



◆ ENTERTAINMENT ◆ LEISURE



# Russian Wonders

A quaint little gallery up on Powhatan Street is home to some well-known Russian artists.

ART, PAGE 3

Starting on Oct. 1, visitors to the Carlyle House can see an 18th-century house in mourning. An exhibit in the upper passage will display artifacts that show a changing interpretation of death, and the month will culminate with a re-enactment of Carlyle's funeral on Oct. 25 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Entrance fee is \$4. For more information, call 703-549-2997.

# John Carlyle: Still Dead

Museum tackles the macabre with its annual exhibit of funerary.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Very few records exist to document the 1780 death of John Carlyle, a prominent member of Alexandria's founding generation and the owner of a house that's now a popular museum on North Fairfax Street. There is his will, of course, outlining his desire to be buried next to his first wife in the Old Presbyterian Meeting House cemetery. And then there's the probate inventory of his estate.

Beyond that, it's just a guess.

But curator Jim Bartlinski has some pretty educated guesses, which he has assembled for the annual macabre celebration of mortality known as "Death at the Carlyle House." For example, the inventory lists medical lancets. So it's a pretty good idea that Carlyle's final hours included bleeding — the 18th century cure-all for just about any ailment. Other than that, Bartlinski has to rely on typical practices of the era — like the diamond-shaped hatchment over the front door that includes family crests and the black draping over the mirrors.

"People at this time thought of mirrors as a portal to another world, and they wanted to make sure that the soul was protected when it was considered to be at its most vulnerable state," said Bartlinski, who created "Death at the Carlyle House" three years ago. "So we put black drapes over all the mirrors in the house, and white drap-

ing over the mirror in the bedroom."

IN APRIL of 1780, Carlyle wrote out his last will and testament. At the age of 60, he had recently resigned his position from the Alexandria Board of Trustees, and it's likely that he had become very ill by this point. His will provided handsomely for his son George William, his daughter Sally, his grandchildren, his cousin Charles Little and for the Presbyterian poor. He died that September, and was buried as he requested "under the Tombstone in the enclosed Ground in the Presbyterian Yard near where my first wife and Children are intered."

Visitors to the Old Presbyterian Meeting House can visit John Carlyle's grave in the cemetery behind the house, where he was



COURTESY OF THE CARLYLE HOUSE MUSEUM  
This plate from the 1820s shows mourners gathered in a graveyard.

buried next to Sarah Fairfax. She was his first wife scion to the leading family of Fairfax County. Carlyle's second wife, Sybil West Carlyle, is not buried at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and her final resting place is somewhat of a mystery. A 2003 report con-

ducted by the Hoffman Company concluded it was likely that she was buried in the West family tomb that was uncovered to build the AMC movie theater.

"I think there's a good chance that she was buried there, given the date range from the skeletons," said City Archeologist Pam Cressey. "When people remarry, they are often buried with their first spouse — even today."

CHANGING IDEAS of death are a central feature of "Death at the Carlyle House," and the upstairs passage features several artifacts that tell an evolving story of bereavement. One of the most unusual items on display is an 1820s plate that features a scene at which mourners have gathered in a cemetery. Bartlinski said the broken dish was found behind a bank building at the corner of Fairfax and Cameron streets, which would be adjacent to the Carlyle House. He said he sent an image of the 19th-century plate to the Victoria and Albert Museum in London several years ago, and they had never seen anything like it.

"This plate is quite unusual because usually plates like this feature romantic scenes or natural landscapes or architectural designs," said Bartlinski. "It's probably something that was used to serve food on during a funeral gathering."

The exhibit will also feature Victorian era jewelry crafted from the hair of a deceased loved one. Earrings, bracelets and pendants became ways to keep their departed close even when they weren't around anymore. Family members would shave eyebrows and send clippings to a craftsman, who would incorporate the remains into a piece of artwork — using them as leaves on a tree, for example.

"The Enlightenment was a time when people's view of death was changing," said Bartlinski. "But people were still holding on to the old superstitions, which is why we cover the mirrors."

## Gala Benefits Alexandria's History, Future

Five categories of sponsorship offer varying perks.

BY CHUCK HAGEE  
GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria is history. That is a given. That history will be celebrated, Saturday, Sept. 27, from 6:30 p.m.

to 11 p.m., during the first Historic Alexandria Museum Gala at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., to garner financial support for the preservation of Alexandria's history.

