

Reston CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

PAGE, 5

Caroline Murray, 6, daughter of Peter Murray of Oak Hill, member of the Rotary Club of Reston, shows Alzina Fasadeja, Community Engagement Coordinator with Rise Against Hunger, that she can correctly apply a shipping label to a box that will be filled with meal packets.



All Hands On Deck

NEWS, PAGE 3

Raucous Comedy Melded with a 'Who-Done-It' Murder Mystery

NEWS, PAGE 2

Emerging Leaders Institute to Mentor Local Teen Project

NEWS, PAGE 6

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ENTERTAINMENT

Raucous Comedy Melded with a 'Who-Done-It' Murder Mystery

Reston Community Players producing 'The Games Afoot.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

"From the minute our actors take the stage, laughter ensues," said Liz Mykiety, Director, Reston Community Players "The Games Afoot."

"This is an enjoyable puzzle for audiences to try and figure out. I wager they cannot find our killer easily. Even cooler, it has a real life celebrity, William Gillette, set amongst the fictional characters."

Written by the DC area's award winning playwright Ken Ludwig, "The Games Afoot" is full of peril and hilarity. It is set in December 1936 when Broadway star William Gillette, widely admired for his leading role as Sherlock Holmes has invited fellow cast members to his isolated Connecticut castle for the weekend. But then one of the guests is murdered. The festivities immediately cease as things turn dangerous. It's up to Gillette to track down the killer before the next victim appears. He assumes the persona of his beloved Holmes to do so.

"In recent years, Sherlock Holmes has been redeveloped again" in contemporary television series and in the movies, noted Mykiety. "We as a society like knowing



JENNIFER HEFFNER PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY OF RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS.

Reston Community Players: Ensemble from 'The Games Afoot' in séance scene rehearsal.

there is a mastermind detective around to solve all the mastermind bad guys out there."

Tim Silk portrays both William Gillette and Sherlock Holmes. "The Games Afoot" is a hoot! It's a crazy, fast-paced murder mystery with a lot of physicality. You also get a good amount of Shakespeare in this play because the characters are all actors

who like to show off their acting skills."

There are eight characters in "The Games Afoot." The role of Martha Gillette, William Gillette's devoted, outspoken mother is played by Susan Garvey. "I love the role of Martha Gillette. ... She's funny, sassy, intelligent, vulnerable and is fiercely loyal and loving to her 'people.'"

Charlene Sloan plays Madge Giesel, the

Where and When

Reston Community Players present "The Games Afoot" at Reston Community Center's CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Performances Jan. 17 to Feb 1, 2020. Performances Jan. 17-18, 24-26, and Jan. 31-Feb. 1 at 8 p.m. except for Jan. 26 which is a matinee with 2 p.m. curtain. Tickets: \$28, \$24 (seniors and students). For tickets, contact the box office at (703) 476-4500 or online at www.restonplayers.org. Note: This production is rated PG-13 for some staged violence. This production also contains the use of theatrical haze, fog, gunshots and strobe effects. CenterStage is accessible and offers listening devices for the hearing impaired. There is mild violence in the production.

witty, sharp woman who loves being in the theater. She is a character who is "bold; it is just fun to play in 'The Games Afoot' world a few hours each week." Katie Kramer portrays theater critic Daria Chase. "Daria has been one of my favorite characters to play. She has all of the best characteristics for an actor; humor, sex appeal and she's the villain."

The actors agreed, "The Games Afoot" is a fast-paced hysterical mystery with twists and turns.

One special request from director Liz Mykiety: "I hope audiences do not tell our secrets as not to ruin the plot for those who have not attended yet." Be warned.

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All Hands on Deck

Local community helps global neighbors through Rotary Club of Reston's service project.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Rotary Club of Reston participated in a global-reaching volunteer event coordinated by Rise Against Hunger to serve vulnerable families and individuals across the globe who have basic, immediate food needs. Held at Aldrin Elementary School, Reston on Sat., Jan. 11, approximately 50 Rotarians and their family members, South Lakes High School students and the local community packed 10,152 meal packets assembly-line fashion.

