

Rosie Hartwell,  
Miss Arlington.

# The Arlington Connection

## Rosie Hartwell, Miss Arlington 2023, Reflects on Her Year

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Miss Arlington

## Arlington Police Collect Toys for Needy Kids

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



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55+ "Tour de Friends" Bike Club, explore nearby trails and neighborhoods with friendly biking companions. All levels of ability are welcome. Thurs., Nov. 30, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Meet at Bluemont Park (601 N. Manchester Street, Arlington, VA). Register #911206-06.

Cardmaking workshop, make your own personalized cards with techniques like die cuts, embossing folders, distress inks and stamps. Supplies are provided. Thurs., Nov. 30, 1-4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Book Exchange, bring your used books and swap them with other book lovers, Thurs., Nov. 30, 6-7 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #911801-06.

Hawks of Arlington County, learn to identify the beautiful hawks living in your neighborhood, presented by Naturalist Gabby Hrycyshyn. Fri., Dec. 1, 10-11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Register #912400-21.

Join the 55+ Travel group to hear the U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" perform at Constitution Hall. Sun., Dec. 3, register #902312-02. Cost: \$9, Arlington County resident, \$10, out-of-county resident.

Wake and Make, morning art activities with Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Monday, Dec. 4, 9 a.m., virtual. Be prepared to paint and draw. Registration # 912303-19.

Learn how to play Mexican train dominoes, Monday, Dec. 4, 9:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912600-24.

55+ Travel group will venture a trip to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art to view the groundbreaking Manet and Degas exhibit, Tuesday, Dec. 5. Cost \$98, Arlington resident; \$113, non-resident. Registration# 902312-03.

SEE FLOURISHING, PAGE 7

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Sgt. Dorian Brooks, member of the ACPD Community Engagement Division, says they have been collecting toys at the Central Library on Saturday, Nov. 25 since 3 p.m. for all ages from infants to teenagers.



Heidi Panetta and her daughter Shadow Panetta deliver Hot Wheels and a drum set to Officer Hillary Hicken who organized the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) toy drive Nov. 18-Dec. 2.

# Donate a Toy, Make a Child Happy

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington County Police Department Community Engagement tent has become a familiar site around Arlington. Their drive to collect essentials for needy families was barely finished when they launched the ninth Annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive.

The Toy Drive to benefit children in need began Nov. 18 at Westover Baptist Church and at Lee Harrison Shopping Center and will end on Saturday, Dec. 2 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. and Walter Reed Community Center from 3-5 p.m.

Sgt. Dorian Brooks says people have been donating for all ages. “We’ve collected everything from basketballs, educational toys, books, to Barbies and puzzles.”

Officer Hillary Hicken is roaming around the parking lot greeting people and collecting large plastic bags brimming with toys. Hicken has put together the holiday drive but says she hasn’t had much time since she finished with the essentials drive a few weeks ago.

Stephanie Claire, graduate of the summer week-long ACPD police academy for teens, has joined the police officers collecting toys and loading boxes. Claire says she wants to go into forensic science, and the police academy had a session during the police academy on forensics. “We did a lot. We took a



Stephanie Claire, graduate of the teen police academy with Detective Kenny Giles, member of the ACPD Community Engagement Division.

couple of field trips including rock climbing. It taught us the values a police officer needs such as resilience and teamwork.” She says they also went to the law enforcement museum in D.C. where they learned the history of the various law enforcement agencies.

A couple strolling by sees the flashing police car lights in the library parking lot and



ACPD officers set up a Community Engagement tent in the Central Library parking lot Saturday afternoon as part of the Ninth Annual Fill the Cruiser Toy Drive.

stops to tell the police working the event, “We’re so grateful we have the police. Every time we see you, we donate to your events.” She puts her hands together and with a small bow, continues walking across the lot.

Donations of new, unwrapped toys may also be left at one of the drop box locations at Lost Dog Cafe, Cathedral of St. Thomas More, Arlington Courthouse, Ireland’s Four Courts, Celtic House Irish Pub, Shirlington Library, Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, and Freddie’s Beach Bar until Dec. 7. The ACPD will distribute the donated toys throughout the community to needy children during the month of December.



ACPD Annual Holiday Toy drive.



