

The Arlington Connection

The reporter joins Karen Gerstbrein in jumping for joy after the jab at Lubber Run.

LUBBER RUN COMMUNITY CENTER

Celebrating the Jab

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Restorative Justice, Making a Difference

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ArPets: No One Came Looking

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PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

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ARpETS:

'No One Came Looking for Me'

BY JOAN BRADY
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

I got lost. And no one came looking for me. Well if they did, they didn't find me. And that's hard. But I'm only two, so I've decided to focus on the long life I have ahead and not spend time missing the past. To that end, I'm working on being my best self, so that I get picked.

Was that too subtle? To be clear, I really want someone wonderful to choose me. I've tried to be my absolute cutest for all of my pictures. And I've been working hard with Sam, the behavior associate at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. She tells me I'm an "absolute sweetheart" and she says she is very proud of my progress. I'm great on a leash, which is good, because I'm about 100 delicious pounds. They refer to me here as a bit of a "bull in a china shop." I guess that's fair. I've still got a bit of puppy in me and I'm a little clumsy. But I'm finding my feet better more and more each day.

The shelter has many kind people and I love them all, especially when they give me treats. I have them well trained. I'm very gentle when I take yummy snacks. That, of course, is to encourage them to give me more. But the staff is very busy and there's a lot of commotion here. And that stresses me out. What I wouldn't give for a quiet place with a soft couch and at least one special



I'm waiting
for you.

Pick me!

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ANIMAL
WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON

person who is all mine.

If you ask me, I'd love any home that has nice people who will want to cuddle with me and take me on long walks. But the experts here recommend that my new family be one without small children and other pets. Sam, who knows me best, says "I adore Diego and know that once he gets settled into a new home, he is going to be a great dog and someone's best friend!"

I'm ready. I'm waiting. And you can find me on the Animal Welfare League of Arlington's website. I can't wait to meet you.

ArPets is a weekly feature for highlighting the well-loved pets of Arlington as well as animals who are available for adoption. If you or your dog, cat, iguana, bunny, rat or any other pet, has an interesting pet story to tell, send email to: joan@joanbradyphotography.com.

Joan is an award-winning Connection

Interested in Adopting?

If you are interested in adding a cat, dog or small animal pet to your household, here are a few local rescue organizations who might be able to help you find your perfect match:

Animal Welfare League
of Alexandria
Animal Welfare League
of Arlington
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Lost Dog and Cat Rescue
Foundation
PetConnect Rescue
Wolf Trap Animal Rescue

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Intersection Improvements Needed in Crystal City

VDOT Multi Modal Study identifies places that need work to handle the new workforce.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

As part of the negotiations to bring Amazon to the area, the Commonwealth of Virginia agreed to make multimodal improvements to Route 1 in the Crystal City area that should improve safety, accessibility, and the pedestrian experience crossing Route 1. The Virginia Department of Transportation is leading that effort, conducting a multimodal improvements study to identify what is needed in this heavily built up and traveled area that is now known as “National Landing.”

A series of public information meetings are being held remotely to gather information and look at the various ways VDOT can improve the three intersections where improvements are needed for pedestrian, bike and automobile access.

“There’s going to be increased transportation demands,” said Dan Reinhard, the VDOT project manager on the project. “Not all of these goals are likely to be met perfectly,” Reinhard said before turning the meeting over to John Martin of the engineering company Kimley-Horn who has contracted with VDOT to finish the plans.

Currently, at the 15th Street, 18th Street and 20th Street intersections with Route One, there are disjointed ramps, crosswalks and side streets that are not pedestrian friendly, and for anyone going east-west from the Metro station and office buildings, it can be hazardous. VDOT laid out several scenarios for traffic, pedestrians and bike traffic to cross safely, keeping in mind that when Amazon fully arrives, they are expecting 25,000 more employees around that area.

“Livability22202” is a local group that consists of three civic associations, and they have been heavily involved with the plans.



This map shows the three major intersections engineers are looking at.

After the first public information meeting, Livability22202 wants VDOT to look at other options for Route One that will differ from bringing the road down to grade, they said on their website. “This is disappointing and we will continue to advocate for a variety of alternatives and emphasize safety issues for crossing Route 1 without making it a major highway,” their statement read.

Doing any kind of road construction through the middle of Crystal City will exacerbate the congestion, and John Martin of Kimley-Horn didn’t hide that fact. “There are a lot of construction challenges,” he said. The area is very limited, and there is little room for cranes and bulldozers that frequently dominate a road construction zone.

The traffic entering Crystal City will have to be slowed down to around 30 miles per hour, and somehow that will have to be communicated with drivers with something other than police cars and speeding tickets. Crystal City is in Arlington, and in Arlington, VDOT only does work on the highways and main arterials, so a new dialogue with the officials at Arlington County has opened in this area. “We are working closely with them,” said Martin.

Three scenarios they are looking at are a “Metroway,” that will improve traffic flow, a Bus Rapid Transit, and a sector plan grid of streets. This will convert Route One into an “urban boulevard,” Martin said.

Public comments are due by March 15, and there will be one more public information meeting before a plan is finalized.

Sidebar:

Complete the comment form at virginiadot.org/route1multimodalstudy

Email route1multimodalstudy@vdot.virginia.gov or

Send by mail to Mr. Dan Reinhard, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NOW THRU MARCH 14

The Shrooms. All Day. At Gateway Park North, 101 12th Street South, Crystal City. The National Landing Business Improvement District is partnering with Sydney-based light and design studio Amigo & Amigo to bring its next “Turn up the Love” pop-up experience to National Landing – “The Shrooms.” A larger-than-life immersive art installation, Shrooms is made up of 10 inflatable mushrooms that use bold contrasting and colored fabrics to engage visi-

tors. The eye-catching design will be illuminated at night, providing an optical display that can be enjoyed at any time of day.

