



Sasha Minski of Great Falls with Victor Ngoepe: A real-life story that inspired Sasha to send baseball equipment to South Africa.

Spreading Love of Baseball in South Africa

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Environmental Priorities for Virginia

Virginia Conservation Network Hosts 2019 General Assembly Preview.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

In preparation for the Virginia General Assembly, 2020 Session, the Virginia Conservation Network and its Network partners convened Saturday, Dec. 7 in Richmond, for a preview of environmental issues in the coming session of the General Assembly. The group provided information for a collective approach to advancing policy.

There were nine watch parties across the state; including the one in Reston. Kyle Gatlin, state climate organizer at Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the event held at the National Wildlife Federation Reston Office. Great Falls Group Sierra Club Virginia and Choose Clean Water Coalition hosted the location.

"All watch parties across the Commonwealth will be viewed simultaneously. The only thing different is the location and sponsors. The goal is partially to raise awareness of environmental issues in the Commonwealth but also to empower and excite attendees and the public to take further action. They can take action through our partner organizations in their programs," said Gatlin.

AFTER EACH SPEAKER'S REMARKS, watch party attendees could text their questions into Richmond. "We will try to get in as many questions as we can and tend to get questions from every geographic area, some specific to that region based on the topic. The transportation funding question has been popular in previous years in the Northern Virginia region," Gatlin said.

Paul Duncan of Fairfax attended the Reston event with the goal of education and action. "I'm here today because I'm eager to learn what's possible for Virginia, now that Democrats have taken control. I want to know how I can contribute," he said.

For twelve-year activist Susan Stillman of Vienna, there wasn't anything more important than dealing with policy and climate change as well as powering Virginia with clean energy. "Policy in Virginia needs to change relative to our investor-owned electrical utilities," she said.

According to Alex Rough of Reston, political and transportation chair of the Great Falls Sierra Club, Northern Virginia is the "capital of the internet with about 70 percent of the world's internet traffic passing through the region." "New Virginia Dominion Power fossil fuel projects are being undertaken at the behest of the data center growth in Northern Virginia. ... Otherwise, the demand for new fossil fuel infrastructure is relatively flat. I implore Virginia state leaders to support legislation demanding new data centers projects be based on 100 percent renewable energy," Rough said.

Douglas Stewart of Fairfax City focused



During the Reston Watch Party of the Virginia Conservation Network's 2019 General Assembly Preview, attendees discuss collective approaches to advancing priority environmental policy in the upcoming state legislative session.



Susan Stillman of Vienna at the Reston Watch Party of the Virginia Conservation Network's 2019 General Assembly Preview.

on building sustainable communities by curbing vehicle pollution and transforming transportation. "I'm interested in creating more walkable, bicycle-friendly communities. That's why I'm here today. I like this environmental community, and it's a great way to act on my priorities. I love to walk and bike, and by doing that; I can help the environment by reducing pollution. It all fits together," he said.

Susan Bonney of McLean came to learn what Virginia bills needed to pass to stop construction of "fracked natural gas pipe-

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Alex Rough, Political Chair/Transportation Chair of the Great Falls Group-Sierra Club discusses fossil fuels and data center growth in Northern Virginia.

line," she said. "I learned today that the pipeline developers' energy demand forecasts are now so off and wrong that there will not be a public benefit from the Atlantic Coast Pipeline and Mountain Valley Pipeline. Our General Assembly needs to pass bills that will make state agencies do transparent analysis to investigate the need for pipelines that impact our water and communities."

Approximately 40 people, including Virginia State Del. Ken Plum (D-36), attended



Emcee Kyle Gatlin, state climate organizer at Virginia Conservation Network, opens the Reston Watch Party.

the Reston Watch Party and viewed the live stream presentation by Virginia Conservation Network.

"I am more hopeful for positive environmental legislation for Virginia in the upcoming 2020 General Assembly than I have ever been before," said Plum. "The public is more acutely aware of the dangers of climate, and they voted accordingly in the last election. The new members coming into the legislature are more environmentally conscious and friendly than many from the past."

At 9 a.m., Saturday morning, all watch party locations connected to the Richmond In-Person Preview, hosted by Virginia Conservation Network, The Frontier Project at 3005 West Marshall Street, Richmond. Mary Rafferty, executive director of Virginia Conservation Network, emceed the two-hour presentation. "Each year, we work with 225 (partners) to come up with the year's agenda and work to ensure that we push it forward throughout the year but particularly during the General Assembly Session."

NATURAL RESOURCES FUNDING in the state budget was the first topic reviewed as a statewide conservation priority during the General Assembly preview. Peggy Sanner, Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Zachary Sheldon, The Nature Conservancy spoke.

"This year, we have the wind at our back in at least three ways. We have our governor's commitment to triple the size of the portion of the general fund for natural resources. In 10 days, he's going to introduce his Biennial Budget for the next two years. This is what he is committed to doing. We don't know what it is going to say yet, but we have optimism based on his commitment. And third, the energy brought

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL PRIORITIES,
PAGE 10



Strikers walking by the Capitol Hill, including Annabelle Dennen, 14, Great Falls and Cate Coetzee, 14, Great Falls.



