

Putt Putt Around Town

Miniature Golf is a hole in one
in Alexandria.

OUTDOORS, PAGE 3

E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

MUSIC

Harmonizers Sing Out

The Alexandria Harmonizers are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. Friday night, the group performed in Market Square as part of the Alexandria Recreation Departments and the Commission for the Arts Summer Concert Series.

Their fall and winter schedule includes:

* "The Steamer Trunk" featuring "Road Trip" and "Premiere" Friday, Sept. 26 at 8 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Bishop Ireton High School, 201 Cambridge Road

* "A Very Merry Musical!" Friday, Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 6 at 12:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. First Baptist Church of Alexandria, 2932 King St.

* Free concert at 2 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St.

For more details and show tickets, go to www.harmonizers.org or call the Box Office at 703-910-4600. The Harmonizers are always looking for men who like to sing. Call 703-836-0969 for meeting location and chapter information.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE
On right, Friday evening, the Alexandria Harmonizers performed at Market Square in the last of the City's concerts this summer. On bottom right, Ken White leads the singers in a song from "The Little Mermaid." To the left is Dennis Ritchey, to the right is Chuck Hunter. Bottom left, music director Joe Cerutti leads the group in another classic.



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LEISURE

Foreign Films Available in New Venue

Fireflies in Del Ray works with library on film series.

BY BEN GEIER
THE GAZETTE PACKET

Lovers of obscure foreign films oftentimes find that locating copies of such cinema is the most difficult part of their hobby. The Duncan branch of the Alexandria Library and a Fireflies restaurant in Del Ray are showing recent foreign films as part of a program presented by the Duncan friends of the Library Society.

The film series, which started in October of 2007, has grown in popularity. Originally held at a different, smaller venue, after a few months enough people were showing up that the event was moved to the larger space at Fireflies.

"[The series is] a way to show people in the community that a library is not just books on a shelf," said Thom Downing, the Film Coordinator at the Duncan Branch. Downing explained that the series was originally to be shown in the library, but that he volunteered to work with the Friends of the Library Society and venue representatives to bring the events into the community.

"Not everyone who sees Dark Knight is going to come see some obscure French Comedy."

— Thom Downing, Duncan Film Coordinator.

Fireflies owner Dan Lichens noted in an e-mail that though people were initially surprised the events they have hosted have become very popular. He further explained that Fireflies, which hosts entertainment very frequently, is able to make sure everyone in the house can hear through the audio system and see on a 42 inch screen.

One of the biggest draws to the series is the fact that the films being shown are difficult to see in other places.

"The films that are selected are films that don't have a wide range of distribution," said Downing adding that the series is "a way for us to provide something that people

SEE FILM FESTIVAL, PAGE 8

A Hole Sport In One

Miniature golf continues to be a favorite.

BY ERIC J. GILMORE
GAZETTE PACKET

Maybe it's the menagerie of dinosaurs and elephants, fire pits and waterfalls, jokers and gargoyles, pirates and explorers, loopy-loos and right angles. Perhaps it's the rainbow hued balls littering the links, or merely the ridiculous addicting challenge of staying on par.

What draws us, as humans, to miniature golf, one of the staples?

More than its more professional uncle, the sport — or is it? — transcends age, gender and social background. The winding courses, often impossible to follow even with a map, are a destination for families, vacationers and couples. Heck, it's even spurned a professional industry.

Locally at TopGolf, located across the road from Edison High School and a favorite for professionals playing hooky, the Kingstowne golf complex has 36 holes spread over two 18-hole courses. The two par-60 courses are of varying degree of difficulty and possibly more importantly, both are themed, one catering to the mountains and the other a desert theme.

According to Terry Fife, the general manager of TopGolf USA, the golf complex accounts for approximately 6-8 percent of the total revenue. During the summer, the peak season, Kingstowne brings in 1,200-1,400 mini-golfers weekly.

"It's certainly a small piece of the pie, but it's also a very important piece as well," Fife said. "Our numbers have been consistent if not better this year over previous years both at the facility itself and in mini-golf. We're not seeing a decline."

