CONTECTION McLean & Vienna





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2014-2021

NEWS



A Share client decides what frozen meat she wants to take home.



Nicki Watts, Share's office manager and co-chair of the Food and Clothing Program at the pantry site, McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.



Share clients shop the canned and boxed goods, bread, and paper goods room.

Share Inc. of McLean Request the Community's Help

Gift cards and more needed for clients this holiday season.

By Mercia Hobson The Connection

hare of McLean is asking for help from the community because the needs and numbers of the economically disadvantaged and those facing crises have recently been unprecedented. Share serves people in need in zip codes 22101, 22102, 22066, and the Pimmit Hills region of 22043.

Share is in the midst of its second COVID-19 pandemic holiday season and is feeling the crunch. The strain on the organization's supplies became evident when it recently experienced not one but two of its busiest days ever at its Food and Clothing Room located at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

"We've definitely grown since the pandemic in the number of people that come in," said Nicki Watts, office manager and co-chair of the program. "I've been here for about three years. We had 76 families one day, and the day before that, 74 families, so it was crazy," she said.

Share administers its Food and Clothing Program for approximately 1,500 families, totaling 4,000 household clients, in a space donated by the McLean Baptist Church. Share takes donations on-site at a donation shed and a satellite facility, The Redeemer Lutheran Church, located at 1545 Chain Bridge Dr., McLean, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Share receives clients referred from partner faith communities, county social serwww.ConnectionNewspapers.com



Elder Woodward (left) and Elder Sherwood of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints volunteer as Spanish translators at Share.

vices, and various nonprofit organizations that serve special-needs populations, such as victims of domestic abuse or people who formerly were experiencing homelessness.

According to Watts, once a client is approved, they can visit the Food and Clothing Program twice a month. The Food and Clothing Pantry is typically open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings for shopping and is entirely operated by volunteers and supported by the community.

However, the space is not conducive to large numbers of people being inside at one time, given its narrow hallway leading to shopping rooms. But the nonprofit is thankful for the use, said Watts, and makes it work. Clients enter, qualify through registration, and receive a colored card designating



Volunteer Ron Parks in the storage room.

the number of family members. They return outside to queue and enter in as capacity limits allow.

On Wednesday, Dec. 1, volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints, Elder Woodard and Elder Sherwood, wore their red Share aprons and assisted the organization by interpreting for Spanish clients. "I love being here and serving the community," said Elder Woodward.

Ron Kelley, another volunteer, assisted in the warehouse area by storing donated canned and boxed items after they were inspected for expiration dates.

An industrial freezer in the retail hall-way had fish and meat supplied by a local Walmart. Other rooms offered bread, fruit, and miscellaneous supplies such as cooking oil, diapers, hygiene products, coats, and



Visit the Share Inc. of McLean's Holiday Wish List Tree at Giant Food at 1454 Chain Bridge Rd in McLean and purchase gift cards for Share's holiday giving

HOW TO HELP

❖ Gift cards for clients can now be purchased at McLean Giant and left at the Giant front desk. Giant or Target cards are available. Share also accepts Walmart cards bought at other locations.

Many people want to help those in need by donating food. Here are some options:

- * Donors can donate money online by credit card, PayPal or by mailing a check. Share volunteers will purchase what is most needed and available. https://www.shareofmclean.org/donate
- ❖ Purchase Share's most needed items at this website: https://www.myregistry.com/organization/share-of-mclean-mclean-va/2380279 Deliveries are sent directly to a safe location where they are loaded into a Share food truck.

See Share, Page 5

Remembering Vic Kimm

andy Glantz spoke about Vic Kimm and their shared time with SHARE at Kimm's Mass of Christian Burial, held Friday, Dec. 3, at Saint Luke Catholic Church in McLean. Here are some excerpts, edited for length:

I was a volunteer with Vic for Share and had the privilege of his friendship for more than 20 years. I can say with a mixture of profound respect, joy, and now tears that he was my best friend. That we were both from Brooklyn helped strengthen our bond. It is my honor to help give voice to so many of Vic's friends and the many others who he influenced during his nearly 30 years volunteering with Share.

I first met Vic during one of our million-dollar rides with Share's furniture program. For those who are unfamiliar, a million-dollar ride is an opportunity for prospective volunteers to see for themselves the million-dollar homes of furniture donors, then to deliver those furniture donations that same day to the less fortunate among our clients - who generally live in apartments you would not accept a million dollars to live in yourselves. I remember very clearly my first million-dollar ride. It was a particularly hot, miserable August day that I rode along with Vic and Stew Lingley in one of Share's old, ramshackle trucks. For those of you who remember it fondly, it was the old yellow truck. No air conditioning, of course. There I was huffing, puffing and sweating, struggling to push and pull sofas and dining room tables up three flights of stairs while navigating narrow hallways and even narrower doorways. And I could not have been happier. The three of us stopped for lunch and as I sat with Vic and Stew in that diner's booth, I realized I had found my happy place. To this day, my Saturday mornings are meant to be out in a truck with my Share buddies, moving furniture and bringing a little bit of caring and happiness to our clients' lives.