Mark Griffin, President of the Rotary Club of Reston, said, "This is our signature event." To fund it and other projects, the club solicited donations through Anython, a social fundraising website. The meal-packing event required funds to pay the cost of shipping and customs clearance for the containers of packed meals.

Alzina Fasadeja is a Community Engagement Coordinator with Rise Against Hunger. She ensured the ordering and delivery of the raw materials, equipment and supplies to the site and would facilitate the large group of volunteers to package the meals from filling, weighing and sealing to final boxing of the packs. The well-orchestrated event began shortly after 10 a.m. when the truck arrived. Volunteers unloaded the contents, including the 50-pound bags of rice, crumbled soy protein and dried vegetable flakes.

Reston Club Rotarian, Peter Murray of Oak Hill, brought his daughter Caroline, 6. "I'm trying to set a good example of helping fellow neighbors around the world," said Murray. Caroline applied shipping labels to the boxes. "I'm trying to be helpful," Caroline said. "The food will go in my boxes. My mom said the people could turn it into soup, people who do not have enough money to buy food." At the label station, Haley MacLean, 8, of Chantilly and her sister Marissa, 6, applied perishable date stickers to the packs. "We are doing this for people who don't have money for rice and vegetables," said Marissa. Nearby, Shruti Singh, 16, and brother Ishaan, 11, of Chantilly, demonstrated how to measure the dry ingredients. Fasadeja said one pack could serve up to six children when hydrated with water. Beginning with one bag, then the next



During the Rotary Club of Reston's meal packing event to assist Rise Against Hunger, Sheuit Singh, 16, of Chantilly and her brother, Ishaan, 11, practice filling a plastic bag with the correctly measured amounts of rice, crumbled soy protein and dried vegetable flakes with a vitamin packet to make a fortified rice-soy meal.



Many hands make quick work of filling, weighing, sealing and packing 10,152 counted meal bags during the Rotary Club of Reston's service project partnering with Rise Against Hunger.

and the next, teams worked non-stop until the last packet was filled. Afterward, Griffin said, "Believe it or not, we packed more than 10,000 meals in one hour, fifteen minutes. It was all hands on deck, and the Reston community came out and helped us with this fantastic project."

Rise Against Hunger is an international hunger relief organiza-

tion that is driven by the vision of a world without Hunger. Since 1998, the organization has coordinated the distribution of food and life-saving aid to the world's most vulnerable in countries all over the world.

The organization's mission is to build awareness and drive a global commitment to ending Hunger by 2030.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

CONTRIBUTED BY ROTARY CLUB OF RESTON



PHOTOS BY JOHN LOVAAS

Reston Indivisibles Join Protest at US Senate

Eleven members of Herndon-Reston Indivisibles join other resisters in peaceful protest at US Senate to press for trial and removal of President Trump. Here they spell out the message.



Other members of the resistance display protest message on home-made t-shirts and written on their raised hands.



Capitol Police arrive and form a perimeter around 50 or so protesters. The 40 tense officers suddenly encircled most of the Atrium.



Officer with bullhorn threatens to arrest the protesters if they do not cease. There was a palpable gasp from protesters. They had no idea what they were doing that was illegal. When asked, bullhorn said "for violation of DC code 22-1307." No one was arrested. "Effort to intimidate clear, but failed. The Indivisibles and others have come to the Atrium daily since. Join us," said Lovaas.

General Assembly Start Is Historic

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

Virginia's government has been termed representative since its start-up in the church in Jamestown in 1619. It took 400 years to achieve true representation as it has this year—more persons of color than ever before, a multi-fold increase in women to 41 of 140, and more ethnic diversity than ever before. While the flip from red to blue partisan control is often mentioned, the more dramatic change is the shift from male to female dominance in leadership. Making up the leadership is the first woman Speaker of the House who happens to also be the first Jewish speaker, the first woman floor leader of either party who happens also to be a woman of color, the first woman clerk of the House of Delegates, the first woman President of the Senate who happens also to be a woman of color, and the first woman chair of the Senate Finance Committee who happens to be my good friend Senator Janet Howell. What a way to start a new session and a new era! We are making herstory!



