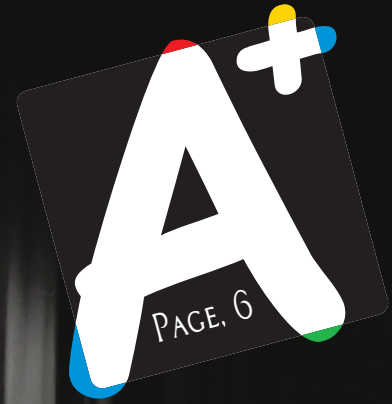


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Dancers at the end of  
the "Montage Four"  
number in The Fairfax  
Academy's production  
of "A Chorus Line."



## For One Show, It's All about the Dancers

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### Every Chocolate Lover's Dream-Come-True

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# Every Chocolate Lover's Dream-Come-True

**Fairfax's 28<sup>th</sup>  
annual festival  
is Jan. 31-Feb. 2.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It's pretty hard to find someone who doesn't like chocolate. So it's no wonder that everyone attending Fairfax City's Chocolate Lovers Festival will be in foodie paradise. And this year's event, the 28<sup>th</sup> annual, should be no exception.

Slated for Friday, Jan. 31, from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 1, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., it offers everything from cupcakes to candy, fudge, cakes, cookies, ice cream and even a chocolate fountain.

"The Chocolate Lover's Festival is one of the City's signature events and is enormously popular across our region," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "Many volunteers have worked countless hours over many months to prepare for this unique event."

We are so appreciative of the hard work and dedication of the planning committee, our vendors and our loyal attendees for their support. And all proceeds are donated to worthwhile charitable programs in our community. No pun intended, but how sweet is that?"

The signature event is the Taste of Chocolate, where attendees purchase samples of delicious chocolate treats from two floors of vendors in Old Town Hall. There's no Chocolate Challenge this year, but there'll still be a silent auction featuring a wide variety of items donated by local businesses. It's set for Sunday, Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m. In addition, the LOVE sign will be in Old Town Square, all weekend, and the Washington Nationals' racing presidents will visit Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon-2 p.m.

Overall, the festival offers many fun-filled activities for children and adults alike. Scheduled are magic, juggling, musical performances, face-painting, fairytales, a cake walk, fire-safety puppet show, Chocolate Caper mock trial, cupcake-decorating and open houses in historic buildings. All venues are handicap-accessible, but only certified service animals are allowed inside any event site.

## Liquid Chocolate, Barbecue Lunch

The Jan. 31, Liquid Chocolate event goes from 6-8 p.m. and features an intriguing assortment of chocolate libations. It'll be held inside a heated tent on Old Town Square's upper parking lot, 3999 University Drive. And because it's so much fun, it'll return Saturday, Feb. 1, from 1-6 p.m. There'll be chocolate beverages for all ages, including:

Milky Way chocolate-infused milk stout,



Map of Chocolate Festival event sites.

served by Ornery Beer Co.; chocolate soda and milk, Twins Ace Hardware; chocolate-covered strawberry liquor, MurLarkey Distilled Spirits; dessert-wine pairing, The Wine House; chocolate stout, Chubby Squirrel Brewing Co.; chocolate milkshakes, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses; chocolate-hazelnut milk stout, Caboose Brewing Co.; chocolate tea and cacao (chocolate) juice, River-Sea Chocolates; plus chocolate coffee and hot chocolate. Also that Saturday, the Kiwanis Club of Fairfax will offer barbecue lunches and crafts vendors, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive.

## Taste of Chocolate

The festival's highlight, the Taste of Chocolate, will be held Feb. 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 2, from noon-4 p.m., in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Strollers may be left on the front porch; a

ing offered.

They purchase them with pogs and may buy as many pogs as they want from roaming volunteers in red aprons.

Heaven for chocolate lovers, the variety of goodies includes chocolate candies, bars, brownies, cakes and fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries and ice cream. And one of the biggest hits each year are the chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cream-filled doughnut holes or marshmallows.

The vendors will include: Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, The Capital Candy Jar, Capitol Chocolate Fountains, Chocotenango, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/Diestro, The Dough Jar, Le Papiyon Chocolatier, Mike's Fudge, Pacari Chocolate, River-Sea Chocolate, Sugar Mama's Ice Cream, The Sweet Life Cakery and Veritas Artizen Chocolate.

## Cake Walks and Cookbooks

Cake walks will be held Saturday, Feb. 1, from noon-4 p.m., and Sunday, Feb. 2, from 1-4 p.m., in Old Town Square, but may be moved indoors if there's inclement weather. Participants will have the chance to win cakes.

Chocolate Lovers Festival Cookbooks (\$10) may be purchased at both the Kiwanis barbecue lunch and the Taste of Chocolate. Or get them at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. (703-385-8414). Commemorative T-shirts will also be sold at the festival.

## Golden Ticket Contest

The City of Fairfax Office of Economic Development and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the Golden Ticket Contest.