Vic has been an active volunteer with Share for nearly 30 years. He was initially recruited to the furniture program and continued moving sofas and tables and chairs well beyond the time when Pat [Kimm, his wife], if she knew about it, would have condoned it. Well, knowing Pat, she knew

about it, but she tolerated Vic's continuing to think he was a much younger man well past the time it made sense. He served two multi-year terms as president of Share. And I know Vic was the face of Share here at St. Luke and in the wider McLean community. He was a tireless champion of our core principle of treating our clients - the working poor and the less fortunate among us – with respect and dignity. At every board meeting (even over Zoom during the past 18 months), Vic would affirm to us all his firm belief in focusing on meeting the needs of our neighbors. He also made sure we focused on maintaining trust and giving hope. The Share board is inclined to be conservative with our spending, wanting to be responsible stewards of our donors' money. But Vic's attitude was to spend the money we have to help those who don't have. He was impatient with that instinct to preserve our funds, and he believed God would provide. And he was never wrong. He brought his faith to the table, demonstrating through his deeds how deeply he cared about every single person we served.

In preparing for today's remarks, I spoke with a half dozen of my fellow SHARE volunteers. What struck me was that without fail, every person told me how much Vic cared about working with our clients and how much he cared about bringing out the best in all of us. The best example of this is also one of the most poignant observations I heard. A volunteer told me that Vic had helped to reshape the way he sees the world around him and how he relates to other people.

Vic was truly a champion of those in need. This is a precept that particularly resonates with my Jewish faith, a core principle of which is "tikkun olam" (tee-KOON oh-LUHM) — the notion of social action and the pursuit of social justice. Vic truly upheld this tenet in his life. Time and again since his death I have heard how blessed we all were to be witness to, and to learn from, his tireless dedication to the good of others. And how blessed everyone felt to have his staunch friendship.

On the morning of the very last day of his life, Vic called me from the hospital to find out how the previous evening's board meeting had gone. He particularly want-

Victor Kimm, 87 of McLean

ictor J. Kimm died peacefully surrounded by family on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, at Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington, Va. He was 87. Victor was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, the son of Harry and Mary Kimm. He graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School, Brooklyn, New York. Victor was an engineer by training, having received bachelor's and master's degrees in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College and New York University. He also studied economics and public administration at Princeton University as a recipient of a National of Public Affairs Fellowship.

In 1958, he married Patricia Ratz, of Valley Stream, New York, and together they raised five children in McLean, Va.

After graduating from college, when President John F. Kennedy asked what Americans could do for their country, Victor and his wife, Pat (including their two young sons) decided to volunteer in rural Mexico doing community development work. After three years there, he spent two years in Washington, DC working as an engineering consultant in Latin America. He went on to work at the Economic Development Administration where he was active in a federal poverty program promoting civil rights and public accommodations. There he received a one-year fellowship to Princeton University. After completing his Princeton fellowship, Victor obtained a senior position with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where he spent more than 30 years, as a leader protecting the nation's environment.

Victor held several senior management positions within EPA which he joined in 1971 shortly after its inception. As the Director of the Office of Drinking Water, Victor managed and led efforts to help implement the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, the first generation of mandatory standards for drinking water quality. The Act achieved significant goals which included increasing public awareness of the need to protect drinking water supplies, stimulating scientific advances to protect water, improving state supervision of drinking water, and increasing the monitoring of drinking water systems.

In his role as the Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Victor oversaw the agency's budget resources for licensing new pesticides and industrial chemicals and controlling hazardous substances. He also promoted innovative applications of pollution prevention to reduce or eliminate toxic wastes. In 1989, Victor was the recipient of the Presidential Award – Meritorious Senior Executive.

He also provided expertise on environmental management issues to the World Health Organization and the United Nations as well as regional development institutions in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East.



After EPA, Victor taught environmental management and public policy at the University of Southern California's Graduate School of Public Administration.

For 29 years, he was an active volunteer including President and various board positions with Share of McLean, an all-volunteer, non-profit organization providing emergency assistance to people in northern Virginia. One of his favorite projects was organizing Share's furniture delivery program. In 2010, Victor was named Outstanding Community Citizen by the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce for his work with Share of McLean.

In addition to his successful career, Victor was an extraordinary man in many ways. He was a person of strong faith, a voracious reader, and an avid world traveler. He played bridge and loved puzzles. He loved playing cards and chess with his children and grandchildren especially during the family's yearly beach weeks in the Outer Banks, NC. He loved meeting people and learning about them. He was devoted to his family and friends and cared about each one of them.

Volunteering, serving society, and helping the poor and less privileged were his true passions. He worked tirelessly to improve the lives of others through many acts of kindness. He always made everyone feel welcome and tried to bring out the best in others. For his family, his most important achievement was the love, affection, and encouragement he provided and the values he instilled.

Surviving is his devoted and loving wife of 63 years, Patricia Kimm; his children Kevin Kimm and his wife Joy of Mt. Airy, Md.; Terence Kimm and his wife Christine of Vienna, Va.; Victoria Bak and her husband William of Falls Church, Va.; Stephen Kimm of McLean, Va.; and Kathleen Windish and her husband John of Portland, Oregon; and eight grandchildren and their families; and dear friends throughout the world.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in Victor's memory to Share of McLean.

ed to make sure we were being generous with the funds we had available through the kindness and generosity of everyone in this community..

From Vic I learned early to treasure the experience of being part of Share. Starting on that sweltering summer day 20 years ago, Vic and I have shared the very profound sense that our closeness to God comes from doing for others. Through the years, my own two kids and my two nephews benefited from

Vic's influence on me. They have helped deliver furniture and sort food donations. Thanks to this experience, they will always value volunteering as a regular part of their lives.

READ MORE ABOUT SHARE OF McLean on Page 3

Share Inc. Request the Community's Help

From Page 3

clothing, all well-organized. Clients shopped using utility wagons and, when finished, checked out with the clerk.

