



ARTS ♦ ENTERTAINMENT ♦ LEISURE



The offices of Adams and Associates are home to a beaten biscuit machine and other historical items.

TOURS, PAGE 3

# The Way We Once Lived

## HISTORY

# Working Backwards

Genealogist to explain how she is uncovering the secrets of the Freedman's Cemetery.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A** native of Alexandria, Char McCargo Bah is a genealogist who is conducting genealogical research for the city of Alexandria on the Freedman's Cemetery. She has lectured throughout the East Coast, and she belongs to more than a dozen genealogical and historical societies. On Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., she will deliver a special lecture about how she traced descendants of people buried at Freedmen's Cemetery. The lecture, which will take place at the Alexandria Black History Museum, is free and open to all.

### What kinds of topics will be addressed in your lecture?

It's going to be based on my research on the Freedman's Cemetery. I've been able to locate about 22 families that connect to the cemetery. Because I was born and raised in Alexandria, I've been able to connect to some of the African-American organizations like the Parker Gray alumni, which goes back to 1963 and the time of segregation. So there are still quite a few of those who are still living. Then I went to several churches and found the oldest member and talked to them. I also went to the Elks to find out who might still be around who might have information. I have a list of people who are actually buried at the cemetery, which is close to 1,700 to 1,800 deceased people who are buried there. So when I talked to people I would ask them if they knew anybody with the last name Bell or Drayton. If they did, I would ask if they were able to give me any contact information. Then I would research back to see if it

connected to the cemetery.

### What kinds of challenges does this kind of work present?

Mostly in genealogy you take the present and work backward. With this project I'm taking someone who died in the 1860s and trying to locate their descendants. So I'm really working backwards to forwards, which is very different from how most genealogists work. Another challenge is that many of the descendants may not know a whole lot about their family. So I have to use a lot of primary resources like marriage licenses and statistical records to be able to confirm who the descendants are. Sometimes I may not be able to find that document that says they are. But if they have a surname that is unusual, chances are that they are related to someone who was buried at the cemetery.

### What kinds of tactics have been successful for you during this project?

I've been focusing mostly on unusual names. People with last names like Jackson or Johnson would be more challenging because they are so common. But I've had much more luck with the unusual names like Shanklin and Ware and Wanzer. Those are unusual names, and so when you find one you can be pretty sure you've got the right family. We have a great number of African Americans coming in from other parts of Virginia, and I've seen a lot of people from Stafford and Fredericksburg. So for each of the families I've been able to locate, I've been able to give them much more information about their own family than they knew before. Many of them have been very appreciative of that.



Char McCargo Bah

### What do you do when you reach a dead end?

In normal genealogy, you know you are going to eventually have a dead end when you've gone back as far as you can. But I have a specific date I'm working with because the cemetery was open from 1863 to 1868. In the world of genealogy, that's a very small amount of time and it's not considered very old. In some cases I have found people who are a fourth-generation descendant. So that's not really a long time ago when you look at it that way.

### What have you learned about the people who were buried there?

You might assume that because this was during the Civil War that most of these people would be slaves, but at least one of the people I've researched who was buried

here was not a former slave, possibly two. We are talking about the Lumpkins and the Beckhams. They were free prior to the Civil War. One would assume that you would have people flooding in during the war that many of them would have been runaway slaves. But some of them were not. So you can't assume that everybody in the cemetery was a former slave.

### Is this an ongoing project?

Yes, and I just started this in April. And there are 1,700 to 1,800 people buried there. I would love to try to do them all. But that would depend on the city and how they would want to handle that. So far, they've been very pleased with what I've been able to provide to them.

### What's the goal of the project?

My purpose is to locate descendants, and that's what I've focused on. We want to make them a part of the memorial, which is going to be unveiled in 2010 or 2011.

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

I have a passion for it, and it doesn't really seem like work to me. I've been doing this for 27 years, and I started by doing my own family. That led to me doing other people's genealogy. So I've been helping others since 1990. The lecture that I'm going to give at the Black History Museum is going to focus on the people I've discovered, but I'm also going to be explaining to people how I tackled this assignment. So people can use these same techniques if they want to research their own families. One thing I'm trying to show is how I was able to use the community to flesh out the descendants.

# Local Artist Makes Big Screen Debut

## Eric Margry's jewelry appears in new Coen brothers film.

ALISSA FIGUEROA  
GAZETTE PACKET

**F**or the past two decades jeweler Eric Margry has created hand engraved pieces from his Torpedo Factory studio. He crafted a custom ring for Tilda Swinton's character in the Coen brothers comedy, "Burn After Reading," which came out Sept. 12. Margry spoke about his unique style, working with the Coens and life in Alexandria.

### Could you tell us about the kind of work you produce?

The work I produce includes all types of wearable jewelry. The two forms I specialize in are engagement and wedding rings sets made specifically for a couple and fam-

ily crest rings. I am trained in the traditional methods of creating a family crest ring, which were developed in the Middle Ages. I use the same techniques that were used then to make this ancestral heirloom.

### What inspired you to start working in this medium and style?

I have been making jewelry since I was 14 years old. This inspired me to go to school to learn more. I studied in Holland, my homeland, where they have a school just for jewelry techniques and hand engraving was one course of study.

### What materials and techniques do you use?

I work in gold, silver, platinum, palladium, titanium, brass, copper and rubber. I

hand form jewelry from sheet and wire. I also carve wax for lost wax casting. I do flush set stones and other hand made settings for engagement rings. Hand Engraving is my special skill. This is a craft that not many people in America practice. I used a sharpened piece of steel to carve patterns directly into precious metal.

### Are there any other jewelers or artists working in precious metals that you particularly admire?

I have an affinity for other jewelers working in the Netherlands such as Gijs Baker and Ruudt Peters.

