



Potomac ALMANAC

Omer Tzioni, Sarah Lininger, and Kyle Lininger play king of the mountain.

Wintry Royalty

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Looking Back — and Ahead

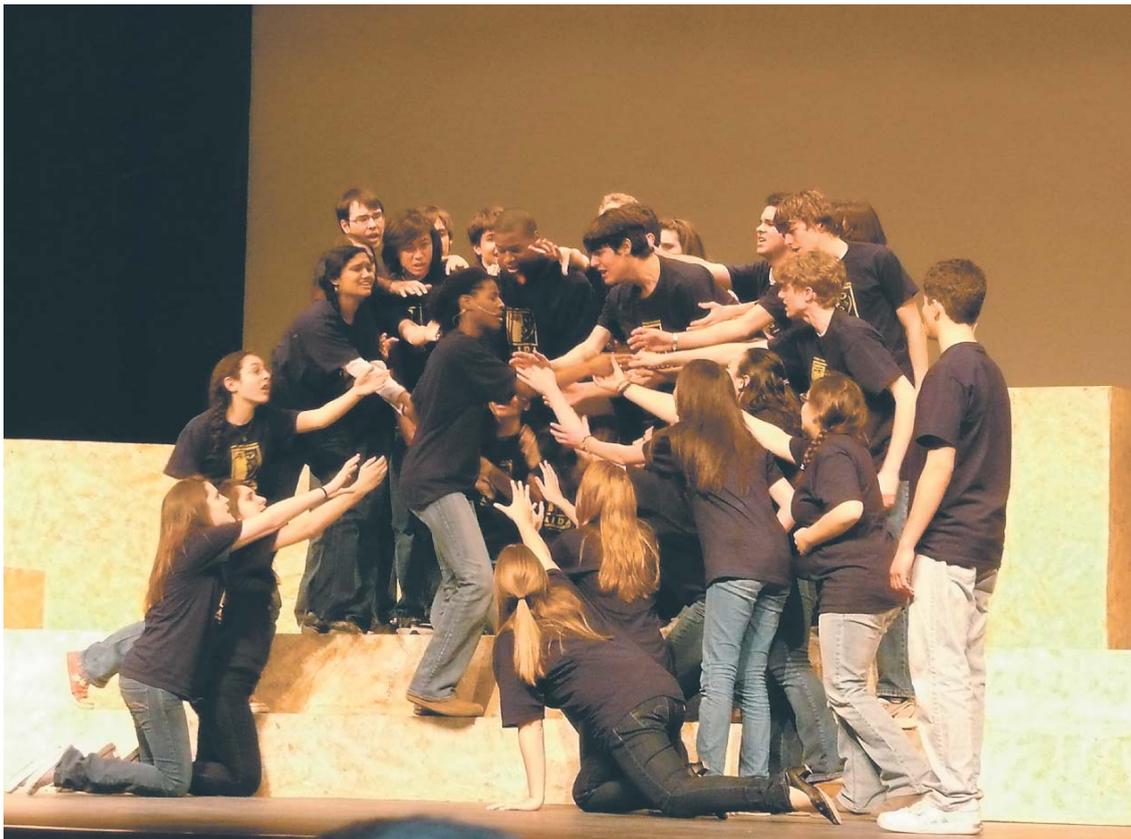
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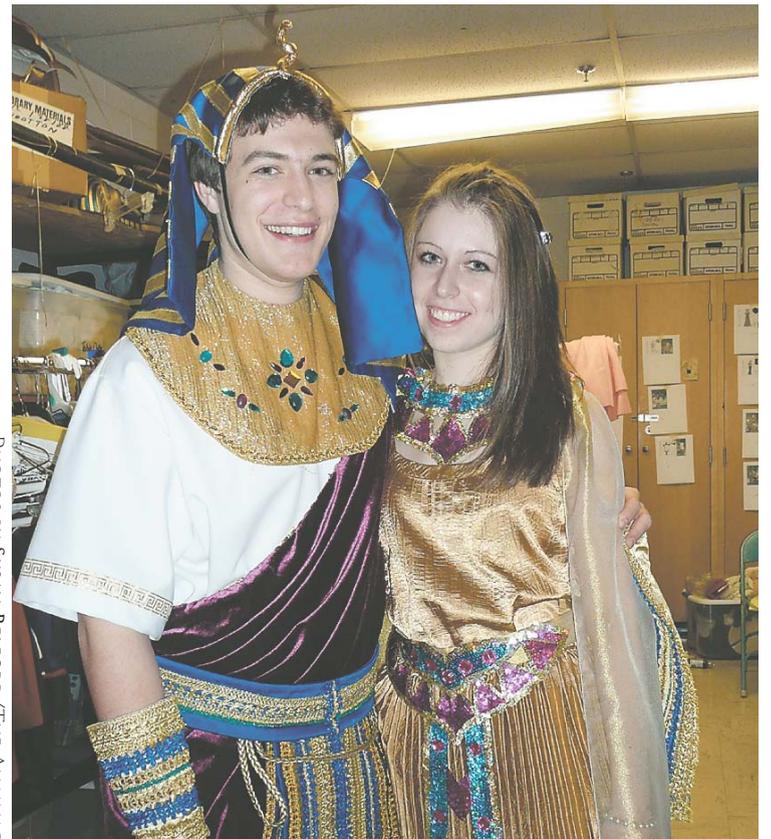
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PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE / THE ALMANAC
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The cast of AIDA rehearse a song. Jenay McNeil (Aida) is in the middle. They performed this for middle school students from Frost Middle School last Friday, Dec. 18.



