

From left, Brownie Girl Scouts Troop 70091: Clare Arunski, Morgan Faust, Ellie Fair, Taylor Rommell, Abby Proudfoot, Harper Rommell, and Eleanor Beyhl hold a remembrance wreath before the start of the Wreaths Across America 2019 ceremony at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon, Saturday, Dec. 14.

Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION

Wreaths Across America At Chestnut Grove Cemetery

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Speaker Carol Wright of the Herndon Woman's Club and singers of the Bobby Pins at the Wreaths Across America ceremony, Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon on Dec. 14.



Hundreds of citizens show up to place Remembrance wreaths on the graves of 848 veterans laid to rest in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Wreaths Across America at Chestnut Grove Cemetery

Regional groups band together to honor and remember heroes.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Bigger than one town, created for all, people from across Northern Virginia gathered at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon shortly before noon on Dec. 14. They came from surrounding towns, communities and counties, stretching far and wide, to lay wreaths at one of the more than 1,200 locations nationwide this year on Wreaths Across America Day. "Today, we want to show a united front of unity all across the United States of America as we remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom. We shall not forget. We shall remember," said Kathy Herbert, President of Herndon Woman's Club (VA0143P), to the gathered crowd of hundreds at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in the Town of Herndon.

Wright and other members of the Woman's Club, the Herndon Fortnightly Club, South Lakes High School Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps Color Guard of Reston, the Reston Chorale Bobby Pins and more were there to support the ceremony and the staff at the town-owned cemetery. Many of them and members of other service organizations, would assist others in placing remembrance wreaths on the graves of the 848 veterans laid to rest in the cemetery, not to decorate their graves nor remember the servicemembers' deaths, but as Wright said, to remember their lives and thank them for their service to the



Jacob Crochetiere, 10, of Chantilly places a Remembrance wreath on the grave of a veteran laid to rest in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon during Wreaths Across America 2019. "We're here so we can remember veterans because they served and kept us safe," said Jacob.

"Today, we want to show a united front of unity all across the United States of America as we remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach our children the value of freedom."

—Kathy Herbert, President of Herndon Woman's Club

United States.

Wright said, "We are proud to be Americans who live in a free society made up of



Troy Koerner, 14, places a wreath on the grave of Ray Gosner Jr., US Navy World War II, Feb. 4, 1927-April 15, 1995, during Wreaths Across America 2019 held at Chestnut Grove Cemetery in Herndon.

many people, and many races, from various walks of life. The freedoms we enjoy today did not come without a price... As

we honor those who serve and have served, and the sacrifices each has made, a memorial wreath to represent each branch of the Armed Forces as well as those taken Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action will be placed."

One by one, Wright called seven members of the Armed Forces from across the region forward to lay Remembrance wreaths in "memory of those who served and are serving. Sergeant First Class Cynthis Scheffler, United States Army...Staff Sergeant Sergio Frintrop, United States Marine Corps...Captain Tammy Tideswell, United States Navy retired ...Tech Sergeant Demarcus Shanklin, United States Air Force...Commander Daniel Alcorn, United States Coast Guard... Sergeant First Class Justin Isoline, United States Merchant Marines...(and) now, Colonel Craig Barnhard, United States Air Forces retired will lay a remembrance wreath in honor of the 93,129 United States servicemen from all branches of the service whose last known status was either Prisoner of War or Missing in Action. These individuals have never returned to their families and homes. We shall not forget you," Wright said.

After the formal ceremony, hundreds of civilians, active duty and former members of the United States Armed Forces placed balsam remembrance wreaths tied with a red velvet bow from Columbia Falls, Maine on the markers of United States veterans laid to rest in the cemetery. They said the veteran's name aloud and said "thank you" in a show of gratitude and respect.

Jacob Crochetiere, 10, of Chantilly, and his father, Terry, who served in the United States Air Force prepared to place a remembrance wreath on a grave. Jacob said, "We're here so we can remember veterans because they served and kept us safe."

OPINION

Merry Christmas

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

The pages of the Connection (including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Potomac Almanac and the Centre View) have been full of holiday spirit, beginning before Thanksgiving. Help for the needy, holiday parades, Santa and more Santa; tree lightings, stories of giving, the Nutcracker.

Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, with the promise of redemption.