### How did you get connected to the Coen brothers?

The wardrobe designer was looking for a Family Crest Ring for Tilda Swinton to wear. They wanted one made by authentic tech



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

### The ring that Eric created.

PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET

**ON THE COVER: Bud Adams works in his office.**

## E Staff

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## TOURS

# Homes Tour: A Walk Through The Past

**Artisan Show adds to the day's adventure.**

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Anyone taking this year's Historic Alexandria Homes Tour, is in for a most unusual visit — one that will give them the opportunity to witness historic preservation as a concept practiced in a reality. Before Robert Bentley Adams & Associates took possession of 405 S. Washington St., 17 years ago, it once served an occupying Union Army as an annex to the nearby hospital caring for Civil War casualties.

This year's tour is scheduled for Sept. 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be seven locations open for this 67th annual event sponsored by the Junior Auxiliary of Inova Alexandria Hospital known as The TWIG, an acronym that isn't.

Open for inspection and enjoyment will be some of Alexandria's most beautiful and historic houses filled with antiques and artifacts, as well as two studios and the offices of Adams and Associates, one of Alexandria's leading architectural and interior design firms specializing in historic preservation. Constructed just before the Civil War, this 19th century home turned office complex was a private residence until 1992 when noted Alexandria architect Bud Adams purchased and renovated it to become the home of his firm.

"My offices and the neighboring studios retain the feel of a colonial home.

However, in order to convert it from a private home to an office it needed a lot of work since it is 150 plus years old. We had to meet all the office code requirements," Adams said.

"In making the renovations we tried to invoke the type of architectural work we do for our clients," he said. Not only is the building itself a step back into the past, but so also are many of its furnishings, which include an array of early American antiques intermingled with Adams' own interests and educational background.

A graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Arts, specializing in history and fine arts, Adams received his Master of Architecture from North Carolina State University. Prior to establishing his own firm, this life-long Washington area resident worked 10 years for the award winning architectural firm of Arthur Cotton Moore & Associates in Washington, DC.

There he focused on historic preservation projects, federal institutional and residential design that included the Library of Congress, the U.S. Treasury's Main Building, the Old Post Office Building, Foxhall Crescent and the Washington Harbour Condominiums.

His work also included the master plan for the renovation of the Old Executive Office Building as well as modifications to the U.S. State Department and the Pentagon.

This personal bridge between various eras of American history is reflected in his offices, which retain the character of a private home, furnished with family heirlooms, and the practice of architectural historic preservation. Many of the furnishings have

been adapted to office functions such as the 18th century architect's desk with its ratchet mechanism, to adjust the drawing surface, and its sturdy handles, enabling it to be transported to building sites.

In juxtaposition to that is the glass desktop in his office that was once used in a government agency lab to study the first moon rocks. That top is supported by two 19th-century sewing machine bases.

His personal office is located in the home's original 1850's kitchen with furnishings that reflect his interest in industrial and mechanical objects. The small computer table is



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/GAZETTE PACKET

**Eclectic art adds color and the 20th century to the Victorian home of 227 S. Pitt St.**



**The master bedroom at 100 Prince St.**



**A view from the garden through a new gazebo at the Holland House at 415 Wolfe St.**

a "beaten biscuit machine" — a mechanism for the preparation of a southern delicacy.

**THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY** drafting table is similar to the student desk Adams first used in his mechanical drawing class. It is complemented by 19th century lighting standards framed behind his desk. Kitchen cabinets now serve as storage areas for architectural plans and drawings.

To the right of the home's entrance hall is the parlor which serves as the firm's reception area furnished with a 17th century English architect's desk. Further down

the hall is a drafting studio containing a sofa from the Shenandoah Valley with large wooden arms concealing secret compartments.

These hideaways were used by its owners to stash the family silver during the Civil War to prevent it being pillaged by marauding soldiers. The jib door in the corner leads to the basement.

The dining room functions as the book-keeping and landscape design office, while the upstairs bedrooms serve as additional design studios. Historic architectural prints grace the walls. A framed Alexandria map pin points each of the firm's Old Town projects.

Leaving the house through the French doors, visitors will step into the tranquil, green garden planted with cherry trees, boxwood and dwarf red cutleaf Japanese maples. Here the focal point is the sculpture "Herm" by local artist Michael Curtis. There are also four Kismos chairs of early Greek design noted for their timeless form and comfort.

Explaining why he chose this historic home for his office, Adams matter-of-factly says, "I wanted something close to my home on South Fairfax Street. And, as it turned

SEE HOUSE, PAGE 10

# MUSIC

## Ensemble Adds Musical Twist

Eco Voce Celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special performance.

**D**enise Freeland is founder, artistic director and vocalist for Eco Voce, an Alexandria-based ensemble that combines environmentalism with its music. As the trio celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Freeland reflected on the group's accomplishments and its goals for the years to come. For more information visit [www.ecovoce.org](http://www.ecovoce.org).

### Introduce Eco Voce and its members.

EcoVoce is a trio of musicians with a passion for music and ecology. The ensemble of soprano, flute, and piano is acclaimed at home and internationally for its innovative vocal concerts combining the theme of nature with music, woven together with creative commentary about the environment. The "Eco" part of our name comes from the word ecology and the "Voce" part is the Italian word for voice. Our name reflects a commitment to serving as a musical voice for ecology. EcoVoce performers include flutist, Susan Hayes; pianist Narciso Solero; and I sing soprano. We are all professional musicians.

### How would you describe your music and message?

EcoVoce's specialty is classical music with a nature theme. We are known for performing new and mostly American music. We choose pieces that are first very beautiful but also communicate an ecological message through the lyrics. Audiences of all ages can rediscover the wonders of nature through our concert programs. In addition to our concert programs for all audiences, we also offer outreach concerts for schools and nature centers, which include hands-on participation to help strengthen students' understanding of our natural environment.

### How did you begin working on this project? What continues to inspire you?

EcoVoce was created in 1998 out of a passion for music and its ability to stir the human heart along



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED  
**Founder and artistic director Denise Freeland**

with respect and love for the natural world around us that was being compromised. As musicians, we believed that the power of music could help raise environmental awareness in an uplifting way, inspiring new attitudes about nature. Our tenth anniversary theme throughout 2008 is "Another Way to Be."

