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PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

Heralding Club Hero

NEWS, PAGE 3

Adam Greenberg, president of the Potomac Chamber of Commerce, presents a check for \$5,000 to Kerry Blair, whose Club Hero was named the chamber's Charity of the Year. Club Hero raises money to fund education for children in villages decimated by HIV/AIDS. For \$5,000, 200 children in African can attend school for a year, Blair said.

Guilty Plea in Mortgage Fraud

NEWS, PAGE 3

Ready, Set, Gift

GIFT GUIDE, PAGE 10

Man Dies at Poole's Store

An unidentified man died last week after losing consciousness in front of Poole's Store in on Old River Road in Poolesville. The man lost consciousness after complaining of having trouble breathing, according to Montgomery County Police. Police were contacted at which point rescue personnel responded and transported the man to a nearby hospital where he was pronounced dead. There was no evidence of foul play.

Car in Creek Causes Backup

A car that lost control and plunged into the Watts Branch creek in Potomac snarled traffic for hours on Friday, Nov. 14. The driver lost control of his SUV while attempting to avoid hitting a deer, according to police, then plunged off the road into the water. The driver was uninjured. Police shut down Piney Meetinghouse Road at River and Glen Roads while the car was extracted.

Blood and Turkey

Congregation B'nai Tzedek is sponsoring a blood drive and turkey collection on Sunday, Nov. 23 from 9:30 am – 1:30 p.m. This Thanksgiving, the congregation is asking the community to help those who are less fortunate by donating a frozen turkey or a Giant Food Gift Card for distribution by the Manna Food Center. The synagogue is accepting frozen turkeys of every size (kosher or non-kosher) and gift cards from Giant Food in any denomination. A refrigerated truck will be on the premises to collect the frozen turkeys from 9:30 am – 12:30 p.m.

As there is always a shortage of blood supply around the holidays, the Red Cross Blood Mobile will be at B'nai Tzedek from 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. to receive blood donations. Contact Jamie at 301-299-0225 ext. 301 or jperkins@bnaitzedek.org to schedule

SEE WEEK IN POTOMAC, PAGE 16

NEWS

Show Must Go On

Potomac Theatre celebrates 20 years of the joyous struggle that is community theater.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

On a recent Thursday night, the cast and crew of the Potomac Theatre Company gathered in the entrance hall of the Blair Family Center for the Performing Arts at the Bullis School to rehearse. Their upcoming performance of "Scrooge: The Musical" was still more than two weeks away, and the cast was beginning the process of linking one scene to the next in chronological order during rehearsal. Bullis students were using the center's stage, so the "Scrooge" cast had set up shop outside of the theater.

Night had turned the windows that line the hall into a dark bank of mirrors, in front of which a dancer practiced in between her scenes, rising to the balls of her feet, her arms stretched above her head, her face stoic. Nearby a boy, one of seven child actors in the show, sat slumped in a chair, his attention held by a portable video game in his hands. A few feet away Ron Sarro was busy making sure that Jacob Marley was properly informing Ebenezer Scrooge of



PHOTO BY AARON STERN/THE ALMANAC

Rehearsing in the entrance hall of the Blair Family Center for the Performing Arts at the Bullis School on Thursday, Nov. 6, director Ron Sarro, right, stood in for missing actors during rehearsal for "Scrooge: The Musical." Vin Kelly, left, will play the title role of Ebenezer Scrooge.

the pitfalls of his greed.

"You skipped, 'I am doomed to wander the Earth in eternal repentance,'" a reader told Tony Pisarra, aka Jacob Marley.

"Damn," Pisarra said.

"That's why it's rehearsal," said Sarro.

Pisarra, Sarro, and Vin Kelly, in the part of Scrooge, retraced a few steps and ran through their lines again, with Sarro standing in for an absent actor on a night

SEE THE SHOW, PAGE 8

Turkey Trot

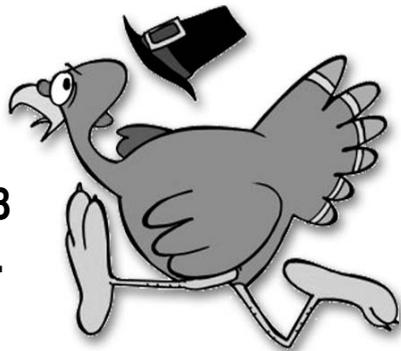
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Sat. 9:30-6:00 pm

Sun. 12:00-5:00 pm

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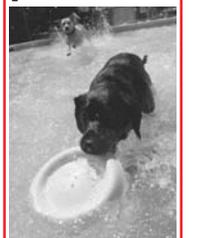
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PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE ALMANAC

The Potomac Community Center Advisory Board members who have been on the board for more than 10 years were named co-recipients of the Citizen of the Year Award during the annual awards dinner on Nov. 13 at the Normandie Farm. More photos at www.potomacalmanac.com.

Honoring Those Who Help Others

Potomac Chamber of Commerce celebrates its award winners at Normandie Farm.

BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC

For Max Heller, receiving an award was a time to reflect and repent. Standing at the podium as he received the Youth of the Year Award from the Potomac Chamber of Commerce last week, Heller addressed his parents.

"I know I'm never home for dinner, I struggle to make my bed in the morning ... and I do always speed, you're right," Heller confessed, drawing laughter from the crowd of well over 100 that came to celebrate Heller and the other award winners during the Potomac Chamber of Commerce's annual awards celebration at Normandie Farm restaurant on Thursday, Nov. 13.

Heller, a senior at Winston Churchill High School, won his award for his dedication in the classroom — a 4.9 weighted grade point average — and his activity outside of it, which include not just playing on Churchill's hockey team or being a leader in the B'Nai Brith Jewish youth organization, but also working to inspire his fellow students. As the seventh anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001 approached, Heller took it upon himself to make a video recounting the tragic events of that day and how they impacted one local family. He then used his

"I would be remiss if I didn't ask everybody who is in the community to give back to the community."

— Andy Alderdice

influence as the senior class president to organize a school-wide assembly at which the video was shown. As Heller noted, Charles Shultz once compared the human brain to a 10-speed bike, most of whose gears are never used.

"I make it a mission to use all my gears," said Heller. As Jennifer Matheson, the organizer of Thursday's celebration noted, Heller could well be on his way to his stated goal of becoming the first Jewish president of the U.S.

"You keep going the bent that you're on ... you've got my vote," Matheson said.

GIVING YOUTH like Heller the oppor
SEE CHAMBER, PAGE 5



Dr. Tristram Kruger presents the Business of the Year award to Andrea Alderdice.



State Sen. Rob Garagiola presents a proclamation to Maxwell Heller, named the Youth of the Year by the Potomac Chamber of Commerce.

Guilty Plea In Mortgage Fraud Case

\$33 million owed.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC

Vijay K. Taneja, 47 of Fairfax, pleaded guilty Thursday, Nov. 13, to one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering in a \$33 million mortgage fraud case.

Taneja's company, Financial Mortgage, Inc. (FMI), originated and sold mortgages on residential properties in the metropolitan area. Before his company sold mortgages to financial institutions as long term investors, FMI used "warehouse lenders" to temporarily fund the mortgages before they were sold.

Taneja defrauded a series of his company's lenders and other long-term investors of \$33 million by creating fictitious loans with bogus loan closings; selling the same legitimate loan to multiple investors; and pocketing proceeds generated from refinancing loans when the money was intended to payoff prior mortgages on the same properties, according to Dana Boente, acting U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Taneja's company filed for bankruptcy in June 2008.

Taneja is scheduled to be sentenced in federal court in Alexandria on Jan. 30, 2009.

He agreed to pay \$8,141,327 in restitution to Franklin Bank; \$5,637,293 in restitution to First Tennessee Bank; \$7,503,350 to Wells Fargo Bank; and \$11,880,321 to EMC Mortgage Corporation, according to his signed plea agreement filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria.

The maximum penalty for conspiracy to commit money laundering is 20 years in prison, full restitution, three years supervised release and a \$500,000 fine.

The United States and the defendant agreed to recommend to the court that he be sentenced to 84 months incarceration, according to the plea agreement.

