

The Arlington Connection

HOMELIFESTYLE

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Rich History Of Opera NOVA

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Jose Sacin, artistic director for Opera NOVA, performing in 2018. He was described “with a voice like liquid gold and the stage presence of a lion.”

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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Arlington Chamber of Commerce Gala Is Nov. 14

Silent Auction open until Nov. 16.

Ready to rock the virtual red carpet at the Arlington Chamber Gala from the comfort of your own home? We are looking for participants on a first come first serve basis in the following categories: Most Unique and Quarantine Chic. Winners are eligible for a prize! If you would like to participate, please email Morgan Cooper, Communications Coordinator, at communications@arlingtonchamber.org with which category you'd like to enter

This year's Silent Auction is now live! Online bidding closes on Monday, November 16 at 5:00 p.m. This auction is open to anyone, whether or not you are attending the Gala on November 14. Auctions items include tropical vacations (with extended booking timeframes!), restaurant gift certificates, hotel stays, gift baskets, and more!

Important Information for Gala Attendees

Before Nov. 14, click this link to download the most recent version (5.3.1) of the Zoom app on your computer. When the Zoom Download Center opens in your web browser, download "Zoom Client for Meetings." You will need the most recent version to access the breakout rooms for networking. Update now and create a login to help with a quality experience.

<https://www.32auctions.com/96thArlingtonBusinessGala>

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/NOV. 13

Invasive Plants & Native Alternatives.
10-11:30 a.m. Online. Invasive plants in the home garden like English Ivy, Bamboo, Porcelain berry, and Mimosa, can spread from cultivation to our natural areas where they out-compete beneficial native plants. Learn how to rid your yard of some common invasive plants and substitute alternative native species that have similar ornamental qualities and which also support our local wildlife. Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills, a creative force behind the resource Tried and True Native Plant Selections for the Mid-Atlantic, serves as a co-coordinator at the Glencarlyn Library Community Garden, a Virginia Cooperative

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

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PHOTOS BY MIKE POPE

Mark Warner declares victory without the usual crowds of supporters due to the pandemic.

The Pandemic Election

Virginia voters support Biden, Warner and a new redistricting commission.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Twenty years ago, Virginia was a red state. Republicans scored Virginia's electoral votes in every presidential election since LBJ was reelected in 1964. Republicans held both U.S. Senate seats. The Grand Old Party had all the statewide offices, a majority of the congressional delegation and both chambers of the General Assembly. That was the environment when Mark Warner and Tim Kaine, both Democrats, ran for governor and lieutenant governor.

"Over the last 20 years, we've engineered the biggest political turnaround in the United States of any of the 50 states," said Sen. Tim Kaine as he watched voting totals on election night. "Partly it's our population. Partly it's Democrats in Virginia. We govern in a way that we're practical progressives. We're solving people's problems, and that's a good model."

Virginia is now a solidly blue state, delivering 13 electoral votes to Joe Biden and handing Mark Warner a third term in the United States Senate. Election officials will continue receiving mail-in votes until Friday at noon, although the results of all the key races have already been determined. One result that is clear in the Commonwealth, though, is the success of a constitutional amendment creating a new



Because of the pandemic, only a handful of journalists and staffers were on hand for Mark Warner's victory speech, which was delivered in leased commercial space in Del Ray. These kinds of events are usually raucous parties, but this time it was only a media availability with social distancing.

16-member redistricting commission to draw political boundaries for the General Assembly and Congress.

But Arlington was the sole jurisdiction to vote against the gerrymandering amendment, 55 percent to 45 percent.

"Tonight is historic," declared FairMapsVA executive director Brian Cannon and campaign co-chairs Wyatt Durette and Bobby Vassar.

"Virginia has now become the first state in the South to create a bipartisan redistricting commission to draw electoral district lines."

AT THE TOP of the ticket, Warner scored a solid victory against Republican Daniel Gade although Biden had more votes and a larger margin of victory. Appearing at his campaign headquarters in Del Ray,

SEE THE PANDEMIC, PAGE 9

Arlington County Unofficial Results Election Day Nov. 3, 2020

PRESIDENT

Joe Biden (D):	105,344 votes,	80.60 percent
Donald Trump (R):	22,318 votes,	17.08 percent
Jo Jorgensen:	1,836 votes,	1.40 percent

SENATE

Mark Warner (D):	102,880 votes,	79.37 percent
Daniel Gade (R):	26,590 votes,	20.51 percent

HOUSE DISTRICT 8

Don Beyer (D):	101,981 votes,	78.95 percent
Jeff Jordan (R):	26,904 votes,	20.83 percent

MEMBER OF COUNTY BOARD

Libby T. Garvey:	82,007 votes,	71.37 percent
Audrey R. Clement:	30,843 votes,	26.84 percent

MEMBER SCHOOL BOARD, 2 SEATS

David Marcus Priddy:	66,815 votes,	35.73 percent
Cristina I. Diaz-Torres:	80,567 votes,	43.09 percent
S. Symone Walker	36,058 votes,	19.28 percent

AMENDMENT 1 (redistricting)

Yes:	55,228 votes,	45.01 percent
No:	67,484 votes,	54.99 percent

AMENDMENT 2

Yes:	101,933 votes,	81.47 percent
No:	23,182 votes,	18.53 percent

Arlington Public Schools Bond

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$7,485,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities and other County infrastructure?

Yes:	98,756 votes,	79.31 percent
No:	25,757 votes,	20.69 percent

Arlington Community Infrastructure

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$7,485,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for County facilities and other County infrastructure?

Yes:	91,759 votes,	74.20 percent
No:	31,903 votes,	25.80 percent

Arlington Local Parks and Recreation

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$3,630,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for local parks & recreation?

Yes:	101,602 votes,	81.37 percent
No:	23,267 votes,	18.63 percent

Metro and Transportation (Arlington County)

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$29,940,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority and other transit, pedestrian, road or transportation projects?

Yes:	98,730 votes,	79.32 percent
No:	25,740 votes,	20.68 percent

Arlington County Stormwater

Shall Arlington County contract a debt and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$50,840,000 to finance, together with other available funds, the cost of various capital projects for the County Stormwater Program?