Strikers on the streets of D.C.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

'Fridays for Future' Protests Continue

Great Falls youth join the strike.

Outside of the Library of Congress, strikers and a golden retriever sit in playing protest music. Their colorful signs read "School Strike For Climate" and "Fridays For Future." It is a scene that repeats itself every Friday. The group was of many ages and were from Maryland,

DC, and some from our Great Falls community. Some have come after a day in school, some have skipped school to be present.

They are striking, as they do every Friday, with the DC branch of Fridays For Future, an international organization founded by Greta Thunberg. They are there to demand action

on the climate crisis as demanded by science, and they have vowed to come back every Friday until they see it.

It is a cold December day, but that doesn't deter them. As the light fades over Washington, two strikers take their shoes off and dance on the sidewalk to Billy Joel's "We Didn't Start The Fire/"

—CATE COETZEE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Supporting 'Less-fortunate Others'

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the opinion piece titled "Commentary: Helping Families Struggling to Make Ends Meet in Fairfax County" (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

As this county is known for its high rank among the richest in the nation, it was pleasing to see awareness brought to the issue of wealth disparity and struggling families in Fairfax.

The rapid growth of industries generates peril for the working-class as individuals view their financial shortcomings as a personal problem rather than a public issue of a sick society. Responsively, the efforts of Cornerstones and Britepaths seemingly work to combat the negative consequences of inequality and economic instability that our capitalist system produces.

The reflecting words of client "Denise" brought an insight into the new feeling of hope provided by the extra allowance from EITC. This hope effectively propelled her and other recipients alike toward

more rewarding opportunities and, eventually, upward mobility. Her comment that "conversations about social support programs are not hypothetical political statements; they are decisions that impact real people", really weighed on me. My wish for fellow readers is that they think back on how they might've undermined the experiences of "less-fortunate others" in the past.

Jessica Sarmiento
Herndon

Time for Community to Come Together

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the article titled "Opinion: Editorial: Give Locally" (Connection, November 20-26, 2019).

In NOVA, and especially in the area where I live, the disparity between household incomes can be staggering. It becomes especially salient during Christmas time, when you see people posting pictures of the piles and piles of Christmas presents stacked underneath their tree, and boasting of their "haul" on Christmas morn-

ing, when there are families just a few blocks away struggling to even buy their children one or two gifts. So many people are so far removed from their neighbors and their communities that they don't realize or refuse to acknowledge the issue.

It is incredibly sad to me that there are so many underprivileged students in an area filled with so much wealth, as well as the elitism of certain areas in our community. I hope that our community can come together and provide for those who are in need this holiday season, take some of the burden off of these struggling families, and facilitate a more inclusive and interconnected community for the years to come.

Molly Van Trees
Centreville

Karma

To the Editor:

Virginia Republicans should now consider what they've done to folks like John & Renee Thoburn and Lt. Col Oliver North, (Ret) when thinking about this lost elections. Maybe they should make the song by Tim McGraw, "Humble and Kind" an integral aspect of their character. You were respon-

sible for destroying the lives of John & Renee, and you chose to vote for Marshall Coleman, a throw away vote, rather than a decorated Marine/Vietnam Veteran/and your own Republican nominee - Ollie. Now you get to sit in your much deserved time out chair and watch as the Orchestra of the Democratic Party enjoy their well deserved victory. I doubt you learned your lesson about arrogance, but at least now you'll be on the sidelines of change while those much more deserving as you now take the lead in Virginia.

Dave Minyard
Vienna

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, good taste, civility and factual errors. Send to:

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NEWS

Five White Oaks Planted at Grange Playground


To mark its 50th anniversary, the Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) has planted five large White Oak trees at the Grange playground, one for each decade that it has served the community. GFCA chose the Grange for the tree planting because several large White Oaks that previously shaded the playground have died and been removed in recent years. White Oaks, which are native to this area, can live for several hundred years, and provide food and shelter for a wide range of native fauna, including squirrels, chipmunks, deer, butterflies and other pollinators. In addition, the Grange is one of the most historic buildings in town, built by local farmers in 1929 as a community and cultural center long before the village stores opened. One aspect of the historic nature of the Grange is the large White Oak grove behind the building. The new white oaks will help maintain that historic grove into the next century.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Participants in planting the White Oak trees (from left): Jeff Rossen; Tim Hackman, Dranesville representative to the FCPA Board; Bill Canis, GFCA president; and Elizabeth Huebner, GFCA secretary; joined by local boys and girls as they put the finishing touches on the tree planting on Dec. 7.

Joining GFCA in this planting project are the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), which owns the Grange and playground, and Rossen Landscapes, which contributed to the project and planted the White Oak trees around the playground perimeter.



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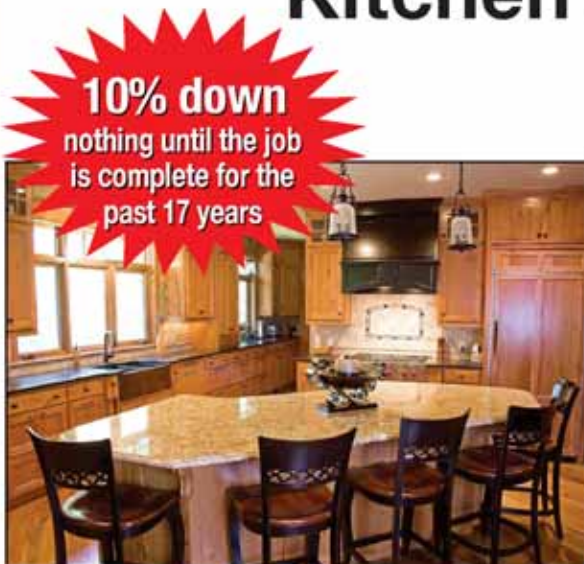
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HOME LIFE STYLE

Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.

