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ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



Art in the Area

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Jazzy Day

Enjoy the 31st annual Memorial
Day Jazz Festival.

OUTDOORS, PAGE 3

FOOD & DRINK

AROUND TOWN

Historic Tours

On Sunday May 18 from 2-4 p.m., enjoy this twice-a-year opportunity to visit Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane, a Federal-style unrestored villa built in 1825 for Thomson Francis Mason, a grandson of George Mason. Children of all ages will enjoy the puppet show featuring Thomson Francis Mason and some of his family. Free Admission. Rain or shine. Light refreshments. 703-768-2525.

School Art

The second annual T.C. Williams High School Student National Art Honor Society Member Exhibit will be on display through May 18 at the Del Ray Artisans Gallery at the Nicholas Colasanto Center, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. For more information, contact the T.C. Williams Art Department at 703-575-3411.

Bike To Work

The City of Alexandria annually recognizes national Bike to Work Day. The City of Alexandria's pit stop will take place from 6:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Market Square (301 King St.).

For more information and to register for Bike to Work Day, visit www.alexandriava.gov/localmotion or call the City's Department of Transportation and Environmental Services at 703-519-3400.

Book Events

There are a variety of book events happening in Alexandria and Mount Vernon libraries over the next few days. Of note are:

* Monday, May 19: **Mystery Group.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults discuss "Edge of Midnight" by Charlene Weir. Free. 703-768-6700.

*Monday, May 19: **Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman. Free. 703-838-4566.

*Tuesday, May 20: **Mother-Daughter Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Enjoy a lively book discussion on "Janitor's Boy" by Andrew Clements. Call for title. Ages 9-11. Free. 703-971-0010.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/
GAZETTE PACKET

ON THE COVER: Juanita Williams performed onstage with the Fred Hughes Trio at last year's Memorial Day Jazz Festival.

E Staff

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What's In A Name?

Alexandria restaurateurs explain the names of their eateries.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE GAZETTE

Naming their business is one of the most important decisions a restaurant owner makes. When picking a name, many take into consideration where it would fall in the phone book and whether customers can remember it easily.

For several, the decision is also more intimate, according to Ishi Patterson, the Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington's member services director.

"A lot of people name restaurants personally after either themselves or family members," she said.

Here is what some local business leaders had to say about the names of their own Alexandria restaurants:

Bookbinder's, 109 S. Saint Asaph St.

Bookbinder's has nothing to do with binding manuscripts. According to manager Donny Whitcomb, the Old Town restaurant

is named after the original location in Philadelphia, which was opened by Samuel and Sarah Bookbinder in 1865 to feed watermen.

"It has become a Philadelphia tradition and we are carrying on that name," said Whitcomb.

He added that he was unsure if the Bookbinders' ancestry were ever involved in making books themselves.

"Many people do mistake us for some sort of bookstore. We get phone calls with all sort of questions about what types of books we sell or bind," he said.

Cedar Knoll Inn, 9030 Lucia Lane

When Beatrice Flores bought the Cedar Knoll Inn 14 years ago, it already had its name. Flores said she is not quite sure why the name was chosen when the restaurant

opened in 1935 but she does know that the name has stayed with the restaurant through several owners.

"I don't have a lot of research but they say it was because they had cedar trees around it. There are still a couple of cedar trees but they are old. There are not a lot of trees like their used to be," she said.

Eamonn's Dublin Chipper (728 King St.), Restaurant Eve (110 S. Pitt St.)

When Meshelle and Cathal Armstrong were trying to come up with a name for their upscale fine dining restaurant four years ago, their three-year old daughter Eve suggested they name the restaurant after her.



SEE RESTAURANTS, PAGE 6

Gourmet For A Good Cause

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE

Campagna Center's 38th annual "Toast to Alexandria," gourmet food and wine tasting event will be held Sunday, May 18, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Collingwood-on-the-Potomac, 8301 East Boulevard Drive, Mount Vernon District.

A wide array of area eateries, vineyards and breweries will be represented offering their specialties. Some of those participating include: Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, Bittersweet, Chadwicks, Del Merei Grille, Dishes of India, Hard Times Cafe, Murphy's, Overwood, Restaurant Eve, Bombay Curry Company, Buzz, Calabash, Rustico, Southside 815, Indigo Landing, Tasteful Affairs, Majestic Cafe and Stardust.

