

The Passover Seder

Families prepare meal symbolizing the Exodus from Egypt.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In the Jewish faith, the Seder is the most important event in the Passover celebration. The intricate ritual will take place March 27 with Jewish households across the city making preparations as Passover 2021 begins and is celebrated through April 4.

“Tradition tells us that we are obligated every year to see ourselves as if we ourselves left Egypt.”

— Rabbi Steven Rein of Agudas Achim Congregation

“My parents took the holidays very seriously and my mom always hosted,” said Hanit Rotklein as she prepared the traditional dish of charoset March 15 at the home of her mother



Bernie Rotklein, center, tastes charoset for his first Passover with mother Hanit, left, and grandmother Dina Rotklein.

Dina. “We had a minimum of 25 people and prepared for many weeks in advance.”

The Passover holiday commemorates the story of the Exodus of Jews from Egypt and the Seder plate is the centerpiece of the Sed-

er meal.

“We spent many weeks cleaning the house for Passover,” Rotklein said. “I would cook with my mom and get everything ready then my dad would come before the holiday and

burn the bread. That would symbolize the start of Passover.”

A traditional Passover Seder plate consists of charoset, bitter herbs, a shank bone, lettuce leaf and an egg and parsley. Some modern traditions include the addition of an orange or beets.

“There are some myths about how the tradition of the orange began,” said Rabbi Steven Rein of Agudas Achim Congregation. “It began with the LGBTQ+ community when a comment was made that the role of LGBTQ+ in Judaism is like a piece of bread on the seder plate. Susannah Heschel [daughter of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel] wasn’t going to put a piece of bread on the Seder plate so as a way of protesting she instead put an orange on the plate.”

Rein said that the orange has come to symbolize those within the community who are marginalized.

“When we think about the Exodus of Egypt and going to freedom, we can’t be free if we all aren’t free,” Rein said. “As for the beets, those have become popular with vegetarians and vegans in place of the shank bone. Those are some of the changes people have made.”

Rotklein, whose son Bernie will be celebrating his first Seder, has great memories of

SEE THE PASSOVER, ON PAGE 9

Ethicist on the Bench

Prosecutor of bad lawyers to take a seat on the Alexandria Circuit Court.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET



Kathleen Uston has been practicing law in Alexandria since 1991. Next week, she will become a judge on the Alexandria Circuit Court

Prosecuting unethical lawyers is not a great way to win friends and influence people. Yet somehow Kathleen Uston has been able to figure out a way to trade her job as assistant bar counsel at the Virginia State Bar for a seat on the Alexandria Circuit Court. She’ll be installed on the court next week, the culmination of a career that has given Uston an inside look at some of the worst lawyering in Virginia while also giving her a special insight into the role ethics plays in the law.

“I had a trial against Katie, and her performance could have been on TV,” said Seth Guggenheim, a friend and colleague who supported Uston’s candidacy for the bench. “It was just a withering cross examination of the complainant in the case. She was so so well prepared.”

Members of the General Assembly elect

judges to the bench in a process that usually doesn’t attract much notice or attention. Uston’s candidacy was a bit rougher. A senator who had been disbarred grilled her about her career, and critics of the Alexandria court system showed up to troll her. When the hearing fell off the rails, a Republican senator was caught in a hot-mic moment declaring the proceeding “a shitshow.” Nevertheless, she landed the job and is about to assume an office on the fourth floor of the city courthouse.

“She is going to be particularly attuned to attorney conduct,” said Yvonne Weight Callahan, who worked with Uston at the Virginia State Bar. “It puts her way up there in terms of making sure that people maintain standards of conduct.”

KATHLEEN MAUREEN USTON was born in New London, Conn., the daughter of a
SEE ETHICIST ON, ON PAGE 10

“It’s not about winning. It’s about a search for the truth.”
— Kathleen Uston

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‘Stay at Home’ Gala Virtual gala raises \$115,000 for SSA.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Senior Services of Alexandria held a virtual “Stay at Home” gala March 13, honoring local leaders for their work, activism and philanthropic efforts in the community while raising over \$115,000 for Senior Services programs.

“We worked really hard to make it fun and honor some very special people,” said SSA Executive Director Mary Lee Anderson. “It was great to see so many people ready to support us.”

Honored during the evening were Barbara Anderson, former Mayor Bill Euille and C. Eugene Steuerle. Also recognized was Kate Garvey, Director of the City’s Department of Community and Human Services.

“Kate has been such a tremendous leader in the city,” said Anderson of Garvey’s work during the pandemic. “We have never done a special award like that before but I am happy that we could highlight what she does for the city.”

The SSA Gala was canceled last year just days before the annual March event. Anderson, Euille and Steuerle were set to be honored when the pandemic brought the SSA gala and other activities throughout the city to a standstill.

SSA pivoted quickly, ramping up efforts to serve the increased Meals On Wheels and Groceries-to-Go clients among others. Virtual events and online auctions were held to continue fundraising efforts to serve Alexandria seniors through SSA programs.

SSA’s 2021 virtual gala featured three-course dinners with wine or a signature cocktail from Trademark Drink and Eat Restaurant delivered to sponsors and attendees. The event was held via Zoom and included remarks from the honorees, volun-



Gene Steurele



Kate Garvey



Barbara Anderson



Bill Euille

STEVEN HALPERSON/TSARA PHOTOGRAPHY

watching other virtual events. “I watched a lot of other people’s events to get a sense of what worked,” said Anderson, who added that SSA is now hosting monthly virtual events. “The format works well for us.”

Anderson was also pleased with the online silent auction.

SSA is preparing for Spring2Action on April 28 followed by a virtual Senior Law Day and virtual wine tasting in June. A tentative date for an in-person SSA gala is set for March 5, 2022.

“We practiced a lot leading up to the day of the gala,” Anderson said. “It was a lot of work but it was great.”

www.seniorservicesalex.org.



MaryAnne Beatty, Director of Community Outreach for Senior Services of Alexandria, delivers meals from Trademark Drink and Eat Restaurant to a sponsor prior to the SSA virtual gala March 13.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



Board member Jack Fannon prepares to deliver meals to sponsors prior to the SSA virtual gala March 13.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Meals from Trademark Drink and Eat Restaurant were paired with wines and delivered to sponsors to enjoy at home during the Senior Services of Alexandria virtual gala March 13.

teers and SSA clients.

“We delivered over 300 meals that night,” Anderson said. “More than 119 participants logged into Zoom with two or three people sharing each screen so we were really pleased both with the food and the turnout of the online presence.”

Local Digital media firm Creative Liquid created the evening’s video vignettes.

“They were terrific to work with,” Anderson added. “They put together the videos of our honorees and volunteers with all pandemic protocols in place.”

Anderson said that she learned from



A screenshot of the Senior Services of Alexandria virtual gala March 13.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



SCREENSHOT OF THE MARCH 13 SSA VIRTUAL GALA.

Mitch Opalski, left, and Cheri and Drew Carroll toast Senior Services of Alexandria at the Carroll home during the March 13 “Stay at Home” virtual gala.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Sisters Victoria and Azura Ungureanu play March 23 atop pillars in “Groundswell,” the new public art installation at Waterfront Park in Old Town.

‘Groundswell’ New public art installation opens at Waterfront Park.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The City of Alexandria’s newest public art installation, “Groundswell,” is now on display in Waterfront Park. The temporary installation by Mark Reigelman is the third in the “Site See: New Views in Old Town” annual public art series and can be viewed through November.

“We like it,” said Sergio Ungureanu, who visited the site March 23 with his wife May and daughters Victoria and Azura. “This was a surprise for us – we came to feed the ducks and then discovered this.”