Share's Christmas Holiday Celebration, a party event with light refreshments, decorations, a visit from Santa, and wrapped gifts fulfilling "wishes" for the children, is halted in 2021 owing to the pandemic. Instead, a Christmas tree at the Giant Grocery Store on Chainbridge Road will serve to fill wishes this year. Donors can help their community with Share by buying Giant, Target, and Walmart gift cards and turning them in at

Giant customer service.

Each family or individual who registered on time receives gift cards that can be used to purchase items that the family most needs. Many parents used the cards to buy gifts for their children from Santa in the past. The amount of money delivered to each client is contingent upon donations received.

Along with its Food and Clothing Program, Share has expanded its services to include an annex at the 143-unit Lewinsville



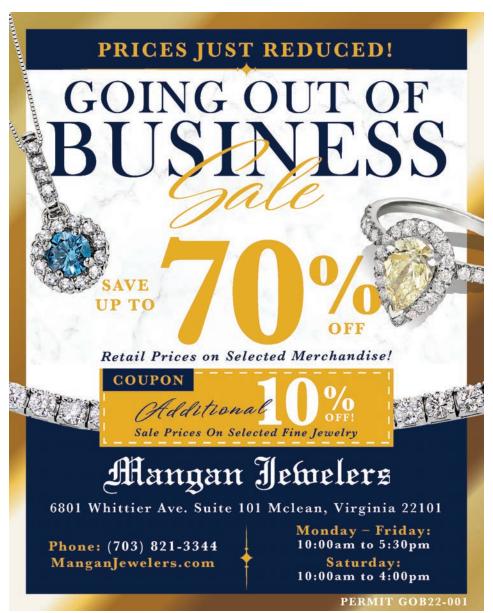
Share's shelves are well stocked and organized

for shoppers.

in at Retirement Residences on Great Falls Street

Retirement Residences on Great Falls Street in McLean. Residents who receive government-subsidized housing qualify to come to the Share Annex, as do residents who qualify at The Fallstead Senior Center at Lewinsville in McLean.

Visit Share's donate page to see how to help those in need by making an online donation of food or money via credit card, PayPal, or mailing a check. Volunteers from Share will purchase what is most needed and available.







Megan A. McLaughlin (Braddock)



Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee)





Challenged Books, Ballooning Waitlists for Mental Health, ADA Playgrounds

What you might have missed at the Dec. 2 School Board meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON THE CONNECTION

chool Board Member Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee) thanked the members of the Challenged Book Committee at the Fairfax County School Board regular meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 2, for their recent review and decision to reinstate the books in question, "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe and "Lawn Boy" by Johnathan Evison. The books were temporarily removed from FCPS high school libraries following a challenge in Sep-

Kaufax said teachers, parents, administrators and students comprised the committee, and she, too, read both books in question.

These books were not obscene, and there is absolutely no pedophilia in either of these books. As an educational system, it is our duty to provide materials for children to better understand their identities, as well as those of their classmates," Kaufax said. She added that having access to books reflective of their own lives helps mitigate the real risks of bullying, social isolation, and suicide that LGBTQIA+ students are known to face.

Laura Jane Cohen (Springfield District) said if someone believed that certain books were not appropriate for their child, that was probably a conversation for the person to have with their child. Cohen said she would not dream of parenting someone else's child and could only share how she parents her own children. According to Cohen, in her home, they believe that our schools are responsible for making sure all children know they are okay. "That they are normal. That they are, as Psalm 139 says, "

'wonderfully made.""

Then Cohen read a passage by journalist and LGBTQIA+ activist George M. Johnson from his 2020 book, "All Boys Aren't Blue: A Memoir-Manifesto,'

"So as heavy as these subjects may be, it is necessary that not only are they told, but also read by teens who have to navigate many of these same experiences in their own lives. ... I released the deepest and darkest things about my past in the hopes that some-



Fairfax County School Board meets on Dec. 2, 2021.

one might see a reflection of themselves in the words and know that they are not alone. And that they, too, can grow and thrive."

Cohen said she was glad for all children to get an opportunity to see themselves in the work that the Fairfax County librarians do and in the over 3 million books the county has in its libraries.

Karl Frisch (Providence) said he was grateful to the students who came to the school board meetings hoping that adults would hear them and that their courage was inspiring. Frisch said that he never dreamed of speaking up for LGBTQ inclusion at school as a teenager. "I couldn't even tell my friends I was gay," Frisch said. "I was worried, if I acknowledged my truth, I would lose the love of my friends and my family." He told how when the conversation about LGBTQIA+ first started, he told the board he would nev-

Fritsch said he got over 1,000 emails, voicemails, letters, and social media comments in the days after, labeling him a pervert and worse. He told of threats of violence against him and his partner and how there were days he didn't want to touch his phone or look at his inbox.

When non-LGBTQ young people become aware of the diverse and complicated lives of LGBTQ people as a result of the history they study or the novels they read, they do not become LGBTQ. "LGBTQ is not contagious, but being more acceptable to different people certainly can be," said Fritsch. "That scares some people, which is precisely why this work must continue. It is for everyone."

More Resources for Mental Health

Megan O. McLaughlin (Braddock) provided an update as the board representative to the Fairfax County Successful Children and Youth Policy Team (SCYPT) during School Board member committee reports. SCYPT serves as the policy team for a broader, community-wide approach to ensure the success and well-being of children and youth in Fairfax County

According to McLaughlin, one of the topics covered was a request for financial assistance for mental health upgrades and training additional therapists in Fairfax County to shorten the waitlist for families needing help. McLaughlin said that the committee recommended acceptance, but the Board of Supervisors must eventually approve it.