PHOTOS BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

Alex Garretson (Pharaoh) and Jordan Smilan-Goldstein (Amneris) trying on costumes for AIDA.

Wootton Students To Perform Musical 'Aida'

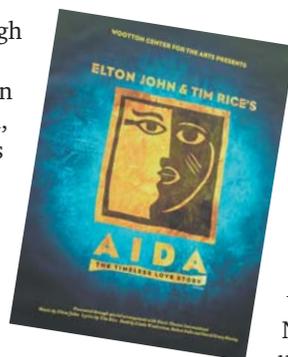
BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Auditorium on Thursday through Sunday.

The romantic, action-packed rock musical "Aida" will capture the audience with its magical, journey back to ancient Egypt and Nubia. It is the story of two lovers and the obstacles that prevent their love from happening. Songs for "Aida" were written by Alan Menken and Elton John, with lyrics by Tim Rice. The musical is based on the opera of the same name by Giuseppe Verdi.

The Wootton High School Center for the Arts will present this musical in the Wootton

Drama teacher, Adam Graham, will feature Jenay McNeil as Aida, Jonathan Helwig as Radames, Jordan Smilan-Goldstein as Amneris, Joseph Horowitz as Zoser, Jeffery Popkin as Mereb, Alex Garretson as Pharaoh, Ari Halevy as Amonasro and Stephanie Wasser as Nehebka. Forty-seven additional students make up the cast. Jacqueline Serratore is the vocal director



and Mel Allard is the choreographer. The orchestra will be led by Carolyn Herman.

Graham designed the set, and stage directors Nick Hitchens and Casey Denton took his vision and produced it. "I design the set and draw out the plans. Then I try to convey what I want it to look like to Nick and Casey. I hope they will understand my concept, and that my design is the right design for the performance. I have worked with them on many other sets for Wootton productions

Details

Thomas S. Wootton High School in Rockville is presenting its musical theater production, "Aida" on Thursday, Jan. 7; Friday, Jan. 8; and Saturday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. All shows are \$12 for reserved seating and \$8 for general seating.

and they have always built exactly what I imagined. I am so lucky to have Nick and Casey, [also teachers at Wootton] and they are fortunate to have 25 students who help with the lights, sound, building the set and

SEE 'AIDA,' PAGE 3

My Gym To Celebrate Its 10th Anniversary

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

In the Terrific Tots class at My Gym, Kimberly Euler follows her 2 1/2 year old daughter Paige as she happily prances to the trampoline to bounce. The next adventure they choose to attempt is the high bar where lead teacher Mr. John supports Titian DeRosa. Paige patiently awaits her turn. Titian swings entirely around the bar and Paige does the same with Mr. John's help. Mothers and children then gather on the colorful rug for Circle Time where another teacher, Ms. Heather leads them in using a giant colorful slinky for imaginative play. Activities change every 10-15 minutes, giving the children and their moms — or nannies — lots of quality time together yet teaching the tots pre-gymnastics, fine and gross motor proficiency and introductory sports skills.

An hour later, the Mighty Mites class begins with three year olds and their moms. They work on strength, coordination and more advanced gymnas-

tics. Throughout the day, classes continue for elementary school children and finish with Cardio Kids, a fitness class for children ages 7 through 13.

Mandy and Paul Lemar purchased My Gym, a children's fitness center four years ago. Located at Cabin John Shopping Center, the business had already been in operation for six years. "I was a parent who was extremely impressed by the programs at My Gym and when we found out it was for sale, we were excited — and we decided to purchase it," said Mandy Lemar. "My kids and I loved the classes and had participated for years. Now we are the lucky owners who have the opportunity to know the families and form lasting relationships and friendships. We get to see the children as they grow and develop. Many times we will teach every child in a family. The younger siblings just can't wait to come to My Gym as their older sisters and brothers have."

The Anniversary Party will be on Jan. 15 from 4-7

SEE PARTY, PAGE 3



PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

Paige and Kimberly Euler watch as Ms. Heather demonstrates imaginative slinky play.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TARA MITCHELL

The fourth grade students of St. Raphael School working on the holiday project include: back row standing (left to right) are Kayla Smullen, Schuylar Johns, Marie Grintzias, Megan Witt, Nick Wayland; front row seated (left to right) are Sam Gatica, Emily May, Yasmine Tashman, Jamie Mitchell, Jovan Kouakou.

Peggy Brooke, Child Life Specialist (left) and Marybeth Gammill, RN, pediatric nurse accept stockings filled with toys from Jamie Mitchell (left) and Schuylar Johns for their pediatric patients at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

Fourth Graders Brighten Christmas for Child Patients

BY COLLEEN HEALY
THE ALMANAC

The fourth grade students of St. Raphael School gathered together during the holidays to stuff Christmas stockings full of toys, videos, coloring books and games for patients at Shady Grove Adventist Hospital's pediatric intensive care unit. This is the second year that the students brought gifts to the PICU.