The idea here is that there is another way to look at the natural world around us and to live more in balance with nature. We hope our music and concert experience takes audiences beyond ecological awareness to that of being good stewards of our planet.

### Where and When

Eco Voce performs its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, "Another Way To Be," on Sunday Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. at The Lyceum in Alexandria. The event is sponsored by the Alexandria Performing Arts Association and is free of charge.

### Are there other similar groups out there right now?

EcoVoce's music is unique. Some pieces are composed by local composers just for EcoVoce. We offer beautiful music you won't hear elsewhere. And as far as I know, there is no other musical ensemble combining music and nature.

### What venues and events has Eco Voce played?

EcoVoce has performed in diverse venues from concert halls such as George Washington University and the Chautauqua Institution (N.Y.) to the Ford Nature Center (Alexandria) and area schools.

### What is your most memorable moment with the group?

EcoVoce was honored to perform a concert at the 2007 International Assisi Music Festival in Assisi, Italy. It was a wonderful venue for an international audience to hear some new American musical works performed within the global theme of nature.

—ALISSA FIGUEROA

## CALENDAR

E-mail any items to the Gazette at [gazette@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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

**The Metropolitan Youth Tap Ensemble (MYTE)** will hold auditions for the 2008-2009 season on Sunday, Sept. 21, from 12:30 to 3 p.m., at Metropolitan Fine Arts Center, 6450 Landsdowne Centre. This audition is for intermediate/advanced tap dancers, ages 10-17. For more information and to register e-mail [metroyouthtap@gmail.com](mailto:metroyouthtap@gmail.com) or call 703-339-0444.

**Studio Gold Dance** is seeking dancers to form a new non-profit Youth Company. Auditions will be held on Monday, Sept. 22, from 3:15-4:15 p.m. at Gold's Gym Studio 2 in Alexandria. To audition or for further information, contact Dawn Meadows, Director, at 703-627-4570 or [studiogolddance@starpower.net](mailto:studiogolddance@starpower.net).

### THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

**Just Twos.** 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 24-35 months can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-768-6700.

**Poetry Group.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Poems by Gwendolyn Brooks. Free. 703-768-6700.

**President Lecture.** Alexandrian Dr. David M. Abshire, President of the Center for the Study of the Presidency, will discuss his seventh book, "A Call to Greatness: Challenging Our Next President." 7:30 p.m. at the Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Free. No reservations needed. Information at [www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org) or 703-683-2636.

**Author Reading.** 7 p.m. at Hooray for Books, 1555 King St. All ages can meet Graeme Base. Free. [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Author Signing.** 7 p.m. at the home of Bryan and Sandy Bourne. Craig Shirley will talk about his book. \$20/person or \$30/couple. Includes one book. E-mail [info@mvrw.org](mailto:info@mvrw.org) for reservations.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

**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.

**S is for September.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy alphabet fun and

stories. Free. 703-765-3645.  
**Opening Reception.** 6:30-9 p.m., see "Trompe L'oeil" at Principle Gallery, 208 King St. Features works by Jorge Alberto and more. Visit [www.principlegallery.com](http://www.principlegallery.com) or 703-739-9326.

**Family Pasta Party and Dinner.** 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Enjoy dancing and music from 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$12/adult; \$7/child. Proceeds benefit West Potomac High School Crew.

### SATURDAY/ SEPT 20

**Tea Party.** The Green Spring Gardens will be having a Tea-Tasting Party from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Participants will taste various black teas and discover the nuances of taste while learning flavors, strengths, and provenance of each. \$20/ individual tasting. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**A Night of Fun.** The American Horticultural Society is holding their 2008 annual Gala at River Farm. The event, will include a night of casual dining, special entertainment, and a vintage couture auction. \$ 145/ members and \$185 / non-members. For more information call 703-768-5700 ext. 114.

**Fete at the Fort.** 6-8:30 p.m. at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road. Enjoy music, ceremonies and more. Free. 703-838-4848 for reservations.

**Food Festival.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Landmark Plaza, Beauregard Street and Little River Turnpike. Sample cuisine from China, Egypt, Italy and more, while enjoying music, activities and more. Free.

**Odyssey 2008.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at NoVa Alexandria Campus, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Learn about alternative fuel transportation. Free. 703-323-2357.

**Harambee Readers.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss "The Other Side of Womanhood" by Charnika Hayes. Free. 703-765-3645.

**Doggie Massage Class,** 1-2:30 p.m. at Tails of Olde Towne, 1509-B Leslie Ave. Bring your pooch and spend quality time learning basic massage techniques to keep him in top shape. To register call 703-768-0500 or visit [www.tailsofoldetowne.com](http://www.tailsofoldetowne.com) for more info. The cost of the class is \$45 per owner/dog pair.

**Fall Festival.** 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Alexandria Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Enjoy music, activities, food and more. Free. 703-933-5076.

**Craft and Fun Fair.** 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road. Includes rides, food and more. Free. 703-417-9219.

SEE CALENDAR. PAGE 9

**William J. Kovatch, Jr.**  
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REEL POLITICS

# Welcome to the Film Festival



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFFT  
The Women's Ecumenical Choir of Ebenezer Baptist Church will conclude the Film Festival Sunday afternoon following a showing of "Come Walk in My Shoes." Pictured is Becky Mays.

## REEL POLITICS

# Walking Through the Civil Rights Movement



“Come Walk in My Shoes” takes viewers on an emotional pilgrimage led by Rep. John Lewis (D-GA) through the churches, parks, and bridges where young people played a pivotal role in the struggle for equality and voting rights in the U.S. At each Alabama location, Lewis reflects on his experiences and invites other heroes of the civil rights movement to help us understand what happened during those violent days and why.



Watching news footage that is more than forty years old, it is still astonishing and disturbing. Fire hoses and dogs turned on children protesting peacefully. The innocent faces of the young protesters contrasted with ugly, hate-filled faces in the crowd taunting and threatening them. Billy clubs and bullhorns and beatings. The film reminds that the movement started as a non-violent protest against injustice of long standing, that children put their lives on the line, and that the violence on the screen came not from protesters but from those in authority.