The second section of the mental health discussion dealt with hospitalizations. "We've got some really heartbreaking data about it even here in Fairfax County, the number of students who are requiring hospitalization for mental health needs," Mc-

Explaining because there were not enough beds at any given time, McLaughlin said, "We had 17 students and their families waiting with an average of seven days in order to get a bed."

She added that SCYPT was trying to get additional funding for multidisciplinary services. That would be an alternative to having students in the hospital emergency rooms.

At the Fairfax County School Board regular meeting held on Thursday, Dec. 2, the board awarded 15 contracts. Four contracts will provide hands-on installations every student at four elementary schools will enjoy for years to come. The Major Maintenance Fund will provide ADA-compliant playground installations at four elementary schools: Fairfax Villa-\$339,396; Floris-\$365,370; Oak Hill-\$362,105; and Vienna-\$314,897. While not as much fun but surely appreciated, major maintenance will also fund a chiller repair at Centre Ridge Elementary School for

The Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II Fund under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 provides funding for automated temperature controls at two elementary schools, Bush-\$587,600 and Spring Hill-\$821,530; and for a rooftop unit replacement at Forte Support Center in Springfield-\$791,000.

Two elementary schools received roof replacement projects, Westbriar-\$159,324 and Fairfax Villa-\$304,972 through the Infrastructure Replacement Fund.

The board approved synthetic turf field replacement projects at two high schools. One is at Langley for \$871,055, funded by Fairfax County Public Schools, and the other is at South Lakes for \$960,000 funded by Fairfax County Public Schools and Fairfax County Park Authority.

Finally, the board awarded the contract for Kahua Software and professional services with a projected initial software cost of \$165,000 annually for a three-year term and a \$40,000 approximate startup cost for professional consulting services to implement the software and train staff on Kahua Software License and Professional Services. Kahua will assist the Office of Design and Construction to govern and streamline document management.

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6 VIENNA/OAKTON / McLean Connection December 8-14, 2021

HomeLifeStyle



Interior designer Tracy Morris uses a gray tweed wallcovering in the dining room of her McLean home to create a sophisticated atmosphere.



and Annie Elliott

Designer Annie Elliott covers the floor of her office with an Oriental rug, which offers a variety of options for pairing with colors in other parts of the room.

Inside the Home of an Interior Designer

Local tastemakers offer a glimpse of their personal style.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL The Connection

nterior designers spend their days helping clients create beautiful aesthetics without compromising functionality. Whether deciding to paint a living room azure or cerulean or top a counter with Soapstone or quartzite, the job of a tastemaker requires creativity and ingenuity. Now, a few local designers allow cameras into their own home for a glimpse of their personal style.

Those who enter the Bethesda home of designer John Wagner of Designs by Wagner, learn quickly that nothing about it will be subtle. An oversized pink ottoman sits in the center of the room. A plush sofa in a soft beige is positioned in front of a wall that is dotted with more than a dozen family photos, each hung with soft-pink velvet ribbons.

"I'm a maximalist through and through." Wagner said. "I help my clients create spaces that reflect their taste. You should feel comfortable in your home. It should be a haven from the outside and it should make you proud. For me that means vibrant colors and plush fabrics.'

A variety of colors, textures and patterns can be found throughout the home of designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Design. "A house filled with shades of gray just doesn't make me happy," she said. "I also like mixing antiques with modern pieces. In my dining room, for example, we have a 19th-century English sideboard and Oriental rug paired with leather chairs...and a glass chandelier from the '80s. The mix takes the edge off of whatever formality people might associate with classic pieces."

An Oriental rug aficionado, Elliott often recom-

mends this accessory to her clients. "They can be

A powder room is a space where Elliott suggests that one might experiment. "I believe that every powder room should be wallpapered," she said. "I have Cole & Son's Cabaret in mine, and I encourage my clients to be as daring as possible in their own pow-

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der rooms."

"I'm a maximalist through and through." — John Wagner of Designs by Wagner

mage by Jenn Verrier and Annie Elliott When designing her dining room, Annie Elliott paired a 19th-century English sideboard with an Oriental rug with leather chairs and a circa 1980s glass chandelier.



mage by Angie Seckinger and Annie Elli

Annie Elliott says that Oriental rugs can be paired with traditional or contemporary furniture.

paired with traditional or contemporary furniture, they give you lots of colors to play with, and they're brilliant for hiding dirt, red wine spills, and dog fur,"

> Tracy Morris of Tracy Morris Design describes the style of her McLean home as "timeless with an edge." She creates the look using textured wallpaper in her dining room. "It creates

a great base for the rest of the room," she said. "We used...a gray tweed with gold accents. This allowed the room to be enveloped in sophistication.

Protect the ones you love, get your flu shot today.







CONNECTION Gazette Backet Mount Dernon Gazette Potomac

Children's & Teens' Connection 2021







During the last weeks of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac) is a long-time tradition.

With high visibility, this is a great advertising opportunity for every industry, so give us a call about rates and ad sizes at 703-778-9431 or email sales@connectionnewspapers.com.

To submit art, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts, please email kimm.mary@gmail.com.