Special Agents of the FBI and the IRS conducted the investigation.

U.S. Attorney Stephen Learned is prosecuting the case.

Mortgage Fraud

Vijay K. Taneja used some of the following properties in his fraudulent schemes, according to court documents; property owners were unaware, and some properties were used repeatedly, defrauding different financial institutions:

Garden Way, Potomac,
\$628,985, April 26, 2001
Willowbrook Drive, Potomac,
\$989,620, Sept. 11, 2007;
\$1,075,633, Aug. 16, 2006;
\$889,744, March 6, 2006;
\$100,651, March 6, 2006;
\$123,044, Aug. 16, 2006

PEOPLE

Garden Club Members To Decorate Tavern

BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT
THE ALMANAC

Snip, snap and sneak another one in. Just when you thought Michael Polycrones could not possibly further enhance the arrangement at hand he would add yet another dramatic touch to an already exotic creation. For 90 minutes his deft fingers seemingly twisted and contorted effortlessly as he turned endless blossoms and pieces of greenery into works of floral art.

While about 60 Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac (LFGC) members, and their guests, oohed and aahed over each of the finished products, Polycrones, who extemporaneously designed pieces suitable for mantels, tabletops and entry ways, added a running commentary on hints and how-tos for each masterpiece.

Billed as a program of "Holiday Designs and Decorations" the Nov. 10 presentation given at the Potomac Community Center was typical of many fund-raising programs LFGC members have sponsored over the past 47 years. It is from these events the club has been able to contribute to their community including the Potomac village

SEE GARDEN CLUB, PAGE 18



Little Falls Garden Club of Potomac President Randi El Saladar is surrounded with holiday floral creations by Michael Polycrones of Michael's Florist.



Selling chocolate covered pecans to help raise funds for the club's numerous community projects, are (from left) Charlie Wilson, Nancy Aiken, and Cindy O'Neill.

PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

"COLLABORATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING"

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by

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9:00 - 10:30 am Parent Workshop

1:00 - 2:30 pm Educators, Counselors,
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Dr. Ross Greene is the originator of the Collaborative Problem Solving approach and author of the recently released book, *Lost At School: Why Our Most Vulnerable, At-Risk Kids Still Fall Through The Cracks, And What to Do About It*. He is also the author of the highly acclaimed book, *The Explosive Child*, along with a third book, *Treating Explosive Kids: The Collaborative Problem Solving Approach*.

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Chamber Honors Award-Winners

FROM PAGE 3

tunity to succeed involves giving them constructive activities and safe places to be when the school day is over. The co-recipients of the Chamber's Citizen of the Year Award have done just that and more. When Club Friday began at the Potomac Community Center in 1990, none of the board members who helped to organize it knew if it would be a success. Eighteen years and thousands of entertained children later, it has. Club Friday has become the model youth entertainment activity in the county's Recreation Department and is popular enough that it has a waiting list. Each Friday night literally hundreds of children pack the community center to play games, sports, dance, watch movies, eat at the snack bar and, most importantly, socialize in a safe, adult-supervised environment.

"Everybody who's been to Club Friday knows it's a weekly miracle," said The Almanac's publisher Mary Kimm in introducing the 10 board members of the Potomac Community Center who have served on its advisory board for 10 years or more. The members are Larry Chloupek, Allan Cohen, Joe Drage, Bobby Fogel, Jeani Haven, Penny Heltzer, Steve Landsman, Jill Lavin, David Wanicur, and Herman Yeh.

Yet it is more than just Club Friday that makes the Potomac Community Center stand out, said Chloupek in receiving the

award. Over the years the advisory committee has raised money for physical amenities such as the entrance awning, backstops on the softball fields, new weight room equipment, flat screen televisions, new furniture and, most recently, a digital message board installed last month in front of the center. They also bring in a wide array of programs from yoga classes to table tennis tournaments and with the center's director Linda Barlock offer a welcoming environment to youth and adults alike.

"The board members firmly believe that volunteerism is a central component of a community," said Chloupek.

GIVING YOUTH a place to go after school is important, but providing them a promising future when they are in school is invaluable. For her decade of service as the principal at Winston Churchill High School Joan Benz was a co-recipient of the Citizen of the Year Award.

"She demonstrates a deep love" for her students, said Fred Goldman in introducing Benz.

In addition to Churchill being named a National Blue Ribbon school two years ago and recently being ranked 42nd out of 18,790 public schools in the country by U.S. News and World Reports, Benz has created programs to help disadvantaged students and has overseen a student body that regularly scores staggeringly high marks in state

tests and AP exams, sending schools off to prestigious universities around the country.

"I understand as the son of a principal the true sacrifice you make to your school and your community," said Del. Craig Rice (D-16).

Benz credited the work of her staff, the students, and their parents, in particular, for the success Churchill has enjoyed.

"I've never in my life thought of a village more special than Potomac," said Benz. "If it takes a village, we have it."

Not every village is as fortunate as Potomac, a fact that Kerry Blair is well aware of. On a 2005 family trip to South Africa, Blair visited villages where there seemed to be no adults.

"As a mother... I wondered, 'where are all the adults?'" Blair recalled Thursday. The answer was that many of them had died of HIV/AIDS. Blair decided to do something about it. She learned of Club Hero, a United Nations Association endeavor in partnership with The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), an awareness building and fundraising initiative dedicated to providing comprehensive, school-based support to orphans and vulnerable children living in HIV/AIDS-affected communities in Africa. She worked with the



State Del. Craig Rice presents a proclamation to Dr. Joan Benz, principal of Winston Churchill High School, who was named the Co-Citizen of the Year by the Potomac Chamber of Commerce.

Bullis School to start a chapter there. Nearly three years and thousands of dollars later, Blair's program has helped children in Africa attend school who may otherwise not have been able to. On Thursday Blair's efforts were awarded as the chamber's Charity of the Year.

"Living here is a real blessing and our children I don't think realize just how lucky they are," Blair said. Blair was presented with a check for \$5,000, enough money for 200 children to attend school in Africa, she said.

Help comes in different shapes and forms, and Andy Alderdice specializes in as many of those forms as necessary. As the chamber's businessperson of the year,

SEE CHAMBER, PAGE 18

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OPINION

Call for Student Almanac

Looking for writing and artwork by local students.

Every year, over the winter holidays, the Almanac turns the pages of one entire issue over to the contributions of local students. As with previous years' issues, we will feature artwork of many kinds, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories, reflections and more. Artwork can include paintings, drawings or any media; photos of

sculpture, ceramics or other works too large to submit are also encouraged.

We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled. Past contributions have come from children from nursery schools through those preparing to graduate from high school.

Sometimes an art or English teacher will assign a project and submit the work of an entire class, but individual submissions from any young person in the community are also welcome. We prefer digital submissions.

Please be sure to include the name of the

artist or author, and include age, school attended and name of the hometown, along with a phone number to be used for verification purposes only.

EDITORIAL

Mail, e-mail or deliver submissions to the Almanac by Dec. 5. Our address is 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102. E-mail to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-821-5050 with questions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,
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OUT & ABOUT



Six-year-old Brittni Martin won Best Costume for her Cinderella outfit at the annual Halloween celebration at the Scotland Community Center on Thursday, Oct. 30.



Beverly Farms third-grader Merci Kikwata dressed as vampire Randy Moss.

PHOTOS BY AARON STERN
THE ALMANAC



Wayside second-graders and best friends Kamryn Testa and Ava Katz showed their close bond with their homemade PB&J costumes.



Mekhi Dove, 5, and Bryce Wilson, 4, dressed in matching Spiderman outfits at the Scotland Halloween celebration. Other superheroes on hand included Iron Man, Batman and some Power Rangers.



Bells Mill Elementary fifth-graders Esraa Makkawy and Esraa Hassan enjoyed the festivities at the Scotland Community Center Halloween party.



Wayside Elementary first-grader Sophie Mincy dressed as a scuba diver during the Halloween-themed Walk for the Homeless on Friday, Oct. 31 at Wayside.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

Newspaper of Potomac
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned
weekly newspaper
delivered to homes and businesses.
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McLean, VA 22102

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Connection Newspapers, L.L.C.