PHOTO BY
RICHIE DOWNS/
ASICO PHOTO



Lighting Up the Season

Holiday designs to benefit Children's National Hospital.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Holiday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. "Light Up the Season," the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children's National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children's National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children's Christmas book, "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall.

"Through a child's eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children," she said. "We have embraced them in children's literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts."

Using a recording of "O Tannenbaum" and musical-themed ornaments, Potomac, Md. designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, assembled a melodious creation. "During our get-to-know-you session, I discovered that my partner is quite the musician," she said. "He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided

to make our tree a musical tree."

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner's love of animals, the design team at Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe.

"Our team had a lot of fun decorating ... we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings," said Harvey. "We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of hand-made clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon."

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. "We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years," said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient's predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in nature-themed setting. "Fairies have a long history [of] symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans," said Meyer. "Light Up the Season" is a fairy-like event that exists to help others."

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child (ages 16 and under), \$85 per adult and \$250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason or email lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com.

"My partner is quite the musician. He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided to make our tree a musical tree."

**— Sharon Kleinman,
Transitions by Sharon Kleinman**

IN FIRST PERSON



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SASHA MINSKI

Alex baseball thank-you banner.

Spreading Love of Baseball in South Africa

Great Falls eighth grader on sending 'pre-loved' baseball equipment to impoverished township of Alexandra.

BY SASHA MINSKI

I'm Sasha Minsky from Great Falls, and I'm an eighth grader at Cooper Middle School. For this year's school service project, I collected used ("pre-loved") baseball equipment from kids across Northern Virginia and donated it on Dec. 4 to the underprivileged baseball players in the impoverished township of Alexandra, South Africa.

I chose this project because I wanted to make a difference in the lives of kids far less fortunate than me. I also wanted to do something that I could start and see through to completion. And finally, I targeted a market where I felt that sport could uplift kids and offer them a much better option than what they otherwise faced.

Alexandra makes up a 2.5 square mile area populated by 650,000 people. Despite these over-crowded and oppressive conditions, kids of all ages play baseball in a league organized by the Alex Baseball club, who I partnered with.

I also enlisted the help of Great Falls Little League to promote my project on their website, via their Facebook page, and through direct mail to their past and cur-

rent members. I provided promotional banners for GFL to use.

Between September-November of this year, I organized a series of drop-off dates to collect bats, gloves, helmets, uniforms, cleats and balls. I then separated the equipment and packaged it in 10 x 50 pound capacity duffel bags.

The 500+ pounds of equipment were transported to Johannesburg on Nov. 30, via South African Airways, which agreed to lift their baggage limitations to accommodate this large haul. I paid the excess baggage fees from the kind contributions made by friends and family for my recent Bar Mitzvah (this project doubled as my 'Mitzvah project').

On Dec. 4, the equipment was distributed at a ceremony in Alexandra, South Africa where nearly 50 senior and junior members of the Alex Baseball club attended. The summer weather was unseasonably cold and rainy, but the kids were overjoyed when receiving the equipment.

As much as I wanted to go to South Africa for the handover of the equipment, I was unable to make this trip while school is in session. So I recruited Victor Ngoepe

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 11

Sasha with 10x50 lbs bags ready for transport to South Africa.



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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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ONGOING

Charity Nights. Tuesdays thru Dec. 17, 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, Level 1, Fashion Court. Each Tuesday, the mall will welcome one of its charitable partners to provide an exclusive experience with Santa as well as unique retail experiences from Warby Parker, NOVA Orthodontics and more! Charity partners include Make-A-Wish, Second Story, Wounded Warrior, and others.

Children Gift Shopping. Now thru Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland Street, Falls Church. Judy's Place – Children Shop for Holiday Gifts Provides a unique, non-denominational and convenient shopping experience for children ages 2-13 that lets your child choose gifts to surprise family members. Hours are Sunday., Dec. 8, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 5:15-7:45 p.m.; Tuesday, Dec.10, 9:30 am-12:30 p.m. and 4-7:30 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 11, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 4-6:30 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 15, 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Gifts range from \$1 to \$20. Email Jackie Rockman at jackie.rockman@gmail.com

"Airness" by Chelsea Marcantel. Now thru Dec. 25. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. When Nina enters her first air guitar competition, she thinks winning will be easy. But as she befriends a group of charismatic nerds all committed to becoming the next champion, she discovers that there's more to this art form than playing pretend; it's about finding yourself and performing with raw joy. Directed by Christina Coakley. A YES Pass is available for high school students to see a season of shows for free. To obtain a pass, email Deidra Starnes at deidrastarnes@1ststage.org or visit the website: www.1stStage.org.