# Miss Arlington Hates to Say Goodbye

Rosie Hartwell, 2023 Miss Arlington, remembers her year with the crown.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**R**osie Hartwell reminisces over her past year as Miss Arlington as she prepares to pass the crown to next year's winner in January 2024. She says she started competing in beauty contests when she was 10 years old and has competed off and on ever since.

Hartwell first won the Miss Arlington contest in 2021 and was one of the 10 finalists for Miss Virginia then as well as when she competed again in 2023. She says she is 26 years old, "and you can compete until you are 28 so I will probably compete again. You always hope to do better the next time, and it's hard to say good-bye before you have to."

She explains there is also a financial incentive since Miss Arlington receives \$1,000, Miss Virginia \$20,000 and Miss America \$50,000 plus a year's salary for a full-time job.

Hartwell says she gained a lot of personal experience during the six-month preparation for the contest which helped her in the job and college interview process.

"Arlington does prepare you. It is one of the largest organizations and has produced a number of Miss Virginias and Miss America in 2010. You do a lot of mock interviews, practice walking, and a sponsor allowed us to use their studio to practice our talent." Hartwell's talent was a Broadway tap dance.

She says the categories for competition have remained pretty much the same over the years although last year they eliminated the swim suit category because some people thought it objectified women. "I never felt that way. To me it's a tradition relating to the history of the contest." And she says a lot of women like to show off their bodies, and the contest discovered that people like the swimming suit contest. So she explains this year they added a fitness element instead where women show off activewear.

Hartwell says the dress is important and she wanted it to portray elegance and grace, a classic style. She went through a lot of different dresses in "That's My Dress" in Fredericksburg until she hit on a long red gown



Rosie Hartwell reminisces over her year as Miss Arlington.



Rosie Hartwell fastens her crown which she says has a mystique for the school children she visits.



Rosie Hartwell is crowned Miss Arlington Dec. 3, 2022.



that had just come in and snapped it up. But there is always a danger that another contestant will have the same dress, "and it happened to me once. I had the black version and the next contestant had the same dress in burgundy. We were back-to-back so you couldn't miss it."

Hartwell chose financial literacy for her platform and travelled throughout Arlington teaching classes from elementary school to Culpepper Garden seniors. "I taught the seniors record keeping as well as how to keep their information safe." She says Culpepper Garden has invited her back to assist with

SEE ROSIE HARTVELL, PAGE 5

Miss Arlington judges the pie eating contest at the Arlington County Fair in August along with second place Scripps National Spelling Bee Championship winner Charlotte Walsh.

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# Rosie Hartwell, 2023 Miss Arlington, Remembers Her Year with The Crown

FROM PAGE 4

their fundraisers, “and I had Valentine’s dinner with them.” In addition, she participates with the Virginia Extension Financial Literacy program.

She says, “Growing up I never had any financial literacy or in my household. It wasn’t until my last year of college at UVA that I had a financial literacy course, and it blew my mind.” She continues, “A lot of people enter the adult world not knowing. I wanted to spread the word.”

Hartwell grew up in Alexandria where she lives now. But Alexandria doesn’t have a Miss America contest so she chose to compete in Arlington which is close by and allowed her to represent the area. The requirement for competition is that the contestant has to live, work or attend school in Virginia.

“I loved it that the contest has allowed me to learn so much about what’s happening in the community and what’s going on in the schools.” She says the best part is meeting the children. “There are so many stereotypes; the crown is everything to them. They want to know ‘what does it mean? What does it do?’ I pop it off and let them try it on.”

Tuckahoe Elementary invited Hartwell to attend their culture week. “I am a quarter Chinese, and I grew up with Chinese cus-



Miss Arlington in the annual Ballyshaners Old Town Alexandria Saint Patrick’s Day Parade.

toms so I shared some of those with them. I taught them to count to ten in Chinese starting with e (probably spelled yi). I grew up writing Chinese characters and decorating with lanterns to keep the evil spirits away and with table centerpiece ribbons entwined with coins as a sign of wealth.

Hartwell’s activities have spanned the community. She calls it her “5-9 job” with her “9-5 job” working for a contractor in Ballston. She recently cut the cake at the VFW celebration and served as co-master of ceremonies at the breast cancer fashion

show. Hartwell says she shared similar experiences with the Arlington sheriff who also has to get the votes and serve the public.