However, economics are different throughout the miniature golf landscape, as exemplified by Herndon-based Woody's Golf Range, where owner Woody Fitzhugh maintains a driving range, putting green, batting cages and miniature golf course. His "Perils of the Lost Jungle" course includes

stoned-faced statues, snakes, alligators, treasure hunters and a T-Rex. Woody's is one of the most expensive courses (a regular round costs \$9.25), but is also interactive and has more attractions.

But Fitzhugh, who opens his course in mid-May and closes once school restarts, likens the experience to a movie — the better the theatre, the higher consumers are willing to spend. It translated to a record season in 2007, but with approximately 700 weekly visitors this summer, his numbers are down.

"I don't know whether last year was exceptionally good because of the weather or whether the economy has slowed down a little bit," said Fitzhugh.

"It's something the whole family can enjoy."

— Terry Fife, TopGolf USA

his summer home in Pinehurst, N.C. In 1926, New York City's first outdoor miniature golf course was built on a skyscraper roof.

A year later, businessman Garnet Carter built a miniature golf course on Lookout Mountain in Tennessee to attract patrons to his hotel and full-length course. After a while, the miniature course had become so popular, more people wanted to play on it than on the regulation greens, and eventually tramped the miniature grounds. Carter eventually discovered an artificial surface.

In short, miniature golf was no longer miniature.

By the fall of 1930, more than 25 million



A golfer walks across the 'green' at TopGolf USA in Kingstowne.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

MINIATURE GOLF'S origins can be traced to 1916, when James Barber hired architect Edward Wiswell to design a course behind

people were miniature golf fans and 50,000 mini-golf courses littered the landscape. The fad died off briefly, but experienced a re-birth in the baby-boom 1950s.

In some respects, however, miniature golf is as popular as ever; there are several trade associations: the US ProMiniGolf Association, the Miniature Golf Association, the Professional Miniature Golf Association and the World Minigolf Sport Federation among them. There's even a pro circuit, with Master's and U.S. Open events that attract players from around the world.

Miniature golf may not show up as an ESPN primetime special — the national championship was aired for four years, I promise — but the game is still played by millions every year with approximately 5,000 miniature golf courses throughout the country.

"First and foremost, it's something the whole family can enjoy. Realistically, there aren't too many activities where that's true," Fife said. "It's something the parents can look forward to because they can bring their children as well."



A selection of putters

Area Miniature Golf Courses

Name	Address	Phone Number
TopGolf USA	6625 S. Van Dorn St., Alexandria	703-960-8719
Cameron Run	4001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria	703-534-3437
Upton Hill	6060 Wilson Blvd., Arlington	703-631-0550
Centreville Mini-Golf	6206 Multiplex Drive, Centreville	703-250-9124
Fountainhead	10875 Hampton Road, Fairfax	703-573-0444
Jefferson Falls	7900 Lee Highway, Falls Church	703-430-8337
Woody's	11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon	703-339-6104
Pohick Bay	6501 Pohick Bay Drive, Lorton	703-281-6501
Oak Marr	3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton	703-339-3122
IronWood	8581 Cinder Bed Road, Springfield	703-569-0285
Lucky Duck	7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield	

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CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, gazette@connectionnewsletters.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.

OTHER ITEMS

Studio Gold Dance will hold Youth Company auditions for intermediate and advanced youth dancers, ages 16 and under. Dancers are welcome to bring a prepared piece of choreography to demonstrate on Aug. 30 between 3 and 4:15 p.m. The required group class audition will be on Sept. 22 at 3:15 p.m. Auditions and rehearsals will take place at Gold's Gym, 7770 Richmond Highway. For further information, contact the Artistic Director, Dawn Meadows, at www.studiogolddance.com, or 703-627-4570.

Aldersgate Church Community Theater (ACCT) is holding auditions for "Dearly Departed," on Sunday, Aug. 24 and Monday, Aug. 25 from 7-9 p.m., at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road. Questions should be directed to 703-660-2611 - please leave a message. Additional information at www.acctonline.org.