Candy Cane Lane. Now thru Jan. 4. At Oak Marr Mini-Golf, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Oak Marr's Mini-Golf Course is being transformed into Candy Cane Lane. Stop by and enjoy the wonderful lights and displays set up to delight visitors of all ages. Walk through and enjoy the display for \$2 per person. Play a round of mini golf as you enjoy the display for \$7 per person. Call 703-281-6501 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/oak-marr/mini-golf>.

2019 White House Ornaments. The 2019 White House Ornaments are available from the Assistance League of Northern Virginia. White House Ornaments are wonderful for gift giving. This year's White House Ornament is a "whirlybird" honoring Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th president of the United States. To purchase, contact Cindy Burgess at burgessgl@verizon.net. Cost per ornament is \$22. Proceeds support ALNV's local children's programs. Visit the website: www.alnv.org.

Holidays

NOW THRU DEC. 22

Holiday Art Market. Noon to 6 p.m. At 101 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents hundreds of original artworks as well as hand-crafted gift items; to include jewelry, silk scarves, pottery, fused glass and more. Free. Market hours are Thursdays - Sundays from noon - 6 p.m. In addition, doors will open during the annual Vienna Church Street Stroll, 5- 9 p.m., Monday, Dec. 2, when the street fills with hundreds celebrating Santa's arrival in town. Visit the website: www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

NOW THRU DEC. 24

HGTV's Santa HQ. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ

NOW THRU DEC. 24

ACS Gift Wrapping. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The American Cancer Society volunteers will be offering holiday gift

wrapping, located next to Santa Claus Headquarters in the mall, Fashion Court, Level 1. Donations to help fight cancer are welcome. Free. shiri.rozenberg@cancer.org or visit the website: www.cancer.org.

NOW THRU DEC. 23

MBC Christmas Drive-Through Light Show. 7:15-9:30 p.m. At McLean Bible Church, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The public is invited to drive through the spectacular Drive-Through Light Show set up around the McLean Bible Church Tysons building. Experience the story of Christmas with your family from the comfort of your vehicle. Free Visit the website: mcleanbible.org/christmas

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

First Night Alexandria. 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit firsnightalexandria.org.

Calendar

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Snow Big Deal. 1-2:30 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Bundle up your preschooler and head to Riverbend Park to learn how local animals handle the cold. Blizzards, freezing rain and frigid temperatures. They are "Snow Big Deal" for some critters. Find out how wild animals stay safe and snug while winter weather deals its worst. Enjoy an indoor presentation and then take a hike to see some animal homes. Make a craft to take to your own home. Cost is \$10 per child. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Holiday Storytime PJ Party. 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, Level 1, Fashion Court, McLean. Wear your PJs for a fun, holiday-themed event where they read through some holiday classics and enjoy hot chocolate, other sweet treats, and fun-filled activations with special entertainment provided by Dee Vinchey Entertainment and retailer activations. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ.

Holiday Gingerbread Workshop. 6:30-8 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. For ages 3-8. Family members will work together to decorate a pre-assembled gingerbread house. Cost includes one gingerbread house, decorating supplies and candies. Cost is \$45/\$35 MCC district residents. Fee includes payment for one house.

Djangolaya Live Music. 7-9:30 p.m. At Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Djangolaya was founded in 2014 at Django in June, a music camp dedicated to the music of Django Reinhardt. While at this annual gathering of musicians in Massachusetts, three musicians discovered that they actually lived only a few minutes from each other in the Maryland suburbs. Drawing on relationships with friends and other great musicians, Djangolaya presents a wide range of musical configurations from an intimate trio to a six piece ensemble that really swings.

FRIDAY/DEC. 13

View Geminid Meteor Shower. 7:30-11 p.m. At Observatory Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Geminid activity starts earlier in the evening than most meteor showers, should see some meteors before 11 p.m. if clear. Stargazers can expect one of the most spectacular meteor showers of the year. Weather dependent. Go to www.analemma.org. For further information, contact Alan Figgatt-afiggatt@gmail.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Pancake Breakfast. 8 a.m. to 12 noon. At Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street S, Vienna. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will host its annual All You Can Eat Holiday Pancake Breakfast. In addition to



"Frosty" at The Alden Theater

"Frosty" will be performed on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 1 and 4 p.m. at The Alden Theater in McLean.

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

"Frosty." 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden, a division of the McLean Community Center (MCC), presents the family friendly holiday musical "Frosty" for two performances. A young orphan named Billy discovers magic in a stolen hat. When he places the hat on a snowman's head, that snowman comes to life! The audience will join Billy and Frosty on a New York City adventure filled with thrills and chills as the two discover that the real magic of Christmas is love. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for MCC district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.



Night in Bethlehem

Kings, Shepherds and a camel join the nativity scene at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church's annual Christmas event, "A Night in Bethlehem."