Entertainment will be provided by Wil



Rick Taylor serves up chili from Hard Times, while on the left Clay Sumner wears a hat made in St. Lucia.



Gravatt. Proceeds from the event, one of the Center's primary fundraisers, co-chaired this year by Nicole Palya and Brandi Graham Pensoneau, benefit the various programs of the Campagna Center.

Various ticket options, which can be purchased by visiting www.campagnacenter.org/en/84/default.aspx or calling 703-549-0111, are

available:

* Patron \$85 each includes parking on the grounds and a Patron bag

* General Admission \$55 per person in advance or \$65 at the door

Raffle tickets are available at \$10 each or 3 for \$25. Parking and a complimentary shuttle is provided at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Fort Hunt Road, located at the corner of Collingwood and Fort Hunt roads.

MUSIC FESTIVALS

All That Jazz

Bring a picnic basket to Fort Ward Park on Memorial Day for an afternoon delight.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

The lush outdoor amphitheater at Fort Ward Park will feature a wide array of jazz musicians next weekend for the 31st annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival, everything from big band and swing to world and contemporary styles. The annual festival is one of the city's longest running and most popular, with a host of food vendors and children's activities. The concert is from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m., but organizers say those who want a front-row seat should show up about an hour early.

"People start ambling into the park around noon to find a good spot," said Sheryl Lawrence, special events supervisor with the city government. "It's a really nice

and relaxing afternoon in the park."

The Difficult Run Jazz Bank will kick off the show, supplying a up-tempo assortment of big band and swing favorites. Next on the list is the Larry Brown Quintet, one of the most popular straight-ahead jazz quintets in the Washington region. They'll be followed by the Sandra Johnson Quintet, and the festival will conclude with the Al Williams Quartet.

"The band shell at Fort Ward Park creates a very nice setting for a jazz festival, and it's a great time of the year," said Larry Brown, whose quintet won two "Whammy" awards last year from the Washington Area Music Association for best jazz group and best jazz recording.

"It's free jazz! How can you top that?"

Tom Grooms, radio personality with Smooth Jazz 105.9, will host the event and provide quick lessons about different kinds

A Jazzy Afternoon

The 31st Annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival will be on from 1 to 7 p.m. on May 26 at Fort Ward Park at 4301 W. Braddock Road. For more information about the festival, call the city's special events hotline at 703-883-4686.



Clown entertains at last year's festival.

File Photo

of jazz and the history of the distinctly American art form.

Parking will be available on both sides of West Braddock Road, and additional parking will be available at the Minnie Howard School, located at 3801 West Braddock

Road. In case of inclement weather, the festival will be relocated to the Lee Center's Kauffman Auditorium, at 1108 Jefferson St. For more information on Alexandria's annual Memorial Day Jazz Festival, call the special events hotline at 703-883-4686.

Tyrell Channels Music Greats

Steve Tyrell has performed at many different hot spots in the country and is bringing his music to Alexandria.

Steve Tyrell will be performing at the Birchmere on Monday, May 19. He draws inspiration for his music from music greats like Quincy Jones, Frank Sinatra and R & B singers from the 60s. His CD "Back to Bacharach" comes out on June 24. For more, visit www.birchmere.com.

Introduce yourself:

Hey, my name is Steve Tyrell.

How did you get your start in music?

I started singing in two bands when I was a teenager in high school in Texas and made my first recordings when I was 15 years old.

How were your musicians chosen?

Being a veteran record producer most of my life, I have been exposed and have worked with some of the greatest musicians of all time. I try and use this experience when I'm making my albums. On my first six albums, I have tried to blend some extremely talented young musicians with music legends like Clark Terry, Plas Johnson, Toots Thielmans, Quincy Jones, Dr. John, Sweets Edison, Chris Botti, and Dave Koz.

How long have you been performing?

As I said earlier, I started singing in my first bands when I was 15 years old.

What is it that you love about performing?

