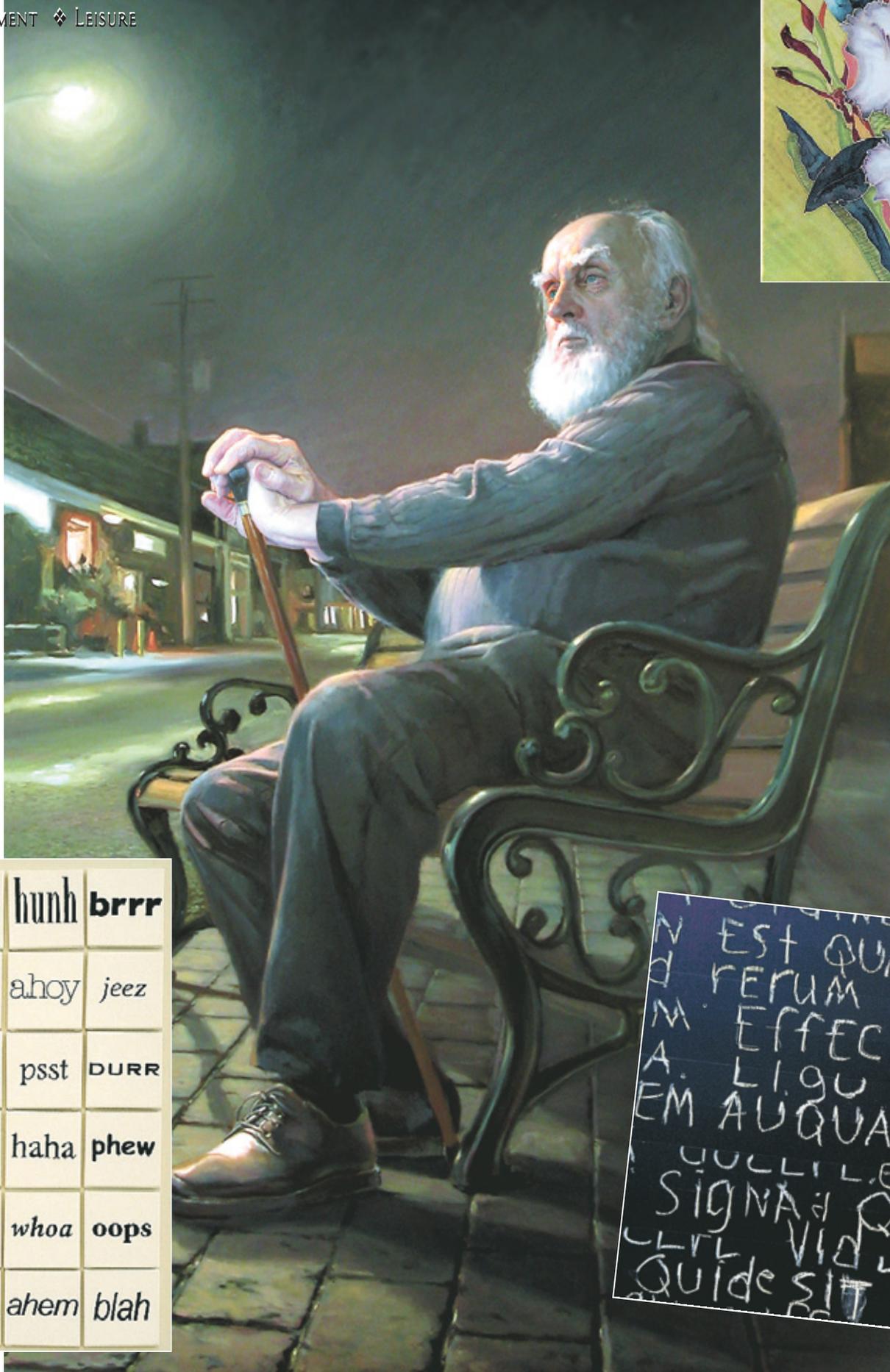


# E

ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE

# Beautiful Scenes

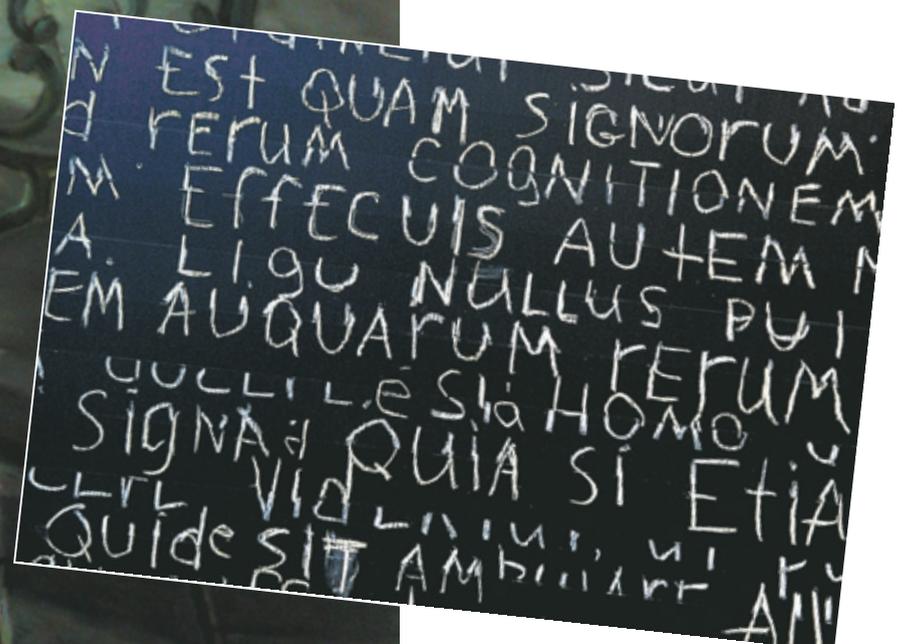
Alexandria  
Gazette Packet



Art is explored through different exhibits around town.

END NOTE, PAGE 8

egad	yeah	huhh	brrr
pfui	dang	ahoy	jeez
argh	yuck	psst	DURR
gosh	whee	haha	phew
drat	psft	whoa	oops
whew	ouch	ahem	blah



## ART FESTIVAL

# Arts Festival Returns

Torpedo Factory to highlight visual and performing arts.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**K**ing Street, from the river to Washington Street, will once again be transformed into an outdoor art exhibit when the sixth annual Festival of the Arts comes to Old Town on Saturday, Sept. 13, and Sunday, Sept. 14. Featuring the works of more than 200 juried artists, the festival showcases works in every medium.

Produced by Howard Alan Events, the show, which is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, features some of the nation's most talented artists displaying their original works that are all available for purchase. It has been rated as one of the top 100 art fairs nationally by Sunshine Artist magazine.

Complementing the open air exhibits, the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., will highlight both the works of their resident artists as well as creative demonstrations including pottery, painting, jewelry making and other hands-on activities plus performing arts on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