When asked about the class project, 4th grader Jamie Mitchell said, "It was fun for our class to do something together that helps other people. It felt good to me and I really liked going to the hospital. I was happy that the children will get toys for Christmas."

Fellow classmate Emily May enjoyed stuffing the stockings as well because "it was nice for the little kids who had to spend Christmas in the hospital to be happy on

Christmas day."

According to Child Life Specialist Peggy Brooke, patients range in age from newborns to teens and being in the hospital during the holiday can be an unpleasant experience. But the nurses in the unit match the donated gifts to each child's age and interest and then on Christmas morning they left a wrapped present on each bed for the children when they awoke. She adds that oftentimes "families are so apprecia-

tive that someone cared enough to make the holidays special that they in turn pay it forward and donate gifts because they remember what it was like when their child was in the hospital."

Anyone interested in making donations to the hospital can contact the Shady Grove Adventist Hospital Foundation Office at 240-826-6570. They also have a "wish list" online at <http://www.adventisthealthcare.com/SGAH/giving/foundation/needs.aspx>

Party To Mark 10-Year Anniversary

FROM PAGE 2

p.m.

"It is our chance to thank the Potomac community for their support for the last 10 years," said Mandy Lemar. "The party is free and we will have games, special raffles and discounts. We hope everyone will come by and celebrate with us."

My Gym is a franchise begun in California. Established in 1983, there are more than 190 locations worldwide. Curriculum changes weekly for each class and every Monday, the equipment is changed as well as the gym setup.

Classes are offered for children ages 6 weeks through 13 years. The newest addition is a Sports Class for ages 4-7. This class teaches the basic skills required for football, basketball, baseball, tennis and soccer. It helps to build a child's confidence, improves eye-hand coordination and encourages participation in sports as a lifetime activity.

All the classes are non-competitive, filled with positive reinforcement and activities which improve the participant's self-esteem. The children learn team work, sharing and good listening as well as gymnastics and agility skills, independence and perseverance. For children with special needs, "Spe-



PHOTO BY SUSAN BELFORD/THE ALMANAC

Students in Terrific Tots class learn agility skills.

cial Stars" classes are offered for children 3 1/2 to 8 years old.

In addition to classes, My Gym offers half-day camps during school vacations and Parent's Night Out from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

several times a month. Another popular event was a Black Friday Camp held the day after Thanksgiving — to give parents a chance to shop the sales.

'Aida' at Wootton

FROM PAGE 2

serving as the stage crew for every production. We even have one student who is a master carpenter," said Graham.

The elaborate costumes for "Aida" are rented from costumer Susie Graham of the Charles Costume Shop in Frederick, Md. She reads the script, comes up with the design and makes each costume. Then she fits the costume to each actor or actress to make them comfortable and move on-stage with the performer.

Performing in "Aida" includes extensive singing and dance. "This play is challenging because the students had to be flexible and open to change. This is not a show where the songs and dances can exist on their own. They tell a part of the story. It has been rewarding seeing students handle mature dialog as well as the vocally demanding parts," said Graham.

Tickets for the performances are \$10 for general admission seats and \$15 for reserved seats. The box office will be open during the two hours prior to show time. Tickets can also be purchased on the Wootton Web page. For more information, call 301-279-8581.

OPINION

Happy New Year

Keep in touch.

At the Almanac, we invite our readers to fill us in, literally. As we begin the New Year, we are reminded that we need to hear from our readers.

As local, weekly newspapers, the Almanac's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

To succeed at any of that, we need your help. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If you have questions or ideas, call us or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an e-mail letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line.

If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries.

We are also interested in events at your

Contact Us

For the Potomac Almanac, email almanac@connectionnewspapers.com or contact editor Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-917-6431.

church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. E-mail us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public.

In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers. We look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Generosity Of Residents

To the Editor:

The following is an open letter to the community.

The officers and members of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank the members of our community for their tremendous outpouring of generosity this Holiday Season with this, our 25th year of collecting toys from our neighbors during Santa's Rounds on the Fire Truck.

This year we hit an all-time high with a total of nearly 1,500 toys collected and delivered to the station! This is absolutely amazing, especially as we struggle to climb out of the recession. Your kindness assisted in the delivery by Santa of over 250 toys to the National Center for Children and Families on Greentree Road in Bethesda, along with the delivery of 1,250 toys to the National Capital Region Toys for Tots Campaign and also to the toy cache at the Children's National Medical Center.

For those living on streets that we missed with our newest version of Santa's Sleigh (with the synchronized music and Xmas lights), we sincerely apologize for not being able to make it down past your home! The blizzard presented us with overwhelming obstacles in the 14 days of touring that were scheduled. We promise to do our best to make it by your house next

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8



PHOTOS BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Mounds of Storm's Residue

The day after the recent snowstorm ends in the Inverness Forest community.



Leaf Collection? Doubtful.



