

The Arlington Connection

Zach Levin, tenor saxophone player, one of 22 selected as the brightest young musicians in the country for Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra Jazz this summer.

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HOMELIFESTYLE



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIVIANE PEDRUCCO

Marymount University Interior Design student Viviane Pedruco maximized light to create an airy master bedroom for a Bethesda family.

When Accessibility And Style Collide

Award-winning Marymount University student combines universal design and bold colors to create the dream home for a Bethesda family.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Juliette Blanche and Chris Willows relocated from Antibes, France to Bethesda, Maryland they wanted the interior of their new home to incorporate natural light, bold colors and universal design that would accommodate one of their three children who is wheelchair bound.

Blanche, who is French, and Willows tasked Marymount University Interior De-

sign student Viviane Pedruco with making that vision a reality.

"The owners wanted a design for that combined natural elements [like] wood, plants, flowers with a Cote D'Azur aesthetic and pops of bright corals, oranges, yellows, blues, teals and greens," said Pedruco, who was recently named a "Future100 Interior Design Graduate Winner," an honor bestowed upon students who advocate for openness, equality and inclusion through

SEE HOMELIFESTYLE, PAGE 5



The bold colors and universal design in this dining room by Marymount University Interior Design student Viviane Pedruco meets the needs of a Bethesda family of five.

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AHC Commits to Success for Low-Income Students



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

AHC displays college T-shirts from their student's selection of colleges at their event May 6.



AHC College Signing Day for 42 low-income students in their College and Career Readiness Program.

By SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Forty-two low-income high school students celebrated College Signing Day hosted by AHC, Inc. who sponsors the College and Career Readiness Program. These students announced the schools they plan to attend, sporting T-shirts from a number of schools including Pomona, Yale, Carnegie Mellon University, Notre Dame, and the University of Rochester.

The College and Career Readiness Program provides low-income students in the program with the tools and support to successfully graduate from high school and go to college or develop a career path. The extensive program begins in elementary school with after school programs, tutoring and summer camps. High school juniors and seniors receive a men-

tor to assist with the challenges of identifying scholastic and career options, applying for colleges and financial assistance.

Many of these students are the children of immigrants and will be the first in their families to attend college. Since the program began in 2016, the College and Career Readiness Program has provided 170 students with the support to make these important decisions. This year 39 have committed to going to a four-year university or two-year community college, two are taking a gap year and one has committed to join the Marines. They have earned more than \$6 million in scholarships and grants this year and most of the students won't pay more than \$1,000 per year for their college education.

Sara Berthe Abraha (Washington Liberty High School) was admitted to nine different colleges and chose Pomona for the fall. She

has received \$1.3 million in scholarships and gift aid. In addition to her many activities and youth groups, she has been the caregiver to her little brother while her immigrant parents worked to provide for the family. She says, "Support and guidance can be hard to find when you are a first generation student.

My mentor has anticipated things and helped me all the way through the process."

Karen Gonzales Cifuentes (Washington Liberty High School) received a full ride to Carnegie Mellon University. She says her hope is to graduate with a bachelor's in information systems and

work in the tech field where she hopes to inspire other young Latina women. She says as a first-gen college student she didn't have her parents to rely on so she had to look for outside resources, and the College and Career Readiness Program made it easy to find what she needed.

Alishaba Hayat (Yorktown High School) will be attending the University of Virginia in the fall to study engineering and go onto the pre-med track. Hayat says she is knocking out her prerequisites so she can be ready for medical school if that's for her. She says she is looking forward to moving away and learning who she is away from

her family.

Joel Jonathan Escobar (HB Woodlawn) will attend the University of Rochester as a POSSE Scholar with a full ride totaling \$240,000. His goal is to be a teacher and to apply his expertise to enact change. He says he makes it his life mission to serve others.

The ceremony was held at Rinker Community Center of Ballston Apartments on Friday, May 6.

AHC is an affordable housing nonprofit with more than 7,800 affordable apartments in Virginia and Maryland. The program has expanded to seven high schools, five of them in Arlington, one in Alexandria and one in Fairfax.

Arlington Rotary Presents College Scholarships, Honors Key School Educator of the Year

The Arlington Rotary Club awarded college scholarships totaling \$18,000 to two Arlington high school students at its annual education fund banquet on April 28, and honored Heyshell Serrano Valle as the club's Key School Educator of the Year for 2021-2022.

Ms. Serrano teaches third grade math, science and Spanish language arts in Key School-Escuela Key's bilingual elementary school program. Originally from Honduras, Serrano joined the Key School faculty in 2016 after teaching

previously in New York City. She was praised especially for her devotion to students and mentoring of other faculty.

"Heyshell never says no to anyone who needs support," said Tony Weaver, Arlington Rotary Club president, who presented the award.

Weaver also introduced the club's college-bound students.

Dayana Cespedes Mendoza of Yorktown High School is the recipient of a \$10,000 scholarship over four years. She plans to attend George Mason University in the fall to study civil engineering.



Migel Vergara



Dayana Cespedes Mendoza.

