



Shannon Curtis of the Coalition to Stop the Arena speaks at a rally at the site of the proposed Monumental Sports and Entertainment complex Jan. 4 in Potomac Yard.

'Stop the Arena'

Rally held to oppose Potomac Yard sports complex.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Residents and stakeholders from across the region joined forces Jan. 4 as the recently formed Coalition to Stop the Arena at Potomac Yard rallied near the site of the proposed Monumental Sports and Entertainment complex, which would relocate two professional sports teams from DC to Alexandria.

"You're trying to bring a project that's supposed to improve the economic quality of this town with revenue projections and economic studies that are basically garbage," said former Alexandria Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald, one of several speakers during the rally. "Studies show quite clearly that stadiums by and large do not financially benefit the host community."

Macdonald is part of the coalition looking to stop the \$2 billion project that would move the National Hockey League's Washington Capitals and NBA's Washington Wizards to the Potomac Yard neighborhood.

Macdonald and others cited an economic impact report from HR&A Advisors, a consultant hired



Former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald speaks at the Jan. 4 Stop the Arena rally in opposition to the proposed Monumental Sports and Entertainment complex in Potomac Yard.

New Year's Resolutions Locals share goals for 2024.

Some are attainable, some bold and aspirational. And they are always much easier to make than to keep. But New Year's resolutions are a way to bring new life to our pas-

sions and a reminder of the endless possibilities ahead. From working out to being kind, Alexandrians share their goals for 2024.

— JEANNE THEISMANN



STANLEY BRINKLEY – "My New Year's resolution is to focus on being a better person."

BRIAN GAVIN – "My New Year's 'solution' is to learn to make from scratch Caesar salad dressing."



DAVID BURCH – "My goal is to connect better with more people. I think we feel a little bit siloed and need to make new, better and stronger connections personally and professionally in person so that we are building community, getting along and exchanging ideas. Kumbaya."



MEGAN BEYER – "I spent the last year working on a project at the State Department to enhance democracy through the arts. It was so compelling I am going to make 2024 an extension of appreciating the fact that we live in a free society."

MITCH OPALSKI – "My goal in the new year is to go to bed earlier and get a good night's sleep."



MICHAEL PORTERFIELD – "My New Year's resolution is to meet every person on the street as if they were already a friend of mine."

TONY CURRY FISHER – "My resolution is to start working out again and to tone my body. That is my goal for the new year."



JATRICE MARTEL – "My New Year's resolution is to embrace more people and listen to them. I want to be a source of comfort and advice to younger people who are beginning their careers."

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

NEWS

Beaty Triumphs In Special Election

Substitute teacher wins District A school board seat.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Tim Beaty, an Alexandria substitute teacher and afterschool program tutor in Arlandria, has won the Jan. 9 special election to fill the vacant District A School Board seat after defeating local real estate agent Gina Baum.

A longtime resident of the Lynhaven neighborhood of Alexandria, Beaty won the election with 1,270 votes (56.29 percent) to Baum's 962 votes (42.64 percent). Just 5.47 percent of the 41,335 registered voters in District A turned out to cast ballots as severe weather moved through the area. Provisional ballots have yet to be counted with final results scheduled to be certified in the Voter Registrar's Office Jan. 12.

The District A seat, which represents Old Town, Del Ray, Potomac Yard and Arlandria, became available when Willie Bailey, a former City Councilman, abruptly resigned at the end of November.

"I bring a love and admiration for the students, teachers and support staff I've been working with," Beaty said during the campaign. "And, I have direct knowledge of the challenges that our schools and students face, as well as insight on what's working well."

Beaty retired two years ago as the global strategies director for the International Brotherhood of Teamsters. Beaty, whose children are grown, earned an economics degree from the University of Notre Dame and is married to a Fairfax County elementary school principal.

According to his campaign website, Beaty's priorities include students' mental health, academic achievement, supporting teachers, union recognition and collective bargaining for



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Tim Beaty, a substitute teacher in Alexandria, has won the Jan. 9 special election to fill the vacant District A seat on the school board.

employees, addressing the bus driver shortage, and building bridges with the Latino Community.

"I would like to hear directly from students about their biggest safety concerns and what ideas they have to improve the school climate," said Beaty, who is fluent in Spanish. It's important to hear from students on this issue. And school board members need to be accountable to the people that elect them. I do think that school board members need to have the freedom to be able to get out and communicate with the voters that elected them."

Beaty will be sworn in next week to serve out the remainder of Bailey's three-year term, which ends in January 2025. All nine school board seats – three each for Districts A, B and C -- are up for election Nov. 5.