Entitled "Art Activated," visual arts will come alive at the Torpedo Factory with demonstrations in pottery on the wheel, painting, enameling, printmaking, and many other creative activities. Visitors will be invited to participate in the popular "Champagna Cork Chair Workshop," fiber art activities, and Alexandria Archeology Museum's history-inspired drawing activities.

From noon to 2 p.m. attendees can enjoy West African storytelling and flute performances by artists from the Smith Farm Center for Healing and the Arts. A non-profit organization, it provides healing resources and support for adults living with cancer.

The award-winning BosmaDance will perform art-inspired dance vignettes in various artists' studio beginning at 2 p.m. Their

grand finale performance, "Bright Pink Vessel," a 30-minute interpretive dance-theater presentation inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's philosophy of art and life, looks at how we relate to our own bodies.

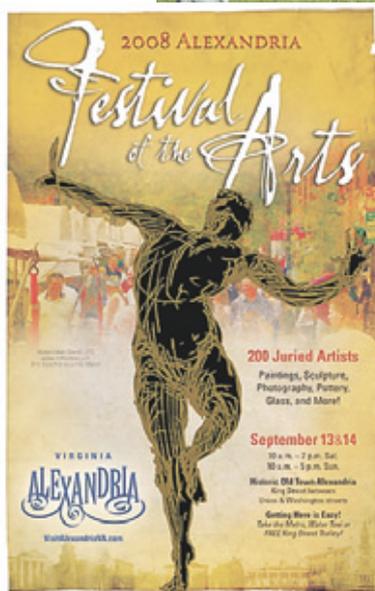
"We are once again excited to welcome the popular Alexandria Festival of the Arts to our City and invite visitors to experience our own Torpedo Factory Art Center. This annual festival weekend brings with it the opportunity for visitors to become introduced or reacquainted with Alexandria," said Stephanie Brown, president and CEO, Alexandria Convention and Visitors Association.

