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Suffragist Memorial Construction Makes Progress

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Turning Point Suffragist Memorial is under construction in Lorton with expected completion in Spring 2021. Called 'silent sentinels,' suffragists in this country used only peaceful demonstrations to promote the cause of women's voting rights.

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Suffragist Memorial Construction Makes Progress

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

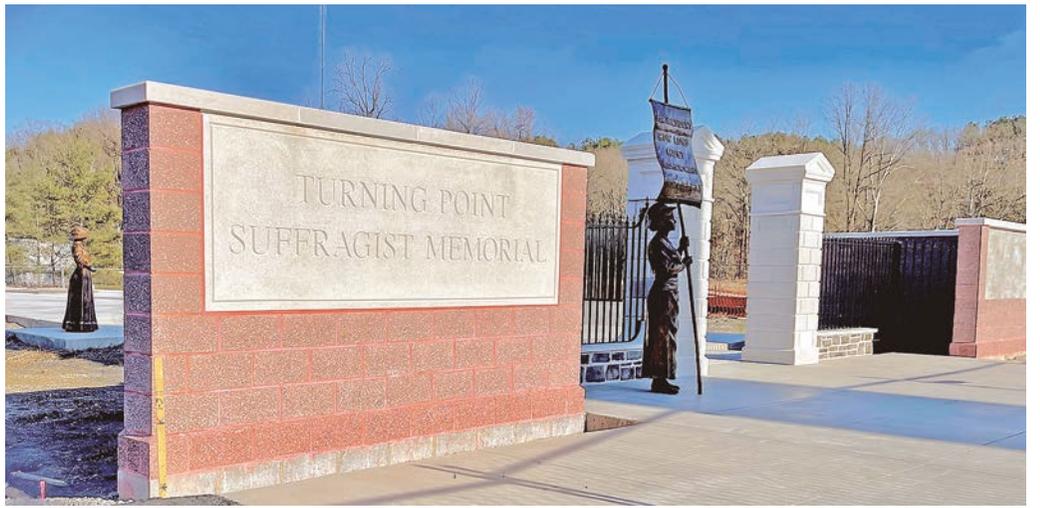
Those visiting Occoquan Regional Park, Lorton, can see progress toward completion of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. Replica White House gates, statuary, pavement and the main sign marker are now visible upon reaching the area opposite the park's main event building. When completed, tentatively this Spring, the memorial, with statuary and garden, will honor suffragists and their success in gaining women's right to vote in 1917.

The peaceful actions of those women stand in stark contrast to the unsuccessful violent actions of those who sought to disrupt the certification of votes of the Electoral College at the Capital last week. Says Patricia Wirth, Executive Di-

rector/CEO of the Turning Point Memorial Association, "Suffragists engaged in peaceful demonstrations, and never perpetrated violence, although they did have violence perpetrated against them." They were often referred to as "silent sentinels" for their peaceful, quiet demonstrations in the capital city. The Memorial site stands near where several suffragists were jailed and force fed after their arrest for holding banners containing messages promoting voting rights on the sidewalk outside the White House.

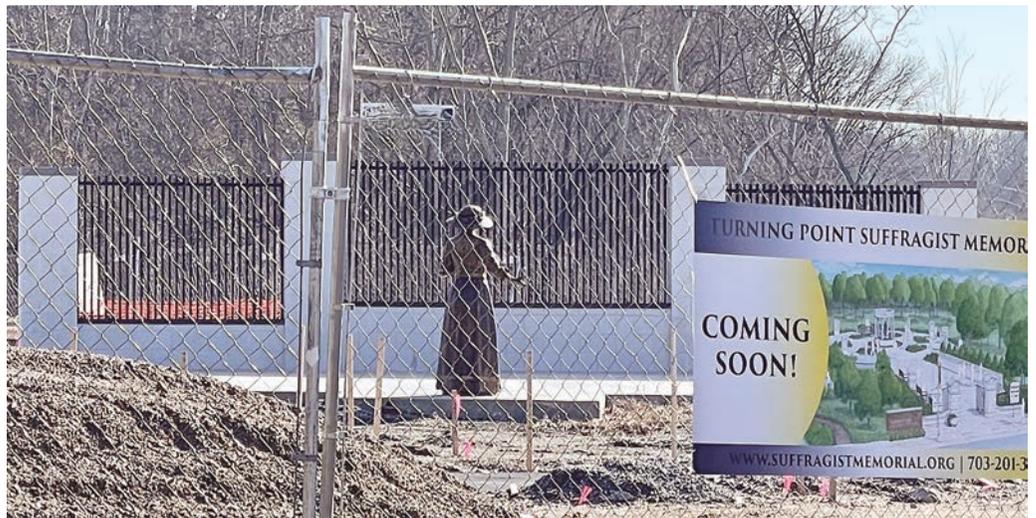
Citizens reacted negatively after hearing of the poor treatment of suffragists in the Lorton jail, a reaction which helped the suffragist cause.