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NEWS

Rally Held to Oppose Potomac Yard Sports Complex

FROM PAGE 1

in June by the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership, suggesting that the new complex would result in \$7.9 billion annually in revenue and bring 32,000 jobs to the area. AEDP released a summary of the report in December following the announcement of the planned complex.

“Frequently in these deals you are robbing Peter to pay Paul,” said Shannon Curtis, a member of the coalition and resident of the

economic revenue – are illusions. It is completely made up. Here is a deal done right before Christmas, a back-room deal done in secret without involving anybody who is affected by it.”

Also attending the rally were several DC residents who oppose the project.

“People have the power to stop this,” said activist Ron Moten of Don’t Mute DC. “My city built a \$65 million stadium then tell us now it’s not good enough.”

In a Jan. 9 press release, Alexandria officials announced a schedule of community engagement events, listening sessions, project briefings and site tours related to the project.

According to the release: “The City and all partners involved in the Potomac

Yard Development Project are committed to listening to and understanding the needs and concerns of the community. Project partners will participate alongside the City throughout this process with the shared goal of bringing to life a collective vision for Potomac Yard and creating exceptional experiences and regional economic growth for decades to come.”

Details about the upcoming events can be found online at Alexandriava.gov and MonumentALX.com.

Push back on the project continues as opponents learned that the city-funded AEDP hired Two Capitols Consulting, a Richmond-based lobbying firm, to advocate for the project with the General Assembly.

Members of the coalition plan to lobby state lawmakers as well in an effort to thwart the development.

“In the ‘90s we prevented Governor [Douglas] Wilder and Jack Kent Cooke from building a football stadium here for many of

“You’re trying to bring a project that’s supposed to improve the economic quality of this town with revenue projections and economic studies that are basically garbage.”

— Stop the Arena spokesman Andrew Macdonald

Potomac Yard neighborhood. “It’s not new economic benefit, it is simply pulling from somewhere else and putting it in this area. The net economic benefit does not materialize in the way you think it does.”

Curtis echoed concerns like traffic congestion, potential floods, crime and limited access to public transportation.

“The economic questions are huge,” Curtis said. “The transportation issues seem really insurmountable and that isn’t even getting to the crime issue. How do we get new first responders to handle that? How do we get parking enforcement in the surrounding neighborhoods? What are the environmental concerns?”

Macdonald cited conversations with economists, including noted Stanford economist Roger Noll.

“I have spoken with Roger Noll, a Stanford economist,” Macdonald said. “The reports that he has seen – that this project will produce 32,000 new jobs and significant

good development that can be had here but this is not the project that we want here.”

Said Mary Harris of North Old Town, “I think it stinks.”



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Ronald Moten of Don’t Mute DC speaks at the Jan. 4 Stop the Arena rally in Potomac Yard.

the same reasons,” said Macdonald, who was on City Council at the time. “This was never considered to be part of the development of Potomac Yard. There is a feeling that there is

City Launches ‘Community Engagement’ on Arena

The City of Alexandria announced plans for “community engagement events to share the vision for the proposed Entertainment District at Potomac Yard,” and gather input from Alexandria residents, civic and organizational leaders, and other stakeholders. The plan included listening tour sessions, project briefings, updates, pop-up events, site tours, and other opportunities.

“Project partners will participate alongside the City throughout this process with the shared goal of bringing to life a collective vision for Potomac Yard and creating exceptional experiences and regional economic growth for decades to come,” according to the release. Sign up here, <https://alexandriaecon.org/why-alexandria/featured-projects/monumentalx/>

Additional details about all events can be found on Alexandriava.gov and MonumentALX.com.

❖ Starting Tuesday, Jan. 9 and continuing every other Tuesday until March 26, the City and other project partners will share new information with the public during City Council legislative meetings, upcoming engagement opportunities, reports from the General Assembly, and more. Updates will continue on an as-needed beyond after March 26.

❖ Starting Thursday, Jan. 18, the City of Alexandria will hold weekly virtual listening sessions on Thursday nights from 7-8 p.m., covering topics, including:

❖ Jan. 18, Financial proposal and economic impact

❖ Jan. 25, Schools, housing and other community benefits

❖ Feb. 1, Transportation and traffic management

❖ Feb. 8, Small business and economic opportunity

City Council Town Hall. On Saturday, Jan. 27, City Council will host a Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. that will include a short presentation on the project as well as Councilmembers answering submitted community questions, concerns, and feedback.

Civic and Business Organization Briefings. The City will work with civic and business organizations to coordinate project presentations and listening sessions to gather community input.

Pop-up Events. In the coming weeks, the City will share details on pop-up events at high-traffic areas such as Farmers Markets to answer questions and take comments.

Site Tours. The project team will announce additional details for pre-scheduled site tours to view and understand the area being developed as part of the proposal.