NOW THRU MARCH 31

The Arlington Lions’ Club’s Citrus Direct-to-You Fundraising is winding-down but still open for ordering online thru March 31 along with maple products with shipping direct to customers. Order online citrus at nwarlionscitrus.fwffb.net; maple products at www.purintonmaple.com. Maple promo code “nwarlions” at check out. Call 703-528-1130 or text 703-772-3784.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 10

EcoAction Arlington’s Annual Meeting. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Via Zoom. The

theme this year is “Nurturing, Illuminating, and Preserving Nature in Arlington.” With welcoming remarks by Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County Board Chair, featured speaker Alonso Abugatas, Arlington County’s Natural Resources Manager, and virtual exhibits by local nature organizations. Visit the website: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/>

THURSDAY/MARCH 11

History of Firehouse 8 Discussion. 7-8:30 p.m. Virtual. In 1918 the Halls Hill Volunteer Fire Department was established with the twin burdens of protecting its community from fire and the institutional neglect and racism of Jim Crow. Visit the website: <https://arlington-historicalsociety.org>.

FRIDAY/MARCH 12

Vegetable Gardening Without Fear. 10 – 11:30 a.m. Online. This is the second half of our entry-level, step-by-step course on creating a vegetable garden. Join Extension Master Gardeners Susan Wilhelm and Dona Lee to learn about planting your garden; proper watering techniques; identifying and controlling weeds, pests and diseases; and harvesting your crops. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

SATURDAY/MARCH 13

Virtual Job Fair. 9 a.m. to noon. The Catholic Diocese of Arlington’s Office of Catholic Schools will hold a virtual job fair to fill up to 150 teaching positions. Positions are open in preschools, elementary, middle and high schools. There are

a total of 41 brick-and-mortar parish schools and diocesan high schools in the Diocese, as well as the newly created, fully virtual school, Saint Isidore of Seville. All 41 brick-and-mortar schools reopened for in-person or hybrid, in-person and virtual, instruction at the beginning of the school year. Visit the website:

<https://articulate.arlingtondiocese.org>. Pre-Registration is Required: <https://bit.ly/3aPWEdm>

MARCH 13-20

Plot Against Hunger Spring Garden Kickoff. 10 a.m. Online and in-person. Now sponsored by the Friends of Urban Agriculture, this annual event will SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8

Johnson and Johnson Jab at Lubber Run - Arlington County at its Best

Some residents got emotional as they walked into the community center.

BY EDEN BROWN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

“Smoke got in my eyes” as I walked into the Lubber Run Community Center for my Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Yup. It was emotional.

The vaccine seemed a long time coming, and when I got the Arlington notice inviting me to schedule a vaccine, I jumped on it. The appointments were all booked except for the Johnson and Johnson Lubber Run clinic. Johnson and Johnson wasn't my first choice; I didn't sign up immediately, preferring to check my daily (fruitless) effort to get CVS, Safeway, and Walgreens websites to respond. I'd been up at 6 a.m. checking websites all over Virginia, even thinking I'd drive to Abingdon if I had to. But when I told my public health doctoral student daughter I could get the Lubber Run J and J jab, she didn't mince words: “Get the one you can get the fastest.”

So there I was on Saturday, after parking effortlessly in the garage, being led by volunteers with red and green paddles (stop and go) and others in blue vests with blue signalling lights, as though we were planes landing on an indoor airport runway. It was so well run, and gave me such a sense of support from my county government, that, like I said, I got emotional. I was just beyond my 7th Covid test by then. I'd watched my mother get Covid - long distance of course - and die. I'd been on a careful regimen of no social contact to speak of for a year. I had had enough. But what caused me to choke up wasn't the sense that the shadow of doom brought by Covid Arl-ms-road be gone, or a sense of relief that life would snap back to normal. It was that the incredible American institutions of science, research, free enterprise, community, and county and state government were working hand in hand to deliver me from evil.

I wasn't the only one. Karen Gerstbrein was literally dancing for joy as she left the Lubber Run Center, jumping up and down in jubilation. Irrepressible. She agreed that walking into the center had caused her to get a little emotional. It was the excellent organization of the effort and the relief at knowing that Covid-19 was now not likely to cause her to be hospitalized, or worse. She too had been on countless websites with no vaccine appointment in sight. And then, suddenly, you are on the runway. No one realizes until the vaccine plunges in just how desperate they have been for a sense of relief.

It's important to note there are after effects from the vaccine. As one friend said, “It's like menopause. No one tells you how bad it is and you are completely caught off guard.”

Well, it's not that bad. And while not ev-



The reporter joins Karen Gerstbrein in jumping for joy after the jab at Lubber Run.

everyone gets after-effects, I felt quite incapacitated for a day. It felt like I had the mosquito-borne “breakbone fever” where the whole body feels as though it's been beaten up, and I had no energy to do anything. Headaches,

fever, fatigue. But I realized it was a good sign that the vaccine was working, and I almost revelled in the aches and pains. I also read that one should not take painkillers before or after the vaccine even if side-effects

“It was so well run, and gave me such a sense of support from my county government, that I got emotional. I was just beyond my seventh Covid test by then. I'd watched my mother get Covid — long distance of course — and die. I'd been on a careful regimen of no social contact to speak of for a year. I had had enough. What caused me to choke up was that the incredible American institutions of science, research, free enterprise, community, and county and state government were working hand in hand to deliver me from evil.”



Arlington County did not allow any photographs or recorded chats with volunteers.

seem rough — a nap will do the trick. And a word to the wise, don't drink alcohol. It seems to aggravate the side effects.

Janice Kraft of Arlington told neighbors, “For those folks interested in the side effects of the J&J COVID vaccine... Many of my Harris Teeter coworkers and I received the J&J vaccine on Friday. According to our pharmacist, it was about a 50-50 split between people who had significant side effects and mild-to-no side effects. I personally had no fever, very light cold sweats, and a general low energy the day after. Others had temps up to 103, aches, migraines/bad headaches, and/or major chills. The good news is that, to a person, all side effects were gone by the 2nd day.”