Yes:	97,847 votes,	79.04 percent
No:	25,948 votes,	20.96 percent

Source: Virginia Department of Elections https://results.elections.virginia.gov/vaelections/2020%20November%20General/Site/Locality/ARLINGTON_COUNTY/Index.html

NOTE: Arlington unofficial results only. Tallies only include votes cast in Arlington. Results will be certified on Nov. 16.

Rich History for Opera NOVA

Online offerings, but missing the annual Children's Opera.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Right about now in November Jose Sacin would usually be in the middle of the Children's Opera, Opera NOVA's big event of the year.

"We would have just finished our big October fundraiser." Sacin is the Artistic Director of Opera NOVA and a well-known performer. Opera NOVA is a volunteer-based non-profit organization whose purpose is to bring the joy of opera to residents of Northern Virginia.

Sacin says every November Opera NOVA prepares a one-hour version of an opera for elementary school children that is a version especially created for them. Sacin says the children's operas are in the words of the performers "the best audience. They are so enthusiastic and so involved in the performance."

Sacin explains in order to create an opera performance for children he has to adapt the story to cut a three-hour opera down to one hour but still making sense. "You want to tell a story. You have to choose the right parts."

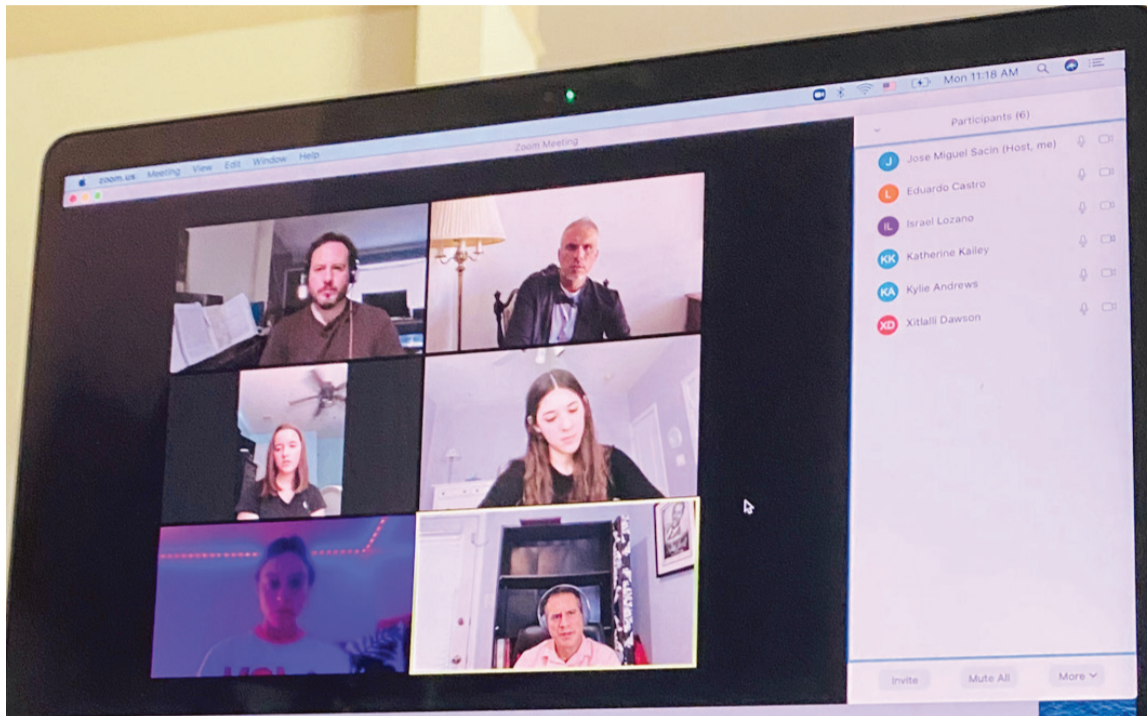
Same with the orchestra, which has to be cut back to a small ensemble. But the choice of instruments can be complicated. "For instance, there may be a trumpet in the first part but it doesn't appear again. So do you get a trumpet or not just for this moment; do you take a clarinet part later and see whether a trumpet can play it?"

He says last year's bilingual one-act performance, "Monkey See, Monkey Do," was very popular. They have also adopted "The Magic Flute," "Tree-monisha," and the "Barber of Seville." Sacin says Opera NOVA performed the Barber of Seville using

English for the dialogue and performing the songs in the original Italian. He explains this is how an opera works with the repetitive where all of the action happens and then the arias are a reflection with no new material.

Before the opera, they give a sort of a quiz by presenting an orchestral instrument for the students.

"We have 10-13 instruments in



Opera NOVA's Summer Program for Young Vocalists for high school students on Zoom in 2020.



Jose Sacin performing at a winter concert for seniors in 2018. He was described "with a voice like liquid gold and the stage presence of a lion."

the orchestra and play one at a time for the children to identify." The violin and flute are pretty easy but the bassoon and clarinet get a little harder.

Sacin says it is a lot of work to adapt an opera for children. It takes about a week to cut back the orchestra. "You have to try things out." Then it takes a month or so to work on the orchestration, "what

we will keep in our opera and our script." They can have up to 700 in attendance at the children's performances at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center.

ALTHOUGH ALL of the usual performances have been cancelled since spring, Opera NOVA was able to hold its Summer Program for Young Vocalists on Zoom geared



Jose Sacin performing outdoor concert for seniors in Baltimore.

to high school students that are preparing for auditions for college music school. He says they teach vocal technique, diction, interpretation, pronunciation. He adds they also explain about the business of opera, audition techniques and how to do stage make up.

The first year in 2019 the Summer Program was held in person "but this year was doable on

When the pandemic hit I was supposed to perform Puccini with the Maryland Lyric Opera."

— Jose Sacin, Artistic Director of Opera NOVA and well-known performer

Zoom." But Sacin says it is better to hold the Program in person to hear the voice live. The way the audio is set up on Zoom, it will minimize the high notes in a voice. "It can be a little problematic but it gets the point across."