Under the theme, "Making History in Alexandria," it will also honor retiring U.S. Senator John Warner for his service to Virginia and his efforts to promote Alexandria's proud heritage.

An evening of dining, dancing and entertainment, the gala will pay tribute to Alexandria's rich, historic past and its intimate involvement in American history that stretches from before the Revolutionary War to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. That history has encompassed two world wars, the Korean Conflict, the Cold War, the Vietnam War, and today's tumultuous landscape from Iraq to Wall Street.

One of the evening's highlights will be the opportunity for attendees to board the "Godspeed," a replica of one of the sailing ships that carried English settlers to Jamestown in 1607. It will be docked at Alexandria's waterfront for this momentous occasion.

Beginning with cocktails and 18th cen-

tury entertainment on the riverfront from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., guests will be called to dinner by the Alexandria Town Crier and the City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums. During dinner, a visual experience in black and white will recall the city's history and the efforts made to preserve it. Following dinner guests will be able to enjoy dancing to the big band sound of the Eric Felten Jazz Orchestra.

Ticket prices begin at \$150 per person with five sponsorship opportunities available beginning at \$2,500 for a reserved table of 10. Guest with tickets at sponsorship levels ranging from \$3,500 to \$15,000 are invited to attend a pre-gala party at the historic Old Town home of Dennis and Lauren Garcia. This 1787 home, originally built for Dr. James Craik, George Washington's Revolutionary War private secretary and physician, was recently restored by the Garcias.

Proceeds from this event will benefit a variety of Alexandria's historic sites and

museums including the Alexandria Archaeological Museum, Alexandria Archive and Records Center, Alexandria Association, Alexandria Black History Museum, The Athenaeum, Carlyle House Historic Park, Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, Freedom House Museum, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria Foundation, Lee-Fendall House and Gardens, The Lyceum, and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

"I hope you will join me in celebrating our city's historic resources."

Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille

"This event offers an exciting opportunity for us to come together and show our support for the historic sites and mu-

seums of Alexandria which educate and inspire us. Funds raised will support the preservation and educational programs of our museums," said Alexandria Mayor William D. Euille.

SEE HISTORY GALA, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY ALISSA FIGUEROA/  
GAZETTE PACKET

ON THE COVER: Bob Murray stands near some artwork in his gallery.

### Staff

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# International Gallery with Community Flair

## The Von Brahler Gallery brings Russian art to Alexandria.

BY ALISSA FIGUEROA  
GAZETTE PACKET

Far removed from what many consider the heart of the Alexandria arts community – the famed Torpedo Factory – sits the Von Brahler Gallery. The small private gallery, which is located on the northern tip of Old Town, is owned by Bob Murray, who specializes in bringing Russian art to the area.

Each month at the Von Brahler Gallery visitors can expect to find new pieces by Russian painters and sculptors in every medium and style. This coming fall alone, the gallery will exhibit shows from two well-regarded artists: Moscow-based oil painter Nikolai Antyuchin, who depicts primarily floral still-lives and architectural subjects, and Russian émigré Yuri Kokoyanin, who creates surreal, highly stylized figure sculptures and paintings.

**THOUGH THE VON BRAHLER GALLERY** has been in business in Alexandria for a quarter of a century, Murray came into the business in a somewhat roundabout way. In 1983 he was 10 years into a management career in the commercial airline industry when he met Karl Coch, a German impressionist painter looking for an American art dealer, on a routine business trip. Murray, who'd always been an arts enthusiast, decided to take the plunge and open a gallery to show Coch's work.

Fascinated by Russian art – which was difficult to find in the U.S. in the 1980s – Murray decided to make it his specialty. He has since become an expert in the field, earning a Masters degree from Georgetown University in Russian art history.

Since opening his gallery Murray has shown the work of dozens of Russian artists. Though he does occasionally bring art-

work from overseas, he primarily deals with foreign-born artists working in the U.S. Surprisingly, the fall of the Soviet Union in 1989 was detrimental to Murray's efforts to import art, as it made transporting canvases between the two countries increasingly costly and difficult.