Santa finds a parking space.

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

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Gremlin is a 1 1/2-year-old female DSH cat. She is a spayed kitty who likes to play and explore. She's active and would thrive with an active playmate. Gremlin is a bit shy at first, but when she likes you, she warms up. A kind adopter can expect a lick or a play nip from this nice girl.



Flash is a 2-year-old female Shepherd mix. At 57 pounds and spayed, she found herself homeless because of a family divorce, not due to any fault of her own. She has energy and is well-behaved in a car. She also responds well to leash training. Flash would make a good jogging buddy or great family dog for a home without very small children; she could knock them over by accident.

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY/JAN. 7

Thursday Night Blues Dance. 8:15-11:30 p.m. Admission: \$8. Beginner's workshop from 8:15-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Rotating DJs and instructors. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: info@capitalblues.org.

JAN. 7, 8, 9, 10

"Aida, the Musical." 7:30 p.m. nightly, with 2 p.m. matinee on Jan. 10. Tickets are \$10. Presented by Wootton High School Center for the Arts. Directed by Adam Graham and Jackie Serratore, Wootton's production features the talents of Jenay McNeil as Aida, Jonathan Helwig as Radames, Jordan Smilan-Goldstein as Amneris, Joseph Horowitz as Zoser, Jeffery Popkin as Mereb, Alex Garretson as Pharaoh, Ari Halevy as Amonasro, and Stephanie Wasser as Nehebka. The leads are well supported by a talented cast of 25 additional students. Vocal direction is provided by Jacqueline Serratore with choreography by Serratore, Graham, Mel Allard, and two student choreographers, Claire Mauro and Allie Myers. At Wootton High School, 2100 Wootton Parkway, Rockville. Call 301-279-8581.

FRIDAY/JAN. 8

Concert and Peace Vigil. Concert at 8 p.m. and Vigil at 9 p.m. "The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace," performed by a massed choir from six Maryland and Virginia choirs. \$20 suggested donation; proceeds to a local peace-related cause. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive (near Montgomery College), Rockville. Call 301-762-7666 or visit www.uucr.org.

Contra Dance. 7:30-11:30 p.m. Admission: \$9. Contra dance lesson from 7:30-8:15 p.m. Called dance to live music from 8:30-11:30 p.m. With the Glen Echo Open Band. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: fndcontra@yahoo.com

SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Bizet's Carmen. 8 p.m. With the National Philharmonic. Mezzo-soprano Kendall Gladen brings to life the manipulative and magnetic personality of Carmen in this concert performance. Free pre-concert lecture at 7 p.m. at the Education Center. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tucker Lane, North Bethesda. Go to www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Most hardback books and large paperbacks are \$1; regular paperbacks are \$.50. At the Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Call 240-777-0690.

The Crimestoppers. 8:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Performing at the Pony Express Bar & Grill, 9600 Newbridge Drive, Potomac.

Swing Dance. 8 p.m. to midnight. With live music by Blue Sky 5+2. Beginning swing dance lesson from 8-9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Email: dance@flyingfeet.org

Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me? Free workshop for all parents of children ages 2 1/2 to 18 presented by the Parent Encouragement Program. 3-4:30 p.m. at the PEP Office, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Pre-register by calling 301-929-8824. www.PEPparent.org.

Three-D Thread Sculptures. 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Eileen Doughty, one of this year's two Conant Grant recipients, will lecture on her investigations into creating sculptures formed with thread



SATURDAY/JAN. 9

Pianist Alexander Paley Performs.

8 p.m. Complete Chopin Preludes and Waltzes. Free. Paley will usher in the 200th anniversary year of the birth of composer Frédéric Chopin with a concert of the complete Chopin Preludes and Waltzes. At Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, One Westmoreland Circle, at Massachusetts and Western Avenues, the boundary of D.C. and Bethesda.

and a sewing machine. At St. James Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Sponsored by the Potomac Fiber Arts Guild. Go to www.potomacfiberartsguild.org.

Feast of the Epiphany and Spaghetti Supper. 5 p.m. Intergenerational service is designed for all ages. It begins in darkness, features a children's sermon and

special music, and concludes with the lighting of hundreds of candles. A spaghetti dinner will be offered by the youth group as a fund-raiser for their summer mission trip to a workcamp in Buffalo, NY. To be held at St. James' Episcopal Church, 11815 Seven Locks Rd., Potomac; call 301-762-8040; office@stjamespotomac.org; www.stjamespotomac.org

SUNDAY/JAN. 10

U.S. Navy Band Chamber Recital. 2:30 p.m. Free. At Glenview Mansion, 603 Edmonston Drive, Rockville. Call 202-433-2525, or visit www.navyband.navy.mil.

Poetry and Prose Open Mic. 2 p.m. Sign-up for readers starts at 1:30 p.m. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda. Call 301-654-8664. www.writers.org.

Contra and Square Dance. 7-10:30 p.m. \$12/\$9 admission. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington presents traditional American contra dancing.

The evening can include square dances, mixers, waltzes and other couple dances. There is a lesson at 7 p.m., followed by dances called by Shawn Brenneman for Nightwatch from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park.