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SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Hall of Fame Dinner. The Jewish Community Center of Greater Washington, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville, will host the 17th Annual Greater Washington D.C. Jewish Sports Hall of Fame Dinner of Champions at 6:30 p.m. The dinner honors local Jewish athletes and supports the JCC's renowned inclusion program. Visit www.jccgwshf.org or

call 301-348-3714.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Blood Drive. A blood drive and turkey collection will be held at Congregation B'nai Tzedek, 10621 South Glen Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Give blood and donate a frozen turkey or Giant gift card for distribution by Manna Food Center. Contact Jamie at 301-299-0225, ext. 301 or jperkins@bnaitzedek.org to schedule time for blood donation.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Pain Support Group. The Pain

Connection Chronic Pain Support Group will meet Dec. 4, 1:30-3 p.m. at the Davis Library, 6400 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Anyone with chronic pain, family members and interested community residents are welcome. Bring your ice/heat packs, pillows and mats. Call 301-309-2444 or visit www.pain-connection.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 22

Blood Drive. Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, is sponsoring a blood drive with INOVA from 3-8 p.m. Call 301-279-7010 or email office@bethsholom.org to schedule a donation.

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Toby is a male, 7 years, 35 lbs., neutered Beagle. He is a typical bouncy Beagle, ready for action. He's friendly, likes to "sing" and loves car rides. Toby is only middle aged for a Beagle and would love a kind adopter he can snuggle and enjoy a treat with.



Toby

Chessie is a female, 4 months, to be spayed, DSH kitten. She is a spunky and adorable kitten who is something of an explorer. She loves to greet you in the morning and at the door when you come home. Friendly Chessie is about as perfect a kitten as a cat love could adopt.



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The Show That Must Go On

FROM PAGE 2

when the cast had been particularly afflicted with illness and family obligations. That is part of the struggle for the Potomac Theatre Company and community theater groups in general, who depend on dedicated board members, devoted amateur actors and the good will and charity of an appreciative public.

THE POTOMAC THEATRE COMPANY has been at it for 20 years now, the upcoming production of "Scrooge: The Musical" marking two decades since Nan Muntzing and Patti Warner formed the group and put on Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" on a small stage in a multi-use activity room in the Potomac Community Center. The local popularity of the show has grown since then, as has the effort and cost of putting on such productions.

Of late that growing cost has become particularly poignant for the Potomac Theatre Company. Recently the group started a public sustaining fund drive chaired by long-time Potomac resident Austin Kiplinger. Between the cost of royalties (between \$3,000 and \$5,000 for "Scrooge," for instance, depending on the number of tickets sold), orchestras, the director, pro-

ducer, music director, stage choreographer, lighting designer and the expense to Bullis for the use of its facilities, putting on a musical can range between \$25,000 and \$30,000, said Muntzing. Plays run between \$15,000 and \$20,000, while children's productions cost \$10,000 and \$15,000.

"Ticket prices can't possibly cover this," Muntzing said, "we have to have contributions to help us." The Potomac Theatre Company is hardly alone among community theaters in struggling to keep up with the costs of community theater productions,

and those difficulties were already entrenched long before the country tumbled into the current recession. Grants for the arts and humanities have dried up in recent years and with people watching their wallets more these days, it's that much harder to solicit donations.

"We're all going through the same stuff, it's just hard

to get money," Muntzing said. "You can do shows cheaper and not go out of your way to make them really good, but we happen not to want to do that."

A LITTLE BIT OF MONEY goes a long way in the theater, but the value of dedicated actors and board members are what really drives a local company, said Marilyn Shockey, a board member at Potomac Theatre Company. Shockey, who puts to

SEE 20 YEARS, PAGE 17

"It is fun, and as long as we can give pleasure — I've just had a wonderful time in it."

— Nan Muntzing, Potomac Theatre Company co-founder

WEDDING

Wilson, Bardwell Marry

Angela Marie Wilson and Todd Kendall Bardwell were married on April 19, 2008, at Potomac United Methodist Church, Potomac. After their nuptials, they celebrated with family and friends at Normandie Farm Restaurant, Potomac.

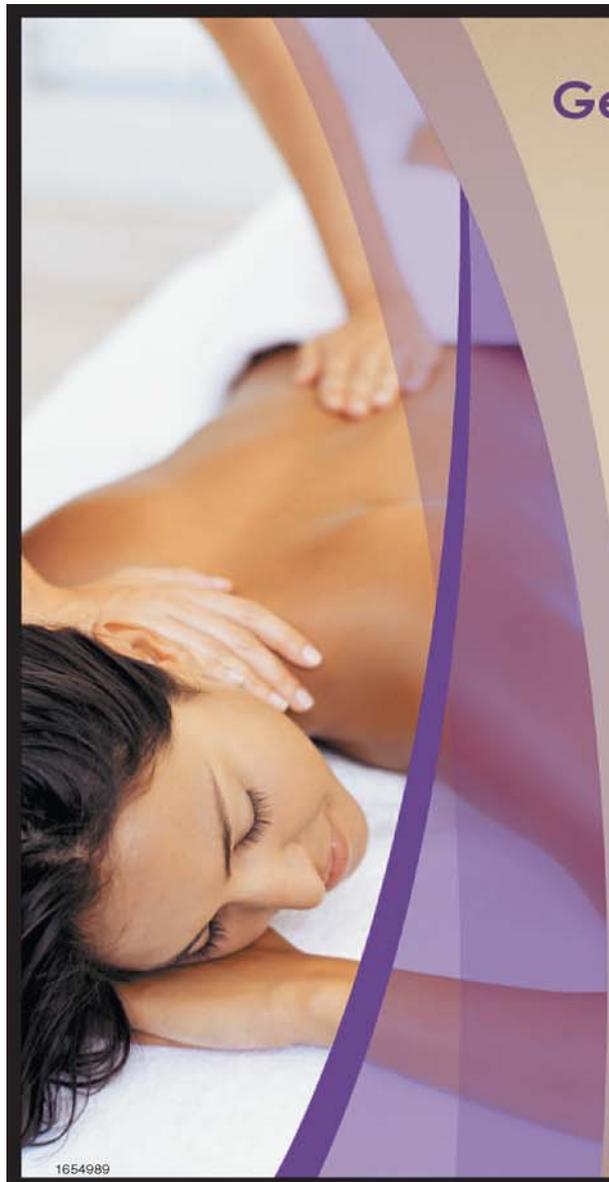
Mrs. Bardwell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William D. Wilson, is a fifth grade teacher at Flower Hill Elementary School in Montgomery County. Mr. Bardwell, son of Mrs. Mary Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bardwell, and Mr. Douglas Dillard, is self-employed with D & M Roofing Enterprises, a full-service residential exterior remodeling company based in Gaithersburg.

Mr. and Mrs. Bardwell are former Potomac residents and Churchill graduates. After a honeymoon cruise to



Angela Marie Wilson and Todd Kendall Bardwell wed.

the Western Caribbean, the Bardwells are making their home in the Kentlands, Gaithersburg, with their two kittens Krystal and Smoopy.



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OBITUARY

Naomi Z. Ulmer

In Evanston, Ill., Naomi Z. Ulmer died in the early morning of Nov. 14, 2008 surrounded by her immediate family. She was born in 1917 and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. She married Melville J. Ulmer June 1, 1936. She and her husband moved to the Washington D.C. area to support the World War II effort. She lived in the area until moving to a retirement home in Evanston in 2004. She was a high school teacher in the D.C.



Naomi Z. Ulmer circa 1967.

school system for over 30 years and joined the Capitol Page School in 1950 where she remained until she retired in 1978. She took over teaching all the science courses as well as many of the mathematics courses. There she touched the lives of many young men most of whom lived away from home for the first time. She had such a positive impact that she was invited to Capitol Page reunions even as recently as the one in Chicago in 2007.

She traveled extensively all over the world from Alaska to Australia with her husband, who was an economics professor at American University and the University of Maryland. They spent two different years in Leiden, The Netherlands, where her husband was on a Fulbright Scholarship. She studied there earning credits toward a Ph.D. in biology at Leiden University.