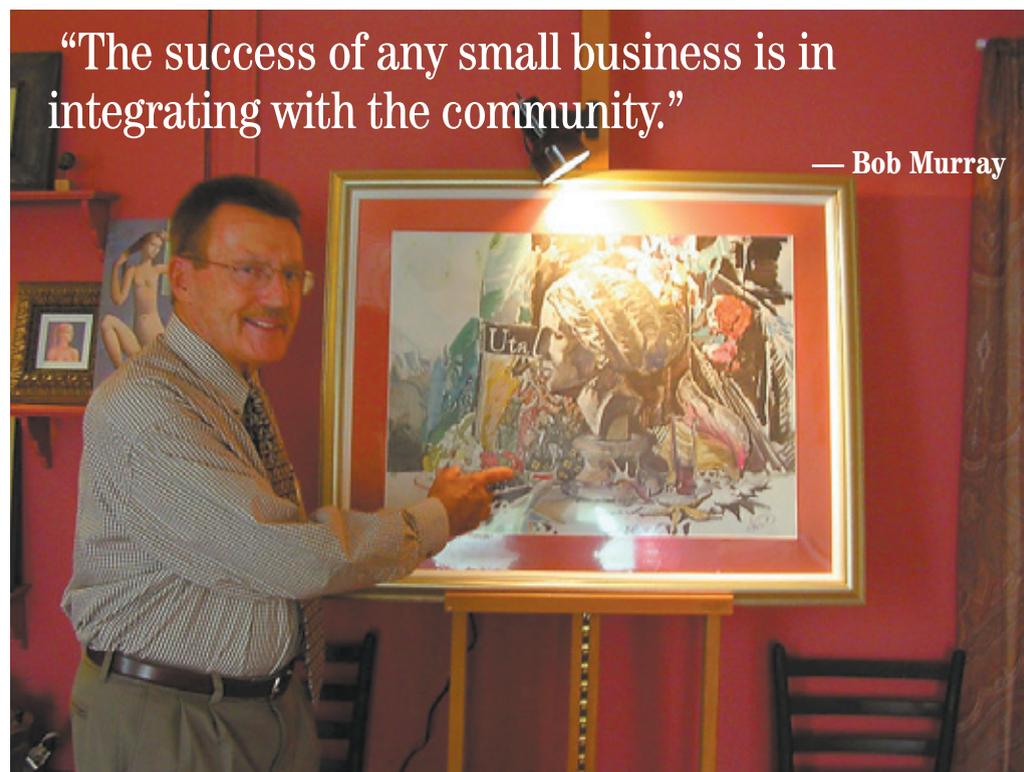
"During the Cold War, America had a good cultural agreement with the Soviets," Murray explained. "When the Soviets fell, the infrastructure they'd set-up fell as well."

Murray has maintained a strong relationship with the Russian community on a broader scale, participating in various events at the Russian embassy's cultural attaché – Russia House, in Washington D.C.

**MURRAY'S CONCERN** for the larger arts and business community has, since the start, included his colleagues in the Alexandria art gallery scene. In 1983 he founded the Association of Alexandria Art Galleries, which he oversaw until 1995. Members of the association visited each others' galleries every month to discuss business problems and to form a personal referral system for their collectors. The association, which, at one point included 45 galleries, disbanded shortly after Murray gave up management duties of the group.

Lois Boyles is co-owner of Studio Fine Arts gallery on North Washington St. She has known Murray for more than two decades and was involved in the Association of Alexandria Art Galleries. Boyles recognized the challenges Murray faced in attempting to form a cohesive group in Alexandria's gallery owners and admired his continuous efforts to do so.

"People have different ideas of what a community group like that should do," said Boyles. "Trying to do group publicity is difficult. It's hard to set up a program that satisfies everyone's needs."



"The success of any small business is in integrating with the community."

— Bob Murray

PHOTO BY ALISSA FIGUEROA/GAZETTE PACKET

Bob Murray displays an Antyuchin painting in his gallery.

## Where and When

See Nikolai Antyuchin's oil paintings in "Endless Summer in Bloom" at the Von Brahler Gallery, 1437 Powhatan St. through Sept. 30. Yuri Kokoyanin's show "Direct Carving on Stone" runs from Oct. 11-31. Gallery hours (including opening weekend shows) are 11 a.m.-3 p.m. or by appointment. Call 703-798-8686.

Murray's efforts to make the arts accessible continue. In 2007 he began working as the Site Coordinator and Artist Representative for the Old Guard Monument Project, which will be installed in the historic district at Fort Myer, Va. in the coming year. Murray coordinates all activities dealing with design and landscaping for the monument and ensures the sculptor's wishes are followed.

"In some regards, he saw this project from a different perspective than I did," said Jim

Laufenburg, Executive Director of the project. "He had a much grander vision – I saw it as a military monument, while he saw it as a significant piece of history in the national capital region."