Born the son of sharecroppers in Alabama, Lewis attended segregated schools, but ended up graduating from Fisk University and then the American Baptist Theological Seminary and receiving more than 50 honorary degrees from prestigious colleges and universities across the country. He was 18 when he met Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. He became a leader of the movement, joining the Freedom Rides, leading the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in organizing voter registration drives, and spearheading the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march that ended as “Bloody Sunday” on Selma’s Edmund

Pettus Bridge. Since then, Lewis has had a distinguished career in government, first as a member of the Atlanta City Council, and since 1986 as U.S. Representative for Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District. He is also the only recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award for Lifetime Achievement ever granted by the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has called him “the conscience of the U.S. Congress.”

In this film, Lewis introduces us to some of those, both African American and white, who worked hard behind the scenes, often in dangerous conditions, to push the movement forward, the “unsung heroes who cared deeply, sacrificed much, and fought hard for a better America.” He notes the importance of music, of how the songs now identified so closely with the movement helped to unify the activists and keep their spirits up. And he challenges those who believe that not much has changed since then.

Many years after the event described in the film, Lewis understands that people still need to be educated about those events and their significance, so he takes his congressional colleagues along on this trip. Lewis says, “No one wanted to be chased by dogs. No one wanted to be beaten or arrested. That was the price people paid to liberate the South. When young people tell me that nothing has changed, I say to them ‘Come walk in my shoes.’”

Director Robin Smith will attend the screening of “Come Walk in My Shoes” at the 2008 Alexandria Film Festival at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 28. The program will conclude with a performance of civil-rights era songs by The Women’s Ecumenical Choir of the Ebenezer Baptist Church.

## Washington’s Hometown

Any visitor who has spent time in Old Town, may have come across “Miss Betty” Ward, a retired federal employee who has guided history tours in the city for the past 15 years. Decked out in authentic colonial-era garb, this self-described “history-loving grandma” traverses the streets of Old Town, leading visitors to the actual places where history happened.

A new 47-minute film follows the energetic 75-year-old on one of her tours, which focuses on Alexandria

as George Washington’s hometown and an important place in the nation’s historical, political, and economic development. Miss Betty shares little-known details about Washington, such as his affinity for ice cream, his early survey of the new town, his support for the right of Catholics to build their own church, his establishment of a school for the less fortunate, and his little-known Alexandria “townhouse.”

“Miss Betty’s American History Tours: George Washington’s Hometown – Alexandria, Va.” includes re-enactments, animation, and period artwork to bring the city’s colorful history to life. The film was written and directed by Robert Rector and produced by Marsha Roberts, who notes that this is the first in a series of films in which Miss Betty will explore other historic towns and “set things straight” about “the people, places and events that defined our national character.”

Filmgoers are guaranteed to learn at least two or three new details about Alexandria and early American history. Patrons can also ask Miss Betty questions personally, after the screening. For more information, along with clips from the video, visit [www.missbetty.org](http://www.missbetty.org).



Miss Betty gets ready to fire Brown Bess, an authentic colonial-era musket, in “George Washington’s Home Town, ( Alexandria, Va.”

## Welcome to the Festival

The 2008 Alexandria Film Festival: Reel Politics will be held from **Thursday, Sept. 25 through Sunday, Sept. 28**. Thursday night’s opening activities, beginning at 7:30 p.m. will take place in Market Square in Old Town, all other screenings will take place at the Nannie J. Lee Community Center, 1108 Jefferson St. in Alexandria.

Tickets the day of the festival are either \$15 per day or \$30 for all three days. If purchased in advance are \$10 for a one-day pass, or \$25 for three days. Tickets may be purchased in advance at [www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org](http://www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org) or at any point during the festival with a check or cash. The screening on Thursday night in Market Square is free and open to the public.

If interested in volunteering during the film festival or for any of the other programs and events of the Alexandria Commission for the arts, visit [aca.volunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:aca.volunteer@yahoo.com).

Visit [www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org](http://www.alexandriacommissionforthearts.org) for more information on the films and schedule or to purchase tickets. The following is a schedule of movies:

### THURSDAY, SEPT. 25

**Market Square - 301 King St.**

7:30-8 p.m.

**Official City Welcome and Festival Kick-Off**

8 p.m.

“**Recount**” – Directed by Jay Roach  
Examining the divisive process that culminated in the Supreme Court decision in Bush v. Gore, *Recount* by HBO Films chronicles the 2000 presidential election and the relentless advocacy of strategists on both sides of the Florida controversy. This docudrama, featuring Kevin Spacey, Laura Dern, Tom Wilkinson, and Dennis Leary, examines the human drama of the final five weeks of the most controversial presidential election in U.S. history. Called “smart, star-studded” by *Variety*; “powerful...magnificently acted” by the *New York Post*; and “gripping” by *Entertainment Weekly*, *Recount* mixes news footage and actual dialogue with fictionalized re-creations of the key movers and shakers of the Florida fight. 2008. (120min)

### FRIDAY, SEPT. 26

**Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium - 1108 Jefferson St.**

7-8:15 p.m.

“**Miss Betty’s a.m. erican History Tours: George Washington’s Hometown – Alexandria, Virginia**” - Directed by Robert Rector  
Enjoy a lively, informative walk through Alexandria with tour guide “Miss Betty” Ward, who takes a humorous fact-finding look at the City of Alexandria’s colonial period and founding. This documentary short was shot in historic locations and uses re-enactments, animation, and period artwork to bring the town’s colorful history to life. Miss Betty describes George Washington’s life, including his battlefield valor in the French and Indian War, his reputation as king of the ballroom, his affinity for ice cream, and his early survey of the new town. The result is an unusual and delightful history lesson with Miss Betty. 2008. (47min.)  
*Miss Betty will make a special appearance before the screening to introduce viewers to colonial Alexandria.*

8:30-10 p.m.