Migel Vergara of Arlington Community High School is the recipient of the club's \$8,000 Audra Rafter Scholarship. He plans

to attend Marymount University to study English and computer science

Arlington Rotary Club is a partner with Key School for community service and honors a member of its faculty or staff each year. The club's financial support for special programs includes the purchase of books at the school's annual Book Fair for teachers to use in their classrooms and for students who can't afford personal selections to take books home as their own.

SEE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, PAGE 5

Taking on Beyer

Five Republican candidates seek nomination in convention to challenge incumbent congressman.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Usually Republicans have to recruit candidates to run against four-term U.S. Rep. Don Beyer (D-8). Not this year. Five Republicans are seeking the Republican nomination for the 8th Congressional District in a convention later this month. On the campaign trail, the G.O.P. candidates are calling for a prominent public health official to be jailed, undocumented immigrants to be deported, public education to be privatized and controversial issues to be banished from the classroom.

"These are make-a-statement candidates, playing to a small far-right base in that district," said Mark Rozell, dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University. "The real race for Congress in this district is always the Democratic nomination, the outcome of which is tantamount to election in November."

Beyer will be facing challenger Victoria Virasingh in the June 21 primary. Instead of choosing their candidate in a primary, though, Republicans will select their nominee in a May 28 convention at the Waterford Events Center in Springfield. The field includes immigrants from the Soviet Union and South Korea as well as an unsuccessful congressional candidate from the last election cycle. Most of the candidates are self-funded.

"I doubt the GOP will put any money in this race," said Rozell. "Why waste it when there are real competitive races in Virginia this year?"

KARINA LIPSOM has raised the most money out of the candidates, more than \$60,000. Her top contributor is Brian Johnson, vice president of Veterans Guardian, a consulting firm that helps veterans file for disability benefits. Lipsman has a bachelor's degree from Towson University in 2009 and a graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University in 2012. She arrived in this country as a refugee from the Soviet Union, surviving on food stamps and living in low-income housing in Baltimore. She says she's running for Congress to bring change to the country and the district. During a recent candidates forum, she called for the detention of the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Anthony Fauci.

"Fauci should be jailed. We all know that," said Lipsman, promptly



Left to right: Karina Lipsom, Kezia Tunnell, Heerak Christian Kim, Jeff Jordan and Monica Carpio.

ing applause during a recent meeting of the Alexandria City Republican Committee. "We should do our own research."

Fauci has become a hated figure among certain elements of the right wing. During a recent rally in North Carolina, U.S. Rep. Madison Cawthorn (R-N.C.) also called for Fauci to be jailed. Similarly, U.S. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) introduced the Fire Fauci Act, which suggests the chief medical advisor to the president "failed to provide Americans with accurate information" about the pandemic. She also called for members of the Alexandria School Board to be "fired" in reaction to an alleged sexual assault involving students at the Minnie Howard campus of Alexandria City Public High School.

"We've seen it right there at Minnie Howard High School in October when the School Board and everyone associated decided to cover up an assault on a young lady, and it wasn't exposed until March of this year," said Lipsman. "Everyone on that board should be fired."

HEERAK CHRISTIAN KIM is a registered nurse who is a native of South Korea. He routinely calls himself the "MAGA America First candidate," and his website declares that he is the "Leonardo Da Vinci of our generation." He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1990, a graduate degree from UCLA in 1991 and a graduate degree from Georgetown University in 2020. He says he's running to improve education, healthcare and governmental services. When asked about immigration at a recent candidates forum, Kim called for millions of undocumented immigrants to be forcibly removed from the

FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

KARINA LIPSOM

- ❖ total receipts: \$60,341
- ❖ total disbursements: \$16,992
- ❖ cash on hand: \$43,349

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

- ❖ \$5,800 from Brian Johnson, vice president of Veterans Guardian
- ❖ \$3,250 from Charlie Platt, cybersecurity consultant at Arete Incident Response
- ❖ \$2,900 from Graham Abell, student in Baltimore
- ❖ \$2,900 from Thomas Henry, owner of Henry Wealth Management
- ❖ \$2,900 from Neil Patel, director of Neil Patel Consulting

HEERAK CHRISTIAN KIM

- ❖ total receipts: \$12,800
- ❖ total disbursements: \$11,241
- ❖ cash on hand: \$1,623

TOP CONTRIBUTOR

- ❖ \$12,400 loan from the candidate

JEFF JORDAN

- ❖ total receipts: \$9,125
- ❖ total disbursements: \$9,125
- ❖ cash on hand: \$0

TOP CONTRIBUTOR

- ❖ \$9,125 loan from the candidate

MONICA CARPIO

- total receipts: \$8,438
- total disbursements: \$8,165
- cash on hand: \$273

TOP CONTRIBUTORS

- \$5,000 from the candidate
- \$1,288 from Joseph Messina, finance manager at Koons Ford
- \$1,000 from Jorge Carpio, retired

KEZIA TUNNELL

- total receipts: \$0
- total disbursements: \$0
- cash on hand: \$0

country.

"I want to build that wall, strengthen the borders and deport 13 million illegals who are already in America," said Kim. "Your grandchildren will pay for them if we do not deport them back to

their country."