I feel it's a privilege to be able to play your music live for people, and that interaction between me and the audience (which changes every night from one show to the other) is my favorite thing about playing live. I also love the idea that, in a lot of cases, I am bringing the Great American Songbook to young audiences that may have never experienced this music before.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

There have been a few: Producing and working in the studio with Ray Charles, singing at the Hollywood Bowl with Quincy Jones the night Frank Sinatra was inducted into the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame, and playing last Monday night with the New York Pops Orchestra at Carnegie Hall at the request to the Steinbrenner family in a tribute to my favorite team—the New York Yankees.

Where is your favorite place to play, either publicly or personally?

Wherever I'm playing that particular

night.

Best compliment about a performance?

Nancy Sinatra waving her arms at the Hollywood Bowl telling me that my version of her Father's classic song "Fly Me To The Moon" that I had just sung was great.

What is your favorite piece of music and why?

Almost any Ray Charles song.

Who would you love to play with? Why?

I would love one day to have a concert with Alicia Keys. Her music is fresh and soulful, but yet she is rooted in the tradition of the Great American Music of the past. I loved the way she opened the Grammy's this year with the Frank Sinatra Song. That shows what I am talking about. I also love Amy Winehouse, Diana Krall, and Tony Bennett.

Describe your sound:

Most everything I do has some blues influence whether it be pop music, R&B, or Country. So I would say my sound is rooted in the blues.

Biggest musical influences:



Ray Charles, and Frank Sinatra, plus the great R&B singers of the early 60's: Ben E. King, Chuck Jackson, Jerry Butler Sam Cooke, and Otis Redding.

Where have you toured?

I have toured virtually all over the world, and next month I am going back to Asia and Japan for the second time.

Anything special about the upcoming show at the Birchmere?

I will be premiering songs from my latest album "Back To Bacharach" tremendously proud

of as I was a part of the creation of that music in the first place. Burt Bacharach, Hal David, and Dionne Warwick were my mentors in pop music.

— REBECCA HALIK

CALENDAR

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At Mount Vernon Country Club enjoy championship golf and personal service in a friendly atmosphere...right in your backyard.

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703-924-2600 www.topgolfusa.com

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos and artwork are encouraged. Deadline is Thursday at noon for the following week's paper. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with questions.

ONGOING

Bike Ride. Every Sunday at 2 p.m. at Cameron Run Regional Park Parking lot, 4100 Eisenhower Ave. Come ride on the Holmes Run Greenway. Anyone can ride, children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Free. Ride either 5.6 miles or 6.9 miles. Visit <http://bike.meetup.com/288> or call Susan Schneider, BikeWalk Alexandria, at 202-403-1148.

Visit **George Washington's Distillery & Gristmill** through Oct. 31 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. See how whiskey got started. \$4/adult; \$2/child. Get discounts with admission to Mount Vernon Estate. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Take a **seasonal walking tour** from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. This 30-minute tour explores a variety of contributions. Free. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, is holding a **children's gardening program** every Monday from 2-4 p.m. through **May 19**. Children between 8-12 years old can get garden lessons, do hands-on activities, and grow your own garden with help from Green Spring staff and Master Gardeners. \$70/student. Call 703-642-5173 to register.

Every **Tuesday and Thursday** through October from 5-8 p.m. at Hotel Monaco Alexandria, enjoy **Doggie Happy Hour**. Enjoy doggie treats and human treats.

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for an exciting program for kids of all ages at **Alexandria Archaeology Family Dig Days**. Be part of the fascinating archaeological investigation and discover firsthand the hidden clues left behind by the people who lived and worked there hundreds of years ago, by helping screen excavated soil. Monthly Family Dig Days will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2008 dates are on Saturdays: May 31; June 14; July 12; Aug. 16; Sept. 20 and Oct. 18. \$5/person and spots fill up fast. Call 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org to reserve a spot.

FRIDAY/MAY 16

Music Performance. The Mount Vernon Swing Band will perform from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. \$4/person. 703-765-4573.

May Fete Celebration. 6-8:30 p.m. at Aquinas Montessori, 8334 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy food, entertainment, theatre performance and more. 703-780-8484 for reservations.