She and her husband established a home away for home in Kezar Falls, Maine to avoid the hot sticky D.C. summers. She was environmentally conscious and helped establish the Long Pond Association to help protect the lake where her summer cottage was located.

After retiring from the Page School, she threw herself into volunteer work such as the American Cancer Society and the Potomac library.

She also was a major player in having the Clara Barton Parkway named after the founder of the Red Cross whose home overlooked the Parkway.

She also wrote many pieces for the local Potomac Md. newspapers, The Gazette and The Almanac. Her volunteer work earned her a Citizen of the Year award in

1996 from the Potomac Chamber of Commerce.

In 2003 She moved to Evanston to be close to her son and daughter-in-law. There she organized among other things, a movie club that met once a week. She was an avid bird watcher, member of the Audubon Society and a lover of nature and she particularly enjoyed her trips to the Chicago Bo-

tanical Garden. People living at assisted living center were impressed by her intelligence and knowledge.

They said there wasn't a question she couldn't answer. She is survived by her son Melville P. Ulmer, daughter Stephanie, grandsons Andrew and Jeremy, granddaughter Rachel and great grandson Robert Ulmer.

PEOPLE NOTES

Nahid Maleki, DDS, MS, of Potomac, an orthodontist practicing in Washington, D.C., has been elected to represent the Middle Atlantic Society of Orthodontists (MASO) on the American Association of Orthodontists' (AAO) Board of Trustees. In 2006, Dr. Maleki received MASO's Gerard A. Devlin Memorial Award for Distinguished Service, the organization's most prestigious service award. She is a member of Omicron Kappa Upsilon, an honorary dental society and is listed in Who's Who in the East and Who's Who in American Education.

Ellis Berne, Potomac resident

and professor at Strayer University's Rockville Campus, was honored with the Faculty of Excellence Award at the university's commencement. Berne, who teaches a variety of business and general studies courses, was given the award for establishing an exceptional rapport with students through superior teaching.

Masami Onishi of Potomac was accredited in Floral Design by the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD).

Onishi was one of only 73 successful candidates out of 142 who participated in AIFD's Accreditation Evaluation Session in Chicago.

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by
Michael Matese

THE LATEST TRENDS IN LUXURY HOME DESIGN

What features are fashionable homeowners choosing to include in their newly built upscale homes? Let's take a look at what custom home clients consider the latest necessities of life.

Topping the list are the best home security systems, complete with camera surveillance viewable on all of the television sets in the home and walk-in safes. This feature reflects the widespread concern for personal and family safety among high-end homeowners. Custom-designed entertainment areas with multiple kitchens, indoor and outdoor living rooms and playrooms for children are popular. Homes with multiple levels may include a roomy garage that accommodates guest parking, indoor basketball or tennis sport courts and elevators that serve all levels of the residence.

Areas that allow homeowners to pursue their favorite leisure activities are being requested more frequently in new custom homes. Buyers want fitness workout rooms, home gyms, indoor and outdoor lap pools, spas and sports bars with plasma TVs where the latest sporting events can be viewed in style. Massage rooms, steam rooms, yoga and meditation spaces are other amenities that are in high demand.

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GIFT GUIDE



Weather vanes at **The Surrey** range from \$100 to \$290. The flying pig weathervanes are popular this year, said store owner **Lyne Morgan**.

Ready, Set, Gift

**Potomac stores are ready
for the holiday season.**

This may not be the year that the average consumer lavishes every last gift on their family, friends and loved ones, but Potomac store owners say that there are good deals to be had and there's an array of merchandise — from clothing, to specialty gifts, traditional and contemporary toys — to choose from, whether shoppers intend to be generous, thrifty, or strike a balance between the two. Here is a selection of a few locally-owned and operates shops.

Full Of Beans in Potomac Village offers an array of traditional and contemporary toys and clothing for children, according to store owner **Barbara Cohn**.

"We have a lot [of] unique, well-priced, unusual toys," said Cohn.

Educational items like Yoga Pretzels, a box of illustrated instructional cards suitable for children and adults for \$15, are popular this year, said Cohn, as are children's books like "Hooray for Dogs" for \$15.95. Children's clothes are always popular, useful gifts, and Full Of Beans has a wide selection like velvet dresses for girls from \$64 and winter jackets for boys from \$92. Stuffed animals are always popular for children and Jellycat is a trendy stuffed animal company; its bunny is \$16 at Full Of Beans and the lamb is \$26. Right now Cohn's store is holding an indefinite 20 percent-off sale.

*Full Of Beans, 10144 River Road,
Potomac Village shopping center*

For those in the market for jewelry for a loved one this holiday season **Robert Rosin** of **Robert Bernard Jewelers** suggests gold and yellow-gold jewelry.

"Gold jewelry is back," said Rosin.

Fresh-water pearls are also popular, said Rosin, and long, opera-length necklaces are especially trendy these days. Diamond stud earrings are always fashionable, and Rosin's store is currently holding a sale through Thanksgiving.

"It's a great time to buy jewelry right now because there are some great deals available," Rosin said.

*Robert Bernard Jewelers, 1079 Seven
Locks Road.*

At Ferrell's Specialty Gift Shop in Potomac Promenade

SEE IN SEARCH, PAGE 11



**At The Surrey, store owner
Lyne Morgan shows sterling
silver pendants that
are popular gifts this year,
particularly for high school
students.**



A shelf of perfume bottles and sprayers at Ferrell's Gift store.

GIFT GUIDE

In Search of the Right Gift

FROM PAGE 10

shopping center, a wide selection is the norm. Whether it is rows of old-fashioned perfume sprayers and bottles, scented candles or stylish umbrellas, the store offers what Pattie refers to as an incredible diversity of lines of merchandise. This year's hot items include holiday-themed earmuffs for \$19.95, umbrellas with carrying bags for \$41, and storytelling stuffed bears by Gund for \$49.50, but to fully appreciate the wide range of selection, "people really have to see the shop to know it," she said.

Ferrell's Specialty Gift Shop, 9812 Falls Road, Potomac Promenade Shopping center

The horse enthusiast and country stylist alike can find a bevy of shopping options at **The Surrey Tack Shop** in Potomac Village. Barbour outerwear is always popular among the equestrian and outdoor set, said store owner Lyne Morgan, with durable waxed men's and women's canvas jackets in the \$350 range. Breyer model horses and accessories — from blankets to trucks and horse

trailers — ranging from \$12 to \$48, while Webkinz stuffed animals sell in the \$15 range. For girls and women sterling silver initialed pendants are popular to wear as necklaces, going from \$12 to \$40, while Vera Bradley bags sell between \$15 and \$90. All of the necessary horse accoutrement from bridals and crops to saddles and blankets — and this year's favorite gag gift, Stud Muffins — are available, and if it's a weathervane you're in the market for, the brass and copper flying pig weathervane is especially popular this year, said Morgan, with smaller versions selling for \$100 and full-sized ones going for \$290.

The Surrey Tack Shop, 10107 River Road, Potomac Village

Jarunee Chantraparnik of **Toys Unique** prides herself on selling toys that not only entertain and amuse children but that also develop their creativity and problem-solving skills.

"In general we're just full of all kind of different things, a lot of fun things that I believe has its own value in itself," she said. For younger children, ages two and up



Full Of Beans store owner Barbara Cohn says that Yoga Pretzels is a popular gift this year.

there is Wedgit, a building block set that has cubes and triangles that can be stacked and fitted together in infinite ways. The base for the Wedgit sells for \$15, with

SEE READY, PAGE 13

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MADEIRA GIRLS have something to say

My freshman year I took two semesters of black-and-white photography. I learned when you take a picture of something, it will never look exactly like that ever again. It's interesting to capture that one moment. It's frozen forever, the defining moment. That was one of our assignments in photography last year. We had to capture that one moment in time before everything changes. Just going through that exercise makes me look at life differently.

For my Co-Curriculum placement this year, I am helping teach children at an art center in Washington. I love my Wednesdays. I get to work with preschoolers in the morning on ceramics and drama. Then in the afternoon, I work with fifth graders in drama. They are so expressive. It's a great opportunity for them. For me, too. At the end of the day, I go to Starbucks with my fabulous supervisor. We get to talk about everything. It's amazing what you can learn about yourself through others.

