

The Arlington Connection

SENIOR LIVING, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

A yard sign at a residence on Harrison Street in Arlington shows support federal workers

**THIS HOUSE SUPPORTS
FEDERAL
WORKERS**



**Butter Chicken,
Hot Stuff**

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**Practical &
Spiritual Support**

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NEWS BRIEFS

Preparedness Month

Arlington Preparedness Month, recognized each April, is an opportunity for everyone to assess their emergency plans, create or update emergency kits, and take the necessary steps to ensure you and your loved ones are ready for any situation.

“Preparedness is the foundation of building a resilient community,” said Department of Public Safety Communications and Emergency Management Director William Flagler Jr. “We encourage everyone to take these simple steps to safeguard their families, communities, and workplaces today to ensure a safer tomorrow.”

Here are some steps you can take this month to increase your preparedness for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

Be Severe Weather Ready

Spring weather can bring severe weather conditions produced by thunderstorms, including damaging winds, tornadoes, large hail, and flooding. Take the time to learn how to reduce your risk and prepare.

Stay Informed

Stay informed before and during emergencies by signing up for Arlington Alert. Get free, real-time updates on weather conditions, road closures, emergencies, and much more. Signing up only takes a few minutes and can be done at ArlingtonAlert.com.

Get Tech Ready with Cybersecurity Preparedness.

Protect your personal information by using strong, unique passwords, enabling multi-factor authentication, and staying vigilant against phishing and AI-driven scams.

Low-cost, No-cost Preparedness

Disasters are costly but preparing for them doesn't have to be. Low-cost and no-cost preparedness includes knowing what kind of disasters and emergencies are most common for where you live, photographing important documents, and creating your emergency communications plan.

For more information on how to prepare during Arlington Preparedness Month, visit www.arlingtonva.us/prepmo and follow @ReadyArlington on social media.

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.

ARLINGTON WATER PIPES GET ANNUAL CLEANING

Arlington County, the District of Columbia and northeastern Fairfax started adjusting their water treatment process on March 24, as part of an annual practice that lasts through May 5. During this

time, the year-round disinfectant chloramine will be temporarily switched to chlorine to clean water mains and clear them of any flow issues. Water service will continue uninterrupted during the procedure. Customers may notice a slight change in taste or odor when getting water from the tap; this is to be expected and the water is still safe to drink thanks to the purification process. County staff will continually monitor chlorine

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 5

SENIOR LIVING

Flourishing After 55

Office of 55+ Programs
Department of Parks and Recreation
300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate starting at a \$20 annual fee. To join or register, go to registration.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Eight week walking challenge, walk on your own or join walking group, Wednesday, April 2-21, 5:30 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Participants will receive a digital journal to keep track of progress. Registration # 913106-27.

Intro to genealogy, learn basics of researching family heritage, Thursday, April 3, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Led by experienced genealogist Susan Court. Registration # 913400-33.

Old-Time and String Band Jam, Thursday, April 3, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Bring a banjo, guitar, fiddle or mandolin and join volunteer Fred Winter for an open “jam” highlighting Appalachian old-time (pre-bluegrass) and string band, Thursday, April 3, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration #913304-17.

Benefits of robotic pets for those facing dementia or depression by Steve Cone, Capital Caring Health, Thursday, April 3, 11 a.m. Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Hands-on demonstration. Registration # 913400-37.

Secret lives of famous fakers, learn about several well-known art forgers and how they got caught,

Thursday, April 3, 9 a.m., virtual. Presented by Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen. Registration # 913302-09.

History discussion led by Dwight Rodgers from Encore Learning, Thursday, April 3, 1 p.m., virtual.

Social ballroom dance, spacious dance floor at Lubber Run 55+ Center, Friday, April 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Drop-in. No partner needed; no instruction.

Absolute beginner pickleball, Monday, April 14, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Volunteers on hand to answer questions. Limited paddles and balls available. Drop-in.

Arlington County recycling made easy by staff from the County's Dept. of Environmental Services, Tuesday, April 15, 11a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Learn about the Do's and Don'ts of recycling. Registration # 913400-09.

Acoustic Café performance by local musicians Sweet Mountain Laurel and Malarkey, Tuesday, April 15, 7 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Open to all ages; 55+ Pass not required. Registration # 913301-02.