**MORE THAN \$15 million** in paintings, life-size sculptures, handcrafted jewelry, photography, ceramics, and other artistic mediums will be exhibited under the white canopied tents stretching the length of lower King Street. Exhibiting artists were selected from hundreds of submissions by an independent panel of judges.

Again this year, Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St., will make its courtyard



PHOTOS COURTESY



"Children in the Church" will be held during the festival at Christ Church, 118 N. Washington St. On left is the flyer from the festival.

available for a family-friendly respite during festival hours. "Children in the Courtyard" will feature a variety of activities including a moon bounce, face painting and bread stringing. It will operate from noon to 4 p.m. both days with a free lunch available.

The King Street Trolley will operate on a modified route during the festival. It will travel east on King Street from the King Street Metro Station to Washington Street. There is will make a left and stop to allow

passengers to disembark. It will then make a left onto Cameron Street and return to King Street, heading west back to the King Street Metro Station. After the festival closes Saturday evening the entertainment continues at Market Square. The popular Al Williams will give a concert of contemporary pop and jazz from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The entire weekend of events is free. For

additional information visit the following Web sites: [www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com); [www.artfestival.com](http://www.artfestival.com); [www.torpedofactory.org/art\\_activated.htm](http://www.torpedofactory.org/art_activated.htm).

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET

**ON THE COVER: "Present Stranger" by Edward Reed at Art League, photo from the exhibit at River Farm, and two photos from "TXT MSG" at the Athenaeum.**

**E** Staff

**Editor:** Rebecca Halik  
**Photo Editor:** Louise Krafft  
**Staff Writers:** Michael Lee Pope, Chuck Hagee, Rebecca Halik, David Schultz, Brad Hathaway, Mary Anne Weber

## Yoga in the Garden



Friday, September 19, 2008, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Friday, September 26, 2008, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Friday, October 3, 2008, 10 - 11 a.m.  
Friday, October 10, 2008, 10 - 11 a.m.

Lee-Fendall House Museum  
614 Oronoco St., Alexandria, Virginia

Classes will be appropriate for all skill levels. Walk-ins are welcome, but class is limited. Attend just one or come to all four! Please bring your own yoga mat.

**Admission: \$15 per class**

Reservations are not required.

Call 703-548-1789 or visit our websites  
at [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org) or

[www.yogaindailylifeus.org](http://www.yogaindailylifeus.org) for further information.



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# Attack of the Killer Tomatoes

Neighborhood Restaurant Group keeps farm-to-table tradition alive.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

September tomatoes are a luscious heirloom commodity. They are like archeological packages, offering to unlock the secrets of humid sunny afternoons and violent summertime thunderstorms. Slice them with grilled cheese and basil or dice them with cilantro into a salsa. Pour salt over a fresh one and eat it like an apple. However you enjoy them, tomatoes are the official fruit of summer in the Chesapeake Bay region.

"I consider tomatoes to be like palate cleanser, one of those foods that can instantly change your mood," said Will Artley, executive chef at Evening Star Café. "But each tomato is different. Nothing beats a really nice tomato salad on a hot summer day."

To celebrate the joy of tomatoes, the Neighborhood Restaurant Group and FreshFarm Markets will be hosting a tomato-themed farm dinner on Sept. 10 at the Evening Star Café on Mount Vernon Avenue in Del Ray. It will be the third "farm-to-table" culinary event held by the organization, which promotes the enjoyment of locally grown produce. The dinner, which is 7 p.m. on Sept. 10, costs



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**No two tomatoes are alike, as demonstrated.**

\$75 per person and includes wine pairings for each course.

