

Oak Hill ♦ Herndon
CONNECTION

A Walk Through The Trees

Santa greets
Sidney, 6 and Ava
Simone Burris, 4,
at the Enchanted
Forest Saturday.

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Giving Thanks In Herndon

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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32nd Annual Herndon Holiday Arts & Crafts Show
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The Herndon Community Center will host over 100 Arts and Crafts vendors offering unique gifts, holiday decorations and handmade items

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Community Meetings on Snow Removal

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and staff from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have organized four meetings in the Dranesville district to explain the updated processes and policies implemented by VDOT since the last snow season, and snow removal plans for the coming season.

After the record-breaking snow events of last winter the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and VDOT worked together to identify and address major problems with VDOT's snow clearing process.

Some of the planned changes in that process expected to be discussed at the meetings are:

Increased and more accurate communication with residents; Increased communication with plowers including electronic monitoring of snow removal vehicles allowing more accurate status reporting to residents; Increased number of plows for neighborhoods; Earlier mobilization of plows based on weather forecast, not number of inches on ground; Updated "snow maps" (plows' assigned routes) with more accurate markings of "hot spots" (particularly difficult or previously neglected sections of road).

Herndon Area meeting will be held on Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Lecture Hall - Door 1, Herndon High School, 700 Bennett Street, Herndon.

Tickets on Sale for Homes Tour

Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon, on Saturday, Dec. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. will feature five homes in Historic Downtown Herndon: Four restored, century-old historic homes; and one modern split-level that will be included in the December issue of Better Homes and Gardens magazine. \$15 pre-sale tickets are on sale now at the following locations:

Herndon Dulles Visitor's Center - 717 Lynn Street, Herndon, Tuesday-Saturday, 11-3;

Herndon Florist - 716 Lynn Street, Herndon, Monday-Friday, 9-5:30 & Saturday, 9-3;

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OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS
Will Return after the Holidays

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-821-5050

A Walk Through the Trees

Junior League of Northern Virginia hosts annual Enchanted Forest fundraiser.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Ian DePaul, 7 and Mitch McGatlin, 6, watch the model trains go by.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The Junior League of Northern Virginia held its annual Enchanted Forest last weekend at the Reston Sheraton. The event is their primary fundraiser, and in addition to highlighting two of the league's programs, Kids in the Kitchen and the Children's Science Center, it featured a model train display, a make-your-own gingerbread house laboratory and Santa Claus himself even made an appearance.

"Each year the league looks forward to bringing this event to the community to entertain metro area families, while raising money to support our mission and programs that seek to inspire, educate and prepare area children for success," said J.J. Newby Ketzle, president of the JLN. "We are excited to share our 10th anniversary of the Enchanted Forest with public and local officials and families who have come to embrace this event as an annual shopping tradition."

One conference room at the Sheraton served as the actual enchanted forest, with more than 100 donated, themed trees available for bid in silent auction. Various businesses, organizations and other groups donated the trees, each with special decorations, including one from a financial firm that had \$1, \$5, \$10 and \$20 bills as ornaments.

Another conference room was taken up almost completely by a model train setup, including a village surrounding the tracks. Children gathered there to watch the trains go by, as well as watch various animated scenes, such as ice skaters circling a rink.

"With all the technology out there, iPods, video games, stuff like that, I didn't think my kids would really be into model trains like I was," said David Hammond of Herndon, after about 20 minutes of watching his two sons stand mesmerized by the trains. "I stopped in for my own curiosity, but I'm really glad they're into it."

In the next room over, children were invited to take a plain, undecorated gingerbread house and decorate it to their tastes with icing and a variety of candies. Some children relied on parents for the actual structural work, preferring more of a "one candy for the house, one candy for me" design philosophy.

"It was hard, because the Skittles are the prettiest, but they're also my favorite candy, and I don't want to wait to eat them," said Kayleigh Saunders, 7.

THE EVENT also highlighted the Kids in the Kitchen program, which emphasizes nutrition education at a young age, as well as the Children's Science Center,



Visitors tour the "enchanted forest" which is made up of various themed trees available at a silent auction.

where children learned about alternative energy sources.

They could spin a turbine to power a small light, and learn about the basics of why it worked as an alternative energy source.