It is also about embracing the teachings of Jesus: to love thy neighbor as thyself; to help the needy; to feed the hungry and clothe the poor; to care for those who are sick; to invite and welcome strangers; to treat others as you would have them treat you.

Matthew 7:12:

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you.”

Matthew 25:35-40:

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or

needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

SO SHARE the verse relating the birth of Jesus from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

“And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David.) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

“And there were in the same country, shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

“For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and

on earth peace, good will toward men.

“And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.”

— MARY KIMM

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Editor's Note

About the Rest of 2019

This is our last regular edition of 2019. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish our annual Children's Issue, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. You'll be able to find this online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> Scroll down to Children's.

Our next regular edition will publish Jan. 8, 2020, with deadline for content and advertising of Jan. 3 (late ads accepted).

In the meantime you can email the editors at editors@connectionnewspapers.com. You can reach sales@connectionnewspapers.com for advertising.

Digital replica editions of the most recent week's papers are available at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

Past issues of the Connection back to 2008 are available at connectionarchives.com/PDF/ Sign up for a free digital subscription at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/subscribe

Give Locally

Many local nonprofits are reporting a significant drop in contributions this year. To some, the decrease constitutes an existential threat. Not only will they be unable to meet their goals for helping others, but some might not be able to keep their doors open.

This comes as the need is increasing, as the White House cuts food stamps, as more people go hungry.

This is a perfect time to give, give a little more than you have in the past.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks.

There are people going hungry here, people who need help, organizations that will help, but can only help with the resources they have.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season, for humans in need, for animals in need, for an environment in need. Here are a few ideas.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Families face uncertainty and need; nonprofits face drop in contributions.

Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact info@alnv.org or visit www.alnv.org
- ❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore, Mount Vernon/ Route 1 corridor, and Chantilly, focusing on character and academic success. <https://www.bgcgw.org/club-page/fairfax-county-region-our-impact/>
- ❖ **Britepaths** Britepaths is working to assist 500 Fairfax County area families who might otherwise go without holiday meals and gifts for their children. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Britepaths.org <https://britepaths.org/our-programs/holiday-program>
- ❖ **Centreville Immigration Forum**, a safe, organized center where residents and contractors

can negotiate work arrangements with day laborers. Centreville Square Shopping Center, 5944 Centreville Crest Ln, Centreville, VA 20121. Phone: (703) 543-6272 website: www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org and email contact@theCIFva.org

- ❖ **Closet Of The Greater Herndon Area** is a nonprofit thrift shop in downtown Herndon. The Closet recently awarded over \$20,000 in grants to seven local non-profit organizations: Cornerstones, Fellowship Square, Herndon-Reston FISH, Meridians Recovery, Mobile Hope of Loudoun, South Lakes High School PTSA Food Pantry, and Herndon Woman's Club in support of Wreaths Across America. The Closet is a source of low-cost clothing and household necessities and also gives away clothing at no cost to truly needy individuals. 845 Station Street Herndon, VA 20170 (703) 437-7652. Email TheClosetInc@verizon.net Web: theclosetofgreaterherndon.org/

- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. Mailing address: 4201 Wilson Blvd., #110-284, Arlington,

SEE GIVE FOR LOCAL IMPACT, PAGE 7

Oak Hill & Herndon
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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

A reported 7,400 merrymakers attended the inaugural Herndon WinterMarkt on Sat., Dec. 14, held in conjunction with the annual Train Show.

Herndon WinterMarkt Debuts to Crowds

Family-focused event draws more than 7,400 merrymakers.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Inaugural Herndon WinterMarkt, a free, one-day outdoor event, kicked off in grand-planned albeit wet style on Herndon's Old Town Hall Green by the Depot Saturday morning, Dec. 14. The early morning cold rain did not deter patrons, who visited the

Ice Sculpting Pre-show and enjoyed the oompah-pah rhythmic sound made by the George Mason University Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble.

The party went on and grew exponentially larger in attendance as the day progressed. At the 12:30 Opening Ceremonies on the main show mobile stage, Emcee John P. Boylan President & CEO of the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce introduced Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa C. Merkel, German diplomat, Niels von Redecker, and title sponsor, Northwest Federal Credit Union to the merrymakers. In the background, Alte Kameraden, the German band

SEE WINTER MARKET, PAGE 6



The German band unit of the City of Fairfax Band, Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden, introduces the Herndon WinterMarkt audience to spirited festmusik and the alpenhorn.