During a recent candidates forum, he said critical race theory and "LGBT grooming" are "forced upon the classroom." He said America is "plagued by fake news," adding that he trusts news sources

like One America News, Newsmax and Fox News. If elected, he says, he would try to eliminate the H-1B visa program, which allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign workers to specialty occupations. He routinely posts images of a Confederate flag on his social media accounts to make a point about free speech.

"Virginians have a right to fly their Confederate flag at their homes without being persecuted, without being fired from their job," said Kim. "They have the right to celebrate their cultural heritage."

JEFF JORDAN is seeking a second nomination to run in the 8th Congressional District. Two years ago, he was the Republican nominee to run against Beyer, and he received 24 percent of the vote. He served in the U.S. Army from 1998 to 2014, and he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Montana in 1999 and a graduate degree from National Intelligence University in 2012. If elected, he says, he will work to defeat "the immoral and unjust ideology of socialism."

"Do not forgive student loan debt," said Jordan. "You will see a drastic decrease in the number of Humanities majors, and the cost of those majors."

Jordan says he's inspired by the writings of Ayn Rand, and that he's spent his life fighting against "the socialist left." He says progressives want to erase history and make people dependent on government, adding that the left "has a hard time defining what a woman is." If elected, he says, he would eliminate government programs that incentivize people who avoid work. When asked about education, Jordan said the federal government should play "no role."

"We need to move our education system to the private sector. We need to privatize it," said Jordan. "Make it a market-based system."

MONICA CARPIO is a stay-at-home parent, economist and political activist who has a bachelor's degree from Stanford University in 1993 and graduate degree from Cornell University in 1995. Her parents immigrated from South America in the late 1960s; she is a native of California who came to the Washington area to work at the Department of Labor and the Department of Commerce. She says "the media is just out of control," and she blames the length of the pandemic on journalists.

"The reason this pandemic last-

Five Republican Candidates Seek Nomination in Convention

FROM PAGE 4

ed so long was because of irresponsible reporters,” said Carpio. “Sure a lot of people got sick, but it was mostly people with underlying conditions and elderly people. There was no reason to close businesses and schools for so long.”

If elected, she says, she would reduce the budget for the United States Agency for International Development because she believes the U.S. spends too much money helping other countries. She says she would like to see that money moved to the Department of Defense. She says America needs “strict border control,” and that she can help achieve this goal because she speaks Spanish. When asked about education, she said some of the money diverted from USAID could be used to purchase metal detectors for public schools.

“Controversial issues should not

be taught in public schools,” said Carpio. “The government should try to promote old-fashioned subjects in schools like math, reading, science, music and literature.”

KEZIA TUNNELL is a co-founder of Tunnell Enterprises, which she says specializes in “large commercial builds and remodels.” She says the deficit is “astronomical and unsustainable,” adding that she would support “smaller packaging of bills so that we can better evaluate where your money is being spent.” When asked about immigration, Tunnell said she visited the southern border and saw cartels working with border control agents to bring undocumented immigrants into the country.

“Illegal immigration affects our immigrant communities, and it affects the safety of our communities,” said Tunnell. “We have to say

no human trafficking and to the drug problems that are coming across our borders every day.”

If elected, she says, she would support school choice and a reduction in federal regulation of schools, including decisions about curriculum. She says she supports increasing the budget for national defense and increasing sanctions to curb threats to national security. She also says she supports American energy independence, which she says would provide jobs, lower energy costs and national defense.

“I grew up in the 90s, and they told us that we were running out of natural resources. I actually believed that until I became an adult,” said Tunnell. “But that is not the case, and that is not truth. They continue to renew, and we must use those so we can get costs down immediately.”

College Scholarships

FROM PAGE 3

“Our partnership with Escuela Key is a perfect fit with Rotary International’s commitment to education and other civic causes, both locally in Arlington and globally,” Weaver said. “Our annual scholarships also are part of that commitment.”

Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million members in 200 countries, with 46,000+ local clubs, dedicated to volunteer community service. Arlington Rotary Club was founded in 1929.



Arlington Rotary Club presented college scholarships to two Arlington high school seniors on April 28 as well honoring its Key School-Escuela Key’s Teacher of the Year: L to R: Migel Vergara (Arlington Community HS); Tony Weaver (ARC president); Heyshell Serrano Valle (Key School 3rd grade teacher); and Dayana Cespedes-Mendoza (Yorktown HS).

HOME LIFESTYLE

When Accessibility and Style Collide

FROM PAGE 2

their work. “The goal of the Blanche-Willows project was to deliver a comfortable space, with a relaxing atmosphere for the entire family, where coastal meets winter, garden meets cozy interiors, and good quality meets unpretentiousness.”

Pedruco left her native country of Brazil where she worked as a helicopter pilot, to pursue a career that gave her an opportunity to explore her penchant for creativity. The Blanche-Willows project allowed her to

meet the family’s needs with her design style.