For donations, and more memorial and historical information, readers are directed to www.suffragistmemorial.org.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Replicas of the White House gates and fence form the entrance to the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial.



Site of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial under construction with expected completion in Spring 2021.

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Mike Toth working with his multispectral imaging system in Historic Blenheim's parlor.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



Andrea Loewenwarter points out some of the patriotic Civil War graffiti.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'Using 21st-Century Technology on a 19th-Century House'

Uncovering Civil War graffiti at Fairfax's Historic Blenheim.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At Fairfax City's Historic Blenheim, technology is meeting history, and Mike Toth is the modern-day archaeologist making it happen. But he's not using a pick and shovel – his tools are a camera, a variety of lights and a computer.

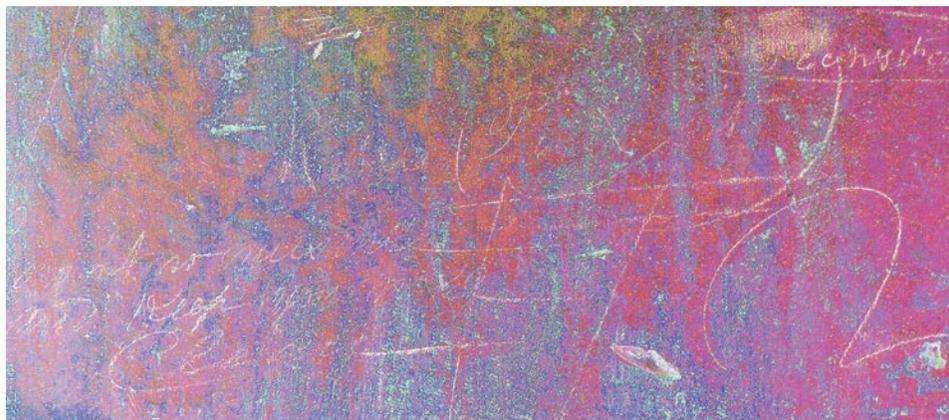
Built in 1859, the brick farmhouse contains messages and drawings done by Union soldiers during the Civil War. And by using a technique called multispectral imaging, Toth is literally bringing these images to light so they may be viewed and preserved.

He's president of Oakton-based R.B. Toth Associates, which uses advanced, digital technology to support cultural-heritage conservation throughout the globe. Yet he discovered something that amazed even him, without going far.

"I normally travel 50,000-100,000 miles/year, around the world," said Toth. "And here – 5 miles from my home – is probably the most unique, historic site I've ever worked in. It's because of the variety, in that every surface and portion of a surface of a wall is different. And the writing is in charcoal, graphite and sepia-colored waxy crayon."

His work there is funded by a nearly \$20,000 grant Blenheim received from the National Park Service's National Center for Preservation, Technology and Training. Only

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One of Mike Toth's multispectral images shows graffiti on the wall at the bottom of the stairs.