Music Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Bishop Ireton High School. The United States Air Force Band will perform a free concert featuring Alexandria native SMSgt Bill Marr. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$30/person. Enjoy wine from 16 wineries, music and more. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Lunch Bunch. Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive.

Children up to age 5 can bring a lunch and listen to stories. Free. 703-971-0010.

B is for Books. 10:15 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories and activities to celebrate Children's Book Week. Free. 703-765-3645.

Music Performance. 12:15 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St. Features students from local and visiting schools. Free. 703-883-4648.

Book Sale. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Browse through a variety of books. 703-519-6000.

Time For 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

SATURDAY/MAY 17

Pancake Breakfast. 7-10 a.m. at United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Enjoy an all you can eat breakfast. \$5/adult; \$3/child. E-mail office@delrayumc.org or 703-549-2088.

Family Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum, 614 Oronoco St. Take part in arts and crafts, tours and more. Adults are free with children, children ages 5-17 \$2. Children under 5 free. Visit www.LeeFendallHouse.org or 703-548-1789.

Artist Reception. 4-8 p.m. Gallery West, 1213 King St., presents "Nature's Journey" from May 7 through June 1. The exhibit showcases landscapes, lotus and flowers by Darlene Kaplan. Free. Visit www.gallery-west.com or 703-549-6006.

Hand Dance Social. 8 p.m.-1 a.m. at Holiday Inn Hotel, 625 First St., Alexandria. Enjoy cash bar, live music, dancing and more. \$20/advance; \$25/door with non-perishable food being accepted. Visit www.ktsvacations.net or 703-772-4023.

Paint Alexandria. The Art League will lead demonstrations and instructional sessions for any artist from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various events around town. \$40/unlimited sessions. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$30/person. Enjoy wine from 16 wineries, music and more. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Family Day. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Families can enjoy arts and crafts, tour, costumes, author signing and more. Adults free when accompanied by children. \$2/child. Visit www.lee-fendallhouse.org or 703-548-1789.

Del Ray House Tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tour 11 houses in the original Town of Potomac. \$15/advance; \$20/day. Visit www.delraycitizen.org for more.

Celebrate Asian Heritage Month. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Families can listen to a paper crane story and then make origami paper cranes. Free. 703-971-0010.

Puppetopia. 3 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. All ages can enjoy tales for book lovers. Free. 703-768-6700.

Book Discussion. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "Breath, Eyes, Memory" by Edwidge Danticat. Free. 703-765-6700.



The woodwind quartet will perform on Friday, May 23 at 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial. Free.

Mesa Verde Murder. 7 p.m. Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Meet southwestern characters, gather evidence and find out whodunit. Adults. Free. 703-765-6700.

Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Springs Road. The Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society hosts this sale. Free. Visit www.odcsms.org or 703-560-8776.

Kinship Care Family Cookout. 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Gum Springs Community Center, 8100 Fordson Road. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and others raising a child for another family member and children ages 3-12 can participate in this free event. 703-324-3517.

All Alexandria Reads. 10 a.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Get clicker training or enjoy pet massages at 11 a.m. and noon. Free.

Book Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. Browse through a variety of books. 703-519-6000.

Saturday Stories. 10:30 a.m. Time For 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. All ages. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

Puppy Puppets Craft. 2-5 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free. For children ages 4-12. 703-519-6000.

Yard Sale. Deer Run Crossing community will be holding a yard sale from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Browse through toys, goods, books and more.

Walk For the World. 2 p.m. at Belle Haven Marina Park, 1100 Belle View Blvd. Families and pets can participate. Donations encouraged. Visit wfp.org or fighthunger.org for more.

Workshop. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Calvary Presbyterian Church, 6120 N. Kings Highway. Partake in a workshop on solutions to fight global hunger. Register at www.bread.org/rsvp or 1-800-82-BREAD.

Del Ray House and Garden Tour. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., tour 11 of Del Ray's historic homes and gardens. \$20/person on the day of the tour. Visit www.delraycitizen.org for more.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Parklawn Community. Browse toys, books and

more. Visit www.parklawncommunity.org for more.

Home Run Derby and Family Day. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Darsey Field and Hollin Hall Fields. Includes races, photos, moon bounces, food and



more. Benefits Fort Hunt Little League. Free.