"But for me I'm a professional singer. So when the pandemic hit I was supposed to perform Puccini with the Maryland Lyric Opera." It was supposed to open April 1 at Strathmore Hall and I found out a day before rehearsal that it was cancelled. Sacin was also performing Samson and Delilah with Washington opera at the Kennedy Center. He says, "performers have some months with no income, but April was going to be my busiest month of the year." A number of performers had to go on unemployment.

Sacin says they are currently preparing half hour videotapes to offer to the public and hope to film them at the end of the month. "It is geared to seniors who are more isolated." In a normal year Opera NOVA holds smaller performances about every other month at local churches and last year at Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage. Some of these regular performances are geared to seniors and others are for the general public. "I wasn't as lucky as a child in Peru. I wasn't exposed to opera. It wasn't until I was 18 and saw a Three Tenors concert."

But he says he does this "because it is wonderful to be part of educating children and building audiences of the future."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

FLOURISHING AFTER 55

55+ Programs are virtual or outdoors, following the Governor's Forward Virginia guidelines. You must have a 55+ Membership to attend (\$20 annual fee). Learn more at parks.arlingtonva.us, search 55+ member. To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747, option 3.

Outdoor Program: 11/13

Aurora Hills fast paced walking group, Friday, Nov. 13, 9-10 a.m., 735 S. 18th Street. Registration #911109-18.

Virtual Programs: 11/12-13/20

Artists' chat to discuss composition, techniques, materials, Thursday, Nov. 12, 4 - 5 p.m. Registration # 911301-21.

Songs from Broadway and movie musicals, live performance, Thursday, Nov. 12, 1-2 p.m. Registration # 911802-7.

USS Houston, World War II warship, a story of heroism and survival, Thursday, Nov. 12, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Includes recorded first hand account by survivor Otto Schwarz. Registration # 911400-22.

History discussion focuses on cultural, economic, artistic and political events, Thursday, Nov. 12, 1 - 2:30 p.m. Registration # 911402-19.

The study of words and the history of the English language, Wednesday, Nov. 12, 10:30-11:45 a.m. Registration # 911402-22.

Movie discussion focusing on "20th Century Women," Thursday,

Nov. 12, 3-4 p.m., Registration # 911402-26.

What is the Cloud presentation by Tech Guru Nick Englund, Thursday, Nov. 12, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration # 911403-39.

Healthy living for the brain, Friday, Nov. 13, 11 a.m. - noon. Registration #911500-09.

Know your ephemera (collections), Friday, Nov. 13, 11:35 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Registration # 911400-26

Outdoor Programs:

11/18-20/20

55+ Walk, from Bluemont Park, 601 N. Manchester St., Wednesday, Nov. 18, 9-10 a.m., Registration # 911109-21.

Aurora Hills Fast Forwards, fast paced walking group, 2 - 3 mile loop from 735 S. 18th Street, Friday, Nov. 20, 9-10:30 a.m. Registration # 911109-19.

Virtual Programs: 11/16-20/20

Painting demonstration Monday, Nov. 16, 10:30 a.m. - noon. Additional information with registration # 911301-20.

A Century of Carlins in Arlington, presented by Karl VanNewkirk, director, Arlington Historical Society, Monday, Nov. 16, 1:30-3 p.m. Registration # 911400-24.

Garden group discusses plants for winter, Monday, Nov. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. Facilitated by horticulturist Kirsten Conrad and Master Gardeners. Registration # 911401-4.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

Extension Demonstration Garden in Arlington. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

America Recycles Day. 3-3:45 p.m. Online. This free, virtual program presented by EcoAction Arlington is designed for elementary students in grades K-5 to explore how we can minimize our waste and lessen our impact on the planet. Registration required. Visit the website: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/wp-admin/post.php?post=3221&action=edit>

NOW THRU DEC. 15

Annual Membership Drive. The Port City Chapter of the National Charity League (NCL), a premier mother-daughter volunteer organization, invites women with daughters currently in 7th-12th grade, to join its chapter of 200-plus active mothers and daughters who reside in or attend school in Arlington, Alexandria, Springfield, Crystal City, or Washington, D.C. Visit the website: www.nationalcharityleague.org/chapter/portcity/

NOW THRU JAN. 21, 2021

Mah Jongg Cards. 8 to 10 p.m. To order, click on the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser), download

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

the form. Order by January 21, 2021: <http://bit.ly/2021MahJongg>. Cost: \$9 for small cards and \$10 for large cards. Email: iva.gresko@gmail.com. These official cards will be sent directly to you from the NMJL in late March/early April 2021.

DONATIONS

The Arlington Food Assistance Center seeks local gardeners and farmers willing to grow and donate fresh produce to the AFAC food pantry for local families in need as part of the Plot Against Hunger program. Each week, approximately 2,400 client families visit AFAC to pick up supplemental groceries and fresh fruits and vegetables are in high demand.

AFAC will provide free vegetable seeds to those who pledge to donate produce from community or personal gardens. Visit <https://afac.org/plot-against-hunger> or contact puwen.lee@afac.org or 703-845-8486. Seeds are available now at AFAC, 2708 S. Nelson St., during regular business hours: Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Saturdays 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Produce can also be donated at AFAC at the hours listed above or at:

❖ Arlington Courthouse Farmer's Market, Saturdays 8 a.m.-noon (look for the AFAC cooler near the Master Gardener information table).

❖ Rock Springs UCC Church, 5010 Little Falls Road, Sundays 9 a.m.-noon only. (Look for the donation bin on the Rock Spring Drive side

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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CALENDAR

NOW THRU THE HOLIDAYS

Art on the Avenue. The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival will move to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. Over 150 artists will be featured, offering handmade items in a wide range of mediums, including wheel-thrown vases and bowls, tiles, sculpture, tote bags and purses, drawings and pastels, knitted and crocheted hats and gloves, woven scarves and shawls, gourmet food, fused and blown glass, jewelry, paintings, photography, and much more. Traditionally held each fall on Mount Vernon Avenue, Art on the Avenue is a multicultural arts festival that strives to reflect the vibrant mix of the Del Ray community through the artists and their work, and draws an estimated 75,000 visitors each year. Visit www.artontheavenue.org.



