

# Still a Ladies' Affair

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Using a plastic ladle, Hasiba Ali directs the Luncheon Choral at this year's Summer Luncheon, hosted, as always, by Thelma Calbert.

PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

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Camps & Schools



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# SHILLELAGHS

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## SCHOOLS

**Garrett B. Harrison-Lane** of Reston was named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Lebanon Valley College of Annville, Pa. Harrison-Lane is a sophomore in music recording technology.

**Monique Bailey** of Reston was named to the spring 2009 honor list of Oxford College in Oxford, Ga. Bailey is the daughter of Austin T. Bailey and Mayuri A Bailey of McLean.

**Melissa Tran** of Reston has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at Providence College.

**Rachel Clare Midura** of Reston

has earned a Jefferson Scholarship for study at the University of Virginia beginning this fall. Midura is the daughter of Christopher and Kelly Midura, and a graduate of South Lakes High School.

**Aaron Kuney**, son of Valerie Schneider Hollmeyer of Reston and Steven Ross Kuney of McLean, has received a master of business administration from the Goizueta Business School of Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

Reston residents **Michael J. Lynn** and **Rebecca M. Porter** have graduated from Boston University in Boston,

Ma. Lynn was awarded a bachelor of arts in psychology, and Porter a master of social work in social work.

**Jonathan Volpe** of Reston has graduated with a master of business administration from the University at Albany in Albany N.Y.

**Catherine Skinner** of Reston has been named to the spring 2009 dean's list at St. Mary's College of Maryland.

**Lin Liu** of Reston has graduated with a master of business administration from the University of New Haven, West Haven, Ct.



### PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform, and solicit comments from, the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road to support the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and Dulles Toll Road improvements.

The public hearings will be conducted in an open house format, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Monday, August 24, 2009**  
Ashburn Elementary School - Cafeteria  
44062 Fincastle Drive  
Ashburn, VA 20147

**Thursday, September 3, 2009**  
McLean High School - Cafeteria  
1633 Davidson Road  
McLean, VA 22101

**Wednesday, September 9, 2009**  
South Lakes High School - Cafeteria  
11400 South Lakes Drive  
Reston, VA 20191

There will be informational exhibits about the Metrorail Project, the cost and financing of the Metrorail Project, the Dulles Toll Road and potential improvements that may be made to the Toll Road, the revenue anticipated to be raised as a result of the proposed toll increases, and how this additional revenue will be spent. Representatives from the Airports Authority will be present to discuss these items.

Informational exhibits and an on-line comment form will be available on the Airports Authority website at [www.mwaa.com/tollroad](http://www.mwaa.com/tollroad) during the official comment period, August 14-September 14, 2009. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, or mailed to: Dulles Toll Road Proposed Toll Rate Increases, 3900 Jermantown Road, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22030.

For special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, citizens may call (703) 934-4639, at least 10 days prior to the hearing they wish to attend.



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*U.S. News & World Report* ranks Inova Fairfax Hospital Women's Center among the Top 25 gynecology programs in the nation for quality and outcomes.

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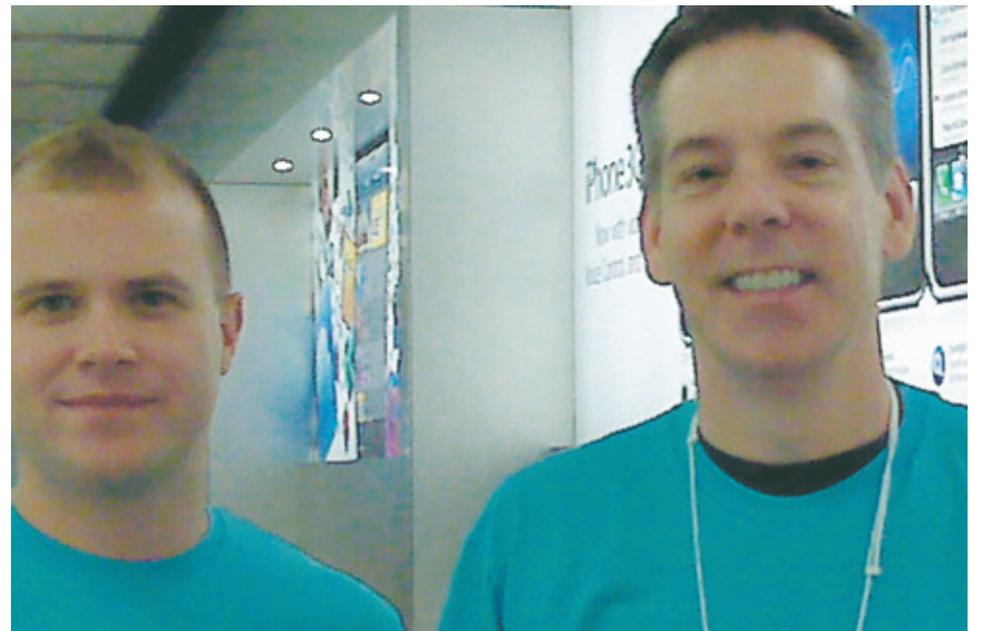


Inova Health System is a not-for-profit healthcare system.



**Tom Wilkins poses with Reston founder Bob Simon, one of the guests of honor.**

**Keely Buchanan, 7, reads her favorite poem, Shel Silverstein's 'Rock 'n' Roll Band.'**



**Charles Cochran, market manager, and Larry Burke, store manager, celebrate the opening of a new Apple store in Reston Town Center last Saturday.**

## Still a Ladies' Affair

Area women, and a few men, entertain each other at 33rd annual Summer Luncheon.

BY MIKE DICICCO  
THE CONNECTION

**R**eston founder Bob Simon was a guest of honor at the annual Summer Luncheon at Thelma and Roosevelt Calbert's home last Wednesday, Aug. 12, but it wasn't always this way. Simon is one of the many men who have been thrown out of what was once a ladies-only affair.

"I'm jealous because for 30 years, they've thrown me out physically," said Tom Wilkins as he introduced Simon. He noted the high price Simon had paid to make Reston an integrated community when he founded it

in the 1960s. "He refused to bow to the financial institutions in the state of Virginia," Wilkins said.

Wilkins' grandson, Ryland, had done a history project on Simon and shared a little of what he had learned, saying Simon also tried to protect the environment and served as an example that one person with resources and a willingness to work hard could create "something huge."