Inspired by the book and movie, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," three golden tickets will be hidden within 1,200 chocolate bars made by local chocolatier, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates. Some 22 Old Town businesses (see list at <https://fairfaxcityconnected.com/2019/12/16/goldenticket2020/>) will sell the chocolate bars for \$3 each, beginning Jan. 31. Lucky finders of the golden ticket will be rewarded with a Chocolate Lovers Gift Basket and a tour of the Cameron's facility.

## Grant Recipients

Each year, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee chooses a nonprofit, charitable organization to receive part of the festival proceeds.

The honorees are entities that contribute to the common good and the community at large. This year, three recipients were selected: Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), Gracing Spaces and Food for Others.



Kyra Coronado-Wager enjoys Sugar Mama's chocolate chip-raspberry ice cream at a previous Taste of Chocolate

fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse vendors' tables to see the wide array of chocolate treats be-



# OPINION

## Virginia Legislature Moves Quickly on Equal Rights, Gun Violence Prevention

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

**T**he second week of the General Assembly Session put us at the center of American history. We moved several long-delayed, legislative priorities.

On Wednesday, both the Senate and the House passed resolutions to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to make Virginia the 38<sup>th</sup> and final state to ratify the Constitutional amendment. The Senate has passed the resolution at least six times in past years, but the House of Delegates has never approved it. Ratification will hopefully bring equal rights to 160 million women in America and attention will now shift to the U. S. Congress.

Congress can abolish or extend the 1982 ratification deadline they previously set. I was proud to carry this legislation every year since 2012 and even during years when few people were paying attention. Virginia is finally on the right side of history for the first time in about 150 years.

On Monday, the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, had its first meeting and we immediately addressed firearm violence prevention. We considered, modified and passed four bills, three of which the full Senate passed later in the week and one of which was continued for final vote this Tuesday.

The Senate passed legislation reinstating Virginia's one handgun per month law. This became law in 1993 and Virginia became the primary source for most guns confiscated from



criminal activity in New York City. The legislature repealed it in 2012 after a sustained campaign by the National Rifle Association. Under the current bill, people who possess Virginia concealed weapons permits would be exempt from the law.

We also passed legislation requiring the seller of all firearms to undergo a criminal background check. Today, people making all purchases from federally-licensed firearm dealers must undergo these checks, but individuals who are unable to purchase or possess firearms, such as felons or people convicted of domestic assault can illegally purchase firearms by purchasing them from private individuals. The original legislation also applied to firearms transfers with some exceptions, but several members of our caucus were concerned we would unintentionally criminalize some hunting activities so we removed that provision.

The Senate also approved my bill to give local governments more authority over firearms and combined it with four other bills. The final bill would allow local governments to prohibit firearms in public buildings, public parks and at locally-permitted events if restrictions are properly posted. This was a major priority for me after the violent events in Charlottesville and men carrying AR-15 rifles at the Alexandria Farmers Market "to educate the public about their Second Amendment rights." Virginia already authorizes localities to regulate firearms in some circumstances, so I did not see this as a major extension of existing law.

The Judiciary Committee passed so-called "red flag" legislation. The bill that the Senate will vote on on Thursday will allow a magistrate to enter an order requiring people to surrender their guns if it is shown that they are a threat to themselves or other persons because of their firearms. No order can be issued without a law enforcement investigation and individuals must be given a chance to voluntarily surrender their weapons before law enforcement can involuntarily seize them. The law also provides for a second hearing for the person to contest the allegation after full discovery. I expect the Senate to pass this bill soon.

The Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee passed my legislation prohibiting duck hunting blinds on Little Hunting Creek, Great Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek.

My bill to create a Public Defender's Office in Prince William County passed out of committee unanimously.

The Senate Health and Education Committee approved my bill to prohibit providing "conversion therapy" to minors, along with my bill to eliminate the terms "husband" and "wife" from our divorce law to be replaced with the word "spouse."

I have posted my 2020 Constituent Survey online at <http://scottsurovell.org/2020-constituent-survey/>. Please complete it so I can hear from you about important issues this session, my legislation or anything else you would like to communicate.

You can also reach me at [scott@scottsurovell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurovell.org). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Eyesores That Cheapen Area Appearance

To the Editor:

In addition to overdevelopment, helicopter noise, and traffic volume that is too great for the current road network, the Burke area suffers from eyesores, such as the new sign at Burke Lake Road and Braddock Road, garbage thrown into easements along roadways, and obscured traffic and street signs.

The new sign may be entirely legal, but aesthetically it cheapens that area's appearance. Given trees ability to sequester carbon, it would have made more sense to plant several more trees there.

Roadside garbage is now visible to those using the sidewalks because leaves are falling, so the accumulated detritus is no longer hidden from view. Vermin breed in these areas, especially rats. To spare your sensibilities, I have not



included animal carcass photos, but roadkill collects in easements, too.