When Hartwell turns over the crown on Jan. 6 at Marymount University she hopes the new Miss Arlington will proactively set up appearances and embrace the opportunity to go out and serve the community. Hartwell expects it will be hard for her to say goodbye as Miss Arlington “but while I may not be holding the mic, it doesn’t mean I can’t continue to volunteer as Rosie Hartwell.”



Rosie Hartwell teaches a personal finance class focused on creating healthy money mindsets at Cardinal Elementary School in Arlington.



Miss Arlington at a dinner time “meet and greet” at Culpepper Garden where she handed out Valentine’s cards to residents.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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The **Arlington** Connection

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# Children's and Teen's Connection

Our annual Children's Connection, including the Children's Gazette and Children's Almanac, has been a long-standing tradition. We are once again welcoming contributions from children, youth, and teens in public and private schools, as well as homeschool, after-school care, and other programs, art and writing classes, and from individuals.

We publish images of all types of visual art forms, from drawing, painting, print-making, and graphic design to sculpture, extended media, crafts, and more. We welcome written works such as poetry, essays, opinion pieces, and short stories.

Visit <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/> and scroll down to the Children's Edition to see last year's editions. Our plan is for the Children's Connection/Gazette to publish the week of December 20, 2023, with overflow possible in January 2024.

## Submission Directions

Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format. These can be submitted via Google Drive. Writing should be submitted in text for-

mat (docx or Google Docs) or pasted in the body of an email. We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email.

## Identify each submission as follows:

<First Name> <Last Name>, <Age>, <Grade>, <Residence Location (Reston Herndon, Springfield, etc.)>, <Title of the Work>, <Medium or Type of Writing> | <School/Center Name>, <School Location>, <Teacher Name>, < Title>

## Artwork example

Sean Murphy, 12, Grade 7, Springfield, Summer Morning, watercolor on parchment | Irving Middle School, Springfield, VA, Elizabeth Carr, art teacher, MS

## Writing example

Martina Alvarez, 17, Junior, Alexandria, I'm Not Just a Teen, essay | Mount Vernon High School, Alexandria, VA, Gratia Rodriguez, English Teacher, HS

Please email your submissions by 6 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023, [Earlier is Better] to Editor and Publisher Mary Kimm at [kimm.mary@gmail.com](mailto:kimm.mary@gmail.com) and fill in the Subject Line as Children's Connection 2023

## "FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

FROM PAGE 2

Movie matinee of "Elf" (2003) (PG), Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912804-01.

Hearing aids, beware and be wise, presented by Bonnie O'Leary, Northern Virginia Resource Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 11 a.m., Lubber Run Community Center. Registration # 912500-01.

Fighting invasive plants in winter, presented by Arlington Regional Master Naturalists, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-27.

55+ Book Club to discuss "True Biz" by Sara Novic, Tuesday, Dec. 5, 1:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

How the patent process works, overview from the idea to granted patent, presented by staff from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-12.

Arlington's Car-Free Diet program, tips to get moving without a car, presented in both English and Spanish by Ken Matthews, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912400-07.

A history of women artists in Europe, presented by art historian Joan Hart, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center, [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

registration # 912302-01 or virtual, registration # 912302-02.

Opera appreciation group to hear musical selections from "Don Pasquale" by Gaetano Donizetti, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 912300-02.

Learn to play canasta with friendly instruction by 55+ center volunteers, Wednesday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 912600-22.

55+ Travel group will enjoy an afternoon tea at the historic Elkridge (MD) Furnace Inn. Thursday, Dec. 7. Cost \$81, Arlington resident; \$93, non-resident. Registration # 902312-04

Holiday recipe exchange, bring favorite holiday recipes and leave with new ones, Thursday, Dec. 7, 6 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 912890-01.

Forbidden Love in Old Virginia, author Jim Hall will discuss Arthur Jordan, a Black man who was lynched in 1880 for falling in love with a white woman, Thursday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m., virtual. Registration # 912400-32.

Artist cookbook, learn to create art materials using household items, Thursday, Dec. 7, 8:30 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 912303-08.