Alyssa

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

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SATURDAY, NOV. 22

Holiday Shopping Bazaar. Holy Child's Mayfield Market from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. with over 70 vendors selling personalized clothing, accessories, jewelry, ceramic pieces, handbags, artwork, a luncheon café and bake sale. Holy Child is located at 9029 Bradley Boulevard in Potomac. See www.holychild.org or call 301-365-0955.

Art Show. The 4th annual Holiday Art Show and Sale will be held in Glen Echo Park's Popcorn Gallery through Jan. 11. Browse and buy fine glass, ceramics, photography, painting, and more. Visit www.glenechopark.org or call 301-634-2222.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Time. Decorate a holiday treasure box, decorate a winter wreath and enjoy story time with Perfect Parties by Terrye at the Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

Winter Wonderland. Bethesda's annual Winter Wonderland, kicks off at 8 p.m. at Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda. The free event will include live performances by several music groups. Call the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

Winter Wonderland. Bethesda's annual Winter Wonderland, continues from 1-4 p.m. in Veteran's Park. The free event will include ice sculpting and chorale performances. Call the Bethesda Urban Partnership at 301-215-6660 or visit www.bethesda.org.

Cookie Sale. The annual cookie sale at Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church will take place from 10a.m. to 1p.m. Bring a tin or get one at the church, everything is homemade. Holy Resurrection Orthodox Church is located at 10201 Democracy Blvd, Potomac.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

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CALENDAR

To have community events listed free in *The Potomac Almanac*, send mail to 7913 Westpark Drive, McLean, VA 22102, e-mail to almanac@connection-newspapers.com, or fax to 703-917-0991. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos and artwork encouraged. Unless otherwise noted, all events are in Potomac. For more information, call 703-917-6431.

FRIDAY/NOV. 21

Teddy Bear Picnic. Enjoy this puppet show production by Carousel Puppets at the Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

Contra Dance. The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to live music. \$9/person. E-mail fncontra@yahoo.com.

Crafts Festival. Shop for everything from traditional pottery to glass jewelry and fashion apparel from local artisans at the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tickets: \$7/adults (online), \$8/adults (door) and free for children under 12. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Conversation Club. Join in practicing and improving your spoken English with the help of volunteers leading discussions from 3-5 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

National Philharmonic Orchestra. National Philharmonic Chorale Artistic Director Stan Engebretson will conduct the National Philharmonic in Carl Orff's choral masterpiece "Carmina Burana" at 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. The evening will also include a performance of Igor Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms.

Swing Dance. Enjoy a swing dance at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Beginner Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. and dance from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. to live music. \$15/person. Visit www.tomcunningham.com.

Holiday Bazaar. Washington Waldorf School's 39th annual Holiday Bazaar will be held at the school, 4800 Sangamore Road, Bethesda, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Enjoy games, crafts, puppet shows and live music and purchase jewelry, clothing, crafts and more.

Free admission. Call 301-229-6107. **Thanksgiving Parade.** The 11th Annual Montgomery County Thanksgiving Parade will be held in downtown Silver Spring at 9:30 a.m., rain or shine. The parade starts at Sligo and Georgia avenues, proceeds north on Georgia and right onto Ellsworth Drive and will be broadcast live on News Channel 8 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Crafts Festival. Shop for everything from traditional pottery to glass jewelry and fashion apparel from local artisans at the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tickets: \$7/adults (online), \$8/adults (door) and free for children under 12. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com.

Mayfield Market. Connelly School of the Holy Child, 9029 Bradley Blvd., Potomac, will host a holiday bazaar from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The shopping includes over 75 vendors selling clothing, jewelry, original art, and more. Free. Visit www.holychild.org or call 301-365-0955.

SUNDAY/NOV. 23

Contra and Square Dance. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Dance lesson from 7-7:30 p.m., dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. to live music. \$12/non-members, \$9/FSGW members.

Crafts Festival. Shop for everything from traditional pottery to glass jewelry and fashion apparel from local artisans at the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, 16 Chestnut St., Gaithersburg, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tickets: \$7/adults (online), \$8/adults (door) and free for children under 12. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 28

Contra Dance. The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to live music. \$9/person. E-mail fncontra@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Conversation Club. Join in practicing and improving your spoken English

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

THEATER



PHOTO BY SCOTT SUCHMAN

Evelyn (Erica Siegel) plays in a music fundraising marathon at her school in "Playing from the Heart" at Imagination Stage, through Nov. 30.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" will be playing at the Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park through Nov. 26, with additional performances at the Roundhouse Theatre in Silver Spring, Dec. 15-20 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Call the box office at 301-634-2270.

"The Three Billy Goats Gruff" runs at the Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park until Nov. 21. Performances on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.; Saturdays and Sundays, 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Call 301-320-6668 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

"Miss Nelson is Missing!," a musical-comedy, will be running at the Imagination Stage, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, Nov. 22-Jan. 4 at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Call the box office at 301-280-1660 or visit

SEE THEATER, PAGE 14

Getting Ready for the Holidays

FROM PAGE 11

different accompanying sets selling between \$23 and \$39. The Wedgit is for boys and girls with "the building mind," Chantraparnik said.

Create Your Own Book, or Create Your Own Popup Book is geared for children ages 5 and up for \$20. Pentago is a two player abstract strategy board game designed for children ages 6 and up for \$20, while the Bock-N-Roll marble maze game is similar to Marble Run but involves race tracks, building strategy and critical thinking; 60-piece sets sell for \$20, 100-piece sets for \$100. Books like the "Who Was" series — which give accessible biographical



At Toys Unique, Puzzle Balls are popular gifts that sell for \$8.

information with pictures about people ranging from Johnny Appleseed to Thomas Edison, Sacagawea and more than two dozen other historical figures are a good read for children 8 and up (\$4.99 each), while "If You Give a Cat a Cupcake" is a followup to the popular children's books "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" and "If You Give a Pig a Pancake" for \$16.99. Grandparents can be shopped for at Toys Unique also — Grand-O-Grams is a book filled with removable, child-themed postcards that grandparents can send to their grandchildren throughout the year for \$9.95.

Toys Unique, 9812 Falls Rd, #102B, Potomac Promenade Shopping Center

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

with the help of volunteers leading discussions from 3-5 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

Swing Dance. Enjoy a swing dance at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Beginner Swing lesson from 8-9 p.m. and dance from 9 p.m.- 12 a.m. to live music. \$15/person. Visit www.GottaSwing.com.

SUNDAY/NOV. 30

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

Contra and Square Dance. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Dance lesson from 7-7:30 p.m., dance from 7:30-10:30 p.m. to live music. \$12/non-members, \$9/FSGW members.

MONDAY/DEC. 1

Afternoon Tea. Pianist Becky Dukes is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

TUESDAY/DEC. 2

Chinese Book Club. Join in a Chinese book discussion in the Chinese language from 7-9 p.m. at the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive. Registration not required.

Afternoon Tea. Harpist Sue Richards is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

Metropolitan Philharmonic. The Metropolitan Philharmonic Orchestra is performing at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$75 (includes drinks at after-party) and \$45 (balcony seating, drinks not included). Call 301-581-5100.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 3

Afternoon Tea. Pianist Rosalind Breslow is performing at 1 p.m. at the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Prepaid reservations required; \$21 plus tax. Call 301-581-5108.

Artist in Residence. Jennifer Cutting, artist in residence at Strathmore, is playing at 7:30 p.m. in the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Tickets: \$15; call 301-581-5100.

Golden Boys. Dick Fox's Golden Boys starring Frankie Avalon, Fabian and Bobby Rydell is performing at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda, 6:30 p.m. Tickets: \$38-127. Call 301-581-5100.

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

Music Club. The Friday Morning Music club is performing at 11 a.m. in the

Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Free; no tickets required. Call 301-581-5100.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

Holiday Time. Decorate a holiday treasure box, decorate a winter wreath and enjoy story time with Perfect Parties by Terrye at the Cabin John Mall Atrium, 11325 Seven Locks Road, Potomac, 9:30 a.m.