“I had to incorporate clever systems to maximize storage and accessibility,” said Pedruco, who is from Rio de Janeiro. “I am passionate about color and I like to think that I have a sunny personality. I am also a mix of many cultures. I am the daughter of a Brazilian mother and a Portuguese father who was born in Macau, China and raised in Rio de Janeiro. I love my hometown, its colors, sounds, scents, contrasts, vibrancy and chaos.”

Back to School

If your child is entering 7th grade they must have the **Meningitis, HPV, and Tdap** vaccines in order to enroll. Talk to your doctor and vaccinate them now!

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Arlington Parks Rank Third in Nation

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Got 10 minutes? Take a walk to an Arlington park. Arlington's Park system was just ranked third in the nation by the Trust for Public Land's ParkScore Index. Ninety-nine percent of Arlington residents live within a ten-minute walking distance of at least one of Arlington's 150 parks.

The parks offer activities for young and older with something for everyone from toddler swings to senior centers, basketball hoops, spraygrounds, trails and nature centers, special campfire programs, salamander walks, interpretative gardens, a diverse population of wildlife on the nature hikes and seasonal festivals as well as space for birthday party celebrations.

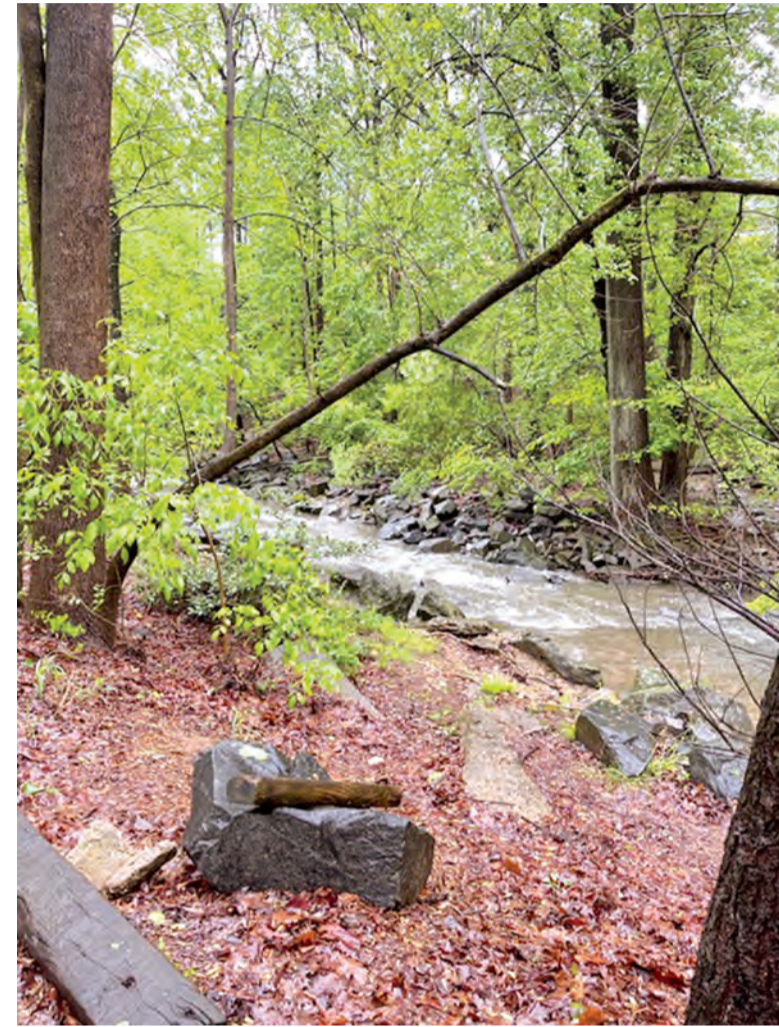
During the COVID shutdown the County's parks served as one of the few places to connect and exercise and to strengthen our community's mental and physical well being. Katie Cristol, Arlington County Board Chair says, "Our parks and recreation opportunities are a key contributor to quality of life in Arlington County."

Arlington scored 79.1 points in the ParkScore index which was based on an average of five categories including access, investment, amenities, acreage and equity. The County scored near the top on investment and access, about average on percentage of the city's overall area that is dedicated to parkland and below average on park size.

The Trust for Public Land added an equity category to the ParkScore in 2021. This category includes two metrics: that people of color live within a 10 minute walk of a park and that they have access to park space. Arlington scores highest on the first measure with 99 percent of people of color and low-income households living within a 10-minute walk of a park. However, residents of color have access to 36 percent less nearby park space than those living in white neighborhoods.

The County has been addressing this issue of disparities with the opening of John Robinson J. Town Square and the continuing renovation of Jennie Dean Park.

Parks also make a difference in fighting climate change. Trust for Public Land's analysis of 14,000 cities and towns shows that nationwide, areas within a 10-minute walk of a park are as much as 6 degrees cooler than areas beyond



Long Branch Nature Center, Arlington County's second nature center opened in 1972.



Upton Hill Regional Park activities

Arlington scored 79.1 points in the ParkScore index based on five categories including access, investment, amenities, acreage and equity.

that range. That's an appreciable difference, according to the report. With heat growing more intense by the year, greening American cities is a low-tech, high-benefit solution to an urgent problem. Over the

past 30 years, extreme heat was, on average, the deadliest form of weather, more so than floods, extreme cold, tornadoes, hurricanes, and other events, according to the National Weather Service.