Photos were off limits at the Lubber Run, and volunteers said they had been asked not to talk to anyone about the event. That's too bad, since Arlington County deserves all kinds of praise for their COVID vaccine effort. School nurses who had been seconded by Arlington County's Public Health office after schools closed were on duty at Lubber run to jab residents; as has often been the case during COVID-19 tests, there were Virginia Medical Reserve Corps volunteers in the observation room where vaccinated individuals could wait to make sure they had no allergic reaction to the shot.

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Spring Concert by the Quarantine Music Busters, interactive ensemble of classical music, live, Sunday, Mar. 21, 3 p.m. Registration # 913802-08.

Painting demonstration, step-by-step with community arts programmers, Monday, Mar. 22, 10:30 a.m. Registration # 913301-10.

Short story reading and discussion, "The Story of an Hour," by Kate Chopin, Monday, Mar. 22, 1 p.m. Registration # 913300-02.

Genealogy 101, led by experienced genealogist, Eileen Bogdanoff, Tuesday, Mar. 23, 11:30 a.m. Registration # 913400-19.

Income tax basics, understanding tax forms, documents needed to prepare tax return and tips to reduce tax bill, Tuesday, Mar. 23, 1 p.m., Registration # 913404-02.

Paint along with community arts

programmers, copy famous artworks, Thursday, Mar. 25, 10 a.m. Registration # 913301-15.

Trailblazing women who lived in the Ball-Sellers House, now a museum operated by the Arlington Historical Society, Thursday, Mar. 25, 1:30 p.m. Presented by Museum director Annette Benbow. Registration # 913400-12.

Chat with an artist about techniques, materials, creative expression, Thursday, Mar. 25, 4 p.m. Facilitated by Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 913301-19.

Sudoku puzzle games for beginners and pros, Thursday, Mar. 25, 2 p.m. Registration # 913601-01.

Line dance in the park, easy for beginners, Friday, Mar. 26, 10 a.m., Virginia Highlands Park, 1600 S. Hayes Street. Registration # 913701-02.

Aurora Hills Fast Forwards walking group, two to three mile loop, some hills, Friday, Mar. 26, 9 a.m. Registration # 913201-03.

Digital escape room, virtual adventure, series of puzzles to solve, find clues, Friday, Mar. 26, 1 p.m. Registration # 913601-08.

Name that Tune game, fun for all, Friday, Mar. 26, 3 p.m. Registration # 913601-13.

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HOMELIFESTYLE: ARLINGTON GARDENS

Plot Against Hunger Spring Garden Kickoff Begins March 13

Feeding our community, one garden at a time.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

What better way to celebrate the coming Spring season than joining the Plot Against Hunger's Spring Garden Kickoff on March 13? It will include remarks from County Board members as well as discussions with gardeners and food pantries and popcorn gardening sessions. This is the beginning of a week of activities, both virtual and in person, which brings together potential gardeners interested in learning how to grow produce for feeding the community.

Bring the kids to the Central Library on Monday, March 15 from 12-2 p.m. to pick up a seed kit to kick start growing vegetables. Let the kids choose from a 3 Sisters Kit containing corn, beans and squash or a Lettuce in Pots Kit designed for gardening in small spaces. Then on Wednesday, March 17, from 7-8 p.m. you can learn what to do with those seeds by hearing from experts who have started gardens including a school and local



Plot Against Hunger 2020 event.

church. Learn why they donate produce to local food pantries.

On Saturday, March 20 you can get specific information learning how to have a Plot Against Hunger Garden by viewing demonstrations of various gardening techniques.

Becky Halbe, on the Plot Against Hunger Steering Committee, explains a garden plot can be anything from an individual's home garden, an apartment dweller's balcony container garden or gardens in a faith-based, school property or neighborhood cooperative. The idea is to share the produce, whatever you grow, with needy families in the

community.

In January, 2021 the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) transitioned ownership of the Plot Against Hunger Program to the Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture (FOUA). The Plot Against Hunger program had donated over 600,000 pounds of fresh produce to AFAC since its inception in 2007. When AFAC saw a large increase in the number of clients needing assistance during the pandemic, they shifted their resources to their core mission of providing supplemental groceries to Arlington families in need.

This led to the transitioning and continua-

tion of the program as a collaborative effort. Robin Broder, President of Friends of Urban Agriculture, says, "We're excited about this transition. Now AFAC can concentrate on food distribution and Friends of Urban Agriculture can concentrate on food production."

The Plot Against Hunger Spring Garden Kickoff is a week-long event March 13-20. It is sponsored by the Arlington Friends of Urban Agriculture, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, Marymount University, and the Plot Against Hunger steering Committee.

FILE PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE



Daffodils are Bursting Out all Over

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Things may be different this year, but 28,000 daffodils are waiting to poke their tendrils above ground and burst into bloom at Culpepper Garden this spring. Culpepper Garden, a nonprofit affordable senior living community located on five acres in the heart of Arlington, is holding a Spring Garden Walk to share the display with the public.

In order to maintain social distancing, these self guided walks will be by appointment in 10-minute time slots the week of March 22 and the week of March 29 with the grand finale on April 10. Marta Hill Gray, Executive Director, says, "We will continue planting more daffodils in the fall, and more hybridized daffodils the next spring. It will be like a mini Cherry Blossom Festival."

Gray explains when Charles Culpepper, a local botanist, sold his land where the current Culpepper Garden is located, he wanted his garden to continue. Culpepper was well known around the neighborhood for his prolific displays of hybridized daffodils, which he had grown for 45 years. They spread through the woods in a tangle of sizes and colors. Culpepper cut the flowers fresh each day and sold them from a wheelbarrow for 50 cents a bunch. There are still daffodils, which he had hybridized, growing wildly along the edges of the Culpepper grounds.

The Spring Garden Walk is the first of planned annual events and initiates the beginning of Phase 1 of the six-phase plan to eventually include a pond, a pavilion with picnic benches and, of course, more daffodils. The project is scheduled to be completed in 3-5 years. To further this tribute to Culpepper, Culpepper Garden has launched the Daffodil Society with the goal to raise funds to continue the garden project.