Drumming circle offers opportunities for self-expression and to share in an engaging group experience by playing drums together, Tuesday, April 15, 2 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Opera appreciation, view part 2 of the “Enchanted Island,” Wednesday, April 16, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 913300-04.

Piano Lounge and sing along with pianist Valerie Welsh, variety

of songs from the mid-60s, lyrics provided, Wednesday, April 16, 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration #913301-24.

Explore the Spanish speaking world with Ashley Gomez, Lubber Run 55+ Center Director, Thursday, April 17, 1 p.m., virtual. April's feature is Andorra, the sixth smallest country in Europe. Registration # 913304-25.

Line dancing practice, no partner needed, led by volunteer Suzie Pratts, Friday, April 18, 11:05 a.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Water walking and lap swimming to strengthen muscles at Long Bridge Aquatics Center, Mondays, 8-10 a.m., Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. No instruction provided. Long Bridge Aquatics Center membership required or pay daily admission fee. Located at 333 Long Bridge Drive. Drop-in.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, no instruction provided, Mondays, 2-2:45 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center; Tuesdays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center; Fridays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. All are drop-ins.

55+ Ice Skating, Mondays, 8:40 – 9:40 a.m., MedStar Capitals Iceplex, roof level parking at Ballston Quarter. \$1 skate rental fee. Pre-registration required at www.medstarcapitaliceplex.com, click on Senior Public Skate.

Play pickleball, 55+ Pass required at the following 55+ centers: Walter Reed, Mondays, 8:15 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:15 – 4 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m.;

Arlington Mill, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 – 3 p.m. Drop-ins.

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IN THE KITCHEN



Chef Raythan Choduri, Curry and Clay Oven.

Meet Chef Raythan Choduri — Curry and Clay Oven

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Order your butter chicken at Curry and Clay Oven on Langston Boulevard, and it arrives in just a few minutes. But it has taken hours to produce the myriad of sauces and marinade that produce the final dish.

Chef Raythan Choduri says that butter chicken is one of the customer favorites as well as the chicken masala, and it is one of his favorites, too. Of course he also likes the lamb curry and biryani.

The large white meat chicken chunks have been marinated overnight in yogurt and masala, a common go-to Indian spice. His uncle, Mohammed Rashed, part of the family business, is in charge of the kabobs. “We put them on a skewer and bake them in the clay oven at 200 degrees.” Then they will be set aside and ready to add to the butter sauce.

Choduri heats a small aluminum skillet and slips in some Jones Farm vegan butter. Then he tosses in the chopped garlic that sends a flame rocketing toward the ceiling. After a short sauté, Choduri adds a large ladle of tomato sauce from the selection of multiple aluminum sauce containers lining the back of the counter. The tomato sauce has been cooked slowly a couple of hours with butter and masala.

Next goes in a scoop of onion sauce—puréed white onions sautéed with ginger garlic, masala and some tomato puree. It has been cooked slowly, then been tasted and probably cooked some more. Finally some cashew puree, a little salt and a little masala.

“If you like it spicy, we add chili powder.” But Choduri’s brother and a partner in the business, Khled Oyalid, explains they have a customer family that doesn’t like the taste of chili powder, “so we add green chilis for them.” He says they can modify their dishes to suit their customers. Choduri adds about a tablespoon of granulated sugar and a cou-

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The next step is to add minced garlic to a hot pan with the melted butter and it sizzles to the ceiling.

ple of drops of yellow food coloring.

The skillet goes back on the burner on high heat. Choduri adds the chicken kabobs to the sauce and swirls the pan around for about two minutes. He spoons the mixture into a dish and sprinkles on freshly chopped coriander and mezzi. “This is ready.” It is plated up with a helping of freshly steamed rice.

Near the stove a large pan of dough the size of a wash tub sits rising ready to make about 75 naan. Oyalid explains they make about 145-200 naan a day. This pan has 5 pounds of flour, yogurt, milk, baking powder, sugar and salt and will be ready in a minute to produce small balls of dough.



The kabobs of white chicken have been marinating overnight and will be cooked in the clay oven at 200 degrees.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION



Chef Choduri adds 2 tablespoons of butter to the skillet to begin the butter chicken.



A few spices, heavy cream and the chicken cubes complete the dish.