Finally, the Civilian Action Corps still works to clear overgrowth

from signs. The Boothe Avenue sign took a while, as it was entirely covered over. VDOT doesn't do all the work that is needed.

Our community requires constant



vigilance, if it is to avoid the corrosive effects of excessive growth.

**Jim Sanders**  
Burke



## NEWS

# Teen Job Fairs for 2020

Five Fairfax County teen job fairs and career-building workshops to be held in March.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) has issued the following announcement: "My office and Connection Newspapers, along with a variety of Supervisors' offices, businesses, and community organizations, have hosted very successful teen job fairs and career-building workshops for the past few years. These events focused on students and younger job seekers looking for a variety of employment opportunities; full time, after-school, seasonal positions, internship opportunities, and volunteer positions. The fairs have provided thousands of teenagers the opportunity to get in front of employers and for employers to find talented Fairfax County students to fill their positions. This year I am once again teaming up with Connection



**Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield).**

Newspapers, Fairfax County Government, Fairfax County Public Schools, Chairman McKay, and Supervisors Palchik, Smith, Storck, Lusk, and Walkinshaw to bring our community five Fairfax County Teen Job Fairs and Career-Building Workshops. They will be open to all teens in Fairfax County

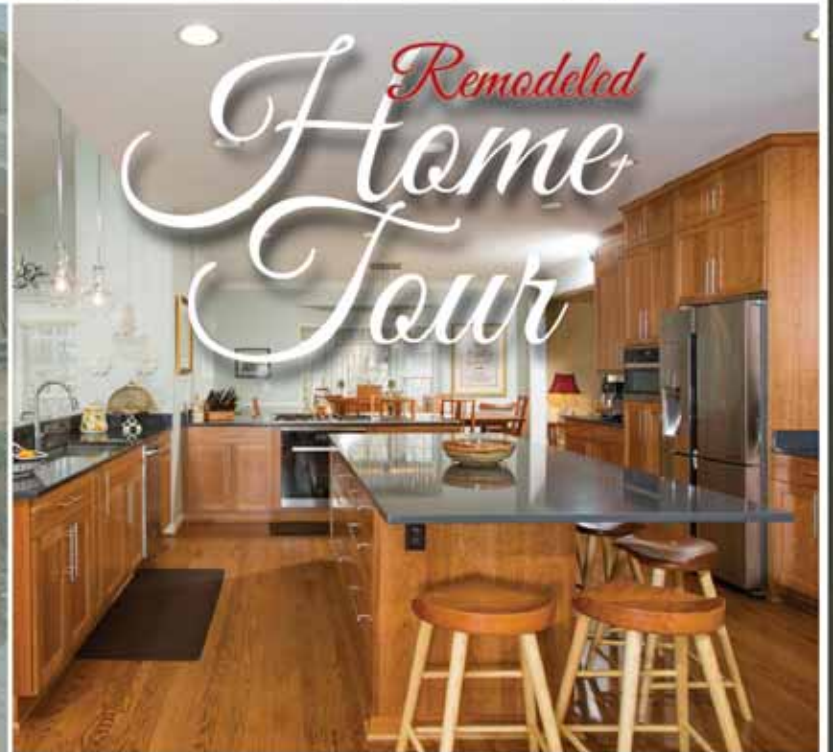
looking for employment, or tips on career-building skills like networking, building a resume or LinkedIn profile, and interviewing. Free booth space will be provided to any business or organization to advertise their available positions. Both teenagers and businesses or organizations may register to attend by visiting the following link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfairs> First jobs are important, and these events

SEE TEEN JOB FAIR, PAGE 11

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# The ABCs of Kids and Money

Teaching children how to budget, save and manage finances.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

In an age when paying one's mortgage can be done from a smartphone, money smarts is an important part of navigating life. From saving to buy the latest video game to learning how to budget an allowance, financial literacy is one of the most important lessons for children, say financial experts.

"It's very important to teach tweens and teens about money," said Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., Associate Professor in the School of Business at George Mason University. "For many kids, this is the first time they are making independent financial decisions, such as whether to save a birthday gift or spend it on a video game."

In fact, Patti Senft, Manager of Program Engagement at Junior Achievement of Greater Washington in Fairfax, Virginia says that one of her organization's goals is to teach financial literacy to children. "Junior Achievement has determined that teaching the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit should begin with middle school students in 7th and 8th grade," she said.

"The knowledge that the students learn through the Junior Achievement gives students the skills they need to manage their expenses and budget wisely for a successful future," she said.

Helping children set financial goals, delay gratification, earn money and save it toward achieving those goals is one of the first steps that parents can take to teach smart money practices, said Pilloff. "The habits, and even more critically, the decision-making process children develop early on will influence the way they approach financial matters throughout their lives," he said.

Students should be taught to make choices with the amount of money they have, suggests Senft. "It's important to teach children to distinguish between what you need versus what you want," she said. "It's important to teach children of all ages about money. It's never too soon to talk about the importance of savings."