For a full list of dates for these engagement opportunities, to learn more about the project and sign up for email updates, please visit MonumentALX.com.

2024 Legislative Agenda: FILING BILLS

BY SEN. ADAM EBBIN



Ebbin

State Senators are limited to introducing 21 pieces of legislation this session, so I am hard at work putting the final touches on my package of bills for 2024. As you may have seen, I have already introduced one amendment to the Virginia Constitution, as well as four pieces of legislation, including one that I am carrying with my friend and newly-elected fellow Senator, Schuyler Van-Vallkenburg.

❖ **SJ 11:** This proposed amendment to the Virginia Constitution would finally remove the stain on our foundational document that prohibits marriage equality, replacing the prohibition with the affirmative right to marry for two consenting adults.

❖ **SB 101:** Would prohibit someone who provides marriage licenses in Virginia from refusing to issue a marriage license based on the sexual orientation or race of any of the two parties to the marriage.

❖ **SB 100:** Would prohibit so-called “ghost guns.”

❖ **SB 99:** Would prohibit the carrying of an assault weapon in public.

❖ **SB 44:** Would increase penalties on a parent if they leave a loaded firearm around a child and the child uses the firearm to commit violence.

Over the next 24 hours, I will also file several pieces of additional legislation, including bills that would:

❖ Increase penalties for removing or altering

serial numbers on firearms.

❖ Establish a retail market for safe cannabis use for adults 21 and older.

❖ Create penalties for the killing or maiming of a companion animal.

❖ Extend the deadline for the City of Alexandria to complete its investments in replacing its combined sewer overflow system, due to supply chain delays.

❖ Strengthen the unemployment system by requiring the Virginia Employment Commission to provide claimants copies of employer responses to agency fact-finding and inquiries.

❖ Require more timely and detailed responses from employers to the Virginia Employment Commission regarding employee separation.

❖ Require the posting of the illegal gaming tip line in establishments licensed by Virginia Lottery. The tip line number is 1-833-889-2300.

❖ Prohibit landlords from charging tenants for so-called “junk fees,” such as the cost of repairing equipment that is owned by the landlord.

❖ Ban unscrupulous companies from trapping homeowners into advance sales contracts to list their home for sales for many years in advance, under penalty of increased costs on the homeowner.

I expect to file several additional bills by the close of the week.

Save The Date! Upcoming Alexandria Town Hall

I will co-host a Town Hall meeting with the rest of the 39th Senate District delegation to

the General Assembly on Sunday, Jan. 21, from 1-3 p.m. at Alexandria City High School. Along with Delegates Charniele Herring, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Alfonso Lopez, and Adele McClure, I will be responding to your questions, and listening for good ideas.

Arena Proposal for Potomac Yard

On Monday evening, earlier this week, I participated in a virtual town hall hosted by the Del Ray Citizens Association, to hear questions from the Alexandria community about the proposal for relocating the Washington Wizards and Washington Capitals from the District to Potomac Yard. For those who participated, and patiently waited while we negotiated technical difficulties, I thank you. If you missed the opportunity to participate, either because of your schedule, or due to technical difficulties, you can view the meeting in its entirety online by going to www.youtube.com/watch?v=hCO5m-jcB11M, which you can find on the Del Ray Citizens Association YouTube channel.

It is clear that public-private sports/entertainment proposals do not always work out well for taxpayers and local communities; that’s why every proposal must be thoroughly vetted by elected leaders and the public, and tested with hard questions. To that end, I will continue to urge the Youngkin Administration to respond to important questions I have heard from the community about the proposal for Potomac Yard.

Update on State Aid to K-12

Last year, thanks to the leadership of Sen-
SEE EBBIN, PAGE 5

Curtain Call

ACHS theater teachers Bachman, Jones honored.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Two longtime theater department teachers at Alexandria City High School were honored Dec. 14 as they celebrated a 20-year partnership that will soon be coming to an end.

Hope Bachman and Leslie Jones have produced and directed dozens of theatrical performances in a co-teaching arrangement that will culminate in the 2024 spring musical production of “Bring It On.”

“Celebrating the 20th anniversary of being part of a theater department partnership is pretty special,” Jones said. “For me it is also celebrating 33 years of servicing students and 25 years at T.C.”

Bachman and Jones first joined forces shortly after Bachman began

her teaching career at what was then T.C. Williams High School. Jones was in her eighth year of teaching at the school when Bachman approached her about forming the partnership.

“This is really all about the kids,” Bachman said. “I am proud of the partnership we have built but the kids are what makes it all worthwhile.”

Jones will be retiring at the end of the school year with the upcoming musical “Bring It On” being the last collaboration for the drama duo.

Said ACHS Executive Principal Alexander Duncan, “We are so appreciative of the unwavering commitment that Leslie Jones and Hope Bachman have shown in their two decades of service to Alexandria City High School students and our school community.”