Reigelman was commissioned to create an original installation for Waterfront Park and focused on Alexandria’s evolving waterfront along the Potomac River. In his research, he learned that drastic measures manipulated the city’s shoreline. Starting in the 18th century, thousands of wood pilings were driven deeper into the Potomac River over time, thereby shifting the city’s waterfront over

decades. This allowed Alexandria to develop and grow its sprawling dock into a major commercial port.

“Groundswell” pays homage to this history with a ground mural depicting the floor of the Potomac River and more than 100 wood pilings that range in heights from 12 to 42 inches, in accordance with the river floor topography. Each 14-inch-diameter piling is topped with a cobalt blue, mirrored surface etched with tree growth rings that suggest the passing of time.

“This was a surprise for us – we came to feed the ducks and then discovered this.”

**Alexandria resident
Sergio Ungureanu**

“Groundswell” follows Olalekan Jeyifous’s 2020 installation, “Wrought, Knit, Labors, Legacies,” and SOFTlab’s 2019 installation “Mirror Mirror.”

Reigelman was selected to create the third site-specific artwork by a community task force with the Alexandria Commission for the Arts’

approval.

“We live close by and like the fact that this is changing all the time,” Ungureanu added. “It makes us want to come back.”

www.alexandriava.gov/PublicArt



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

White flags are placed on the grounds of Christ Church in memory of each of the Alexandria lives lost to Covid-19.

A Memorial to Lives Lost Christ Church remembers victims of Covid-19.

Historic Christ Church in Old Town is honoring the memory of Alexandrians whose lives were lost to the Covid-19 pandemic with a display of white flags in the church courtyard.

Each flag represents an individual who died from the virus and a sign welcomes the public “to come, to pray, to remember.” As of March 24, Alexandria had 10,771 cases of Covid-19 with 130 deaths.

—JEANNE THEISMANN

A sign posted outside Christ Church in Old Town remembering the Alexandrians lost to Covid-19.



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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

WEBA Happy Hour and Trivia Night. At Port City Brewing Co., Alexandria. Cost: \$20 (\$22 for guests) includes:

Trivia (themes: Sports, Food & Cuisine, Famous Landmarks, & History)
Four beers (Optimal Wit, Beach Drive, Monumental, IPA Porter)
Beer tasting described and presented by Port City Brewery,
Swag
Winner gets a \$50 gift card to Port City.

Visit the website: <http://alexandriawebs.com/event-4198794>

HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA MUSEUMS REOPENING

The following Historic Alexandria Museums will be reopening for guests in March: Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, and the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum. In addition, Friendship Firehouse Museum will be open on certain Saturdays. The open hours consist of the following:
Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum (Starting March 25)
Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Alexandria Archaeology Museum (Starting March 26)
Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.
Gadsby’s Tavern Museum (Starting March 26)

Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Friendship Firehouse Museum (April 17, May 22, and June 19)
11 a.m. – 5 p.m.
To ensure your spot, reserve an entry time in advance through AlexandriaVa.gov/Shop.

APRIL 1-30

Alexandria Earth Day 2021. Virtual. The City of Alexandria and Alex Renew will celebrate Earth Day 2021 with a number of virtual activities, including announcing the winner of the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award on April 22. Other topics to be posted on the website will engage the community in projects for restoring different facets of the Earth, such as Water Quality, Air Quality and

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Former Old Dominion University Student Sentenced for Swatting Conspiracy

A Vienna man was sentenced today to 33 months in prison for his role in a conspiracy that involved multiple swatting attacks targeting journalists, a Virginia university, a historic Virginia church in Alexandria, an Islamic Center in Arlington, Texas; and a former U.S. Cabinet member.

“Swatting attacks are serious crimes that disrupt the operations of local emergency agencies, take first responders away from real emergencies, and place victims, community members, and law enforcement officers in grave danger,” said Raj Parekh, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. “EDVA will continue to bring to justice those who threaten public safety with these menacing hoaxes, especially when those threats are motivated by racial or religious animus, which are intolerable and have no place in our society.”

According to court documents, John William Kirby Kelley, 20, conspired with John Cameron Denton, a former leader of the Atomwaffen Division in Texas, and others to

conduct “swatting” calls. Swatting is a harassment tactic that involves deceiving emergency dispatchers into believing that a person or persons are in imminent danger of death or bodily harm, thus causing the dispatchers to send police and emergency services to an unwitting third party’s address.

Kelley managed the online chatroom where conspirators chose targets and regularly coordinated the swatting calls. Many of the conspirators held white supremacist views and targeted individuals because they were motivated by racial animus. Kelley communicated with these white supremacists and used racial epithets.

Kelley is a former student at Old Dominion University. In early November 2018, he asked conspirators to swat Old Dominion University, which conspirators ultimately did on Nov. 29 and Dec. 4, 2018. In response to the bomb threat on Nov. 29, 2018, university officials issued a shelter-in-place order and law enforcement officers were forced to search and clear every building on campus.

During the conspiracy, members placed at least 134 swatting calls to jurisdictions across the country. In addition to the swatting calls against Old Dominion University, conspirators conducted two additional swatting calls in the Eastern District of Virginia, including a call to the Alfred Street Baptist Church in November 2018, and to a former U.S. Cabinet member living in northern Virginia in January 2019.

During today’s sentencing, the Court applied both a hate crime and an official victim enhancement after finding that Kelley participated in a conspiracy that, in part, targeted individuals because of their race or status as government officials.

Raj Parekh, Acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, and James A. Dawson, Special Agent in Charge, Criminal Division, FBI Washington Field Office, made the announcement after sentencing by Senior U.S. District Judge Liam O’Grady.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Carina A. Cuellar prosecuted the case. FBI’s Memphis Field Office provided significant assistance.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 4

the Climate. Free. For more information go to alexandriava.gov/EarthDay.

ALEXANDRIA TO RECEIVE STIMULUS FUNDS

The City of Alexandria will be allocated \$59.4 million as part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP), which was signed into law on March 11. The funds will be received in two equal allotments in May 2021 and May 2022 for use between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024. In addition to the timeframe of use, the law also specifies how the allocated funds can be used. The direct allocation to the City is permitted for use as stated:

To respond to the public health emergency with respect to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; or
For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of government or county due to such emergency; or
To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband

infrastructure.

SORT RECYCLABLES AND TRASH

The City of Alexandria has launched a new resource that makes sorting items for recycling and trash collection easier. “What Goes Where” is a new web application that enables residents to find information on which items—such as rechargeable batteries, plastic bags, clothing and glass bottles—can be donated, repaired, recycled, composted, disposed of, and more. The markets for recycled materials are constantly changing, and “What Goes Where” provides the most up-to-date information on the recyclability of items. Residents can also suggest new items to be added through the online tool. The creation of “What Goes Where” is one of the action items identified in the City’s WasteSmart Strategic Plan and the Environmental Action Plan 2040. Visit alexandriava.gov/ResourceRecovery to use the new “What Goes Where” resource and learn more about City recycling and trash collection services.

SUMMER RECREATION REGISTRATION

The Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural
SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

Be a part of our:

Wellbeing pages, the first week of every month.

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

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

Senior Living, fourth week of every month.

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Works in Progress, Completed

It's complicated: legal markets for marijuana; cleaner air; first in nation state voting rights act; roundup of key action.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

Last week, I wrote about the legislation I carried in the 2021 Session. In this column, I focus on other major bills that were considered.

Marijuana legalization consumed a huge amount of work this session. Governor Northam put together a work group that proposed a 13,000-line, 264-page bill that was very comprehensive and carried by Senator Adam Ebbin. However, it became clear very early in the session that it was going to be very difficult to consider all of the details and much of the bill was carried over.