Upton Hill Regional Park swimming pool.



Upton Hill Regional Park batting cage.



Long Branch Nature Center at Glencarlyn Park native plant sale, May 6.



Lyons Village spray park.



Chestnut Hills Park school bus.



Chestnut Hills Park kid cars to borrow.



Gulf Branch Regional Park Fall Festival



Lacey Woods Park migratory bird festival, May 14, 2022.



Shirlington Dog Park.



Gulf Branch Nature Center native plant garden.



Shirlington Dog Park.



Upton Hill regional Park miniature golf.



James Hunter dog park fair.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION



Ethan Allen Dog Park.



Gulf Branch Regional Park Santa mailbox.

Two Arlington Youth Chosen Among Brightest U.S. Jazz Musicians



Henry Price, bass trombonist.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Two Virginia high school students, both from Arlington, were selected with a group of 22 as the brightest young musicians in the country for Carnegie Hall's National Youth Orchestra Jazz this summer. Zach Levin, tenor saxophone player, and Henry Price, bass trombonist, will train with world-class jazz musicians and perform at Carnegie Hall before embarking on a tour across the United States.

Although Levin and Price's stories differ, as well as their plans for the future, they share a coveted top award as the best and the brightest.

Levin, who is a senior at Yorktown High School, has been playing the saxophone since he was in middle school. He says his parents tell him his interest in music started when his mom took him to "Mommy and Me" classes when he was just a toddler. When he was a little more grown up, he says he became interested in the drums and took private lessons for a couple of years. Then he got sidelined by baseball for a couple of years. But in fourth grade he found the saxophone.

"Most people have a story about how they chose their instrument when they heard a famous musician playing." But he says he remembers the moment when he decided. It was on the last day of school and a fifth grader was walking down the sidewalk and made a fart noise with his saxophone. "It was so vivid. I was so young that I thought it was funny."

He says he started taking music seriously in seventh grade. "I quit baseball and said I really want to

do music." He started practicing 4-6 hours a day from then on. During this period, he had a great teacher and he says when he looks back on it, he sees this cultivated his interest in jazz. "It helped me define my own sound, playing by ear and finding myself."

Levin started a band with a drummer and bassist. "I was happy with the big school band but wanted the combo experience. In 2019 he says they added a fantastic pianist to the band who attends Duke Ellington School for the Arts. "He is blind and can compose, improvise. He has a crazy artist sense." Levin says he still has the band and they play once a month or so around D.C.

As Levin moved into high school, he continued to play in the school band and participated in the Annandale Jazz ambassadors where he went to Ireland for a week. Summers have been spent at the National Jazz Workshop summer camp, the Berkeley five-week program and the next summer at the all star Berkeley Jazz Workshop. He says he was able to develop his own style more, not only with playing 100 percent clean but in terms of compositional skill. "Composition is blown down improvisation."

When COVID hit and school ended in March 2020, Levin returned to six hours a day concentrating on transcribing and learning to solo by ear. "It brought playing to a whole new level. Sheet music doesn't tell all. Recording can hear more of the subtle emotions of the artist. You can impersonate the artist and tell your own story."

In his junior year everything was still virtual. He was practicing on his own and having a few outdoor jam sessions with his friends in backyards and parking lots.



Zach Levin, tenor saxophone player.

Now Levin says he is looking forward to playing at Carnegie Hall under the direction of Sean Jones who is at the Peabody School of Music at Johns Hopkins. "He is amazing. And the guest artists are all phenomenal." He says the competition required an essay and 4 videos including swing, ballad, funk and moment's notice which he explains is difficult to improvise on.

"But I am the most excited about meeting other people my age. It's rare to have the chance to share, and I'm excited to be playing with them." He adds, "It's also exciting to learn about other cultures and perspectives. It's all about making you a better person. I feel like I live in the Arlington bubble."

He says he has many interests and plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, probably in economics and philosophy.

Levin contemplates that the better people you play with, the better you play. "They develop your ear. It's collective consciousness building." Levin says he is hesitant to define his sound at 18-years-old but "it is a sum of my experiences, the good and bad. It is my goal when I play to express what I am feeling and have felt in order to help the audience feel something themselves. I think music and meaning are intertwined, not in the way that grass is green, but in a deeper metaphysical sense."

Henry Price, sophomore bass trombonist, says his interest in music began in 4th grade when everyone at Arlington Traditional School was required to play an instrument. He started with the baritone but then in 6th grade took up the trombone so he could participate in jazz band. "I liked it better and wanted to spend more time on it. Then in 7th grade it stuck."

But when he was in 8th grade

COVID hit, and band stopped. "I haven't had much of a chance to go anywhere." In 9th grade band was all on-line and he says you couldn't do anything useful. "There were many problems trying to play together with the delays between audio and visual. And you need a really good microphone and the computer picks up on all the little noises."