Rendering of architect's drawing for the new Culpepper Garden dream daffodil garden

The second phase, to begin next year, is Woodland Walk, which will connect the trails and complete the walking loop by leveling the path and preparing a surface that is safe and stable. Gray says, they asked the residents for input on what resonated with them on the landscaping plan.

She says in this time of COVID-19 the gardens have taken on an even greater significance for the fully vaccinated residents and staff who will have the opportunity to connect with the environment. "They just want to be outside and walk and walk and walk."

Gray says there will be naming opportunities for financial gifts that will allow a donor to name the koi pond, pavilion, walking trail, community beds, picnic tables, benches, and trees after a loved one, your company or organization.

Sign up for the Garden Walk at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050e4cabad2da5f58-spring>



Arlington Women's Club sponsors traffic garden in their parking lot.

Gardens Come in All Kinds

Women's Club sponsors bike garden

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Instead of planting vegetable seeds, the Arlington Women's Club is planting good safety seeds on rules of the road. Their traffic garden is located in the large parking lot across from their clubhouse on Buchanan Street.

This effort is part of a larger plan across Virginia to establish installations meant to simulate street environments and promote knowledge and safe-

ty among children who have a space to practice the rules of the road on scooters or bikes.

Sandy Newton, a member of the Women's Club, explains that Phoenix Bikes contacted them this summer about the idea of the bike garden because the Women's Club has a large parking lot. She says Phoenix Bikes submitted schematics and then built it.

Newton added that the neighborhood kids immediately spotted the new outside activity and began using it, and a representative of Arlington Public Schools came to view it as a way to promote it in the schools. Newton says at the end of December the garden was removed but will be reinstalled in the spring.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Restorative Justice Inching Forward in Arlington

Restorative Justice will work to gain the trust of residents from all neighborhoods.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

When Kimiko Lighty hears Arlington residents commiserating on a listserv about how many cars had been vandalized and no one was doing anything about it; or how a woman was harassed by a group of maskless teens who coughed in her face, implying they were spreading COVID, and sped away laughing; then hears how these teens should be punished instead of “going through a restorative justice process,” it suggests to her that what we are doing now isn’t working.

“But what they are complaining about,” she notes, “is not Restorative Justice, because Restorative Justice hasn’t even been implemented yet in Arlington.” In fact, “what I am hearing is their need for fairness, safety, and feeling connected to where they live — and this is exactly the need RJ addresses in a very direct way.”

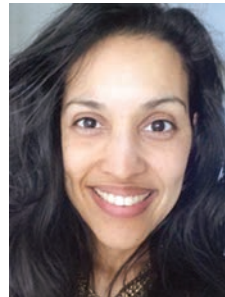
Restorative Justice was still in the planning phase through the Fall, and will just be entering the implementation phase now after the approval by the Arlington County Board of its strategic plan in November 2020. The Strategic Plan provides a framework for the County to adopt restorative justice practices in its public schools, legal system, and community settings.

Arlington expects to receive a \$75,000 grant award from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to help implement the plan. “But,” says Lighty, “Even the conversations we are having now are making a difference.” It’s a very slow process. “In an ideal world, we’d have people available to address a harm done now, but people are not yet available. Restorative Justice doesn’t happen overnight. When I hear people saying ‘why hasn’t it come to Arlington yet?’ I tell them, ‘It’s like asking ‘when are you going to learn to read?’ You have to learn the alphabet first.”

COVID-19 did slow the Restorative Justice plan in Arlington to a degree, but the concept has slowly come to fruition: Liane Rozzell, the first Restorative Justice coordinator for Arlington, on loan to the County from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, worked hard to get people started on that alphabet.

“Most people tend to focus on targeted interventions to crime and conflict, but that’s not the first step. There are parts that we are able to implement now; other parts come later. One of the ‘letters of the alphabet’ we have in place now is the creation of VCircles or Virtual Circles to create community. We are working closely with partners at George Mason University’s Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution on basic circle training. We are also going to start this month on implementation team meetings for a program which is geared towards youth and young adults. This program will offer the option of a restorative conference to someone who has been harmed by a young person or young adult.”

For that implementation team Restorative Justice leaders have gathered people who are legal system actors and members of the community. GMU has been a key partner in Restorative Arlington, along with mem-



Kimiko Lighty is the new Restorative Justice Project Coordinator in Arlington, taking over from Liane Rozzell in January 2021.



Liane Rozzell

bers of the working groups who explored how to adopt restorative justice practices in Arlington and contributed to the strategic plan. The Restorative Arlington initiative has informed and educated hundreds of community members about restorative justice practices, and has built community and connection among people from all parts of the County through online restorative circles. It is a feather in Rozzell’s cap that she could do this under the constraints of COVID-19.

“We are particularly interested in having on the teams community people who have been harmed — we are in the final stages of recruiting for that — we want it to be representative. It’s basic: when you are seeking to address an issue, the people who are affected are the people you need to have engaged in the process.” There’s a form called the ‘interest form,’ sent directly to Kimiko Lighty, who was named the new RJ Project Coordinator taking over from Rozzell this January. Prospective team members can share what they are interested in doing. Lighty reads every form submitted. (Forms are at: <https://is.gd/RAform>.)

Lighty and Rozzell are patient with newcomers to the Restorative Justice concept, particularly those who are impatient for change or such fans of Restorative Justice they want it done sooner. One can see why Lighty is a good choice for this next stage of RJ implementation. She has over a decade of experience as a Nonviolent Communications (NVC) practitioner, a communication method founded by Marshall Rosenberg. Lighty studied under Jane Connor, one of his students, to hone her skills. She carefully explains how Restorative Justice can’t be forced; trust must be built. “Restorative justice only works when it’s voluntary, when residents want to address a harm they have experienced. No one will force them to choose RJ.” While there is a tremendous need and desire for these services there is also ignorance about the concept and a lack of trust that it will satisfy the offended party.

Rozzell agreed. “It’s not profitable to argue with people to change the frame that they are working from; it only works if you find common ground. Everyone wants safety, and fairness, so if people feel their problems aren’t currently being addressed in a way that meets their needs — that’s not an RJ issue, it’s something else. But where RJ can come into play is where someone is identified as committing that crime, then the harm caused can be addressed in circles for people who have been traumatized and harmed. Just having a circle is part of RJ.”