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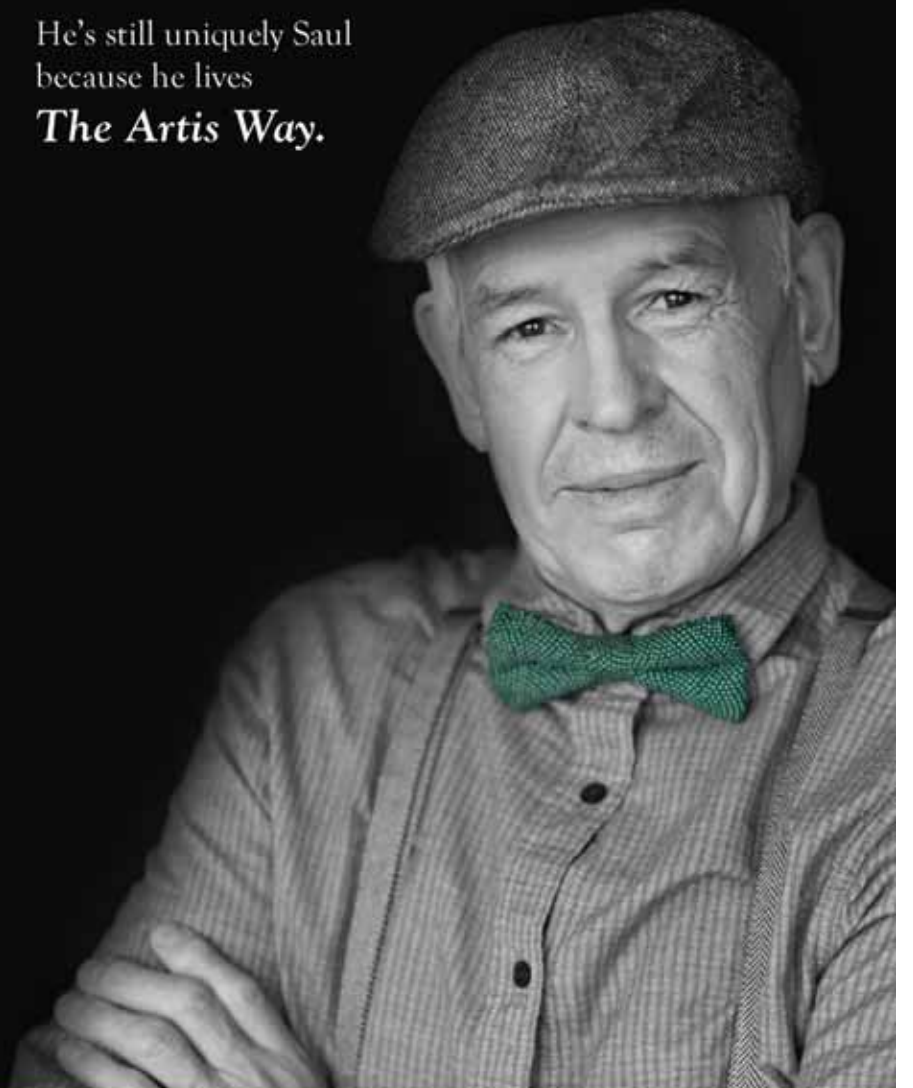
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News



Ice master, Eric Baisas of Woodridge amps up WinterMarkt 2019 in Herndon with a little flying snow, sculpting live and bringing feathery ice to Herndon.



Skilled artisan Andy Black tempts Deb Grupenhoff of Herndon with his hand-carved wood pieces.

WinterMarkt in Herndon

FROM PAGE 5

of the City of Fairfax Band, played holiday music.

"This inaugural event reinforces our theme of supporting communities," said Boylan. "This will be the start of a new Herndon tradition. It wouldn't have been possible without Melissa Highley Tilton and her Executive Committee, Cindy Roeder and the Town of Herndon, our title sponsor Northwest Federal Credit Union, and our great volunteers. Thank you all," said Boylan. "I'd like to thank the Chamber, the Town staff, and the volunteers who will ensure we are safe and sound. It's a great chance to celebrate Ger-man culture with beer, wine, and crafts," said Mayor Merkel.