Cajun/Zydeco Dance. 3-6 p.m. Dancing by the Bayou presents a Cajun/Zydeco dance with live music. Dance lesson at 3 p.m. with Michael and Sharon is followed by dancing from 3:30 - 6 p.m. At the Spanish Ballroom of Glen Echo Park. Contact Email: Dancingbythebayou@verizon.net

Rock, Paper and Scissors. A multimedia exhibit of stone sculptures by Irma Spencer, paintings by Marsha Goldfine, and paper sculptures by Renate Chernoff. Artist's reception from 1-3 p.m. on Jan. 10 At Har

Shalom Synagogue, 11510 Falls Road, Potomac. Exhibit runs from Jan. 5-Feb. 24, 2010. Call 301-299-7087.

Preventing Unwanted Behavior in Dogs, Cats & Birds. 1-3 p.m. How to reduce unwanted behaviors in dogs, cats and birds by providing a more species-friendly environment and enriching it with appropriate items and toys. Free but register at: www.yourdogsfriend.info or 301-983-5913. At Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Rd., Potomac.

Genealogy Fest. 1 p.m. Schmooze; 1:30 p.m. business meeting and announcements, followed by program. There will be "area" desks available, each supported by an expert in a particular area of research, to answer questions. Sponsored by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. At Congregation Beth El, 8215 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Send questions to JGSGW_DC@COMCAST.NET or visit www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw.

MONDAY/JAN. 11

Beth Shalom Book Club. 8 p.m. Will be reviewing Ariel Sabar's "My Father's Paradise." This non-fiction book is Sabar's quest to reconcile an ancient past with his own life today — and to knit his father's story to his own. All are welcome. Beth Shalom Congregation and Talmud Torah is located at 11825 Seven Locks Rd. Potomac. Email Tanya Lampert alamp9608@yahoo.com.

TUESDAY/JAN. 12

Hungry for Music. 8 p.m. A concert of folk/Americana solo acts to benefit Hungry for Music, a group that provides musical instruments to young musicians. Will include Doug Alan

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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Fri., Feb. 19 vs. Denver Nuggets @ 7PM
Fri., Feb. 26 vs. New York Knicks @ 7PM

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SATURDAY/JAN. 16

American Balalaika Symphony. 8 p.m. Presents "From the Cities to the Steppes: Music of Old Russia." Under the artistic direction of Peter Trofimenko. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Go to www.Strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 6

Wilcox, David LaFleur, Michelle Swan and Jerry Bresee. Presented by Focus Rockville. Tickets are \$18/door; \$15/advance. Go to www.FocusMusic.org. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville, 100 Welsh Park Drive, Rockville. Contact David Spitzer at focusrockville@earthlink.net or 301-275-7459.

Why Don't My Kids Listen to Me?

Free workshop for all parents of children ages 2 1/2 to 18 presented by the Parent Encouragement Program. 7:30-9 p.m. at the Renaissance Children's Art Center, 12116 Darnestown Rd., North Potomac. Pre-register by calling 301-929-8824. www.PEPparent.org.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Blues Dance. 8:15 - 11:30 p.m. Admission: \$8. Beginner workshop runs from 8:15 - 9 p.m. Dancing from 9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Rotating DJs. At the Ballroom Annex of Glen Echo Park. Email: info@capitalblues.org

Parenting with a Plan. Free workshop for all parents of infants and toddlers. Presented by the Parent Encouragement Program. 7:30-9:00 p.m. at the PEP Office, 10100 Connecticut Ave., Kensington. Call 301-929-8824. www.PEPparent.org.

Poetry Out Loud. 4 p.m. Ten school winners will compete and three will be named first, second, and third place county winners and move on to the regional competition in February. The

public is invited to attend. Free. RSVP by Jan. 10 to The Writer's Center at Postmaster@writer.org or 301-654-8664. At The Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh Street, Bethesda.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

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by **Michael Matese**

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The Cookie Rally participants complete puzzles made from photos of each Girl Scout cookie variety.

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Cadette Girl Scout Troop 1137 recently hosted about 60 younger Girl Scouts for a Cookie Rally. As they rotated through five activity stations, the younger Girl Scouts learned everything they needed to know to have a successful Girl Scout cookie sale. The Girl Scout cookie order period continues through mid-January, and then girls will be selling outside local retailers in late February and early March. Sixty cents from the sale of each box of Girl Scout cookies goes directly to the troop, to support programs, field trips and other activities for the girls.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 4

year!
We also humbly offer a tip of the hat to the customers who came to the River Road Station and purchased a Christmas tree from our department. We realize that there were some issues with a few trees this year and if yours was one, we would like to offer our deepest regrets! This was the first year that the Tree Farm actually sent the owner down from Quebec, during

our active sales, to inspect issues that we were finding with the trees. We shall take whatever steps are necessary to provide a cure to the problems experienced prior to next year.

Finally, some of our neighbors were caught off guard and hence angered by the presence of solicitors that were representing the Ladies Auxiliary of the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department in their annual door to door campaign, a "Portrait Fund Drive." We

regret any possible issues that this fund-raiser has caused you or your family. We do endorse and encourage this program as our needs for funding have climbed to an all-time high in order to operate the department.