SUNDAY/MAY 18

Music Performance. Focus Inn presents John Flynn with Spencer Bates at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beaugard St. \$15/general; \$12/member. Visit

27TH ANNUAL ALEXANDRIA
RED CROSS WATERFRONT FESTIVAL
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for more information!

Every survival kit should include a sense of humor.

www.focusmusic.org or 703-380-3151.

Paint Alexandria. The Art League will lead demonstrations and instructional sessions for any artist from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at various events around town. \$40/unlimited sessions. Visit www.theartleague.org for more.

Spring Wine Festival and Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. \$30/person. Enjoy wine from 16 wineries, music and more. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Tea with Martha Washington. 3 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. Enjoy tea, food, and dancing with Mrs. Washington. Party attire requested. \$20/person. Reservations required, www.gadsbystavern.org or 703-838-4242.



Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children and adults 12 and up can learn how to play. Beginners and advance players welcome. Free. 703-765-3645.

Historic Huntley Open House. 2-4 p.m. at Historic Huntley, 6918 Harrison Lane. Enjoy a puppet show featuring Thomson Mason and his family. Free. Enjoy light refreshments. 703-768-2525.

Toast to Alexandria. 4-7 p.m. at Collingwood-on-the-Potomac, 8301 E. Boulevard Drive. Taste wines, food and more from local restaurants and vineyards. For tickets visit www.campagnacenter.org or 703-549-0111. Proceeds benefit Campagna Center.

Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Discuss "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman. Free. 703-838-4566.

Mother Goose Time. 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. For children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4555.

Music Performance. 3 p.m. at Washington Street United Methodist Church, 115 S. Washington St. Features music by the Chancel Choir and more. Free but canned goods accepted. Visit www.wsumc.org or 703-836-4324.

Memorial Ride. 2 p.m., families can enjoy an 8-mile casual bike ride. Meet at Jones Point Parking lot. In memory of Ellen Pickering. Free.

Music Performance. Natalya Shkoda will perform at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. She will perform music by Viktor Kosenko. \$20/person.

MONDAY/MAY 19

Writer's Group. 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Adults can read material aloud for feedback. Free. 703-339-4610.

Mystery Group. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults discuss "Edge of Midnight" by Charlene Weir. Free. 703-768-6700.

Little One-Ders. 10 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 12-23 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

Family Story Night. 7 p.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. Free. 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

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WEDNESDAY/MAY 21

Fashion Show. Thomas Jefferson High School, 6560 Braddock Road, will hold a fashion show to benefit the Autism Society of America. 7-9 p.m. \$6/advance; \$8/door. Visit www.tjhsst.edu/fac or 703-750-8300.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Stories, fingerplays and activities. Children ages 13-23. Free. 703-971-0010.

Book Discussion. 7:15 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Enjoy a lively book discussion. Adults. Free. 703-971-0010.



7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Enjoy a lively book discussion on "Janitor's Boy" by Andrew Clements. Call for title. Ages 9-11. Free. 703-971-0010.

Fantastic Me. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-339-4610.

Time For 2s. 10 a.m. at Beatley Library, 5005 Duke St. For children ages 24-36 months. Free. Registration required, 703-519-5900 ext. 4.

Story Time. 10 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Duncan Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. For children up to age 4. Free. 703-838-4566.

Tuesday Tots. 11 a.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Free. For children ages 2-3. 703-519-6000.

Mother Goose Time. 9:30 a.m. at Barrett Library, 717 Queen St. For children ages 12-24 months. Free. 703-838-4555.

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FOOD & DRINK

Restaurant Names

FROM PAGE 2

"At first, we all laughed. Then, it just fit with all of us. This is our labor of love. Why shouldn't we give it that name?" said Meshelle Armstrong.

After having named one restaurant for their daughter, the Armstrongs decided they should open a second place to name after their son. So two and half years after starting Eve, they opened the casual, walk-up eatery Eamonn's.

"It is noisy, kind of like my son," said Meshelle Armstrong of the chipper.

Armstrong said naming their businesses after their children has a few other perks. Both staff and patrons really understand how important and special their restaurants are to the owners.