To really help them understand what would happen in a restorative justice process, people need to visualize what happens. “The person who was harmed and the person who was responsible for the harm are put in a room with a trained facilitator, everyone is

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SEE ARLINGTON RESIDENTS, PAGE 8

Restorative Justice Inching Forward in Arlington

FROM PAGE 7

brought together, to express what the harm meant. Then the facilitator and participants work through the five aspects of accountability: first, acknowledge the harm; then, take responsibility for your own actions; then express remorse; then make the apology tangible by making amends. And lastly, making sure the offender walks out of the room as a person who won't repeat that harm. These five aspects aren't easy, but they represent TRUE accountability."

Take the scenario on the listserve about the coughing teenagers who drove off in their jeep laughing and left a family feeling assaulted. The woman who felt injured had been wearing a Pride T-shirt. She felt that was one of the reasons the teenagers went after her as she walked along the road. She didn't feel safe. If those teenagers were caught and charged, and as some suggested, "spent a week in the slammer" would they understand why what they did was harmful? Would they make amends to the injured woman? Or would they, arrested, be forever marked by a "crime" that was careless, immature, impulsive behavior? Would they do it again? The RJ approach attempts to turn the incident into an opportunity to cultivate empathy and build community between community members so they can see and leave both parties better for it. There are benefits to the people who have been harmed: they

can understand why it happened, and see young people do something constructive to "make amends." There are benefits to the offenders: they are held accountable, but not in a way that damages their lives; they learn from the experience, find ways to make it up to the offended party, and because of the process, stop the behavior.

Lighty is adamant about making sure Arlington residents understand this is not some middle ground that avoids jail or punishment nor is it about letting people off easy.

"No," she explains. "It's an alternative, not a compromise. Some people call it a middle ground because they don't want a zero-sum game."

So where is Restorative Justice headed? Lighty said, "Initially it will be used to deal with cases of bullying, on-line unwanted engagement, assault, things that are out of the realm of sexual harm, will be addressed first." Why? "Because you want an experienced practitioner to address more serious offenses, and we will need to build capacity to address those harder things. We will start with cases that require less expertise."

Rozzell nodded. "I've experienced, in the year that I've been working on this, that it's easy to scare people when we are talking about those hot buttons, like sexual assault. We want to tread carefully. Building capacity is critical. And we would underscore that the needs of the person harmed are central.

Building trust is a huge priority."

Has Restorative Justice played a role in any offense this year? "There was the case of the Yorktown banner," said Rozzell. "We got an outreach from Chief Equity Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at APS, Arron Gregory, who let us know about this situation. (See sidebar. A school banner that showed a mosaic of photos of its students with all the photos of students of color in the darkly shaded parts of the lettering. It looked like a deliberately racist distinction.) "The new principal at YHS, Dr. Kevin Clark, was interested," Rozzell continued. "He had heard about RJ and wanted a restorative process.

We knew it would have to be as inclusive as possible, even though COVID-19 would make it hard to bring in as many members of the community as we would have liked. We were able to engage two nearby practitioners who work in nearby Alexandria schools. Students who were affected by the banner incident attended as well as YHS administration." Rozzell demurred on discussing the outcomes of the restorative effort at Yorktown since the content of a restorative process is confidential. "We wish we had been able to meet in person - we were somewhat limited by COVID-19 in having more members of the community involved, but it did open up the conversation."

Both Rozzell and Lighty are grateful for

the mix of public and private funds which have made it possible to get this far in the process and will ensure the project gets implemented. "Human resources in the form of experts is being donated to the RJ program from all over the country, without which we would not be as far along as we are now. We have every intention of honoring those gifts of time and money," said both women. They do still need fellow Arlingtonians who are trusted members of the community and who will reflect the needs of their neighbors, as volunteers or willing to be trained to be facilitators.

Lighty is interested in learning more about what interests and ideas people have about what the youth diversion program would look like: Community Voice form or <https://is.gd/RAYYAPCommunityVoice> This form is specific to the Youth and Young Adult Diversion Program Unlike the Interest Form which is more general about getting involved with Restorative Arlington.

For more about RJ in Arlington: see: <https://arlingtonva.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2020/11/RA-Strategic-Plan.pdf> and <https://topics.arlingtonva.us/restorative-arlington/>

Or topics@arlingtonva.us/restorative-arlington) as well as: https://is.gd/ra_email

And to learn more about Restorative Justice practices: <https://is.gd/learnrp>

Kimiko Lighty is new Restorative Justice Coordinator in Arlington

Kimiko Lighty describes herself as the daughter of a local "rocket scientist" who worked at Goddard Space Center in Maryland. As she was growing up, she thought "you could build something to fix just about any problem." Her father is half-Japanese, her mother Trinidadian, and she studied Science, Technology, and International Relations at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. How did she end up leading the Restorative Justice movement in Arlington?

Her interests were in nuclear-chemical-biological "risky technology" and in technocratic solutions to conflict resolution. She probably would have been at the table this year for any number of sensitive international negotiations had it not been for the last course she took at Georgetown, from Dr. Francesco Cho, called "Religion and Aesthetics," about the ways people seek meaning. A light bulb went on for her: the way people make meaning of things is more important than resource distribution and innovations — or literally anything else.

And as she learned more about risky technologies, agro-bio-technology, and cellular technology, air traffic control, etc. she said, "What I found fascinating was that there was more conflict, not less, the more technology was introduced in any given situation." She also realized there is not a conflict anywhere that is not based on how people make meaning — whether religion or ideology — and most strategies for conflict resolution ignore that.

So Lighty got a Masters Degree at GMU in Interdisciplinary Studies in Conflict Analysis and Resolution where the majority of her courses were in what is now the Carter School of Peace and Conflict Resolution.