“**Election Day**” – Director by Katy Chevigny  
Election Day is one of few days in the United States in which vast numbers of a.m. ericans are united in a common activity, encompassing millions of people and complicated logistics, all aimed at choosing the next leader of the free world. *Election Day* follows an ex-felon, factory workers, harried moms, Native American activists, and others as they exercise their right to vote. Eleven stories, shot simultaneously on Election Day 2004, follow real voters from South Dakota to New York and Florida to Wisconsin as they determine to make their votes count. The *Los Angeles Times* writes “*Election Day* is a terrific cinema verite documentary...finely observed and beautifully filmed.” 2007. (82 min.)

### SATURDAY, SEPT. 27

**Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium -1108 Jefferson St.**

1-2:35 p.m.

“**Dylan’s Run**” – Directed by Steven Johnson and David Rosenthal  
What drives a young African American man, the great-grandson of emancipated slaves, to become a member of the Republican Party and run for Congress in the South? *Dylan’s Run* is an eye-opening journey into american politics, as seen through the experiences of a charismatic African American Republican. This film takes the pulse of race and politics in America as it follows Dylan Glenn, a former Alexandria resident who attended T.C. Williams High School, in his attempt to make history by winning a congressional seat in a white-majority Deep South district. This riveting adventure “provides an entertaining, often humorous look at the long hours that go into a modern U.S. campaign effort,” according to *Variety*. 2002. (94 min)

3-5 p.m.

“**Crawford**” – Directed by David Modigliani  
What happens to the 705 residents of Crawford, Texas when George W. Bush buys a ranch nearby and then becomes president of the United States? Thrust into the spotlight by political stagecraft, Crawford is invaded and then abandoned, leaving no resident untouched by its unsought and unexpected fame. Through the eyes of Crawford’s people, we get a unique reflection on the Bush presidency and a snapshot

## What’s a Hanging Chad?

America held its breath after the inconclusive 2000 presidential election, as voters learned what something called a “hanging chad” was and democracy itself seemed to hang in the balance. “Recount” takes viewers behind the scenes of the post-election battle in Florida that culminated in the Supreme Court

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of the last seven years in America. 2008. (90 min)

Producers David Modigliani and Tanya Schurr will be in attendance for a panel discussion.

5:15-6 p.m.

“**Frontierismo**” – Directed by Sofie Benoot  
Belgian filmmaker Sofie Benoot takes a new look at the U.S. immigration issue through a visually poetic journey along the border between the U.S. and Mexico. The RioGrande River is the backdrop for this look at the tensions between movement and immobility and the effects of isolation and exclusion. 2007. (40 min.)

6:15-7:30 p.m.

“**The Story of ‘9500liberty**” – Directed by Eric Byler and Annabel Park  
Director Eric Byler will present several of these videos and discuss the creation and ongoing work of *9500liberty*. *9500liberty* is compelling documentary filmmaking that brings real and immediate stories from ground zero of the national immigration debate in Prince William County. Using a series of video clips, this “interactive documentary,” presented as “http://www.youtube.com/”\t “ blank” YouTube channel, monitors the immigration controversy in Prince William County. Two local Virginia filmmakers created the *9500liberty* channel in 2007, and they have made international headlines with their 100 + original video clips covering events as they unfold. The filmmakers hope to “promote greater understanding and alleviate the hostility in Northern Virginia, in the nation, and wherever the immigration “issue” threatens a peaceful and productive society.” 2007. (60 min.)

7:45-8:45 p.m.

“**The Anti-Americans**” – Directed by Louis Alvarez, Andrew Kolker, and Peter Odabashian

*The Anti-Americans* takes a provocative look at the conflicting attitudes and estrangement that have developed between the U.S. and its European allies in recent years. The film examines current European views of American politics and culture in three very different places: France, the United Kingdom, and Poland. Mixing humor and commentary, this documentary notes that much of the goodwill toward the U.S. resulting from Sept. 11, 2001 has been lost, and that Old World attitudes can be contradictory, infuriating, and hilarious, reflecting a “hate/love relationship.” 2007. (56min.)

9-10 p.m.

“**Culture Jam: Hijacking Commercial Culture**” – Directed by Jill Sharpe  
Enter the intriguing world of midnight billboard raids and the mid-afternoon hijacking of public space. This film looks at the commercialization of American life through the eyes of three “culture jammers” who protest against it: media tigress Carly Stasko, Reverend Billy of the Church of Stop Shopping, and Jack Napier of the Billboard Liberation Front. Armed with DIY anti-ad stickers, custom neon, and stuffed mice on crosses, these jammers hijack, subvert, and try to reclaim public space from corporations. 2001. (57 min.)

### SUNDAY, SEPT. 28

**Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium - 1108 Jefferson Street, Alexandria.**

1-2:30 p.m.

“**Blacks & Jews**” – Directed by Alan Smitow and Deborah Kaufman  
This provocative film looks at the interethnic conflict between Black and Jewish communities, focusing on misunderstandings and how to make the shift to mutual understanding and tolerance. *Blacks & Jews*, made collaboratively by Jewish and Black filmmakers, goes behind headlines and rhetoric to take a frank and constructive look at ethnic and racial tensions in America. 1997. (85 min)

2:45 p.m.

“**An American Lesson**” – Directed by David Hopwood  
Deena Barlev, a teacher at White Oaks Middle School in Silver Spring, Md., developed and teaches a course on the civil rights movement for eighth-graders. This documentary short captures an innovative teacher as she deconstructs myths and reveals surprising details about the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Ultimately, she leads her students toward an understanding of how to bring about change in America. 2007. (12 min.)

3-4:15 p.m.

“**Come Walk in My Shoes**” – Directed by Robin Smith  
This award-winning documentary provides a fresh, first-person perspective on the civil rights movement and one of its leaders, Congressman John R. Lewis (D- GA). Lewis takes his congressional colleagues on a personal pilgrimage to sacred sites of the civil rights movement in Alabama. The journey begins in Montgomery, where 18-year-old John Lewis first met Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and ends in Selma on the Edmund Pettis Bridge, where the future congressman was beaten as he led a march for the voting rights. In between, we meet some lesser-known but significant movement activists, and Lewis reflects on the nonviolent protests that challenged segregation in the South and led to the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. *Come Walk in My Shoes* brings us a new view of the “unsung heroes who cared deeply, sacrificed much, and fought hard for a better America.” 2007. (56 min.)  
*Director Robin Smith will introduce the film.*

4:30-5:30 p.m.