COMMENTARY

My committee assignments have changed reflecting the fact that I am once again after two decades serving in the majority party. I will continue to serve on the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee as I have for 38 years except that now I will be chairing the committee. I expect significant environmental protection legislation will be forthcoming this year. I am returning to the budget-writing Appropriations Committee on which I served for many years before being removed when partisan control of the House changed. I will continue to serve on the renamed Communications, Technology and Innovation Committee of which I was co-chair when it was first organized as the Science and Technology Committee a couple of decades ago. I will also be serving on the newly designated Public Safety Committee taking over jurisdiction of the former Militia, Police, and Public Safety Committee. I am on the Gun Safety subcommittee that I know will be passing meaningful gun safety laws including my uni-

versal background checks bill.

Social media posts indicate that there will be more people coming to Capitol grounds this year especially on Jan. 20 to protest the bills that have been introduced to end gun violence. Under rules adopted by the new majority, guns will not be allowed in the Capitol or the Pocahontas Building where legislative offices are. More security measures have been put into place than ever before. Be aware that your visit to the Capitol may take more time with the additional security precautions that are being taken. There are multiple ways to keep up with what is happening during the session.

Daily meetings of the full legislative sessions are live-streamed at <https://viriniageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php> for the House and http://virginia-senate.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=3 for the Senate. Progress of legislation can be tracked at <http://lis.virginia.gov/>. Clips of newspaper articles from news sources around the state can be found by signing up at the Virginia Public Access Project website, <https://www.vpap.org/about-us/subscribe/>. Communicate with me at kenplum@aol.com or 804-698-1036.

VIEWPOINTS

Legislators Reflect on the First Days of the 2020 Session

—MERCIA HOBSON

Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33):

My top priority is recovering the local funding for our regional transportation.

Today (*Monday - Jan. 13), I cast my first votes on the Senate Judiciary Committee and was able to vote for four life-saving bills to prevent gun violence: universal background checks, giving municipalities local control about allowing firearms in government buildings, a red flag law and restricting gun purchases to one gun a month. Last week I cast my first vote on the Senate Privilege and Elections Committee to make Virginia the 38th state to Ratify the ERA.



Del. David Bulova (D-37) introduced *HB 1012 Early childhood care and education; establishment of system, licensure.* "A child's earliest experiences - and particularly those in the critical years between birth and age five - have lifelong impacts on their likelihood of success. However, according to statistics from the Virginia Department of Education, 40 percent of students entering kindergarten lack the key literacy, math and social emotional skills that predict success. Further, only 25 percent of Virginia's early childhood programs that receive public funding participate in the state's voluntary quality measurement system. I am pleased to be carrying House Bill 1012 on behalf of the Governor, which directs the Board of Education to consolidate and simplify Virginia's early childhood education programs and create a uniform quality rating system for programs that accept public funding. This will improve quality, foster continuous improvement, and help parents better understand their options. As the parent of three children, this is very important to me. I have personally witnessed the difference that a quality pre-school program has made on my children."

PHOTOS VIA
VIRGINIA
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Del. Ibraheem Samirah (D-86)- introduced *HB 152 Middle housing allowed on lots zoned for single-family use.* "Middle housing is defined as two-family residential units, including duplexes, townhouses, cottages, and any similar structure. Such structures shall not require a special use permit or be subjected to any other local requirements beyond those imposed upon other authorized residential uses." Samirah said, "Across the country, there is a shortage of affordable units that is putting a squeeze on working families and contributing to rises in rents for existing units...I will certainly get pushback for this"

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:
Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Online: www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter
By email: editor@connectionnewspapers.com

"We Won, Principle Be Damned!"

To the Editor:

Del. Ken Plum (D-36) exults in his Jan. 8 Connection opinion piece "General Assembly Session 2020 Underway" in his appointment as chairman of the Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources Committee, although some might consider the House's longest-serving member to have been given somewhat short shrift by the Democratic Caucus, which, diversity in the ascendant, denied him the speakership, vaulting the fair sex over him. Still, he is to be congratulated. It has, indeed, been a while since Virginia's Democrats controlled the Assembly.