"It's important because in any modern society, the



PHOTO COURTESY OF JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

**The Junior Achievement students at Carl Sandburg Middle School in Mount Vernon are learning the concepts of savings, income, budgeting, investing and the pros and cons of debit and credit.**

one thing that people do almost every day is make money decisions, so knowing how to do it well is something that is going to be useful to every single one of us," added Laura Levine, president and CEO of the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. "Knowing how to manage money is something that all consumers need to do so it's important that we teach that to our kids."

In fact, learning to manage a budget is one of the basic skills that Levine encourages parents to teach.

"Years ago, finance was basic, but today there are so many options and financial decisions that have to be made," she said. "Money is more self-directed than ever before. Finances are more complicated than ever before, so we need skills to manage it."

When it comes to managing money, one of the best ways to teach is leading by example, says Levine. "Like with anything else, kids learn by what they see at home," she said. "Even parents who haven't made the best financial decisions in the past can resolve to do it now in the New Year."

While some parents might find starting a dialog daunting, it's vital that parents have those conversations with their children, said Levine.


"Talk to your kids about money," she said. "It's important to distinguish between talk and teach. Parents who don't know about money can freak out when they're asked to teach their children about money. Instead, talk to them and say, 'Let's learn about this together.'"

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## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### Bulova, Petersen Town Hall Meeting

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a joint town hall meeting Saturday, Jan. 25, from 9-11 a.m. It's at the Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax. They'll provide an overview of the current Virginia General Assembly session and answer constituents' questions.

### ChiCeLaCu! Opens in Fairfax

A ribbon-cutting celebration of the new, Fairfax City location of the Children's Center for Language and Culture (ChiCeLaCu!) is set for Saturday, Jan. 25, at noon, at 10201 Main St., No. 230 (the World Gym building). The Children's Center for Language and Culture (ChiCeLaCu) is a licensed educational center offering Spanish-immersion classes for children, 3-12.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN MOLEK

### Lunch with Principal

Fairfax High Principal Erin Lenart, has a friendly chat with students eating lunch at the new tables in the school's commons area.



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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Funday Monday.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Mondays now thru March. At Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Play, paint, sing and dance at Funday Monday in the City of Fairfax. This season they are bringing back My Gym to help everyone move and play together, Oh Susannah! with her guitar to sing some old songs and have just as much fun with new ones, and Good Gollie it's Mollie will be coming 'round with more games and playtime fun. They would like to welcome some new friends as well like Drew Blue Shoes, a magician whose magic will leave you mystified and a kids' nature puppet show will come to teach us about the jungle in our backyard. This season they have the local animal shelter and local Spanish emersion group Mi Chu Chu Train coming with specially made programs. Visit the website: <https://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts>

**All You Need is Love.** Now thru Feb. 16. At Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Ave., #105, Fairfax. In celebration of Valentine's Day, Torpedo Factory artists are tackling one of society's most complex human emotions — Love. In its newest exhibit titled All You Need is &e, the gallery is presenting a selection of original paintings, photographs, jewelry, scarves, ceramics and more, that reflect its artists' interpretations of love. Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

**St. James Intramural High School Basketball League.** Now thru March 10. At the St. James Sports, Wellness and Entertainment Complex, 6805 Industrial Road, Springfield. The St. James invites you to participate in its Middle School Basketball League for Boys & Girls (8th to 12th grade), Jan. 10- March 10, in the new 33,000 square foot Basketball Courthouse on four high school regulation sized courts. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball League registration fee is \$250 per player and \$600 per team. All games are officiated and statistics provided. The TSJ Intramural High School Basketball league also includes a Playoff round where top teams in the league will meet. Visit <https://www.thestjames.com/sports/basketball/sessions/8/courses/tsj-basketball-winter-team> or contact Alpha or Pele with any questions at 703-239-6841.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 23

**ESL Registration.** 7-8 p.m. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church's two locations: 5114 Twinbrook Rd, Fairfax, and 13421 Twinlakes Dr., Clifton. Register for ESL classes in Fairfax or Clifton/Centreville on Jan. 23. Classes meet Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9 p.m., January 28-April 2. Cost is \$40 for student text book. Visit the website: [www.lordoflifeva.org](http://www.lordoflifeva.org)

## JAN. 24-25

**Children's Concert.** Friday at 6 p.m.; Saturday at 12 p.m. At Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Annual Children's Concert presented by the Lake Braddock Choral department. A magical show full of well-known songs performed by your favorite characters. Children attending are encouraged to dress in costumes if they choose. Concessions will be available for purchase. Autographs and photos with characters following the performances. Cost: \$5 suggested donation or a new toy for Inova Children's Hospital. Visit the website: [lbchorus.org](http://lbchorus.org)

## JAN. 24 AND FEB. 2

**DanceFest 2020.** At George Mason University, Harris Theatre, Fairfax. The DanceFest 2020 Gala is a celebration of dance in Northern Virginia, with companies from the Virginia Dance Coalition (VADC). A fascinating collection of different genres ranging from ballet to classical Indian, to contemporary are being performed. Featured professional companies include Kista Tucker Dance, DanceArtTheater and Dancin Unlimited, along with the Fairfax Ballet and the Ballet Arts Ensemble. The event kicks off with a Gala Performance of member companies on Friday, Jan. 24 at GMU Harris Theatre, and continues on Sunday, Feb. 2 with an all-day workshop of master classes and a Festival performance.