The 25th Annual Art on the Avenue festival moves to a virtual format for 2020, running through the holidays. www.artontheavenue.org/

NOW THRU DEC. 9

Forty+ Project II. 3-4 p.m. Via Zoom. Forty+ celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40. Fall Project 2 is directed by choreographer Kelsey Rohr through weekly sessions on Zoom (with outdoor or in-person meetings as conditions allow). The project is open to people of all physical facilities. Cost is \$100. Visit the website: <https://www.jane-franklin.com/adult-dance/forty-plus>

Friday, November 20 - Sea Biscuit
Saturday, November 21 - How to Train Your Dragon & 42 (Double Feature)
Friday, December 4 - The Bourne Identity
Saturday, December 5 - The Grinch & Love Actually (Double Feature)

NOW THRU NOV. 27

"Gratitude" Art Show. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2120 Crystal Drive/Crystal City Shops, Arlington. Gallery Underground in November presents Gratitude: Representing Thankfulness in Artwork, an all-member all-media show. The year 2020 has presented us with multiple physical, moral, spiritual and emotional challenges. Member artists have created work in the season's spirit of giving thanks, representing images of those things for which they are still grateful, despite the current world we face. In our Main Gallery are new works by our members on all themes, in media including oil, acrylic, pastel, watermedia, sculpture, glass, ceramics, wood

and metalwork. Visit the website: <https://galleryunderground.org/>

NOV. 6-28

"Women's Right to Vote: 100 Years Since the 19th Amendment" exhibit (November 6-28) features artwork by Del Ray Artisans, local high school students and 2020 graduates; and celebrates the achievements of women over the past 100 years. The movement towards equality in America continues today. Lift your voice and vote. Opening Day Appointments: Friday, November 6, 12-8 p.m. View exhibit at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Details: www.DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

Nov. 9, with a new episode airing each week. For more information and tickets for Everyday Magic, visit the website <https://www.artsonthehorizon.org/everyday-magic.html>

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS, NOW THRU DEC. 5

Alexandria Drive-In Movie Encore Series. At the Alexandria Drive-In Theatre, 5001 Eisenhower Ave, Alexandria. The Alexandria Drive-In Theatre, presented by Alexandria based businesses ALX Community and The Garden, will feature a popular collection of movie classics and family favorites. Cost: \$35 per car/per screening. No refunds. 100% of ticket costs go to local Alexandria based charities. Visit the website: www.AlexandriaDriveIn.com. Schedule:
Saturday, November 14 - The Secret Life of Pets & Pitch Perfect (Double Feature)

NOV. 10 TO JAN. 21

Holiday Spirit. At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union Street, Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Holiday Spirit." This is the annual holiday show, and the artists go all out to create gifts that will get you into the holiday mood. Hours: 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Why Do Cicadas Scream. 9 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Virtual on Zoom. Excitement is as easy as the wave of a wand. Explore the cicada life cycle and themes of transformation and change

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

Black Friday & Small Business Saturday SALE

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Meet Ariel, She Never Let the Diaper Get Her Down

BY JOAN BRADY

If she ever had a family, we'll never know. The vet believes she was hit by a car. The resulting nerve and muscle damage meant that she had no control over her bladder and bowels.

Ariel would need to wear a diaper if she was going to join a family. And sure, that's not for everyone, but in Ariel's case, it turned out to be for no one. Two and a half years passed and no one wanted to adopt, or even foster, this loving and lovable multi-breed.

It's hard not to feel sad, picturing this sweet faced-canine living full-time at the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation (LDCRF) kennel. But the truth is, Ariel joyfully embraced the opportunity to interact and play with other dogs as they came and went. And she was adored by staff and volunteers who spent lots of time with her, taking her on countless "dog adventures" that ranged from hiking to enjoying walks on the National Mall.

That said, a loving home is the goal for all animals who come through the rescue and the staff and volunteers desperately wanted to match Ariel to a family; foster or adoptive. But they were starting to lose hope.

Enter Alyssa Cannon and Michael Morin. The couple had lost their dog of 14 years last December. Still grieving, they were not yet ready to adopt. But they resolved to find a meaningful way to help other dogs, in memory of Lucy.

The two had just completed their LDCRF volunteer training and were touring the kennel in Falls Church when they happened upon Ariel. They say they were struck by the love and warmth that emanated from her lovely brown eyes and they were touched by her story.

And so, they decided to bring Ariel home for a weekend visit. Despite her incontinence, they say she was the perfect guest and it felt great to have a dog in their home again. But their work schedules made a long term commitment impossible. You see, Ariel needed her diaper changed every 2-to-4 hours. With Morin working out of the home full-time and Cannon, a real estate agent with an unpredictable schedule, they just didn't see how it could work, outside of an occasional weekend visit.

Then the pandemic struck, and the team at LDCRF flew into action. It was, after all, an emergency and a scary and uncertain time. They needed to get all of the animals who had been staying at the kennel placed immediately and they did. That is for all, save Ariel. She became the lone dog at the shelter. Staff and volunteers were heartbroken, but didn't give up.

There had to be that unique match, that needle in a haystack match for this worthy pup.

While the pandemic has been awful in countless ways, there have been a few silver linings. Morin's job went partially virtual and the couple realized that this would allow them to be, at least part-time, foster parents. And so they embarked on a very creative co-pet-parenting relationship with LDCRF. On days when Morin teleworked,



Life always felt like a day at the beach for Ariel.



Ariel never missed an opportunity to stop and smell the flowers.

PHOTOS BY
KIM WILLIAMS
LDCRF



Relaxing at home.



Monitoring activity in Clarendon.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY CANNON/MORIN FAMILY

Ariel kept him company and weekends were spent fully enjoying the pleasure of being part of a loving family. And when Morin had to go in to work, Ariel stayed at the LDCRF kennel facility.

Wherever she was, Ariel remained a happy gal. But perhaps her most favorite place was stretched out on the couple's couch. Cannon and Morin say that they often found themselves watching TV sitting on the floor, next to the couch, so as not to disturb her.

When Virginia started opening back up, Ariel loved having the run of Clarendon on her days with Cannon and Morin. She found her way into the hearts of everyone she met, including her friends at the Loyal Companion and South Moon Under.