SATURDAY/DEC. 14

Night in Bethlehem. 5-7 p.m. At Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Wander with your family through the outdoor city marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Create unique keepsakes and interact with local shopkeepers who'll share the Christmas story. And, visit Mary, Joseph and all the Camel, Donkey, Sheep and Goats in The Stable — and hear about the miracle of Jesus' birth and how he came to save us. Free. Call 703-759-3509.

pancakes, the menu includes sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Adults are \$8; Seniors 65+ are \$7; children ages 5-12 are \$6; children 4 and under are free. Santa will be greeting all from 9-11 a.m. There will also be tours of the fire equipment available. Free child photo ID and fingerprint cards will be available from Fairfax County Sheriff's office. All proceeds go to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department to assist in purchasing lifesaving fire equipment. Contact: Joanie@vdfd.org.

Parents' Day Out. 9 a.m. to noon. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The Youth Fellowship group will welcome children (ages 3-grade 6) from the community to the church for fun and activities.

They will spend time watching Christmas movies, making Christmas crafts, decorating Christmas cookies, and playing games. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required at <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/parents-day-out/>. Contact Rev. Annamarie Groenenboom (703-356-7200, or email agroenenboom@lewinsville.org).

MiKiDo Martial Arts Christmas Show. 11 a.m. At 3443 Carlin Springs Road, Baileys Crossroads. MiKiDo Martial Arts Center, a family-owned business that has been in the area for 37 years, will hold its Annual Christmas Show where the participants will showcase their skills. Special guests are the children from Second Story (a homeless shelter for youth in Northern Virginia). 703-618-9343 or visit www.mikido.com.

"Frosty." 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden, a division of the McLean Community Center (MCC), presents the family friendly holiday musical "Frosty" for two performances. A young orphan named Billy discovers magic in a stolen hat. When he places the hat on a snowman's head, that snowman comes to life! The audience will join Billy and Frosty on a New York City adventure filled with thrills and chills as the two discover that the real magic of Christmas is love. Tickets are \$15 for the general public and \$10 for MCC district residents. Visit: www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Old-Fashioned Holiday Fun. 3-6 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Enjoy old-fashioned family holiday fun at Colvin Run at the "Santa in the Mill" event. Visit Santa in the historic mill and see a Christmas tree trimmed with Victorian decorations. Join the costumed 49th Virginia Volunteer Infantry caroling around a bonfire. Roast marshmallows and make a family craft. Cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Night in Bethlehem. 5-7 p.m. At Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Wander with your family through the outdoor city marketplace and discover what life was like when Jesus was born. Create unique keepsakes and interact with local shopkeepers who'll share the Christmas story. And, visit Mary, Joseph and all the Camel, Donkey, Sheep and Goats in The Stable — and hear about the

SEE HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT.

PAGE 9

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

miracle of Jesus' birth and how he came to save us. Free. Call 703-759-3509.

Astronomy Festival. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Play games and enjoy activities such as guided star gazing, looking through a telescope, and listening to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire. There will be hot chocolate and snacks available for purchase. Cost is \$10 per person. This event will be canceled if it's raining or snowing. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm

SUNDAY/DEC. 15

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. to noon. At Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Call 703-938-6580.

Santa Visits. 12 - 2 p.m. At Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church Street, NE, Vienna. Presented by the Historic Vienna, Inc., The jolly ol' elf will listen to children's holiday wishes in the decorated parlor next to the Christmas tree. Free admission; no reservations necessary. Questions? Call 703-938-5187, email historiciennava@gmail.com, or visit historiciennainc.org.

John Eaton — Eaton's Holiday Songbook. 2 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Some of the biggest hits from the Great American Songbook are holiday themed—think "White Christmas," "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm" and "Baby, It's Cold Outside." This concert will bring those standards to life as only John Eaton can—with style, humor and insight. Cost is \$30/\$25 student and senior/\$20 MCC tax district residents.

Sounds of Christmas Concert. 4 p.m. At Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. Vienna Presbyterian presents its annual Glorious Sounds of Christmas concert. Vienna Presbyterian's sanctuary choir, accompanied by pianist Kristina Schenck, will be under the baton of Director Lance Vining.

Fairfax Choral Society. 4-6 p.m. At St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Symphonic Chorus will present Bach's glorious Cantata 140 and will ring in the season with audience caroling with timpani and brass. The FCS youth choirs will also be on hand to present seasonal works. Online ticket sales. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org/current-season>. Cost is free to \$40.

Family Holiday Celebration. 4 p.m. At The Falls Church Episcopal, 166 East Broad Street, Falls Church. Washington Sinfonietta Music Director Joel Lazar will conduct festive selections that include the "Waltz of the Flowers" from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Vaughan Williams' Fantasia on Greensleeves, Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride, traditional Chanukah music, and an audience carol sing-along. Additional holiday music will be performed by the George Mason High School Chamber Singers, conducted by Jamie Sample. Visit www.washingtonsinfonietta.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 16

Yappy Hour. 6-8 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, Level 1, Fashion Court. Gather your furry friends and head to Santa HQ visit: www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ.

THURSDAY/DEC. 19

Acoustic Autumn Live Music. 6:30-9 p.m. At Blend 111, 111 Church Street, NW, Vienna. Laissez Fouré is an acoustic swing quartet playing classics from the '30s and '40s. The group consists of acoustic bass, swing rhythm guitar, saxophone/clarinet, and trumpet. In the tradition of New Orleans jazz, the quartet emphasizes an acoustic sound when feasible and plays charts by Armstrong, Ellington, Count Basie and others from the era.