What is considerably less meritorious is the total pass dishd out by Mr Plum and his fellow Virginia

Democrats to the odious blackface Governor Ralph "Coonman" Northam. It is hardly credible that Virginia's "minorities" will be taken in by Klan-suited Northam's transparent pandering and "atonement" – his confession of "incomplete understanding involving race and equity." Well, that's one way of putting it.

Apparently sufficient, now, though, for Mr Plum ("Governor Ralph Northam must resign") and Virginia's Democrats (Senators Howell and Boysko included), whose earlier feigned outrage appears to have been very quickly assuaged. "We won, principle be damned!"

Harry Locock
Herndon/Reston

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HOME LIFE STYLE

A Classic Blue sofa is complemented by other shades of blue in this living room designed by Keira St. Claire



PHOTO BY
JOHN COLE

Beautiful, Bold, Soothing: Classic Blue

Dependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Dependable, stable and calming are the characteristic of the Color of the Year for 2020. For the past 21 years, Pantone Color Institute has announced a “Color of the Year,” which the self-proclaimed authority on color says will be on trend during the year ahead. Local designers share how the color can be used in a home’s interior.

“Classic Blue is a beautiful and bold, yet soothing color reminiscent of the evening sky and the deep blue ocean,” said Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build in Bethesda, Maryland. “Soft, rich and versatile, this color has the potential to inject creative confidence into your interiors.”

From an accent wall in a child’s bedroom, throw pillows or a kitchen backsplash to a home’s front door, mailbox or shutters, Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist at Case Design/Remodeling suggests a variety of ways to use classic blue. “Perhaps as a ceiling color to draw your eye up or add interest,” she said. “As a powder room wall color or vanity, this bold color will work well in the tiniest of spaces including the back of a bookcase or built-in, a reading nook, a laundry room or mudroom or as cubbies.”

Whether bold or subtle, St. Claire said the design options are plentiful. “Opt to incorporate this color in your home with decorative accents like throw blankets, pillows, rugs, and artwork and even kitchenware to add a pop of color without feeling over-saturated,” she said. “Repurpose old pieces [or furniture]. A fresh blue lacquered coat of paint would magically transform an old chair or dresser into a unique statement piece.”

For the courageous homeowner, St. Claire suggests a bolder approach. “Paint your walls or refinish your kitchen or bathroom cabinets in blue or upholster a large piece of furniture like a sofa or armchair in



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

For this Arlington, Virginia breakfast room, designer Allie Mann incorporated Pantone’s color of the year by using Classic Blue fabric on the chairs, window seat cushion and pillows.

blue,” she said. “Introduce other complementary colors like olive greens, golds or magenta to really offset the color and make a statement. Classic blue doesn’t have to be the only pop of color.”

Adding the color gradually is what Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria, Virginia suggests. “Infuse it into your home and fashion design in bits and pieces,” added “Maybe you paint an accent wall classic blue and let that be the focus. The color blue is kind to many colors and therefore easy to use in a room as an accent color. You can also mix varying shades of blue.”

“Classic blue is just that, it’s classic and timeless and can be weaved into many design schemes,” said Mann. “Do not be afraid of color.”

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The Science of Sleep

with WebMD’s John Whyte

In collaboration with WebMD

Wednesday, January 29, 2020

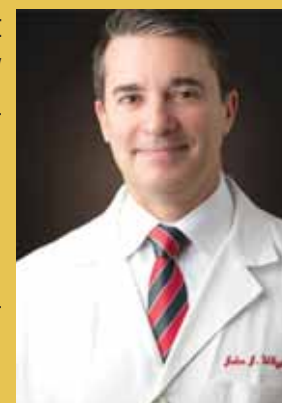
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			1	2	3
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10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
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28	29	30	31		

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News

A teen- conducted, used shoe drive mentored by young professionals seeks youth grades 8-12. Applicant deadline extended to Friday, Jan. 17.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Leadership Fairfax's Emerging Leaders Institute to Mentor Local Teen Project