FOR GERMAN DIPLOMAT Niels von Redecker, missing his native country's Christkindlesmarkt, the place to sample specialties such as lebkuchen, a very rich honey spiced cookie, little finger-length bratwurst, stollen cake, and Gluhwein - the mulled warm wine drink— was difficult. "It's hard to be away from Germany for the holidays, but Herndon WinterMarkt will bring that feeling to the United States," said von Redecker. The band then surprised Niels' son, Caspar, by singing Happy Birthday to him. Caspar turned 12 that day. Next, Mayor Merkel and Niels signed a WinterMarkt ornament and all walked over to the town Christmas tree on the Green, where Caspar hung it on the tree while the band played Christmas songs.

As the sun came out, attendance soared — lines formed for choice of culinary delicacies such as hot nuts, gourmet chocolates, pastries, and beverages. Patrons gathered at the market booths searching through a broad range of mostly handcrafted items by local merchants, many made of natural materials such as wood and wax. However, the scheduled line-up of 14 entertainments capped the event.

The German band unit of the City of Fairfax Band, Blaskapelle Alte Kameraden, introduced the

Herndon WinterMarkt audience to spirited festmusik and the alpenhorn. It was a long wooden, natural horn of conical bore with a wooden cup-shaped mouthpiece used initially to call cows from the alpine pastures. Its distinctive sound combined the richness of a brass wind instrument with the softness of a woodwind instrument.

"How fantastic... There would not have been a WinterMarkt without them (bands and vendors)...It was wonderful to see just how many wanted to be involved and were committed to making it a success — rain, snow, or shine," said Tilton.

Artisan Andy Black showed his wood-carved works to Deb Grupenhoff of Herndon. "I'd heard the market was coming, and I had to check it out. I frequent any festival in the Town of Herndon," she said.

For ice sculptor Eric Baisas of Woodridge, the joy of sawing and etching the ice showed in his face and words. "This was a hobby, but now it's my source of income," he said.

THE BIG ATTRACTION, though, remained the atmosphere created by welcoming volunteers and thousands of people who came from the town and surrounding communities to enjoy the open-air ambience of a European-style winter market recreated in the Town of Herndon with twinkling lit stalls, perfect for the holidays.

"It takes a village. We had an amazing committee and cadre of volunteers, plus the support of the Chamber, the town, Northwest Federal Credit Union and our other sponsors. We literally could not have done it without them.

The final (attendance) count was more than 7,400 merrymakers. We were thrilled to see so many people from the community come together to celebrate and welcome visitors from near and far.

They all brought holiday spirit with them, and that's what made WinterMarkt truly special," said Melissa Tilton.

Where to Give for Local impact

FROM PAGE 4

- VA 22203, CFC #33011, Phone 703-591-4965, cause-usa.org
- ❖ **Community Foundation of Northern Virginia** www.cfnova.org The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia works to respond to critical need and seed innovation in our region. Your gift helps us make grants in our focus areas of interest while also bringing a spotlight on the benefits of community philanthropists www.cfnova.org/for-donors/donate-now
 - ❖ **Cornerstones**, 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston, serving Reston and Herndon. 571-323-9555, www.cornerstonesva.org.
- Nonprofit providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services. Programs and services include the Embry Rucker Community Shelter, Emergency Food Pantry, Hypothermia Prevention Program, Gifts for Kids and annual Coat Drive. www.cornerstonesva.org.
- Contact Nate King, Donations and Drives Coordinator, at 571-323-9569.
- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of donations and volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities.
- Donations will be accepted at FACETS' main office (10700 Page Avenue, Building B, Fairfax VA 22030) between 9am – 5pm.
- Contact Haylee Davis at hdavis@facetscares.org. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030
- ❖ **Herndon-Reston FISH** (Friendly Instant Sympathetic Help), 336 Victory Drive, Herndon, 703-391-0105 herndonrestonfish.org Herndon-Reston FISH has assisted local residents in short-term crises by since 1969. 703-437-0600.
 - ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
 - ❖ **NAMI Northern Virginia** (National Alliance on Mental Illness) works to raise awareness and provide education, advocacy, and support programs for people living with mental illness, families, students, educators, law enforcement, and the public throughout our neighborhoods. Many excellent programs. NAMI Northern Virginia serves Fairfax, Falls Church, Arlington, Alexandria, and Loudoun www.nami-northernvirginia.org/ **HelpLine: (571)458-7310, Email: info@nami-nova.org**
 - ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service.** The organization provides the essential building blocks for financial, emotional and physical well-being, serving as leaders and innovators for the Northern Virginia community. Every year, it empowers 35,000 individuals to achieve self-sufficiency. www.nvfs.org Northern Virginia Family Service, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. 571-748-2500
 - ❖ **Pathway Homes** providing non-time-limited housing and supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia. Founded in 1980, Pathways currently serves more than 400 adults in community-based homes in Northern Virginia. www.pathwayhomes.org
 - ❖ **PRS, Inc.** is a non profit providing mental health, crisis intervention and suicide prevention services in Northern Virginia. PRS also provides crisis counseling and connection to supports CRISISLINK When crisis calls, we answer 24/7 Call: 800-273-TALK [8255] Text: "CONNECT" to 85511
 - ❖ **Second Story** — Second Story (formerly Alternative House) provides shelter and services for homeless, runaway or abused teenagers, unaccompanied youth, and young mothers and their children. second-story.org.
 - ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. It is our mission to get families back into stable housing in order to provide them the opportunity to continue their journey to self-sufficiency. www.shelterhouse.org
 - ❖ **Touching Heart** in Herndon is a nonprofit organization focused on how to enlighten, excite, and educate children about how they can experience the true joy that comes from helping those in need. www.touchingheart.com, 703-901-7355.