### SCHEDULE:

Friday, Jan. 24, 2020 – 7:30 pm/ Gala Performance\* of member companies - Tickets: \$25;

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 9:30 am – 4:30 pm/ Full-day Workshop with Master; Classes in Modern, Jazz, Indian Dance and Step. Workshop held at the GMU DeLaski Performing Arts Building;

PLUS: Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 – 5:00 pm/ Afternoon Festival Performance\* of Emerging Companies - Tickets: \$10.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 25

**Polar Plunge Festival.** 1 p.m. At Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Join in the Polar Plunge Festival at the Mosaic District in Fairfax, where you can show your best cannonball into an icy pool for a great cause. Bring your friends and family out for live music and chance to claim the title as the best-dressed plunger. It's \$100 to take the Plunge, but the more you raise, the cooler the prizes. Visit <https://polarplunge.com/mosaic-district/>



## Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel will be presented Jan. 26 at GMU Center for the Arts.**

### SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel.** 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique “concerts with commentary” format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75<sup>th</sup> of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy's Clair de Lune and Rachmaninoff's Prelude in C-sharp minor as well as colorful Preludes by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

**Alonzo King LINES Ballet.** 8 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Since 1982, visionary choreographer Alonzo King has been redefining contemporary ballet by creating daring new works that marry the science of artistic movement with the beauty of other art forms. In his latest collaboration, Figures of Speech, King addresses the fact that languages of the world are vanishing at an alarming rate, and draws on the research of poet and activist Bob Holman, pioneer in the slam poetry movement and co-founder of the Endangered Language Alliance. His expressive choreography takes inspiration from a soundtrack of poetry recited by native speakers of languages nearing extinction and music played on traditional instruments. Cost is \$48, \$41, \$29. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

### SUNDAY/JAN. 26

**Game Day Activities.** 1-4 p.m. At Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. There will be train-related games for all ages and you can win a prize if you play. Admission: Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-12, \$3; ages 13 and older, \$5; seniors 65 and older and active or retired Military, \$4. Visit the website: [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Steam Day.** 3-5 p.m. At Gesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Tinker, experiment, create, and explore with Gesher JDS and PJ Library. Join in a free afternoon of around-the-world family fun. Your child's curiosity will take them to new and far-away places when they experience science, technology, engineering, art, math with hands-on projects for kids aged 3-8 and their parents. Free. RSVP at: <https://www.gesher-jds.org/steam-day/>

**BHS General Meeting.** 3:30-5 p.m. At Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. View a film on the history of Burke's Lee Chapel, with some accompanying remarks by Rev. Katie Carson Phillips and Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana. Free. Visit the website: [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9



MARIA BARANOVA PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY CENTER FOR THE ARTS

**The Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” official world premiere at the Center for the Arts, Feb. 1, 2020.**

## Singular Opportunity Awaits

## World premiere Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Center for the Arts

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where and When

“Once in a lifetime opportunity to see one of the most creative minds develop and work in a premiere right here in Northern Virginia awaits audiences,” said Adrienne Bryant Godwin, Director of Programming, Center for the Arts. She was speaking about renowned choreographer Bill T. Jones, a major influencer in the performing arts for decades.

With the inaugural Mason Artists-in-Residence program, “we are trying something very new. With ‘What Problem?’ audiences will be able to see something no one has seen before, right on the Center for the Arts stage,” added Bryant Godwin. It is the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?”

Jones has been and continues as a powerful innovator of expressive dance exploring social issues. “As a groundbreaking leader in modern dance for decades, Bill T. Jones is the recipient of prestigious awards including the National Medal of Arts, MacArthur Genius Award, The Kennedy Center Honors Award, and multiple Tony Awards.

“What Problem?” will be “beyond modern dance,” noted Bryant Godwin. It is set to spoken word and original live music by Nick Hallett and sung by the Mason University Singers. The dance performance aims to spotlight identity; what it means to belong to a community yet

Center for the Arts at George Mason University presents the world premiere of Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company's “What Problem?” at Concert Hall, 4111 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance on Feb. 1, 2020 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$29, \$41 and \$48. There are special discounts for youth tickets available through grade 12. Call 703-993-2787 or visit [www.cfa.gmu.edu](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu) Note: A pre-performance discussion begins 45 minutes prior to the performance. “What Problem?” is co-commissioned by the Center for the Arts, George Mason University. Support for the creation of “What Problem?” provided by the Mason Artist-in-Residence program, which is funded, in part, by the George Mason University Office of Research, Innovation and Economic Impact and ARTSFAIRFAX.

have feelings of isolation especially during divisive times.