We have many issues to work out. Specifically, there were concerns about how much cross-ownership to allow between growers, manufacturers and retailers or

whether to allow licensees in our medical markets to participate in retail markets or whether to allow hemp growers to also grow marijuana. We need to consider whether or how to allow people to grow marijuana in their homes. We also need to discuss creating a licensing structure which allows all communities to grow wealth and share in the profits and not just well capitalized companies.

In the end, we passed legislation to repeal Virginia's law prohibiting under one ounce of marijuana effective Jan. 1, 2024 and pushed off the remainder of decisions to next year. It is possible some of this could be revisited in Governor Northam's amendments.

We approved Delegate Lamont



Surovell

Bagby's bill that gave the Virginia Air Board the authority for us to join California Air Emissions with over a dozen other states. This will create incentives for Virginia automobile dealers to lower prices to sell more electric vehicles. While Virginia is 13th in electric vehicle registrations and 11th in charging stations, we have a long way to go to electrify our car fleet and this will be a huge step. Legislation prohibiting Styrofoam passed, but it will not be effective for a few years.

Voting rights continued to be a major focus. We started the process of removing Virginia's Jim Crow Era prohibition on felon voting and instead replaced it with language creating an affirmative

right to vote and automatic voting restoration process. We passed one of the first voting rights acts in the country which will give the Attorney General authority to sue localities that attempt to restrict voting rights. We also codified balloting drop boxes, absentee curing processes, eliminated the absentee witness requirement, and required early voting to be open on Sundays.

We passed legislation making financial aid available to Dreamers, prohibiting the "gay panic defense" in criminal cases, and passing a resolution to start the process of removing Virginia's gay marriage ban from our Constitution.

Legislation prohibiting guns in polling places passed, and we codified the ban on guns inside the Capitol of Virginia and on Capitol

SEE WORKS IN, PAGE 11

Spring2ACTion for Alexandria's Community Foundation

Spring2ACTion is Alexandria's Day of Giving sponsored by ACT for Alexandria, our community foundation. This year it will be held on Wednesday, April 28. Last year, business fundraisers raised \$90,000 of the \$2.5 million total and we are looking to do more this year.

A big part of Spring2ACTion is friendly competition.

In that spirit Old Town Business and Del Ray Business Association have teamed up to see which neighborhood can raise the most dollars and donors. Not only are bragging rights on the line but so is

prize money from Burke & Herbert Bank. They will give prize money to the association that raises the most money and that has the most donors.

There are many ways that you can raise funds for worthy causes (and help Old Town Business beat DRBA).

Solicit Gifts from Stakeholders: For us our stakeholders include staff, customers, vendors, sales reps, partners, friends and family. Use your email and social media to ask these folks to donate to the charity they support and designate your business as the one who so-

licited the gift. Designations are made at check out and are the way our totals are calculated on the leaderboard.

Donate a Percentage of Sales: On Spring2ACTion give a percentage of your customer's sale to the charity of their choice. Make the donation to the charity on their Spring2ACTion page before midnight so the donation can be reflected in their fundraising and leaderboard totals. Don't forget to designate your business as the one giving the gift so it can go to your totals and OTB's!

Prize Money: Offer prize money

to the organization that your donors designated to your business that raised the most money and/or donors. It's a great way to have nonprofits talking about you!

Sponsor: Finally, you can simply give money by sponsoring prize money or one of the sponsor levels. Email Tricia Ritchie at ACT for Alexandria for more information - tricia.ritchie@actforalexandria.org.

Register for the April 6 preview and information session. https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tJwtduyvrjwsHNPrS-wyxsGNeImUN4_Ga0EB

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bill Cleveland For Anything

In the event that William "Bill" Cleveland announces his candidacy for any local office in Alexandria, I want to share this.

There is one and only one Republican I have and would vote for in a non-primary election.

William "Bill" Cleveland was the only person in the entire city of

Alexandria that stood by me, treated me like a human being and showed genuine care and compassion for me as a human being in duress.

This was during the post Karl

Stowe IHOP killing of Aaron Brown. I was writing daily letters of protest in defense of the Integrity of Police requiring a Judge to review all legal questions of the killing rather than just allowing CA Sengel to wave his hand and unilaterally dismiss charges from ever being brought by his office. Aaron Brown was the third person the police had killed in Alexandria in a very brief time, all of which resulted in Sengel shielding the officers from a court date.

I was terrified, but determined. I knew that this passive protest through a local Alexandria paper was going to get me arrested or killed, but just so somewhere there

was a record of Alexandria not being 100% cool with police hunting children for sport, I carried on.

Mr Cleveland, got dressed up in his finest suit, and acted the ab-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

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Connection Newspapers welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers; we will only print your name and town name.

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Jeanne Theismann

jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

Janet Barnett, John Bordner,
Mark Mogle

Contributing Photographers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Shirley Ruhe

Contributing Photographer and Writer
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Eden Brown, Bridgette Adu-Wadier
Contributing Writers
gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Hope Nelson

Food Writer
hope@kitchenrecessionista.com
@kitchenrecess

Michael Pope

Senior Reporter
michaelleepope@gmail.com
@michaelleepope

ADVERTISING:

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk

Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Tara Lloyd

Display Advertising, 703-740-7128
tlloyd@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Publisher

Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh

Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Editor Emeritus:

Mary Anne Weber

CIRCULATION

Circulation Manager:

Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

A Connection Newspaper

The Alexandria Gazette Packet is distributed weekly to selected homes in the City of Alexandria. Any owners or occupants of premises that do not wish to receive the paper can notify the publisher by telephone at 703-778-9426 or by email to circulation@connectionnewspapers.com, and the distributor will be notified to discontinue service.



SENIOR LIVING

Style After Retirement

Great fashion sense is possible at any stage.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
GAZETTE PACKET

At 78, Winifred Rosenberg has always been known for her impeccable style and taste. An extensive collection of designer shoes, particularly stilettos, were items around which the Potomac senior's wardrobe was built. That changed when she developed an Achilles tendon disorder and needed surgery.

"She was told that she was going to lose her ability to walk, but after some very significant surgeries is able to continue walking and maintain her sense of autonomy," said Joseph Rothstein, a private fashion and personal style strategist, who added Rosenberg to his clientele. "She felt grateful, but the type of shoes she wore needed to become sturdier. She had always been so stylish."

Rosenberg cringed at the idea of sensible shoes, so she tasked Rothstein with creating a wardrobe that would allow her to maintain her sense of fashion while not damaging her feet.

"I told her that we needed to turn the issue into something exciting. I knew right then that the limited range of footwear that her foot surgeon told her that she could wear would be mission critical to developing her new look," said Rothstein. "What I did was start with the shoes and build the rest of her wardrobe around a new assortment of footwear."

The tools that Rothstein used to redefine his client's style are applicable to other seniors, he says. "When we are ready to face the music that our bodies have changed, or that we have physical changes that require adjustments to our clothing, it can impact our personal style."

Part of that transition is a style adjustment, and that begins with a few wardrobe staples, suggests William Allen, Professor in the Fashion Design & Merchandising program at Marymount University. "I advise both women and men to buy a few basic pieces that can be dressed up or dressed down," he said. "Keep existing pieces or buy a few new classic pieces of clothing. Purchase 10 to 15 pieces that you can mix and match and build a wardrobe around. Look for simple, clean lines in neutral colors like tan, black and gray."

"Add classic accessories like watches, handbags and jewelry to add interest," Allen continued. "These should be items that never go out of style. You can dress them up with accessories so they don't become boring."

