the public, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. throughout the week at the JoAnne Rose Gallery, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Visit www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Learn about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

A Star-Spangled Salute Concert on Saturday

The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac, a British-style brass band, will mark the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend with a Star-Spangled Salute to thank the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Slated for Saturday, May 26, 7-8:30 pm, at the Reston Town Center Pavilion, this free, family-friendly event will include a concert of patriotic music, entertainment by Al and Ellen Torzilli of the band Natural Selection and family activities. Members of the Herndon/Reston American Legion Post #184 will also be on hand to distribute Memorial Day poppies and accept worn-out U.S. flags, which will be respectfully retired in a separate ceremony later this year.

The event also offers ways to directly thank service personnel, including Operation Care Package. Now in its fourth year, this care package drive has provided nearly 1,000 pounds of donated items—from snack foods and sports equipment to supplies for a Fourth of July celebration — to units serving overseas. ”

This year's Operation Care Package donations will be shipped to an Air Force unit serving in Western Asia. Suggested donations include protein bars, powdered drink mixes and water flavorings; non-aerosol, unscented toiletries; small electronics, such as handheld games, fans, mis-



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY KUO

The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac will present a free concert of patriotic music on A Star-Spangled Salute on Saturday, May 26 at Reston Town Center.

ters and non-lithium batteries; playing cards, puzzle books and lightweight sports equipment. (A complete list of suggested items can be found at RestonChorale.org.)

Donations may be dropped off during a Star-Spangled Salute on May 26, or on weekdays through Friday, June 1, in the lobby of 11951 Freedom Drive, Reston, as well as other Reston Town Center office buildings and businesses throughout Reston and Herndon.

A complete list of donation drop-off sites, as well as more information about A Star-Spangled Salute and The Reston Chorale's Operation Care Package, are available at www.restonchorale.org.

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NEWS

Dorsey Dance Presents 'Boys in Trouble'

FROM PAGE 2

choreography. It is, as Dorsey explained in the interview, dance theatre meant to convey universal emotions, "Love, longing, shame and our desire for connection and healing. ... I have a group of absolutely brilliant dancers," he said.

Dorsey acknowledged he could not have known how timely his project would become when he began it two years ago. In his program message to the audience, Dorsey wrote, "My dancers and collaborators and I talked, dreamed, wrote, cried, laughed, questioned, and imagined together over the last two years ... all the process was deep, vulnerable, risky, beautiful and healing. This country has seen continued violence against black transwomen, black cis, and transmen and transpeople ... We've seen the birth of the #metoo movement ... and renewed conversations about toxic masculinity."

In the opening scenes of "Boys in Trouble," the five dancers — Sean Dorsey, Brian Fischer, Arvejon Jones, Nol Simonse and Will Woodward — bring life the narration, "My arms grow the wrong type of feathers, or at least that's what they told me my entire life..." The dancers huddle together like a football team before a play; they laugh, huddle again and again, then collapse. "Different boys sniff it out in a heartbeat...I was born in the wrong capsule... I feel the heat of their laser gaze...There are inconsistencies in you boy...What the f _ _ _ are you?"

DORSEY acknowledged in the interview, he spent a very long time developing the structure and overall arc of the show. He hosted forums and dialogs on gender and masculinity. He listened to his dancers and collaborated.

"I want the audience, from the moment the lights go down to be drawn in, taken on a journey for those



PHOTO BY LYDIA DANILLER

From left — Sean Dorsey, Arvejon Jones, Nol Simonse, Will Woodward and Brian Fischer during a performance of 'Boys in Trouble.'

90 minutes. I know, I guarantee that this work alters audiences and opens their hearts and minds... there is so much to be said because my number one task is to create a show that is deeply moving, and beautiful, and relatable."

Asked what fires his works, Dorsey replied, "I have experienced much joy and plenty of challenges and pain as a human and a transperson, and out of this, comes my art."

"Each of us is a glorious variation of hearts beating in the wrong direction."- Sean Dorsey Dance, "Boys in Trouble"

Plum

FROM PAGE 4

a billion dollars paid by Virginians that could be returned to the state through Medicaid expansion. The money could not be used to balance the budget in the current year, but in future years more than \$200 million that Virginia pays for indigent care from its general tax revenue could be paid by Medicaid.

State and local chambers of

commerce, medical and health care associations, and editorial boards of the major newspapers in the state have endorsed Medicaid expansion. A major compromise in the form of Marketplace Virginia, proposed by three Republican senators and endorsed by all Democratic legislators, has been introduced. The compromise proposed in Marketplace Virginia addresses the Republicans' stated concerns by including a provision to discontinue the program if the

federal government reneges on its commitments. It is time for Republicans in the House of Delegates to agree to the compromise. Their insistence on separating Medicaid from the state budget is a costly stalling tactic that is hurting a large number of Virginians and threatens to hurt even more if the budget stalemate continues.