The other guest of honor was former Times Community Newspapers editor Janet Rems, who published the first newspaper account of the luncheon in 1986. Rems was

SEE MEN 'NOT WELCOME.' PAGE 15



**From left are honorary members Carolyn Corbin, Madlyn Calbert, Orna Dillard, Juanita Cooper, Minnie Davis and Janet Rems, with luncheon founder Thelma Calbert.**

## Apple Opens in Town Center

Store grand opening celebrated on Saturday.

BY BRITTANY JOHNSON  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith Apple fans waiting in line since 6 a.m., store manager Larry Burke and market manager Charles Cochran could not be happier with the grand opening of the store. "Welcome to your store," said Burke, when greeting fans into the store. The new Apple store, located across from the movie theaters in the Reston Town Center, had its grand opening on Saturday, Aug. 15 at 10 a.m. Burke said his main goal is to allow as many customers as possible to test all of the Apple products. He is planning to have different workshops, sessions and tutorials for new and experienced users about the new products. The store also sponsors field trips for

local schools who are thinking about purchasing Apple computers for their classroom. The students and teachers are allowed to come in and enjoy a day with the computers, iPods and other applications. The store is staffed by 50 associates, ready to help customers with any Apple-related question.

On the opening day, the customers received free T-shirts. Some said they were happy that now they would not have to travel to Tysons Corner or the Fair Oaks Mall to go to the Apple store. The new store prides itself for reaching out to every generation, with a "kids station," computers with preloaded games and educational programs, children can keep busy while parents shop. The store had a huge turnout on the opening day Saturday.



**Jenna Miller of Reston says she was happy with the new store because she 'now do not have to drive all the way to Tysons or Fair Oaks.'**

## Rep. Moran, Howard Dean to Hold Town Meeting

Town Hall meeting hosted by Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), featuring Gov. Howard Dean, M.D., former governor of Vermont, Democratic National Committee Chair Emeritus, author, and national grassroots leader on health care, will discuss current efforts in Congress to reform our nation's health care system.

The meeting is taking place Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. at the South Lakes High School Auditorium, 11400 South Lakes Drive in Reston.

Congressman Moran has invited Dean to speak at this forum in Northern Virginia, to reflect upon the current effort given his years of experience as a leading health care expert, governor and physician.

The town hall will be an opportunity for the Congressman to hear from 8th District constituents on health care, and to clarify what the reform measures in the Congress really mean for Northern Virginians.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited, available on a first come first serve basis.

## No Arrests at Sobriety Checkpoint

Fairfax County police officers from around the county conducted a sobriety checkpoint to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers on Saturday, Aug 15 from 11:50 p.m. until 2:50 a.m. Sunday. All motorists were stopped and drivers were evaluated to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Approximately 778 motorists were stopped on Centreville Road near the intersection of Woodland Park Drive. There were no arrests made for DWI. Ten summonses were issued for miscellaneous traffic offenses.

Nine officers and six auxiliary police officers participated in the checkpoint.

## Volunteers Needed for Reston Triathlon

The Reston Triathlon is looking for volunteers to help with the event scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 13. Volunteers are needed for Saturday set up (Sept. 12): swim course, transition areas at Lake Audubon boat ramp and South Lakes High School and also for packet pickup. On Sunday, race day (race begins at 7 a.m.) volunteers are needed for the two transition areas (Lake Audubon boat ramp and the high school stadium), post race food, run sentry, markings, bike marshal and finish line. A free Triathlon T-shirt and free food after the race are rewards for helping out.

E-mail [restontri@aol.com](mailto:restontri@aol.com) or go to Web site [restontriathlon.org](http://restontriathlon.org) and follow the links to volunteers.

## RCC Seeks Board Candidates

The Reston Community Center (RCC) is seeking interested candidates to run for a seat on its 2009-10 Board of Governors. The Board of Governors establishes the overall policies for the Center and oversees its programs and budget. Board members also represent the Community Center at social, recreational, cultural and educational activities in Reston. This year's preference poll will fill three positions on the RCC's Board of Governors. Board members serve a three-year term.

All residents of Small District 5, ages 18 or older, are eligible to run for appointment to the nine-member RCC Board of Governors. Candidates must complete a Candidacy Statement in order to have their names placed on the Preference Poll ballot. Candidacy Statements will be available at the Center or online at [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) beginning at 9 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 31. The deadline for candidacy registration is 5 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14.

For more information on the 2009 RCC Preference Poll or Board of Governors, visit [www.restoncommunitycenter.com](http://www.restoncommunitycenter.com) or call the Center at 703-476-4500.

## NEWS



**Herndon resident Lachelle Wallace, 18, volunteered at Langston Hughes Middle School in Reston to help recount the school supplies. She first assisted in Kids R First's distribution program in seventh grade.**



PHOTOS BY KENNETH BURCHFIEL/THE CONNECTION

**Kids R First president and founder Susan Unger displays one of multiple receipts from the organization's purchase of school supplies. Her organization bought products from Wal-Mart and Office Depot.**

# Kids R First for Area Charity

**Organization fills cafeteria with school supplies for distribution.**

BY KENNETH BURCHFIEL  
THE CONNECTION

**N**ot all families can take school supplies for granted. The volunteer organization Kids R First has unpacked multiple truckloads of school supplies in Reston for distribution to disadvantaged students at 85 area schools.

"I really see how important it is that everybody have what [they need]," said Patty Gehring, a Kids R First board member.

Kids R First has purchased school supplies for students for 11 years. Susan Ungerer, its founder and president, started the organization after her involvement with Herndon-Reston FISH, an organization providing emergency funds to needy residents. Ungerer had heard requests there from multiple families forced to make choices between purchasing school supplies and paying for basic essentials.

"I knew firsthand the need that existed," Ungerer said. She collected school items in her garage when Kids R First began, but the products for the upcoming school year now fill a school cafeteria.

Wal-Mart employees arrived at Langston Hughes Middle School on Aug. 4 to sort and label the boxes of school supplies. One of the workers on hand to help was Reynaldo De la Cruz, a Burke resident. He came from a desire to



**Wal-Mart employee Reynaldo de la Cruz joined other Wal-Mart workers in helping Kids R First organize boxes of school products. The supplies will be distributed to 85 schools in Northern Virginia.**

"Try to help anybody here," and hoped to participate again.

**KIDS R FIRST** has a complex process for equipping the 85 participating schools with supplies for needy students. Before the academic year began, Gehring explained, teachers in each school made lists of the items their classes would need. This data was used to make "master sheets" for each institution. They display the quantity of items that students receiving free or reduced-price meals would need. The organization then purchased the necessary products from Wal-Mart and Office Depot, which have supported the school supply initiative for much of its existence.