Fashion adventure, tempered by sophistication and maturity, is what design consultant Michelle Vaughn of Chantilly encourages for her clients. "Don't be afraid to take risks and try some of the new trends," she said. "Trends are not just for the 25 and under crowd but can be flattering on many different age groups."

Take chances with color, especially as seasons change, added stylist Elizabeth Hoenscheid of Top it Off, in Alexandria. "For spring and summer, it's all



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOP IT OFF

Elizabeth Hoenscheid of Top it Off, in Alexandria recommends clothing with generous cuts that can be layered over slim cut pants or trousers.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOP IT OFF

Build a wardrobe with classic pieces that are on trend but not trendy.

about fun pieces to add a pop of color and print to white jeans or capris."

Retirement does not have to mean giving up on style, says Vaughn. "The need to dress up might change and personal style might change as one ages," she said. "But be sure to invest in higher quality items

even if that means purchasing fewer items. They last longer and you will not need to replace them as often."

From undergarments to pants, clothes should fit properly advises Vaughn "Make sure your garments have a perfect fit and are properly altered to fit your body type, she said. "Undergarments should give clean lines."

When feeling unsure about shopping for clothes, Vaughn suggests developing a support system. "Shop with someone you trust and whose style you admire," she said. "Find a sales associate, friend, family member or hire a personal stylist

who will be honest with you and show you things that work best on you."

"As people get older, they want to be more comfortable," said Allen. "You can be comfortable every day and still be well-dressed and look pulled together."

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COMMUNITY



The family of slain officer Charlie Hill plants flowers at the Charles W. Hill park on the 32nd anniversary of Hill's death.



Ginny Hill Obranovich, second from left in back, is joined by her family March 22 at the entrance to the Del Ray park named for her late husband, Corporal Charles W. Hill. With her in back are: son Robert, husband Richard Obranovich, son Charles Jr., and daughter-in-law Michelle. Standing in front are granddaughters Laila, Ellie and Audrey with baby Hannah sitting.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Remembering Charles Hill

Community gathers to remember slain officer.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

March 22, 1989, began as a routine workday for Charlie Hill and his family. A member of the Special Operations Team with the Alexandria Police Department, Hill was home early playing with his two sons when he was called to respond to a hostage situation in Old Town. During the standoff, Hill was fatally shot, becoming the last APD officer to be killed in the line of duty.

Thirty-two years later, members of the law enforcement community joined Hill's family for the annual March 22 clean up and beautification of the Del Ray park named in Hill's memory.

"This is a chance to come out and give back, especially for someone who gave everything for this community," said Officer Joe Winkeler. "Taking care of the park



COURTESY ALEXANDRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
APD Corporal Charles Hill was killed in the line of duty March 22, 1989.

named after him is the least we can do."

A 13-year-member of the Alexandria police force, Hill was killed when 34-year-old Jamie Wise had taken several hostages in

the 300 block of Hopkins Court to collect on a drug debt.

After a five-hour standoff, Wise emerged with a sawed-off shotgun pointed at the head of a teenage hostage. A police sharpshooter shot Wise but not before he was able to fire off two rounds. One fatally wounded Hill and the other severely injured Hill's partner, officer Andrew Chelchowski.

Hill's widow, Ginny Hill Obranovich, and their sons Charles Jr. and Robert, a detective with the Alexandria Police Department, participated in the community day along with Hill's granddaughters Ellie, Laila, Audrey and Hannah.

"This really means a lot," said Charles Hill Jr., who was 7 years old when his father was slain. "It's amazing to see everyone come out once a year, especially the SWAT team."

Prior to joining the APD in 1976, Hill served as an officer with the New York City Police Department. In Alexandria, Hill worked as a patrol officer, a Field Training Officer and an Identification Technician. He joined the Special Operations Team, a tactical response unit, and in 1980, he became the firearms instructor at the police range. He was promoted to corporal in 1982.



Volunteers clean up leaves and debris March 22 at Charles W. Hill Park in Del Ray.

Several thousand mourners turned out for Hill's memorial service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church while hundreds more shoppers, business owners and courthouse employees lined the streets of Old Town with their heads bowed in silence.

Just one month earlier, Hill had celebrated his 40th birthday. In 1993, Chelchowski, Hill's partner that day, died of suicide after suffering PTSD from the incident four years earlier.

"I am really appreciative of the retiree community coming out to support our effort to keep Charlie's memory alive, to keep Andy's memory alive," said SWAT team commander Lt. Jason Story. "It means a lot to our tactical team and to our department. And we are grateful to the community members who come out to help us every single year on March 22 to keep the park clean."

Hill's widow remarried in 1991 and now serves as the volunteer executive director of the Alexandria Police Foundation, where she is joined by her husband Richard Obranovich. The two were named 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Retired APD officers gather for a group photo March 22 at the Charles W. Hill Park in Del Ray. This year's event commemorated the 32nd anniversary of the slaying of Corporal Charles Hill, the last Alexandria police officer to be killed in the line of duty.



APD volunteers prepare to move a load of mulch during the Charles W. Hill Park clean-up day March 22 in Del Ray.



Sheriff Dana Lawhorne, center back, joins Ginny Hill Obranovich and other volunteers March 22 to clean up the Charles W. Hill Park on the 32nd anniversary of Hill's death. Lawhorne served as an APD officer with Hill prior to becoming Sheriff.



Dina Rotklein holds the Passover Seder plate which consists of charoset, bitter herbs, a shank bone, lettuce leaf and an egg and parsley.



Hanit Rotklein prepares charoset for the first night's Passover Seder, which will be held March 27.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Rabbi Steven Rein of Agudus Achim Congregation with the Haggadah, the text recited at the Seder on the first two nights of the Jewish Passover that includes a narrative of the Exodus.

The Passover Seder

FROM PAGE 1

celebrating Passover with her family. "I loved it," Rotklein said. "Passover was always during a break from school. I would stay home and my parents would just make the best food so I never felt like I

was missing out on anything."

Rein reflected on last year's Passover when families and many individuals observed a solitary Seder due to the pandemic.

"If we live within the metaphor of Egypt, last year we were still

slaves and wondering when we were going to be liberated," Rein said. "Now we feel like we are beginning to cross the sea. We are not on the other side yet but we are crossing and each day we are one day closer to the other end of this

pandemic." Rein said that many in his congregation will be hosting smaller Seder meals this year.

"While not the large Seders that we may all be accustomed to, there is the feeling that we can at least see very close family or dear

friends on Passover," Rein added. "Tradition tells us that we are obligated every year to see ourselves as if we ourselves left Egypt and it's important to remember how that influences and compels us to act in this world."

CALENDAR

MARCH TO NOVEMBER

Groundswell Temporary Public Art Installation at Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Groundswell, the 2021 temporary public art installation from Brooklyn-based artist Mark Reigelman, will be on display at Waterfront Park in Old Town Alexandria in late March to November 2021 as the third installation in the City of Alexandria's "Site See: New Views in Old Town" annual public art series. Groundswell brings an element of play to Alexandria's changing shoreline with a ground mural depicting the floor of the Potomac River and more than 100 wood pilings topped with etched blue mirrors that shimmer like water.

NOW THRU APRIL 3

March150. Torpedo Factory Art Center's popular annual exhibition and art sale, March150, returns to Target Gallery for the 11th year. Proceeds benefit future exhibitions and programs at Target Gallery and the Art Center. Torpedo Factory Art Center is located at 105 N. Union St. More information and tickets can be found at torpedo-

factory.org/march150.