While the players have changed—it's now Senate Republicans resisting Medicaid expansion—the song remains the same.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 4

the population. When one considers these data it is hard to ignore the disappointing record of Fairfax in hiring a force representative of the people it serves. Latinos and African-Americans are under-represented overall, even more so at management levels. Then consider that officers serving as SROs are contributing to the school to prison pipeline beginning with kids as young as 12.

So, it gives me pause in considering the merits of the SRO pro-

gram in Fairfax County to think of the impact of inserting law enforcement and arrests in our schools, especially so given the disproportionate impact of arrests on Latino and African-American kids. To begin corrective action, the Fairfax NAACP believes the MOU governing the role of SROs must be revised. I fully agree and think that at a minimum, the following changes are needed:

❖ Narrow the SRO range of responsibility to intervene only in situations which threaten lives or grave injury. General misconduct and even disruptions are matters which should be left to teachers

and administrators (as they were in my schools!) equipped to deal with them as part of the learning process.

❖ End racial profiling and "stop and frisk" policies. The MOU language allowing SROs to "monitor cultural and social influences" has got to go. I am not sure what it even means, but it seems like an invitation to racial profiling.

❖ Empower parents to intervene on their children's behalf when they are the subject of police investigation. This indeed should be a guaranteed right of the parents and of the children, but it is not in the MOU as it stands.

Fatal Pedestrian Accident in Reston

Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are investigating a fatal pedestrian accident. A woman, 71, of Reston, was hit shortly after 11 Monday morning, May 21, while attempting to cross Reston Parkway at Bluemont Way. The driver of a 2016 Hyundai Elantra which was traveling north-bound on Reston Parkway, stayed at the scene and cooperated with investigators. The pedestrian was pronounced dead at the scene. It is unknown at this time if speed or alcohol are considered factors in the crash. The identity of the pedestrian is being withheld until her family is notified.

Reston Doctor Charged with Assaulting Patient

A local doctor is facing charges after investigation determined he had inappropriate contact with an adult male patient during two separate office visits, according to Fairfax County Police Department. Dr. Ticoni Barte, 63, of Herndon, practiced at Community Health Care Network in the 1100 block of Washington Plaza West in Reston. The Fairfax County Health Department provides healthcare services through private partnerships with hospitals, as well as health professionals and physicians that are not Fairfax County employees.

The police say that the assaults took place in October and January. Police began investigation in February. Barte is charged with two counts of assault. Barte's license to practice medicine is currently suspended. He turned himself in on May 19, and has been released on \$10,000 bond.

Detectives believe there may be other victims. They are asking anyone who may have experienced a similar incident with Barte to contact Major Crimes Bureau at 703-246-7830.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Myths & Monsters at the Museum.

11:30 a.m. at Reston Historic Trust & Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Meet the authors of Myths and Monsters of Reston Virginia: Field Guide. Get the scoop on Reston's supernatural secrets in a presentation by the authors at 11:30. Rock decorating and hiding starts at 12. All ages welcome. Free. Visit www.restonmuseum.org.

Ballet: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. at Center Stage at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ravel Dance Studio will be performing Swan Lake. \$25. Call 703-437-9664 or visit www.raveldance.com.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Artist Talk: Zachary Oxman. 6-8 p.m. at Aperture at Reston Station, 11410 Reston Station Blvd., Reston. The artist will talk about his new public artwork "Convergence" at Aperture, as well as "Untold Stories" at Lake Anne Village Center, and other public artworks. He will also reflect on growing up in Reston and how it impacted his creative journey. The Artist Talk is free and open to the public, however space is limited. RSVP to RSVP@publicartreston.org. Call 703-880-1177 or visit www.publicartreston.org for more.

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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.

Fine Arts Festival Draws Thousands

GRACE changes things up a bit to retain the festival's world-class ranking.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Greater Reston Arts Center once again produced as the non-profit organization's largest annual fundraiser, one of the finest quality art fairs in the country: Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival Event proceeds will help sustain GRACE as a community art space.

The Festival featured significant changes from previous years. In the Greater Reston Arts Center Festival 2018 program, Lily Siegel, Executive Director and Curator for GRACE and Robert Goudie, Board Chair GRACE wrote, "What does one do to an outdoor arts festival already ranked one of the best in the country (ArtsFairCalendar.com)? Change, if that ranking is to be retained."