Lighty came to the RJ role from a non-violent com-

munications (NVC) background, and has been an innovator in the development of new techniques for conflict mitigation and resolution. What was funny was that one of her professors said she would be a really great conflict resolution mediator, but Lighty was focused on theory, not praxis, and wanted to keep studying. She was intending to do a doctoral degree in her field, but life intervened, including parenthood, and after some difficult years managing conflict in places she never expected to spend so much time — doctor's offices, hospitals, and schools — she honed her skills in a less academic, but perhaps more practical, fashion. Right after the 2016 election she realized she wanted to get more involved in her community; Lighty often served a moderating function and mediating function, and got formally trained in mediation. She had been a non-violent communication practitioner for about a decade, working on RJ in Prince George's County, as well as with Restorative DC, and Northern Virginia Mediation Services (NVMS) Conflict Center. She worked specifically on the alternative accountability program run by NVMS in the Fairfax County Juvenile Courts, doing a lot of virtual work before Covid-19 had ever become a household word. Thus, when Liane Rozzell came to Arlington, Lighty was excited to be able to work where she lived, in a community that was important to her, and so she asked Rozzell what she could do to help. She joined the RJ team, collaborating with experts in restorative practices to develop and implement Restorative Arlington's VCircle program, an online forum for community building and engagement even during physical distancing due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As an Arlington resident and the parent of an APS student, she is personally invested in the success of Restorative Justice practices.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

have a combination of online events and in-person outdoor workshops on various aspects of growing and distributing fresh food to local residents who are food insecure. To get the full schedule and sign up for specific events go to Friends of Urban Agriculture at arlingtonurbanag.org or check our website at mgnv.org

COUNTY LAUNCHES MOBILE, WALK-UP COVID-19 TESTING

Arlington County is launching a mobile, no-cost to patients, walk-up testing service in partnership with Quest Diagnostics. The mobile testing command center will open Tuesday, March 9, at 1429 N. Quincy Street, replacing the current drive-through testing site at that location. It will operate at that location for two weeks, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Then it will move to new locations on a two to three-week rotational basis to offer walk-up COVID-19 testing throughout the County. Locations will be shared via ReadyArlington, through the COVID newsletter, and on the County website.

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 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

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 9

Restorative Justice Helped Heal Yorktown After Banner Controversy

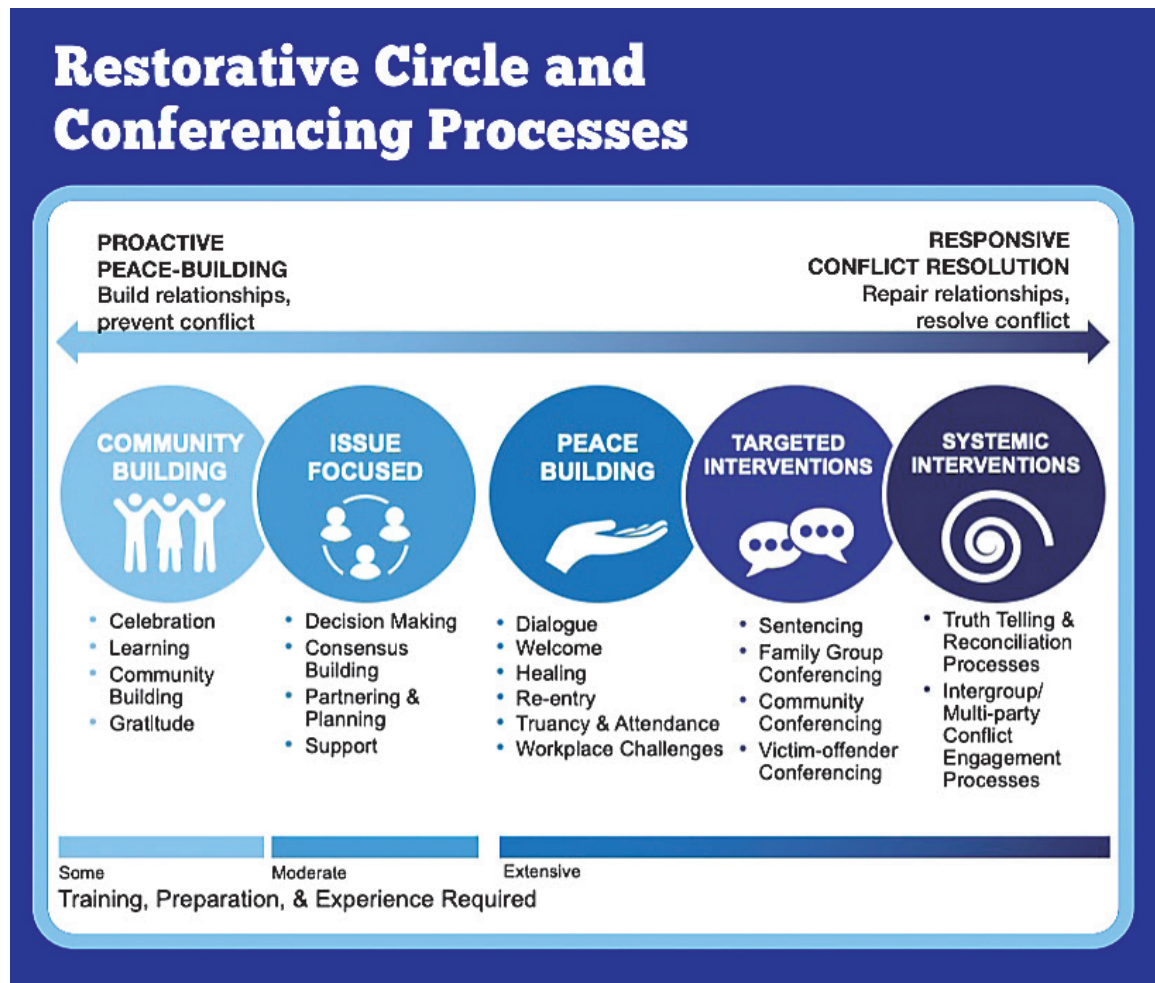
The senior class of 2020 at Yorktown found itself in the midst of a controversy about how minority students were represented on a class banner. The photos of students of color were obscured in shaded areas, less visible than the faces of white students.