Murray's substantial efforts in this endeavor are unpaid.

The Von Brahler Gallery has been located on Powhatan St. since 2000, and since moving to the North Gateway neighborhood Murray has also thrown himself into taking part in the budding business community there. He speaks enthusiastically of the growing number of neighborhood restaurants and shops, and looks forward to the completion of the Potomac Yards Complex, which he hopes will give the area a significant economic boost. Murray truly lives by his belief that "the success of any small business is in integrating with the community."

# LTA Offers Fine Fall 'Picnic' Pulitzer Prize play from '50s shows less than simple times.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
GAZETTE PACKET

Step back with the creative talent of the Little Theatre of Alexandria to an era that may seem simpler now, but which teemed with troubles and passions at the time. Director Howard Vincent Kurtz recreates the feel of the '50s with a solid production of the 1953 Pulitzer Prize for Drama winner, William Inge's "Picnic."

The evening gets underway even before the play begins as the audience enters the auditorium to see, not a drawn curtain, but the setting of the adjoining back yards of two small town Victorian-style houses with its deep green lawn and brightly painted wooden siding with a disturbingly dark sky

visible on the horizon. You know it must be the 50s because of the music softly playing in the background.

When Inge's play begins, a drifter played with flash by Brain Razzino is working for breakfast by taking the trash from one of the houses out to burn with the leaves he has just raked up. He's a virile, good looking fellow whose attraction for some of the women in the neighborhood is multiplied when the woman who has hired him for odd-jobs has him take off his dirty shirt so she can wash it for him.

## Where and When:

William Inge's "Picnic" plays through Oct. 11 at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Performances are Wednesday – Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 - \$18. Call 703-683-0496 or log on to [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

Such is the set up for Inge's seemingly simple but actually highly insightful look at the psyches of women in small town America at the start of the Eisenhower years. His are real flesh-

and-blood women with real needs and passions held partially in check by prevailing societal norms, not some idealized television or radio version a-la Ozzie and Harriet.

There are passions here, current and hidden in memory. The lovely daughter in one household is dating the college-bound, but not-too-attractive neighbor her mother hopes will make her a good provider as a

husband. Elizabeth Keith fits the bill as "the pretty one" (as she is called by her tomboyish sister, played with an appealing mix of gawky youthfulness and blossoming sexuality herself by Anna Penniman), and Jan Gaskins as their mother reveals the depth of insecurities that plague her due to her own bad luck with the opposite sex.

The burgeoning affair between Keith's "pretty one" and Razzino's bare-chested drifter is at the center of the play, but in Kurtz' mounting, a role that often seems in other productions to be a sub-plot takes on increased importance through the superb performance of the actress playing the part of a school teacher terrified at the prospect of spinsterhood. Rebecca Lenahan takes this

SEE PICNIC, PAGE 7

# CALENDAR

E-mail announcements to the Gazette, [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.

## ONGOING

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

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

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

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

Join City archaeologists and trained volunteers for an exciting program for kids of all ages at **Alexandria Archaeology Family Dig Days**. Monthly Family Dig Days will be held from 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. on the

grounds of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, in Alexandria. The 2008 dates are on Saturdays: Oct. 18. \$5/person and spots fill up fast. Call 703-838-4399 or visit [www.alexandriarchaeology.org](http://www.alexandriarchaeology.org) to reserve a spot.

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

On Mondays, Sept. 29, Oct. 27, and Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. Green Spring Gardens will be having **Family Story Time** for children of all ages where there will be stories and activities. Free. For more information visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/gspg)

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

Children enter a world of fantasy and fables when costumed interpreters weave three tales together during **Mount Vernon's** outdoor storytelling session, "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon", held every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. **through Sept. 27** at the George Washington: Pioneer Farmer site. "Once Upon a Time at Mount Vernon" is included in regular Estate admission: adults, \$13.00;

youth ages 6-11, \$6.00; and children under 5 are admitted free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org](http://www.mountvernon.org) or 703-780-2000.

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

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

## 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. Form more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Genealogy Basics.** 7 p.m. at Lee-

Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Free. Learn how to research family history. Reservations required, [contact@leefendallhouse.org](mailto:contact@leefendallhouse.org) or 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 on Display.** 2 to 5 p.m. at the Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Arts Center at 105 North Union St. Tour a re-creation of one of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607. Free.