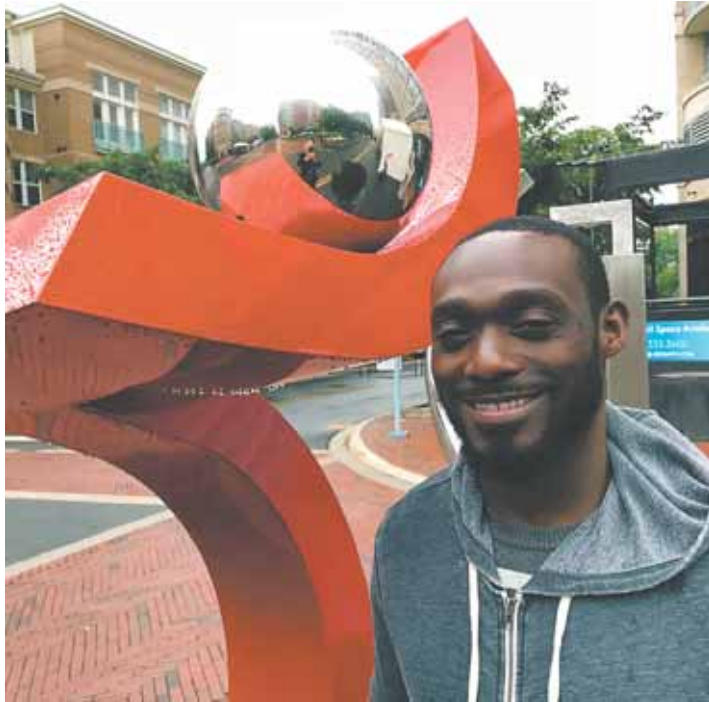
THE FIRST CHANGE was that Balducci's Food Lover's Market joined as Title Sponsor bringing selections of artfully displayed and tantalizing street foods to Festival. GRACE added Festival Friday where Reston Town Center (RTC) merchants offered deals to help drive new audiences to the event, fostering sales to the artists and encouraging patronage to the local stores.

The Festival Party, made possible by the M Group Architects and The Counter Custom Burgers, moved to Saturday where GRACE presented their annual ten Awards of Excellence, this year sponsored by Boston Properties "putting the focus squarely on the artists."

This was as Siegel and Goudie wrote, "...the first time we've made this (the awards) a free VIP event, for our Festival artists, all our GRACE members, and unlimited guests of our Board of Directors and major sponsors and donors. And, thanks to Reston Community Center's sponsorship, we've added a special surprise for the evening- a surrealistic experience with Baltimore-based artist Laurie Drogouli and team. It's a fun-raiser!"

Of course, GRACE retained the ever popular Family Art Park offering free art-making activities for groups of all ages in the Town Center Pavilion.

Two hundred plus professional artists from 37 states participated in the Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival, Friday, May 18-Sunday, May 20, 2018. From self-taught studio artists of world-acclaim to artists with renowned academic rankings and awards, the multi-disciplinary contemporary artists arrived in Reston ready to set up their stalls despite the gloomy weather forecast for Friday and Saturday. The event attracted



For Eugene Perry of Soutwhite, Pa. it was his first time at Festival. "Art is my profession," Perry said, "You have to be dedicated, that's important when you are creating; although you are doing what you love, you have to create works that sell."



Amanda Hagerman uses ancient metalsmithing techniques to create the timeless tone of her jewelry pieces influenced by the rocks, ridges and landscapes of rural Pennsylvania.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Ceramic artist Kyle Osvog of Jackson, Ga. was one of more than 200 exhibiting artists who filled the 11-block area of Reston Town Center for the 27th Annual Greater Reston Arts Center Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival.

new and returning artists whose works in printmaking, ceramics, wood, mixed media 3D, leather, metal, photography and more brought rapid sales.

One of those artists was Kyle Osvog, a sculptural ceramicist from Jackson, Ga. Osvog heard about the festival months before and submitted his registration for consideration. When chosen, he was thrilled. During an interview, Saturday afternoon at the festival, Osvog said, "I never intended to be a full-time working artist. I had considered a career in architecture and design, but after high school, I apprenticed in a potter's studio. I can't imagine being anything else." Osvog walked over and picked up one of his signature works. It was a geometric form, a dodecahedron, a twelve-



Chris Gug of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. is a top underwater photographer. "I'm not on vacation taking photos; I'm professionally working..." Gug said during an interview at the Festival.

sided work, carved into an architectural balance of symmetry and design influenced by the mathematical art of M.C. Escher and the design science of R. Buckminster Fuller. "I'm cautiously optimistic I might win an award," Osvog stated referencing the ten recipients to be named at that evening's Festival Party as the 2018 Festival Award Winners. Earlier, jurors Spencer Dormitzer, Isabel Manalo and Francis Thompson had judged and ranked the works of all the artists.

DESPITE SATURDAY'S RAIN and gloom, Robin Lewis of South Riding was one of the thousands of Saturday shoppers. Lewis exemplified the typical Fine Arts Festival patron, one who returns year after



Painter Leslie Emery of Sun Prairie, Wis. (left) prepares to sell one of her functional sculpture boxes to Robin Lewis of South Riding, Va. "The design and color appealed to me instantly," said Lewis who comes to the festival every year.

year to browse the 11-block art walk and make purchases. Lewis immediately spied and snatched up a wall-mounted sculpture display box with an original painting laminated on one face and the other sides finished in flat black. Leslie Emery of Sun Prairie, Wis. created it. Like nearly all artists at Festival, Emery is a full-time professional artist.

Although a previous Festival artist many years ago, Emery stated she was glad to be back and that, she noticed many changes in the look of Reston Town Center and the Festival.

Support for community arts, whether monetary, through sponsorships, or volunteering, would be appreciated anytime by GRACE. Visit reston.org