According to Morin and Cannon, Ariel taught them important lessons about accepting limitations with grace, Ariel didn't let her physical challenges define her or break her spirit. She loved unconditionally and took joy from having that love reciprocated. "She lifted our spirits and served as a reminder of what is really important in this often-times-crazy world," says Cannon.

Ariel had six wonderful months spending quality time with Cannon and Morin. And her passing hit them hard. This tribute was written by Dawn Wallace, Executive Director LDCRF and foster parent, Michael Morin. It has been edited for length:

TO ARIEL

It's with a heavy heart that I share with you that our beloved Ariel passed away yesterday. Over the past several days, her health deteriorated rapidly due to complications from the original injuries she sustained before coming to LDCRF. After seeking out multiple medical expert opinions, the doctors led us to the conclusion that no treatment would enable us to keep Ariel comfortable any longer. They advised that the most merciful thing for us to do was to let her go.

Yesterday afternoon, under a beautiful tree with the sun shining down, a small handful of people who knew Ariel closely and loved her so deeply gathered together. These individuals were there for ALL of us, to ensure Ariel's final moments on this earth were filled with the utmost love, compassion and kindness.

There are as many Ariel stories as there are people who came into contact with her. Walking around the neighborhood in north Arlington, you would invariably meet some stranger in the most random of places – on the sidewalk, in the local pet store, or even at an outdoor restaurant -- who knew Ariel. Indeed, one dog out of millions can remind us about humanity and our human-ness: how to love one another, how to treat one another, and how to live and enjoy your life. Despite our best efforts, she had not yet found

her forever home, but she had managed to find a permanent place in our hearts.

Ariel is now free, in a place where she now knows nothing but peace, love, healing, has all the tennis balls a girl could want, and most importantly, has no more pain. Rest easy sweet Ariel - you'll be forever in our hearts.

Interested in becoming a foster pet-parent for LDCRF? Check out their website at lost-dogrescue.org and click "Foster."

ArPets is a weekly feature for highlighting stories of the pets of Arlington, rescues available for adoption and related stories.

If you live in Arlington, VA and would like to be considered for inclusion in the Connection Newspapers special Thanksgiving ArPets feature, please email joan@joanbradyphotography.com and tell me, in one-to-two sentences, why you are thankful for your pet.

Please include your pet's name, breed/kind, age, the name of your Arlington neighborhood as well as your full name and the names of other family members in your household, as appropriate. Make sure to snap a quick photo of your pet with/without other family members and send in high resolution. Deadline: Nov. 18, 2020.

Joan is an award-winning Connection Newspapers columnist and local photographer specializing in pets, children and families and contemporary business portraits.

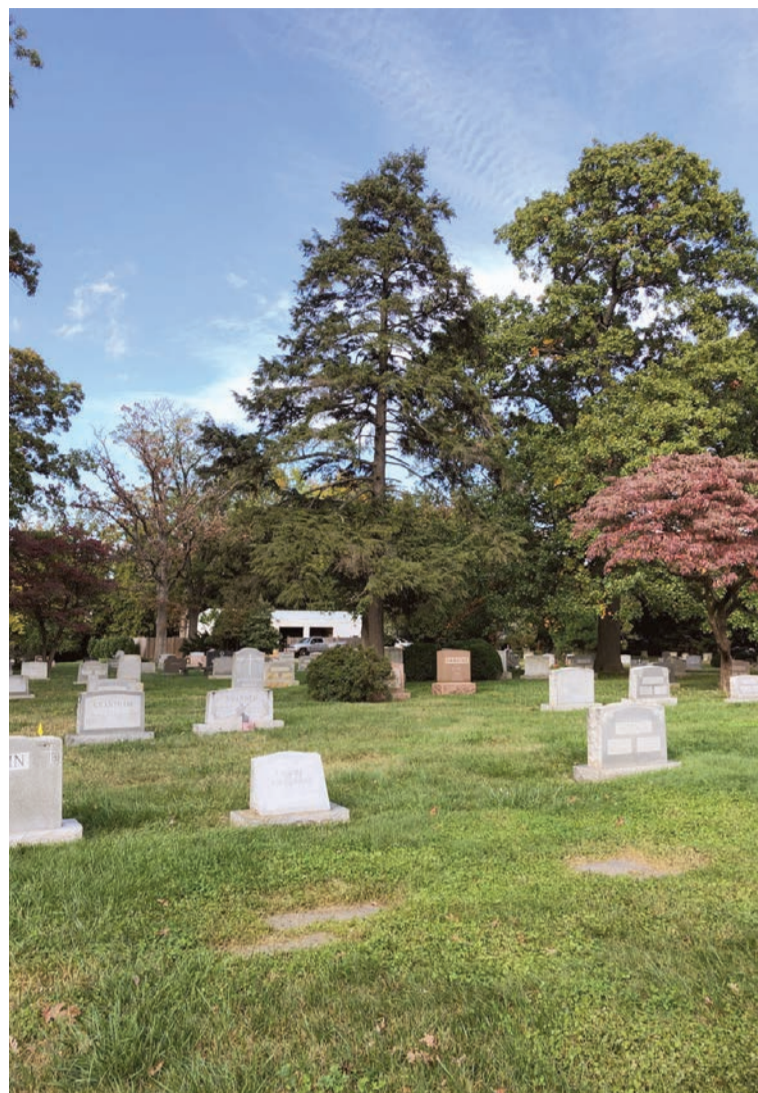
PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



Carol Simpson joined the Tree Stewards two years ago because she “just really likes trees;” she was pleased to be able to identify some of the trees because of her training as a tree steward. Other trees were harder to find but there were clues left on the ground.



Kurt Moser a local environmentalist and educator is also a Tree Steward; he signed up tree steward volunteers to tag trees and guided them through the process. Here he double checks his list with Simpson as the volunteer session ends.



Columbia Gardens is a little known refuge right on the border of North and South Arlington. It has arboretum status and a prized rose garden.

Columbia Gardens Cemetery In Arlington is a Tree Sanctuary

Tree Stewards help label trees; some are ‘unusual.’