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Theater department teachers Hope Bachman, left, and Leslie Jones celebrate 20 years of a co-teaching partnership Dec. 14 at Alexandria City High School.

OPINION

Ebbin

FROM PAGE 4

ate Democrats, Virginia partially lifted the Great Recession-era cap on state funding for public school support staff. Because of that change, the Commonwealth now will pay its share for 3,670 additional support staff for the 2023-24 school year. For localities in the 39th Senate District, that investment includes:

- ❖ 46 additional state-supported staff in Alexandria,
- ❖ 81 additional state-supported staff in Arlington,
- ❖ and 517 additional state-supported staff in Fairfax County.

Public school support positions, such as guidance counselors, teacher assistants and school nurses, are fundamentally critical to the success of Virginia's children. Virginia needs to maintain its new expanded support for them, and continue the effort to pay them what they deserve. Many students have barriers to learning, and they require support beyond what some of the best public school teachers could provide. That's why public school support staff play such an important role in helping Virginia's students overcome their challenges, and gain an education that will help them uplift themselves and their communities.

In reaction to the Great Recession, an arbitrary cap was imposed on the number of public school support staff the state would pay for; this action reduced state support by hundreds of millions of dollars each

year. Since the cap was established in 2009, support staff decreased by 3,630 positions across the state; while at the same time, Virginia's public school enrollment increased by more than 16,000 students.

When lawmakers, led by Senate Democrats, pressed Governor Youngkin to agree to partially lifting the Great Recession-era staff support cap, that represented a significant policy victory that was years in the making.

This means that the Commonwealth will finally pay its share of the costs for 3,670 additional support staff for the 2023-2024 school year.

Virginia's legislative research arm – JLARC – just last summer estimated that the state is underfunding the public education system by as much as \$4 billion per year. The report concluded that Virginia spends less per public school student than our neighboring states of Kentucky, Maryland and West Virginia.

During this next legislative session, which begins on Wednesday, Jan. 10, legislators must take into account the demonstrated need for more K12 public education funding, not less.

As a senior member of the Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee, I will fight to protect these hard-won investments in public education in the Commonwealth, and expand them where we can afford.

Unfortunately, Governor Youngkin's proposed 2024-2026 state budget would invest less in Virginia's public education system, not more. That is unacceptable.



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Cole Bowman (8) 3rd Grade
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Santos Lopez Tem (11) 5th Grade
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Calvin Clarke (11) 5th Grade
Tessellation Inspired by M.C. Escher, Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



Madison Islas (11) 5th Grade
Tessellation Inspired by M.C. Escher, Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



Jude Rich (10) 5th Grade
Tessellation Inspired by M.C. Escher, Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



Sophie Mihalik, 1st Grade, Calavera, Art Teacher Abi Dillingham.



Olive Slother, (6) 1st Grade, Calavera, Art Teacher Abi Dillingham.



Jacob Cruz (7) 2nd Grade (Cityscape inspired by James Rizzi), Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



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Phoebe Humphries (7) 2nd Grade (Cityscape inspired by James Rizzi), Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



Veronica Zambrano (7) 2nd Grade (Cityscape inspired by James Rizzi), Art Teacher Sean Murphy.



Alejandro Potter, (6) 1st Grade, Pumpkin Inspired by Yayoi Kusama, Art Teacher Abi Dillingham.



Inna West (6) 1st Grade, Pumpkin Inspired by Yayoi Kusama, Art Teacher Abi Dillingham.

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Xavier Ashfield, 1st Grade



Emily Tryder, 5th grade



Taylor Reynolds, 4th grade



Madeline Dahl, 2nd grade



Ruhi Gala, 1st Grade



Spencer Wegner, 3rd Grade



PHOTO BY HOWARD SOROOS

Ellee St Pierre as Jesse Tuck and Lucy McBride as Winnie Foster in the Aldersgate Church Community Theater production of "Tuck Everlasting" playing Jan. 12-21. www.acctonline.org

Tuck Everlasting

ACCT presents musical version of beloved children's novel.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

If you could live forever, would you? When 11-year-old Winnie Foster discovers the magical secret of the Tuck family, she embarks on an adventure that will change her life forever in the new musical production of Tuck Everlasting, playing Jan. 12-21 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater.

Based on the children's novel by Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting features music by Chris Miller, lyrics by Nathan Tysen and a book by Claudia Shear and Tim Federle. The ACCT production is under the direction of Julia St. Pierre.

"I have always loved the music from Tuck Everlasting and the quintessential question of 'if you could, would you choose to live forever?'" St. Pierre said. "Through the story of Winnie and the Tucks, I hope the audience will see the power of family, of connection, and what it means to be truly alive."