"I really see how important it is that everybody have what [they need]," Gehring said. She added that children "stand out" if they

**"Knowing that I'm helping people ... [makes] me feel better about myself."**

**— Lachelle Wallace, 18, Herndon**

don't have the proper items for school.

Kids R First depends on donations and support from sponsors, which include Wal-Mart, Office Depot, JK Movers and Northrop Grumman, to purchase the supplies. The current state of the economy, according to Ungerer, has not caused a large drop in funding.

"It has [almost] been a reverse effect," she said, as donors understand the increased needs of area students.

**UNGERER** would like to expand the concept of school supply assistance to all of Virginia and to secure the aid of additional stores. "I'd love to see it go nationally," she said.

Kids R First also maintains a College and Career-Bound Program, which will equip 19 schools in the coming year with \$2,500 to help pay students' academic expenses.

"It gives more kids an opportunity," said Ungerer.

Lachelle Wallace, an 18-year-old Herndon resident, first became involved with the school supply distribution program when she was in seventh grade. On Aug. 4, she assisted in recounts of the supply inventory.

"Knowing that I'm helping people ... [makes] me feel better about myself," she said.

# NEWS

## Brother Knights Train for Emergencies and Disasters

Early in 2009, then Grand Knight Keith George and current Grand Knight Joe Gibbons wanted to incorporate a disaster preparedness goal into the Knights of Columbus Council overall goals, in keeping with both state and national K of C goals, to aid the community in emergencies.

Enter some 15 ready-to-go brother Knights who signed up to take the Fairfax County's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training course so the council, parish and surrounding community might benefit further from having trained emergency volunteers to help first responders to do their vital jobs in the event of a disaster.

CERT is an eight-week training program that prepares residents to help themselves, their families and their neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Through CERT, residents can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster



CONTRIBUTED

**Family of Man Knights of Columbus Council #7566 (Reston) members, from left, Kevin McManus, Atanacio Sandoval, Scott Parr and Dennis Byrne receive their basic Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Certificates at a recent ceremony in Fairfax County, with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue officials in the background.**

response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations. The idea is to have a cadre of volunteers who can provide critical support by giving immediate assistance to victims before emergency first responders arrive on scene. For Fairfax county, CERT training is administered through the auspices of the county fire and rescue department. For many, the training leads to Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team's Full Scale Exercise. Fairfax County's emergency response teams are world renowned.

Brother knights who participated received full back packs with emergency equipment and helmets and are on the County's rolls for call up in case of disaster, much like county residents who work in the medical field. The Council is hoping to have another CERT team receive basic training and have the original team move on to advanced training. It is hoped that other SJN ministries may wish to have members of their groups trained, thereby expanding the blanket of protection across the SJN Catholic Community and the surrounding area.



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# OPINION

## Public Options

Government jumps into business for a variety of reasons.

While private options of this amenity are plentiful, they are so expensive that they are out of reach for many even in our affluent area.

So government has jumped in to offer the opportunity at greatly reduced prices, making it available to almost everyone. It's not clear what the impact of the public option has been on the private businesses involved.

We're talking, of course, about golf courses.

Joining a private country club can cost tens of thousands of dollars in original membership fees, plus thousands in annual fees.

But around Northern Virginia, there are many public options for golf, some nationally acclaimed, where one can swing the clubs around 18 holes for under \$30.

Offering access to recreational facilities at cost well below private options is a common activity for local governments. Water parks, indoor and outdoor pools, indoor and outdoor

tennis are all available in our area at reduced prices via government involvement. Recreation centers provide an affordable alternative to health clubs.

Localities offer summer day camps of many varieties, all at a fraction of the cost of private camps.

Public colleges and universities offer lower cost tuition than private colleges and universities.

### EDITORIAL

Publicly owned historic sites and park facilities compete with restaurants and banquet halls to host weddings and other events.

Do these public options hold down the prices at private camps, private colleges, private country clubs? That's unknown, but what we do know is that the public options make many things affordable and accessible to people who would not be able to afford them otherwise.

Meanwhile people continue to pay a premium for the amenities, services and added value and availability of the private options, keeping those businesses in business.

### Local 'Public Options'

For public recreational opportunities, see:

- ❖ Northern Virginia Park Authority, <http://www.nvrpa.org/>
- ❖ Fairfax County Park Authority, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>

Governments are also offering a private option for many things that previously have been strictly free public goods. One example is roads.

A private company is widening the Beltway, 495, from the Virginia side of American Legion Bridge to the Springfield Mixing Bowl. When it's finished, drivers will have the option to pay a significant toll to the company to ride in the "High Occupancy Toll" lanes to avoid the crowded but free lanes. Vehicles with at least three occupants will be able to ride in the new lanes for free.

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Civil Activity

BY JACK KENNY

PAST PRESIDENT, REPUBLICAN CLUB OF GREATER RESTON

On Tuesday, Aug. 25, 7-9 p.m. U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) with Howard Dean will conduct a Town Meeting at South Lakes High School Auditorium. The doors open at 6 p.m. Seating is limited.

Given the information and misinformation, it should be a well-attended event. Doubtless the topic is drawing national attention. However, locally it is or should be an opportunity to get the facts as Congressman Moran believes. The current version of the Healthcare Bill — there are several submitted — tops 1,018 pages that propose a host of actions that affect our well-being. Congressman Moran has had sufficient time to read the entire bill including the power granted to over 58 unelected boards and commissions that will set policies and make decisions that affect

each one of us. Locally, 32 percent of the registered voters in the Reston precincts are baby-boomers and older. And, of those who vote, older voters are the top group in voting consistently in each election.

Existing provisions of the current bill include: A government committee will decide what treatments one will get (Page 30 Sec 123); a Health Choices Commissioner will choose your HC benefits for you (Page 42); all non-U.S. citizens, illegal or otherwise will be covered ((Page 50 Sec 152); the government will have direct access to your bank accounts for "elective funds transfer" (Page 59 lines 21-24); a National ID Healthcard will be issued (Page 58); the government will mandate all benefit packages for private HC plans (Page 84 Sec 203); any individual who does not have a gov-



A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

ernment-acceptable healthcare plan will be taxed an additional 2.5 percent of income, the government will reduce physician services for all Medicaid Seniors (Page 239, Line 14-24), and the list goes on and on.