“What Problem?” has three sections: there is Jones in solo performance; Jones alongside members of the Bill T. Jones/Arnie Zane Company; and then in a unique concluding segment, Jones and the company onstage with 30 participants from the Northern Virginia community. The community members will represent the diversity that is the region. The content for the community members' section will be developed specifically for Northern Virginia.

Bill T. Jones described “What Problem?” as an “experimental work that is asking questions.” It is a work of “healing; to find cultural unity...while seeking truth.” The dance will also ask,

SEE WORLD PREMIERE.  
PAGE 9



# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

**Keyboard Conversations with Jeffrey Siegel.** 7 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Virtuoso pianist and storyteller extraordinaire Jeffrey Siegel is popular with classical music lovers and newcomers alike with his unique “concerts with commentary” format. Hear some of the most famous works by these two popular composers who have recently had anniversary celebrations in the musical world: the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Debussy and the 75<sup>th</sup> of Rachmaninoff. In this program, Siegel plays Debussy’s *Clair de Lune* and Rachmaninoff’s *Prelude in C-sharp minor* as well as colorful *Preludes* by both composers. Cost is \$44, \$37, \$26. Family Friendly. Visit the website: <https://cfa.gmu.edu/>

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 29

**Troop Open House.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Wood Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Scouts BSA Troop 1345G will host an Open House for young women (ages 11-17) interested in learning more about Scouting and its focus on outdoor adventure, leadership development, and citizenship skills. Free. Visit the website: <http://www.troop1345.org>

**Beau Soir Ensemble Performs.** 7 p.m. At Fairfax City Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola, and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary repertoire spanning a variety of genres. Free. Call 703-293-6227.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 30

**New Year Reception.** 5-7 p.m. At Fairfax County Government Center Forum, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Everyone is invited to attend Chairman Jeff McKay’s New Year Reception. Please bring canned food to donate to Stuff the Bus or pet supplies for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. For details, email [hannah.menchhoff@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:hannah.menchhoff@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## World Premiere

FROM PAGE 8

“Is there a we?” in divisive times.

The performance is one of “a beautiful design; for the eyes, the heart and the mind,” added Jones. During its development and rehearsal, “What Problem?” aims for the “community to discover who are they and what they might think while in a pleasurable experience.”

The Company’s weeklong residency goes-beyond on-stage performance. There will be rehearsals with the community members and the Mason University Singers; as well as teaching masterclasses with the Mason School of Dance and with Fairfax County Public Schools’ Fairfax Academy dance students.

# ‘For One Show, It’s All about the Dancers’

## The Fairfax Academy presents ‘A Chorus Line.’

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 65, plus a 10-piece orchestra, The Fairfax Academy presents the musical, “A Chorus Line.” Set in 1970s New York City, it’s about dancers auditioning for a musical-theater production, from beginning to casting.

“It’s a very funny show, and you get to know each person’s life,” said Woodson High senior Hannah Black. “It sheds light on what the dancers go through to get where they are, because it’s harder and more stressful than most people realize. It takes people behind the scenes – which is cool, since I’m pursuing a dance career, myself.”

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 2, at 3:30 p.m.; Friday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15, adults; and \$10, students, via etix.com. This show is for mature audiences only; students under age 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Black portrays dancer Kristine Urich. “She’s bubbly and kind of an airhead, but sweet, and everybody loves her,” said Black. “She’s married to Al, who’s auditioning for the same show, and they’re madly in love. She’s a phenomenal dancer but can’t sing to save her life, so her song is hilarious. She’s a hoot-and-a-half to play because she’s so energetic, nice and kind to everyone.”

Black’s favorite song is the opening number, “I Hope I Get It.” Before any cuts are made, each group of dancers auditions during this song, and they’re each thinking, “I hope I get this job.” Calling it “super-fun,” Black said, “There are so many people onstage that you can really feel their energy.”

She said the audience will appreciate “the commitment the actors have to their characters. And the whole thing is hilarious, so people will enjoy the comedy. There’s never a dull moment; Mr. Replogle has done a fantastic job directing this show. Working with him is such an honor, and I feel so lucky to have done that before he retires [in June].”

Director Mike Replogle is also pleased with how this production’s turning out. “I think we’re going to have a hell of a show,” he said. “The kids really get its spirit, and no other show is about auditioning. It tells it from the view of the people who give up everything to be in the chorus.”

**THE SHOW** happens in real time and the audience becomes part of the audition. “And as exhausting as it is for the dancers, they often go through this, two or three times a day,” said Replogle. “And this is as close as the audience may get to auditioning, themselves. I love this show because it focuses



As Richie, Nicholas Barrett (center) tells the story of how he became a dancer.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

solely on the dancers. For one show, the chorus line gets to be in front – and it’s all about them.”