NOW THRU APRIL 4

"Line by Line" Exhibit at The Art League. At The Art League Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. In this spring's exhibit from The Art Gallery, all of the artwork is a visual response to or interpretation of a work of poetry. The juror for this show is Jordann Wine, a D.C.-based muralist and painter. Visit theartleague.org.

NOW THRU MAY 15

"MEG Spring Show 2021." at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Alexandria. An exhibition of photography by MEG member artists at the gallery in the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria. The spring exhibition features two signature pieces by each MEG member artist.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

"Enslaved Lives and the Legacy of Slavery." 10 to 11 a.m. At Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Let a historian be your guide for a tour of the historic manor house that examines the relationship of the Mason family to slavery. During the tour, get insight into the lives of the Humphrey family and other enslaved

people whose labor maintained the Masons' wealth and social status. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-768-2525.

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

The Three Baritones. 7 p.m. Virtual on YouTube. Featuring Performers: Jose Sachin, Alex Albuquerque and Eduardo Castro. Virtually on Youtube Channel @operanova.

FRIDAY/MARCH 26

Cherry Blossom Celebration at Captain Gregory's. 5 to 10 p.m. At Captain Gregory's, 804 N Henry St., Alexandria. Captain Gregory's will host an outdoor patio celebration of the cherry blossoms in partnership with Beam Suntory. Enjoy a mobile highball cart, themed décor and more. Savor Captain Gregory's "Winter in Tokyo" menu in-person or celebrate the Japanese blossoms at home with takeout.

SATURDAY/MARCH, 27

Washington Gardener Magazine Seed Exchange. 12-2 p.m. or 2-4 p.m. (Adults) The 15th annual Washington Gardener Seed Exchange will take place at Green Spring Gardens. Label and bring your extra seeds, houseplant cuttings and seedlings, and swap them with

other gardeners. Attendees will receive planting tips, local gardening advice, and goody bags, as well as a chance to win door prizes. This program will be held indoors with social distancing and limited registration. \$15 per person. Wear a mask. Temperature checks administered at the door. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (12-2pm code KNZ. CAB6; 2pm-4pm code KNZ.PUVH) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Garden Talk: Growing Tomatoes From Seed to Sauce. 10-11 a.m. More than anything else in the garden, there is nothing like a freshly picked tomato. Growing your own gives you flexibility, picking whatever variety best suits your own taste. Extension Master Gardeners show you healthy ways to grow tomatoes, varieties available, and how to manage pests and diseases. \$12 per person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (EC4.CI21) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

MARCH 27 AND APRIL 3

Easter Egg Hunt at Lee-Fendall House. 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m.

and 3 p.m. At Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco Street, Alexandria. Admission: \$15 for participating children ages 2 to 12; \$5 for accompanying adults; free for infants under 2

Find Easter eggs hidden in the Lee-Fendall garden on this socially distant take on their popular annual egg hunt. Sessions are offered on the hour March 27 and April 3, 2021, beginning at 11 a.m. with the last one starting at 3 p.m. Attendance will be limited to enforce social distancing. Face masks are required. Advance reservations only. Bring your own basket. Visit leefendallhouse.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Spring Tasks for a Great Garden. 10:30 a.m.-12 p.m. (Adults) Horticulturalist Brenda Skarphol shows you things you can do to prepare your garden for a beautiful spring. Learn what plants you can and should divide now, the most effective pruning techniques, and more to set up your garden for fresh spring growth. \$18 per person. This program is also available virtually. Register online at

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

Ethicist on the Bench

FROM PAGE 1

famous blackjack player who gained widespread notoriety by developing a system of card counting.

He was kicked out of casinos all over the world, and he achieved a level of notoriety after appearing on the CBS newsmagazine show “60 Minutes” in 1981. The interview with Harry Reasoner made her father famous for counting cards, but she says that was only one dimension of a vibrant career that included earning degrees at Harvard and Yale before becoming the youngest senior vice president of the Pacific Coast Stock Exchange and writing the best-selling book “Mastering Pac-Man.”

“My father was a mathematical genius, and his mind was constantly in motion,” said Uston. “His brilliance was not dedicated to the game of blackjack. It’s just that it was the only casino game where you can gain an edge over the house, and he wanted to unravel that puzzle.”

She received a bachelor of arts in political science from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio and a juris doctorate from George Mason University School of Law. She was also a founding member of the George Mason American Inn of Court, a group of students, lawyers and judges that meet to discuss legal issues informally and network professionally.

After graduating law school, she began practicing in Alexandria doing civil litigation and criminal defense as well as serving as a



Kathleen Uston

court-appointed commissioner in chancery and as a guardian ad litem.

“My work as a guardian ad litem was by far and away the most rewarding aspect of that practice because I got to meet the social workers and the city attorneys who do this work day in and day out for our community — and not being paid enough to do it,” said Uston. “But it doesn’t matter to them because they do it out of commitment and duty and a true love for their fellow man and woman, and it’s amazing to meet people like that.”

AFTER MORE THAN a decade lawyering in Alexandria, Uston took a position as assistant bar counsel for the Virginia State Bar. In this position, she spent a dozen years investigating and prosecuting unethical lawyers. Lawyers accused of wrongdoing can be fierce in disciplinary proceedings, so Uston had to be prepared for just about anything. Over that time, colleagues said, she developed a keen sense of legal ethics and how they applied to the real world.

“Lawyer discipline is not a fun subject, and it’s also a very arcane area of the law,” said state Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36). “But she approached it with a balance of practicality and realism.”

Lawmakers who considered Uston for the bench were particularly impressed by this part of her resume, an experience that gave her a view of the profession that most lawyers never see. She describes the job as a public-service role because the job involves seeking justice for clients who have been wronged by shady lawyers. Prosecuting attorneys isn’t quite the same thing as prosecuting criminals, though, and the rules of evidence are different. But people who know Uston say this experience will serve her well in her new position.

“It required her to make some uncomfortable

decisions because she’s reaching opinions about the ethics of fellow attorneys,” said Alexandria Commonwealth’s Attorney Bryan Porter. “If you boil down a judge’s job to its core it’s to make tough decisions. That’s what they’re selected for, and that’s what they’re paid for, and so I think Katie’s experience as bar counsel bodes well.”

Much of that experience is shrouded in secrecy.

“She could never tell us exactly what she was up to because so much of that stuff is cloaked in confidentiality,” said Marcus Simon (D-53), who works with Uston’s husband.

“Stories about lawyer misconduct are often stories about sex, drugs and rock and roll. Some of it was funny, but some of it was sort of sad.”

USTON HAS SERVED as president of the National Organization of Bar Counsel and president of the Alexandria Bar Association. Her nomination to the bench may have been a bit rocky during the General Assembly session. But that’s behind her now, and she says she’s ready to put on the black robe and start hearing cases in the courtroom recently vacated by former Judge Nolan Dawkins.

“It’s not about winning. It’s about a search for the truth,” said Uston.

“She is going to be particularly attuned to attorney conduct.”

— Yvonne Weight Callahan

VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA

Volunteer Alexandria has been collecting a list of items and organizations who are asking for in-kind donations. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/in-kind>

Please consider donating to Volunteer Alexandria’s COVID Emergency Response Fund. <https://volunteer-alexandria.square.site/>

Plan ahead to volunteer. Check out our opportunity calendar. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/calendar>

In-Person Volunteer Opportunities

ACPS Food Distribution Curbside and Mobile Pop-Up
Alexandria City Public School (ACPS) will provide two days’ worth of breakfast and lunch meals with a snack pack free for any enrolled ACPS student on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Friday distribution will include a meal(s) for Saturday. To register for curbside distribution at Jefferson Houston Middle School <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dgoUn>. To

register for curbside distribution at TC Williams High School <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dgoVl>. To register for Mobile Pop-Ups, <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/careforcommunity>.