Los Tios Grill, 2615 Mount Vernon Ave.

In Spanish, "los tios" means "the uncles."

"I was trying to find a easy and short name for the restaurant. ...

Maybe I picked the name because I have too many uncles," said restaurant owner German Mejia.



Mejia's father has six brothers and nine sisters. The restaurant owner is also an uncle himself, with six brothers and four sisters of his own.

"My uncles were everywhere when I was a kid. I have a very close family," said Mejia, who said many of his uncles live near the Salvadorean and Tex-Mex restaurant and visit it frequently.

Mejia said he has also sought to create a family-friendly atmosphere at Los Tios, which is reflected in the name.



Overwood, 220 N. Lee St.

Ryan Duncan was considering investing in a new restaurant when he visited a "great little restaurant" called Underwood in California's Sonoma Valley.

Duncan was attracted to the name because it had incorporated "wood" in its title.

"The reason it sort of caught my ear is because we use wood cooking. We have a wood-fired grill and wood-fired oven," said Duncan, who is a partner in Old Town's Overwood.

Duncan also thought the name would reflect the simplicity of the American cuisine he hoped to produce at the new restaurant.

"We wanted a one-word name if we could find one. It would reflect the simplicity of the food," he said.

In the end, Duncan found through a Google search that several restaurants were already named Underwood but he could not find another one that was called Overwood.

Royal Restaurant and Caterers, 735 N. Saint Asaph St.

Royal Restaurant may be on Saint Asaph Street now but for the first 60 years of its lifetime, the casual American eatery was located on Royal Street. The Royal turns 104 years old this year and has only been at the Saint Asaph location for the last 44 years.

"We were on Royal Street next to City Hall until 1964. That is how the Royal got its name," said Chris Euripides, the restaurant's manager.

Tempo, 4231 Duke St.

Restaurant owner Wendy Albert and her husband Cerge were originally interested in naming their Italian-inspired restaurant after a close friend, Yannick. Unfortunately, few people could pronounce the name correctly and it would place them at the end of the list in the phone book, said Wendy Albert.

After they abandoned their first name selection, the Alberts decided to look restaurant names that started with the letter "t."

Cerge Albert had spent several years working at Terrazza and Tiberio restaurants, which are run by Giulio Santillo. All of the Santillo's restaurant names start with the letter "t" and Cerge Albert wanted to allude to his work at Santillo's businesses by also naming his restaurant with a "t."

"We finally settled on Tempo. It meant contemporary modern cuisine but it did not really label us strictly Italian," said Wendy Albert, whose eatery features Northern Italian and French cuisine.

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STAGE

Signature's 'Glory' Lasts One Day

Broadway doesn't take to intimate musical.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY
THE CONNECTION

The four-character musical "Glory Days" which made history by transferring intact from the Signature Theatre in Shirlington to Broadway simply didn't capture the fancy of either the New York critics or the Broadway ticket buyers.

The show, which had its world premiere in January at Signature Theatre, was a one-act, one-set, four person show about the night when, after their first year of college, four young men who were buddies in high school reunite and discover how they have begun to grow apart as they mature at different rates. It was well received by critics and theatergoers alike during its scheduled one-month run here in Shirlington.

After two weeks of poor attendance at preview performances in the 623-seat the Circle in the Square Theatre in New York, the musical had its official opening on Tuesday evening, May 6 after which the producers, considering both the lack of ticket sales and a host of negative reviews, decided to close the

show.

The record books will document that the show had 17 previews and one official performance - the opening, which turned out to be the closing performance. It was the first Broadway credit for three of its four cast members, Steven Booth, Adam Halpin and Jesse JP Johnson. Andrew C. Call had previous credits including another short run musical, "High Fidelity," which lasted only two weeks on The Great White Way.

It was the second Broadway show for Signature Theatre's artistic director, Eric Schaeffer, who directed this production and also directed the revue of Stephen Sondheim material "Putting It Together," which ran for three months with Carol Burnett heading the cast in 1999.