**Awards Presentation and Reception**  
All are welcome as we celebrate the conclusion of the festival and honor the featured films. The reception begins with a performance by the Women’s Ecumenical Choir of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, directed by Minister Becky Mays. Three awards will then be presented: an Audience Award, an Excellence in Filmmaking Award, and a Special Jury Prize. The reception concludes with light refreshments.

tough moves of his own. Mutual respect grows between the two as the fate of the presidency plays out among a colorful cast ranging from the impressive (attorney David Boies) to the maligned (Florida’s Secretary of State Katherine Harris).

The film features Kevin Spacey as Ron Klain, John Hurt as former

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## When President Bush Moves to Town

“Crawford” is an engaging documentary that details what happens to the small town of Crawford, Texas (population 705), after George W. Bush “moves in” right before the 2000 election. Told through interviews with a wide range of the town’s residents, including a preacher, a rancher, shop-owners, veterans, students, and teachers, the 70-minute film shows how citizens take sides as politics enters their lives in a whole new way.

When Bush becomes president in 2001, the town sees a rebirth at first as souvenir shops open and tourism increases. Director David Modigliani finds one student who voices his frustration with national news reports, which feature reporters staged in front of “a couple of barrels of hay and a broke-down shed in the background.” He worries how the nation perceives the town, saying, “That’s all they really see, and that’s all they really know” of Crawford.

Then anti-war protester Cindy Sheehan and a large group of followers come and camp out in Crawford in the summer of 2005, drawing mixed reactions from

residents. Eventually, most of Crawford becomes exasperated with the crowds, estimated at one point to reach 10,000. One man notes, “At this point, I don’t care what you support, I don’t like you.” And a student complains, “I’m so sick of it! Go away!”

Modigliani, whose idea for the film came to him when he was still a film student at the University of Texas at Austin, has painted a fascinating picture of how small-town America reacts when thrust into the national spotlight. How small is Crawford? It has one stoplight and no movie theater. So when Modigliani recently put on a special screening of the documentary in Crawford, a 50-foot outdoor screen was set up at the football field on a Sunday night, and the film drew a crowd of 300.

“Crawford” has also been shown at several other film festivals, including South by Southwest, Brooklyn International, and Little Rock. David Modigliani will attend the film’s screening on Saturday night, Sept. 27. For more see [www.crawfordthemovie.com](http://www.crawfordthemovie.com).

## Ground Zero of the Immigration Debate ‘9500liberty’

In July 2007, the Prince William County (Va.) Board of County Supervisors landed on the front pages of major newspapers across the country for passing what was considered the most aggressive local ordinance “cracking down on illegal immigration.” Alarmed by what they considered to be rampant misinformation, lack of communication, and a compromised democratic process, two DC-area independent filmmakers with no funding took to the streets with a video camera to document and understand what was unfolding. “9500liberty” chronicles the yearlong journey of filmmakers Eric Byler and (Annabel Park through the ongoing Prince William controversy.

The filmmakers took a highly unusual approach to this project. They began posting clips showing what they regarded as true and factual just days before a critical vote about the implementation of the crackdown. In the process, they uncovered a tangled web of ambitious local politicians, national hate groups, the radical conservative elements of the Republican party, and an uncannily adept blogger turned anti-immigrant grassroots activist.

Byler and Park began posting their videos on YouTube, introducing their YouTube channel as an “Interactive Documentary” about the politicization of the

immigration issue. Within days of posting the first videos on YouTube, “9500liberty” ended up on the front page of the *Washington Post* and in local TV news.

The storytellers become part of the story. The “9500liberty” videos help engender a citizen uprising, an insurgency spearheaded by indignant white, middle-class housewives. The uprising results in significant modifications to the crackdown that weakens its some of its more draconian provisions. The videos show the devastating cost of the crackdown in the lives of real people in their homes and businesses and on the streets, but the battles take place on blogs and inside the chambers of the Board of County Supervisors. In “9500liberty,” the audience has front-row seats at both battlefields. The end result is a story of the massive shifts taking place in American society, the people most affected, and the implications for a civil society and democracy itself. According to Eric Byler, the events in Prince William County, as seen through the prism of “9500liberty,” should be seen as “a warning shot for all of us.”

Eric Byler will show clips from “9500liberty” and discuss this innovative, ongoing project at the 2008 Alexandria Film Festival, at the Lee Center Kauffman Auditorium starting at 6:15 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 27.

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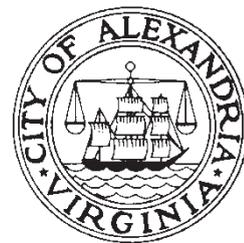
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 4

**Fashion Show.** 3-5 p.m. at The Church of the Resurrection Episcopal Church, 2280 North Beauregard St. The cost of the Tea is \$20 per person. 703-998-0888 for tickets.

**Gallery Opening.** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at The von Brahlter Ltd./Gallery, 1437 Powhattan St. Alexandria. See Nikolai Antuychin's "Endless Summer in Bloom." 703-769-8686 for information.

**Pirate Story Time.** 11 a.m. at Hooray for Books!, 1555 King St. Children ages 2 and up can be like a pirate for a day. Free. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com) or 703-548-4092.

**Art Auction.** Art by Victor De Pauw will be auctioned off at The Potomack Company, 526 N. Royal St. Visit [www.potomackcompany.com](http://www.potomackcompany.com) or 703-684-4550.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

**Family Movie Night.** 6:30 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave. Watch "Robots." Free. Visit for more.

**Music Performance.** Focus Inn Alexandria presents Scott Ainslie with David LaFleur at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St. \$15/general; \$12/member. Visit [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org) or 703-501-6061.

**Anniversary Celebration.** Cameron Station Community is celebrating 10 years with music, food and more at Ben Brenman Park, 5000 Duke St. from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free.