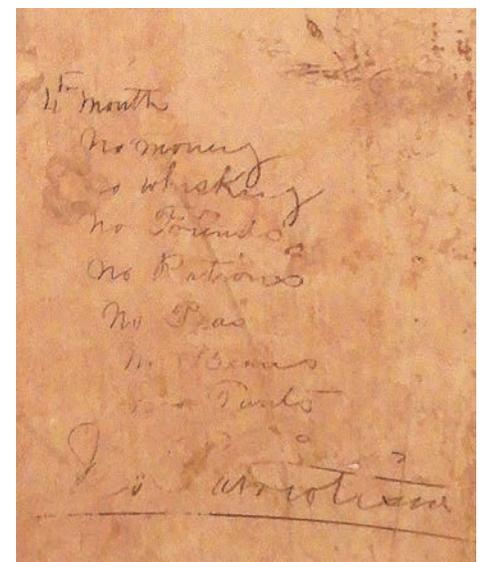
PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE TOTH

11 projects in nine states were selected for this grant.

Blenheim's one-year project is building on research Toth began there last year. And ultimately, Blenheim will be a model for the application of digital, noninvasive methods of revealing and preserving historic information on walls already affected by various environmental and manmade events.

ALSO INVOLVED is Historic Blenheim's site manager, Andrea Loewenwarter, Fairfax City's historic resources specialist. Since 1998, she's led the deciphering, research and interpretation of Blenheim's graffiti.

"The Scott family was the last descendant of the Willcoxon family, which built the house," said Loewenwarter. "Barbara and Bill Scott lived here from 1962 until their deaths in 1987, and their descendants lived here until 1997." The City took ownership of the house in 1999.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

A saddened soldier wrote, "4th Month: No money, no whiskey, no friends, no rations, no peas, no beans, no pants, no patriotism."

– the colors of the rainbow – but we can't see the ultraviolet and infrared lights," explained Toth. "So here, we're breaking up the spectrum into narrow wavelengths of light to capture a photo of each wavelength. Then each wavelength – especially the ultraviolet and infrared ones – gives us information about what the camera's seeing."

In essence, Toth uses his specialized camera to take photos with different colors of light – and at different levels of brightness – to reveal what the naked eye can't see. For example, he said, "Carbon inks respond best to infrared light." And he controls the lights and camera via his computer.

His system comprises a 100-megapixel, black-and-white camera; two LED light panels – each emitting 16 different wavelengths; a filter wheel for fluorescent shots; plus computer software that integrates all these elements and drives the system.

"We're also learning how the walls were preserved in the past," said Loewenwarter. "And we're ascertaining from the images what conservation methods are best to use in the future. We want to preserve the walls' integrity and prevent deterioration."

She then pointed out some of the visible graffiti. "In modern-day England, there are

"The graffiti was always visible in the attic," said Loewenwarter. "Then in 2002, the City found a 1964 entry in Barbara's diary. It was about her retracing an image she thought was a drawing of [Confederate commander John] Mosby. It wasn't, but it made us wonder what else was on the walls."

So in 2006, the City hired a wallpaper conservator to remove the wallpaper from the first and second floors. Another specialist removed several layers of paint from the walls to get to the graffiti underneath.

"So all these things are challenges for Mike because there are so many different materials on the wall that affect how visible the graffiti is and the results he gets with his light," said Loewenwarter. "This is huge for us because we're a small city, so it's wonderful to have this grant to further our research and understanding of this site."

So what is multispectral imaging? "The human eye sees a visible, color spectrum

SEE BLENHEIM. PAGE 7

Northam: 'Time to Legalize Marijuana'

Virginia looking to be the first state in the south with legalized marijuana.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Legalizing marijuana around the country has moved forward in recent years, and Virginia could be on the agenda this month as the General Assembly gathers in Richmond to kick off 2021.

Governor Ralph Northam opened the discussion in November. "It's time to legalize marijuana in Virginia," said Northam. "Our Commonwealth has an opportunity to be the first state in the South to take this step, and we will lead with a focus on equity, public health, and public safety. I look forward to working with the General Assembly to get this right," he said.