When school returned in March many people chose partial in-person learning on Tuesday and Wednesday or Thursday and Friday. "But it was still really hard because of how the schedule worked, you only had half of the band and an imbalance of instruments." So he practiced at home all the time and prepared for a lot of auditions. "It's just kind of how I like to spend my time."

It has resulted in an upcoming summer full of opportunities including the Northwestern trombone class, an Interlochen Art Academy intensive low brass camp and the Carnegie Hall's National Youth Jazz Orchestra.

Price says, "It was really intensive; I was working on six applications at once with video recordings. Some people recorded in a studio or concert hall, but I recorded at home. I entered NYO Jazz and NYO2 in both trombone and bass trombone in order to maximize my chances. I admit I did a lot of things at the last minute. I think I submitted my final at 11:59 p.m."

"I was insanely surprised that I ended up getting in two, especially since bass trombone is my second instrument." He said it took a lot of prep and recording of swing, ballad, funk and a chart of his own choosing. "I chose giant step for my optional chart which has an up beat tempo and really difficult chord changes." Price explains the bass trombone is really specialized and has a specific role. "So they had to give me some examples to play from other random jazz tunes."

Price has taken his inspiration from a lot of people but "I feel like people have a sound of their own." He says he plays in a couple of bands including the school marching band and jazz band plus an orchestra in Fairfax. He says he plays with a brass band every other weekend and goes busking in Old Town where they set up in the square and play. And occasion-

SEE TWO ARLINGTON, PAGE 9
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Two Arlington Youth Chosen Among Brightest U.S. Jazz Musicians

FROM PAGE 8

ally they have been hired to play at birthday parties and Mardi Gras events.

Getting the Carnegie Award was “really huge to me.” He says he thinks touring the U.S. “is the biggest thing for me. And,” he adds, “I’ve never really played the bass trombone in an organized ensemble.” He plays the tenor trombone in the school band and has just played the bass trombone at home for about a year and a half. “Also just meeting everyone there. I’ve met them online and they seem like really cool people. They are

amazing players.”

Price says he definitely views this as a career. “I have always wanted to do music.” Price hasn’t decided whether to do classical or jazz. “I like to keep a balance. A lot of people won’t do, or can’t do, both.” And it gives him more career opportunities. “For instance, I could be a session musician who also plays in a symphony or full time with a big band.”

After an intensive training residency, Levin and Price will join the others selected as the brightest jazz musicians in a Carnegie Hall performance on July 28.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NOW THRU NOV. 17

The Ballston Farmer’s Market returns to Welburn Square near the Ballston Metro stop. 3 - 7 p.m. Visit the Mega Markets on the first Thursday of each month with live music, local vendors, and the return of the beer and wine garden. The market offers conventional and certified organic fruits and vegetables, grass-fed meats and pastured eggs, organic milk, yogurt, ice cream, sweet and savory baked goods, Virginia-made wines, cold-pressed juices, handmade soaps and lotions, wood-fired pizza, hot-pressed sandwiches, and more.

FRIDAY/MAY 13

Basil Love. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Basil is America’s most popular herb, and for many of us, that means the familiar Sweet or Genovese Basil and its use in Italian and French cuisines. But there is a broader world of basil out there – different varieties, flavors, leaf sizes, and colors. Basils are important to many different cultures around the globe – beautiful garden basils; pollinator-attracting basils; and basils grown for function, for fragrance, and even for bouquets. Extension Master Gardeners Kathryn Kellam and Susan Wilhelm will introduce you to a wider world of basils and explain how to care for, harvest, use, and preserve exciting new basils as well as familiar favorites. Free. RSVP at <https://mgv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

SATURDAY/MAY 14

The Big Plant Sale. 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Meet and support your Extension Master Gardeners as they join many other vendors at the Green Spring Gardens Big Plant Sale. We have beautiful and unusual plants, including many Virginia natives, to

fill your spring gardening needs. Extension Master Gardeners will be on hand to help with plant selection, answer your questions and offer gardening advice. In addition there will be artists, food vendors and bake sales. This event is hosted by Friends of Greens Spring Gardens (FROGS) and proceeds help support the gardens. Call FROGS at 703-642-5173 or email info@friendsofgreenspring.org.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH

Join the City of Alexandria and other cities around the country in celebrating National Historic Preservation Month in May. The Office of Historic Alexandria will host a series of free public events throughout the month to highlight Alexandria’s historic preservation initiatives, including tours, viewing the city’s oldest structure, learning about hands-on archaeological practices, and more.

To celebrate the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House’s 250th anniversary, Historic Alexandria is offering the public a unique opportunity to talk with former City Architect Al Cox about the house on Saturday mornings. The talks will be on Saturdays at 10 a.m. at 517 Prince Street.

May 14: Replacing Your Historic Roof: what was it originally and what should it be today?

May 21: Historic Window Restoration
May 28: Identifying & Replicating Historic Moldings & Trim

Alexandria Archaeology offers the public two opportunities to learn more about the ship timbers unearthed at the Robinson Terminal Site.