"Glory Days" marked the Broadway debuts for its young writers from Montgomery County, James W. Gardiner who wrote the script, and Nick Blaemire who wrote the songs. Blaemire is also making his Broadway debut as a performer this season as a member of the cast of the musical "Cry-Baby" which opened at the Marquis Theatre just five blocks from the theater where "Glory Days" has now closed.

LOCAL THEATER

Know of something missing from our theater listings? E-mail listings to Alexandria and Mount Vernon Gazette at gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 2 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Call Rebecca Halik at 703-917-6407 with any questions.

Other News

Act III Theatre Company is holding auditions for "A Year with Frog and Toad" for men and women ages 15 and up on June 2-3 from 7-9 p.m. at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. 703-548-1154.

Just Starting

Keegan Theatre presents "Closing Time" through June 7 at Theatre on the Run, 3700 Four Mile Run Drive. Showtimes are Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. \$20/person; \$15/student, senior. Visit www.keegantheatre.com for more.

The Children's Theatre presents "Winnie the Pooh" from May 30 through June 8 at Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. \$10/adult; \$8/child, student, senior. Reservations recommended, 703-548-1154.

Ongoing Events

See "Richard III" through May 24 at the Nannie Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. \$13/senior and student; \$15/adult. Visit www.tapestrytheatre.com or www.tapestryrichard3.net or 703-960-3398.

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Accounting, Nashville Style

Mount Vernon resident balances work and music.

MICHAEL K. BOHN
THE GAZETTE

Compliance audits. Cash flow analysis. Financial performance assessments. Form 990 and 990-T return preparation. These are a few of the tasks that John Langan, CPA, confronts every workday at his accounting firm. Regulations, logic, and numbers—zillions of numbers—drive his workday. After dinner, at home in his basement, he turns to a parallel world, one filled with music, emotions, and words. There, a piano is his accompaniment, not a computer, as he tinkers with lyrics for a new song:

Baby on my radio
You coming through real strong
In our favorite song
Another haunting memory
And it's reminding me a love like ours
Only comes along
Sometimes. ©

If there is a good example of man's right and left brain distinctions, it's Mount Vernon resident John Langan. By day, John is a mild-mannered accountant, albeit a modern one without the green eyeshade. At night, he's Johnny, a prize-winning country music songwriter. Not quite Clark Kent and Superman, but certainly a study in contrasts.

Langan is the principal in charge of the non-profit and government services group of LarsonAllen, the nation's eighteenth largest public accounting firm. He supervises 150 professionals, who serve 2,500 clients. He assumed the position last year when he merged his own company, Langan Associates, with LarsonAllen.

Additionally, Langan is a former board member of the American Society of Association Executives and the Greater Washington Society of CPAs. He chairs the audit

committee for Washington's Boys and Girls Clubs and serves as the treasurer of the Pentagon Memorial Fund.

As his professional career progressed from an accounting major in college to financial manager, Langan developed as a musician as well, starting as an eleven-year-old piano student in West Hempstead, Long Island.

"My father offered to pay for the first set of lessons for any instrument for me and my brothers and sister," he said. "I chose the piano and my instructor taught at Juilliard. She held her students' recitals at Carnegie Hall, so I achieved every serious pianist's desire early in my music life."

As a teenager in the late 1970s, singer/songwriters Billy Joel and Elton John inspired Langan away from classical music to pop. He also discovered, as many teens have, that playing in a band was cool.

While rehearsing Joel's "Stranger" for the Junior Ring Dance at Maria Regina Catholic High School, Langan noticed girls drifting into the auditorium and clustering near his piano. "I found that piano nerds could get girls, and music gave me confidence," he confessed.

As a young auditor in the Washington office of the international accounting firm Arthur Anderson in the 1980s, he met another accountant and musician, Chuck Smith. They performed together at parties and became friends. Smith, who now lives in Ashburn, has always been a country music performer, and his current group, Brandy Stills Band, plays country gigs around the Washington area.

"Let's write music, not just play," John said to me one day," Smith said. "Most local bands and performers just cover



At night, John Langan writes country music and plays in the dance band "Who's Ya Daddie?".

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BOHN

More Information

Listen to Langan and Smith songs at www.riderpublishing.com. Information about their bands is at <http://whosyadaddie.com/index.html> and www.brandystills.com.

other people's songs. John wanted to create, not just imitate."