It's not just to catch a buzz either, according to the governor's office. There are many advantages to adult-use legalization, including addressing social and racial equity and creating economic development opportunities for historically

disadvantaged Virginians, agribusiness industries, and localities. In addition, the tax revenues can benefit both localities and the entire state while providing funding to support the establishment of a comprehensive program, education, and public health campaigns, along with addressing inequities that exist due to the criminalization of marijuana.

"According to a report issued [in November] by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) that I chair, over the past decade law enforcement in Virginia has made between 20,000 and 30,000 marijuana-related arrests," said Del. Ken Plum. "Though Black and white Virginians use marijuana at about the same rate, JLARC found Black Virginians are 3.5 times as likely to be arrested and convicted. JLARC also found that it would take two years and between \$8 million and \$20 million to set up a commercial marijuana market in Virginia and that it could ultimately

generate \$300 million in annual sales tax revenue."

WASHINGTON STATE, a state similar in size to Virginia, netted nearly \$400 million in tax revenues from legal marijuana in 2019, said State Sen. Adam Ebbin. "Equitable reform demands appropriate safety regulations, support for disparately-impacted communities, and a structure for taxation," Ebbin said in a recent column. "Legal cannabis should support Virginia's small businesses, not simply pad the pockets of massive corporations. Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned (SWaM) businesses can play a critical role in the entire supply chain including farming, processing, and brick and mortar sales."

Included with Northam's plan to legalize adult-use marijuana were five principles he will address, he said. These include: Social equity, racial equity, and economic equity; Public health; Protections for young people; Upholding the Virginia Indoor Clean Air Act; Data collection.

The ACLU of Virginia advocates



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Virginia NORML's Tamara Netzel, is the first customer at the recently-opened Columbia Care Portsmouth, for medically distributed cannabis.

for legalization, with specific key concerns. "Lawmakers must remove all penalties for marijuana possession and automatically expunge conviction records for all crimes that no longer are illegal. ... People younger than age 18 should not be considered delinquent — and legalization should not continue to fuel the school-to-prison

pipeline, leading to another generation of Black and brown kids and young adults being criminalized."

Northam put together a task force on legalizing marijuana, consisting of representatives from the Virginia State Police, the Attorney General's office, and NORML, the

SEE MARIJUANA, PAGE 5

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Marijuana Legalization is a Goal of the Governor

FROM PAGE 4

National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, among others. One focus of the task force was a look at the way other states that have dealt with it. This included Colorado, California, Oregon, Washington, and Massachusetts. The task force had a “robust discussion with experts from these states in the Marijuana Legalization Work Group,” said Bradley Copenhagen, the Virginia Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry.

The task force put together a 482-page report, “Impact on the Commonwealth of Legalizing the Sale and Personal Use of Marijuana,” dated Nov. 30, 2020. One of the things this report addressed was concerns about preventing access by the underage crowd. This includes limiting the “proximity of marijuana retailers to schools and other youth-focused places and minimize marketing to youth,” the report said. This includes reducing the appeal of packaging “and that advertisements must be a certain distance (e.g. 1,000 feet) from schools and community centers,” it states.

NORML is monitoring Virginia’s step forward in this process. They look at the support from Governor Northam, State Attorney Mark Herring and House Majority Leader Charniele Herring. Jenn Michelle Pedini, the Virginia NORML Executive Director, released recommendations to lawmakers last month on how Virginia should go about legalizing adult use marijuana. Among their recommendations, NORML said tax revenue on adult-use cannabis in Virginia could yield \$300 million annually and create 11,000 jobs by year five.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This marijuana retail store in Seattle, Washington is an example of a possible retail outlet that could be coming to Virginia (Source-Lux Pot Shop Ballard).

TO ADDRESS social equity, Virginia could use some tax revenue to support reinvestment programs for communities most impacted by the drug war. Legislators could also prevent vertical integration and provide loans for small businesses, NORML said.