The lead characters in the ACCT production were double cast, with a talented troupe of young actors alternating roles over the course of the production.

"Tuck Everlasting is very musically demanding," said Erin Allen, one of the actors playing Winnie Foster. "The harmonies are a bit complicated and the songs are nearly back to back. And yet, despite its complexities, the music is one of my favorite as-

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

pects of the show, which has such a meaningful message: 'You don't need to live forever, you just need to live.'"

Added Lucy McBride, who also plays Winnie Foster, "I hope that the audience will take away that it's important to live your life. You only get one, and you have to make sure it's good, and that you enjoy it."

In Tuck Everlasting, young Winnie yearns for a life of adventure beyond her white picket fence. She gets more than she could have imagined when she stumbles upon the magic behind the Tuck family's immortality -- an eternal-life-giving spring. As her adventure unfolds, Winnie faces an extraordinary choice: return to her life or continue with the Tucks on their infinite journey.

"Tuck Everlasting asks some thought-provoking questions for young people and adults alike," said producer Maureen Allen. "What makes a life worth living, what do I have in my life that I truly value? The answer, as it almost always is, is people -- the relationships we cultivate and the friendships we cherish."

Added Ellee St. Pierre, who plays Jesse Tuck, "I think the most important thing audiences can take away from our show is to value life -- the highs, the lows, everything. Living is growing and changing and experiencing new things all around you. Life loses its value if it has no end."

Tuck Everlasting is playing Jan. 12-21 at Aldersgate Church Community Theater, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria. For tickets or more information, visit www.acctonline.org.

"You don't need to live forever, you just need to live."

— A signature line in the ACCT musical 'Tuck Everlasting'



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Obituary

Obituary



Peter Sutherland Race, 82, died on December 2, 2023 in Alexandria, Virginia surrounded by his beloved wife and daughters.

Peter lived a life full of love, laughter and family. He was born on July 17, 1941 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, to William Race and Betty Sutherland Race and was the third of four brothers. He attended high school at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, CT, where he played football, hockey, and ran track, graduating in 1960. Peter then moved west to study political science at Stanford University, expanding his horizons with new friends and interesting travel. While at Stanford, he served on the Executive Committee of Rally Com, helping to organize card stunts at football games and protecting the Stanford Axe from rival Cal during the Big Game.

After graduating from Stanford in 1964, Peter received his commission as an officer in the U.S. Navy and spent most of the next two years on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Ranger, based in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Peter went on to attend law school at the University of Michigan, graduating in 1969. He described his greatest achievements in Ann Arbor as earning his J.D. degree and meeting the love of his life, Kristen LeAnderson.

Peter and Kristen married in 1970 and raised their two daughters in Alexandria, Virginia. Peter dedicated his life to serving others, working for 42 years at the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, DC, ultimately becoming an Assistant General Counsel and leading the enforcement of HUD's consumer protection programs. He took great pleasure in contributing to his community, including coaching his girls' soccer and basketball teams and volunteering as a long-time Board member of the Hollin Meadows Swim & Tennis Club. Peter loved having daughters and was a devoted and caring father.

Upon retirement, Peter and Kristen spent much of their time at their home on Little Traverse Lake in Northern Michigan. "Up North" was a cherished gathering place where they shared special times with their children, grandchildren, extended family and many friends.

Peter's dry sense of humor, gentle smile, and kind nature endeared him to everyone he met. Peter was as devoted a fan as could be, whether it be loyally cheering on his beleaguered Detroit Lions, his less-beleaguered Michigan Wolverines, or supporting his dear grandchildren, of whom he was incredibly proud, at their many games, performances, and activities.

Peter is survived by his wife, Kristen, his daughters, Katie Race Brin (husband, Lory) and Elizabeth Terborgh (husband, Andrew), and grandchildren, Aaron Brin, Talia Brin, David Terborgh and Lucas Terborgh. Peter was preceded in death by his brother, William Race, and is survived by brothers Geoffrey Race and Louis Race. A memorial service celebrating Peter's life will take place at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22301) on Saturday, January 27th at 2 pm.

The family is eternally grateful for the caregivers who provided loving and compassionate care to Peter and Kristen during his final years. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Little Traverse Lake Association (LTLPOA, P.O. Box 145, Cedar, MI 49621; <https://littletraverselake.org/get-involved-1>) or Parkinson Foundation of the National Capital Area (<https://parkinsonfoundation.org/>).