Our department, staffed by 80 local volunteers working in cooperation with 50 career personnel provided by the county government, expends 95 per cent of all donations and fund drive monies collected directly towards fire rescue operations. To do this, we rely on three primary fund-raising methods during the year: Our Annual Fund Drive Mailer, Christmas Tree Sales and the Auxiliary's Portrait Fund Drive. From these sources, we require over \$150,000 annually to remain viable in serving the community. That fund-raising does not even begin to include the nearly \$3,000,000 that will soon be required for the total rebuild of the Falls Road Substation!

We appreciate and do not take for granted the relationship that we have with the community. We continuously work to grow our outreach through a multitude of programs, such as: the Fourth of July Parades, Potomac Days participation, the Susan Komen Walk assistance, the A.T.&T. Golf Tournament coverage, Santa Rounds along with many, many other programs in the neighborhood.

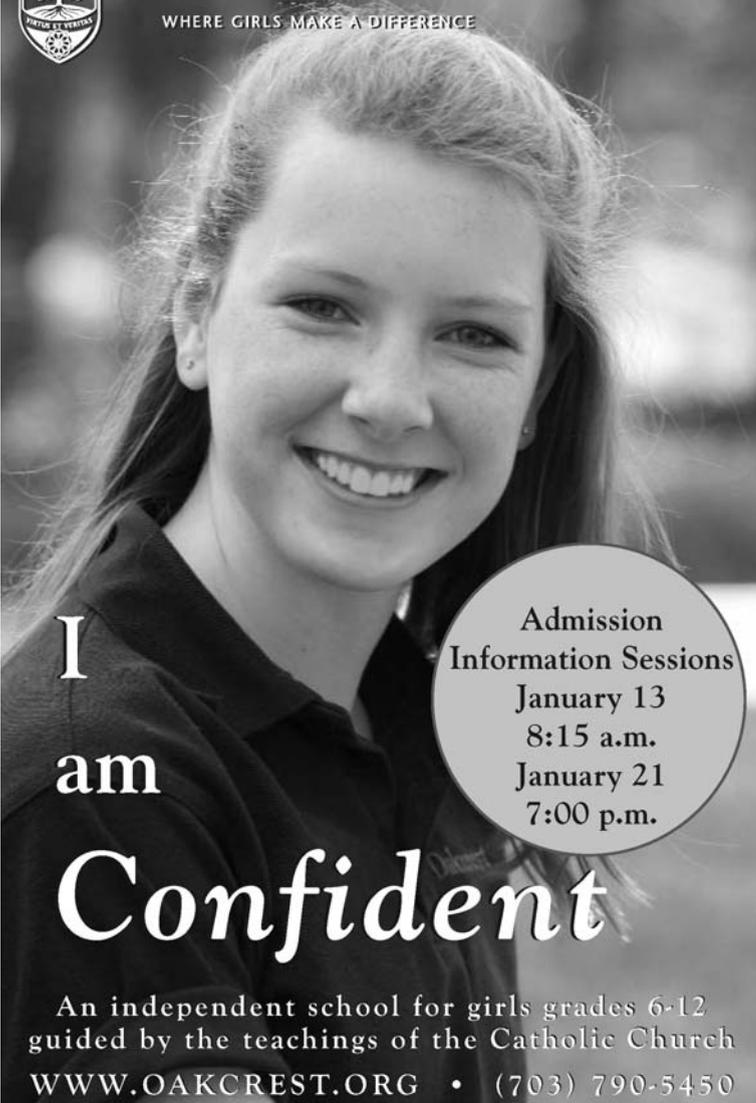
We hope that you will continue to support your local volunteer fire rescue department as we continue our best efforts to provide you with world class fire, rescue and EMS service.

Our officers and members would like to wish all of our neighbors in the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department protection area a healthy, happy and safe New Year!

James L. Hunter,
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Whitman Boys Soccer Opens 2009-10 in Style

Vikings football team finds ways to win close games.

What happened in the fall: The boys soccer team won the state championship despite entering the playoffs as a No. 12 seed. Whitman defeated Urbana, 1-0, on Nov. 20 on a goal by Jonny Mehrez. The Vikings posted four shutouts in six postseason games.

Head coach Dave Greene said the team never doubted itself.

The playoff run was "not unexpected at all," he said in the Nov. 18 edition of the Almanac. "Did we think we were gonna get to this point? We didn't think in those terms.

We basically were playing one game at a time because if we got ahead of ourselves, we did not concentrate on the opponent at hand. We didn't get too excited one way or another. If we lost, we didn't get too upset. When we won, we didn't get too excited."

Whitman entered the postseason with the fifth-best record in Montgomery County, but only the top four finishers receive a seed based on their record, making Whitman's No. 12 seed misleading.

Scott Gerfen and Dominick Yin were two of Whitman's senior leaders.

The football team lost to Paint Branch in the opening round of the state playoffs. The Vikings went 8-2 during the regular season to secure a playoff berth, winning six of their final seven regular season games.