Large ladles of tomato sauce, onion sauce and cashew puree join the melted butter.



A large pot of dough is divided into balls of dough and rolled flat, then placed to bake on the inside of the clay oven. It will make 75 naan (bread).

“We line the balls up on a tray and put them in the refrigerator to keep cool. When we have an order, we take out the balls of dough and flatten with our hands and then a rolling pin on a floured surface.”

Oyalid slaps a piece of flat dough against the wall of the deep clay oven where it will bake for about 15 minutes until the crust is brown and crackling. Oyalid then slices the hot naan, puts a pat of butter on top to melt in and places the naan in a basket ready to serve.

An order of samosas takes its turn in the hot oil. An order of fish curry comes in. Choduri says, “You have to concentrate on a lot of things at once.”

Oyalid says he cooks too. “But my broth-

er is the main chef. He is teaching me a lot of things, how to make lamb, how to make sauce.”

Chef Choduri got his start in a kitchen in Columbia, Maryland where he was a dishwasher for a month but quickly moved on to cutting everything — meat, vegetables. “I love to cook and people like to eat good food.” He learned everything as he moved up. Later he worked at the Jewel of India in Silver Spring where he says he prepared many different things. While he was there he created several meals for the President of India who was visiting in Washington D.C. After two more years working in a vegetarian restaurant he and his brother opened Curry and Clay Oven in Arlington.

Town Hall Offers Practical and Spiritual Support

Build that muscle up: we need to see more people.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy (ACBC) town hall attracted about 50 federal workers and contractors on March 25 at Macedonia Baptist Church. Rev. DeLishia Davis, pastor of Calloway Methodist Church and president of the Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy says, “We had so many of our congregants who had been fired or feel they may be soon that we wanted them to know their rights and get resources and be able to spend time in a safe space.”

At the end of the meeting Rev. James Victor, pastor of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church said it’s not just a political crisis but a spiritual crisis as well. He was charged with giving words of encouragement and offered individual prayers for those who would like.

The meeting opened with a passage from Colossians 23: “Work willingly at whatever you do,” and an admonition to “empower us to use our voice.”

Alissa Tafti, a federal employee speaking on behalf of the American Federation of Government Employees, emphasized over and over, “In this moment we need to be speaking up and putting a stop to what is going on. They are trying to dismantle the government.” She told attendees that she had a lot to say but wanted to hear their questions.

Most wanted to know what kind of help might be out there and specifics about the government unions available. Tafti said unfortunately right now there’s not enough help for federal workers but a lot of people are trying to work on it. She said there are several choices available for employees who want to join a union, “and if you don’t have one available, you can still organize. There has been a huge upsurge around the country. We need to come together.” She says collective bargaining is giving people some support during the transitions.

“A lot of federal workers are afraid to



A yard sign at a residence on Harrison Street in Arlington supports Federal workers

speak out and that’s why they are attacking unions, making them report the official time spent on union work, trying to frighten workers.

“We are committed to civil service because we want to do good. We show up and don’t attract a lot of attention. We’re not ‘look at me,’ but now the country needs to hear from us, what happens when you take people out of jobs, how it impacts us.” She says when things are working well, we are invisible but we will be breaking soon.

“I took my oath in a drab windowless room with some random person in HR but I remember so vividly and I keep coming back to it. I swore to defend the Constitution from enemies foreign and domestic. I thought I would just write my research reports. But in this moment I am speaking up because we are facing a domestic enemy.

“Call your representatives. Show up to rallies and protests. We are not in the habit of protesting, but build that muscle up. We need to see more people, and it will snowball.”

Tafti urges, “I’m pretty sure you know a lot of people around the country. Contact five people in other states and tell them to call five other people. And keep it going. I have family members who say to me ‘They’re not coming for you—just bad employees.’ And I say ‘No, that’s me.’”

“Also efficiency. The government should be smaller but how much smaller? What



From left: Rev. James Victor, Rev. Craig Harcum, Alissa Tafti, Rev. DeLishia Davis, Rev. Adrian Nelson at town hall for Federal workers and contractors sponsored by the Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Rev. DeLishia Davis, lead pastor of Calloway Methodist Church and president of the Arlington Coalition of Black Clergy



Alissa Tafti, speaker at the town hall for Federal employees and contractors at Macedonia Baptist Church

is the ideal cost of government, of keeping kids healthy? Ask people what they mean by efficiency. If someone asked me, I could give them a long list but no one is asking this. They just have 20-year-olds walking in saying ‘You’re fired.—I don’t know what you do.’ This is not efficiency.”