CORE Foundation has extended the deadline for youth in grades 8-12 to apply to its CORE Kids Incubator Program. The new deadline is Friday, Jan. 17. Leadership Fairfax's Emerging Leaders Institute selected CORE Foundation based in Reston as a partnering nonprofit for a community service program meant to build leadership, teamwork, entrepreneurial and marketing skills for youth. Inspired by Yuniverse Foundation, teens will work together mentored by the young professionals from the Emerging Leaders Institute of Leadership Fairfax with an assigned goal to conduct a shoe drive for

CORE Foundation. According to the volunteer application via <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07egr3nnj5k3el5v5m/start>: "The program entails working together to create a pitch, marketing campaign and conducting a recycled shoe drive. Participants will optionally be invited to present their experience at Leadership Fairfax." Time commitment is 4-5 hours per month, with meetings scheduled in Reston January-April alternating between evenings and weekends scheduled via Doodle. Visit the volunteer application site for additional information.

— MERCIA HOBSON

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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

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

BULLETIN

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

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

DMV2GO at the Library. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. The wireless office on wheels offers all DMV services: driver's license and ID card applications and renewals, driving records, vehicle titles, license plates, decals, order disabled plates, and more. Information on all services available at dmv.virginia.gov/general/#dmv_2go.

Commemorative Brick Program.

The Reston Historic Trust & Museum will be celebrating its commemorative brick program. Members of the community are encouraged to support not only the Reston Historic Trust & Museum on Giving Tuesday – but to do so by ordering a commemorative brick which is a great way to leave your mark on Reston or give as a gift to friends, family, teachers, neighbors, organizations, or even a pet. Commemorative bricks can be ordered at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks>. The bricks are ordered only once a year. Bricks to be installed in 2020 must be ordered by Jan. 8, 2020. Bricks are then reviewed by the Lake Anne Condominium Association and Reston Historic Trust & Museum. They are displayed and dedicated on Founder's Day, which will be April 18, 2020 and installed shortly thereafter dependent on weather.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthyminds/fairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

ONGOING

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Herndon High School Library needs volunteers. Training available to help with re-shelving books, pulling books for teacher use, helping to check passes, or other special projects. To learn more, email hhs_library@fcps.edu.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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Still Waiting for “Canswers”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I half expected, with my oncologist out on vacation this week, he and the endocrinologist didn't speak. As a result, after sitting in the examining chair, the first question the doctor asks is “So you have thyroid cancer?” I snickered and said something like “Hopefully,” before I began to elaborate. Though she had access to my medical records, I can't say she was prepped and ready for our appointment. As she listened to my story, I could she see was simultaneously trying to review my medical history on her computer. In fact, as I hemmed and hawed in response to some of her medical questions, I kept saying/pointing to her computer for her to get the proper answer.

Nevertheless, eventually we were able to move forward in the determination of exactly what kind of cancer I have: thyroid cancer or lung cancer - or both (it's possible, she said). To that end-result, the doctor performed a biopsy on my “Adam's Apple” tumor, as I call it. The biopsy I had two weeks prior was from a lymph node. The results from which caused my oncologist to call me with his “exciting news.” Apparently, those results were not enough for the endocrinologist (who had never seen me before) to make a definitive judgment, so in her office, that day, this second biopsy was performed. Fine with me since a second biopsy from a different tumor is absolutely moving the ball forward, as if is so often said these days; I just hope it leads to a touchdown instead of another possible fumble.

For the last nearly 11 years, I've been diagnosed with non small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Now after two biopsies, not so much. Right now, the assessment of my cancer status is somewhere between a definite maybe and a confirmed I don't know.

Will I now know - in another week's time (when the results of this most recent biopsy are confirmed) whether my non small cell lung cancer is actually thyroid cancer or will there be additional biopsies, additional diagnostic scans, injections of isotopes, etc., to make a once-and-for-all confirmation of what the heck is going on (or has been going on) in my body? If so, it's been a long time coming. I first went to the Emergency Room Jan. 1, 2009 so it's sort of an anniversary of sorts as I write this column. I'd just as soon we get it right this time, if in fact it was ever wrong.