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Catharsis



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having re-read what I wrote in last week's column: "Still Processing," I can't say it made me feel a whole lot better than when I wrote it. Granted, it was a column that had to be written given my self-indulgent tendencies (that I fight against constantly) and the possible crossroads that I may be entering. Nevertheless, if part of the underlying reason why I take up this space every week is to vent and share, as a means, hopefully not to a premature end, I suppose there was stress released there. But the subject matter was so third-rail-ish that even though I've tried to avoid it, I feel adversely affected by the experience.

The subject to which I so ambiguously refer is my own death. Aside from not wanting it to happen, if I don't plan in advance for it having happened, the chaos that will ensue and envelop my wife, Dina, is both unfair and inconsiderate. You see, in our relationship, she's been the social director and I've been the business manager. To quote my late father: "and neither the twain shall meet except on the twack." If I were indeed to predecease my wife, a fairly distinct possibility, not only would there be no twain, there would be no "twack" as well. There would only be trouble, and that's 'trouble' with a capital "T."

It's not so much that there are complications lurking, so far as I understand them: there are no children, no blended family, no special needs situations, no multi-layered business entanglements, no offshore anything (heck, there's very little onshore), our home and bank accounts are jointly owned, no financial thresholds exceeded, no delinquencies and few liabilities; really not much out of the ordinary. However, I get that ordinary is in the eye of the surviving beholder, which is likely not to be me. Therefore, if I want to contribute to my wife's quality of life after I've departed dearly (and to her peace of mind now, quite frankly), apparently a road map of sorts is in the offing. (And believe me, none of this is about control; it's more about initiative.)

I guess there's something in me that feels I need to get it out on paper so that I might act on it in person. Maybe writing about such a grim task minimizes its grimness, sort of like dipping your toe in the water before you jump? Maybe thinking and writing about the anxiety I'm feeling concerning what my wife will have to do after I've died is kind of a mental ice breaker. Not that I'm getting into any details here, it's more of a broad brush," to once again quote my brother, Richard, about the need for consideration and fairness. The underlying problem is that getting into all this after I'm-dead stuff seems and feels incredibly negative. And I try to ignore negativity. In fact, it may very well have been my positivity which has kept me alive all these live-long days.

I'm sure I'm rationalizing (maybe more like "irrationalizing"), as an excuse for not doing what needs to be done, but I've always been good at that. In addition, I keep coming back to it's my life; I'm the one with "the cancer," to quote "Forrest, Forrest Gump," describing his mother's cause of death, as a means of justifying my stubbornness/unwillingness to make certain arrangements. I mean, when you think of it, having cancer is a heck of an excuse. And though I've rarely used it as one, I've always felt it. And with respect to planning for a future I don't have, I have to blame the cancer. It makes you do and think things you might not otherwise do and think. It's not as if anyone is ever prepared for a cancer/serious health diagnosis. Quite the opposite in fact. As such, you either learn to roll with the punches or get knocked down by them.