Tafti continues, “So many bad things are

happening at once we can’t wrap our hands around it. There’s so much. It’s a hard thing to take the story into action. People get so freaked out.”

Davis says the next step is for the ACBC to gather information to share with each of their 18 member congregations about housing, food and other available resources.



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Arlington Clergy Support Transgender Day of Visibility

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

A crowd carried signs, carried children on their shoulders and for part of the afternoon carried umbrellas at the Transgender Day of Visibility held on the National Mall the afternoon of March 31.

A number of Arlington clergy including Rock Spring UCC showed up to support the Transgender Day of Visibility Rally.

Each year on March 31 observers all around the world gather to raise awareness about transgender people. The Transgender Day of Visibility was created in 2010 by trans advocate Rachel Crandall who was the head of Transgender Michigan. Her effort was intended to combat the negative media coverage of transgender people and the lack of understanding about who they are and the disproportionate level of discrimination and poverty faced by this group.

The Washington rally spanned an afternoon of speakers sharing their experiences with siblings, friends and themselves and urging compassion but many combined with anger at the Trump Administration policies restricting care and imposing new discriminatory policies against transgender people as well as the LGBTQ community. The rally was sponsored by the Christopher Street Project along with a number of other local organizations.



A number of Arlington clergy including Rock Spring UCC pictured here showed up to support the Transgender Day of Visibility Rally on March 31.



Supporters carried handmade signs as they gathered to hear speakers rallying against the current government policies targeted at transgender people.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

levels to ensure water quality meets required standards. Arlington and surrounding jurisdictions receive water from the Washington Aqueduct, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Aqueduct initiates the annual disinfectant switchover typically in the spring to clean water pipes in its system as a standard water

treatment practice. Arlington's water distribution network is made up of some 500 miles of pipes linked to homes, businesses and schools.

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/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2. Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags ap-

preciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org for more.

ONGOING

Naloxone (Narcan) can save the life of someone who is overdosing, if given in time. Anyone who assists a person in need is protected

from liability by the Good Samaritan Law. Naloxone (Narcan) is available without a prescription for a fee at all pharmacies. Obtain it for free by attending a REVIVE! training. Contact Emily Siqveland at 703-228-0913 or esiqveland@arlingtonva.us or visit health.arlingtonva.us/opioid-awareness/ for available training sessions. The Chris Atwood Foundation also offers training to the public. Visit www.chrisatwoodfoundation.org/naloxone for details.



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ENTERTAINMENT



"In the Heights" can be seen now through May 4, 2025 at Signature Theatre in Arlington.

LADIES TENNIS

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Glebe Ladies Tennis Club (GLTC) is now holding its annual membership drive open to all women in or near Arlington who enjoy playing tennis. This is a congenial group of women tennis players of all levels. They currently have over 100 members who participate in a variety of tennis social events scheduled throughout the year. Members pay a small annual fee which covers the cost of reserving courts for Wednesday drop-in, the annual directory, and many other events. For more information or to join the club please visit our website at: <https://sites.google.com/view/glebe-ladies-tennis-club/home> Those who join by March 1, 2024 will be included in the Annual Directory.

CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

The Centers for Opportunity Arlington is a safe, stigma-free place to spend time for those recovering from homelessness, substance use, and mental illness. It has a donation closet that needs adult clothing and shoes. Some participants at the Center are looking for jobs and need the proper attire. Located at 3219 Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Arlington. Contact Greg, Program Coordinator at 703-567-1346.

VOLUNTEER FOR

ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Arlington Neighborhood Village, in partnership with Arlington County and Marymount University, has started the Community Ambassador Program (CAP). CAP is a volunteer fueled system that identifies "Ambassadors" connected with civic associations, faith communities, senior centers, apartment buildings, etc. These individuals will be trained to be a reliable source of information about the many opportunities available to older adults in Arlington.

Ambassadors will spread the word about programs and support services, opportunities for social and civic engagement, and educational and enrichment activities for older adults in their own neighborhoods. They are actively recruiting ambassadors to act as a bridge between their community and the Arlington safety net, providing information and soliciting feedback to improve offerings that help old-

er adults remain safe, independent, engaged, and connected to their community.