VIENNA/OAKTON / McLean Connection ❖ December 8-14, 2021 ❖ 7

Lauren Richardson of Oakton, James Madison HS

Kids like Lauren are few and far between. Her gentle, ambitious, and welcoming spirit are always an added value. She is extraordinarily kind. She has natural intellectual ability and constantly seeks to learn beyond the classroom. Lauren has made a significant contribution to her local library over the past four years, dedicating over 450 hours of service. As one of the very few teens



that volunteer at the library, she has co-led book sales, raised funds for the summer, served as cashier, helped patrons select books, and assisted in other library programming. Lauren has a passion for early literacy and runs programs that allow low-income children access to low-cost reading materials.

She also created a project in 2020 where she has committed over 100 service hours to cleaning up a park in conjunction with county officials. Lauren is an accomplished fencer and the recipient of the Congressional Award Gold Medal, an award for youth in voluntary public service. It has truly been a pleasure.

Ashley Anderson, School Counselor, FCPS

Gabriel Espinola of Vienna, George C. Marshall HS

Gabriel Espinola was nominated because he is one of the most well-rounded, accomplished, high-character and involved students in his graduating class. In the classroom, Gabriel sports a 4.41 GPA that has gone up annually while he pursues the most rigorous curriculum program available to him, the Bilingual IB Diploma. Gabriel is multilingual, speaking English, Portuguese,



and Spanish. Gabriel is a team captain for the football team, where he started and earned 2nd-team all-district for a district championship squad last season. He is also in our top orchestra, where he plays the cello and earned the most improved student award. He works hard, puts in an insane amount of effort, and thrives at everything in turn.

Doug Sawitzky, School Counselor, FCPS

Peyton Van Stone of Vienna, James Madison HS

Peyton is an overall wonderful young man. He's caring, kind, and always has a positive attitude and smile on his face. A great example of Peyton's character is when he helped a neighbor while walking his own dog last year. He saw that her house had started to catch fire and was worried that she was inside. Without hesitation, he immediately ran around the house and was able to get

in. While he confirmed with another neighbor that she was not home, he saw the family dog in a crate, unable to escape. He was able to retrieve the dog and call 911. This is a true testament to Peyton's character. He's always thinking of others and goes above and beyond to help those in need.

– Lauren Robarge, School Counselor, FCPS

Sharmila Adapa of Fairfax, Oakton HS

Sharmila is one of the top students in the Class of 2022. Through her consistent signs of service, leadership, and commitment, she has set herself apart from her peers. Sharmila is very dedicated to her goals and sees them through. While her resume is extremely impressive, Sharmila is currently working as CFO and cofounder for Teens United, a nonprofit organization. Teens United is

a nationwide nonprofit that has created a volunteer network of over 2000 high school students. She has helped win numerous successful grants for Teens United, including one worth

Sharmila is also the Outreach Director for Cancer Kids First, a nonprofit organization with 17,000+ volunteers around the world that works to spread joy to pediatric cancer patients across the country. And finally, she is currently working as a research intern at Georgetown University under the supervision of the Dean of Research for the Medical Center. All this while holding multiple leadership positions in several clubs at Oakton. Sharmila is an exceptional young woman. She has spent her time improving the lives of those around the world. I will always remember the optimism and energy that she

— Katie Warehime, School Counselor, FCPS

Grace Chamberlain of Falls Church, George C. Marshall HS

Grace's academic and extracurricular accomplishments are very impressive, but what makes her truly stand out is her focus on serving others and finding ways to make her community better. She has been an outstanding student leader as we have worked to reestablish our school spirit and unity in the aftermath of the COVID disruptions.

– Jim Rixse, School Counselor,

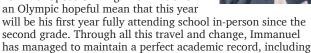
FCPS



Immanuel Anaborne of Fairfax, Oakton HS

Throughout Immanuel's high school career, he has attended schools in California, South Korea, China, Utah, and Virginia. He also self-studied for multiple AP exams and took college classes at Rice and Harvard University. Not to mention, he traveled all over the world as a member of the National Team for Speed Skating. His travels as an Olympic hopeful mean that this year

those college classes.



In his free time, Immanuel began to research turtles. He began to research the Hawksbill Research Institute, an organization focused on the conservation of critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtles. He participated in every program the institute offered. In conjunction with the institute and Dr. Todd Rimkus of Marymount University, he managed to gain firsthand field experience in tagging gravid female turtles, as well as present their findings to a larger scientific community. In the short time I have known Immanuel, I can tell that he is a well-rounded young man. He is a master of time management and discipline. I know the unmeasurable amount of hard work and sleepless nights that Immanuel experienced to achieve

Katie Warehime, School Counselor, FCPS



2021 Carol Waite Brennan Youth Award

Six remarkable, local high school seniors recognized as role models in school and the community.

THE CONNECTION

he Optimist Club of Greater Vienna awarded six high school seniors the \$2,500 2021 Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Award. They are Lauren Richardson. and Peyton Van Stone from James Madison

By Mercia Hobson High School; Grace Chamberlain and Gabriel Espinola from George C. Marshall High School; and Sharmila Adapa and Immanuel Anaborne from Oakton High School.

"I am constantly amazed by these students' dedication and commitment to excellence. Hearing their stories makes you optimistic about our country's future," said Tom Bauer, president of the Optimist Club

of Greater Vienna.

For the past 22 years, the Club has given the scholarship awards to high school seniors who, nominated by their school counselors, excel in academics, arts, athletics and community service while demonstrating ongoing kindness, good citizenship, optimism and character.

The Club formally renamed this award

in 2002 to the Carol Waite Brennan Youth Appreciation Award in honor of the late Optimist Carol Waite Brennan [1961-2001], an Oakton attorney who served as president of the Vienna Optimist Club 2000-2001 and with her husband, Matt started Ethics Day at George C. Marshall High School.