This recent/current experience hasn't knocked me down or out exactly, but it has made me a little wobbly emotionally, and reminded me just how insidious cancer can be. Once again, and for the first time in years, I seem to be at greater risk than ever. I suppose with risk comes opportunities. Having my tumors "typed" and in turn treated with specific/targeted medicine seems to be present just such an opportunity; exactly what the doctor ordered, literally.

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

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Santa's Secret Shop. Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 3 p.m. thru Dec. 22. At Loudoun Heritage Farm Museum, at Route 28 and Route 7 at Claude Moore Park in Sterling. Children can shop in the barn theatre for their parents, grandparents, siblings, and teachers with the help of volunteer elves and museum staff. It will offer a selection of gifts priced under \$10. Santa's helpers will be available to help children wrap purchases with special bags and ribbons. When they are finished shopping, children can send a postcard to Santa at the North Pole. While waiting, parents can browse the museum gift shop where most items will be marked down 50%. Visit the website: www.heritagefarmmuseum.org

Centroid Towns: Like a Passing Shadow. Through Jan. 4, at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. GRACE presents the next chapter of Baltimore-based artist Nate Larson's Centroid Towns project. Since the first US census in 1790, the United States Census Bureau has been recording the mean center of population as it moves steadily west and south. The first Centroid Town recorded was Chestertown, Maryland, and the projected Centroid of the 2020 census is Hartville, Missouri. Larson will dive deeper into the community of Waterford, Virginia, Centroid Town of 1810. Visit restonarts.org/exhibition/nate-larson/ for more.

"Matilda The Musical." Now thru Dec. 22. At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Show times are Thursdays through Sundays. A Broadway musical about a courageous girl with an unbounded imagination who proves that despite the odds, you can do anything you put your mind to — and change your destiny. Based on the book by Roald Dahl. Tickets start at \$40; Family 4-pack available — Buy 3 get one free with code "NextStopFam." Call 866-811-4111 or visit the website: nextstoptheatre.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 20

Family Board Game Pop-Up. 6-8 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. The Starting Player Pop-Up Company brings a wide variety of board games you've never tried: quick silly games, strategic, games for small or large groups, plus the knowledge and expertise to teach them quickly. Games can take between five minutes and up to an hour. On top of the games, the knowledge, and the family time, you can create your own nut-free trail mix. Cost is \$4 person/\$14 per family, per date. To register, visit herndon-va.gov/recreation, or call 703-787-7300.

Friday Sound Series. 7:30 p.m. At ArtSpace, 750 Center Street, Herndon. Holiday music and stories from Appalachia with local musicians, and storytellers. Recommended donation of \$10. Call 703-956-6590 or visit the website: artsherndon.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 21

Children's Winter Wonderland. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Free admission. Includes crafts, face painting, holiday letter writing, games, sweet treats, storytime and more. Please bring a canned/non-perishable food item to donate to a local food bank. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

Holiday Performances at The Promenade. At 12 noon. At Reston Town Center, Market Street, Reston. (Between Market Street and Democracy Drive, Reston). Schedule:

12-12:45 p.m. — Northern Virginia Ukulele Ensemble;

1-1:45 p.m. — Rick Landers, Guitar and Vocals; One-hour music performances presented by Reston Community Center. Call 703-476-4500 or visit restoncommunitycenter.com.

Angel Workshop & Sale. 2-4 p.m. At Hambrock Holistic Healing Center, 297 Herndon Parkway, Suite 105, Herndon. They will use meditation to get you in contact with your angel. After the meditation, they will share angel stories and get to know each other. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.hambrockholistichealing.co/>



A Christmas Eve Service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 24 at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston.

Christmas Eve Service

Tuesday/Dec. 24, 5-6 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. This special candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be full of music and joy. All are welcome. Free. Nursery care will be offered for children ages 4 and under; sign up on the website if you need nursery care for your little one. All children are welcome in the worship service. Visit the website: <http://www.uureston.org/christmas-eve>



"The Mountaintop" will be presented Jan. 9 to Feb. 2 at NextStop Theatre in Herndon.