Contact cap@anvarlington.org if this is something you are interested in or want to learn more. Let's work together to create a supported and connected community for all ages!

Receive Support Services: Are you a senior in Arlington? Do you need support services but don't know where to look? Are you looking for fun and enriching activities in Arlington? Email or call 703-509-8057 and they will connect you with an Ambassador.

NOW THRU MAY 25

A Passage of Force Through Matter: Current Painting. At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Chairmen's, Meyer, & Smith Galleries, Main Level. Featured artists: Tom Bunnell, Asha Elana Casey, Claudia Aziza Gibson-Hunter, Matthew Mann, Maggie Michael, and Marisa Rasum. A Passage of Force Through Matter asserts the ongoing vibrancy painting within contemporary art and considers the role it can play in navigating and destabilizing our overburdened image landscape.

NOW THRU MAY 3

Half-Light by Langdon Graves. At Cody Gallery, Virginia Square, Arlington. Cody Gallery is pleased to present Half-Light, a solo exhibition by Langdon Graves. This show marks her first major exhibition in the DC Metro area. Moving seamlessly between two and three dimensions, Graves builds an immersive experience with her exhibition, HALF-LIGHT. Hand modeled drops of blood, rubber bands, a bird house, moths, and a single wisdom tooth set against a backdrop of hyper-saturated color present the viewer with an array of paradoxical moments within a timeless landscape.

NOW THRU MAY 25

Joshua Challen Ice: Something to Do With My Hands. At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Experimental Gallery, Lower Level. Installation view of Joshua Challen Ice: Something to Do With My Hands. Joshua Challen Ice creates sculpture, kinetic, and light-based installation art to explore ideas related to architecture and philosophy. Drawing on his background in lighting design and technology for the stage, he creates fully im-



A Passage of Force Through Matter: Current Painting can be seen at the Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA) now through May 25, 2025.

mersive artworks. InSomething to Do With My Hands, Ice presents a new installation created for SOLOS 2025 that explores issues of care, maintenance, and creation.

NOW THRU MAY 4

"In the Heights." At Signature Theatre, Arlington. The joyous Tony Award-winning triumph by Lin-Manuel Miranda (Hamilton) and Quiara Alegría Hudes (Daphne's Dive). Latin rhythms and hip-hop lyrics infuse "96,000," "Paciencia y Fe," "Carnaval del Barrio" and the title song as this celebration of community and culture energetically bursts off the stage with Signature's trademark immersive style. Lights up on Washington Heights, NYC where the streets are full of music, and everybody's got a dream. With the neighborhood on the brink of gentrification, and a life-changing winning lottery ticket somewhere in their midst, the vibrant inhabitants share hope, loss and love as they plan their futures while cherishing their home. Specialty Nights: Discussion Nights March 18 and April 9; Pride Night April 25; and ASL Interpreted March 29 (2 PM)

NOW THRU MAY 25

Brandon Morse: Gradually, All at Once. At Museum of Contemporary Art Arlington (MoCA). Truland Gallery, Lower Level. Brandon Morse, Continental Drift, 2025, Generative video, sound, mixed media. Brandon Morse works with generative systems in order to examine the poetic and metaphorical potential of physical phenomena such as entropy and emergence. Through the use of code and the creation of custom computer software, he builds simulations of seemingly complex systems. The resulting videos and video installations seek to draw parallels between the ways these systems work and the ways in which we, both individually and collectively, navigate the world around us. Brandon Morse: Gradually, All at Oncetakes place as part of MoCA Arlington's SOLOS 2025, part of the Museum's long-running SOLOS exhibition program.