**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.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at the Lyceum 201 S. Washington St. Hear music for EcoVoce's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Free. 703-549-1421.

**Music Audition.** 2-5 p.m. at Levine School of Music, 1125 N. Patrick Henry Drive. Try out for the Metropolitan Wind Ensemble. For requirements and to schedule an appointment, 703-237-5655.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N. Alfred St. Hear music by the George Botts Quartet. \$15 donation. Visit [meadechurch.org](http://meadechurch.org) or 703-549-1334.

**Music Performance.** 7 p.m. at Franconia Baptist Church, 5912 Franconia Road. Hear the HarbourLights Quartet. Free. 703-971-4475.

**Music Performance.** 4 p.m. at Ernst Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike. \$18/adult; \$15/senior. Visit [www.virginiachamberorchestra.org](http://www.virginiachamberorchestra.org).

## MONDAY/SEPT. 22

**Writer's Group.** 7 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. All writers can read materials out loud. Free. 703-339-4610.

**Mystery Group.** 7 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Discuss "The Collectors" by David Baldacci. Free. 703-768-6700.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 23

**Book Discussion.** 7:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Discuss "From Baghdad, With Love" by Jay Kopelman. Free. 703-339-4610.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 24

**Writer's Review.** 7 p.m. at

Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Free. 703-339-4610.

**Airfields of Alexandria.** 7:30 p.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Enjoy a slide show. Free. 703-768-6700.

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy stories and fingerplays. Free. 703-765-3645.

## THURSDAY/ SEPT. 25

**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. From 1 to 3 p.m. Individuals and Groups are welcome. \$12/individuals. To register, 703-642-5173.

**Genealogy Basics.** 7 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Free. Learn how to research family history. Reservations required, 703-548-1789.

**Stories and Science.** 4 p.m. at John Marshall Library, 6209 Rose Hill Drive. Children ages 4-6 can enjoy science experiments, stories and more. Free. 703-971-0010.

**Things That Go!** 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre. Children ages 3-5 can explore different types of transportation through stories and activities. Free. 703-339-4610.

**Bears, Bears, Everywhere.** 10:30 a.m. at Martha Washington Library, 6614 Fort Hunt Road. Children ages 2-5 can enjoy stories, songs and crafts. Free. 703-768-6700.

**The Godspeed.** 2 to 5 p.m. at the Marina, 105 North Union St. Tour a re-creation of one of the ships that first came to America. Free.

# Bringing Blues Home

## Local bluesman Scott Ainslie returns to Alexandria.

BY ALISSA FIGUEROA  
GAZETTE PACKET

**A**ward-winning blues musician and Fort Hunt native Scott Ainslie travels back to Alexandria this weekend to perform songs from his new album *Thunder's Mouth*. The 55-year-old Vermont-based artist has not played a local concert in close to a decade. This performance is particularly meaningful as it will bring Ainslie back to the place where his passion for blues first blossomed and important life-long relationships were forged.

Scott Ainslie is a true "bluesman" in every sense of the word. He not only plays and writes blues, but is an avid collector and historian of the genre as well as a dedicated instructor. In fact, though Ainslie spends about 170 days a year touring, he's managed to record 5 albums, write a well-received book about blues legend Robert Johnson's collected works and teach thousands through workshops and residential fellowships across the country.

"It's a service," says Ainslie to describe what he does. Helping an audience understand the roots and significance of each song he plays is an important part of Ainslie's work.

**AINSLIE DISCOVERED THE BLUES** in 1967, after seeing John Jackson, a local musician and gravedigger, play a few songs during a Mike Seeger concert at Groveton High School.

"It was the first time I heard non-commercial music in my life," said Ainslie. "I was completely floored."

Jackson became one of the most influential forces in the young artist's

SEE BLUESMAN, PAGE 11

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## TOUR

# TWIG House Tours

FROM PAGE 3

out we were actually green before we even knew what that was." The Adams' home, which was featured on the May 2005 cover of Traditional Home magazine, will be among those included on the 2009 Spring Garden Tour.

**IN ADDITION** to this year's home tour, the day includes the Artisan Show from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at The Old Presbyterian Meet-

ing House, 323 S. Fairfax St. It affords the opportunity to purchase a wide array of knits, handbags, note cards, paintings, renderings and many other creations of TWIG artisans.

TWIG was founded in 1933 by 24 young women who gathered at the home of Mrs. Julian T. Burke to form the Junior Auxiliary of the Alexandria Hospital. They chose the name "TWIG" from a contest entry by Nellie Sommers Blackwell, which described the new organization as a small "branch"

of the "tree" which represented the hospital.

Since its creation, TWIG has contributed over \$2.5 million in equipment and grants to the hospital raised through a variety of events such as their Homes Tour. Tickets for this year's event are \$30 if purchased in advance and \$35 on tour day.

In addition to individual tickets, there are also three tour support categories for those wishing to contribute to TWIGS' mission. They and their price ranges are: Benefactor at \$150 includes four tickets; Patron at \$100 includes two tickets; and Friend at \$75 includes one ticket.

Tickets are available at the TWIGS Thrift

Shop, 106 N. Columbus St.; The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St.; The Ramsey House Visitors Center, 221 King St.; or online at the tour Web site [www.thetwig.org/homestourArtisan.html](http://www.thetwig.org/homestourArtisan.html) prior to Sept. 27. Tickets will be available at each site on tour day. For additional information call 703-683-5544 or visit [www.thetwig.org](http://www.thetwig.org).

As usual, children under 12 are not allowed to tour the homes and strollers are not permitted; however, small infants may be carried by a parent or guardian. Photography of any kind is prohibited inside the homes. Guests are asked not to wear high heels or to touch any surfaces or furnishings.

# Local Artist Creates Ring For 'Burn After Reading'

FROM PAGE 2

niques and found me by doing an Internet search.

### How did creating this piece for a film affect your usual creative process?

This is the type of ring I do on a regular basis for other customers looking for a ring that represents their heritage.

### How did you collaborate creatively with the filmmakers?

My contact was through the wardrobe designer. I made suggestions to her and she presented them to the filmmakers.