## FRIDAY/ SEPT. 26

**Pollinators.** The Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria will be having the event Basic Gardening Series: Pollinators and other Beneficial Insects from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. During the event, Master Gardeners will explain the importance of pollinators in our lives and what you can do to provide a welcoming habitat. \$12/adults. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**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.

**The Godspeed on Display.** 2 to 6 p.m. at the Marina behind the Torpedo Factory Arts Center at 105 North Union St. Tour a re-creation of one of the three ships that brought America's first permanent English colonists to Virginia in 1607. Free.

**Poet Laureate.** Mary McElveen will share her poetry and blog at 10 a.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Free, but registration required, 703-765-4573.

**Performance.** The Alexandria Harmonizers will perform at 8 p.m. at Garwood Whaley Auditorium, 201 Cambridge Road. \$22/adults; \$18/senior; \$10/student. Visit [www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org) or 703-910-4600.

**Wee Ones Story Time.** Ages 2 and under. Free. 10:30 a.m. at Hooray for Books! 1555 King St. 703-548-4092. Visit [www.hooray4books.com](http://www.hooray4books.com). Enjoy some silly songs and stories as we explore the world around us.

**Coffeehouse.** 7 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Enjoy a fun opportunity to share nature-inspired poetry, music or dance. Free. For reservations call 703-768-2525.

## SATURDAY/ SEPT. 27

**Learn About Wood.** Learn about wood while enjoying tea with The Green Spring Gardens located at 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria from 1 to 3 p.m. \$ 25/ adults and includes full English Tea. For more information and to register call 703-642-5173.

**Fall Garden Festivals.** The Green Spring Gardens will be having the Fall Garden Festivals. The event will have adult and family activities from lectures and a tea program on the subject to the wood to a silent auction. Lecture \$ 20 and tea

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# World Class Music Comes to Alexandria

The National Chamber Players perform a four concert series at Episcopal High School.

James Lee is founding member and artistic director of the National Chamber Players, an ensemble composed of members from the National Symphony Orchestra and prominent guest artists. The group kicks off its annual concert series at Episcopal High School on Tuesday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Lee, who plays cello with the Chamber Players and the National Symphony Orchestra, spoke about what audiences can expect from this year's performances.

**Introduce the National Chamber Players.**

The National Chamber Players was founded in 2004, and have been the resident chamber ensemble at Episcopal High School ever since. The NCP perform four concerts a years in Pendleton Hall, in the Ainslie Arts Center at Episcopal. The concerts feature ensembles ranging from solo instruments to chamber orchestra. Presenting "exceptionally intimate" performances, "played with consummate skill" (The Washington Post), the National Chamber Play-

ers are appreciated by critics and their devoted following for their innovative and balanced programs and their virtuoso performances. The NCP artists include members of the National Symphony Orchestra, along with prominent chamber artists from the Washington, D.C area, as well as from the nation and Europe.

**How were the members of this group chosen?**

The majority of the players are musicians in the National Symphony Orchestra. One of our regular members from outside the D.C. area is violinist Benny Kim, an exceptional musician from Kansas City. In the past five years, we have had guest artists from all over the world.

**How did the National Chamber Players initially get involved with Episcopal High School?**

At the time the Ainslie Arts Center was in its final building stage, I was teaching Steven Westerfield, an EHS student, and son of Helen Westerfield, the choral director at



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**National Chamber Players cellists, (from left to right) Rachel Young, James Lee, David Teie and Stephen Honinberg.**

EHS. Helen gave me a tour of Pendleton Hall. I thought it would be a great venue to start a new chamber music series.

**What is special about the yearly series you perform at EHS?**

What I love about the concert series is

that the NCP performs works that range from solo pieces to chamber orchestra works. Every year we try to do a benefit concert. Last season we performed the chamber version of Mahler's 4th Symphony

SEE MUSIC, PAGE 8

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**The Alexandria Volunteer Bureau seeks nominations for its annual Joan White and Marion Van Landingham Service Awards to be presented at the AVB's Evening in the Heart of Alexandria Silent Auction October 29th 2008 6-9pm.**

- Visit [www.alexandriavolunteerbureau.org](http://www.alexandriavolunteerbureau.org) or call 703-836-2176 for more information
- Deadline to submit nominations is October 3 at 5pm

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FIND MORE SPECIAL EVENTS & VISITOR INFORMATION  
 AT [MOUNTVERNON.ORG](http://MOUNTVERNON.ORG) OR 703-780-2000

## ARTS

# Celebrating the Arts

This year children will be encouraged to create works of art under the guidance of professional artists.