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## Uncertainty



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that you regular readers know when I write these columns, relative to when they publish; but suffice to say, given the publishing/ go-to-press schedules of newspapers, these columns must be written/submitted in adherence to those schedules/publication dates. As such, some columns, depending on subject matter of course, are written before the outcome of whatever cancer-related circumstance is top of mind at the time – for me; and then published after I know said outcome. This column is one of those and is always difficult because the dominant feeling I have – which contribute most to the subject matter of these columns, is basically I don't know. Moreover, the associated difficulty I have is knowing that by the time you read this column, I'll know what I didn't know before it subsequently publishes/ you read it. And since I like to share everything with you in as real a time is as possible; the timing of this column means I'm not able to do that.

In a round-about way this column is about the diagnostic scan, a PET scan, I'll be having on Mon., Nov. 27th, the results of which I'll likely know by Wed., Nov. 29th-ish, the day this column publishes and days to late to modify is pre-publication content. By the time you read this, all the anxiety, conjecture, et cetera, will have passed, and the interpretation of the scan will be known, and then the fun begins, hopefully. Presuming I can gather my thoughts together about that interpretation – which will determine the next three-to-four months of cancer treatment, vis-à-vis my life, I will submit a column for Dec. 6, publication date which will address these concerns and update all you interested readers, which I assume after nearly 26 years my column has been published in The Connection, I assume I have a few. It's these kinds of moments when my brother's death rears its ugly head. Not having that backdrop emotionally takes away much of what us patients truly need: support, understanding, encouragement and a positive outlook no matter the results. One doesn't survive a disease of this magnitude without help, and as my biggest booster, Richard was a multi-year backstop-of-the-year award-winner. And when you consider that I originally was given a "13 month to two years" prognosis, perhaps you imagine the frequency and type of conversations Richard and I regularly have had over the many years of my ongoing cancer treatment. Every step of the way. And scans, such as these are a very big step, always.

In my view then, this column is nothing about very much ado. The various scans I have throughout the year, as they are for many patients, are when the rubber hits the road and the doctor (an oncologist in my life) can really tell how you're doing health-wise. As my doctor has said: he doesn't need to see me in person, as much as he needs to my scan results. That will tell him what he needs to know about my thyroid cancer/overall health to decide if what happens next is more of the same or God help me, a change for the worse.

Apart from my monthly lab work and quarterly zoom call, this scan will indicate whether my warranty, so to speak, is to be extended and my life will go on relatively unchanged. (I imagine you can all appreciate then the depth and range of emotions we patients feel; before, during and after these high-tech diagnostic scans have been completed and interpreted. It's only a matter of life and death.) Unfortunately, it's difficult to affect the scan. If the results say something unpleasant then the conversation that follows with your doctor and of course your family, will be equally unpleasant. I remember when Team Lourie (Dina, Richard, and myself) attended our "ground zero" meeting with my oncologist when the doctor first told me my diagnosis. Richard was there then. Now he won't be, ever again. Without him around to help absorb some of inevitable fear and anxiety, the experience going forward scares me. Certainly, I've been there and done that. However, from now on, I will be doing it differently. Not alone exactly. But definitely missing my wingman.

Therefore, writing a column of some substance before these potentially life-changing facts are known is challenging. Which means this column says very little about something so big. In effect, I feel as if I'm wasting your time, sort of by telling you nothing about something. I'll try to write the ship and update you accordingly in next week's column. Until then, wish me luck. I need as much of it as you can spare. Enduring this cycle as much as I have over nearly 15 years (upwards of 100 exposures; all types of scans to consider: CT, PET, and bone scan, and yearly MRIs since I was diagnosed), doesn't make this process any easier. Experienced: yes, comfortable: no.

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



# ENTERTAINMENT

## CHECK OUT THE PLANT CLINICS!

**The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic** at 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington operates on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 a.m. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 a.m. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 a.m. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 29

### Holiday Networking Happy Hour.

5-7 p.m. At The Commentary, Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. Register now to join the Ballston BID and Monument Home Loans as they SIP & JINGLE at The Commentary for the holidays. Enjoy festive cocktails and drinks at the Jingle Bar, sing along with live holiday music performances, and try delicious fare from The Commentary at the Westin Arlington Gateway.

## POLICE HOST FILL THE CRUISER TOY DRIVE

**This holiday season, consider adding an Arlington child in need to your shopping list.** Beginning in November, the Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) will be hosting the ninth annual Fill the Cruiser Holiday Toy Drive benefitting children in need in the Arlington community. Bring joy to someone's holiday by donating new, unwrapped toys at one of our collection events or stationary drop box locations.