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors

Alexandria Families for Safe Streets seeks an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keeping us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2n05>

ALIVE!

Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program. will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/ALIVE>

ASCEND Local Park Clean-Up

Come join us on Saturday, April

10th to help clean and beautify a park in the City of Alexandria! ASCEND Alexandria is calling on residents to come together and help clean a local park - location to be determined - from 10:30am to noon. Age: 13+ (12 with parent/guardian). <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dgoU3UAI>

Breaks with Impact – Youth Volunteers

Volunteer Alexandria’s program for youth, Breaks with Impact (BWI), is focused on community engagement. Participants will learn more about social issues facing Alexandrians and how nonprofits address these issues, earning direct service hours and service-learning hours.

Join us in an after-school program to help make laundry detergent to donate towards helping clean clothes at the Carpenter’s Shelter on April 12th or 19th. Visit www.volunteeralexandria.org/bwi to learn more about the programs, see previous projects, and to register for listed events.

Casa Chirilagua

Volunteers are needed to help

collect, sort, organize, and distribute donations. Casa Chirilagua needs volunteers to help tutor/mentor children and adults virtually and in-person during their Kids Club, Teen Club, Mentoring program, Spanish Tutor program, and Adult English Classes. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/casachirilaguavolunteer>

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

The CERT program educates you to prepare yourself, your family, and your community to address hazards that may impact the City of Alexandria and to respond to emergency situations. Learn basic disaster response skills such as damage assessment after a disaster, triage and giving first aid to victims, extinguishing small fires, performing light search and rescue, and providing much needed assistance in times of crisis. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2fwh>

FACETS – Front Desk Volunteer at Alexandria Location

FACETS is looking for a volunteer who can help them run their

front desk. Volunteer will assist clients, answer phone calls, receive donations, data entry/filing, and maintain the front desk and lobby of the office. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2YZI>

Friends of Guest House – Basic Computer Skills Teacher

Dedicated volunteers needed to teach a multi-part basic computer skills class to women. The ideal volunteer will have a mastery in Microsoft Office and will be able to help improve the women’s understanding of basic computer functions-- such as copying and pasting, aligning documents, saving, headers/footers, etc. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dqmQfUAI>

Good 360 – Nonprofit Development Internship

Join a dynamic team of Do-Gooders and earn critical work experience if you are an energetic, bright, and dedicated college student or an upcoming professional. [SEE HELPING, PAGE 14](https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2fwh)

Works in Progress, Completed

FROM PAGE 6

Square. We were unable to pass a bill prohibiting plastic gun kits or “ghost guns,” but will take that up again next session.

We strengthened our health care exchange by creating a reinsurance program that will lower insurance costs for high risk Virginians in the exchange.

Legislation requiring Virginia’s healthcare exchange to cover abortion services passed as well. No taxpayer money will fund these services.

Many parents reached out about schools remaining closed and legislation requiring schools to be open for in-person classes this fall passed with large bipartisan mar-

gins. We need to get our kids back in the classroom.

We also extended the temporary regulation allowing restaurants to sell cocktails to-go. Go out and get a quart of margaritas to take home.

Finally, last session, I carried legislation to study giving all Virginians an appeal of right in all civil and criminal cases.

We are the only state in America without it. The Virginia Judicial Council approved my idea, and legislation expanding the Court of Appeals to achieve it passed as well.

Governor Northam is now considering his amendments or vetoes to bills. They will be announced on March 31, 2021.

It is also looking very likely that we will need to have a special session to appropriate approximately \$8 billion coming from the federal government and pick seven new appellate judges and their replacements.

It is an honor to serve as your state senator. Send me any feedback at scott@scottsuovell.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

solute model of a kind and caring gentleman when he visited me at the old Chicken Out Rotisserie in Bradlee Shopping center. He came in the same day I had to serve over a dozen police officers who had decided that visiting my place of work a dozen at a time and harassing me was fun.

Mr Cleveland brought his wife, who I thought was the most graceful woman that I have ever and possibly will ever have the fortune to be in the presence of.

Mr. Cleveland joked with me, doing a dance when I felt like crying from the hell of that time period. He and his wife showed so much support for me personally,

that I don’t care how far astray and lost the Republican Party goes, any opportunity to vote for him is one I will take joy in being presented.

Mr Cleveland hasn’t declared for any office yet. But I ask every fellow Alexandria Democrat who is reading this, to put aside party loyalty and judge this man by his golden heart.

Henry Johnson
Alexandria

Perryman for Racial Jus

In recent years, there have been increasing calls for racial justice,

culminating in nationwide protests this past summer over the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and far too many others at the hands of the police. To create a more just society, we need elected leaders who are experienced in community organizing and dedicated to continuing the fight for justice through bold and long lasting policy.

Sean Perryman, candidate for Lt. Governor of Virginia, is a longtime leader in this movement. Sean was the youngest ever president of the Fairfax County NAACP, the largest Virginia chapter of the organization.

He led successful efforts in Fair-

fax county to reform the first responder system, force more data from the police, and lower arrests in schools by 80% in a year. In addition, he has experience holding our government accountable from his time investigating the Trump administration while working for Rep. Elijah Cummings.

Sean will be an invaluable leader in Richmond, fighting for – and succeeding in – making Virginia a more welcoming, equitable place for

all. Sean won’t back down from the fight for criminal justice reform, economic justice, and civil rights: all of which are needed to end systemic racism in our com-

munities.

I’m proudly voting for Sean in the June 8th Democratic primary because in a crowded field for the Democratic nomination, Sean stands out as someone who understands how to use the Lt. Governor’s role to deliver an

agenda that helps ALL Virgini ns live their best life.

Nikki Enfield
Alexandria

Editor’s note: Open the floodgates, we have printed a letter in support of a statewide candidate and will likely print more. Send letters to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes (656.W5CH) or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

SATURDAY/MARCH 27

Spring Comes on the World Concert. 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. At The Rectory, 711 Princess Street, Alexandria. Featuring musicians from the National Symphony Orchestra: Marissa Regni, Violin; Angelia Cho, Violin; Peiming Lin, Violin; Andrew Eng, Viola; and Britton Riley, Cello. Celebrate the return of springtime and “Sounds of Hope & Harmony” with string musicians from the NSO in charming, seasonal chamber works including Vivaldi’s popular “Spring” concerto from The Four Seasons and Mozart’s “Spring” quartet – as well as a mesmerizing quartet by composer Philip Glass, in honor of Passover. Visit the website: <https://www.classicalmovements.com/secretgardenconcerts/>

SUNDAY/MARCH 28

Afternoon Tea. 2-3 p.m. Virtual. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The “Virtual Afternoon Tea: Wabi-Sabi and Embracing Imperfection” will be conducted online via Zoom. All registrants will be sent a link by email to attend. The cost of

the lecture is \$12 per person. Participants may also purchase an optional afternoon tea box for \$24. Tea boxes include tea sandwiches, pastries, scone, tea bag and accompaniments. They are available for pickup from the Historic House at Green Spring Gardens on the day of the program. Call 703-941-7987.

SUNDAY/MARCH 28

Family Hilltop Outing. 1-2 p.m. At Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, Alexandria. Parents and kids are invited to take a family-friendly tour of Historic Huntley on a “Family Hilltop Outing” on three days in March 2021. Learn what significance this villa had to one of our Founding Fathers. Challenge yourself using historical tools, such as ice tongs. See if you can master old-time children’s games. The program is designed for ages 5 to adult. The cost is \$8 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call the park at 703-768-2525.