In spite of argument to the contrary, the health care in the United States is, by far the best in the world. What has not been mentioned in virtually all of the discussions broadcast is the impact government-mandated healthcare will have on the research community. Think of the advances in gene therapy, medicines and treatments that are being developed. Compared to the charitable and privately funded research money, the grants of the National Institutes of Health constitute a small percentage of funds for research. What will be the motivation for the many physicians who do the research to ex-

tend our lives and improve our quality of life? It is not beyond reality that any research will be government controlled and funded oriented to what is for the greater good.

As little is known about how Congressman Moran will run the town hall. Will the questions be limited, planted, softballs, etc.? Each attendee should come with a prepared question written down with the name and address of the questioner to validate his or her voter status. Questions like: Will you, Congressman Moran, be included in the government-run healthcare program? How many times have you or your immediate family sought medical care at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center or the National Naval Medical Center at Bethesda in the past year? Is a medical premium taken out of your congressional paycheck?

It may be crowded, you may be turned away and the town hall may be scripted but let your voice be heard!

## Safe and Welcome At Reston Pools

To the Editor:

I would like to submit this letter in response to a letter to the editor regarding Reston Pools [What Happened to Reston Pools?, Reston Connection, Aug. 12-18, 2009].

I have been a Reston resident my whole life. I frequent Reston pools (North Hills, North Shore, Glade, Lake Thoreau) with my family. I love the pools! The facilities have been kept up great over the years and I have seen the guards working hard maintaining the cleanliness. Whenever anything breaks Reston Association very quickly has somebody out to fix it. The

guards have done training drills while I have been there and I witnessed them working very hard on their lifeguard training. My family feels very safe and welcome whenever we go to the pool.

I worked as a lifeguard for Reston Association when I was a teenager. It was one of the best experiences I have ever had. Today I'm a successful operations

manager in a service based industry and a big reason for my success is due to what I learned when I was a lifeguard for Reston Association.

Amy Rohrbaugh  
Reston

MORE LETTERS, PAGE 11

## THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

# Time for Equality

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



COMMENTARY

“There is now a national consensus behind recognizing same-sex relationships,” according to Third Way, the self-described “leading think tank of the moderate wing of the progressive movement.” (www.thirdway.org) According to polling conducted for Third Way, “76 percent of the country favors some form of legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples.” At the same time that Virginia and most recently California have passed measures defining marriage as being between a man and a woman, there is a quickly developing understanding that there needs to be a legal recognition of same-sex relationships. The conversation needs to begin in Virginia on the subject. Squeamish politicians can take comfort in knowing that in the four states where marriage equality has been debated the legislators voting for equality have all been re-elected. While some will not be able to re-

sist attempting to use the issue for political gain, such bigotry is proving less successful.

Part of the shift in public opinion is coming about as a result of an understanding that the recognition of same-sex relationships does not change traditional marriage. In fact, the polling cited above found that 83 percent of the persons in the middle on the issue think that the institution of marriage is facing problems with half labeling the problems as major. The Third Way research found an important subtlety: “When people felt that legal recognition for

same-sex couples would change the definition of marriage, they were almost universally opposed. When they felt it allowed gay people to join in the institution, they were almost universally supportive.”

In addition to recognizing same-sex relationships, the laws in Virginia and other states related to insurance benefits and property rights need to change. Bills that would give partners access to medical insurance have been defeated in Virginia several times. My bill that would give the Fairfax County Human Rights Commission authority to investigate complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation has been defeated in a subcommittee at least five times. The hate crimes bill I got passed years ago needs to be strengthened. And bills that prevent employment discrimination based on sexual orientation need to be passed.

As the most recent poll results indicate, public opinion is ahead of the politicians on equality issues for gay and lesbian Americans. It is time for politicians to catch up!

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PHOTO BY CINDIE MOULTON

**New FISH Board** Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc., elected a new board effective July. First row, seated center is Marcia Di Trapani, President; to the right are Vice Presidents Darlene Palmer and Suzanne Rudiselle; to the left are Karen Stevens, Secretary, and Diane Hardcastle, Treasurer. Back row standing, left to right: community director Cindie Moulton; corporate director Peggy LeReche from Dominion Virginia Power; community directors Helen Sellman and Janet Hyman; corporate directors Chris Griffin from Griffin-Owens & Associates and Carl Larsen from M&T Bank; community director Mary Delaney; corporate director Suzanne Fulton from Soarings PR; community director Marie Kordes; Executive Director Sherri Longhill. (Not pictured are community directors: Sue Maynard, Barbara Beecy and Dan Vitiello.)

## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-917-6437. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com).

**THURSDAY/AUG. 20**  
**Peter McCory One-Man Band.** 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com).  
**Iona.** Traditional Pan-Celtic music, 7 p.m. at the Reston Community Center. Free. 703-476-4500.  
**Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion.** 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.  
**Matinee With Mommy.** 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy a movie. Call for title. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.  
**Zoom and Soar Storytime.** 11 a.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Hear stories and songs celebrating things that go. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

**FRIDAY/AUG. 21**  
**Passion, a musical based on Ettore Scola's film 'Passione D'Amore'** and the 1869 novel 'Fosca.' 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$22; \$19 students and seniors. 703-481-5930.  
**Family Fun Night,** 6:30-9 p.m. at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Free family fun, live entertainment, chaperoned games, prizes, free hot dogs and drinks for children.



CONTRIBUTED

Presented by TLC 4 Kids Children's Center, Washington Plaza Baptist Church, Friends of Lake Anne.  
**SATURDAY/AUG. 22**  
**The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's OTO Percussion Duo: What is Rhythm?** 10 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. In case of inclement weather, call 703-324-7469 for cancellation updates. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/).  
**Passion, a musical based on Ettore Scola's film 'Passione D'Amore'** and the 1869 novel 'Fosca.' 8 p.m. at the Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. \$22; \$19 students and seniors. 703-481-5930.  
**Reston Farmers Market at Lake Anne Village Center,** 8 a.m.-12 noon. A variety of locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, poultry and goat and cow cheeses. Plus four bakers and large selection of flowers, plants and cut flowers. Home made organic butterfat ice cream, honey and kettle corn round out choices at

**Stanley Jordan trio performs at Reston Town Center, Saturday, Aug. 22, 7:30 - 10 p.m., rain or shine. This concert is part of the Reston Concerts on the Town series that takes place every Saturday night.**