I have a few questions, some of which were answered by the endocrinologist. Yes, I can have two types of cancer. Could my lung cancer have changed to become thyroid cancer? No. And the underlying curiosity/question: During this cancer life that I have lived, I have been told - and seen multiple times on discharge-type paperwork I've received that I have “metastatic cancer” meaning that the cancer has moved. Moreover, when one considers the staging aspect, my cancer was stage IV. Stage IV means, among “relevancies,” (like inoperable) that the cancer has moved from its “primary” location. I remember asking my oncologist where did my lung cancer come from (I'm a lifelong non-smoker with no cancer history in my immediate family). His answer, if I recall correctly, and I may not due to “chemo brain,” a confirmed side effect of chemotherapy) was that he didn't know, and if I further recall correctly, he wasn't particularly interested in finding out and accordingly no additional tests were ordered. Perhaps we misunderstand the need to know now or misunderstood the answers we were given then (Feb., 2009). But as of this past Friday, Team Lourie is sort of wondering as was the endocrinologist.

As of this moment, our focus is on hearing back from the endocrinologist. Until then, we'll try to move forward. What's done is done and we'll hear back when we hear back. I have what I have (and have had what I've had) and right now, all we can do is wait.

That being said, we are having a little difficulty restraining ourselves. We can't get past the fact that my oncologist called us in the first place, and in the last place, if he wasn't so sure, why call us and get our collective hope sky high? Why go out on such a presumptive limb? In spite of that call, somehow, we have to internalize and compartmentalize and try to synthesize fact from fiction. So far, it's proving extremely difficult.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

NOW THRU FEB. 2

”The Mountaintop.” 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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Teddy Bear Tea Party. 2-4 p.m. At Herndon Community Center, 730 Elden Street, Herndon. Bring your favorite teddy bear or stuffed friend, dress in your tea time best, and enjoy tea, treats, stories, and a special craft. Cost is \$18 per child/adult couple; \$10 per add’l person. Pre-registration required. Visit the website: <https://www.herndon-va.gov/recreation/special-events/teddy-bear-tea-party>.

THURSDAY/JAN. 16

Toddler Storytime — I Want My Hat Back! 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join in this enchanting tale by Jon Klassen. If you have a special hat, wear it for our storytime. Age 2 with adult. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Magic Tree House Book Club. 4:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Read to discuss: Winter of the Ice Wizard by M.P. Osborne. Copies available at the Children’s Desk. Grade 3-4. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

FRIDAY/JAN. 17

Gymboree Music. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Discover melody pitch and rhythm while building a repertoire of joyful songs. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age 6-18 months with adult. Please register. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Gymboree Music II. 11:15 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Dance and sing to a new musical style each month, including Latin, Rock ‘n’ Roll and Classical. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age 18-24 months with adult. Please register. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Author David Goodrich. 2-4:30 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. As part of the Reston Library’s Great Decisions Program, author David Goodrich will lead a discussion on climate change and global order. Once the Director of the UN Global Climate Observing System in Geneva, Goodrich rode his bike 4,200 miles across the United States to better understand why climate is a complicated issue for Americans and even more about the country we all share.

JAN. 17-26

Joshua’s Hands Quilting Event. At 38997 E. Colonial Hwy., Hamilton VA. Joshua’s Hands is a non-profit in Loudoun County that hosts free quilting events to support wounded servicepeople. Joshua’s Hands will host 10 days of quilting fun to make handmade quilts for servicemen and women wounded while serving our country. All are welcome. No sewing experience or registration needed. All materials are provided but donations are appreciated. Come for an hour or the day. Monday-Saturdays 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays 1-9 p.m. Purcellville. Check website for exact location. Info@JoshuasHands.org, or call 540-454-7827, or visit www.JoshuasHands.org.

JAN. 17 TO FEB. 1

Ken Ludwig’s “The Game’s Afoot.” 8 p.m. At

MLK Birthday Celebration

The Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration will take place Jan. 18 to 20 at venues in Reston.