"Studies show there's a huge drop off in interest in science, technology, engineering and math subjects by eighth grade," said Nene Spivy, the Children's Science Center board chair. "It's not about creating gobs and gobs of new scientists, but it's about creating a science-literate generation."

Spivy says the center, which is currently only mobile exhibits, is looking for a permanent home in the Herndon-Reston area. There are no children's science museums in Northern Virginia.

"There are great places all around the country, but if there should be a children's science museum anywhere, it should be in this technology corridor," she said.

THE JLN is an organization of women committed to promoting the development of women. More information can be found at www.jlnv.org.

GIVING THANKS IN HERNDON

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving Day, the Oak Hill/Herndon Connection has asked area residents to respond to the following three questions:

- 1) What will you give thanks for this Thanksgiving?
- 2) What are you thankful for living and/or working in Oak Hill/Herndon area?
- 3) What advice would you give to someone looking for more special things to be thankful for here?

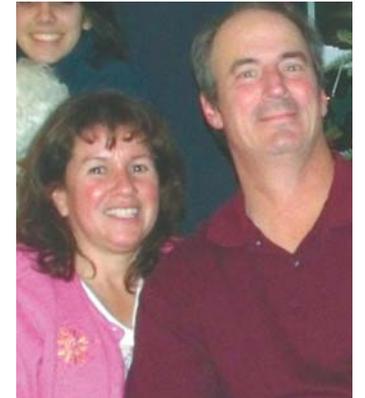
Here are the responses, in alphabetical order.

Jeff and Jackie Johnson, JJ Deli

1. We are most thankful for helping the wounded soldiers that are recuperating at Walter Reed Medical Center. This will be the last year that the soldiers will be at Walter Reed. It has been our honor to help them for the past 6 years.

2. Living in a safe and fun neighborhood-Cuttermill, having our own business where we get to see and be involved with so many community people and organizations.

3. To get involved with our Annual "Spirit of Giving" which helps the wounded soldiers at Walter Reed. This holiday season will be a very special one



as they will be getting ready to transfer over to either Bethesda Naval Medical Center or the new hospital at Fort Belvoir. They are in need of duffel bags, luggage, gift cards to Target, Wal-Mart & Best Buy.

Jim LeMunyon, State Del. (R-67)

1. The great many people - family, friends, co-workers, and strangers, who all contribute to making Northern Virginians some of the most blessed people on earth. I'll also give thanks for life's challenges, too, for they remind us how good we have it most of the time.

2. The opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of people in our area as their representative in the Virginia House of Delegates, and to work with members of both parties and staff in the Virginia legislature, who are among some of the finest people I have met in my life.

3. Become involved in com-



munity service organizations, such as FACETS, which helps the homeless and at-risk families. See www.facetscares.org.



Kathy McNany, Herndon

1. I will thank God for the men and women who sacrifice so much to keep us safe and to preserve our way of life, for my loving family, and for our con-

tinued good health.

2. We have a strong sense of community in Herndon/Reston area. I'm not a native, but living here I've enjoyed nature's beauty, created an extended family of dear friends with shared values, and have been able to raise a child who has benefited from ample opportunity to volunteer to help others and to participate in everything from Girl Scouts to HHS Marching Band.

3. Don't overlook any of the simple pleasures, reach out to someone in need (among other things, it makes you realize how much you have), and avail yourself of all Herndon/Reston has to offer.

SEE THANKS, PAGE 9

Shop Locally

Local businesses are invested in community.

While the rest of the world would like to remember small businesses for just one day this year, “small business Friday,” Connection readers know that local businesses are a mainstay of our communities. Locally owned retail shops, services, restaurants depend on vibrant local communities to thrive.

While the economic situation is daunting, even locally where things are much better than nationally, even families who feel financially secure will be more frugal in this holiday season than before the recession. Recently, there is more life in the economy, though, and most local families will shop and give during the next month. Many people have started ahead of the traditional kickoff date for Christmas shopping, the Friday after Thanksgiving. Hanukkah begins Dec. 2.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area’s locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambiance available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Small retail shops are part of what defines

any community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the small retail person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events.