ONGOING

Tickets for **Mount Vernon's Fall Wine Festival & Sunset Tour** will go on sale Sept. 1. Tickets are \$30/person. Festival is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 3, 4 & 5 from 6-9 p.m. Visit www.mountvernon.org for tickets.

On Mondays, Sept. 8 through Dec. 1 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., the Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, will be having **Yoga for Gardeners** for adults. The program will offer a series of classes featuring the Vinyasa method to increase your flexibility, strength, and endurance for gardening. \$ 66/ six-class sessions. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

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.

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**. 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: 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.

On **Sundays** from noon-5 p.m., visit the Waterfront and see **history-inspired performances** near the Torpedo Factory; do a "meet and greet" of early Alexandria residents and travelers near the Waterfront and lower King Street. Free. Visit www.historialexandria.org for more.

In celebration of the exhibition "**Setting the President's Table: American Presidential China**," visitors to Mount Vernon will have a chance every day from June 1 to Aug. 31 to win a piece of porcelain featuring the Martha Washington "States" pattern. Drawings occur daily at 3 p.m. in the Shops at Mount Vernon, and the grand prize will be drawn on Aug. 31. No purchase is required, and visitors do not have to be present to win. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

See Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., in a whole new light - **lantern light**. Tour the 1785 tavern and 1792 City Hotel during the summer season with costumed guides as you experience the tavern as patrons did more than 200 years ago before the advent of electricity. Tours are every Friday night, **June through August**, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$5 per person ages 5 and up. Tours last approximately 30 minutes, with the last tour starting at 9:15 p.m. Call ahead to confirm tour date. For more information, call 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

On Mondays, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens will be having **Family Story Time** for children of all ages where there

will be stories and activities. Free. For more information visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg

On Mondays Sept. 8 through Oct. 27 from 2 to 4 p.m., the Green Spring Gardens will be having **Let's Grow Kid's Gardening Program** where kids will enjoy sprouting seeds, growing vegetables, planting, flowers, exploring soil and other outdoor fun. \$ 70 /student. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during **Mount Vernon's** outdoor storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon", held every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **through Sept. 27** at the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00; youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Historic Mount Vernon will have special commemorative whiskey sets available for sale beginning **Aug. 4!** The set includes a shot glass and a 50 mL bottle of whiskey consisting of 11 different whiskey brands blended and aged at Mount Vernon in 2005. The gift sets are \$25 and are available for purchase in person with a valid ID at the *Shops at Mount Vernon* or George Washington's Distillery. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

Beginning on **Monday, Sept. 15** and continuing weekly through **Monday, Nov. 17**, Gadsby's Tavern Museum will be hosting its fall session of **Tavern Toddlers**. Tavern Toddlers features a weekly open playtime on Mondays, excluding Federal holidays, between 10:30 a.m. and noon. Each week costs \$7 for a group of three, which must include one adult, and additional people are just \$3. Pre-registration is not required, and single or multiple passes can be purchased at the door. Gadsby's Tavern Museum is located at 134 North Royal St. For more information, call 703838.4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 28

Time for School. 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities about starting school. Free. 703-339-

4610.
Old Favorites. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories, songs and more. Free. 703-768-6700.
Short Story Discussion. 7 p.m. at Burke Library, 4701 Seminary Road. Discuss stories by Borges and Camus. Free. 703-519-3498.
Music Performance. 8 p.m. at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Free. Hear Christine and David Hagan perform duets on the piano. 703-845-6156.

FRIDAY/AUG. 29

Mount Vernon Nights. Listen to a variety of music at 7:30 p.m. on Friday nights at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance for more.
Wee Ones Story Time. For children 2 and under. Free. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. 703-548-4092 or www.hooray4books.com. Enjoy some silly songs and stories.