On the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, there has been a mixed bag of support for this effort. In the Braddock District, Supervisor James Walkinshaw (D) has been for legalization, looking at the number of arrests as an equality issue. “As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors’ Legislative Committee, I advocated in Richmond for our Board’s support of cannabis decriminalization. Personally, I have always supported legalization. Arrests for simple possession of marijuana are one of the most significant drivers of the disproportionality of arrests here and across the nation. The data is quite clear that white Americans and Black Americans use marijuana at similar rates, but Black Americans are much more likely to be arrested for doing so. Marijuana prohibition laws have cost Ameri-

can taxpayers untold billions and devastated millions of families. It’s a failed policy that should end,” Walkinshaw said.

In Mount Vernon, Supervisor Dan Storck “has been generally supportive of legalization,” for a long time, he said.

According to Springfield District supervisor Pat Herrity (R), there are more important issues facing county residents. He looks at Virginia’s pandemic response numbers on John Hopkins Tracking list, for the number of vaccines administered in Virginia. “Virginia is ranked 46th in the nation for administering the vaccine and 42nd in testing. ... Fairfax County residents need the Governor and General Assembly to focus on those critical efforts right now instead of political agendas,” he said.

George Mason University student Maritza Martinez thinks it’s a great idea, calling it a “step forward,” she said. “Weed isn’t that big of a deal,” she said.

Although it’s not alcohol, being under the influence of marijuana could impact driving skills, but “MADD doesn’t have a position on legalization,” said Cristi Cousins, M.Ed, MADD State Program Specialist.

Copenhagen said It could take 18–24 months after legislation is passed for retail sales of adult-use marijuana to take place. The Governor’s legislation will include considerations for density caps and local decision-making with regard to the allowance of retail marijuana locations.

For more, see:
www.governor.virginia.gov/virginia-marijuana-legalization-work-group/
<http://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2020-marijuana-legalization.asp>

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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

PUBLIC NOTICE

Section 4(f) de minimis Impact Towers Park

Route 29 Northbound Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvements

Fairfax County

Pursuant to the requirements of 23 CFR 774.5, notice is hereby given that the Virginia Department of Transportation is accepting written comments regarding Fairfax County Park Authority’s (FCPA) preliminary concurrence with the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Section 4(f) applicability criteria for de minimis impacts on FCPA parkland (e.g. Towers Park) as a result of the captioned project.

Review the Section 4(f) de minimis documentation on the project website (www.virginiadot.org/Route29BikePed) or by appointment only during business hours at VDOT’s Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 703-259-2424 or TTY/TDD 711 to make an appointment with appropriate personnel.

Submit your written comments to Mr. Steven Varner at the above address by **February 1, 2021**. You may also email meetingcomments@vdot.virginia.gov. Please reference “De Minimis Impact Towers Park” in the subject line.

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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

NEWS

Teacher Vaccinations Begin in Fairfax County

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

In accordance with State and local Health department groupings, teachers and school staff in Phase 1b began receiving vaccinations on Monday, Jan. 11. As essential front-line workers, along with police, fire and hazmat, corrections, and homeless shelter workers, teachers are among the first in Fairfax County to receive the vaccination in an effort to move toward reopening physical school attendance to all.

Some teachers were vaccinated over the weekend, leading to Monday's start of the full vaccination clinic, operated in a partnership between the Fairfax County Health Department and INOVA. The INOVA effort will provide vaccines for 40,000 Fairfax County Public Schools personnel. Appointments and pre-screen questionnaires are required for the closed clinics.

Other Phase 1b groups receiving vaccines in closed vaccine clinics include: adults age 75 and older, people living in correctional facilities and homeless shelters, first responders, childcare workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and mail carriers (US Postal Service and private). First priority Phase 1a vaccinations for healthcare personnel and long-term care facility residents began with the first receipt of vaccine.

The next group, Phase 1c, will include essential workers not listed in Phase 1b (including but not limited to utility, construction, and food service workers),



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS ADAMS

Fairfax Education Association President (FEA), Kimberly Adams, receives her Covid-19 vaccination jab on the first day of the closed vaccine clinic at INOVA

people aged 65-74, and people aged 16-64 with high risk medical conditions or disabilities.