Reston Farmers Market. Go to: [www.restonfarmersmarket.com](http://www.restonfarmersmarket.com) or call 703-318-9628.  
**Neighborhood Plant Clinic.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.  
**The Stanley Jordan Trio,** Reston Concerts on the Town, 7:30 p.m. [www.stanleyjordan.com](http://www.stanleyjordan.com)

**SUNDAY/AUG. 23**  
**Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation Annual Open House Ice Cream Social,** 2-4 p.m. at 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. For new and prospective members. Meet with Rabbi Robert A. Nosanchuk and other temple leaders, tour the temple, and learn about NVHC services and programs. 703-437-7733 or [www.nvhcreston.org](http://www.nvhcreston.org).  
**Middle Eastern Dance.** Mosaïque Language & Cultural Arts presents its premiere Dance Showcase, entitled, "Dances from a Colorful World," featuring Middle Eastern Dance performances by students, instructors and guest artists. The family oriented

event will be at 5 p.m. at the Reston Community Center in the Hunters Woods Plaza. Admission is free and open to the public.

**TUESDAY/AUG. 25**  
**Assistance League Annual Social.** 7 p.m. ALNV, a volunteer organization that promotes literacy and well-being of women and children, will welcome potential new members in Herndon. ALNV runs two reading programs in Fairfax County and provides layettes to newborns and comfort items to sexually assaulted women and children and others in need. 703-648-1822 or [www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org](http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org).  
**Bingo the Clown.** 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com).

**SATURDAY/AUG. 29**  
**Neighborhood Plant Clinic.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. 703-242-4020.  
**SUNDAY/AUG. 30**  
**Salons for a Cure.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Salon Chakra at the Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Proceeds for hair services will be donated to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life; 100% of hair service receipts, 15% of retail product sales. Donations also accepted. Schedule appointments at 703-707-8484.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2**  
**Baked Alaska: What's Happening to the Glaciers?** Dr. Bruce F. Molnia. The US Geological Survey Science in Action public lecture series the first Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. at the Dallas Peck Auditorium, on the first floor of the USGS Building, 12201 Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. For additional information contact the USGS Visitor Center in Reston at 703-648-4748.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 26**  
**The Spinal Research Foundation Seminar on Osteoporosis,** with Dr. Christopher R. Good. 6-8 p.m. at The Virginia Spine Institute, 1831 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Free. Register at [www.SpineMD.com](http://www.SpineMD.com) or 703-709-1114.  
**Spanish Chats.** 6 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Informal refresher for adults who want to practice Spanish. 703-689-2700.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 27**  
**Unicycle Lady Pirate Show.** 11 a.m. Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. [www.lakeanneplaza.com](http://www.lakeanneplaza.com).  
**Farmers' Market at Reston Town Center Pavilion.** 3:30 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St., Reston. Locally grown fruits and vegetables, locally raised meats and

poultry, bread and cheese, salsa and sausage. 703-689-4699.

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 2**  
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**THURSDAY/SEPT 3**  
**Open Mic for Bands Night.** 9 p.m. at Jimmy's Tavern, 697 Spring St., Old Town Herndon (on the Corner of Elden and Spring Streets). Bands will receive 30 minutes to play, and must pre-sign with Andre' Love at [soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com](mailto:soulcraftmusic@yahoo.com) or 703-984-9114. Walk-ins will only be accepted if time permits. All types of music welcomed. 703-435-5467.

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [reston@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:reston@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-917-6437 with questions. Deadline is Friday.

**THURSDAY/AUG. 19**  
**Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce new and prospective members lunch,** 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dulles Regional Chamber's Chantilly Office, 3901 Centerview Drive, Suite R, Chantilly. Learn about the impact of this regional chamber and avenues for promoting a business. Extensive networking on site; attendees are asked to bring business cards. Lunch will be provided. Pre-registration is required at 571-323-5300 or [dullesherndonregionalchamber.org](http://dullesherndonregionalchamber.org).

**TUESDAY, AUG. 25**  
**Town Hall meeting hosted by Rep. Jim Moran (D-8), featuring Gov. Howard Dean, M.D.,** former governor of Vermont, Democratic National Committee Chair Emeritus, author, and national grassroots leader on health care, will discuss current efforts in Congress to reform our nation's health care system. 7-9 p.m. at the South Lakes High School Auditorium, 11400 South Lakes Drive in Reston. Free and open to the public. Seating is limited, available on a first come first serve basis.

**WEDNESDAY/AUG. 26**  
**Dulles Area Transportation Association Board of Directors and General Membership Meeting.** Registration 7:30 a.m. Meeting 8 a.m. at 2201 Cooperative Way, Herndon. "Taxes and Tolls: Money Makes the World Go 'Round!" What's new with the Phase II Tax District and Loudoun County plans for the Dulles Corridor.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 27**  
**Fairfax County Public Schools Parent Orientation.** 10 a.m. at the Lake Anne-Reston Student Registration Office, 11484 Washington Plaza West, Reston. How parents can get involved, a discussion designed to help accelerate a family's acculturation to the United States, school registration, testing, safety, health services, technology tips, graduation requirements and more. 703-277-2640 or [robin.hamby@fcps.edu](mailto:robin.hamby@fcps.edu).  
**Information Session on NOVA's ESL for Employment Course.** Intended for workers who want to improve their English language skills and advance their career. Time and location: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m. at NOVA's Reston Center, 1831 Wiehle Avenue - 3rd Floor. Free. Bring photo identification and a document showing eligibility for employment in the U.S. To register and obtain more information, call 703-764-7779 or e-mail [ESLEmployment@nvcc.edu](mailto:ESLEmployment@nvcc.edu), or just show up.

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## COMMUNITY



Kevin Yue (left), Alvin Vatanavan, Ryan Stormont and Justin Kim took first place in the Golf For Nature competition with a score of 55, 16 under par. Stormont said that "[the event] was a great time . . . and I really appreciate everybody's efforts."

PHOTOS BY  
KENNETH BURCHFIEL/  
THE CONNECTION

## Golfers Swing for Environment

**"Golf for Nature" event brings funds to Costa Rican organizations.**

BY KENNETH BURCHFIEL  
THE CONNECTION

All golf events make use of the environment, but fewer are organized to support it. Players in the "Golf For Nature" competition, hosted at Reston National, helped bring funds to two environmental organizations while spending a day on the greens.

"We can't take things for granted anymore," said Reston National general manager Tom Coffman referring to the environment.