Baltimore Symphony Orchestra. The Orchestra performs "Too Hot to Handel: The Gospel Messiah" at 8 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.BSOmusic.org for tickets.

Contra Dance. The Friday Night Dancers presents traditional American dancing including contra dances, square dances, and waltzes at the Spanish Ballroom in Glen Echo Park. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m., dance from 8:30-11:30 p.m. to live music. \$9/person. E-mail fdcontra@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Musical Tea. Enjoy complimentary tea and sweets in addition to free performances by the Levine School of Music's faculty-artists and students at the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda at 11 a.m. Free; reservations required. Call 202-686-8000, ext. 1068.

Greeting Cards. A workshop on how to make Victorian-era holiday greeting cards will be held at Clara Barton National Historic Site in Glen Echo, 5801 Oxford Road at 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Reservations required; call 301-320-1410.

THEATER

FROM PAGE 13

www.ImaginationStage.org.

The Potomac Theatre Company presents "**Scrooge**," based on "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens **Nov. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30** and **Dec. 5, 6 and 7** at the Bullis School Blair Family Center for the Arts, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. Tickets: \$20/adults; \$18/seniors and children. Leave a message at 301-299-8571 for reservations.

"**The Nutcracker**" is running **Nov. 28- Dec. 31** at the Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park. Performances on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Special shows on Nov. 28 and Dec. 26-31 at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. Tickets: \$10. Call 301-320-6668 or visit www.thepuppetco.org.

"**Playing from the Heart**," a play inspired by the early life of internationally acclaimed percussionist Evelyn Glennie will be running at the **Imagination Stage**, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, **though Nov. 30** at 7:30 p.m. on Fridays, 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Saturdays and 4 p.m. on Sundays. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Tickets: \$18.50. Call the box office at 301-280-1660 or visit www.ImaginationStage.org.

Wootton High School Center for the Arts will present Jim Jacobs' and Warren Casey's musical "**Grease**" on Thursday, **Dec. 4**, Friday, **Dec. 5** and Saturday, **Dec. 6** at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee on **Dec. 7** at 2 p.m. Reserved tickets \$12; general

admission \$8. Tickets can be purchased at the Wootton Box Office Monday, Dec. 1 through Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 3-6 p.m. and two hours before show times on performance days. Tickets may be purchased online at www.fieldhouse.com/woottondrama.

Winston Churchill High School will perform Walt Disney's classic, "**Beauty and the Beast**," set for **Dec. 5, 6, 7, 12, and 13**. The Bish Auditorium at Winston Churchill High School is located at 11300 Gainsborough Road. Tickets for the show cost \$12 or \$10, depending on seat location, and may be purchased on-line at www.seatyourself.biz/Churchill

"**Frosty the Snowman**" will be playing at the Adventure Theatre in Glen Echo Park **Dec. 5- Jan. 4**. Call the box office at 301-634-2270 for show times and tickets.

"**Zomo the Rabbit: A Hip-Hop Creation Myth**," a contemporary, high-energy take on an African tale will be running at the **Imagination Stage**, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, **Jan. 24-March 8, 2009** at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Recommended for ages 4 and up. Call the box office at 301-280-1660 or visit www.ImaginationStage.org.

"**Heidi**," a musical re-telling of the classic Victorian-era book, will be running at the **Imagination Stage**, 4908 Auburn Ave., Bethesda, **April 4- May 4, 2009** at 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Recommended for ages 5 and up. Call the box office at 301-280-1660 or visit www.ImaginationStage.org.

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Wootton Falls in Playoffs

Disappointing loss caps off groundbreaking season.

BY MIKE WEINER
THE ALMANAC

Late in the second quarter with his team down 14-0 to Quince Orchard in a first round playoff game, Wootton punter Scott Ayers kicked from deep in his own territory to the Quince Orchard 35-yard line. The ball bounced up faster than anticipated, and looked like it glanced off the calf of a Quince Orchard player. Senior cornerback Kevin Lee recovered the loose ball, and it seemed as if the Patriots' hope of salvaging the game were renewed. However, the side referee rushed into the fray to rule that the ball never touched the Cougar player, and that QO would retain possession. A deflating and symbolic play for Wootton, who fell to the defending state champion Cougars, 36-0,

in a game where nothing went the way of the visiting Patriots.

Wootton's varsity football team found itself in a very unfamiliar situation on Friday. The Patriots were in the Maryland 4A state football playoffs for the first time since 1991, just three victories away from the state championship game. Waiting for them was Quince Orchard, a team Wootton nearly defeated in week one of the regular season. This time was different, as the Cougars took advantage of poor weather conditions and elite athleticism to throttle Wootton and move onto the regional finals against Sherwood.

For Wootton, this season has been magical. The Patriots exceeded expectations in the preseason and became the first team from Wootton to make the playoffs in 17 years, a feat that seemed impossible for a team that was 2-8 just two years ago. The Patriots finished 7-3, building off of last year's 5-5 record while establishing a number of new records and halting a number of bad trends. This year, Wootton defeated Magruder and Churchill for the first time since 1991 and 1998, respectively. Their

three losses of the year were all to playoff teams. The Patriots also saw their prolific pass-happy spread offense bloom. Wootton was the benchmark for passing offense in Montgomery County this season, and senior quarterback Mike Mooney enjoyed a record season that put him on the map as an elite quarterback. In Week 6 against Blair, Mooney set a state passing record for yards in a game, with 451. In the regular season, Mooney had over 2,800 passing yards and 28 touchdowns. His main target, Stephane N'goumou, became one of the county's top wide receivers this season. N'goumou, whose play has given him a multitude of Division I football opportunities, had nine touchdowns this year and finished just shy of 1,000 receiving yards.

Four years ago, Wootton coach Greg Malling promised these seniors that they would make the playoffs if they bought into his philosophies. Many outside of the Wootton program would not have believed that a Patriot team could become a playoff team, but under the leadership of Malling and the experience of the 27 seniors who stuck with him, Wootton did just that. Al-

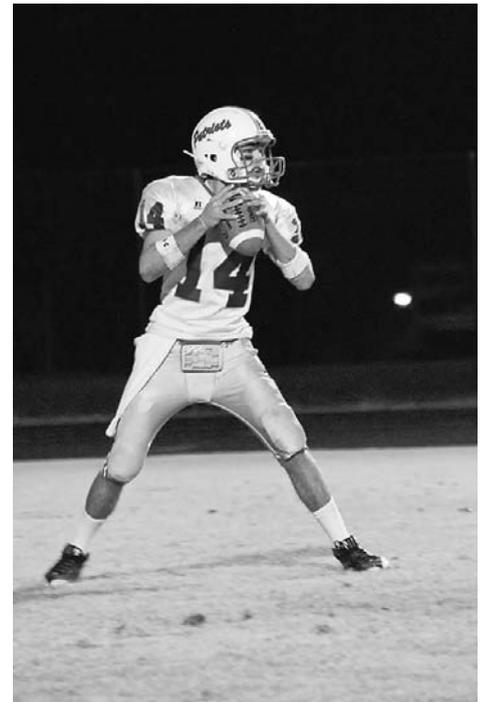


PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC
Senior quarterback Mike Mooney finished the season as the best passer in the county.

though the outcome wasn't ultimately what the Patriots were hoping for, the 2008 season has provided a template for future successes.



Former Churchill football coach Greg Neuendorf talks to his team during a practice earlier this season.

Neuendorf Resigns

Following the Churchill football team's loss to Wootton to end the regular season on Nov. 1, coach Greg Neuendorf decided to step down as head of the football program after two seasons, according to the school's athletic director, David Kelley.

Kelley said Neuendorf sent his resignation letter to Churchill principal Joan Benz

on the Sunday night following the Friday game, and is leaving the area because his wife has a job opportunity in South Carolina.

"He really had the program going in the right direction," said Kelley. "It's a shame he had to leave."

Kelley also said the search for Neuendorf's replacement has already begun, with the goal of having a new coach in place by the middle of the winter so an off season training program can be put into place.

Neuendorf took over a Churchill program that was in rebuilding mode two seasons ago, and showed signs of bringing the Bulldogs back to prominence within the county. After a 4-6 season in 2007, Churchill started this year 5-1, but stumbled a bit down the stretch, losing three of its last four games. The team just narrowly missed out on a playoff spot, ending the season with a 6-4 record.