May 13: The Torpedo Factory Art Center hosts a “Late Shift Event” from 7 to 10 p.m. The Alexandria Archaeology Museum will highlight its new exhibit, “SeeWorthy,” featuring 3-D models of the ships

May 15: Alexandria Archaeology will host a public day at Lake Ben Brenman, with staff on hand to answer questions about the ship timber preservation process

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum celebrates its National

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



Public Notice

Updated weight limits on Virginia bridges and culverts

In accord with state and federal law, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has imposed new or changed existing weight restrictions and installed new signage indicating the updated weight restrictions on the following bridges and culverts (structures) in Virginia within the last 30 days.

Jurisdiction	Fed Struct #	Route #	Route Name	Crossing	Effective Date
NORTON	22454	58	EBL/ROUTE 58A	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
NORTON	22455	58	WBL/ROUTE 0058	BEAR CREEK	4/28/2022
ALLEGHANY	1199	710	STONEWALL LANE	DUNLAP CREEK	4/27/2022
BUCHANAN	4003	1020	GREAT OAKS RD	LEVISA FORK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16808	670	HALES SPRING RD	VALLEY CREEK	4/26/2022
SCOTT	16698	623	SPEERS VALLEY RD	N FORK CLINCH RIVER	4/20/2022
HALIFAX	9317	716	DRYBURG RD	DIFFICULT CREEK	4/16/2022
SMYTH	17552	633	BEAVER CREEK RD	BEAVER CREEK	4/12/2022
BLAND	3045	602	SPUR BRANCH RD	SPUR BRANCH #1	4/8/2022
FRANKLIN	7951	739	GAP GATE RD/ROUTE739	GREEN CREEK	4/7/2022
BLAND	3111	625	CERES SCHOOL RD	N FORK HOLSTON RIVER #1	4/5/2022
RICHMOND	21310	7542	GROVE AVE	ROUTE 195 & CSX RR	4/1/2022

The list above is not a comprehensive list of all structures with weight restrictions in the Commonwealth, but shows only structures that have new or changed weight restrictions within the last 30 days. The list contains only basic structure identification and location information and the date the new or changed weight restriction and signage became effective.

For a full listing of all bridge and culvert weight restrictions with detailed information about specific structures, including location data and actual weight limits, visit <https://www.virginiadot.org> and navigate to Info Center/Trucking Resources. This page references a posted structures report and a GIS map tool that contain detailed information about restricted structures in Virginia. To receive email notifications regarding new or updated weight restrictions for structures statewide, complete the sign-up form on the web page.

Notices regarding bridges and culverts with new or updated weight restrictions are published monthly by VDOT. For additional information or questions, please contact haulingpermits@vdot.virginia.gov.

The Virginia Department of Transportation is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any of its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on VDOT's Title VI Program or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Program Specialist at 804-786-2730.

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CALENDAR

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Let us know about an upcoming event

connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU SEPTEMBER

Witness the Changing of the Guard. At the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington. From April-September, the ceremony occurs every 30 minutes, on the hour and half-hour. For more information, visit: <https://arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/Changing-of-the-Guard>

NOW THRU MAY 31

Jane Franklin Dance Presents Forty+ Project. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. At 3700 S. Four Mile Run Drive, Arlington. Featuring: Choreographer Emily Crews. Enroll: \$160. Forty+ Projects explore movement and performance technique within a creative premise. Get invaluable health benefits from exercise including improved strength, physical function. Each project celebrates the collective creativity of people past the age of 40 and each project is directed by a different choreographer. This project culminates with performances at Theatre on the Run in June. Call 703-933-1111.

NOW THRU MAY 27

Dancing Diamonds. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington. Gallery Underground's Focus Gallery in May presents Dancing Diamonds, a solo show by Jean Offutt Lewis. Jean Offutt Lewis' exploration of light on water was inspired after her move to the Northern Neck of Virginia. There, at a certain time of year, dependent on the Earth's relationship to the Sun, "Dancing Diamonds" appear; single points of light, each a tiny reflection of the sun or the full moon, create kinetic light shows atop windswept water. Using acrylics, a water-based medium, Offutt Lewis reduces this natural phenomenon into an interplay of color, line, and circles in a series of abstracted waterscape paintings.

FRIDAY/MAY 13

Basil Love. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Basil is America's most popular herb, and for many of us, that means the familiar Sweet or Genovese Basil and its use in Italian and French cuisines. But there is a broader world of basil out there – different varieties, flavors, leaf sizes, and colors. Basils are important to many different cultures around the globe – beautiful garden basils; pollinator-attracting basils; and basils grown for function, for fragrance, and even for bouquets. Extension Master Gardeners Kathryn Kellam and Susan Wilhelm will introduce you to a wider world of basil and explain how to care for, harvest, use, and preserve exciting new basil varieties as well as familiar favorites. Free. RSVP at <https://mgnv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

MAY 13-15

Art A Fair. At Walker Chapel United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 4102 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. The McLean Art Society is sponsoring a three-day art exhibit and sale, ART A FAIR, featuring original work in multiple styles and a variety of subjects. Many exhibitors are award-winning artists. The opening reception will take place Friday, May 13, 5-8 p.m. The show continues at this site Saturday, May 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday, May 15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Admission is free. Call 703-538-5200.