Thirty golfers participated in Golf For Nature, which raised funds for Amigos of Costa Rica and MarViva. The former organization is helping the latter finance its sustainability program in Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula, according to Amigos of Costa Rica executive director David Schacht.

The Osa Peninsula contains three percent of the world's biodiversity, Schacht said, but has been threatened by illegal fishing. Amigos of Costa Rica and MarViva are part of a conservation project in the peninsula that will help develop the region's economy in an environmentally friendly way.

Golfer Brett Calhoun, whose team placed second in the event after a tiebreaker, wanted to do "something for nature." As a representative for Morning Dew Lawn Services, a sponsor at the event, Calhoun hopes to make his lawn service more environmentally friendly.

"We all had a good time," said Calhoun of his team. He plans to be back next year.

Golf for Nature is part of The Green Business organization's Sports for Nature Program. Its mission, according to The Green Business president Jorge Morera, involves "protecting nature through sports." When players say that the events have made them more environmentally aware, "that makes it all worthwhile," Morera said.

A storm passed through the area the night before, forcing maintenance on Reston National's bunkers before the event began. Overall, the rain did not affect the course too much, according to Coffman.



From left: Alexander Shek, Mani Barajas-Alexander and Milo Barajas Alexander played as a three-person team in the event.

"Our course drains real well," he said.

Reston National hosted Golf for Nature to support the community, said Coffman, who hopes to hold it next year as well. Its draw of 30 players was less than expected; he mentioned the difficult financial period as a possible factor.

"The economy's affected everyone," he said. Coffman hopes that "things will turn around for us economically."

Alexander Shek also participated in the event, finding it "really well-coordinated." He called the course "challenging," but said that his team was doing well. Alexander Tennis, which he co-founded with teammate Mani Barajas-Alexander, was a sponsor for the event.

The close of the golf outing featured a catered dinner from the San Antonio Grill. Players ate and talked as the day's scores were tallied and posted on the board. Taking first place with a score of 55 were Alvin Vatanavan, Kenneth Yue, Justin Kim and Ryan Stormont. Second place went to Calhoun, Jeff Blevins, Doug Dyer and Kevin Audinger.

"The course is playing very well," said Vatanavan, an Arlington resident. He came out to Reston National for "the competition," but also for the charity and its beneficiaries. Stormont, of Centerville, wanted to "[be] able to hang out with these guys."

The Green Business has more Sports for Nature events on the way. In addition, Morera said, proceeds from sales of certain D.C. United tickets will benefit environmental organizations.

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## LETTERS

### RA Responds To Pool Concerns

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter that ran in your August 12-18, 2009 issue ["What Happened to Reston Pools?"]. Amy Stanmyre Wong expressed sadness over what she called the "conditions" of some of Reston Association's pools. Mrs. Wong, a former Reston resident and former RA lifeguard, recalled her happy childhood memories of Reston and wanted her children to experience what she did.

So does everyone on staff or on the board of the Reston Association. That's why Mrs. Wong's comments are taken seriously and addressed. We take great pride in ensuring a great experience for each person. We are sorry that Mrs. Wong's experience was less than she expected. We have used her comments to review our own processes.

Reston Association has prepared and is in the process of implementing its long-term capital improvements program, which will again

be revised in the upcoming 2010/2011 budget process. Over the last several years, upgrades and improvements have been made at many of the facilities to better meet the changing needs of our patrons. That effort will continue.

In addition, the seasonal staff must meet very stringent Fairfax County Health Department, American Red Cross and our own standards in order to be entrusted with the safety of the many patrons who visit Reston facilities during the course of a pool season. The lifeguard staff is also provided facility care and customer service training. They undergo weekly in-service training and get to test their skills against other lifeguards in the annual Lifeguard Olympics.

In a specific response to Mrs. Wong's concerns, we have made inspections and reviewed our maintenance records. Here is what we found:

❖ **Equipment:** All issues were in process or immediately addressed.

Fences, fountains, and chairs are all part of our on-going maintenance.

❖ **Cleanliness:** "Spot inspections" are conducted, unannounced, at the facilities weekly. The lifeguards are scored as part of their performance evaluations.

❖ **Customer service:** RA management is directly working with all managers regarding public perception and customer service. This is part of their ongoing training and continues to be a focus to ensure great customer service.

On behalf of the Association, I thank Amy for taking the time to let us know her concerns. We encourage all patrons to fill out the customer comment card, call us, or e-mail [pools@reston.org](mailto:pools@reston.org). Your opinion matters and we take pride in providing the best pool experience possible, whether you are visiting or going every day.

**Robin Smyers**, President  
Reston Association

### Blame It on Greed

To the Editor:

As a conservative Republican living in a town of liberal Democrats, the party of the green aka Al Gore, I am amazed at the lack of green that composes this place. The RA/RCC organized a series of meetings designed to find the wishes of the community regarding indoor recreational facilities. The outcome was the sanctification of Brown's Chapel Park, which is a strip of green with one picnic table and a couple of bathrooms. That so much effort was put into saving this puny little park shows the degradation to which Reston has degenerated.

Tennis players and swimmers have not been able to find an area big enough in the entire town of Reston

on which to put an indoor facility. What have all of these big government loving people been doing to protect the environment of Reston?

The only existing expanse of green in the town is the soccer fields at Baron Cameron Park, and rumor says that low-income housing has been proposed for that venue.

Now the prevailing opinion among the members of the RA board is that for indoor tennis, the courts at Lake Newport should be covered. "Sure cover up the courts with steel." How a supposedly environmental massive government can find an excuse for that is beyond me.

I am not without a suggestion. Why not take an area such as the

present location of the Reston Association building that is scheduled to be demolished and put the rec center there? The land has already been compromised, there is good access from main roads and there is plenty of parking.

Well, I'll answer my own question. Of course, there is little money to be made with an indoor recreation facility compared to whatever it is that the developers have in mind for that area. So the answer to the enigma is greed. Who is it that is benefiting from all this construction?

Not me.

**JoAnn Huston Niemela**  
Reston

### What Reston Should Be

To the Editor:

I attended the last of the district meetings, the South Lakes District Meeting hosted by Kathleen Driscoll McKee, and as far as I could see it was the same as far as reflecting the sentiments of Reston citizens as other district meetings I attended. They want to retain the open space at Brown's Chapel and are concerned about the costs and would consider — and be more favorable to — covering existing locations. Many are distrustful of the fifth tax district and would like to be out of it.