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

When a Tree Steward finishes the training course to become a steward, they are supposed to know how to identify a tree, in any season. That sometimes proves a bit of a challenge, but the group of volunteers Kurt Moser signed up to tag trees in Columbia Gardens on Friday, Oct. 23 was not easily daunted. Asked to tag a Redbud, one volunteer looked around and admitted

she’d only ever seen a Redbud in the Spring. They look completely different in the Fall. Another said in a very certain tone when asked to find a Sweet Gum, “I’ve got this. That’s easy.” Faced with the stand of trees, she sheepishly admitted she wasn’t a hundred percent sure. And then there was the missing Himalayan Deodar.

Fortunately, the group’s leader was a tree connoisseur. Kurt Moser, an environmentalist and educator in Arlington, and also a volunteer Tree Steward, knew what to look for and opened up his “little black book”

which was complete with his own sketches and sample leaves, proof that learning how to identify trees is an effort. By the time they had completed the task, they had identified roughly 30 trees, many of them unusually large or beautiful specimens. One of Moser’s favorites is the Blackjack Oak in the corner of the cemetery. Another impressive tree is the Lebanon Cedar.

Columbia Gardens is a private cemetery which recently celebrated its 100th anniversary. It has been owned and maintained by the same family since its founding in 1917.

It is a peaceful refuge open to Arlington citizens year round. Throughout its history, Columbia Gardens has been dedicated to the planting, preservation and stewardship of trees and woody plants on the property. It has accreditation as an arboretum. To read more about the gardens, and to learn about some of the famous people interred in the cemetery, see: www.columbiagardenscemetery.org

To learn more about the Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria and their next training cycle, see: www.treestewards.org

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

through movement and art.

Tuition: \$45. For Scholarship information or to enroll at www.janefranklin.com or call 703-933-1111.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Saluting Independence. 10-11:30 a.m. Virtual. Join in Saluting Independence on Nov. 11, a virtual event that honors our veterans and raises support and awareness for Canine Companions for Independence. Free. Visit the website: www.cci.org/salutingindependence. Registration is required to receive access to the event. Register at www.cci.org/salutingindependence

lutingindependence

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Savory Soiree in the Secret Garden – “Autumn Variations.” 5 and 8 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Join in a “Savory Soiree” in the Secret Garden for an elegant evening of gourmet four-course dinner paired with wine and live music by composers sharing a birthday on November 14th: Johann Nepomuk Hummel, Fanny Mendelssohn, Aaron Copland and Buckwheat Zydeco, played by internationally acclaimed pianist Marianna Prjevalskaya. Cost is \$149. More details and tickets on website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/2020/10/19/savory-soiree/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Ken & Brad Kolodner Trio. 2 p.m. Featuring Ken Kolodner, hammered dulcimer | Brad Kolodner, banjo | Alex Lacquement, upright bass. Welcome Thanksgiving with a uniquely American program that celebrates the traditions of American music and crosses the boundaries of Old-Time, Bluegrass and American Roots music. At The Rectory on Princess St, 711 Princess St, Alexandria. Visit <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts-2/>

SATURDAY/NOV. 21

The Enchanted Forest. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Virtual event. Presented by the Junior League of Northern Virginia. The Enchanted Forest is a

one-day holiday festival featuring whimsical holiday trees available for silent auction, live entertainment, visits with Santa, activities for children, and much more. Additional premium virtual events are also available. Visit the website: <https://www.jlnv.org/tef/>

THE BIRCHMERE

The Birchmere in Alexandria is reopening with limited capacity. During the public health emergency, there will be a \$25 food and beverage minimum and a \$5 Covid fee. There will be no bar service and no gathering in the stage or bar areas. Customers will be escorted to their seats, and those without reserved seats will be seated by staff to ensure social distancing.

Schedule of Shows:

Fri/Sat. Nov. 13 & 14: Paula Poundstone (Two Nights!)
Sun. Nov. 15: Alex Bugnon
Wed/Thu. Nov. 18 & 19: Tab Benoit (Two Nights!)
Fri. Nov. 20: Bobby Thompson & Friends
Sat. Nov. 21: Brandon “Taz” Niederauer
Sun. Nov. 22: Al Green Tribute
Wed. Nov. 25: Bela Dona
Fri. Nov. 27: The Seldom Scene & Dry Branch Fire Squad
Sat. Nov. 28: Charles Esten
The venue is located at 3701 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. All shows at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Hall. Visit the Birchmere’s website: <http://www.birchmere.com/>

The Pandemic Election

FROM PAGE 3

Warner called on Republicans and Democrats to put the divisive campaign in the past and look ahead to surviving the health risks posed by the pandemic and the economic uncertainty caused by the downturn.

“The only way we’re going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united,” said Warner, speaking to a room of journalists and staffers. “That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse.”

For now, though, the political discourse remains at a fever pitch. At press time, the presidential election is unresolved. Two hotly contested congressional seats in Virginia are too close to call. And lawyers are preparing for a season of legal challenges and trench warfare in the courts challenging state election laws on signature matches and late-arriving mail-in absentee ballots. Nevertheless, Republicans are facing an uncertain future in a state that has gone from ruby red to deep blue.

“They have to denounce Trumpism,” said former Republican Del. David Ramadan (R-87), who is now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. “They have to denounce white supremacy and go back to the basics of conservative principles versus winking at white supremacy and nationalism.”

“They have to denounce Trumpism,” said former Republican Del. David Ramadan (R-87), who is now at the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. “They have to denounce white supremacy and go back to the basics of conservative principles versus winking at white supremacy and nationalism.”

FOR VIRGINIA, the most important result of the election might end up being the amendment creating the new constitutional amendment. It was an issue that split Democrats in



Elections can be driven by bumper-sticker politics and driveway moments.

Virginia, with Senate Democrats supporting the amendment and House Democrats mostly in opposition. FairMapsVA, which supported the amendment, raised more than \$2 million to support the ballot initiative.

Fair Districts, which opposed the amendment, accused the campaign of using big money donors to tilt the outcome.

“Our campaign was truly a grassroots campaign that was outspent over 50 to 1 by out-of-state dark money groups and was fighting an uphill battle against biased language on the ballot meant to gain votes for the measure,” the statement said. “The people who pushed Amendment 1 know of its flaws, and it is now incumbent upon them to seek real solutions to fix those flaws, not just

lip-service efforts like ‘consideration’ of Virginia’s diversity.”