JAN. 18 TO 20

MLK Birthday Celebration. At different venues in Reston. Reston Community Center will have a full slate of community events January 18 to 20 as it presents the 35th Annual Reston Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration. Bakari Sellers, a former member of the South Carolina state legislature who is considered a rising and leading voice for a new generation of African Americans, will deliver this year’s Keynote Address at 11 a.m. on Jan. 20 at RCC Hunters Woods. Attendees will enjoy a family-style community lunch at RCC Hunters Woods following Sellers’ speech. Tickets are \$5 for Reston residents and employees, and \$10 for all others. Tickets to the Community Lunch and Keynote Address are required. Tickets are available at the CenterStage Box Office or by calling 703-476-4500.

This year’s Reston celebration will also include events at Southgate Community Center, North County Government Center and Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation. Contact RCC Community Events Director Kevin Danaher at 703-390-6166 or at kevin.danaher@fairfaxcounty.gov. To register for programs, visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 18 at 9 a.m. — Community Service Projects at Southgate Community Center, 12125 Pinecrest Road, Reston;
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 18 at 1 p.m. — Community Service Projects at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston;
- ❖ Saturday, Jan. 18 at 4 p.m. — Reston Community Orchestra Tribute at RCC Hunters Woods, Reston;
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 19 at 2 p.m. — Liner Notes: Music of the Movement at RCC Hunters Woods, The CenterStage, Reston; Tickets \$15/\$20.
- ❖ Sunday, Jan. 19 at 4 p.m. — Voices of Inspiration at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston.
- ❖ Monday, Jan. 20 at 11 a.m. — Keynote Address by Bakari Sellers followed by Community Lunch at RCC Hunters Woods, Reston. Tickets \$5/\$10.
- ❖ Monday, Jan. 20 at 10:30 a.m. — Especially for Youth at RCC Hunters Woods, Reston.

Reston Community’s CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Reston Community Players presents this murder-mystery comedy featuring real-life 1930s Broadway star William Gillette, admired the world over for playing Sherlock Holmes. Mystery and hilarity in equal parts ensue in this murderously funny whodunit production that will keep you guessing until the final curtain. Tickets: \$28/adult, \$24/seniors and students. Performance Dates: Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 30, Feb. 1. Tickets at www.restonplayers.org.

SATURDAY/JAN. 18

Book Launch Celebration. 11 a.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Laura Renauld introduces her new picture book, Fred’s Big Feelings: The Life and Legacy of Mr. Rogers during a special event at the store. Readers of all ages are invited to enjoy storytime with the author who also brought us Porcupine’s Pie.

Reston Festival: Lunar New Year. 1 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Celebrate Lunar New Year with the library and the Northern Virginia Experimental Chinese School. Festivities for all ages will include crafts, games, and performances. All Ages. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

MLK Tribute. 4-5:30 p.m. At Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. through Negro Spirituals performed by Jasmine Marshall Lizama, Bryan Jackson, and Beverly Cosham. Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech performed by students from Al Fatih Academy. Free admission. Visit the website: <http://www.restoncommunityorchestra.org>

Curator’s Talk and Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. At Greater Reston Arts Center. For the exhibit Moira Dryer: Yours for the Taking, which runs Jan. 18–April 18. GRACE will present a selection of works by artist Moira Dryer (b. 1957, Toronto, Ontario; d. 1992, New York, NY) in conjunction with the major exhibition of Dryer’s early work at the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., entitled Moira Dryer: Back in Business. Both exhibitions are curated by GRACE Executive Director and Curator Lily Siegel. Dryer is primarily known for her large abstract paintings on wood panel.

Country-Western Dance. At Galilee United Methodist Church, 45425 Winding Road, Sterling. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance. Lessons, 6-7 p.m. Open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members \$10; non-



members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Trial memberships available at door for member level entry fee. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit the website www.nvcwda.org .

SUNDAY/JAN. 19

Sunday Funday. 1-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Drop by the Children’s desk on any Sunday for a fun independent activity. Perhaps you will create a flannel board, or play Book Bingo, or explore the library with a scavenger hunt. We will have a new activity each month. Age 5-11. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Liner Notes: Music of The Movement. 2 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. A live musical journey through the music of the Civil Rights era. Cost is \$15 Reston/\$20 Non-Reston.