Throughout the season, Whitman usually found a way to win close games. Nine of the Vikings 11 contests were decided by 13 points or fewer, including seven by six points or fewer. Whitman was 6-3 in games decided by 13 points or less and 5-2 in contests decided by six points or less.

The golf team spent most of the season finishing first or second in tournaments. The girls soccer team advanced to the semifinals of the 4A West playoff bracket before losing to Churchill.

What's next: The boys basketball team, which started 5-1, travel to face Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. Jan. 8. The girls basketball team, which started 5-2, travels to take on BCC at 5:15 p.m. Jan. 8.

Churchill

What happened in the fall: The girls soccer team went undefeated in the regular season, capturing its first division title 12 years. The Bulldogs earned the No. 1 seed in the 4A West playoff bracket but lost to Bethesda-Chevy Chase in the regional final.

The football team started 7-0 under first-year head coach Joe Allen, but lost its final three games and missed the playoffs. Sherwood, the 2008 state champion, snapped the Bulldogs' win streak, 17-0, on Oct. 23. After that, Churchill was upset by Bethesda-Chevy Chase, Allen's former team, 20-13, and lost the regular season finale to Whitman, 28-24.

During Churchill's 7-0 start the team found ways to pull out close games. Only once did the Bulldogs win by more than 14 points and only twice by more than 10.

What's next: The Churchill boys basketball team, which started 3-3, travels to take on Northwest at 7 p.m. Jan. 7. The Bulldogs' leading scorer, senior Jake Eskin, transferred from Northwest prior to the 2009-10 school year. Churchill will need more consistent scoring from players other than Eskin in order to be successful.

The girls basketball team, which started 4-1, travels to take on Northwest at 5:15 p.m. Jan. 7.

Wootton

What happened in the fall: Jessie Rubin won the individual state championship for the girls cross country team, which finished

SEE LOOKING BACK, PAGE 11



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Diego Romero and the Whitman boys soccer team were state champions in 2009.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill Boys Drop Heartbreaker in Tourney Final

The Churchill boys basketball team lost to Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School, 52-50, in overtime of the Bobby Miller Bulldog Classic championship game Dec. 30 at CHS.

CESJDS scored on a put-back with two seconds remaining in the extra period. Churchill led 46-38 with four minutes remaining in the fourth quarter but couldn't put CESJDS away. The loss dropped the Bulldogs' record to 3-3.

"It was obviously a disappointing outcome for us," Churchill coach Matt Miller said in an e-mail. "We battled

all night but we didn't do a lot of little things right and it came back to bite us in the end. ... I know we will get better and rebound from this — our guys are resilient kids."

Will Lewis scored a team-high 16 points, including four 3-pointers. Jake Eskin finished with 14 points. Both players were named to the all-tournament team.

Churchill defeated Bel Air 79-54 in the opening round Dec. 29. Each Bulldog scored during the game.

Eskin led Churchill with 16 points. Kyle Edwards and Lewis each scored 10 points for the Bulldogs. Jordan Bass finished with nine points, Christian Bonaparte added seven and George Nichols, Alex Askinazi and Sam Edens each scored six. Michael Ely and Tom DiFato each finished with four points and Thomas Geenen added one.

"Sure, there are always positives when you win one game and lose the other with two seconds remaining in over-

time," Miller said. "Offensively, we really shared the ball well in the first game and I think everyone scored, which is a first for us this season. I thought we generally shot it better this week than we had been. I was pleased to see Will Lewis regain his shooting touch from the perimeter."

Churchill faced Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs travel to face Northwest at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Churchill Girls Lose Two

The Churchill girls basketball team lost a pair of games

SEE SPORTS BRIEFS, PAGE 11

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SPORTS

Can't Handel It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I imagine the confession I'm about to make likely will get me banned from future similar cultural events (good!). But, since I'm sitting here (here being the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.) semi-listening to their Choir & Baroque Orchestra, I have to do something, even if some might consider writing on the very program describing the music, musicians, conductor and author to which I'm listening (I didn't say subjected; after all, it was with my consent that I agreed to this outing) a defamation of my character (or lack thereof) and a defacing of sacred text. Nevertheless, as Popeye the Sailor Man said so famously, "I'yam what I'yam." And what I am not, as has been proven by this musical interlude is, a fan of George Frederick Handel's Messiah, (God forgive me) "arguably the most widely shared musical experience in our culture. Each year the oratorio is sung by tens and perhaps hundreds of thousands of people." And it is "mid nave" that I find myself not so enthralled on Sunday, Dec. 6.

And though the National Cathedral is an elegant and magnificent environment for this most traditional of presentations, I am not sure if my eyes and ears can truly appreciate its suitability. However, as I am writing (and then pausing and thinking about what to write next) I have to admit, the music and words (many of which I can't actually discern) do provide a soothing backdrop, conducive almost, to this creative process. I don't imagine, though, that the cognoscente of this music appreciate it for its inoffensive/barely noticeable/backdrop-type white noise as I do.