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Obituary

Obituary



K. Keith "Teak" Long, age 90, formerly of Alexandria, VA and Ambler, PA, died surrounded by his family on December 12, 2023. Born September 30, 1933, Keith was the third child of Mabel Sponaugle and Lloyd Long. He is survived by his wife Jill; their children Justin (Janet), Meredith (Brian) McCormick, and Kyle (Bernadette); and their seven grandchildren: Maeve, Henry, Conor, Cameron, Finn, Charlie, and Avery. He is also survived by his siblings Jean, Paul, Dale, and Harold, and numerous nieces and nephews who loved him.

Keith grew up in Harrisonburg, Virginia. He graduated from Madison College (now JMU) in 1954, then enrolled in the Navy, where he became a pilot, eventually retiring with the rank of Commander after many years of both active and reserve duty. In 1964, Keith received his M.B.A. from George Washington University and went on to a long and successful accounting career working for the firms Hoke, Long and Company; Pannell, Kerr, Forster; and Watkins, Meeghan, Drury and Company.

Keith was proof that hard work could lead to great things, and for all his life his work ethic was a great inspiration to those around him. Not much for relaxing, he felt there was always something he could do, for himself or for others. He was incredibly disciplined, exercising every day for as long as his family could remember, not letting diabetes or even Alzheimer's slow him down.

Keith had many joys in life: shopping for antiques, collecting coins and Hess Trucks, and was meticulous about his lawn, never seeing a weed he did not pull. He washed whoever's car was in his driveway, whether they asked him to or not. He was a social person who was quick to laugh and always wore a smile. If he called you Moose it meant he liked you, and he called a lot of people Moose. He also loved to compete, routinely dominating his children and grandchildren in ping pong and cornhole. In his later years, he discovered pickleball, and loved playing it with his new friends at Gwynedd Estates in Ambler, PA.

Most of all, Keith loved his family. Along with Jill, he was unfailingly present in his children's lives: coaching their soccer teams, taking them to Washington football games during their glory years at RFK, and serving as a proud member and President of the Gonzaga College High School Fathers' Club. He supported their goals and dreams even when he did not completely understand them, and was always there for them when they needed help.

As he got older, Keith loved to talk about how fortunate he was. Especially to be married to Jill. They were different people, but were a great team, married for 58 years. With Keith's passing, his family would like everyone to know how

incredibly fortunate and privileged they feel to have had such a great husband, father, grandfather and sibling.

A special thanks to the staff, nurses and hospice team at Gwynedd Estates and Spring House Estates for the excellent care they provided to Keith.

A private prayer service was held, and a Graveside Service will be scheduled in the late spring at Washington Crossing National Cemetery in Newtown, PA.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Diabetes Association https://diabetes.org/ways-to-contribute?gclid=CjwKCAiA-P-rBhBEEiwAQEXhHy-64QioNNngP0kQ3EcDb805hSeJcX3Wazyp30H0WHOMRAKI5w8K0BoCbhYQAvD_BwE&utm_campaign=memorial-brand-campaign&utm_content=sitelink-extension&utm_medium=paidsearch&utm_source=google&utm_term=fundraising.

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 2

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

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF LIVE CHRISTMAS TREES

With the Christmas holiday coming to a close, remember to properly recycle your Christmas trees this year. Disposing of live Christmas trees, as well as other trash and yard waste, in Fairfax County parks is illegal and harmful to our environment. Doing so can facilitate the spread of invasive pest species and add additional layers of material that suffocates seeds, seedlings and plants, thereby reducing the regeneration of a healthy forest.

With all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services makes proper disposal of live Christmas trees easy and hassle-free. Residents just need to remove all lights and decorations and leave the trees on the curb alongside their trash. Trees will be collected during the first two weeks of January, from Jan. 1 through Jan. 13, and recycled with the mulch made available to county residents.

If residents serviced by the county would like to enjoy their live Christmas tree past Jan. 13, they can schedule a separate brush pickup for trees. Those contracted with a private waste disposal company should contact their hauler with questions regarding collection of Christmas trees following the two-week period for special tree collection.

Residents are also welcome to self-haul their trees to one of the County's recycling facilities:
I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax)
I-95 Landfill Complex (9850 Furnace Road, Lorton)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

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.volunteeralalexandria.org/ALIVE>

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. Join Friends' Board. Those who care about mental health, the Alexandria community, and collaborating with fellow residents to make

ENTERTAINMENT

**Wednesdays Through Saturdays
Tours Aboard Tall Ship Providence
and Sen. John Warner Maritime
Heritage Center.** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
At Alexandria's Waterfront Park, 1A
Prince Street, Alexandria. Guests
of all ages are recruited into the
Continental Navy aboard Tall Ship
Providence with legendary Captain
John Paul Jones. Recruits are as-
signed jobs on the ship, learn where
they will work and live, how to load
a cannon, etc... Tours conclude in
the Naval History Theatre with a
film about the ship. The Heritage
center is a floating museum on the
Alexandria waterfront. Visit [https://
tallshipprovidence.org/](https://tallshipprovidence.org/)