After the meeting I had an opportunity to ask Kathleen about what she got out of it. She reiterated much the same thing. I appreciate that because at the first district meeting Cheryl Beamer said to me that the meeting was all people she

already knew were against the new rec center as if holding hope that there were as yet unspoken proponents of the rec center somewhere.

I asked Kathleen if there were data that compared what Reston had recreationally in comparison to other middle class communities like Columbia for example and she said it's available somewhere on the RA web site. But then with a sort of gleam in her eye and smile she said, "Reston has always taken the lead."

Board members are committed to "the Reston master plan on Recreation." Most citizens don't know what the Reston master plan is. We do know where our own neighborhood pools are and some of us resented it when some plan had it to close some local pools especially if it was ours. We also know about our

annual dues and have seen them go up, up and up in recent years.

This citizen would rather see Reston known for its democratic commitment and concern for the feelings of others. We really haven't seen a lot of that from the board. We've seen billboard sized banners made at our expense spread all over Reston telling us both to vote and how to vote. We've had election deadlines extended and media campaigns. And we've had expensive feasibility studies undertaken with no mandate from the citizens.

I'd much rather live in a community that was known for a commitment for democracy then have a 50-meter pool or a lot of indoor tennis courts.

**Rod Koozmin**  
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**DR. AMANDA HIGDON**

# SPORTS



PHOTOS BY KATHLEEN BACH

**Game 2 on July 31 at Estadio Cibao in Santiago. Connor Bach, Nate Favero, Nick Amano-Dolan, Nate Slater and Sean Murphy (holding the Dominican flag) greet the Dominican players before the game.**

**Game 6 on Aug. 5 at Cabarete Field in Cabarete. Connor Bach about to throw to Joey Zarella to pick a runner off first in the bottom of the seventh.**

## Team Virginia Sweeps Series in Dominican Republic

**Area team wins all six games.**

A team of Northern Virginia high school baseball players recently visited the Dominican Republic on a goodwill tour playing local teams and experiencing the Dominican culture. Teams from other parts of the U.S. have made similar trips with mixed results on the field. Team Virginia swept all six of its games but more importantly came away with a greater appreciation for the opportunities and comforts of growing up in America.

The squad was led by area high school coaches Mark "Pudge" Gjormand, Morgan Spencer and Justin Counts and included 15 players who played for eight Washington area public and private high schools last Spring. The players were: Ryan Ashooh, Connor Bach, Chris Campbell, Nick Amano-Dolan, Eli Facenda, Nate Favero, Jonny Graham, Matt Moore, Sean Murphy, Mike Norton, Kevin Pence, Daniel Shill, Nathan Slater, Josh Smith and Joey Zarella.

**THE TEAM** opened the trip with two games in Santiago at a modern stadium that is home to the premier team in the Dominican winter professional league. Then, they traveled to Santo Domingo for three games at Centro Olimpico, a once grand multi-sport facility that has fallen into disrepair. The tour concluded with a game on a neighborhood field in the small town of Cabarete that was Norman Rockwell in the Caribbean. As the quality of the fields diminished, the venue itself took on more character and the home fans became more animated.

Team Virginia won its opening game 2-0 behind a combined no hitter from Connor Bach and Ryan Ashooh. Mike Norton drove in the game's first run and Bach stole home for the second run. Bach and Chris Campbell had two hits apiece.

In a rematch the next day, the U.S. romped to a 15-3 victory. Daniel Shill and Eli Facenda combined on a four hitter. Josh



**Game 6 on Aug. 5 at Cabarete Field in Cabarete. Team Virginia surrounded by the Cabarete team after the game. The Americans later gave their hats and jerseys to their Dominican opponents.**

### Team Virginia

Team Virginia players who participated in a trip include: Madison High School students Nate Favero, Eli Facenda, Jonny Graham and Matt Moore; Centerville High School's Ryan Ashooh, Connor Bach and Chris Campbell; Langley High School's Nick Amano-Dolan and Joey Zarella, both of Great Falls; Herndon High School's Kevin Pence and Daniel Shill, both of Reston; as well as Nate Slater, Robert E Lee High, of Springfield; Sean Murphy, Gonzaga High, of Vienna; Mike Norton, Georgetown Prep, of Great Falls, and Josh Smith, St. Stephens/St. Agnes High, of Great Falls.

Smith had three hits and Kevin Pence collected a pair. Smith, Jonny Graham and Sean Murphy drove in three runs apiece.

Games 3 and 4 were rain-shortened. Team Virginia was leading 3-1 when a downpour ended Game 3 in the third inning. Joey Zarella did the pitching. Zarella, Eli Facenda and Nathan Slater each drove in a run.

Rather than resuming the game, the opposing coach opted for a rematch the next day. Once again the U.S. was ahead 7-3 when rain ended the contest in the fourth inning. Facenda and Bach took care of the pitching. Bach and Slater both scored a pair of runs.



**Game 5 on Aug. 2 at Fedobe Field in Centro Olimpico, Santo Domingo. Connor Bach chases a ball during warm ups down the right field line.**

Game 5 was played later that day with Team Virginia winning 7-1. Matt Moore and Ashooh pitched three innings apiece and Shill closed the game. Ashooh recorded 8 of 9 outs on strikeouts. Slater had two hits including the only USA home run of the trip.

**THE CLIMACTIC GAME** of the trip was also the most thrilling. Nick Amano-Dolan singled home a run in the sixth to give the U.S. a 1-0 lead. Zarella pitched brilliantly, but defensive lapses allowed the home team to score three unearned runs in the bottom of the sixth. Bach came in to finish the sixth which ended dramatically when right fielder Moore gunned down a runner at the plate for the second time in the game.

Zarella started the seventh with a single and after three walks and two outs produced one run, Pence drove in the tying and go ahead runs with a bad hop single over the second baseman's head. Bach closed the game out picking a runner off first and striking out the last two hitters. The confident Dominicans were stunned as Team Virginia snatched victory from the jaws of defeat. After the game, the victors gave their USA hats and jerseys to the Dominican players.

Some Americans even gave away their spikes, bats and gloves. All were received gratefully by the home team.

"The Dominican Republic is one of the top baseball countries in the world," said Gjormand. "We didn't know what to expect, and when we took the field in a pro stadium in Santiago, there were a lot of nerves. We knew it was still the same game though, and we played with discipline and fundamentals throughout the trip. In Santo Domingo, we entered the arena, the heart of Dominican baseball. The finale in Cabarete was the craziest, coolest environment I've ever coached in. Coming back from a 3-1 deficit was like winning the state championship. Literally giving them the shirts off our backs after the game was a terrific gesture by our players. I'm real proud of the effort our guys gave and the way they carried themselves. They were a credit to their families, Northern Virginia and the USA."