SATURDAY/AUG. 30

Lee District Nights. 7:30 p.m. at Hayfield Elementary School, 7633 Telegraph Road. Hear Hawaiian music. Free. 703-324-SHOW (7469).
Closing Ceremony. 4-9 p.m., see work by Pridon Goisashvili at Blueberry Art Gallery, 3112A Mt. Vernon Ave., from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31. Free. 703-894-8854.
Art Exhibit. See works by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Brahlher Ltd./Gallery from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. See paintings on wood and canvas, sculpture and more. Free. 703-798-8686.
Dog Days of Summer Story Time.

For children 2 and over. Free. 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com. We will read about some of our favorite four-legged friends (like Clifford and Biscuit!), and even have some treats for you to take home to your pal!

SUNDAY/AUG. 31

Music Performance. Soprano Tia Wortham with pianist Caroline Williams will perform with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. Visit www.wmpa.us for more.
Closing Ceremony. 4-9 p.m., see work by Pridon Goisashvili at Blueberry Art Gallery, 3112A Mt. Vernon Ave., from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31. Free. 703-894-8854.
Art Exhibit. See works by Yuri Kokoyanin at The von Brahlher Ltd./Gallery from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. See paintings on wood and canvas, sculpture and more. Free. 703-798-8686.

MONDAY/SEPT. 1

International Festival. 12:30-6 p.m. at Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway. Free. Includes music, food, rides, games and more. Visit "www.gs-cc.org or 703-780-4055.



Erin McKeown has been playing guitar for a few years and will be performing solo. Her favorite place to play is in front of an enthusiastic crowd, and mentions that no one can mistake her voice for someone else's. She will be at IOTA on Thursday, Sept. 4.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 2

Doggie Day Swim. 4-7 p.m. at Old Town Pool, 1609 Cameron St. \$5/dog. Treats and toys will be provided. Proof of current vaccinations required. 703-519-2160 for more.

SATURDAY/ SEPT. 6

A Lesson on Gardening. The Green

Tiny Tots. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 13-23 months can enjoy stories and songs. Free. 703-768-6700.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 4

Dance Performance. Karen Reedy Dance company will perform at 6 p.m. on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage. Free. Visit www.reedydance.com for more.
Book Discussion. 12:15 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "Mohawk" by Richard Russo. Free. 703-339-4610.
Under the Apple Tree. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children age 2-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. 703-765-3645.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 5

Dance Performance. Karen Reedy Dance company will perform at 6 p.m. on the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage. Free. Visit www.reedydance.com for more.
Lunch Bunch. Noon at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children up to age 5 can bring lunch and enjoy stories. Free. 703-971-0010.

Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be holding Propagation Series Part: Seed Saving from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Mary Frogale a propagation horticulturist will be showing participants the gardens and collect seeds to take home. \$22/ Adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

Family Fun. The Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, will be having Family Fun: Monarch Magic from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children will be given the opportunity to explore the fascinating life cycle of monarch butterflies and make a caterpillar cage to watch the cycle themselves. \$10/project. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

Soldier-led Tour. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 W. Braddock Road. See a soldier's life, weapons and more from the Civil War. Free. www.fortward.org or 703-838-4848.
Fun Festival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. John's United Methodist Church. Enjoy games, food, music and more. Visit www.saintjohnsumc.org or 703-560-6655.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

Music Performance. Violists Tsuna Sakamoto and Eric DeWardt will perform with the Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic at 3 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Free. Visit www.wmpa.us for more.
Dog Days. Noon-4 p.m. at any NVRPA water park, including Great Waves at Cameron Run and Upton Hill in Arlington. \$5/dog. Dog must have current license and rabies vaccination. Visit www.nvrpa.org for more.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

Black History Museum Happenings

In September, the **Alexandria Black History Museum** will explore the life and legacy of Madam C.J. Walker, the first African-American woman to become a millionaire. The museum is hosting a special lecture by a direct descendant as well as a play that recalls the inspirational story of Madam Walker's challenges and achievements.

On Wednesday, Sept. 17, noted author and journalist A'Lelia Bundles will give an illustrated lecture, "A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance," about her great-grandmother and namesake. A'Lelia Walker was the only daughter of Madam Walker and nicknamed the "Joy Goddess of Harlem" in the 1920s by Langston Hughes. Ms. Bundles will sign copies of her book about Madam Walker after the presentation. This free lecture begins at 7 p.m., and reservations are suggested but not required.