JAN. 5-27, 2024
"Visions of Resilience: Art for Climate
Justice" exhibit. At Del Ray Arti-
sians, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue,
Alexandria, in partnership with the
Changing Planet Justice Founda-
tion, raises awareness about climate
change and its impact on margin-
alized communities. By conveying
issues through the universal
language of image, we
encourage action towards a
just, climate-friendly future.
Reception: Friday, January
5, 7-9 p.m. Open Thurs-
days 12-6 p.m., Fridays
12-9 p.m., Saturdays and
Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed
January 28). [DelRayArti-
sians.org/exhibits](https://DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits)

JAN. 19-28
**Alexandria Restaurant
Week.** For 10 days and two
weekends, more than 70
restaurants in Alexandria
will offer a \$30, \$40 or \$50
in-person dinner for one
during Alexandria Restau-
rant Week, January 19 to
28, 2024. Special menus
are available in-person at
participating restaurants
throughout Alexandria's
neighborhoods, including
Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle,
Eisenhower and the West
End. The revised three-
tiered pricing structure
reflects feedback from
Alexandria Restaurant Week
participants following the
2023 summer promotion.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3, 2024
**Sherlock Holmes and the
Case of the Missing Maestro.** 3 p.m. At
George Washington Masonic Memorial, 101
Callahan Drive, Alexandria. When the or-
chestra is ready to begin their concert and
suddenly discover the Maestro is nowhere
to be found they begin to panic. Thankfully
the world's greatest detective is avail-
able and agrees to take the case. All the
musicians are suspects and thus Sherlock
Holmes must investigate each of the instru-
ment families to deduce who is behind the
mystery. With Enrico Lopez-Yanez, Guest
Conductor.

SATURDAY/FEB. 10
37th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting.
At Mount Vernon High School, 8515 Old
Mount Vernon Road. Times: 7:45 a.m. to
9:25 a.m. - Exhibit Hall Open; 9:30 a.m. to
noon - Program: Speakers, Audience Q&A
and Virtual Tour; Noon to 1:30 p.m. - Taste
of Mount Vernon.

FEB. 10-11
**Alexandria Symphony Announces ASO at 80
Project**
Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at
Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and
Arts Center;



Alexandria Restaurant Week is Jan. 19 to 28, 2024 at restaurants in Alexandria.



Visions of Resilience: Art for Climate Justice can be seen at Del Ray Artisans Jan. 5-27, 2024.

Sunday, February 11, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. at
George Washington Masonic Memorial.
Four original pieces, commissioned in honor
of the 80th anniversary of the Alexan-
dria Symphony Orchestra (ASO), will be
presented as part of the ASO at 80 Project.
Led by Music Director James Ross, the
commissions will premiere throughout the
2023-2024 season as introductions to four
of the five performances.
On February 10 and 11, 2024, the program en-
titled "Do Not Go Gentle" opens with Milad
Yousuffi's Aurora, drawn from his experience
as an Afghan refugee and inspired by a
poem dedicated to his mother. His works
express both his pride in his country of
birth and his longing to return. Visit [www.
alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org).

THE BIRCHMERE
At 3701 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. All
shows are at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise
noted. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.
com. Contact The Birchmere at 703-549-
7500 or www.Birchmere.com.

JANUARY
Fri. 12: Preacher Lawson \$39.50 (Rescheduled
from 10/6/23)

Sat. 13: Last Train Home \$35.00
Sun. 14: Patrice Rushen \$55.00
Wed. 17: ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE: An All-Star Band Celebrates THE BEATLES 60th Anniversary in America, featuring Kasim Sulton, Steve Kimock, Prairie Prince, Gil Assayas, Bobby Lee Rodgers, Mark Rashotte, Andy Forgie, with narration by Michael Des Barres \$64.00
Fri. 19: Newmyer Flyer Presents LAUREL CANYON: Golden Songs of Los Angeles 1966-72 \$35.00
Sat. 20: Lyfe Jennings \$75.00
Wed. 24: Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone \$55.00
Fri. 26: Who's Bad - The Ultimate Michael Jackson Experience \$39.50
Sat. 27: Dar Williams with The Nields \$45.00 SOLD OUT!
Sun. 28: Forever Tina - A Tribute to the Queen of Rock N' Roll \$39.50
FEBRUARY
Fri. 2: Will Downing \$79.50
Sat. 3: Will Downing \$79.50 SOLD OUT!
Tue. 6: Rosanne Cash: ReInventing The Wheel 1993-2023 with John Leventhal and Band \$79.50
Wed. 7: Rosanne Cash: ReInventing The Wheel 1993-2023 with John Leventhal and Band \$79.50
Thu. 8: Aaron Watson w/ Jenna Paulette \$29.50
Fri. 9: Dave Hollister \$55.00 SOLD OUT!
Wed. 14: Kevin Ross \$65.00
Thu. 15: The Amy Winehouse Celebration: back to BACK TO BLACK \$29.50
Fri. 16: NRBQ \$45.00
Sat. 17: The Dramatics featuring L.J. Reynolds \$59.50
Sun. 18: Neil Diamond Tribute starring DAVID CARLIN KING and The Gold Diamond Band \$45.00
Thu. 22: Corey Smith Band w/ Jeb Gipson - All Standing in the Flex Stage! Doors 6pm \$35.00
Fri. 23: TWEET \$45.00
Sat. 24: Tarsha Fitzgerald Presents DEVOTION: An Earth Wind & Fire Experience \$39.50
Sun. 25: Daryl Davis Presents: Thanks For The Memories 2023! \$39.50
Wed. 28: Sara Evans \$69.50 2nd Night Added!
Thu. 29: Sara Evans \$69.50 SOLD OUT!