**"You know an orange is going to taste like an orange and a zucchini is going to taste like a zucchini. But each tomato is different. There's not one like another."**

— Will Artley, executive chef of Evening Star Café

"You're going to see both the creativity from chefs and the raw produce from farmers," said Bernadine Prince, a co-founder of the Dupont Circle non-profit organization known as FreshFarm Markets. "It's a delicious way to showcase what's going on with the food movement in the Chesapeake Bay Region."

**CHEF ARTLEY** has crafted a five-course meal that will be

crafted around farm fresh tomatoes and

local products provided by Three Way Farm, Eight Acres Farm, Smith Meadows Farm and Dragon Creek Aqua Farm. Highlights include tomato salad with arugula pesto and garlic chips, seared sea scallop with tomato carpaccio, grilled beef tenderloin with tomato and blue cheese gnocchi and sweet heirloom tomato tart with basil ice-cream.

"You know an orange is going to taste like an orange and a zucchini is going to taste like a zucchini," said Artley. "But each tomato is different. There's not one like another."

Farm dinners act as a sort of dating service, in which consumers are introduced to producers in a way that might create a fruitful long-term relationship. The tomato dinner, which is the third in a series, will feature presentations from local farmers about their seasonal products, the area's growing conditions and the skills needed to grow flavorful produce. The fourth dinner has been scheduled at Arlington's Tallula res-

## When & Where

The Neighborhood Restaurant Group and FreshFarm Markets will host a tomato-themed dinner on Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 7 p.m. at Evening Star Café, 2000 Mount Vernon Ave. The dinner is \$75 per person and includes wine pairings for each course. For more information, call 703-549-5051 or visit [freshfarmmarkets.org](http://freshfarmmarkets.org).

taurant for January 2009.

"The last few dinners we've done have been loosely themed on farmers and farms, so this is the only event that we have done that has been precisely thematic," said Chris Mullins, director of marketing for the Neighborhood Restaurant Group, which operates Evening Star Café, Tallula, EatBar, Vermilion, Buzz and Rustico. "But the timing was right with tomatoes, so it was sort of a no-brainer."

# Luau For Hope **Manu Ikaika talks about the upcoming fundraiser for an Alexandria church.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

A native of Honolulu, Hawaii, Manu Ikaika (aka Manulele) is a composer and choreographer of Hawaiian music and dance, an artisan of Hawaiian crafts and an accomplished musician. He will be leading a charity luau for Hope United Church of Christ on Saturday, Sept. 13, from 4 to 9 p.m. Advance purchase tickets are \$35 for adults; \$20 for children 6 to 12. Children age five and under are free. Tickets are \$40 for adults and \$25 for children the day of the event. For more information, call 703-960-8772.

**Tell me about your upcoming luau.**

It's a fundraiser for Hope United Church of Christ in Alexandria. Hawaiian culture has been here for over 25 years, so the church is quite familiar with Hawaiian culture. The caterer is from Hawaii, and she does quite a bit of Hawaiian catering in the area for the Smithsonian and congressional committees.

**If people come to the luau, what kind of things can they expect to see?**

We'll have lots of different children's activities as well as arts and crafts. In the

evening, we'll be putting on a traditional Hawaiian performance. It's more or less a Hawaiian Polynesian performance. Before the performance starts we'll have a traditional Hawaiian Imu ceremony where the pig is cooked underground. We'll retrieve the pig from the ground and people can see how pig was cooked in the ancient days.

**How did you get into this line of work?**

At the age of 3, when I was young, I went to luau with my dad and got interested in what I saw. I've been doing this ever since.

SEE LUAU, PAGE 7



**Manu Ikaika (aka Manulele)**

Part of the Alexandria Festival of the Arts

# Art Activated

Sat., Sept. 13 ~ 12-4pm

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-BosmaDance Performances

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# CALENDAR

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.

## 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.

**Children's Chorus** will hold auditions for the 2008-2009 season of the Alexandria Choral Society Children's Chorus on Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 6-9 p.m. at Good News Baptist Church, 5940 Telegraph Road and Thursday, Sept. 11 from 4-8 p.m. at Glebe Elementary School, 1770 N. Glebe Road. All dates by appointment. For details and/or to schedule an audition appointment, call 703-548-4734 or Kevin@AlexChoralSociety.org.