Neuendorf did not return phone messages seeking comment.



PHOTO BY MARK GIANNOTTO/THE ALMANAC
New Churchill boy's basketball coach Matthew Miller.

Miller Joins Bulldogs

After one of its most successful year in recent memory, the Churchill boy's basketball team will have a new face roaming the sidelines this season.

Matthew Miller will begin his first year as head coach when the Bulldogs take on Springbrook on Dec. 5.

Miller was an assistant coach at Wheaton last year after spending a season under coach Scott McClary at Division III Marymount in 2006-07. Miller also worked as an assistant coach at Whitman in 2005-06.

Churchill began practice for the 2008-09 campaign last Saturday.

"So far the kids have been great and the community have been great," said Miller last week. "We'd like to follow up on the good football season here. That created some buzz and we just want to keep that rolling."

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What:	USATF certified 5k race - course is two clock-wise loops around the Patriot Center
Registration:	\$20 on or before Wednesday, December 17 th , 2008; \$25 after December 17 th and on race day
Packet Pick-up:	Tuesday, December 30, 2008 at Metro Run & Walk from 6:00-8:00 PM (7516 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA)
Race Day Registration: (& Packet Pick-up)	GMU Concert Hall, Wednesday, December 31 st from 2:30 to 3:30 PM

Register online at www.racepacket.com

For info, see www.maddnova.org
or 703-379-1135



THIS WEEK

FROM PAGE 2

an appointment to give blood. Congregation B'nai Tzedek, a Conservative synagogue of over 600 families, is located at 10621 South Glen Road in Potomac. For information call 301-299-0225, or visit www.bnaitzedek.org.

'Grease' Dances Into Wootton

Wootton High School Center for the Arts will present Jim Jacobs' and Warren Casey's musical "Grease" on Thursday, Dec. 4, Friday, Dec. 5 and Saturday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. and a Sunday matinee on Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. Co-directed by Carla Ingram and Adam Graham, Wootton's production features the talents of Jonathan Helwig as Danny, Lauren Fagan as Sandy, Rachel Lipman as Rizzo, Bryan Pike as Kenickie, Stephanie Helwig as Frenchy, Aaron Gage as Doody, Jordan Smilan-Goldstein as Marty, Jack Stonesifer as Sonny, Jenay McNeil as Jan, Alex Garretson as Roger, Matthew Popkin as Eugene, Lynda Cholvibul as Patty, Mattia D'Affuso as Teen Angel, Taylor Bardwell as Cha Cha, Jonathan Loewy as Johnny Casino, Rose Weinschenk as Mrs. Lynch and Spencer Wight as Vince Fontaine. An additional 23 students round out the cast. Choreography direction is provided by Derrick Spear. Under the musical direction of Ingram, Wootton musicians will provide live accompaniment.

Reserved tickets \$12; general admission \$8. Tickets can be purchased at the Wootton Box Office Monday, Dec. 1 through Wednesday, Dec. 3 from 3-6 p.m. and two hours before show times on performance

days. Ticket forms are available online at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/woottonhs/academics/art/GreaseOrder.pdf.

Tickets may also be purchased online at www.fieldhouse.com/woottondrama.

Emergency Notification System

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission launched a new Customer Notification System to alert residents about WSSC-related incidents that may affect service or daily routine. The announcement comes after a water main break this summer left county residents with possibly contaminated water for nearly two days and county officials were criticized for not alerting residents soon enough. Residents can have e-mail and/or text message alerts about WSSC work occurring near their home, office, school or other important address delivered to computers, cell phones and/or Short Message Service devices.

In the event that a situation involving the water quality occurs, CNS will automatically alert every customer who signs up for the system. Because of cell phone provider limitations, text alerts will consist of short messages providing key information, while e-mail alerts will deliver additional detail. This service is free, though cell phone provider's standard text messaging charges will apply. To register, visit wsscwater.com. Contact WSSC's Communications and Community Relations Office through WSSC's main number at 1 800-828-6439, the direct office line at 301-206-8100 or via e-mail at communications@wsscwater.com with questions.



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COMMUNITY

20 Years of Community Theater

FROM PAGE 8

gether the show's program and will also play the roles of Mrs. Fezziwig and Mrs. Dilber in "Scrooge."

"People do theater from all different walks of life," Shockey said. Kelly, for instance, works as a psychiatrist in Bethesda while Sarro, who works now as a professional actor and director, used to be a reporter for the Washington Star-News and is a past president of the Washington Press Club. Cast members must balance their work and family obligations with their roles in the theater, which means that Sarro standing in for absent actors happens with some frequency.

"I would say that no rehearsal has everybody," said Kelly. It also means making some concessions when putting on a show — nearly every actor plays multiple parts, and still the shows are often undercast. "Scrooge" calls for 36 adult actors and 16 child actors, but Potomac Theatre Company will put on the show with 22 adults and seven children. The show won't suffer a lick because of it, but "of course if someone takes the night off because they're sick you lose three characters," Sarro said.

Part of the reason for the shortage of actors is that local theater companies — of which there are no shortage around the beltway — compete less with one another for audiences as they do for both onstage and behind-the-scenes talent.

"It gets to be more of a challenge every year and of course now there are so many community theaters that the demand on the pool of talent on both the tech and the acting side is very heavy," said Elie Cain, a PTC board member.

'Scrooge: The Musical'

The Potomac Theatre Company will celebrate its 20th year with a production of "Scrooge: The Musical" beginning Friday, Nov. 21. Shows run from Nov. 21 through Dec. 7 each weekend at the Blair Family Center for the Arts at the Bullis School, 10601 Falls Road, Potomac. For more information on tickets to the show or to learn more about the Potomac Theatre Company's sustaining drive, call 301-299-8571 or visit potomactheatreco.org.

"People that are involved care about it and are happy to be here, that's why they're involved," Shockey said. And just as many of the steady patrons will recognize a lot of the faces onstage, so too do the actors return to the company year after year to work with castmates who have become fast friends.

"People pick the show if they want to be in the show," said longtime cast member Troy Knighton. "I picked the company ... it's kind of like a family."

What the future holds for the group is far from certain, but so far the sustaining drive has been going well. "Money is slowly coming in, which is heartwarming," said Muntzing. "You do live from show to show in community theater. It is fun, and as long as we can give pleasure — I've just had a wonderful time in it."

"Who dreamed 20 years ago we would still be here?" said Cain. "We just did 'Pirates of Penzance' on a lark. Who knew if anybody would come see it or even audition? It's been a great deal of fun and it's been rewarding to see audiences enjoy things. It's been fun. I hope we can continue."

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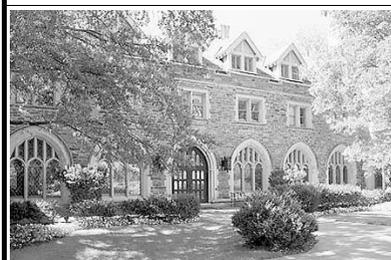
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PEOPLE

Garden Club To Decorate Tavern

FROM PAGE 4

gazebo, the Jane Garrett Memorial Garden, Garden Therapy for those with disabilities, and planting flowering cherry trees in the village among a roster of accomplishments, both local and away.

Polycrones, owner of Michael's Flowers and Gifts, Woodbridge, Va. ("we deliver to this area," he didn't fail to mention) gave a

timely demonstration suitable for an annual club effort, decorating Great Falls Tavern for the Christmas season. From glue to goldenrod he concocted arrangements and often stressed the use of material "right outside the front door." Pine boughs, pinecones, boxwood and red leaves were included, the latter preserved and colorful.

He filled a ceramic pumpkin with spectacular orange lilies (he takes the pollen off), peach roses, red tinged daisies, cat -o'-nine tails and ferns for a Thanksgiving display. This was followed by Christmas arrangements with candles, submersible tinted lights and Christmas ornaments, all in attractive containers.