STARTING TUESDAY/MAY 17

Enjoy Arlington Registration. Beginning on Tues-



The Festival Argentino 2022 will take place Saturday, May 21 in Arlington.

day, May 17, 2022, registration for ENJOY Arlington's recreation classes and nature and history programs will open to Arlington County residents on a rolling basis, staggering enrollments by class type.

Tues., May 17 – Nature, History and General classes

Wed., May 18 – Aquatics

Thurs., May 19 – Gymnastics

Registration on those three days will begin at 12 p.m. and will be simultaneously available both online and by phone. View the ENJOY Arlington Summer 2022 catalog and register for classes online, or call 703-228-4747 (voice) or 711 (TTY) when registration opens. Walk-in registration will begin on Friday, May 20, at 12 p.m., available at Lubber Run Community Center (300 N. Park Drive). Registration for non-Arlington residents will open on Wed., May 25, at 12 p.m.

THURSDAY/MAY 19

Death Cafe. 6:30-7:45 p.m. At Arlington Public Library, Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy Street, Arlington. A Death Cafe is a group-directed discussion about death with no agenda, objectives, or themes. The purpose is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of our (finite) lives. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. Visit the website: <https://arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/9060520>

SATURDAY/MAY 21

Festival Argentino 2022. 3:30-10:30 p.m. At Kenmore Middle School Auditorium, 200 South Carlin Springs Road, Arlington. A day-long celebration of Argentine culture, featuring celebrated musicians from the U.S. and abroad. This year's headliner is "Fabricio Rodriguez", the top vocalist and World Music Band from Argentina and over 30 artists in the program. The other performers include Javier Colli: Chamarrita and Chámame, Ceibo: Revelation Folk21; Omar "El Chimpa" Núñez: Folklore Music of Santiago del Estero, "Alexandra Marie," Argentina's finest tango soprano and the winner of several awards. Also performing are "Matias Natale" – Argentina's best pop nominee 2019; "Ballet Sol Cuyano" and "Adriana Argentino" – the top folk and ballet Argentino. Tickets: <https://www.tickeri.com/> or visit www.ArgentineFestival.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 9

Historic Landmarks Designation with a plaque dedication Friday May 20 at 10 a.m. Visit alexandriava.gov/Historic for more information.

DONATIONS NEEDED

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls

Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYwDz4tPw2.

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An Uncomfortable Month



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In an odd juxtaposition of events/months, I find myself adrift, sort of, with no medical appointments whatsoever on the previous or future horizon; compared to the previous month when I had a medical something-or-other practically every other day. And I can't help fearing that this calm is ahead of some storm. I mean, I have cancer. Shouldn't I be doing something (other than taking my daily thyroid cancer pill), going somewhere, being tested, being scanned, having my blood drawn and/or having a telephone or video appointment with one of my doctors? I'm not exactly unsettled by this lack of activity, but I can't help thinking, to quote Shakespeare: "something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

Not that I have any symptoms that are new or have persisted for three weeks (the advisory timeframe I was given for such cause/concern). But how do I go about my daily business (life) without any substantial cancer-related activity/inquiry, other than my daily lenvima? Cancer is a very serious situation, maybe more serious than a heart attack (as the old expression says), yet here I am unsupervised – sort of, and untethered (to quote one of my late father's Sid Caesar references) as if I don't have a care in the world. Not having any cancer-centric activity or preoccupation; it's almost as if I'm on holiday from my disease, and I'm not expected back for another few weeks. Moreover, given the rarity of this emotional interval I can't help wondering: "What's wrong with this picture?" I have an incurable form of thyroid cancer, shouldn't there be more hands on me?

The juxtaposition is that instead of worrying/planning for all the cancer activity ahead, I'm worrying/not-having-to-plan since I have no cancer activity ahead. Somehow, it feels wrong, or at least something is missing somewhere. I'm used to having lots of cancer stuff on my schedule. That's my normal. It's abnormal – now when I don't have to schedule anything. Not that I'm paranoid (which to quote Major Frank Burns from M*A*S*H: "I wouldn't be if everybody wasn't looking at me"), but this silence is not golden.

I can't imagine any medical professional on my quasi team is assuming anything about my health/status (after all, we know what assuming does). And cancer is hardly best left unattended. As my oncologist said years ago in response to my question about what happens if I stop the medication: "I know what happens. The cancer grows." Is it really the process that I take a pill every morning and then call the doctor in the morning, three months hence? Granted, I have been on this thyroid cancer track going on two years since I was re-diagnosed and I do know the drill, but as I felt in the early days of being a non-small cell lung cancer "diagnossee," am I closer to the beginning or the end?

I don't feel neglected, exactly. I feel like I'm not doing something I – or someone else, should be doing. Cancer is rarely better left to its own devices. My dilemma is, I just don't know if the devices I'm left with and/or which are being left on my behalf, are enough to meet the challenges ahead because cancer never takes any days off, so I shouldn't be taking any days (certainly not months) off either, right?

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

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