BY GINA TORO-LUGO  
GAZETTE PACKET

Featuring an opportunity for younger generations to create works of art under the guidance of professional artists, the Del Ray community will be hosting its 13th annual Art on the Avenue festival Saturday, Oct. 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Sponsored by the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, "A Child's World" will be introduced to this year's festivities. Children participants will be challenged to express their thoughts and outlook in life through art.

The distinctive works of over 325 local artists and craftspeople and the various kinds of international foods provide a glimpse of the multiculturalism of the community. From jewelry that combines beauty and ingenuity to articles of clothing and furniture that reflect resourcefulness and style, the visitor can find any imaginable item or accessory for every fashion sense. Other crafts include: pottery, photogra-

phy, paintings, plants and pet products. A number of vendors support non-profit organizations such as Papers to Pearls and ASPCA.

The festival will be held on Mount Vernon Avenue between Hume and Bellefonte Avenues. Feature activities and entertainment for children will include: ballet, tap and modern dancing. Three stages will play music from various genres including: rock, gospel, country, blues, jazz, Latino and Irish.

For the fourth consecutive year, a pie-baking contest will be held. Pies must be made from scratch and will be judged based on appearance, crust, filling and originality. Three cash prizes will be awarded to the first, second and third place. A contribution of \$2 to benefit local non-profit Community Partners for Children will be accepted for each slice of pie after the judging.

Art on the Avenue is entirely run by volunteers and the support of local businesses. The 2007 event attracted over 40,000 people. Free transportation will be provided from Braddock Road Metro station to the festival.

## Historical Gala Event

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"Your participation in this event will help showcase the illustrious heritage and exciting future of our city and help to develop increased visibility and support for the historic sites that are so important to Alexandria's economic viability," Euille said.

**PRECEDING** the Gala, beginning on Friday, Sept. 26, is the 50th Annual Alexandria Forum at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Under the sponsorship of the Historic Alexandria Resources Commission, this year's Forum will focus on the decorative arts in 18th and early 19th century Virginia.

Registration commences at 6:30 p.m. Friday followed by the opening lecture at 7 p.m. Registration will continue Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. Cost of the Forum is \$150 per person which includes four lectures, a champagne and dessert reception, coffee break, box lunch, and a ticket to the TWIG Historic Alexandria Homes Tour on Saturday Afternoon, Sept. 27.

Independent scholar, Ellen Donald, will present the keynote address Friday evening on the topic "Con-

## Enjoy A 'Picnic' at LTA

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character from flighty comic relief through solid emotional drama with a sure touch. In this, she's aided immensely by Charles Palmer as the hardware store operator she's been dating in the hope of something more permanent. He, too, captures the humor of his part but imbues it with the angst that underscores the predicament of that male equivalent of a spinster - the "confirmed bachelor" who isn't quite the freedom loving swinger sometimes conjured up by that term.

This blend of humor and sorrow mixed with a touch of fear of the future seems to be the mark of Inge's better works (in addition to "Picnic," he penned "Bus

stop" and "Come Back, Little Sheba" during a remarkable run of successful dramas in the '50s). This play is often revived in professional and community theater long after most of those that date to the same period have long disappeared from the stage. This is because it is such a satisfying evening of theater when performed intelligently and with sensitivity as it is here.

Saturday's program gets underway at 9:15 a.m. with Alexandria Archaeologist Barbara Magid offering a presentation on "Alexandria Pottery: An Archaeological Perspective." That will be followed at 10:45 a.m. by costume and textile specialist, Newbold Richardson's lecture, "Suiting Early Federal Virginia."

The Forum's fourth and final lecture kicks off at 11:45 a.m. with Betsy Davison's "Loyalist Reflections in The Back Country: The Inlay and Inscriptions on John Shearer's Furniture." Davison is the guest curator for the upcoming Shearer Exhibition at the Daughters of the American Revolution Museum. The afternoon is set aside for the TWIG home tour with a box lunch.

For additional information or to purchase tickets for both or either the Museum Gala or the Forum, call the Office of Historic Alexandria at 703-838-4554 or visit [www.historicalexandria.org](http://www.historicalexandria.org) and click the "Shop" link. Their offices are located at 220 N. Washington St.