### Collection Events

Officers will collect new, unwrapped toys for children ages newborn to 17 at the following locations:

Saturday, December 2

Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 830 23rd Street S., from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S., from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### Stationary Drop Box Locations

If you are unable to attend one of our donation collection events, stationary drop boxes will be available at the following locations from November 1 to December 7.

Lost Dog Cafe, 5876 Washington Boulevard

Cathedral of St. Thomas More, 3901 Cathedral Lane

Arlington Courthouse, 2nd Floor, Administrative Support Unit, 1425 N. Courthouse Road

Ireland's Four Courts, 2051 Wilson Boulevard

Celtic House Irish Pub, 2500 Columbia Pike

Shirlington Library, 4200 Campbell Avenue

Long Bridge Aquatics & Fitness Center, 333 Long Bridge Drive

Freddie's Beach Bar, 555 23rd Street S.

Toy Distribution: Toys will be distributed by the Police Department throughout the Arlington community during the month of December.

## NOV. 27 TO DEC. 29

### December at Gallery Underground:

#### Color | Up Close & Personal.

Marcia Katz, Judy Landry, and Sally Slifkin have been painting



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church has holiday Trees and Decorations in Arlington starting Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023.**

together for several years. All three artists have been active members of the Arlington Artists Alliance for many years as well. Though they have found that their artistic styles are distinctly different, each has always been very interested in color. Their interests range from how certain colors work next to each other, to unique color choices representing light and shadow, to articulating how a painting comes alive using color. Opening Reception: Dec. 1, 2023, 5-7 p.m.

## LIGHT THE WORLD GIVING MACHINES

**For the second year in a row, Ballston Quarter in Arlington is one of 61 locations around the world getting a unique chance to support local and global charities with the Light The World Giving Machines.** The Giving Machines are just like regular vending machines but with a twist. Instead of swiping your card and receiving a treat for yourself, the Light the World Giving Machines allow individuals to swipe their card and donate products and services to charities in the DMV and around the world. The Giving Machines will be located at Ballston Quarter, 4238 Wilson Blvd. in Arlington.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 30

### Light Up the Village at Shirlington.

6-8:30 p.m. The annual Light Up the Village at Shirlington will be held on Thursday, Nov. 30, 2023 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The Arlington County Police Department will conduct the following road closures to accommodate the event:

From 12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.: Campbell Avenue, from Harris Teeter to S. Randolph Street

Beginning at 3:30 p.m. Campbell Avenue, from S. Arlington Mill Drive to S. Quincy Street

S. Randolph Street, from S. Arlington Mill Drive to the alley behind the businesses on the South side of Campbell Avenue

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Do You Need Winter Gear?** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. At Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 16th Street S. Arlington, Rooms A, B, C. The Arlington Community Reentry Council (ACRC) is hosting its second annual winter gear give-

away benefitting the community members who have been impacted by the criminal justice system. If you or a loved one is a current or previously incarcerated individual, please take advantage of the services they have to offer.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Holiday Trees and Decorations.** At Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, Arlington. Get your holiday decorating off to the right start! This year, they will offer 200 trees of various types and sizes, freshly cut and delivered from Barre, Vermont. They'll also offer 150 Fraser firs, freshly cut and delivered from Sparta, North Carolina.

Sale hours: Starting Saturday, Dec. 2, until sold out  
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sundays: 11:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Don't wait! In recent years, they sold 85% of the trees the first weekend!  
For details or to volunteer, contact Bob Len via email to the parish administrator.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**The Dream Project Holiday Celebration.** 6-9 p.m. At the Universalist Unitarian Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd, Arlington. The Dream Project will host an annual Holiday Celebration to recognize the accomplishments of program scholars, mentees, alumni, and express gratitude for supporters of the organization. This year, a robust schedule will include a keynote speech from immigrants rights attorney Melanie Nezar, addresses from Executive Director Karen Vallejos Corrales, and Board Chair Emma Voiland Sánchez, as well as remarks from a current scholar on how the program has supported their endeavors. Contact Iman Mekonen: iman@dream-project.org.