Auditions for Old Town Alexandria's auditioned community choir, **Ars Choralis**, Douglas A. Beck, Music Director, run through Sept. 15. Rehearsals begin on Sept. 9 and run on consecutive Tuesday evenings, 7:45-9:45 p.m. through the Nov. 1 concert. Ars Choralis rehearses and performs at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt St. Contact Douglas Beck at 703-549-3312 or douglas@stpaulsepis.com.

## 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.

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.

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 703-838-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

## 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 Millenium 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 Millenium 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.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. For children 2 and under. Free. Enjoy stories and songs. 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

## SATURDAY/ SEPT. 6

**A Lesson on Gardening.** The Green 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 2-3:30 p.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.

**Punt, Pass and Kick Competition.** 10 a.m.-noon at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Children and adults are able to enter. \$3/person benefits Fort Hunt Football. For a registration form, e-mail kstersun@yahoo.com.

**Grandparents' Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. For children 2 and under. Free. Enjoy stories and songs with your grandparents. 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 7

**Music Performance.** Violists Tsuna Sakamoto and Eric DeWaardt 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 rabbies vaccination. Visit www.nvrpa.org for more.

**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.

**Rally Day.** After the 10:15 a.m. service at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road. Enjoy games, treasure hunts, music, parades and more. Free. Visit stjamesmv.org or 703-780-3081.

## 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, Dinosaurs, Go.** 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 2-5 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.the Carlyleclub.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.



There will be a model soldier show on Saturday, Sept. 13 at NoVa Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike from 9 a.m.-5 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.

**Opening Reception.** 6-8 p.m., see "Aftermath" at Target Gallery in the

Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. through Oct. 12. Art describes the effects that traumatic events that disasters had on the artists. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

**Second Thursday Art Night.** 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Enjoy talks, receptions and more. Free. 703-838-4565 or visit www.torpedofactory.org.

## FRIDAY/ SEPT. 12

**Ornamental Grasses.** Learn about Ornamental Grasses with The Green Springs Garden located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. The event, Basic Gardening Series: Introduction to Ornamental Grasses, will show gardeners how to select, plant, and maintain the best ornamental grasses available. \$12/ adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Latin American Harp Festival.** 7:30 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent St. Hear harpists from Venezuela, Colombia and Paraguay. \$30/adult; \$25/student/senior. Visit www.teatrodelaaluna.org or 703-548-3092.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. The United States Air Force Concert band will perform a free concert. Visit www.usafband.af.mil or 202-767-5658.

**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.

**Chickens, Ducks and Geese.** 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories, activities and more. Free. 703-768-6700.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. For children 2 and under. Free. Enjoy stories and songs. 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

## SATURDAY/ SEPT. 13

**Workshop.** Learn to Garden with Perennials and woody plants at Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. \$18/ adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Garden Treasure.** The Green Spring Garden, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having Propagation Series Part 2: Saving Your Treasure - Tender Perennials from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. You will learn simple and successful propagation techniques from horticulturist, Nancy Olney. \$ 22/ adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Yard Sale.** The Alexandria Jaycees will hold a yard sale from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Anthony T. Lane Elementary School, 7137 Beulah St. Free. Browse a variety of items. Vendors may register online at www.alexjaycees.org/yardsales.htm. For updated rain date information call 703-866-7171.

**Gardening Workshop.** The Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having Workshop: Casting Concrete Leaves from 1 to 3 p.m. with local artist Judy Murrett who will demonstrate the proper steps to

making good leaf castings and assists participants in taking one home. \$ 50/ adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Opening Reception.** 1-3 p.m. see "Ahl! THAT Jack and Jill! Parents Empowering African-American Children" at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. from Sept. 13 through Nov. 15. Visit www.alexblackhistory.org or 703-838-4356.

**Alexandria Festival of the Arts.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on King Street. Browse through local and national artists, featuring sculptures, earrings, paintings and more. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com.

**18th Century Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. See chocolate making, entertainment, music and more. \$13/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

**Art Activated.** Torpedo Factory artist James Dean will talk about his experience as the founding director of the NASA Art Program at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union St. Visit www.torpedofactory.org for more.