"The Mountaintop"

Jan. 9 to Feb. 2, At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. "The Mountaintop" is a historical drama taking place in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s hotel room the night before his assassination. He meets a young maid who forces him to consider exactly who and what he is fighting for. Full of vivid theatricality, poetic language, and surprising twists, this drama takes us to the summit of a man's historic life and offers a stunning view of his dream for our nation. Visit the website: www.nextstoptheatre.org/shows/mountaintop

DEC. 21-22

Wagon Rides with Santa. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. You're in for a jolly time when Santa takes the wheel on the "Wagon Rides with Santa" at Frying Pan Farm Park. Celebrate the holiday season with Santa in the driver's seat.

Enjoy hot cocoa and roast marshmallows by the fire before or after your wagon ride. This program is designed for participants age 2 to adult. Register for rides on the half-hour. The cost is \$5 per person. A registered adult is required to attend with all registered children. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

"Santa's Funky Hawaiian Christmas Cabaret." 6:30 p.m. At StageCoach Theatre Company, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120, Ashburn. StageCoach Theatre Company presents a musical revue, "Santa's Funky Hawaiian Christmas Cabaret". Ticket prices range from \$25 for non-dinner performances to \$60 when dinner is included. This show will feature the vocal talents of Lisa Alford, Kat Brais, Doug Marcks, Joey Olson, Katie Pond, and Jolene Vettese. This musical revue is produced by Jerri Wiseman, a co-owner of StageCoach Theatre Company. Reservations for dinner theatre performances are required for catering purposes. Reservations can be made online at <https://stagecoachtc.com/santas-funky-hawaiian-christmas-cabaret/>

DEC. 21-23

"A Seussified Christmas Carol." At StageCoach Theatre, 20937 Ashburn Road, Suites 115 and 120, Ashburn. StageCoach Theatre for Young Audiences presents a family-friendly tale, "A Seussified Christmas Carol". The show is a whimsical reinvention of Dickens' most beloved Christmas story in wacky rhymed couplets. With zoot fruited juices and binka bird geese, from Bed-Headed Fred to Timmy Loo Hoo, this tale of glorious holiday cheer is similar to something Dr. Seuss might have come up with — if he ever had his way with the story. This classic story has been "Seussified" by playwright Peter Bloedel and brought to life by director Linda Cirba. The show will be held Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Dec. 22 at 2 p.m.; and Dec. 23 at 7 p.m. Ticket prices are \$12 for adults and \$8 for children ages 3-12. Reservations are encouraged at <https://stagecoachtc.com>. Tickets will be sold at the door pending availability. Seating will be on a first come, first served basis. Doors open 30 minutes prior to the show start time.

TUESDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Service. 5-6 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. This special candlelight Christmas Eve worship service will be full of music and joy. All are welcome. Free. Nursery care will be offered for children ages 4 and under; sign up on the website if you need nursery care for your little one. All children are welcome in the worship service. Visit the website: <http://www.uureston.org/christmas-eve>

SUNDAY/DEC. 29

Resolutions Workshop. 1-3 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Explore your interests and plan goals for your best life in 2020. Workshop includes interactive activities and planning workbook. Register <https://bit.ly.367qUMH>.

West Coast Swing Lesson plus Social Dance. 5-8 p.m. at Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St. #1, Herndon. Instructor Tim Bowker and partner Laura Martin will teach West Coast Swing, 5-6 p.m. Classes videotaped for individual review. Basic skills recommended. Social dancing, 6-8 p.m. WCS crossovers and ballroom, Latin, Hustle contemporary mix. \$10; \$8, USA Dance members. Email herndonsocialdancers@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/herndonsocialdancers.

MONDAY/DEC. 30

Bob Brown Puppets. 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. At Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Keep the holiday season merry with a ticket to the "Nutcracker Fantasy Puppet Show" at Frying Pan Farm Park. Join Master Puppeteer Bob Brown at Frying Pan's visitor center for an exciting marionette performance, and get ready to enter the Kingdoms of Snow, Flowers, Sweets, and Far-a-Way Places. It's fun for all ages! Cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.

TUESDAY/DEC. 31

New Year's Eve Golf Tournament. 10 a.m. Shotgun Start. At Herndon Centennial Golf Course, 909 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Annual four-person scramble. Entry fee includes green fee, cart fee, range balls and prizes. Cost is \$70 per player; entry deadline: Dec. 26. Call 703-471-5769 or visit the website herndongolf.com