Arlington voted 67,484 against the amendment and 55,228 votes in favor, but it passed in Virginia overall with 65 percent of the vote.

“The only way we’re going to be able to defeat that and truly build back better is if Americans become united. That means ending the kind of attack rhetoric and mean-spiritedness that too often has infected our political discourse.”

— Sen. Mark Warner



So many people voted early, nobody waited long enough to look like this on Election Day.

Now that voters have approved of the new Virginia Redistricting Commission, retired circuit court judges from across Virginia will be sending resumes to the Virginia Supreme Court. The chief judge of the court has until Nov. 15 to select a list of 10 judges to submit to the General Assembly, where Democrats in the House and Senate get to pick two judges and Republicans in the House and Senate get to pick two judges. Those four judges will select a fifth judge to complete the panel, and they will select citizen members from a list submitted by the General Assembly. The deadline for candidates to file for office is March 25, which means maps must be finished by then.

“The legislators cannot control or override the citizen voices as six of the eight citizen

members must vote for any map for it to be approved,” said state Sen. George Barker (D-39), who was one of the leading voices in support of the amendment. “Additionally, the voting rules also preclude the types of outcomes we have had previously because the maps cannot unduly favor either political party.”

The redistricting amendment was not the only successful ballot initiative on the ballot. Voters across Virginia also approved an amendment creating tax breaks for veterans. Voters in Fairfax approved bonds for transportation, libraries, parks and health and human services. In Norfolk, voters approved a new waterfront resort and casino, which will be built by the Pamunkey Indian Tribe on the Elizabeth River next to Harbor Park.

Reform Bills Signed into Law

BY KEN MOORE
GAZETTE PACKET

Gov. Ralph Northam signed new laws earlier this month, including House Bill 5055 and Senate Bill 5035, which empower localities to create civilian law enforcement review boards. These new laws also permit civilian review boards the authority to issue subpoenas and make binding disciplinary decisions. Northam signed Senate Bill 5014, which mandates the creation of minimum crisis intervention training standards and requires law enforcement officers complete crisis intervention training.

Senate Bill 5030, omnibus police reform legislation, incorporates a number of criti-

cal reform measures passed by the House of Delegates including:

House Bill 5099 prohibits law enforcement officers from seeking or executing no-knock search warrants, making Virginia the third state to do so.

House Bill 5069 limits the circumstances in which law enforcement officers can use neck restraints.

House Bill 5029 requires law enforcement officers to intervene when they witness another officer engaging or attempting to engage in the use of excessive force.

House Bill 5049 reduces the militarization of police by prohibiting law enforcement from obtaining or using specified equipment, including grenades, weaponized air-

craft, and high caliber firearms.

House Bill 5109 creates statewide minimum training standards for law enforcement officers, including training on awareness of racism, the potential for biased profiling, and de-escalation techniques.

House Bill 5104 mandates law enforcement agencies and jails request the prior employment and disciplinary history of new hires.

House Bill 5108 expands and diversifies the Criminal Justice Services Board, ensuring that the perspectives of social justice leaders, people of color, and mental health providers are represented in the state’s criminal justice policymaking.

House Bill 5051 strengthens the process

by which law enforcement officers can be decertified and allows the Criminal Justice Services Board to initiate decertification proceedings.

House Bill 5045 makes it a Class 6 felony for law enforcement officers to “carnally know” an arrestee or detainee.

Governor Northam also signed Senate Bill 5018 which allows individuals serving a sentence for certain felony offenses who are terminally ill to petition the Parole Board for conditional release; and amended House Bill 5148 and Senate Bill 5034 which allow for increased earned sentencing credits. The Governor proposed a six-month delay to give the Department of Corrections sufficient time to implement this program.

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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

HOME LIFE STYLE

Thanksgiving Decor In the Era of Covid-19

Creating dining elegance at a distance.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Naomi Patterson's Thanksgiving table is usually set with linen dinner napkins, cleaned and starched, and her wedding china, ecru with a platinum border. The guests include her 88-year old mother and a host of cousins. This year, she's debating a change.

"My mother is healthy, but because of her age, I'm nervous about having her around other people, especially my cousins who are in college," said Patterson who lives in Bethesda. "I still want it to be nice and I want to maintain our traditions."

Like many families, Covid-19 and the resulting safety precautions have changed the way they will celebrate Thanksgiving. Elaborate feasts might be scaled down, moved outdoors or held virtually. Though the structure is different, style needn't be sacrificed.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?"

— Anne Walker, interior designer and owner of Farm and Feast

"Outdoor entertaining has been on the rise for a decade, but now more than ever outside is the place to be," said Potomac based designer Anne Walker of outdoor home accessories and design company Farm & Feast. "Whether you have a formal outdoor living room complete with stone fireplace and patio, or a balcony outside your apartment, or something in between, your Thanksgiving holiday will be most successful this year if you gather outside."

If the temperature is mild this year, a turkey dinner outdoors can allow one to achieve both elegance and safety.

"Shouldn't your dinner al fresco be just as lovely as the one you host in your formal dining room?" asks Walker. "What could be better than enjoying a cocktail and some wine and cheese en plein air?"

Durable and shatterproof serve wear is a must when dining outdoors, suggests Walker. "Enjoying hors d'oeuvres from a marble and wood rustic cheese board and wine from a silicone-wrapped outdoor wine glass will lift your spirits, as will wrapping yourself in an organic cotton throw to stave off the chill in the fall air," she said.

When setting an outdoor table, consider rustic accessories so that the design flows with the natural surroundings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNE WALKER

An al fresco Thanksgiving dinner can maintain safety without sacrificing elegance.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA QUEEN DESIGN

A traditional table setting can add warmth to virtual Thanksgiving celebration.

"Spray paint a fallen tree branch or tumbleweed in gold or a similar warm autumn tone and use it as a centerpiece, suggested Lisa Queen of Lisa Queen Design. "Nest it with candles, small pumpkins, and other soft decor to bring it to life."

Add warmth to a virtual celebration by using traditional table accessories. "We brought some additional character to our table by mixing antique brass napkin rings," said Queen. "Not everything needs to match, and this is one way to make a tablescape feel unique and curated."