SUNDAY/DEC. 22

Hot Cocoa Party. 3 to 5 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Join a park naturalist for an outdoor walk through nature's winter wonderland and then head inside to treat yourself to a cup of hot cocoa. Jazz up your cocoa with goodies, listen to some heartwarming winter stories, and make a wintry craft to take home. Cost is \$15 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Winter Walk of Lights. 5:30 p.m. At Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Part of the Aging Rainbows group activities. Purchase your tickets at <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights> and RSVP for the Aging Rainbows Group via Eventbrite! We will meet those who have a pre purchased ticket and have RSVP'ed in the main lobby at 5:30 p.m. No tickets sold at the door.

MONDAY/DEC. 23

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Teens can watch the latest space battles and character adventures set "a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away" on this trip to see the latest Star Wars franchise: "The Rise of Skywalker." Prior to the film, they will start their Jedi training at an indoor trampoline/ninja warrior training facility and enjoy lunch at a nearby hibachi restaurant. Movie tickets, admission and lunch included in the fee. Cost is \$60/\$50 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Services. 4:30-11 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join Lewinsville Presbyterian Church for one of its three services of worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. The 4:30 p.m. service is designed for families with life-size puppets telling the story of the nativity. Candlelight Communion Services will be at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. with choirs and handbells. 703-356-7200 or visit <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/christmas-eve-services/>

THURSDAY/DEC. 26

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean. Participants can eat, drink and play games at Dave & Buster's! Buffet lunch and a \$25 game card with unlimited arcade game play are included in the fee. Cost is \$70/\$60 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

FRIDAY/DEC. 27

Old Firehouse Winter Break Trip. 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Trip departs from and returns to The Old Firehouse Center. Teens will explore all that the one-of-a-kind St. James has to offer: bounce on trampolines, dive into the VR gaming world, ropes course, Nerf battle zone. Lunch and admission are included in the fee. Cost is \$50/\$40 MCC district residents. Call the Center at 703-790-0123.

Langley Madrigals Spread Holiday Cheer in the Community

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, the Langley High School Madrigals sang at Christ the King Lutheran church for members of the Great Falls Senior Center. They will be entertaining the group SWATT (Seniors with Available Time & Talent) Tuesday, Dec. 10. These concerts help the Madrigals prepare for their upcoming Renaissance Feaste as they spread holiday cheer throughout the community. The Langley Madrigals choir is in the final stages of preparation for its annual

Renaissance Feaste. The Feaste will be held on Friday, Dec. 13 and Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019 at Langley High School. Renaissance-style dining and musical entertainment in "Langley Halle" for a spectacular holiday celebration featuring costumed servers, jesters, minstrels, musicians, and the Langley Madrigals. Tickets at www.langleychorus.com or langleyrenaissancefeaste.brownpapertickets.com



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Taking 'Winter Walk of Lights' at Meadowlark

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is hosting its annual Winter Walk of Lights, illuminated with almost a million lights. Every year from mid-November until just after New Year's Day, the garden is transformed into a half-mile walk of lights. Revisit perennial favorites such as the animated Lakeside Lights, the Fountain of Lights, and the Holiday Nature Walk, and look for new displays each year. Put on your walking shoes and bring the family to experience a Northern Virginia festive tradition. Round out your visit by roasting marshmallows and sipping on hot beverages by the fire. Available for purchase at S'more Snacks Shop.

2019 Winter Walk of Lights Hours runs from through Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, including holidays. Open nightly at 5:30 p.m., the last admission is at 9:15 p.m. Regular admission is \$14.50 adult; \$8 child. The Winter Walk, concessions and gift shops close at 10 p.m. For more information, visit <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>

The Smith family from McLean.



2019 Winter Walk of Lights Hours runs until Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020 (including holidays)

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



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Legals

I am pleased to announce that Dr. John Josephson and his team at Eye Specialists and Surgeons of Northern Virginia will be caring for patients at Great Falls Ophthalmology starting in 2020. I will be working on a part-time basis in Great Falls in 2020, and then I will fully retire from ophthalmology practice on June 30, 2020. For those who wish a copy of their medical record, please contact us and make a written request. You will be able to pick up your entire paper chart at the office before late December at no charge, or receive a paper photocopy or a digital copy at any time in the future for a \$10 fee.

Timothy J. Malone, M.D.
731 Walker Road, Suite F
Great Falls, VA 22066
703-759-7016

Obituary



Valentine C. Tyler, 81, of Great Falls, VA died Dec. 3rd, 2019. She was preceded in death by her brothers Rex S. Caldwell Jr, Michael E. Caldwell, and J. Franklin Caldwell, and is survived by her sister Elizabeth Thunman, by her husband of 55 years Robert O. Tyler, by her 5 children Stacey Demers, Robert Tyler Jr, Harper Tyler, William Tyler, and Katherine Roth, and by her 7 grandchildren. Born in Annapolis, MD, she graduated from Annapolis High School, and worked in the advertising business in San Diego, CA for several years before moving to Michigan and subsequently Virginia with her husband. Mrs. Tyler served as a youth soccer coach in Great Falls, VA when her children were young, was a skilled seamstress, and was, most of all, a dedicated mother and grandmother. Her death came eight months after a stroke in March of 2019, following an extensive procedure to repair an aneurysm, which impaired her mobility but neither her mind nor her spirit. Memorial Service details will be posted to adamsgreen.com.