— DAVE GRAHAM

# Infuse to Lose



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Your hair. Your appetite. Your energy. Your sense of taste. Your sense of immortality. Your sense of order. Your boyish figure. But you can never lose hope or your dignity, and you especially can't lose the battle with your emotions. Moreover, you absolutely can't lose your sense of humor. If I've heard it from one health care professional, I've heard it from many; if I've heard it from one friend and/or acquaintance touched by cancer, I've heard it from many: staying positive about this incredibly negative set of health circumstances in which I find myself immersed, is the best way to fight.

What's the alternative, really? Be a dismal Jimmy? A gloomy Gus? A stick in the mud (to quote one of my wife, Dina's, favorite Kenny-characterizations)? Hardly. Where's the fun in any of that? Or rather, what's the point in feeling sorry for yourself? From what I've seen and read and heard from friends, family members and readers (thank you all very, very much), there are already plenty of people feeling sorry for me; sending and remembering me in their prayers, encouraging and supporting me in my hours of need, offering assistance and information, all of which I definitely need and appreciate.

However, moving forward, I am not going negative nor am I feeling hopeless. An unexpected outpouring of emotional back-stopping will do that. Life goes on, although when I look in the mirror, I do see Uncle Fester (Jackie Coogan) from The Addams Family staring back at me (a chemo moment, you might say). In this incarnation, Fester is not wearing that black tunic thing with the Elizabethan-type collar he always wore; he is bald, though, with no eyebrows, minimal facial hair and eyes with no lashes. As a result of this stark - and somewhat self-conscious - appearance, I am often seen wearing a Boston Red Sox baseball cap (unlike Fester), forever supportive of my hometown team.

The hat/head cover has been my only concession/acceptance of the cancer. I just can't go around bald; having had a full head of thick, curly black hair my whole life; seeing myself without a strand would have been too much to bare. I don't mind feeling the fear, living the life and walking the walk (one of the side effects from one of the chemo drugs makes it hard to run), but looking the part is a bit more than I can take. In my mind, so long as I don't look like I feel, I won't feel like I look, lousy. I suppose it's sort of like mental gymnastics, a kind of mind-over-what-really-matters. However, when the going gets tough, it's tough not to react in ways unforeseen and maybe even unanticipated. Finding ways (or rationalizations) to hold your head up high and reinforce whatever positive vibe you can emotionally embrace helps to defeat the demons.

As Herman Edwards, former head football coach of The New York Jets and most recently, The Kansas City Chiefs, is famous for saying: "You play to win the game!" And that's exactly what I'm trying to do. Except this is no game of football, this is the game of life.

*Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.*

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## NEWS

# Men 'Not Welcome' at Summer Luncheon

FROM PAGE 3

made an honorary member of the luncheon group.

What began with eight women sharing a leisurely afternoon in the late summer of 1976 has become a major event in the area's black community and an opportunity to showcase the talents and accomplishments of young people. Last Wednesday's affair featured singing, a piano performance and poetry recitations and was capped by a vocal performance by Sumayya Ali, who recently performed as the soprano soloist and understudy to the lead in the musical "Ragtime" at the Kennedy Center and will soon perform the show at the Neil Simon Theatre on Broadway.

"That certainly was a wonderful climax," Simon said as guests began leaving.

A NUMBER of local vendors set up shop on the Calberts' driveway and back porch during the event, displaying purses, jewelry and clothing.

Thelma Calbert said the luncheon started with a handful of teachers from Herndon High School. "We were so tired of summer, but we were not ready to go back to school," she said. She had called some friends and they decided to meet at her house because they had already cleaned theirs.

When her husband and his friends tried to come to an early luncheon, they were put out of the house but opted to sit on the back porch and sneak in and out to get food, Calbert said, noting that some people like to come around and try to ruin a nice time. In subsequent years, men made various attempts to crash or wheedle their way into the affair, one year arriving with a performance to put on as part of the program, and another year bringing a professional singer. All attempts were rebuffed.



PHOTO BY MIKE DICICCO/THE CONNECTION

**Luncheon founder Thelma Calbert, center, poses with longtime attendees Tina Blanchard, who is known for wearing a different hat each year, and Glynda Mayo Hall, who was this year's emcee.**

It was after the third luncheon, Calbert said, that "the news got out that we were having fun," and attendance ramped up quickly. Last Wednesday, her entire ground level was packed as attendees watched the performances, chatted and ate. The featured dish was a potluck salad in a massive bowl, for which each attendee brought an ingredient.

CALBERT said she starts getting calls in June from people who want to know when the event will be before they plan their vacations. There are no invitations or RSVPs, she said, and the only publicity is word of mouth. "It's very informal. Let your hair down, you know."

While the gender rules have been loosened, the luncheon is still dominated by an overwhelming majority of women, and Calbert said men are only tolerated. "We just let them come in, you know, but they're sure not welcome."

## Lake Swim Supports Area Charities

This year's Memorial Day weekend saw another successful Jim McDonnell Lake Swim in Reston. Once again, new records were set for numbers of entrants in the 1- and 2-mile races.

The continued success of this event has allowed its sponsor, the Reston Masters Swim Team, to donate a large portion of the proceeds to various charities. Since Jim McDonnell, a founder and longtime member of the team died of non-Hodgkin lymphoma, the team has historically made its largest donation to a lymphoma charity. This year, \$7,000 went to the Lymphoma Research Foundation. Additional \$1,000 donations went to Tender Hearts, a charity devoted to children's heart diseases; Naval Warfare Foundation, a charity to support the wives and



**Larry Paulson, director of the Jim McDonnell Lake Swim, Kerry Wilson, president of Reston Interfaith and Gordon Gerson, president of Reston Masters Swim Team.**

families of Naval Special Warfare casualties; and Reston Interfaith, a Reston-based non-profit social services organization serving Northern Virginia.

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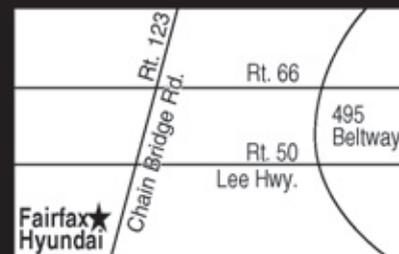


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