**Latin American Harp Festival.** 7:30 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum, 1611 N. Kent St. Hear harpists from Venezuela, Colombia and Paraguay. \$30/adult; \$25/student/senior. Visit www.teatrodelaaluna.org or 703-548-3092.

**Author Discussion.** 5:30 p.m. at Christ Episcopal Church, 118 N. Washington St. Meet Debby Applegate, author of "The Most Famous Man in America," a book that won the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. \$20/person.

**Puppetopia Presents.** 11 a.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. All ages can enjoy "You Can Do It." Free. 703-971-0010.

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Creekside

Village Apartments, 7986 Janna Lee Ave. Free. 703-780-9001.

**Hawaiian Luau.** 4-9 p.m. at Hope United Church of Christ, 630 Old Telegraph Road. Features music, food and entertainment. \$35/adult; \$20/ child in advance or \$40; \$25 the day of the event. Visit www.hopeucc.org or 703-960-8772.

**Sweets Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. For children 2 and under. Free. Enjoy stories about everything sweet. 703-548-4092 or visit www.hooray4books.com.

**Model Soldier Show.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at NoVa Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Browse through model soldiers by U.S. and international artists. \$7/adult, children under 12 free. 703-938-6361.

## SUNDAY/ SEPT. 14

**Garden Help.** The Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn methods on how to freeze your garden harvest and which fruits and vegetables you can freeze while enjoying tea. To register call 703-642-5173.

**Alexandria Festival of the Arts.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on King Street. Browse through local and national artists, featuring sculptures, earrings, paintings and more. Free. Visit www.artfestival.com.

**18th Century Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mount Vernon Estate. See chocolate making, entertainment, music and more. \$13/adult; \$6/child. Visit www.mountvernon.org or 703-780-2000.

**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 for more.

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## LITERATURE

# Thriller Ends In Noose

**A local lawyer's first novel centers on the trial and execution of Saddam Hussein.**

BY DAVID SCHULTZ  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he tumultuous trial and chaotic execution of Saddam Hussein were so surreal that, at times, they seemed to be chapters straight out of a novel.

So it should come as no surprise that Chris Leibig, an attorney with an Alexandria-based law firm, has written a new legal thriller set in Hussein's murky final days.

Leibig's novel, "Saving Saddam," follows the life of Malcolm X Heinlein, a public defender in his mid-30's who is chosen to represent one of Hussein's former body doubles.

Heinlein meets with Ayesha Qaddafi, the lawyer and daughter of Libyan dictator Muammar Qaddafi who was to have represented Hussein, and uncovers a political controversy that eventually leads him to risk his own life for his client.

Leibig, who lives in Arlington and was a former public defender in Arlington County, spoke in an interview about how he came up with the idea for the book and how the writing of the book influenced his opinion of the former Iraqi dictator.

**Why Saddam? What was your fascination with him?**

I'm always looking for some idea that might be interesting to people for a novel. But what I first noticed about it was that I thought was fascinating when I heard that Ayesha Qaddafi was going to be one of his lawyers, which ended up not happening. So I just started practicing writing a story about that because I thought that was just totally bizarre. Then after that I turned it into something else. That was the first thing where I thought that this trial in Baghdad is going to be something completely strange. Although in the end, it really hardly got any attention at all.

**Has your opinion of the whole series of events surrounding his trial changed as a result of writing this book?**

No. It's just a novel so everything in it is made up. I learned more about it from writing it but my opinion probably would have been the same. I have no major opinion on it. Obviously, he was guilty of atrocities and deserved to be punished. Nothing about the book calls that into doubt. It was just a topic that seemed like it could make an interesting current events novel.

**Are you concerned that people might see the book and take the title – "Saving Saddam" – as meaning that you're sympathetic towards him?**

If you read it you can see that it's not. But somebody might think that by reading the title.

**What is the overall message of your book? What does your book say about U.S.**

**involvement in Iraq?**

I'd say there's not really an overriding message. It's really a legal thriller about a trial that happens to be that trial. There's not a political message in it. I just hope people would think it was interesting.

**When did you get the idea to write this book?**

I've been trying to write books for a while. I thought of the idea in 2006 when the Saddam Hussein trial was going on and it was starting to get really strange ... I just started working on it and then I got busy with work so I abandoned it for six months or more. When the trial ended and they had that whole video with the hanging that was so bizarre, an editor that was helping me suggested that I pick it up again. So I spent a month trying to crank it out and finished it in March of 2007.