Announcements

Announcements

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Dulcimer Group at the Library

Musicians from NoVA Mountain Dulcimers ushered in the holidays with traditional music for patrons at Dolley Madison Library in McLean on Dec. 7. The group meets twice a month at libraries and churches.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Environmental Priorities

FROM PAGE 3

in by the new General Assembly on the environment.”

Sheldon said, “An important tool we want to leave as it is, is the Land Preservation Act Tax Credit. It’s a very effective program and very popular.” Virginia allows an income tax credit for 40 percent of the value of donated land or conservation easements.

Bold action on climate, the second statewide conservation priority was the topic for Will Cleveland, Southern Environmental Law Center and Harrison Wallace, Chesapeake Climate Action Network. “You’ve probably heard me talk about this before, that’s the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. I think this is the year we are going to get this up and have the most equitable version of this bill,” said Wallace.

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI, pronounced “Reggie”) is the first mandatory market-based program in the United States to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

According to Cleveland, there are four pillars to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the first to reduce carbon emissions from the power sector. “That means fewer coal plants, fewer gas plants. REGGIE is how we do that...The next thing we need to do is to reduce the amount of energy we use. ... The less you use, the less you pay. There is going to be legislation this year that will require the utilities to hit certain energy efficiency saving targets - making sure they are burning less. ... Energy efficiency is actually the single most labor-intensive type of energy resource out there while being the cheapest. It creates the most jobs. It saves the most money. We don’t do nearly enough in Virginia. We are going to see legislation do that,” said Cleveland. “The third pillar is distributive generation ... We have, in Virginia, laws that allow customers to put solar on their roofs. There are, however, some limitations on what you can do; how much you can have, where you can put it. We are going to see legislation this year ... to remove the existing market barriers ... so more people can go solar. ... We call it ‘boots on the roof.’ That’s how you create jobs in clean energy.

“The last piece [is] ... building out utility-scale solar, building out the offshore wind. There are good ways to do these things, and there are the Dominion ways of doing these things,” Cleveland said.

Virginia Conservation Network named protecting waterways from plastics pollution and toxics as its third conservation priority, presented by Danielle Simms, Virginia League of Conservation Voters and Zach Huntington, clean streams program manager, Clean Fairfax.

“The plastic bills are pretty straightforward; what we are expecting. There are two in the Senate that have already been introduced. Senate Bill 11 is a local option tax on paper and plastic bags, with a 5-cent tax for those bags. Four cents going back to the locality so they can use it appropriately as they see fit. One cent goes back to the distributor of the bag;

that helps offset the cost. SB 26 is a 5-cent tax on a plastic bag given to a customer free of charge for Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Both of these together would create a really strong plastic bag plan for Virginia going forward.”

A four-person panel presented: “Other Statewide Conservation Issues Expected.” Panelist named and discussed, “Transportation Funding, Dominion Energy Accountability, Creating Wildlife Corridors and Preventing Offshore Drilling.”

In the third and final presentation, Mary Rafferty, Virginia Conservation Network, offered, “Tools and Strategies for being an Effective Conservation Advocate in 2020,” a guide on how to communicate with legislators throughout the year to show that protecting Virginia’s environment is a priority. She shared that information on how to get in touch with state legislators could be found at <http://vpap.org>.

REGIONAL DISCUSSIONS followed the live stream. At the Reston Watch Party, comments ranged from the amount of electric energy used by Northern Virginia data centers, eradication of solar energy barriers and that the Watch Party marked six weeks until the start of the 2020 legislative session. Attendees reiterated the need to reach out to legislators while Gatlin reminded all to mark their calendars for Jan. 28, 2020, Conservation Lobby Day, to ensure a strong voice early in the legislative session.

Virginia Conservation Network is “a facilitator of strategic action, a resource for Network Partners statewide, and a constant conservation presence in Virginia’s Capital. The organization and its staff focus on strengthening the conservation community as a whole and winning environmental victories that benefit all Virginians.” Visit www.vcna.org for more information.

Legislators Action

State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36):

“Personally, I have a few priorities. First, I am introducing legislation to ban fracking East of I-95.

“Second, I am introducing a bill to encourage more home energy audits are part of home sales. If home purchasers require home energy audits and repairs from that it could save millions of tons of carbon dioxide on an annual basis. Wasted energy is our cheapest energy resource to tap.

“I will also be introducing legislation to begin to prepare Virginia for electric vehicles including ‘right to charge’ legislation to prohibit condominium and homeowners associations from restricting owners rights to install chargers in their own parking lots along, with an electric vehicle purchase grant program (in lieu of a tax credit).

“I will also be introducing legislation to allow community net metering so that groups of homeowners can build solar panels on third-party property and reap the benefits on their own electric meters. This is the only way people can get solar in more established neighborhoods such as most of those in the 36th District where mature tree cover limits neighborhood solar potential.”

Del. Karrie Delaney (D-67):

“I am proud to be an ally and partner of the Virginia Conservation Network and its partners. I support their 2020 legislative efforts and will personally be filling legislation which furthers their goals and visions.”