Academy Administrator Andrea Cook choreographed nine of the dances. “Our first dance rehearsal was in October, so the kids have been learning the steps since then,” she said. “The toughest part was finding a balance between telling the story, making sure all the students have opportunities to be onstage and working to their own abilities. And regardless of what you give them, making sure they look strong and professional onstage.”

Being in an administrative role, Cook misses interacting with the students. So, she said, “Being in this show with them and watching them grow in their confidence, storytelling, artistic ability and maturity – in a short period of time – is the most exciting and fulfilling part for me.

“For those who’ve seen the original production or its revival, there are little hints of choreographer Michael Bennett,” she continued. “For those new to this show, it’s an intimate look at what many of our students are choosing for their profession. And there’s something special watching the kids explore the stories of their idols, because this is based on true stories.”

Furthermore, she and Replogle always try to put their own unique spin on their shows, such as adding extra dancers to a number or portraying it in a fresh way. And, added Cook, “Since we’re doing the adult version of this show, we get to perform the full-length, musical numbers.”

Senior Raffi Krikorian portrays Zach, the director of “A Chorus Line” – the play for which the dancers are auditioning. “He’s a shadow of his former self,” said Krikorian. “He used to be a very good dancer, but not as good as others. So when his dancing days were behind him, he became a director. But he misses that time of his life when he was a dancer.”

“Zach is serious and mainly business,” continued Krikorian. “And he’s hurt because one of the auditioning dancers is a former lover

who left him. I like playing someone who’s both good and bad, and I take what I’ve seen from other directors and incorporate it into my character.”

He especially likes the finale number, “One,” because “When everyone’s all singing and dancing together, every single time, it gives me chills. It’s really great and, at this point, it isn’t even the final product.”

Krikorian said attendees will love this show’s dancing, singing, choreography and acting and all the effort that went into it. As they’re leaving, he said, “They’ll be thinking, ‘Wow, this was amazing to watch.’”

**PLAYING CASSIE,** Zach’s former love interest is senior Vivian Lemons. “She’s an ambitious, talented, hardworking dancer,” said Lemons. “She tried making it as an actor in California, but it didn’t work out. She realizes she needs to be dancing, and ‘A Chorus Line’ is her last chance to make it as a dancer.”

Lemons can connect with Cassie’s drive and passion for performing. And, she said, “I love that she knows how good of a dancer she is. Zach knows it, as well, and she uses it to her advantage.” Her favorite song is “Music in the Mirror,” which she sings. “She realizes the way to convince Zach to cast her in this chorus is by showing him what she can do,” said Lemons. “So at the height of her pleading, she begins to dance for him.”

She said this show has something for everyone, including “a sense of humanity throughout the entire plot. And the characters are so real that everyone can connect with them, even if they, themselves, haven’t auditioned for a show.”

Fairfax High senior Angelina Cate portrays Diana Morales. “She’s a Puerto Rican character and a strong dancer,” said Cate. “But when competing against others, she becomes insecure. She’s passionate about what she does and is extremely focused on her end goal. And she relies on her inner strength to get through whatever she’s facing.”

When this show came out in the mid-’70s, said Cate, “No one had seen anything like it or asked the dancers what they were going through. It shows how tough it is to be a performer and that, despite it all, we’re here because we love it.”

She especially likes the song, “Mother,” a dance number telling the audience about each of the dancers. “They reflect on what their parents told them, growing up,” said Cate. “And the harmonies are moving and tell the story in a beautiful way.”

She said the audience will enjoy this show’s “intricate dance numbers, high energy and how human and personal it is. You may not be a performer, but you can relate to the characters and their life experiences.”



## Legals

### ABC LICENSE

Nouli LLC trading as Our Mom Eugenia, 2985 District Avenue, Suite 185, Fairfax, VA 22031. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for Wine & Beer On & Off Premises and Mixed Beverage On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Alexander Hobson, Co-Owner. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

## Legals

### City of Fairfax

#### Urgent Election Notice

The registration deadline to vote in the March 3, 2020 General Election is Feb 10. Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at [www.vote.virginia.gov](http://www.vote.virginia.gov). Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. 10455 Armstrong Street, Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 703/385-7890.

## Employment

## Employment

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## Announcements

## Announcements

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## Announcements

## Announcements

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# BULLETIN

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 30

**Chairman McKay's Reception.** 5-7 p.m. At the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Join the new Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeff McKay, for the annual New Year Reception. Bring food donations for Stuff the Bus and pet supplies for the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 23

**Town Hall Meeting.** 1 p.m. At 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Sen. Scott Surovell and fellow legislators will host town halls throughout the 36th District in January and February. The legislators will discuss their legislative agendas and take questions from the audience. Some topics will include: Transportation, Education Funding and Reform, The State Budget and Tax Reform, Redistricting, Medicaid Expansion, Marriage Equality and LGBTQ Rights, Firearm Violence Prevention, Civil/Criminal Justice Reforms, Consumer Protection/Predatory Lending, Investing in Green Energy, Reproductive Choice Issues, Protecting Environmental Interests.