A First



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It happened just the other day. While visiting close friends in Berlin, Md. (Ocean City) to celebrate the New Year, friends who are well aware of my brother's death and the nature of our relationship (his and mine that is) and who likewise knew Richard very well - and even had their own stories to share, I began to tell a Richard story, as I have a million times in my life. However, on this New Year's Eve, for the first time since Richard died on Dec. 3rd, 2022, I was able to tell the story without choking up or getting teary-eyed. It has taken me more than a year to reach that point.

I can remember very well this past summer, mid-July to be exact while on vacation with my step-father-in-law, Lee and his wife Judy, being unable to complete a Richard story because I got watery eyes and a thickish throat. I tried to speak, even formed the words in my mouth, shaped my lips to pronounce them and couldn't, well; not exactly. But you know what I mean. There was no sound. Then I gathered myself and my thoughts and rebounded enough on the second effort - after a few deep breaths and was able to complete the story. Though the story was supposed to be funny, it became something else. It became emotional and nearly as difficult as it had been telling Richard stories closer to his death. Here it was, almost eight months later, and I still couldn't get through a story about my brother without getting emotional. I choked up so much and so unexpectedly that it left a mark, you might say, on my brain, for future reference.

And this future reference became the presence on New Year's Eve. Dina and I were with our closest friends, friends who had independent relationships with my brother, and who thought the world of him. In fact, I think the Hagans are our only friends who had such a relationship with Richard (he being five years older than us) and his wife, Vanessa, so it was only natural that we would have spent considerable time talking about Richard; it was a safe space for me. And as I began talking about Richard - in the context of the ebb and flow of the conversation, I hesitated almost, anticipating that I'd have to stop, for a time-out of sorts, to gather my thoughts and so forth, and then I just continued, without stopping and completed the story. I took note of it. Here, more than a year later, I'm now able to finish what I start when talking/remiscing about Richard.

It was odd, palpable almost, then when I got to the point of the story that I was sharing about my brother, a point typically when I'd had to stop mid-sentence to take a breath and rub the tears out of my eyes, I didn't have to. I had finally reached the point where the mention of my brother's death didn't weaken my resolve/ability to share a recollection. I simply told the tale, spoke normally-ish about him and smiled at the accomplishment, if you could even call it that, of being able to talk about my brother without crying, et cetera.

New Year's Eve, 2023, now becomes - for me, like one of those dates, "9/11," Nov. 22, 1963, Oct. 27, 2004 when the Red Sox broke the curse and won the World Series (against the St Louis Cardinals) for the first time in 86 years, or "Game 6," Oct. 21st 1975, the World Series against the "Big Red Machine", (Cincinnati Reds) where you know exactly where you were and what you were doing on the date. They are all dates that will stick with me for the remainder of my life. None of them however compare to the loss of my brother, Richard to cancer on Dec. 3, 2022. At least now, I can talk about it. Finish whatever story I start. And even laugh about it without being sad, but grateful in a way. Grateful that I had a brother who meant so much to me and who will be a part of my future as well since I can now embrace his memory - and his loss. He was one of the good guys. Solid as a rock and dependable. If you needed him to be somewhere (like my cancer appointments), he was there. And knowing that he will never "be-there" again in person is unsettling. But at least when I remember him, I can smile. It only took me a year to get here. It was a year I never thought I'd have to endure. In 2009, when I was diagnosed with cancer, I never thought, despite our five-year age difference (Richard was the older brother), he would predecease me. And then he did, at age 73. It has thrown off my whole unwritten plan. And unfortunately, without Richard, there's no plan "B," unwritten or otherwise. Certainly not one that will last anyway.

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

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www.cschaper.com



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