To help fund the Optimists' programs, the Club holds several fundraisers throughout the year, such as their annual Christmas tree and holiday decoration sale at Vienna Giant at 359 Maple Avenue East and the recently concluded Vienna Farmers Market.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JAN. 2, 2022 LuminoCity Festival. 6-9 p.m. At Roer's Zoofari, 1228 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The LuminoCity Festival, immersive light display experience, unforgettably spectacular night of lights. The festival includes African, Asian, Arid, and Ancient-themed exhibits of spectacularly lit art displays set up in the zoo's walk-through

NOW THRU DEC. 12 'Secret Things." Thursdays at

area. www.roerszoofari.com.

7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tysons. "Secret Things," a deep and heartfelt story of truth, discovery, and romance imbued both with gorgeous magical realism and fascinating true history of Sephardic Judaism in the American Southwest. General admission tickets are \$50. Senior (65+) tickets are \$47. Student, educator, and military tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased online at www.1ststage. org or by calling the 1st Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

NOW THRU DEC. 19.

Holiday Lights on the Farm. Fridays thru Sundays 5:30 to 8 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. What is "Holiday Lights on the Farm"? It's where you tour Frying Pan Farm Park in the safety and warmth of your car and see an amazing display of holiday decorations lighting up the 135-acre park. The cost is \$20 per private vehicle. Or you can take the tour on a tractor-drawn wagon ride with up to 20 of your family or friends for \$150 per group. Last year this event sold out, so get your tickets early at https://bit.ly/FPLights.

NOW THRU FEB. 19

New Art Exhibits. At McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. MPA will open its two newest exhibitions on Dec. 2, 2021. Give and Take: Building Form (Emerson Gallery) will feature abstract wood sculpture by Emilie Benes Brzezinski, Rachel Rotenberg, Foon Sham, and Norma Schwartz, while the Atrium Gallery will feature Intersectional Painting: Works by Sheila Crider. Both exhibitions run through Feb. 19, 2022. Visit www.mpaart.org/ or call 703-790-1953 for gallery hours.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 18 "A Child's Christmas in Wales."

Presented by Vienna Theater Company, Vienna. This holiday season, experience a musical celebration of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas' iconic story, A Child's Christmas in Wales, the "never to be forgotten day at the end of the unremembered year,' when songs are sung, cakes and sweets are abundant, and the frozen city parks are laden with mysteries and adventures for

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

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wild boys and girls to explore. Performance Dates and Times: 7 p.m.: Fridays and Saturdays: Dec 17, 18; 2 p.m. matinees: Sunday Dec 5, 19; and 10 a.m. matinee: Saturday, Dec 18. Tickets: \$15/\$10. Visit http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

THROUGH DEC. 19

"Every Christmas Story Ever Told
(And Then Some)." At NextStop
Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive,
Herndon. Santa Claus, Rudolph,
the Grinch, and just about every
other seasonal character you can
think of make an appearance in
this racy comedy that will have you
laughing all the way to the New
Year. https://www.nextstoptheatre.

DEC. 10-12

Capital Art & Craft Festival. At Dulles
Expo Center, Chantilly. Featuring
150 juried artisans. Friday, Dec
10: noon – 5 p.m.; Saturday Dec
11: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday Dec
12: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Tickets: \$10 in
advance; \$12 at the door Senior
discount available; children under
12 free. Ticket information: www.
CapitalArtAndCraftFestival.com

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"The Snowman in Concert. 10:30
a.m. to 12 p.m. At James Madison
High School, Vienna. The JMHS
Choral and Orchestra Departments will again host this magical
family holiday event. Watch the
film based on Raymond Brigg's



"A Klezmer Hanukkah" with Seth Kibel and the Kleztet will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 at the McLean Community Center.

"The Snowman" book - but with live choral and orchestra music accompaniment. After the film, walk through the winter wonderland and enjoy crafts, visiting with the Snowman and Santa, and a delicious treat on the way out!

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

"A Klezmer Hanukkah." 7 p.m. At The Alden at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Hanukkah comes early this year, but Seth Kibel and the Kleztet keep the party going with festive klezmer tunes with a little jazz thrown in. Features traditional klezmer music as well as jazz favorites. Tickets are \$20/\$15. Visit:

www.aldentheatre.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Virtual Auction Extravaganza. 5-7 p.m. Via Zoom. At 6462 Gristmill Square Lane, Centreville. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. will hold a Live Virtual Auction. The Auction will be held via Zoom and winning bidders must pay online. Auction items will include goods from local bakeries; professional services, such as car detailing, personal training, and leadership coaching; beach rental, and holiday gift baskets contain-

See Calendar, Page 10

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Calendar

From Page 9

ing everything from artwork, and expertly crafted wares. Visit www. fcacdst.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Storytime with Santa. 9 – 10 a.m. At Tysons Corner Center, Fashion Court, Level 1, McLean. Who else is better to read all our favorite Holiday stories? Join us for an intimate story session with Santa for an experience your child will never forget while he reads many of our prized classics. Reservations are not required.