Hannah Knittig, YHS Class of 2021, and Galilee Ambellu, Class of 2020, commented on the Restorative Justice efforts at Yorktown. Dr. Kevin Clark, principal, also discussed the effort.

“The restorative conference was held over the summer, after the incident with the banner in May 2020. The banner had been very hurtful. I first heard about it on Instagram and I couldn’t believe it. A lot of my friends were really upset about how something like that could happen. Although to me, and the friends I talked to, the banner itself wasn’t the end of the world, considering how Yorktown has had a lot of issues with discrimination in the past, it just added fuel to the fire. We didn’t think it was deliberate, but it was a white company that made the banner; it was reviewed by a white school administration; no one realized how it looked?” “Was the Restorative Conference helpful? Yes. I attended the conference and really appreciated it. I thought it was a good decision to bring in experts to discuss the damage that was done by the banner. It could have been better attended; I don’t think it was publicized well enough. The people who were hurt the most by the banner weren’t at the conference. But the good news is: the administration tried. They apolo-



Yorktown Principal Kevin Clark.



Restorative circle and conference processes illustrated in Arlington’s report.

gized that the conference was so incomplete. And the outcome of all this has been positive. We have gotten our first ever school-wide assembly for Black History Month. Even though Shari Benites, the head of the Sister Circle at school [and Coordinator of Restorative Practices], has been pushing for a Black History Month celebration for years, it never happened — it seems — until the students let

the administration know how they felt at the restorative conference.” Dr. Kevin Clark, who came to Yorktown as principal last year, agreed. “We approached the RJ [restorative justice] folks to try to undo the harm that the banner had done. Our students were concerned,” he said. “We have a staff member who has been very involved with Restorative Justice at Yorktown as well as involved in RJ’s debut in Arlington, Shari Benitez, and so she and I reached out to Restorative Arlington, and got the process started. She and Arron

Gregory and the RJ folks, the Chief Equity Officer, were able to provide support in organizing the conference. The facilitators from Alexandria public schools were impartial, objective and experienced. I can’t divulge the details because an RJ Conference is confidential, but I can tell you it was a powerful experience to hear from the students, as well as good way to come up with constructive ideas. “As a result of the RJ conference, we are a community that is more able to recognize potential harm and more likely to have the skills

to address it right away. We came up with an agreement at the end of it that serves as sort of a guideline for things to do to address the harm.” “For us, generally addressing the culture at Yorktown is a long term process” Clark said. “APS is doing it district wide — developing an equity team and a restorative justice team. Our whole staff has had a general training in RJ but a few have a deeper training of three days or more to really put RJ in practice. We will employ RJ principles in areas like discipline, where we can make it more responsive to the harm. It doesn’t do a lot of good to expel a student if the harm remains unaddressed.” “Arlington is now developing that internal capacity to use these practices in a more comprehensive way; they are hoping to hire RJ staff in the schools. Shari Benites cannot do it all. We want to have people in our building to address these things quickly and with follow up. We hope there is money in the budget for that....let’s see. It’s a really powerful philosophy. ... “Since coming to Yorktown last year, knowing its reputation and the concerns of students, I have made an effort to reach out. I have gone to the John Langston Citizens Association to introduce myself, and set up an equity team with 40 students and community members. We have developed a great relationship and have connected with the part of Arlington history that so many people don’t know or understand, and we are going to bring that local history to students in the school-wide assembly on Friday, Feb. 26, an assembly that we believe will have a restorative effect on some of that history. The RJ conference really helped come up with a to-do list that will add to what we had already started.”

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

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 pur-

chases. 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.

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oid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.

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.

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-Werner Heisenberg

Announcements

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HBARL LLC trading as El Rey/Filling Station, 4201 Wilson Blvd Ste 180, Arlington VA 22203-4417. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ian Hilton, Managing Member. 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.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Obituary

Obituary

Herbert Lain Holt
March 25, 1934 – February 13, 2021



It is with great joy for the long and wonderful life he lived that we announce the passing of Herbert Lain Holt (86) on Saturday, February 13, 2021, at sundown in Carlsbad, California. Still on his feet until just 8 days prior to his passing, Herbert long battled Parkinson's Disease and never once complained. Our hero drew his last breath peacefully at home, surrounded by loved ones. We could not have asked for more for our beloved husband, father, grandfather, uncle, coach and friend.

Herbert was born in 1934 to Otis Eldridge Holt and Martha Louise Holt (nee McDaniel) in Gibson County, Tennessee. A proud son of Trenton, Herbert attended Trenton Elementary and Middle School, and played quarterback and was captain of the football team for Peabody High School. During his high school tenure, Herb won the distinction of being voted football captain of the "Big Ten" on all ten western Tennessee high school coaches' ballots. In basketball, Herb served as captain of the junior varsity and varsity basketball teams. Aside from sports, Herb exhibited leadership as the senior class president. Herb also played baseball for the Humboldt Tennessee American Legion. Because of Herb's outstanding sports performances, he was honored in 2006 to be inducted into the Gibson County Sports Hall of Fame. Known as Ol' Twinkletoes, he was honored in 2020 to be inducted into the Peabody High School Football Hall of Fame.

Herb graduated high school in 1952, and attended Murray State University in Kentucky on a football scholarship where he played quarterback for the Racers and was co-captain of the team. He was the student body vice president and president of the Methodist Student Union. At Murray, Herb met the love of his life, Celia Maurelle Kirksey of Paducah, Kentucky, and they married over the winter break of their senior year in 1955. They recently celebrated 65 years of happily ever after.