Brad Hathaway reviews theater in Virginia, Washington and Maryland as well as Broadway, and edits *Potomac Stages*, a website covering theater in the region ([www.PotomacStages.com](http://www.PotomacStages.com)). He can be reached at [Brad@PotomacStages.com](mailto:Brad@PotomacStages.com).

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### Thursday - Italian Night

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### Friday - Fish Night

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## Maestro's Musings

*The thing that influenced me most was the way Tommy (Dorsey) played his trombone...It was my idea to make my voice work in the same way as a trombone or violin, not sounding like them, but playing the voice like those instrumentalists.*

—Frank Sinatra



Kim Allen Kluge

Every artist searches for his/her own “voice.” Frank Sinatra “found his voice” in the strains of Tommy Dorsey’s trombone playing. Instrumentalists and vocalists have influenced and inspired one another since music’s beginnings.

This season the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will celebrate symphonic music that is inspired by the voice—transcendent symphonic music that makes the orchestra “sing” and soar like a master vocalist.

Our season, entitled O’ Passionate Voice, opens on Oct. 4 and 5 in a concert of popular lyrical masterpieces—with a twist. Each piece is a poignant vignette inspired by

song — from “Greensleeves” to Massenet’s “Meditation from Thais” to Haydn’s stirring chorale set by Brahms. Fresh dance interpretations of Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a Theme of Thomas Tallis and Brahms’ Piano Concerto #1 (Mvt 1) have been created by our concert partner, Bowen McCauley Dance. These choreographies are “symphonic” and soar with lyric intensity. The interplay between the dancers and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra promises to be exhilarating and uplifting.

Our O’ Passionate Voice theme continues throughout the season—from the romantic love duets of our Valentine’s Day Concert, to Andrew Lloyd Webber’s glorious Pie Jesu,

to the soaring sax of Bradford Marsalis.

### Where & When:

Alexandria Symphony & Kim Allen Kluge will perform music by Massenet, Vaughan Williams, and Brahms on Oct. 4 at 8 p.m. and Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center. Tickets up to \$70. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or call 703-548-0885.

wrote for him and the ASO. Its title not only embodies his ultra lyrical style, but also sums up the entire season, Vocalise. (The art and music we experience should inspire us to live out our lives with creativity and artfulness and to find our individual “voices.” I hope our exploration this season inspires you to think about your own creative voice and to make it sing! See you at the concert!

— KIM ALLEN KLUGE

## Music At Episcopal

FROM PAGE 6

with Leonard Slatkin conducting. All proceeds went to benefit the organization “Autism Speaks.” The series also creates a platform for my wife (NSO violinist, Teri Lee) and me to play chamber music with some of the incredible musicians we went to school with 25 years ago!

### How did you select the pieces are you performing in the series’ first concert?

The first concert this season is an example of the variety of repertoire we try to offer: The Ravel Duo was written for violin and cello. The Beethoven Septet includes strings and woodwinds. Quite a contrast between the two works.

### What are you looking forward to the most in this year’s series?

One thing that I look forward to every year is seeing the students at EHS coming to the concerts and really enjoying them. Last year we performed Oliver Messiaen’s “Quartet for the End of Time.” The feedback from the students was amazing. Seeing the students react to hearing such a powerful piece of music for the first time is very exciting!

### At what other venues and events does the group perform?

This season, the National Chamber Players will be performing in the Tamvenova Concert Series in Georgetown on Sept. 28. The NCP will also be performing at the St. Andrews School in Middleton, DE in February.

### What is your favorite cello piece to play and why?

Being the Artistic Director definitely

### When and Where

The National Chamber Players will perform at Episcopal High School’s Ainslie Arts Center, 1200 North Quaker Lane, on Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information contact 703-933-4135 or [arts@episcopalhighschool.org](mailto:arts@episcopalhighschool.org)

has its advantages. Many of the concerts are “cello friendly.” This season, our final concert on May 5 will feature the Mendelssohn Octet, another great cello work. Our guest artists for this concert will include violinist Benny Kim, violist Daniel Foster and cellist Eric Kim.

### How does the work of the Chamber Players differ from the pieces you perform with the National Symphony Orchestra?

Playing chamber music is so different than playing in an orchestra. The connection between the players on stage while playing chamber music is very close experience. Also, in a chamber performance you have so much more control over the music than you would in such a large group as an orchestra.