I mean, the Cathedral is nearly full, at \$54 a ticket – not exactly a cheap thrill (and in a challenging, shall we say, economy to boot). Apparently, these many listeners put their money where their ears are. It's only people/non-patrons of the arts like me who don't know any better and can't process the melodies sufficiently to find joy in "them thar" notes and we're nearly two-thirds ("Part The Second") through this holiday tradition. (The extremely famous "Hallelujah!" chorus is close, I'm told.)

Let me be clear, none of this commentary has anything at all to do with the amazingly talented musicians, soloists, conductors and choir performing this evening. Nor is it a reflection of the courteous and patient staff ushering (voluntarily no doubt) the hundreds of ticket-holding Handel enthusiasts to their assigned seats. It's more about an experience I have now shared with many before me, and heard much about, that I officially "don't get." I wouldn't say attending this event was worth the money we spent (like The Allman Brothers concert I saw in October was) but in an odd way, I do feel better having experienced it.

Would I go back? No. Do I regret having gone? No. Am I planning my next cultural soiree? Absolutely not! For me, enjoying such fare is an "achored" taste. A taste which I have not yet acquired. (I did find a great parking space on Wisconsin Ave. directly across from the Cathedral, though.)

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

Looking Back and Ahead

FROM PAGE 9

fourth. The boys team placed eighth at the 4A West regionals.

The girls soccer team defeated Paint Branch, 6-0, in the opening round of the playoffs before losing to Bethesda-Chevy Chase. The boys soccer team lost to Whitman in the opening round of the state playoffs. The volleyball team went 12-4 and lost to Paint Branch in the second round of the playoffs.

The football team went 2-8 with wins over Springbrook (35-34) and Bethesda-Chevy Chase (45-7).

What's next: The boys basketball team, which started 2-3, will travel to face Churchill at 7 p.m. Jan. 8. Jack Weis is the team's top perimeter shooter and offensive threat. The girls basketball team, which started 4-3, will host Churchill at 7 p.m. Jan. 8. The Patriots won four straight games after an 0-2 start.

Bullis

What happened in the fall:

SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 9

during a holiday tournament at CHS, dropping the Bulldogs' record to 4-2. Churchill lost to Yorktown, 52-36, on Dec. 30 and fell to Robinson, 49-37, on Dec. 29.

Churchill faced Bethesda-Chevy Chase on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs travel to face Northwest at 5:15 p.m. Thursday.

Whitman Boys Split Holiday Contests

The Whitman boys basketball team lost to Landon, 73-63, on Dec. 30 and defeated St. Anne's-Belfield, 61-58, on Dec. 29 during a holiday tournament at Landon. The Vikings' record moved to 5-2.

Whitman held a 38-21 halftime lead against SAB and held on. The Vikings' Evan Cook equaled his career high with 19 points against SAB and Charlie Waugh added 16.

Whitman faced Wootton on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Vikings host Walter Johnson at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Whitman Girls Go 1-1

The Whitman girls basketball team defeated Surrattsville, 62-40, on Dec. 29 and lost to Seton Keough, 62-44, on Dec. 28, moving the team's record to 5-2.

Wootton Boys Go .500 Over Holidays

The Wootton boys basketball team lost to McLean, 71-60, on Dec. 30 and defeated The Heights, 72-50, on Dec. 29, moving the Patriots' record to 3-4.

The girls soccer team won the ISL tournament, finishing 12-5-2.

The football team finished 2-8 after a 2-0 start. The boys soccer team went 6-8-3, including a three-game winning streak against Georgetown Prep, St. Albans and The Heights. The field hockey team finished 12-3-1, losing in the ISL tournament. The Bulldogs won 11 of their first 12 games.

What's next: The girls basketball team, which started 3-3, hosts National Cathedral at 6 p.m. Jan. 7. The boys basketball team will travel to face The Heights at 6 p.m. Jan. 8.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE
THE ALMANAC

Churchill's Matt Risk, right, attempts to run through Whitman's Jeff Gruen on Nov. 6. Whitman defeated Churchill, 28-24, in the regular season finale.



Wootton faced Whitman on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Patriots will take on Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. Thursday.

One up, One Down For Wootton Girls

Gabby Flinchum averaged 13 points and Jess Welch 12.5 as the Wootton girls basketball team went 1-1 during a holiday tournament at Sherwood.

Wootton lost to Sherwood, 43-36, on Dec. 29 and defeated Reservoir, 67-41, on Dec. 30. Flinchum scored a team-high 17 points against Reservoir and Welch added 15. Welch led the way with 10 points against Sherwood and Flinchum added nine.

Wootton faced Whitman on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Patriots travel to take on Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. Friday.

Bullis Boys Lose Three

The Bullis boys basketball team lost a trio of games to close the 2009 calendar year. The Bulldogs lost to Archbishop Molloy (60-46, Dec. 30), Deep Run (60-58, Dec. 29) and Calvert Hall (65-50, Dec. 28).

Bullis hosted Georgetown Prep on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs travel to face The Heights at 6 p.m. Friday.

Bullis Girls Defeat North County

The Bullis girls basketball team beat North County, 56-40, on Dec. 29.

Bullis faced Georgetown Prep on Tuesday. Results were not available before the Almanac's deadline. The Bulldogs host National Cathedral at 6 p.m. Thursday.

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