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 5

of the church).
Pet Food Bank. AWLA is establishing a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYwDZm4tPw2.

GET MORE WITH SNAP

Arlington and Alexandria Farmers' Markets accept SNAP/EBT (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cards for purchases. SNAP/EBT customers can purchase farm fresh produce at local area farmers' markets and get matching bonus tokens to add to their purchases. Virginia Cooperative will be on-site at several local farmers' markets of Alexandria and Arlington to provide more information on SNAP and offer food tastings, prizes and more at the Arlington Farmers' Market, N. 14th and Courthouse Road (second Saturday of the month) and Columbia Pike Farmers' Market, 2820 Columbia Pike (third Sunday of the month).

ONGOING

Online Salary Negotiation Workshop. AAUW (American Association of University Women) Work Smart is free online for anyone looking to learn how to negotiate a salary increase or promotion. Why is negotiation so important? AAUW's research on the gender pay gap shows that, one year out of college, women are already paid significantly less than men. Visit salary.aauw.org.

Create a Wildlife Sanctuary. The Audubon at Home Wildlife Sanctuary certification program assists homeowners in restoring their home's natural habitat by providing information on sustainable gardening practices. These practices include using native plants, removing invasive species, reducing use of pesticides and fertilizers, and creating space for native flora and fauna. Visit audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1/ for more.

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqueland at 703-228-0913 or esiqueland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

Monthly Memory Café. 1-3 p.m. at 7910 Andrus Road, Suite 6, Alexandria. The Memory Café, a social gathering for individuals living with memory loss and their families, will be held on the first Friday of every month. Registration is free and highly recommended to reserve spots, which are open on a first come first served basis.

To reserve a spot, please call 571-210-5551 or email bdesai@seniorhelpers.com. Visit www.dementiacare-connections.com/memory-cafe or www.seniorhelpers.com/arlington-alexandria-va for more.

Walk-Fit. Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Fashion Center at Pentagon City, Arlington. Participants walk at their own pace in a safe and friendly environment.

Group stretch and cool down led by Virginia Hospital Center staff at 9:15 a.m. Meet on the first level by Nordstrom. Call 703-558-6859.

Arlington County, in partnership with the Human Rights Commission's Equality Task Force, has launched a web page with resources for the LGBTQ community. The new webpage compiles LGBTQ resources on a variety of topics, including homelessness and housing, domestic violence and sexual assault, and health. There are also topics specifically for teens and youth — such as scholarship opportunities and school clubs — as well as ones targeted at seniors and older adults, such as SAGE. Visit topics.arlingtonva.us/lgbtq-resources.

Aging Matters. 2-3 p.m. Tuesdays on WERA 96.7 LP FM on Arlington's community radio station. Each week host Cheryl Beversdorf interviews individuals with expertise about a broad array of aging related topics affecting the lives of older adults and their loved ones. Visit www.facebook.com/agingmatterswera to listen to programs.

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. First Tuesday of the month, 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary.

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As Second Opinions Go ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... it was first rate. A confirmation - of sorts that I have (and have had in all likelihood) thyroid cancer and not non small cell lung cancer. And I say 'sorts' because the medical records transferred did not include the original pathologist's report on the tissue sample taken in 2009 and not all the scans from the nearly 12 years of treatment either. Nevertheless, this second oncologist summarized my cancer as being thyroid; partially because I'm still alive. Generally speaking, lung cancer patients don't survive years beyond their prognosis. Addition by subtraction you might say. Unfortunately, lung cancer does what it does: grows, and when it doesn't, it's reason to consider another diagnosis. My primary oncologist had often said that the tumors in my lungs never acted as he had anticipated.

Good news then. Great news. I don't have the "terminal" cancer with which I was originally diagnosed. I guess that explains why I have lived so many years past the "13 month to two year" prognosis that I was initially given in late Feb., 2009. Rather than having an incurable disease: non small cell lung cancer stage IV, I now have papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. Hopefully, I will be able to live with it much as I had lived with the apparent lung cancer" day by day, scan to scan. However, the day to day stress may be less because the worst case is not necessarily a scenario that I have to anticipate. Granted, it's still cancer, and from what I was told, still incurable, but for the moment, very treatable. Surgery is likewise not an option and there is still medication - with side effects, that will remain part of my life, but there is life that remains. Moreover, there also remains regularly scheduled CT scans and lab work that will monitor my condition. And it is not until I receive the results from these diagnostic procedures that I can truly appreciate the change in my diagnosis.

It's not that I don't trust this second opinion, it's more that I've spent the last nearly 12 years thinking one way and changing how I think now after one 45-minute appointment is not quite how I can roll.

Besides, my thyroid cancer has metastasized to the lung. And though it has been slow moving, it has moved. And it is rare. At present, it is responding to the medication but there are no guarantees in the cancer business, and I will continue to live from one scan to the next. I am grateful to be out from underneath, apparently, this terrible weight of fear and inevitability. However, as a long-time cancer patient, I can't simply presume that life resumes as per usual, with per-usual being a pre-cancer-type life. Regardless of now being a thyroid cancer patient and not a non small cell lung cancer patient, I still am a cancer patient. As such, I still retain all the feelings and anxieties. I will still attend all the meetings, if you know what I mean? I can't simply disconnect or forget all that I've endured these past 11-plus years

And lo and behold, I have a CT scan this Wednesday. By the end of the week, I will likely learn if my newly diagnosed thyroid cancer is still responding to treatment or whether there is something rotten in Denmark (me being Denmark). Even though I have a new working diagnosis - thyroid cancer, which on the face of it, is much less serious, I can't approach my life any differently than I did before. Cancer is in charge, and until it tells me, so to speak, via scans and lab work, that it's OKAY to breath normally, I won't be able to. Now more than ever, almost, even with this new information, I can't forget where I've been and what I've been told. It was lung cancer once. Perhaps, it can be again. For the moment, I'm going to try and enjoy my new-found status. But with the incomplete medical records painting a less-than-definitive picture, I will go along with the second oncologist's assessment, but only from a distance. Unfortunately, having been told one thing before, and now being told another very different thing, doesn't change the facts on my ground. I still have cancer.

And it's still incurable. That problem remains.

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

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