Capitol Steps Performance. 6 p.m. At Hyatt Regency Reston, 1800 Presidents Street, Reston. The 37th Annual Benefit Performance of Capitol Steps in support of Cornerstones will take place before an estimated crowd of 700 guests who come for an evening of comedic political satire all for an important cause – to help families in Cornerstones’ Embry Rucker Community Shelter move to permanent housing. Proceeds benefit the programs and people served by Cornerstones – a community-based organization that has been providing affordable housing and comprehensive support services to individuals and families in need since its founding in Reston in 1970. This year’s event’s Co-Chairs are Casey Veatch of Veatch Commercial Real Estate, Nicola Caul Shelley of Synergy Design & Construction and Roberta Gosling of Pragmatics. Contact Nekita Jones at nekita.jones@cornerstonesva.org or 571-323-1429.

MONDAY/JAN. 20

Rainbow Rock. 10:30-11:15 a.m. At Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Spanning rock, folk and beyond, Rainbow Rock sings about shapes, colors, animals and all sorts of kid-friendly themes. With National Parenting, Moms and Family choice awards behind them, Rainbow Rock is making a difference through music and movement. Beat the January blues with this award-winning duo. Cost is \$4/advance; \$5/door. Call 703-787-7300 or visit herndon-va.gov/recreation.

Reston MLK Birthday Celebration. 11 a.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Community Lunch and Keynote

Address with Bakari Sellers. Bakari Sellers, formerly the youngest member of the South Carolina state legislature and the youngest African American elected official in the nation, is widely considered a rising and leading voice for his generation. The Keynote Address is followed by a community luncheon. Cost is \$5 Reston/\$10 Non-Reston.

TUESDAY/JAN. 21

Baby Steps Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. An interactive storytime for you and your child. Age 12-23 months with adult. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Baby Play and Explore. 11 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join in an hour of unstructured play and social time for babies. Cosponsored by Friends of the Reston Regional Library. Age birth-18 months with adult. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Aaron Reynolds Visits Scrawl. 7 p.m. At Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston. Humorist, professional speaker, and author Aaron Reynolds promises an evening full of laughs as he discusses his not-quite-scientific “guidebook” on birds and the popular Twitter account that spawned it. (Not PG rated!).

THURSDAY/JAN. 23

Toddler Storytime — Big Frog Can’t Fit in! 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Come hear this vibrant and engaging pop-out story by Mo Willems. Age 2 with Adult. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

Teen Advisory Board (TAB). 7 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Join TAB to gain leadership and volunteer experience and share your ideas about how to make the library a wonderful place for teens. Volunteer hours granted. Age 13-18. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

FRIDAY/JAN. 24

Family Yoga. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Enjoy playful yoga, stories and songs with a children’s yoga instructor. Bring a mat or blanket. Cosponsored by FRRL. Are 2-4 with adult. Please register. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

SATURDAY/JAN. 25

STEM Club. 10:30 a.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Navigate and explore a series of challenging Sphero Ball Robot Mazes using iPads. Age 6-13. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

SUNDAY/JAN. 26

Sunday Funday. 1-4 p.m. At Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr, Reston. Drop by the Children’s desk on any Sunday for a fun independent activity. Perhaps you will create a flannel board, or play Book Bingo, or explore the library with a scavenger hunt. We will have a new activity each month. Age 5-11. No registration required. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/reston-regional>

MONDAY/JAN. 27

Cook Up a Pot of Stone Soup. 10:30 a.m. to noon. At Floris Schoolhouse, Frying Pan Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Learn how easy and satisfying it is to prepare home-cooked soups in winter and create your very own version of “Stone Soup.” Hear the children’s tale about “Stone Soup” and work with the group to cook up a pot of soup large enough for everyone to take home a serving. Participants will also learn the history and origins of several different ethnic soup styles and sample each style featured. Cost is \$10 per person. Call 703-437-9101 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park>.