Then the talented troupe from Sal St. George Productions returns for a three-day engagement at the museum where they will present, "The Madam C.J. Walker Story." Set in the year 1919, this inspirational play tells the story of Madam Walker, a child of slaves who defied poverty and prejudice by creating her own haircare business and becoming the first African American self-made millionaire in the United States. There will be two evening performances with shows at 8 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 19, and Saturday, Sept. 20, and one matinee at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 21. Following each play, the actors will answer questions from the audience. Tickets cost \$10 and can be purchased from the online shop at www.alexblackhistory.org or by calling 703-838-4356.

The Alexandria Black History Museum is located at 902 Wythe St. in Alexandria, and is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the lecture or play, or to make a reservation, please call 703-838-4356.

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FESTIVALS

Good Shepherd Hosts 33rd Festival

BY CHUCK HAGEE
GAZETTE PACKET

Live entertainment, children's rides, international food and beverages, and games all come to Good Shepherd Catholic Church, 8710 Mount Vernon Highway, on Labor Day, Monday Sept. 1. It's the church's 33rd Annual International Festival.

With a mission to raise funds for local organizations and citizens in need, the festival was initiated 33 years ago by the Women's Council of Good Shepherd. Although admission is free, tickets must be purchased for raffle items, activities, rides, plants and flowers, food, early admission to the "White Elephant Sale," and other items at some booths, according to festival organizers.

"This International Festival is a celebration that our parishioners share with each other and the community in which we live. It is an opportunity for everyone in our community to come together at the end of the summer to spend the day with each other," said Reverend Charles C. McCoart, Jr., pastor, Good Shepherd Catholic Church.

"This event is nearly 100 percent volunteer driven and that's what makes it a success every year. In addition to the fun and

fellowship, it's a source of funding for charitable needs," Rev. McCoart said.

"The International Festival enables local charities to help those in need. Our goal is not only charitable fund raising, but also fellowship. Last year, the event attracted thousands of guests," said Lou Volchansky, Festival Co-chairman.

One of the big events each year is the "White Elephant Sale." The Plant Booth, Rose's Bakery and White Elephant sale purchases are by cash and carry only, according to Volchansky.

Early admission to the White Elephant event begins at noon and costs \$5. After 12:30 p.m. general admission to the sale is free.

Past organizations receiving festival funds included Good Shepherd Emergency Assistance, Good Shepherd Housing and Family Services, United Community Ministries, Progreso Hispano, Inc., and Shepherd's Gate.

In addition to parking at the church, there is ample parking at near-by Mount Vernon High School, with shuttle service to the church starting at noon and ending at 6:30 p.m. All festival grounds and events are handicap accessible, according to organizers. There is also a first aid station on the grounds, according to church officials.

The 43 year-old Good Shepherd parish serves more than 3,000 families and 11,000 parishioners throughout Northern Virginia and the surrounding areas. For additional information about this event call 703-780-4055 or visit the Good Shepherd Catholic Church Web site at www.gscc.org.



Dancers from last year's event were having a good time dancing for the crowd.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE
KRAFFT/GAZETTE
PACKET

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NIGHTLIFE

Kloud 9 Performs

Kloud 9 are twin brothers who got their start singing in Church. They define their music as Smooth R&B mixed with a little smooth jazz. They will be performing three concerts at the Birchmere with Maysa on Friday, Aug. 29, Saturday, Aug. 30 and Sunday, Aug. 31. Visit www.birchmere.com for information.

Introduce yourself or the band:

Kloud 9 is twin brothers Kendall and Kelvis Duffie.

How did you get your start in music and how long have you been performing?

We've been singing most of our life. Our mother was a church musician and like most people we started singing in church. Our first professional introduction into the music business came while we were freshmen in high school back in Denver, Co. We met a producer by the name of Jerry Weaver (producer of Janet Jackson's first album and guitarist for Aretha Franklin) He heard a demo we recorded and took us under his wings for years. We credit him for giving us the tools we needed to go the next level.