Vaccinations now require a pre-registration screening and appointment. Officials indicate that vaccine will later be available as flu shots normally have been received, from doctors offices, health care providers, hospitals, and pharmacies. More information can be found on the Fairfax County Health Department website.

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Legals

ABC LICENSE
Adventure Concepts Ltd trading as Shadowland Family Entertainment Center, 5508 Franconia Rd, Alexandria VA 22310-2719. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Randall Briggs, Director. 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 or 800-552-3200.

Rotary Club Hosts Discussion on US, China Relations

"The US needs to stop thinking of China as a source of cheap goods and realize that China in fact is a threat to our economy and to our values," according to Clyde Prestowitz, a noted expert on Asia. Prestowitz spoke at the West Springfield Rotary Club's virtual meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 6 on US Chinese relations and the myths that have governed US policy.

In 2001 when China joined the World Trade Organization US leaders viewed this as an enormous step forward. They believed that free trade and access to the US and other countries' markets under most favored nation trade conditions would lead China to become democratic and that China would play by the international rules. In short a win-win situation.

Instead Prestowitz argues the Chinese Communist Party has become more autocratic and today is expanding its influence throughout the world. Additionally through such practices as technology theft and subsidization of its industries China has taken advantage of the US open market. The result has been a trade deficit of almost \$400 billion in 2018 and a loss of 5 million American jobs.

The biggest immediate threat today is China's ambition to bring democratic Taiwan under its control. This is a threat to nearby Japan, the Philippines and Australia and to the US. Prestowitz has written seven books on Asia and globalization. His eighth book, "The World Turned upside Down: America, China and the struggle for global leadership," will be available Jan. 26.

— BILL KRIST

CALENDAR

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"Winter's Tales." Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Winter can be many things--quiet, simple, elegant, cold, dark and hopeful. Winter's shadows are long and its daylight is precious. It is a season of white and blue, of cold and fire, of hibernation and regeneration. In "Winter's Tales" at the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic, the gallery's artists demonstrate in a variety of mediums how they respond to the coldest and darkest time of the year. The exhibit features beautiful paintings, fine art photography, ceramics, exquisite jewelry and fabric art.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

MCC 2021 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration. 7 p.m. Hosted by the Staff at The Alden, McLean. Virtual Book Discussion on "The Sound of Freedom: Marian Anderson, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Concert That Awakened America" by Raymond Arsenault. "The Sound of Freedom..." recounts the life of Black contralto Marian Anderson and her experience as a Black woman in the classical music field. Arsenault gives context to Anderson's historic 1939 concert at the Lincoln Memorial, drawing on her own words and those of scholars. They will discuss this book that celebrates civil

rights and the performing arts. Register online at www.aldentheatre.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

Interior Illustrations. 10 a.m. to noon. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Capture a moment in time with your artwork through the unique "Interior Illustrations" program at Sully Historic Site. During this program, you will have the chance to use graphite or pencils to relax and draw a historic interior at Sully. Focus on specific artifacts or capture the essence of life during the early 1800s. The program is designed for participants age 16 to adult. The cost is \$15 per person. Some supplies will be available. Social distancing and face coverings are required. Call 703-437-1794.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 13

The Unruly Theatre Project's Virtual Improv Show. 7 p.m. Join (the) Unruly Theatre Project's virtual fall improv shows from the comfort of your couch! Register online and a Zoom link and password for the show will be emailed to you. Participants must register two hours in advance of showtime. Register online at www.aldentheatre.org.

Uncovering Civil War Graffiti at Blenheim

FROM PAGE 3

signs saying, 'Commit no nuisance,' which means, 'Don't cause trouble or be annoying,'" said Loewenwarter. "And here, at the foot of the stairs, there's a series of cartoons by someone from the 4th New York Cavalry, Co. C, and the words, 'Commit no nuisance.'"

"That soldier drew cartoons all along that wall," she continued. "And at the top of the stairs, on the wall to the left, is what we call our Patriotism Series, where he talks about being patriotic."