MARCH 20 TO MAY 4

Arlington Artists Alliance Presents A Brighter Light: An Alliance Member Juried Show. At Alliance Gallery, Clarendon, Arlington. Alliance Gallery is pleased to present A Brighter Light, an Arlington Artists Alliance member juried show exploring themes of hope, clarity, renewal, and optimism. The exhibition seeks to present light in a new

way through artists' use of color, shadow, and texture to convey emotions of optimism during times of uncertainty or darkness. How can light change our perspective? A Brighter Light aims to celebrate resilience and beauty in ordinary, everyday life.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 2

VHC Health, Healthy Aging Lecture (Webinar). 11 a.m. Planning the Final Chapter: Giving a Life's Story It's Perfect Ending. While legal, cultural, and religious dimensions traditionally guide funerals and burial services, personalized elements are an important part of being remembered and providing comfort to loved ones. Join Kathleen Garces-Foley, professor of Religious Studies at Marymount University, to learn about options to plan a funeral or memorial service from start to finish, including burial alternatives such as green burials and alkaline hydrolysis. New trends related to celebration of life and themed funerals will also be discussed. Register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7978062314495585886> Questions? Contact Senior Health at 703-558-6859.

FRIDAY/APRIL 4

Houseplants 101. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. Interested in bringing your gardening hobby indoors or looking to add a little green to your space? Join Extension Master Gardeners Evin Morrison and Rebecca Secula to learn about getting plants to thrive in your home. Evin and Rebecca cover a variety of topics including ideal lighting conditions, potting soil recipes, and how to deal with pests. This presentation is geared toward the beginner houseplant owner but will be a great refresher for anyone looking to make their houseplant ventures more successful. FREE. RSVP online at <https://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive the link to participate.

FRIDAY/APRIL 4

Family Art Pause. 5:30-6:30 p.m. At Studio Pause Pike, Douglas Park, Arlington. Join Studio PAUSE for Art PAUSE to celebrate National Poetry Month and make your own section of "The Poetry Fence" to take home! All materials provided and no experience needed! Plus, join on Saturday, April 5 for a studio tour with curator Sushmita Mazumdar of the new exhibit "The Poetry Fence Comes to Arlington!", and a fun poetry activity inspired by the exhibit.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

From One Kenny to Another



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It wasn't exactly earth-shattering. Nor was it heart-stopping (thank God!). But in its own way it was eye-catching. What was it, some of you may ask? It was the new/recent Dupixent television spot featuring "Kenny and Moseetta," identified as "actual patients." Kenny was into "martial arts," it was his "passion." Moseetta enjoyed "working out." Not that either of these users/spokespersons were known to me or were into routines with which I was familiar. But there was an interesting element of this ad that caught my attention. The male was named Kenny, "an actual patient." I am also named Kenny but not an "actual patient." But I took note of this commercial for two reasons: (1) My given name is shown front and center on Kenny's shirt (actually, it's more left of center) and (2) I am the son of a psoriasis (a condition for which Dupixent is offered up as a possible solution) sufferer: my mother, may she rest in peace.

I have childhood recollections of my mother's arms and legs covered red with psoriasis. I also remember, not in great detail, but enough to know that whatever she used to try and find any relief did not work (back in the 60s). And not that there's any possibility that any of the many psoriasis medications currently on the market could in any way have benefited my mother (she died early Dec. '08). Nevertheless, I find myself drawn to the psoriasis advertisements thinking of my late mother and wondering in arrears, if any of these new medications could have helped her. (I do the same for my father, deceased Dec. '06, when I see Claritin commercials. My father had allergies and was forever taking Claritin tablets. Still, I'm likewise wondering if today's medications/formulations could have offered him some relief.)

But the psoriasis advertisement really caught my attention because the first-person advocate for this product's (Dupixent) positive effect is someone named Kenny. And not that I knee-jerk/listen/believe what anybody named Kenny says but I will admit to sort of giving him the benefit of the doubt. Moreover, my thinking isn't that Kenny knows more than some other "actual patient" not named Kenny. It simply means that I'm more inclined to listen just to see what this Kenny is saying and whether this Kenny, meaning me, could ever see myself saying it. Almost as if there's some magic/positive effect in the words spoken because there being spoken by someone named Kenny. And yet again, nothing could be further from the truth. To invoke Sgt. Schultz from the long ago "Hogan's Heroes:" "I know nothing."