## NOVEC SCHOLARSHIPS

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives are offering higher-education scholarships to public, private, and home-schooled high school seniors whose families receive electricity from electric cooperatives. Online applications at [novec.com](http://novec.com) for NOVEC's scholarships are due Sunday, March 15, 2020. VMDAEC applications are due Friday, Feb. 28, 2020. Students may apply to both organizations. The NOVEC Scholarship Program will award \$1,500 college scholarships to 11 qualified graduating public high school students in NOVEC's service territory in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William and Stafford counties, and the City of Manassas Park. In addition, the overall outstanding student will receive the \$1,500 J. Manley Garber Scholarship, for a total of \$3,000 in college assistance. For more information about the NOVEC Scholarship Program, contact Ashley Arnold at [scholarships@novec.com](mailto:scholarships@novec.com).

## Teen Job Fairs

FROM PAGE 5

help connect teens with employers face to face and prepare our youth for the workforce. Please view the Fairfax County Teen Job Fair schedule below:

**Saturday, March 7, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Woodson High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Dalia Palchik, James Walkinshaw, Woodson High School, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce and Connection Newspapers.

**Saturday, March 7, 2 to 4 p.m. at South County High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Rodney Lusk, Dan Storck, Chairman Jeff McKay, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, Connection Newspapers, Mount Vernon Gazette and Mount Vernon High School

**Saturday, March 14, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Chantilly High School**

Sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herrity, Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, Connection Newspapers, and the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce

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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. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

## Treat One, Get Two.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I'm sure you regular readers are waiting with bated breath for the confirmation of my updated health status. Unfortunately, for the moment anyway, we'll all have to wait a bit longer. Though the needle biopsy of my "Adam's Apple" tumor did indeed confirm thyroid cancer, stage 2, no such confirmation or clarification as to its origin was made, or whether it's been thyroid cancer that I've been living with all these years, instead of non small cell lung cancer, stage 4 or not. However, there is a path forward. Surgery to remove my thyroid gland, along with my "Adam's Apple" tumor, and possibly a lymph node is in the planning stage. As such, scheduled for next Friday is an appointment with a head and neck surgeon to determine my fitness for surgery. All we've been told so far is that the surgery is usually outpatient, arrive in the morning and leave that afternoon (maybe I'll bring along my dry cleaning). Apparently, this is the next step "on the road to find out" (Cat Stevens).

If I am indeed home that same evening, I've been told by my endocrinologist that the recovery period is approximately two weeks. At present I don't have any details of what "recovery" exactly means/entails. If all goes according to the pre-surgical-actually-discussing- the-procedure-with-the-surgeon conversation, a month or so after the procedure, I will revisit my endocrinologist to have radioisotopes administered somehow. Once inside my body, I will be scanned by a machine looking exclusively for thyroid cancer. This will confirm, if I understand the process correctly, whether the tumors in my lungs are thyroid or lung cancer.

In the interim, I am to continue with my immunotherapy ("I. O.") and with any other appointments, scans, etc. I recall something that my oncologist said about my lung cancer tumors during his "exciting" phone call. He said that my tumors never really acted the way he anticipated, as if they weren't non small cell lung cancer at all. And sure enough, some of them, as confirmed by the first of my recent two biopsies were thyroid cancer. As I've been joking, this is what my oncologist gets excited about as opposed to what yours truly would get excited about: a World Series Championship. And also, as he said, thyroid tumors are more treatable, with more choices and better outcomes - which is exciting for me.

OKAY. So I have thyroid cancer and it's more treatable. Wonderful news. But do I still have lung cancer? If so, where's the future in that? Is it somehow no longer a "terminal" disease because I've outlived my original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Will I now be treated for thyroid cancer only to die of lung cancer? Moreover, am I now going to get treated twice, in two medical suites, one for each cancer? Have these multiple biopsies simply determined that the doctors were actually right - both times and I'm just the unfortunate patient to be so wronged?

For 10 or so years, until last January, I was treated for lung cancer - with chemotherapy. However, this past January, the Adam's Apple" tumor appeared and we switched to immunotherapy. The reason for the change: the lung cancer had spread, according to my oncologist. Now, a year later, the story/diagnosis has changed, thanks to my most recent biopsy. The tumor wasn't lung cancer that had spread, it was thyroid cancer that had spread. I didn't even know I had thyroid cancer. Now you're telling me it's spread? How lucky am I? Two cancers for the price of one. I guess this will make health insurance more affordable, sort of like buying in bulk at Costco.

The big question: did my lung cancer treatment inadvertently prevent my thyroid cancer from manifesting/metastasizing or did its non-diagnosis allow it to grow unimpeded and now present this quite unexpected/unanticipated complication? Explain though it may to my oncologist why I haven't succumbed to my original disease, it doesn't quite explain to me what the hell's been going on and why.

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





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