### What is the best part of performing in this series for you?

One thing that is great about the series at EHS is that the concerts are free to the public. Pendleton Hall is one of the best chamber music halls in the D.C. area. Everyone who has played on the series in Pendleton has loved the hall. It would be great to get the word out to the Alexandria area about this wonderful hall and the free concerts. The Episcopal High School community has been so generous in presenting these free concerts for the students and the public.

—ALISSA FIGUEROA

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 5

Tickets range from \$36-\$60.

[www.bmdc.org](http://www.bmdc.org)

**Civil War Explored.** Learn about the duties and skills of the artilleryman at Fort Ward, 4301 W. Braddock Road from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2/adults; \$1/child. Visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) or 703-838-4848.

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will perform with Bowen McCauley Dance. Tickets range between \$20-\$80. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or 703-548-0885.

**City Tree Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church, 2911 Cameron Mills Road. \$30-\$45/tree. 703-838-4999.

**Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Free. Proceeds benefit outreach programs. 703-780-4696.

**Art on the Avenue.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Mount Vernon Avenue. Browse through artists and craftspeople, food, music and more. There will be a train show at Mount Vernon Rec Center.

Free. Visit [www.artontheavenue.org](http://www.artontheavenue.org) or 703-683-3100.

**Gallery Opening.** 6:30-9 p.m. at the P&C Fine Art Gallery, 212 King St. See “Dr. Seuss for President,” featuring imagery from politically charged artworks, books and cartoons by Theodor Suess Geisel. Free. Refreshments will be served. RSVP to Kei at 703-698-8452.

**Seasonal Stories with Miss Cathy.** 10:30 a.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center. Children ages 3-6 can enjoy fall stories. Free. 703-339-4610.

### SUNDAY/OCT. 5

**Craft Day.** 1-4 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House, 614 Oronoco St. Children can get a “Squirrel Lee” tour and then do a Victorian craft. Bring an American Girl doll and gain free admission. \$2/child; adult free with child’s admission. 703-548-1789.

**Community Days.** 10:30 a.m. at Harvest Church, 7401 Beulah St. Includes rides, food, drawings and more. Free. Visit [www.harvestchurchag.org](http://www.harvestchurchag.org) or 703-

971-7070.

**Dance Performance.** 3 p.m. at Rachel M. Schlessinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. See the premier of Arlington-based Bowen McCauley Dance company’s “O’Inner Voice” with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. Tickets range from \$25-\$70. [www.bmdc.org](http://www.bmdc.org)

**Music Performance.** 3 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Alexandria Symphony Orchestra will perform with Bowen McCauley Dance. Tickets range between \$20-\$80. Visit [www.alexsym.org](http://www.alexsym.org) or 703-548-0885.

**Scottish Heritage Fair.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Park, 4301 West Braddock Road. Enjoy music, singing and more. Free. 703-838-4844.

**Art Reception.** 2-5 p.m. Come see “Connections,” featuring nature etchings of Lynida Terre at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Admission is free. Light refreshments will be served. Call 703-768-2525 for more information.

**Bridge Club.** 4 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane.

Beginners and advanced players age 12 and up can learn to play. Free. 703-765-3645.

### MONDAY/OCT. 6

**Sondheim Performance.** 8 p.m. at Schlesinger Concert Hall, 3001 N. Beauregard St. Hear “Anyone Can Whistle.” \$40-\$150/person. Visit [www.signature-theatre.org](http://www.signature-theatre.org) or 571-527-1860.

**Books and Ideas.** 7:30 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Discuss “Bridge of Sighs” by Richard Russo. Free. 703-765-3645.

### TUESDAY/OCT. 7

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

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

### WEDNESDAY/OCT. 8

**Fall Lecture Series.** 7:30 p.m. at Gadsby’s Tavern, 134 N. Royal St. See 18<sup>th</sup> century experiments performed. \$12/lecture or \$30/series of 3. Visit [www.gadsbystavern.org](http://www.gadsbystavern.org) or 703-838-4242.

**Rising Words, Rising Images.** 11 a.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Children ages 9-12 can discuss “Walt Whitman” by Nancy Loewen and do a related activity. Free. 703-765-3645.

### THURSDAY/OCT. 9

**Teen Volunteer Fair.** 5-8:45 p.m. at Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Meet community organizations needing volunteers. Children ages 12-18. 703-765-3645.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 10

**Music Performance.** 8 p.m. at Masonic Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive. Camerata will sing. Free. Visit [www.usafband.af.mil](http://www.usafband.af.mil) or 202-767-5658.