Not totally true. I know sports and chocolate, and after writing a weekly column for 27+ years, I know a thing or two about creating content (no comments from the peanut gallery, please?) And even though my columns are somewhat short on substance and long on "dribble," as my late brother, Richard (died Dec. '22) described them, I guess seeing my given name on a television spokesperson's shirt triggered some familial memories. For which I'm always grateful.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

APRIL 4 TO 6

Arlington Artists Alliance: Spring Artful Weekend. At Fort C.F. Smith Park, Woodmont, Arlington. This art event will showcase 40 artists from the Arlington Artists Alliance and is perfect for Mother's Day shopping and revitalizing your home for springtime! Find original artworks for every budget and occasion. This event is free and open to the public. Join on Friday, April 4 from 6 to 8 p.m. for an opening reception.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Leadership, Career and Volunteer Expo. 1-5 p.m. At Double Tree Crystal City, 300 Army Navy Drive, Arlington. Hosted by The Leadership Center of Arlington.

This event will include:

- Leadership development seminars
- Job fair -Volunteer fair
- Opportunities to connect with community leaders from the business, nonprofit, and local government sectors
- Free headshots

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Arlington Art Truck: Hand Lettering a Family Tree by Felecia Brice McFail. At Lubber Run Farmers Market, Arlington Forest. With Native Arlingtonian and hand lettering artist Felecia Brice McFail, choose one of the template family trees drawn by Arlington artists Melanie Kehoss and Christiann MacAuley and fill in the names in your own writing style or use our basic

introduction guide to calligraphy. As the finishing touch, watch Felecia Brice McFail title your tree with your family name and transform it into a piece of art. Hand Lettering a Family Tree runs through May 17 at various locations.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Juilliard Virtuosi Perform Bach, Liebermann and Brahms. 7:30 p.m. At Marymount University Ballston Center, Ballston, Arlington. Experience the extraordinary talents of violinist Leonid Sushansky and pianist Thomas Pandolfi as they bring to life the timeless works of Bach, Liebermann, and Brahms. Don't miss this captivating performance by two of Juilliard's acclaimed musicians. Program featuring Johann Sebastian Bach - Sonata No. 3 in E Major, Lowell Liebermann - Sonata in G Major Op.46, and Johannes Brahms - Sonata No. 3 in D Minor Op. 108.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Wiper Week Initiative. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Metro Motor Arlington, 5618 Langston Blvd., Arlington. The Wiper Week initiative will give away windshield wiper replacements and installation absolutely free. Wiper Week is a collaborative initiative to increase safe driving in our nation's capital and to raise awareness about the importance of visibility on the road - for drivers, passengers, bicyclists, and pedestrians alike. Advanced sign up is required. Area motorists can secure their spot by signing up at www.wiperweek.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Arlington Philharmonic Woodwind Ensemble: Musical Poetry. 2-3 p.m. At Arlington Central Library, Virginia Square, Arlington. Spend your Saturday afternoon with the Arlington Philharmonic Woodwinds as they perform "Petite Symphonie" written by Charles Gounod and "Serenade in E Flat, K. 375" written by W.A. Mozart. A light reception will follow with refreshments provided by Arlington Philharmonic.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

Forest Bathing. 1-3 p.m. At Gulf Branch Nature Center, Arlington. Adults. In the spring season the natural world transforms around us in ways that are both subtle and bold. We need only slow down and pay attention. This Forest Bathing program will guide you through woods, by streams and fields where you will be invited to experience the ordinary with your extraordinary senses. We'll finish the experience with snacks and tea. Dress for the weather and the possibility of sitting on the ground or a log. Registration Required.

SATURDAY/APRIL 5

National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m. At Marymount University-Ballston Center, 1000 North Glebe Road, Arlington. On March 3, 2025, The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) celebrated Marymount University's 75th Anniversary and brings the combined talents of two extraordinary musical artists



Music and Lyrics by Book by Laurence O'Keefe and Nell Benjamin Heather Hach

Based on the novel by Amanda Brown and the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer motion picture

The Arlington Players presents "Legally Blonde the Musical" from April 18-27, 2025 at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre in Arlington.

in a program featuring works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Johannes Brahms and Lowell Liebermann. NCE Artistic Director and violinist, Leonid Sushansky and pianist Thomas Pandolfi were classmates, graduating from the famed Juilliard School of Music. They went on to establish themselves as Virtuoso solo artists and chamber musicians,

performing in world-famous concert halls and venues in the U.S. and abroad. The program for the evening includes: Johann Sebastian Bach - Sonata No. 3 in E Major Lowell Liebermann - Sonata in G Major Op.46 Johannes Brahms - Sonata No. 3 in D Minor, Op 108

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