DEC. 11-31

Holiday Sparkle. 12-5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400
Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Enjoy the gallery experience at a show of giftable art – authentic, local works of paintings, mixed media, jewelry, mobiles, fine craft objects, cards, and more created by the 8 artists of RAGS. Open weekends and by appointment. Visit the website: www.restonart-gallery.com

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Sensory Santa. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

At Tysons Corner Center, Level 1,
Fashion Court, McLean. Tysons
Corner Center is partnering with
Cherry Hill photography and
Autism Speaks to welcome childern with special needs for a low
impact, time with Santa. The mall
will open its doors early, exclusively for families, and give them
private time with the Big Man in
Red. Reservations are not required.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Master Singers of Virginia. 4 p.m.
At Epiphany Episcopal Church,
3301 Hidden Meadow Drive,
Herndon. The Master Singers
of Virginia (MSVA), Northern
Virginia's premier mixed a cappella
ensemble under the direction of
Dr. Erik Reid Jones returns to the
stage the first time in 21 months
with Serenity and Renewal holiday
concert. Tickets are \$25 for Adults,
\$20 for Seniors (65+) and \$15
for Students. The Take 4 package
provides 4 tickets for \$60 or \$15
each. Visit https://www.eventbrite.
com/o/master-singers-of-virginia-8547780534

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Traditional Celtic Concert. 4:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring Jody Marshall's Holiday Celebration. Part of a five-concert series of top quality music from the British Isles, Brittany (France), the Celtic areas of Northern Spain, and the Americas, staged in the listening room Snuggery (dining room). Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com - \$20 general admission.

DEC. 13, 20

Take Photos of Your Pets with Santa.

At Tysons Corner Center, McLean.

Monday, Dec. 6, 6 – 8 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 13, 6 – 8 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 20, 6 – 8 p.m. Fashion Court, Level 1. Bring your favorite pet in their holiday best for photos with Santa. This much-loved event has become a signature and well-attended theme night for Tysons Holiday.

MONDAY/DEC. 13

A Bluegrass Christmas With Sweet Yonder. 7:30 p.m. At Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Join local bluegrass favorite Sweet Yonder and special guests for joyful night of bluegrass and Christmas music favorites narrated by Santa himself. Fun for the whole family, dinner and drink menu available. Tickets \$20/\$22. Tickets: https://www.jamminjava.com/shows/bluegrass-christmas-withsweet-yonder-special-guests/

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Jennifer Nettles: Broadway Under the Mistletoe. 7:30 p.m. At Capital One Hall, 7740 Capital One Tower Road, Tysons. Jennifer Nettles stops by for a night of holiday favorites and Broadway hits. Leading with her powerhouse vocals and vivacious energy, this dynamic entertainer recently released Always Like New, a collection of Broadway tunes reimagined as only she can do. Visit CapitalOneHall.com.

DEC. 18-19

Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker. 4 p.m. At GMU Center for the Arts, Fairfax. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra joins The Fairfax Ballet in their sixth collaboration to present the timeless class holiday favorite, The Nutcracker. This production is unique in the Washington metropolitan region as one of few presented with live musical accompaniment. The Fairfax Ballet Company dances to Tchaikovsky's score performed live by the Fairfax Symphony. Enjoy a winter wonderland of dancing snowflakes, sugar plum fairies and epic battles between heroic toy soldiers and mischievous mice.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

HOLIDAYS IN THE MOSAIC DISTRICT

At 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Santa at Mosaic -- Now Thru Dec. 23 Holiday Toy Drive -- Now Thru Dec.

Santa's Motorcade -- Dec. 17 at 5 p.m.

NOW THRU DEC. 19.

Holiday Lights on the Farm. Fridays thru Sundays 5:30 to 8 p.m. At Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. What is "Holiday Lights on the Farm"? It's where you tour Frying Pan Farm Park in the safety and warmth of your car and see an amazing display of holiday decorations lighting up the 135-acre park. The cost is \$20 per private vehicle. Or you can take the tour on a trac-

tor-drawn wagon ride with up to 20 of your family or friends for \$150 per group. Last year this event sold out, so get your tickets early at https://bit.ly/FPLights.

NOW THRU JAN. 2

Ice & Lights: The Winter Village at Cameron Run, 4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria. Open nightly 5 to 10 p.m.; January 8 to February 27, 2022 (ice skating only), open Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Featuring an ice rink, multiple new holiday light displays perfect for Instagramming, a retail area, food, music and more. Admission: \$9 for general admission to Village; \$22 for village admission and skating; beginning January 8, \$14 for ice skating; free ages 2 and under. Visit novaparks.com/events/ice-lights

DEC. 3-12

Fairfax City Holiday Market. In Old Town Square, 10415 North Street, City of Fairfax. Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Noon-6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon-5 p.m. Join the Annual City of Fairfax Holiday Market in Old Town Square. Come and shop at the market of craft vendors as you enjoy Old Town Square in the heart of Historic Downtown Fairfax covered in holiday lights. The festival will include live holiday music, hot drinks, and gourmet treats and more.

DEC. 9-12

Winter Wonderland Holiday Experience. At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. T-Mobile will bring to life its "Winter Wonderland Holiday Experience" at Tysons Corner Center. Located in front of the food court, the 20x20 display is intended to inspire visitors to stay connected, share moments, carry on traditions, or create new ones during this holiday season. Visitors will have the opportunity to take a fun holiday photo, and then receive free printouts, a T-Mobile keychain, and either a snow globe or tumbler.