## DEC. 2-3

### Artist Co-op Open Studio Weekend.

Sat., Dec. 2, 5-8 p.m.; Sun., Dec. 3, 2-5 p.m. At Columbia Pike Artist Studios, 932 S. Walter Reed Drive, Second Floor, Arlington. The Columbia Pike Artist Studios "Fall pARTy" Fall 2023. Member artists will present new artworks in painting, drawing, printmaking, and sculpture. A group exhibition of artworks by the studio artists will be installed to view and purchase. The public will meet member



**The Arlington Community Reentry Council (ACRC) is having a winter gear drive on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023 in Arlington.**

artists in their studio spaces during this event. The public can purchase artworks directly from the artist during the event. The current member artists are: Karen Bland, Rhys Conlon, Jaqui C. Falkenheim, Helen Ginberg, Anne Hancock, Paula Lantz, Sharon Malley, Joanne Mazarella, Susan McElhinney, Nan Morrison, Bridget Murphy, Kimberley Murphy-Lyons, Robbie Namy, Morgan Norwood, M. M. Panas, Marta Sewall, Joseph Spollen, Margaret Stewart, Monica Stroik, Alice Whealin, Bobbi Wolcott, Vladimir Zabavskiy and Ghada Zaytoun.

## DEC. 1-3, DEC. 8-10, DEC. 15-17

**Del Ray Artisans 28th Annual Holiday Market.** At 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Offers unique handmade fine arts and crafts from local artists. Choose from wall art, pottery, photography, jewelry, glass, and much more! Free admission. First three weekends in December (Dec. 1-3, Dec. 8-10, Dec. 15-17), plus bonus market days Dec. 22 & 23. Different artists each weekend! Open Fridays 6-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Hours for Friday, Dec. 22 are 3-9 p.m. Details: delrayartisans.org/holiday-market

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**23rd Annual Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights.** 5:30 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1A Prince Street, Alexandria. More than 50 brightly lit boats cruise along one mile of the Potomac River shoreline from Canal Center to Ford's Landing Park. Head to Waterfront Park at the foot of King Street for festivities from 1 to 8 p.m. including a pop-up beer garden from Alexandria's Port City Brewing Company with hard cider from Alexandria's Lost Boy Cider. Also at Waterfront Park, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. enjoy hands-on activities from independently owned Alexandria businesses. Head to Canal Center on the Old Town North waterfront from 3 to 9 p.m. for the Canal Center Holiday Art Mart to enjoy family friendly festivities and watch the start of the Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights on the terrace with parade assembly anticipated between 5 and 5:30 p.m. At 3:30 p.m., Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina before attending the annual Holiday

Festival at Torpedo Factory Art Center, which takes place from 12 to 6 p.m.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

### 52nd Annual Alexandria Scottish Christmas Walk Parade.

11 a.m. In Old Town Alexandria. Dozens of Scottish clans dressed in colorful tartans parade through the streets of Old Town, joined by pipe and drum bands, as well as terriers and hounds, community groups and more. Alexandria was founded in 1749 by Scottish merchants and was named after Scotsman John Alexander who owned the land that became Alexandria. Today, the city continues celebrating its heritage with the iconic parade. This year's Grand Marshals are Congressman Don Beyer and Director of the Office of Art in Embassies at the U.S. Department of State Megan Beyer. The 2023 Master of Ceremonies is Ian Houston, an international non-profit leader in the Washington, D.C. area who is dedicated to promoting cultural links between Scotland and the U.S. For more details on the parade route, transportation alternatives and weekend happenings, visit ALXScottishWalk.com.

## MONDAY/DEC. 4

### End of the Year Social and Community Engagement Meeting.

7:30 p.m. At Drew School and Community Center, 3500 S. 23rd St., Arlington. The Green Valley Civic Association is hosting an End of the Year Social and Community Engagement Meeting. Invited are all community service providers to share their services/information and needs. Get to know the citizens of Green Valley and engage them to share with others or get engaged. The community is invited to attend and learn about services and upcoming programs. Each service provider who signs up to attend will have a table space and will be able to make a 2-3 minute elevator speech on who they are and what they do. The social hour following the short business meeting and introductions will allow residents to talk to providers and enjoy refreshments provided. Service Provider space is limited and must be confirmed before the meeting. Request to participate should be sent to greenvalleyciv@gmail.com. or call (703) 486-0058.