### Was there anything particularly challenging about this project?

They wanted the ring to look like Ms. Swinton's character had been wearing it for a long time. After making the rings, I had to make them look worn in the same way.

### Anything surprising?

That they would need two rings was surprising to me. They needed the duplicate in case something would happen to the first one.

### What was the best part of this experience for you?

I made the rings over a year ago and since then Tilda Swinton has won an academy award (supporting actress in Michael Clayton).

### Have you seen any of the film? Are you a Coen brother's fan? What kinds of movies do you like?

I haven't seen the film yet. Yes, I like the Coen Brother's films very much. My favorite is " Fargo." My favorite Tilda Swinton film is "The Deep End." I see documentaries, foreign films, and independent cinema.

### What other kind of commissioned projects have you done in the past?

### Which project was your most memorable and why?

Most of my work is commissioned projects. It's always exciting to make wedding bands since you know they will wear them everyday and hopefully for the rest of their lives. A big part of what I do is hand engraving presents. Since we live in our Nation's Capitol, some of those presents end up being for well know people. I've hand engraved a plate for President Reagan and a cigar cutter that was a gift for President Clinton. I've worked for other movies stars, as well. I remember Faye Dunaway, in particular, because she came to my studio herself instead of sending an assistant.

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# MUSIC

## Bluesman

FROM PAGE 9

career. Ainslie went on to study and perform with him, forming a close bond that would continue until Jackson's death in 2002, three days after the pair were scheduled to appear onstage together.

Trish Byerly worked as Jackson's manager for 14 years. She first met Ainslie in 1986 when he toured with Jackson.

"What stands out in my mind with Scott is the love and reverence between friends," said Byerly of his relationship with Jackson. "They just loved and adored each other."

Though Byerly's contact with Ainslie was primarily through Jackson, she describes a very personal connection to him as a performer.

"I've thought a lot about what makes a musician great," said Byerly. "And I've realized the greatest musicians are simply the greatest people. I felt that with Scott. He has warmth, respect for people, respect for culture."

Over the years, Ainslie formed relationships with other musicians. He recalls talking late into the night with older artists and closely watching their fingers float over the guitar strings to absorb as much as possible.

According to Ainslie, these connections allowed him to "internalize a tradition I wasn't born into, but grew up around."

Ainslie was profoundly affected by the role music played in the activism of the 1960s, particularly the civil rights movement. For him, "art exists to challenge us and make us think . . . to rebalance our self-awareness." Towards this effort, Ainslie often incorporates history into his performances through storytelling, and integrates traditional with contemporary tunes.

It is especially important to the musician that his songs help his listeners and pupils "recognize the role African Americans have played in creating the society we live in today, from our language and music to our food." *Thunder's Mouth*, which was released this summer, is based on slave narratives and stories from Tennessee.

Ainslie is also a populist when it comes to his music. His experience working in, and later serving on the state board of the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program taught him to "play for all audiences, from pre-schoolers to senior citizens." The musician lists this experience as a formative period in his career, stating that it showed

SEE BLUESMAN, PAGE 12

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**Wednesday - All American Night**  
 Meatloaf, Chicken Fried Chicken, Va. Ham

**Thursday - Italian Night**  
 Lasagna, Chicken Alfredo, Calamari

**Friday - Fish Night**  
 Crab Cakes, Shrimp & Scallops over penne pasta with white sauce

**Saturday - Steak and Chop Night**  
 Prime Rib, Lamb, Surf and Turf, Pork Chops, and Moussaka

**Sunday**  
 Brunch served 7am - 2pm

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# The Act of Creation

The Torpedo Factory celebrates the art of creating during last weekend's Art Festival.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/  
GAZETTE PACKET  
**A young kiln god holds a few sculpting tools during an arts demonstration at Market Square on Friday.**

**Michele Hoben works on a painting in preparation of her upcoming solo show 'Mending Fences.' The show will be at the Art League Studio in the Torpedo Factory.**



**Lisa Lettiri demonstrates pottery on the wheel.**



**A Champagne Cork Chair completed.**



**Mina Oka Hanig works on a small painting during the afternoon activities in the Torpedo Factory.**

## Bluesman Brings His Music Home To Alexandria

FROM PAGE 11

him the kind of impact music instruction can have when it is made readily accessible.

**THOUGH AINSLIE'S MUSIC** has taken him far from Northern Virginia – he's lived in Europe, New York City, North Carolina and now New England – the personal ties developed during his youth in Alexandria continue to shape his life. Ainslie married his high school sweetheart, Barb Ackemann – though it happened in

2003, more than three decades after they initially courted. The couple met through the Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church youth group (Ainslie also sang in the church's choir) and dated for two years. They stayed in touch after parting ways in 1970 and rekindled their romance eight years ago, after both suffered painful losses.

**"Art exists to challenge us and make us think."**

— Scott Ainslie

Ainslie also maintains a strong friendship with fellow Fort Hunt High School graduate and musician Al Petteway. (Fort Hunt High School is now Carl Sandburg Middle School on Fort Hunt

Road.) He remembers vividly the last encounter he had with Ainslie in high school when the two performed at a coffee house in a church basement.

"I just remember being impressed by this long blond-haired kid walking in with a banjo tucked under his arm," recalled Petteway, who, like so many other teenage boys, was playing strictly rock 'n roll music at the time.

Although the two were only acquaintances in school, they became close 30 years later when Petteway found Ainslie online and invited him to teach at his yearly guitar camp in Asheville, N.C.

"Scott brings out the best in his students," said Petteway. "He helps a lot of people bring what's inside out."

**"[Scott] helps a lot of people bring what's inside out."**

— Al Petteway

### Where and When

Scott Ainslie will perform with special guest David LaFleur on Sunday Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria. Ainslie will also hold a slide guitar workshop on Sept. 21 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Show admission is \$15, \$12 in advance at [www.focusmusic.org](http://www.focusmusic.org). Workshop fee is \$40; \$35 for Focus or SAW members. For more information [kay@focusmusic.org](mailto:kay@focusmusic.org), 703-501-6061.