BULLETIN

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

NOW THRU DEC. 18

Active Aging Wellness Exercise Class. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. An eight week exercise class to improve strength, balance and mobility for older adults sponsored by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Cost is \$40 for 8 week session – payable to Sun Fitness LLC. To register, contact Casey Tarr, eileentarr1@verizon.net or 703-821-6838.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board's 12 appointed members establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. For agenda and more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

MCC Governing Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. All Governing Board meetings are open to the public. Tax district residents (Small District One A-Dranesville) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting are asked to call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the agenda.

THURSDAY/DEC. 12

Virginia Hispanic Chamber Meeting. 8:30-9:30 a.m. At Virginia Hispanic Chamber, Tysons Branch, 8300 Booe Blvd., 4th Floor, Vienna. Network, engage, and learn from Filka Forkin, Guest Speaker, what planning strategies entrepreneurs should address to maintain the sustainability of their business. Topics covered include:

- ❖ Strategies to reward and retain top talent in the organization
- ❖ Business succession
- ❖ Maximizing after-tax income to owners and their families

Baseball

FROM PAGE 7

to manage this process. Victor grew up playing baseball in South Africa and now plays professionally in the US.

I interviewed Victor this past August in Morgantown, WV. (where he plays for a Pittsburgh Pirates farm team) in preparation for this project. Victor and his brother Gift – who was the first player from continental Africa to play in Major League Baseball – grew up in a baseball clubhouse that their mother maintained. Victor still lives there in the off season.

I was very motivated by Victor's story and felt that my project could potentially help others in Alexandra to follow in his footsteps.

BRINGING PROJECT TO LIFE

Following are various Youtube videos that I believe bring this project to life:

- 1) My interview with Victor Ngoepe (8/30/2019): <https://youtu.be/5iw8T8c1PME>
- 2) My Bar Mitzvah speech (10/20/2019): <https://youtu.be/H4C4AClpfDU>
- 3) Meet the Alex Baseball club (12/4/2019): <https://youtu.be/3J9g-syersk>

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

Still Processing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off we go — or not — into the wild blue yonder. It seems that my most recent CT scan's results, described as "a little worse" by my oncologist are indeed cause for some reflection and change. (I'm not quite able to say "cause for concern," yet.) As such, to make the most effective change, per my oncologist's orders, I am scheduled for a needle biopsy on the Wednesday this column publishes. This procedure will determine, if there is a match, to the specific type of cancer tumor that I have. (Without boring you with too many details, the short version is that all cancer tumors are not alike. Biomarkers/genetic mutations such as ALK, BRAF, EGFR, NTRK, PD-L1 and ROS1 are the most common, and certain medicines work better against certain tumor types. Variation in the tumor types, such as the ones I've described, is a relatively recent discovery in lung cancer research.)

What this research has led to is another new kind of cancer treatment known as "targeted therapy." This means than rather than "flying blind," to use one of my brother, Richard's, favorite expressions, and employing a one-size-fits-all kind of approach to treatment, oncologists now have specific medicines to infuse when the tumor's genetic mutation is confirmed. Wednesday hopefully, will confirm something. However, researchers have not discovered all the tumor types so it's possible that this biopsy will reveal nothing useful for me and in effect, I'll be back to square one-ish.

As for what 'square-one-ish' means? It means that I'll likely be infusing medicines that previously worked for a time but whose infusions were stopped after they all ran their successful course years ago. As I've been told whenever this change became necessary, cancer cells eventually figure out what's happening to them and then the tumors begin growing. Once this growth is indicated on the CT scan, a new medicine is usually started, and on and on it goes until, apparently now, for me anyhow. "Targeted therapy" offers lots of new medicines. I just need a match. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee the biopsy will provide just such a match. There's only one way to find out. On Wednesday, we will begin to find out. To say I have a lot riding on this determination is the understatement of the year; at least for Team Lourie, it is. If I'm forced to repeat infusions from medicines that stopped working years ago, it'll be "Katie, bar the door," as we say in Boston which means, "Look out!"

I'm trying not to 'look out' though. I'm trying not to look anywhere, except straight ahead. Just because my life may be at stake, is no time to deviate from the norm that has been my modus operandi over the past 11 years. I'm not quite ready to consider that my stage IV lung cancer survival is coming to an end. Maybe it's just staggering and within a week or so, I'll get my bearings again. New medical information getting me new medical treatment is sure to put a bounce back in my step. For the first time in 11 years, to quote George Costanza from Seinfeld: "I'm back, baby." This could be the jolt my body needs to get me through to the next

research level. The Team Lourie strategy has always been for me to try and live long enough to reach the next medical breakthrough. So far, I've benefited from a few: tarceva, avastin and alimta; all miracle drugs according to my oncologist, and here I am, living proof that it has all worked.

Until I hear, post procedure, from my oncologist, in the interim, I am re-experiencing many what-happens-if-and-when emotions that I've not wrestled with for years. Unfortunately, this hospital visit is taking me back to the visit/biopsy I had in Feb. 2009 which confirmed the malignancy in my lungs in the first place. And here I am, hopefully not in the last place, waiting for the results of a biopsy yet again. It didn't work out so good in 2009. I just hope I have better luck in 2019.

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