AMONG THE ENTRIES there are the words, "Beginning of the war, very patriotic," with a drawing of a flag-waving man in civilian clothing. Next is written, "1st month, still

patriotic,' and showing an enlisted man standing at attention. Later that month, he wrote, "Hard bread, hard on patriotism," and drew a soldier sitting on a box, holding a tin cup and eating.

Loewenwarter believes a second-floor bedroom also contains graffiti and is eager to see what Toth's images there will yield for interpretation. "It's like historical archaeology," she said. "We're looking through layers of paint and wallpaper to make discoveries."

"I'm really excited about this because it's a whole new application of our technology," said Toth. "We're using 21st-century technology on a 19th-century house. And it's supporting scholarship, history and preservation, all rolled into one, truly unique project. We'll have huge amounts of data, and each image will tell a story."

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In Effect, a Trade



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Incurable but treatable non small cell lung cancer, stage IV for incurable but treatable papillary thyroid cancer stage IV. And though it may have taken a while to get re-diagnosed: nearly 11 years, the eagle, as they say, apparently has landed. Nevertheless, I'm glad to still be here. Let me amend that. After being given my first "terminal" diagnosis in late February, 2009, with an accompanying "13 month to two year" prognosis, I am glad to be anywhere. Still, it would have been preferred had I received the thyroid cancer diagnosis originally. If that had been the case, I might no longer be a cancer patient with an incurable form of papillary thyroid cancer. If I remember correctly, generally speaking, papillary thyroid cancer is called "the friendly cancer" because it's so curable. Not for me, and not now.

But "alas poor Yorick," papillary thyroid cancer was not my original diagnosis. As such, I have been treated and lived as a non small cell lung cancer stage IV patient whose life expectancy was shortening by the hour.

However, since I was being treated for lung cancer exclusively, my underlying/real cancer was left untreated - for 11 years. And sure enough, after 10 years or so, the thyroid cancer finally manifested itself with the appearance of my "adam's apple" tumor, as I called it. Left untreated for 11 years, it morphed, if that's even the right word, into a rare form of papillary cancer, the "terminal" kind. The thyroidectomy I had in late Jan. 2020 confirmed it once and for all.

And by "terminal" I mean, there is only one drug presently recommended, Lenvima, for my cancer, and its projected effectiveness is three years, give or take. So far the side effects have been fairly minimal and my first two quarterly CT scans since I began this regimen have shown tumor shrinkage. Very encouraging. However, as they say in the mutual fund business: "Past performance is not an indicator of future results." Therefore, though this trade was officially confirmed in the first quarter of this year, I still live and breathe - with somewhat shorter breath, from one CT scan result to the next. I may think I know how I feel, but not until I receive the results from the oncologist, electronically, will I truly know. This is when the rubber officially hits the road. The diagnostic scan results outweigh any feelings I may have on the subject. As is so happens, my next scan is scheduled for Jan. 13. I should have the results before the weekend. A timetable I've experienced many times since Feb. 20, 2009, the date of my original diagnosis.

The trade, unfortunately did not change this cycle. Nor has the situation of there being one drug available left to treat my cancer. I can remember more than once when my oncologist told me the drug he was prescribing was the last one he had confidence in to treat my lung cancer. Now, the drug I'm taking is also the last best choice available. Different from lung cancer drugs, when the drugs worked until they didn't, the thyroid cancer drug I'm taking has a three-year-ish effectiveness limit. After which, as we say in Boston, "it will be Katie bar the door." At the moment, there aren't any additional drugs to recommend. Given what I anticipated my life expectancy to be, considering the age to which both my parents lived, I would say my thyroid cancer is "terminal".

But that's a rabbit hole I'm not going down. Three years may not be a normal life expectancy (that would age me to 69), but it's ample time, I hope, for the cancer researchers to do their work. And I expect there will be some kind of progress even though the type of papillary thyroid cancer I have is not particularly common. Regardless, I will continue my routine of miscellaneous pills (upwards of 60 per day), alkaline water, lab work, scans, treatment and living my life on semi borrowed time. Granted, it's not ideal, but it's a life with which I'm extremely familiar. I have been there and I will continue to do that.

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

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