**How long did it take you to write the book, overall?**

It probably took me three months when I first started it. Then I stopped and picked it up again and then probably another two months.

**Had you ever written a book before?**

I'd written a novel before but nothing every happened with it. I still have it. I wrote it in 2004.

**What was the topic of your first book?**

The topic of the first book is about a group of kids who get in trouble and get put on trial for murder when they're in high school. One of the kids winds up being a lawyer and has to do a case in the exact same courtroom where he had previously been on trial.

**How much of ["Saving Saddam"] is autobiographical? How much of Malcolm X Heinlein is based on you?**

Really, it's not based on me. To be honest, I was a public defender once. So you take some knowledge from that. Anybody that's trying to write one of their first novels, it's

hard not to make it about the topic you know about. But the character is not me.

**In the opening chapter of the book, Heinlein engages in some questionable legal practices [during a sentencing] where he tries to introduce polygraph evidence into a trial. Is this something you've seen someone else do? Is this something you've done?**

I've never done that. It's something that comes up occasionally but that's just made up. The idea of having a sentencing hearing where you don't have much to argue really happens. But that little incident is made up.

**How much of your experience as a public defender informs your writing?**

The two novels I've tried to write, and I'm working on another one, all involve that sort of thing. So probably a lot.

**Do you ever watch any of those legal shows on TV? Do you think they're accurate? I'm thinking Law & Order or something like that.**

I don't watch that many of them but they're all really well done. Some of the scenarios are pretty realistic. But really they're just for fun.

**Yeah. They can sort of stretch situations sometimes.**

Of course. Just like the novel.

**"I thought that this trial in Baghdad is going to be something completely strange."**

— Chris Leibig

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Members perform a traditional hula dance.

# Hawaiian Luau

FROM PAGE 3

## What do you like about it?

I like the stories that the dances tell. It's about how people receive it when they see the performances. It's the telling of the stories and the smiles you see — the happy feeling, you know? I guess I would say more or less the expression of *aloha*.

## How long have you been doing this in Alexandria?

Since 1986. There is a large group of Hawaiian and Polynesian people who live on the East Coast. As a matter of a fact, we'll be performing later this

month in Maryland. So we stay busy.

## What kind of dances can people expect to see at the luau?

They are going to see ancient Hawaiian dances. Those are the dances that were before the missionaries came to Hawaii, and they are done without any musical instruments other than a gourd for keeping the rhythm and Hawaiian chants to tell the story. It'll be narrated so the audience will understand what's happening. Then we'll move into the more modern hula that people are more familiar with today. And, of course, we'll have lots of audience participation.

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# Creativity Explored



Detail from The sign with supplements in French.

tire	page	tare	mint	<b>lark</b>	pawn	chap	<b>bolt</b>
peep	mete	bass	<i>sake</i>	rape	case	<b>spit</b>	pass
mean	<i>pack</i>	calf	<i>vamp</i>	<i>bond</i>	<i>pall</i>	<b>bark</b>	mule
cane	<b>rook</b>	<i>PATE</i>	<i>mill</i>	char	sage	hide	<i>cake</i>
perk	<b>size</b>	mole	hash	<b>lead</b>	<i>slip</i>	<i>chop</i>	lean
<i>mull</i>	clip	band	<b>left</b>	<i>bash</i>	chit	peck	HAIL
beam	<b>SASH</b>	<i>gall</i>	moon	BEAN	<i>mold</i>	<b>keel</b>	boil
palm	<i>lock</i>	felt	<b>book</b>	raft	pool	FONT	camp

**Homonyms same-name by John James Anderson**

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/ GAZETTE PACKET



Flower paintings are by Jamie Kirkell

**A**rt is on display around Alexandria throughout the year. See art by Edward Reed at The Art League Gallery from Sept. 5 through Oct. 6; "TXT MSG: Four Letter Words by John James Anderson" at The Athenaeum through Sept. 21 and orchids and irises on silk by Jamie Kirkell at River Farm through beginning of January 2009.



"Failing Light" by Edward J. Reed