After graduating from Murray State in 1957, Herb then earned his Master's Degree in Secondary Education Administration over the summers while he worked as head football coach and head basketball coach for three years in McKenzie, Tennessee. Herb then accepted an offer to teach and coach in Alexandria, Northern Virginia. In Alexandria, Coach Holt drew out the best from students and players and touched the lives and hearts of hundreds of students and their parents for 40 years. Herb taught physical education and English at Francis C. Hammond High School in Alexandria, where he was also the assistant football coach and the junior varsity baseball coach. When T.C. Williams high school opened, he served as head football coach, and the junior varsity baseball coach. After three years, Herb was appointed athletic director, and later became assistant principal. Coach Holt was at T.C. Williams High School fostering goodness during the time of the story "Remember the Titans." Coach Holt also will be remembered for his dedication to students at George Washington Middle School. Upon retirement from T.C. Williams in 1997, he was named "MacDaddy of the Senior Class" by the seniors.

Herb and Maurelle raised their son and daughter in Springfield and West Springfield, Virginia. Herb continued to coach kids' baseball after retirement for the Springfield Babe Ruth League. He proudly served as the Membership Chairman, Vice President and President of the Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA).

A natural at sports, he turned his love of sports toward golf and enjoyed golf outings and trips with his son and friends. Herb never once met a stranger and was known for his get-up-and-go, tenacity and his fun-loving spirit. Genuinely interested in people, Herb never missed an opportunity to help someone or bring out the best in them, whether a family in need, or a kindred spirit hitchhiking a country lane. Herb also saved more than a few lives as a lifeguard on Kentucky Lake in his youth. He loved country music and dancing, and became a square dance caller in the 1970s. He gave his family lots of swim and beach days with bonfires and stories, trips to music festivals and county fairs, football and basketball games, amusement parks, long country drives and especially family and friends. He loved bluegrass, spaghetti Westerns, Burt Reynolds comedies, ice cream, and U.S. historical fiction novels in no particular order. He was cool, calm and collected and supported and loved us dearly, always encouraging our independence and best selves while also being available to catch us should we fall. Herb and Maurelle moved to Carlsbad, California to be with daughter and family and were able to enjoy lots of family celebrations together.

Predeceased by his parents and sister Charlotte Brown (Memphis, TN), Herbert is survived by his wife Celia Maurelle Holt, son John Lain Holt and daughter-in-law Martee Holt of Greensboro, NC, grandchildren Lauren Maurelle Holt (currently Poulisbo, WA, engaged to Darrin Cripe) and Alexander Lain Holt of Charlotte, NC, (engaged to Claire Kane); daughter Kristen Walker, son-in-law Justin D. Walker of Carlsbad, CA, and grandchildren Scarlett, Stella, Katherine and Audrey Walker; nephews Mike Brown (Carla), Pat Brown (Bethany) and Tim Brown; the late John David Kirksey (brother-in-law), sister-in-law Alice Kirksey, niece Diane De La O, nephews Samuel Kirksey (Olga), and Matthew Kirksey, extended family and countless friends. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and we are sure that over his 40 working years as tireless coach and teacher there will be many other stories to be shared about his kindness, support and generous spirit. Herbert made a difference in many lives and heaven is a better place for calling him home.

A celebration of life will be held when people can safely gather. Please sign the guest book and leave comments at www.accucarecremation.com/obituary. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a scholarship fund in Herb's name for young college-bound athletes at Northern Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association (NVADACA) at www.nvadaca.org or P.O. Box 305, Burke, VA 22009.

The family wishes to thank his amazing caregiver, Sandy S.

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“Cancerversary”



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I realize I'm cancer-centric, especially in these columns, but for some reason that centrality didn't acknowledge my February 27th cancer anniversary. That date, in 2009, is when I was originally diagnosed with stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, the "terminal" kind. I remember it well. It was a Thursday. It was the initial Team Lourie meeting with my soon-to-be new best friend: my oncologist. A week or so prior, I had received the first indication - from my primary care physician, that my life was about to change: the results from the previous surgical biopsy confirmed a malignancy. It's rather an awkward dynamic to meet someone - for the first time, who immediately becomes the person who will control, manage and in effect, be responsible for whether you live or die, and for how long. From then on, he becomes the most important person in your life; a person who is now entrusted with your most precious asset: your health.

It was not an unfamiliar experience for me meeting someone cold and attempting to build a rapport. As a long-time salesman, that was my modus operandi. Whether in person or over the telephone, I have regularly been engaged in this kind of pursuit: trying to create an environment of trust and honesty in order to reach a shared goal. Previously, it was about making a sale; now it was about understanding my options and agreeing on a course of treatment. However, the one major difference between these two pursuits, was control, or rather the lack thereof. Cancer was now in control as compared to my life as a salesman where I chose it because it allowed me to be in control: who I called, when I called, scheduling appointments, et cetera. Soon it became apparent, I was no longer in Kansas anymore. I was in the hands - figuratively speaking, of my oncologist - in Maryland: my new boss. If I wanted to live beyond the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given, I would have to be as attentive and compliant as possible.

In spite of our shotgun-type of relationship, we have persevered together, which has enabled yours truly to acknowledge, albeit a week or so later, an amazing achievement: 12 years and still living. Not that my circumstances have become de rigueur, hardly; especially since the thyroid cancer diagnosis of late has put into question my original non small cell lung cancer stage IV diagnosis. Apparently, after making a few inquiries, it appears unlikely that we can litigate the past any more than we can guarantee the future. It seems that cancer, whichever type, will be a part of my life and likely a part of my death as well.

I'm surprised how it's (my life) all turned out and grateful to whomever for what I'm not entirely sure. Nevertheless, somehow it's worked and here I am: alive and reasonably well. Not cancer free and never to be cured of my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer; still, it's a living and it sure beats a dying. Treatment and scans and all will continue, but so what. Originally it appeared my die was cast, but as it has happened, not nearly so fast.

All of which is nothing new, really. A cancer diagnosis is all about change, ceding control, and hanging on for dear life as you will be up and down and all-round, emotionally, physically and spiritually. Expecting a normal kind of pattern to your future life ended the moment a biopsy confirms a malignancy. Either you adjust to the vagaries of your cancer life or you will die having failed. I think I have succeeded beyond my wildest expectations. So much so that I didn't even acknowledge my "cancerversary" last week. I guess I needed the week off from worrying about it and didn't even realize it. I have to admit though, it felt good not focusing on it for a change. Almost like I was a "normal" person.

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

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