DEC. 10-11

Colonial Holiday Nights at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Experience the holiday season with Carlyle House focusing on how the Carlyles and their enslaved workers observed the holidays during the 18th century. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Tours offered of the first floor with timed entry on the hour and half hour. Space is limited and reservations are required. All participants including those under the age of 5 must be registered. Visit novaparks.com

DEC. 10, 11, 19

Mount Vernon by Candlelight. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Take a candlelit guided tour and learn about holiday traditions in 18th-century Virginia. Visit with Mrs. Washington and other 18th-century residents of Mount Vernon in a 45-minute candlelit tour of the Mount Vernon estate, followed by a reception. Hear stories of Christmases past from costumed character actors portraying Washington's family, friends, and enslaved or hired staff. Admission: \$36



Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon will be held Dec. 17-18 in Mount Vernon.

for adults (ages 12 and up); \$28 for youth (ages 6-11); for members, \$26 for adults; \$18 for youth. Visit the website: mountvernon. org/candlelight

DEC. 3-19

"A Child's Christmas in Wales." Presented by the Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation and Vienna Theatre Company. From a story by Dylan Thomas and adapted to the stage by Jeremy Brooks and Adrian Mitchell. Dates: Fridays and Saturdays, Dec. 3, 4, 17, 18 at 7 p.m.; Sundays, Dec. 5 and 19 at 2 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. Visit the website: www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

SATURDAYS, DEC. 11, 18

Holiday Market and Winter Village at The Parc in Tysons. At 8508 Leesburg Pike, Tysons. Save the date to purchase your holiday gifts from local artisans and small businesses.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Civil War Christmas in Camp. 12 to 4 p.m. At Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 4301 W. Braddock Rd., Alexandria. Get in the holiday spirit with a patriotic Union Santa Claus, reenactors in winter camps celebrating the season, period decorations, soldier-led fort tours and kids' crafting activities. Visit the website: alexandriava.gov/fortward

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

'Klezmer Hanukkah" with Seth Kibel and the Kleztet. 7 p.m. McLean Community Center Hanukkah comes early this year, but Seth Kibel and the Kleztet keep the party going with festive Klezmer tunes and a little jazz thrown in. Chag Sameach!

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Herndon Winter Market. 12 to 7 p.m. At 777 Lynn Street, front of Herndon Municipal Center, Herndon. A traditional German-style Christmas Market with a family focus supporting the Town of Herndon and surrounding communities. This is open and free to the public. Visit the website: www.herndonwintermarkt.com

DEC. 11, 12, 18, 19

Tall Ship Providence Christmas Story Time. At 12 p.m., 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. At Tall ship Providence, 1 Cameron St., Alexandria. Come aboard the tall ship Providence for a special Christmas story time. This year's tale will be "The Christmas Ship," the true story of the schooner Rouse Simmons, the ship that for years supplied Christmas trees to the people of Chicago by making a dangerous winter crossing of Lake Michigan. This story is sure to delight young sailors ages 5 to 12. Check in at the Gazebo on the G-H Pier next to Founder's Park. Visit the website: tallshipprovidence.org

DEC. 17-18

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. At George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Kick off the holiday season with fireworks overlooking the Potomac River. Tour the Mansion to learn about holiday celebrations during Washington's time with live 18th-century music. See the lantern-lit historic area, the Mansion aglow in beautiful amber light, and the Upper Garden and Greenhouse dazzling in blue and lavender with moving wintry light patterns. Admission: \$60 adult/\$38 youth with mansion tour; \$58 adult/\$36 youth without mansion tour; for members, \$50 adult/\$28 youth with mansion tour; \$48 adult/\$26 youth without mansion tour. Visit mountvernon.org/illuminations

DEC. 17-18 Civil War Christmas at Carlyle House. 5 to 8 p.m. At Carlyle

House, 121 N. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Discover how Christmas was celebrated when the Green family lived at Carlyle House and the Mansion House Hotel was being used as a Civil War hospital. Stay tuned for updates about live music. Tours offered of the first floor with timed entry on the hour and half hour. Space is limited and reservations are required. Visit the website: novaparks.com

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents: Home for the Holidays. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. At The Rachel M. Schlesinger Center for Performing Arts NOVA Alexandria Campus, 4915 East Campus Drive, Alexandria. This December, the ASO brings back the joy of live holiday music that audiences yearned for in 2020. ASO will accompany dancers from BalletNOVA with selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Alexandria Choral Society joins the ASO for choruses from Händel's Messiah and will lead the audience in popular holiday carols. Visit the website: alexsym.org

SATURDAY/DEC. 18

Caroling on Horseback. Town of Clifton. 1:15 p.m. Caroling and Procession.

The route through Clifton will follow Main Street to Chapel Road, then Water Street to School Street and back to Main Street. Costumed judging and sharing refreshments will occur after the procession in the floodplain. Visit www.cliftonhorsesociety.org.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18

Herndon Holiday Model Train Show and **Caboose Open House,** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At ArtSpace Herndon – 750 Center Street, Herndon. W&OD Caboose Open House, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Lynn Street, Herndon. Herndon's historic 1949 caboose will be open also on Dec. 18 for limited hours, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The caboose is located on Lynn Street, next to the Herndon Municipal Center. N-Scale Oper-

ating Layout by the Northern Virginia NTRAK. Hosted by the Herndon Historical Society and Arts Herndon. Contact: herndonhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Alexandria Symphony Orchestra Presents: Home for the Holidays. 3-5 p.m. At George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria. This December, the ASO brings back the joy of live holiday music that audiences yearned for in 2020. ASO will accompany dancers from BalletNOVA with selections from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker. Alexandria Choral Society joins the ASO for choruses from Händel's Messiah and will lead the audience in popular holiday carols. Visit the website: alexsym.org

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Waterskiing Santa. 1 p.m. At Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Founders Park (351 N. Union St.) and Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.) Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew. Come early to see the pre-show (on jet skis). Visit waterskiingsanta.com



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