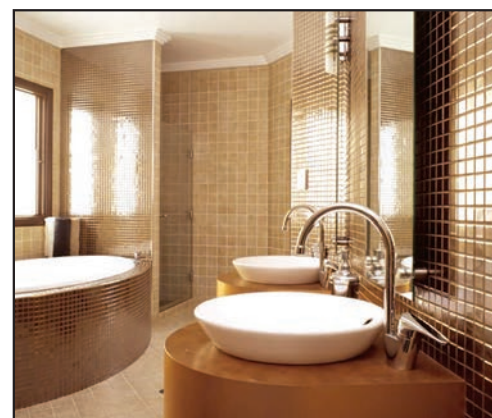
THE BIRCHMERE

Thu. Mar. 25: Kashmir – The Live Led Zeppelin Tribute Show \$35.00
Sat/Sun. Mar. 27 & 28: An Evening with Raul Malo \$49.50 (Two Days!) Emily Julia Kresky to open.
Thurs. April 1: Karen Linette to open for Gene Noble.

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Trixie snuggles with adoptive parent Jim Senn.



Trixie makes herself comfortable in her new home. Besides taking it easy, she has found lots to do, including strolling in her new backyard and carrying her favorite toys around the house.



Trixie, originally known as Kitara, as she awaited adoption at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. The dog was transferred in from Florida and quickly found a new home in Northern Virginia.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SUSAN SENN

PHOTOGRAPH BY DEŠILVA STUDIOS

A Little Dog's Rough Road to Love

BY BARBARA S. MOFFET

For a silver-colored wire-haired terrier mix named Trixie, life just keeps getting better: She was adopted and brought to the home of Susan Senn and her husband, Jim. Senn soon started taking her out for “walkabouts” in their spacious backyard. Trixie then figured out that those intimidating stairs in the house were just right for flying up and down. And, she learned that good behavior equals delicious treats.

But life wasn't always this cushy for Trixie. Trixie was actually known as Kitara when she arrived at the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria (AWLA) in February. Rescued from a Miami, Fla., area shelter by True & Faithful Rescue Mission, Kitara had then gone to a foster home, where she gave birth to stillborn puppies. True & Faithful determined that Kitara needed special attention — and contacted the AWLA so that she could be transferred.

“We transfer in many animals from areas where there aren't enough resources to care

for the number of animals in need,” said AWLA Transfer & Training Coordinator Erin Short.

“We try to bring in at least one transfer group a week, many of them from southern Virginia and West Virginia. We have a hugely supportive community here who open their hearts and homes to these animals, who may not have had the best start in life.”

About 700 animals of all species are transferred into the AWLA each year. Earlier this month, for example, the AWLA transported 50 cats from shelters in Texas that were overwhelmed by the February snowstorms and power outages. Of those cats, 20 remained with the AWLA to find their families while the others continued on to other area shelters and rescues. The AWLA also has transferred in rabbits, reptiles and even rats and mice.

Upon arrival at the AWLA, Kitara received a medical and behavioral examination by the staff veterinarian, who detected a heart murmur; a veterinary heart specialist confirmed the diagnosis with an echocardiogram. Kitara also tested positive for Lyme

disease, and the dog was prescribed an antibiotic for treatment, said Veterinary & Foster Care Manager Arianne Killen, who assists with many animals' medical exams. Killen says that with proper treatment and care, Kitara, who's now about four years old, should be able to lead a normal life.

Despite her medical challenges, Kitara was the “cutest, most social girl,” said AWLA Director of Operations Katie DeMent, who conducted the dog's intake exam. “It appeared that she had been very well cared for,” DeMent said. “She obviously had been someone's pet.” Kitara quickly found her happy place at the AWLA, hanging out with the front-desk staff, taking naps at their feet. It was clear she soon would be ready for adoption.

Susan Senn of Arlington had been seeking a new dog for some time, checking the AWLA website first thing every morning. She finally got the chance to meet Kitara, and after a thorough discussion with the shelter staff, Senn decided to adopt her. Senn took Kitara home on March 4.

Now “Trixie,” the pup has blended seam-

lessly with Senn and her family, even their cat, Dolly. On her first night, Senn's husband felt she needed some company, so he took her from her crate at midnight and slept with her on the couch. “She loves my husband, and she runs to him wagging her tail when he comes in,” Senn said.

On Trixie's second night in her new home, she walked right into the crate, lay down and slept all night. But the following night, Senn says, she picked Trixie up and put her on the bed when it was time to go to sleep. “She crawled right between us and spent the night. Every day there seems to be something new.”

The Animal Welfare League of Alexandria is a local 501(c)(3) organization that operates the Vola Lawson Animal Shelter, Alexandria's only open-access animal shelter. In response to the global pandemic, the AWLA has established a virtual adoption process and is operating a Pet Pantry that provides pet food and supplies to community members in need. The AWLA also offers assistance to Alexandrians with questions about wildlife and animals in the community. More information can be found at Alexandria-Animals.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Activities continues to finalize plans for summer programs with City and community partners. It is anticipated that details on specific program offerings will be available to the public on Wednesday, March 24. Registration for summer programs will begin Wednesday, April 7 for City residents and on Friday, April 9 for nonresidents. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to learn more about the City's summer recreation programs beginning Wednesday, March 24.

ALEXANDRIA ACADEMY PROGRAMS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

The City of Alexandria invites the public to participate in its Academy programs to learn how local government, partner agencies and the community work together to create a well-managed place in which to live, work and visit.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions, the spring 2021 Academy programs will be held virtually to keep the Alexandria community healthy and safe.

These free programs are designed to inform, educate, engage and

encourage participants to become more actively involved in fostering a thriving Alexandria. Learn how City departments work together to provide a safe, secure and sustainable community. Applications for all academies will be accepted through the date indicated on each application.

ALEXANDRIA CITY ACADEMY

Held virtually on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., for nine weeks beginning March 18. This course gives participants the opportunity to learn about City government virtually in a wide range of government functions, services, activities and issues.

ALEXANDRIA COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Held virtually on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:45 p.m., for three weeks beginning May 5. The class will include lectures from assistant prosecutors and program leaders, and information about advancements in Virginia Law. Each session will also allow time for questions and answers.

ALEXANDRIA SENIOR ACADEMY

Held virtually on Wednesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m., for four weeks beginning April 7. This course is designed to educate, inform and engage Alexandrians ages 60 and

up about government functions, programs and organizations that provide services to seniors.

NEW! ALEXANDRIA ECO-CITY ACADEMY

Held virtually on Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. for six weeks, beginning April 7. This course is an opportunity to become an Eco-City Ambassador, take actions to make Alexandria more sustainable, learn about environmental challenges and contribute to daily sustainable practices to reach the City's Environmental Action Plan 2040.

News

Alzheimer's Association to Host Free Screening of 'Grandpa's Hands' on April 8

Event to include Q&A with film creator, discussion of warning signs

The Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter will present a free screening of the film *Grandpa's Hands* on Thursday, April 8. The event will include a Q&A discussion with Darren Colston, creator of the film, and a discussion on the warning signs of Alzheimer's.

Grandpa's Hands is a short narrative film about Jackson, a young professional who makes a rare visit with his grandfather and struggles to reconnect due to his grandfather's dementia. The dementia echoes the pain of betrayal and racial discrimination. When Jackson's grandfather confronts an unwanted visitor, his past and present merge bringing Jackson along for an important lesson of love and respect.

"I'm excited to screen my film, *Grandpa's Hands*, with Alzheimer's Association's National Capital Area Chapter," said Darren Colston, creator of the film. "I look forward to having a conversation with the community about the trials and triumphs of being a caretaker and family member of a loved one impacted by dementia and Alzheimer's disease."