If applicable, How were your musicians chosen?

Most of the musicians we use are players we've met through our work as Gospel record executives which we've both worked as over the past 12 years.

What is it that you love about performing?

The response it evokes from the people. We love making people smile, making them happy through the passion in our hearts—music.

What is your best memory when it comes to music?

Winning our first Award last year in Detroit at the SoulTracks Awards. We won best duo/group and also. Winning on the same night with our special friend Maysa Leak who also won her category made the night even more special.

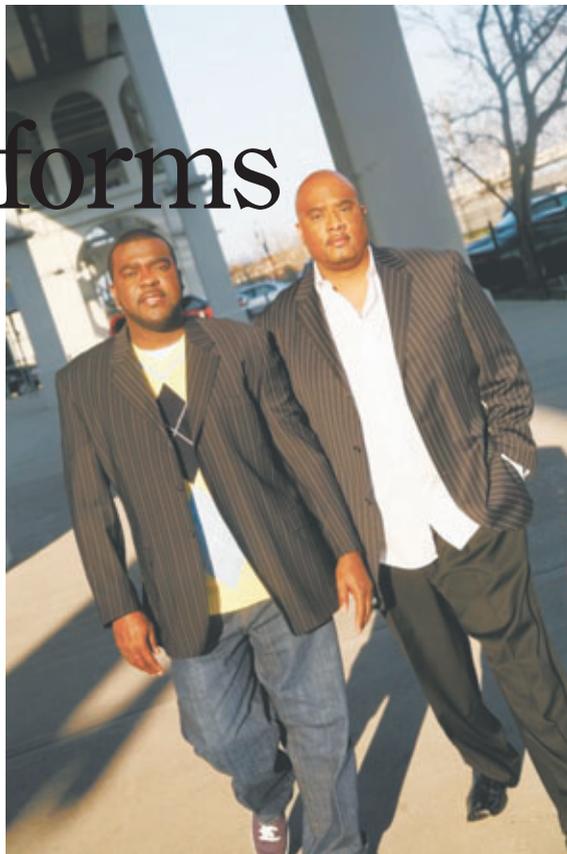
Where is your favorite place to play, either publicly or personally?

Where ever there is one or more person who loves good quality soul music.

Best compliment about a performance?

People telling us how they appreciate the fact that we keep our music special and don't try to be trendy.

What is your favorite piece of music and



Kloud 9

why?

Michael Jackson's "Thriller." We love the songs and production. Anita Baker's "Rapture" for the same reasons.

Who would you love to play with? Why?

Stevie Wonder. He is all things musical, all things soulful and a huge inspiration to us.

Describe your sound:

Kloud 9 fits firmly in that grown and sexy style. it's Smooth R&B/Soul with a touch of Smooth Jazz.

Biggest musical influences:

The Jacksons, Anita Baker, Incognito, Stevie Wonder, The Isley Brothers, The Whispers.

Where have you toured?

America, South America, Europe and the Middle East.

Anything special about the upcoming show?

The Friday night show Aug. 29 is our birthday. We share that birthday with Michael Jackson.

Future plans:

We just completed a new project entitled "Enjoy The Ride." It's our bests work to date. It's releasing in the UK very soon and a March or April 2009 US release.

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 For more information contact Pam Wiener, Sr. Adult Services Director
 (703) 537-3061 • PamW@jccnv.org

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Thursday - Italian Night
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Friday - Fish Night
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Saturday - Steak and Chop Night
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Join us for the 5th event in our
Hot Topics Series 2008!

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Morton Sherman as the new Superintendent of the Alexandria City Public Schools.

Dr. Sherman will be talking to Chamber Members about his plans for the school system. Having received his doctorate in Educational Foundations from Lehigh University,

Sherman has extensive experience serving as superintendent in New Jersey and has spoken and written extensively on everything from children's mental health and student achievement to curriculum and staff development. He started in his new position on August 15th, 2008.



7:30-9:00 AM, Thursday, September 23rd at the Holiday Inn—Eisenhower Ave
Member price—\$25/person, Non-Member price—\$35/person
Non-Members welcome!