Filling a red sleigh with huge white lilies, red carnations, holly with berries and various greens, Polycrones, who has been in the business since his dad started it in 1963, did what he seemingly liked to do most, add that last touch. This time it was jingle bells. However, his really final touch on numerous occasions is a bow. Demonstrating how he loops and twists the ribbon is enough to make an untrained ar-



A holiday arrangement for any occasion was a favorite among Little Farms Garden Club members and their guests.



PHOTOS BY CISSY FINLEY GRANT/THE ALMANAC

Edee Callahan Perry (left) and Traci Hoffman admire a Christmas floral arrangement made by Michael Polycrones, guest speaker at the Little Farms Garden Club of Potomac's recent fund-raiser.

ranger dizzy.

Polycrones also advised, "Put in one type of flower at a time and snap below the knuckle." And, he concluded, "Don't forget, always spray with Master Shine. Nothing leaves our shop without the final spray. It gives a great sheen and preserves the moisture."

Ladies, go forth and produce! Great Falls Tavern awaits you as do the myriads of visitors who pass through this National Park treasure each holiday season.

To quote Oliver Wendell Holmes, "The Amen! of Nature is always a flower."

Amen.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Potomac					
9601 Accord Dr.	\$1,195,000	Sun 1-4	Karen Thibeau	Long & Foster	301-580-6311
10716 Barn Wood Ln	\$1,795,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
1107 Bettstrail Way	\$785,000	Sun 1-4	Audrey Di Pietro	Weichert	301-537-7282
2508 Chillum Pl.	\$549,900	Sun 1-4	Mahin Ghadiri	Weichert	301-996-2266
9600 Falls Bridge Ln.	\$1,049,000	Sun 1-3	Wendy Banner	Long & Foster	301-356-9090
8816 Harness Tr.	\$789,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
9504 Hemswell Pl.	\$1,850,000	Sun 1-4	Wendy Banner	Long & Foster	301-365-9090
7822 Hidden Meadow	\$1,246,900	Sun 1-4	Jackie Tillson	Weichert	301-807-6690
14000 River Rd.	\$2,975,000	Sun 1-4	Sylvia McNamara-Biggar	WC & AN Miller	301-299-2345
8810 Stonehaven Ct.	\$725,000	Sun 1-4	Ashton Vessali	Weichert	703-760-8880
9800 Tibron Ct.	\$1,649,000	Sun 1-4	Leslie Friedson	Long & Foster	301-455-4506
North Potomac					
15743 Ambiance Dr.	\$287,900	Sun 1-4	Audrey Primozic	Weichert	301-540-1330
102A Bucksfield Rd. #A	\$424,900	Sat 1-4	William Garrett	MLS Connect	240-737-5000
303B Cross Green St. #B	\$439,000	Sun 1-4	Margo Kline	Weichert	301-717-8122
16805 Westbourne Terr.	\$529,990	Sun 1-4	Courtney Donato	Weichert	301-718-4080
Bethesda					
6318 Avalon Dr.	\$739,000	Sun 1-4	Robert Jenets	Stuart & Maury	301-654-3200
7912 Cindy Ln.	\$749,999	Sun 1-4	Pierpaolo Verrone	Weichert	301-656-2500
8110 Custer Rd.	\$925,000	Sun 1-4	Hans Wydler	Long & Foster	301-986-6405
6204 Dunrobbin Dr.	\$749,000	Sun 1-4	Rachelle Levin	Long & Foster	301-983-0060
6521 Halbert Rd. E	\$699,900	Sun 1-4	Karen Thibeau	Long & Foster	301-580-6311
4801 Hampden Ln. #103	\$899,900	Sun 1-3	Allan Chaudhuri	WC & AN Miller	301-765-6110
8113 Lilly Stone Dr.	\$864,990	Sun 1-4	Courtney Donato	Weichert	301-718-4080
10610 Parkwood Dr.	\$899,900	Sun 1-4	Courtney Donato	Weichert	301-718-4080
8703 Ridge Rd.	\$925,000	Sun 1:30-3:30	Andrea Evers	Evers & Co.	202-550-8934
6121 Temple St.	\$639,900	Sun 1-4	Thomas Whiteman	Long & Foster	301-907-7600
10613 Weymouth St. #102	\$249,900	Sun 1-5	Christine Sherrod	Weichert	301-908-8747
Chevy Chase					
4876 Chevy Chase Dr. #135	\$10,000	Sun 1-3	William Fox	Fox Res. Auctions	410-654-1290

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Kenneth Lourie

703-917-6475 or E-Mail the info to Klourie@connectionnewspapers.com
All listings due by Monday at 3 pm.

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Whether looking for an investment property with excellent rental history, a vacation home on an unique island, or a little bit of both, this is the house for you.

Call Carly or David, 336-282-1870

Chamber

FROM PAGE 5

Alderdice was recognized as someone who helps out in the local business community — as well as at the Chamber of Commerce — whenever asked. Funny, then, that she wasn't approached to serve on the committee that decided the annual award winners this year. Only when she was informed that she was an award winner did she realize her help hadn't been sought out.

"If you need help and she says yes, you're golden," said Tris Kruger in introducing Alderdice, a Realtor with W.C. & A.N. Miller and active member of the Kiwanis Club.

"It's been wonderful," Alderdice said of her time in the Potomac business community. "I would be remiss if I didn't ask everybody who is in the community to give back to the community."

FAITH NOTES

Congregation Har Shalom, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac, is holding its annual Scholar's Weekend program on Friday and Saturday, **Nov. 21 and Nov. 22**. Shabat dinner on Friday at 6:45 p.m. is \$12/adult and \$8/age 12 and under.

Reservations for dinner may be made by going to <http://harshalom.scholarsweekend.eventbrite.com> or by calling 301-299-7087 x 315.

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Extend your beach season into the fall with soothing and warmer ocean waters at this Sunset Beach, NC vacation home. Furnished 3 or 4 bdrm, 2 bath, \$525,000. Newly remodeled, bright and airy beach island home on a secluded area of the island surrounded by views of the canal, marsh and ocean inlet. Sit on one of the newly built front porches (1 screened) and capture a gorgeous sunrise with your morning coffee or unwind with friends in the evening on the back deck and experience stunning sunset views. Whether you're looking for an investment property with excellent rental history, a vacation home on a unique island, or a little bit of both, this is the house for you.

Sunset Beach, a small barrier reef island 2 1/2 miles long and 1/3 mile wide, is quiet and family oriented and only 30 minutes from Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Call Carly or David at 336-282-1870 for more details

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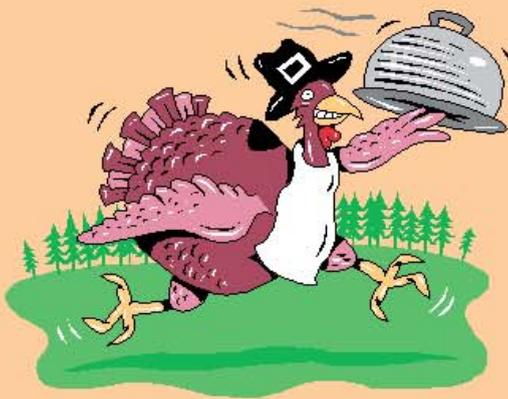
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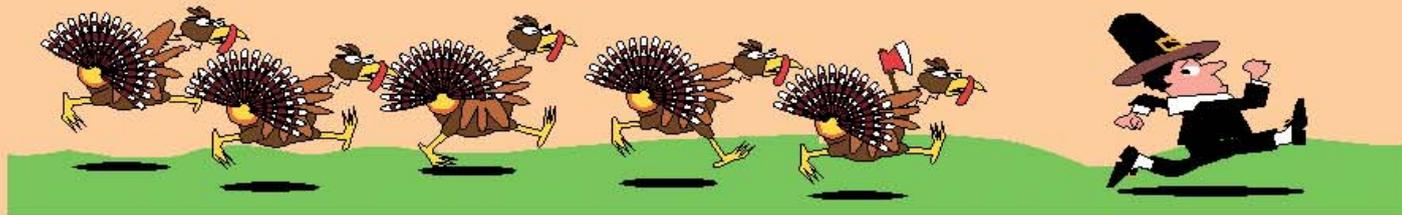
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