"I wanted to show this film to spotlight the impact that Alzheimer's has on the individual, the family and the community," said Tara Davis-Rama, Diversity and Inclusion Program Manager with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter. "This film depicts the reality of a young man trying to balance his professional life while caring for his grandfather."

I hope this film will highlight male caregivers as well as serve as an invitation to invite more young men to participate in support groups."

In addition to the film screening and Q&A session with Colston, the evening will feature a workshop and discussion on the warning signs of Alzheimer's. The workshop will start at 6 p.m. The film screening and Q&A with Colston will run from 7 - 8 p.m. The event is free. Registration is required. To register, visit alz.org/nca or call 800.272.3900.

SEE ALZHEIMER'S, PAGE 14

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Time Will Tell

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Ordinarily I'd be writing this column this weekend - after this week's events. Events, and I use that term loosely, that will either sustain my good fortune - or change it for the worse. What I'm referring to are results from my bi-monthly/quarterly diagnostic scans. This week I'll be CT-scanned from the pelvis to the neck and will have had my bones' scanned as well. The associated lab work and blood pressure check required pale in comparison to the significance of the findings from these two scans. Scan results which will tell me how I feel, a day or two later when I will receive electronically the radiologist's assessment/interpretation of the scans. But since I'll be out of town, with limited computer access and only a "stupid" phone (no internet capability), not a smart phone to use, I'll be left to my own devices - literally, until I return home Sunday afternoon.

Since I'll likely not receive any results before we leave on Friday, and moreover, not have the time to write a column this coming weekend (last weekend when the paper publishes on the 24th), I am minding my own business six days earlier than usual in hopes that what I don't know now won't hurt me later. And given that I take my avocation/column writing seriously, rather than reprint an old column, I am writing a new/current column in advance to continue to lead you regular readers down my garden's path.

The path to which I refer hopefully will be a path of least resistance that will enable me to assimilate all my forthcoming medical data into some coherent assessment of where I am, healthwise. Will I be able to maintain my status quo: 10 MG of levinia or will I have to change protocols and no longer stay on the horse that brung me? I have to hope I can continue on at my present pace because the 14 MG and 24 MG doses each had unpleasant side effects which lead to the reductions in the first place. And to complicate the dose possibilities, each of the higher doses lead to stable/some shrinkage on the CT scan and a significant reduction as well in my cancer markers, down from 200 to 4. This will be my first scan since I've taken the smaller dose. To say I'm somewhat invested in the outcome of this week's scans would be the understatement of the universe.

Unfortunately, none of this information will likely have been emailed to me - at home before we leave town, and I'll not have time and place to write a column this weekend while out of town. Therefore, I am submitting this column, written six days ahead of my typical deadline, with the best of intentions. In effect, today becomes just another day ("the daze of my life") of a person undergoing treatment for an incurable form of cancer; that type being papillary thyroid cancer stage IV versus the original/indisputable diagnosis: non small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

It will definitely be awkward knowing that diagnostic information about my health/presumptive welfare is in an inbox waiting for my log-in information. It's hardly ideal, but as a long-time cancer survivor, I have been here before and have done that. I'm not thrilled about being away when my life might possibly be hanging in the balance. I guess that's what cell phones are for: reaching out and sort of touching someone. If my doctors really need to talk with me, they are welcome to call. You can be sure my phone will be fully charged and with me at all times. After all, it might be good news, too. I mean, stranger things have happened: being diagnosed with "terminal" lung cancer after never having smoked cigarettes. Granted, upwards of 25% of new lung cancer cases are never-smokers, but still, with no history of cancer in my family and never having been a smoker, I kind of figured I had a fighting chance to avoid this disease. I guess my reward is 12+ years after my initial "13 month to two year" prognosis, I'm still alive and writing.

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

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VOLUNTEER ALEXANDRIA

FROM PAGE 10

ing graduate with a heart to serve, we have an opportunity to leverage those attributes AND help others at the same time. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2iYS>

Senior Services of Alexandria – Groceries to Go Shopping/Delivery

Groceries to Go volunteers shop for and deliver groceries every other week to home-bound seniors who live within the City of Alexandria. You will be paired with a senior, who will provide you with their grocery list. Further instructions (payment and other necessary information) will be provided to you once you've filled out the application, which involves a background check. The time commitment is at least six months, every other week. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2m1X>

Senior Services of Alexandria– Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels provides meals to seniors who are unable to leave their homes to shop, or have difficulty preparing a meal, to have two healthy meals a day delivered to their homes. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2o7U>

Volunteer Vaccine Clinic Assistant and COVID Vaccinators

Function as a member of COVID vaccination team at a Federally Qualified Community Health Center. Provide essential pandemic vaccine services to underserved communities and patients. Volunteers should demonstrate a sincere dedication and loyalty to the philosophy and mission of Neighborhood Health. To register to be a clinic assistant <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dqnmUAA>

If you are a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, dentist, RN, or LPN interested in becoming a COVID Vaccinator <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dqniwUAA>

UpCycle Creative Reuse Center – Reuse Center Shop Volunteer

UpCycle is seeking to fill a part-time Shop Volunteer position and this person will report to the Store Manager. This position is responsible for working in the UpCycle shop and handling all aspects of the customers' experience. To learn more about the position click [HERE](#).

Wildlife Rescue League

WRL is looking for volunteers to serve on their board and committees. Volunteers are also needed to assist with legal, grant research, accounting, helpline, and transporting animals. To learn more about these opportunities and to register click [HERE](#).

At Home and Virtual Volunteer Opportunities Sexual Assault Center in Alexandria - Hotline Advocate Volunteer

Alzheimer's Association to Host Free Screening of 'Grandpa's Hands' on April 8

FROM PAGE 13

About the Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association leads the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia –

The City of Alexandria's Sexual Assault Center is recruiting volunteer advocates. Volunteers respond to the 24-hour hotline on evenings and weekends. They provide emotional support and information to assist victims in regaining control of their lives. Training will be provided. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U20EF>

Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria (SAPCA) – Virtual Presenter Needed

SAPCA is seeking Adults interested in delivering Facts and Consequences workshops to middle and high school youth. These presentations share information about the health and legal consequences of using alcohol, marijuana, tobacco products and prescription medications.

All volunteers will receive training before delivering presentations virtually. Presentations usually take place during the school day. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2Wbb>

Organization for Autism Research (OAR) – Hire Autism Navigator

OAR is looking for persons with business, management, and workplace experience to serve as Hire Autism Navigators and help autistic adults refine their resumes and/or cover letters and prepare for job interviews. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2TDR>

Project ID –Help Distribute Flyers

Project ID's Alexandria Springfield Chapter is looking for individuals who can post our flyers on community boards, at libraries, soup kitchens, bus stops, anywhere that prospective clients may be found. They provide financial and logistical assistance to those in need of a Virginia state ID, needed to access housing, food assistance, jobs and more. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U1tXm>

Volunteer Alexandria – New Emergency Preparedness Volunteer Orientation

Would you like to learn more about our emergency preparedness program? This is a great opportunity! Our orientation provides more information about emergency management and ways to be involved in the community. <https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001dq19T>

Volunteer Alexandria – Volunteer Management Trainings

Volunteer Alexandria has committed the next six Lunch & Learn sessions continue Allyship training. These discussions will be on racial equity in your line of work. We are dedicating our time each month from January through June every second Thursday starting January 14th. No need of previous training to join

[volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2WvW](https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/opportunity/a0C4X00001U2WvW)

by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support. The vision is a world without Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Visit alz.org or call 800-272-3900.

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Jodie Burns 571.228.5790
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