For more information, go online to www.alexchamber.com or contact Special Events Coordinator Ashby Williams at 703.739.3808 or events@alexchamber.com.



**Sept. 13-14, 10 am - 4pm
at Wolf Trap Foundation
for the Performing Arts**

- Featuring the Canadian percussionists ScrapArtsMusic with exciting rhythms, raw energy, and creative instruments
- See young musicians, dancers, and martial artists from China, Finland, Ghana, and Jordan
- Over 200 local performers on stages throughout the park with nonstop entertainment
- Hands-on arts activities – make arts & crafts from around the globe
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- Buy tickets online: \$12 adults, \$10 children and seniors, children 2 and under free, weekend passes available

www.internationalchildrensfestival.org

The Arts Council of Fairfax County presents the
International Children's Festival 2008



End Note

Film Festival

FROM PAGE 3

can't get anywhere else."

The Library sweetens the deal for attendees by giving out door prizes provided by Film Movement, from whom the films are purchased, and Lonely Planet Books.

Film Movement is a company that sends out foreign films, which were unable to reach an audience stateside to subscribers of their program. In the case of the Library program, the subscription is sponsored by the Duncan Friends of the Library Society and the film is donated to the library after it has been viewed at Fireflies.

Though the series has been a great success, those involved understand that it will never attract

the audience that some feel the films deserve.

"Not everyone who sees Dark Knight is going to come see some obscure French comedy," said Downing.

Still, for those interested in the foreign and the different, the library and Fireflies restaurant will continue at least through January to provide someplace for these films to be seen.

The next film in the series will show on Saturday, Aug. 30 at 9 p.m. The film featured will be "The Grocer's Son" (*Le Fils de l'epicier*) presented in French with English subtitles. The film is a "French box-office hit about the coming-of-age of a man rediscovering life and love in the countryside" according to the press release.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Freedom Walk. 9 a.m. at the Women's Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. Honor the victims of Sept. 11. Register online at www.americasupportsyou.mil.

Bridge Club. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Beginners and advanced players age 12 and up. Free. 703-765-3645.

MONDAY/SEPT. 8

Fall Crafts. 3:30 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 6-12 can enjoy after-school activities and crafts. Free. 703-971-0010.

Go, Dinos, Go. 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 24-35 months can enjoy stories and activities about dinosaurs. Free. 703-339-4610.

Monday Morning Discussion. 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Adults discuss "The Lexus and the Olive Tree" by Thomas Friedman. Free. 703-768-6700.

All Fairfax Reads. 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Uncommon Reader" by Alan Bennett. Free. 703-765-3645.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 9

What's New in Picture Books. 7 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Adults can learn about new books for preschoolers. Free. 703-971-0010.

Book Group. 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Call for title. Free. 703-768-6700.

WEDNESDAY/ SEPT. 10

Spend the Day exploring Surreybrooke. The Green Springs Garden will be spending the day exploring a historic family farm in Middletown Maryland. The day will include a guided tour through the gardens, lunch, and shopping. \$65/ adults, lunch is included. Call 703-642-5173 for information.

Restaurant Night. 5-9:30 p.m. at the Carlyle Club, 411 John Carlyle St. Proceeds will benefit the Alexandria Red Cross. Visit www.thecarlyleclub.com or 703-548-8899 for reservations.

Rising Words, Rising Images. 11 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. "The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano" by Margarita Engle. Children ages 9-12. Free. 703-765-3645.

THURSDAY/ SEPT. 11

Stroll and Tea. Take a relaxing stroll through the gardens and tea at The Historic House with The Green Spring Garden's Garden Stroll and Tea which will be at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. From 1 to 3 p.m. Individuals and Groups are welcome. \$12/ individuals. Form more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! 10:30 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-971-0010.

Music Together. 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children up to age 5 can enjoy music and movement. Free. 703-765-3645.

PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/
GAZETTE PACKET

ON THE COVER: A family enjoys one of the many miniature golf courses that are offered in the area.

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