Why country? And why a Long Island guy with a lingering "New Yawk" accent?

"Chuck taught me the beauty and subtleties of country music," Langan said. "It had al-

ways been 'three chords and the truth,' or 'real stories about real people,' but it's still about getting a story across and moving people in three minutes. Besides, young people listen to it now."

"Also, there is a big crossover between pop and country now," Langan continued. "Country today is often just pop music with a steel guitar and a fiddle." Langan said "pop country" arose in the late 1980s, citing Keith Urban, Tim McGraw, and Kenny Chesney as top singers in the genre. "Listen to them and you'll get a feel for the music."

After years of informal playing and composing, Langan and Smith began serious collaboration on country songwriting in 2000. After a few years of experimenting, their routine has settled into an annual process.

"We write about twelve songs a year," Langan explained. "We record 'scratch demos' for eight of them in either Chuck's home recording studio or mine. We then pick our four best and head to Nashville." They book a recording studio, hire good "demo singers" and first class studio musi-

cians, who abound in Nashville, and professionally record the four songs. "We used to approach publishing companies ourselves with the demo recordings, but now we use a part-time 'song plugger' since both of us have to return home to our day jobs." Also, they formed Rider Publishing, a company to further advance their songwriting enterprise.

Still looking for their first recorded and released song, called a "cut" in the business, Langan and Smith enter songwriting contests as one means of publicizing their work. They won the 2004 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest country silver award with "To Love," and that contest's 2005 country gold award for "Someone You Loved." In the 2005 Country Music Television/Nashville Songwriters Association International Listener's Choice competition, they won honorable mention for "She Rode the Bull."

More recently, the team was a finalist and runner-up in the 2008 Country Music Television contest with "Sometimes." "We are writing better songs," Langan said. "Feedback within the industry is good, especially for

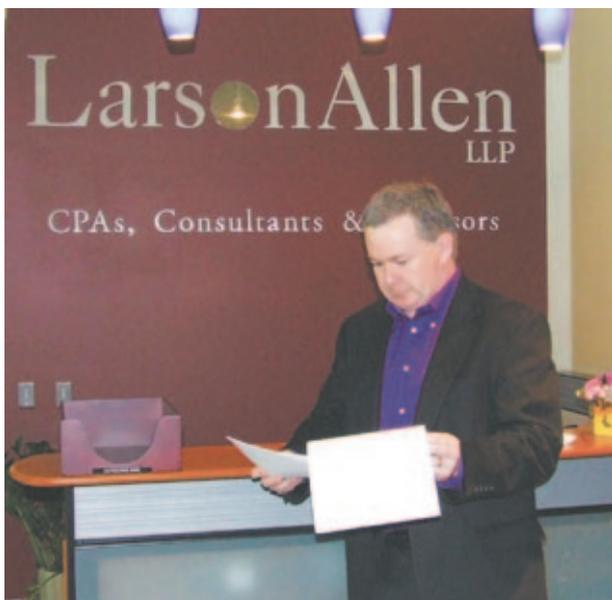
two guys who don't live in Nashville. A Grammy Award-winning country songwriter has encouraged us to continue and helped us make high-level industry connections."

Langan also performs, most often in the dance band "Who's Ya Daddie?" Neighbor and fellow accountant Tom Southard recruited Langan to be the band's keyboard player. "We play mostly rock and soul, songs from the 1960s, 70s, and 80s," Langan said. His playing is yet another part of his multi-faceted life—spreadsheets, sheet music, and play lists.

"Music is a great outlet for John," said his wife Cindy. "I'm impressed with his talent and fully support what is obviously more than a hobby." The two met at Arthur Anderson, married in 1986, and have a son, Patrick, a JMU freshman, and a daughter, Mary, a freshman at West Potomac. They live near the Cedar Knoll Inn on the Mount Vernon Parkway. In addition to the keyboard, Langan also plays golf.

Also, there is a big crossover between pop and country now. Country today is often just pop music with a steel guitar and a fiddle."

— John Langan



Mount Vernon resident John Langan's day job is managing a division of the accounting and consulting firm, LarsonAllen.