EDITORIALS Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest chal-

lenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores and the Internet make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping via the Internet.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

Remember to Give Locally Too

Remember that people applying for food stamps and seeking help from food banks has more than doubled in the last few years in Northern Virginia. Local charities are scrambling to meet tremendous increased demand for holiday help as well.

Organizations like SHARE of McLean and LINK depend on volunteers and contributions to try to meet the expanding need for food and warm clothes on a daily basis.

Beyond that, organizations stretch to provide the basics for a holiday meal for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners and the hope of pre-

sents for many children who might otherwise not receive a single holiday gift.

There are many ways to give, with some local charities connecting the donor to a specific family to provide a holiday food basket and fulfill some wishes for gifts. Many organizations encourage the donation of gift cards. Every local group seeking to help the needy right now is facing extra demand and needs both volunteer and financial help.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Corporate Community Responsibility

Herndon-based GTSI employees go out of their way to give back to community.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Several years ago, Herndon-based GTSI conducted a company survey, and the results came back clear: their employees wanted a chance to give back to their communities. So they formed a Corporate Giving Committee, and over the past three years they have donated time, money and other resources to charities all over the area.

The company offers eight hours of leave for employees to participate in their own charitable pursuits. This was added to their employee benefits package at the giving committee’s suggestion.

“We try to focus on community-based, local organizations,” said Paul Liberty, vice president of Corporate Affairs and Investor Relations. “It’s heartwarming to see people getting help, but also heart-breaking that there are so many in need in this affluent area.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF GTSI CORP.

Employees of Herndon-based GTSI participate in the American Heart Association’s Start! Heartwalk in Washington, D.C.

First Friday is one of their biggest events, where employees can dress in jeans on the first Friday of every month, for a donation. The charity rotates every month.

NEW HIRES often come to the company with their own pet charity, which is put up for consideration for a First Friday event.

In fact, new hires are briefed right away on the charitable activities of the company, and Kim Crisp, who works in Human Resources, says that most are excited to be a part of the giving.

“It’s part of our new-hire orientation, we talk about our different

programs, and most are really excited and can’t wait to be a part of it,” Crisp said.

“We rely on heavily on volunteers, and GTSI has been one of our strongest supporters when it comes to that,” said Judith Dittman, executive director of Alternative House, a Vienna shelter for abused and homeless children. “GTSI’s non-stop support really makes a difference to us, and to the kids, who see that community members care enough about them to make sure they have something under the tree and on the table.”

Some events employees participate in are more personal for the

staff, such as the American Heart Association’s Start! Heartwalk, which took place earlier this month.

“Events like that are dear to our hearts, we’ve all known fellow employees and family who have passed away due to heart conditions,” Crisp said. “We had around 30 or 40 employees in the last one, and we made signs to honor the people we knew who had been affected.”

DESPITE regular events like First Friday, and a Christmas giving tree, Nicole Leona, who works in support services, says that employees have been even more creative in coming up with ideas.

“When we did a Giving Tree last year, we found out that one of the charities we work with was also in need of coats, so we added a coat drive onto that,” she said. “We used my car to transport the items, and I can still remember it going from empty to trying to pack everything in, it was really nice seeing just how much people gave.”

The company uses its in-house video system to post updates on charities and other philanthropic events, and they post links on their intranet homepage.

“As a government contractor, I think it’s in a lot of our natures to help the government serve the citizens, and giving back speaks to that,” Liberty said.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Holiday Parade at Reston Town Center

Reston Town Center presents the 20th annual Reston Holiday Parade on Friday, Nov. 26 at 11 a.m., launching the festive season with Macy's-style balloons, musical groups, dancers, antique cars, and more, in a one-of-a-kind, one-hour parade along Market Street, welcoming the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Claus in a horse-drawn carriage. The parade is on rain or shine.

For 2010, the 20th annual Reston Holiday Parade is a celebration of a milestone year at Reston Town Center, commemorating its 20th anniversary with the theme "Defining. Inspiring. 20 Years."

At least seventy groups, amounting to approximately 500 participants, are anticipated for the 2010 Reston Holiday Parade, which attracts a crowd of 10,000 spectators each year. After the parade, special performances by elves Wally and Victor of Those Funny Little People are scheduled throughout the afternoon. Santa and Mrs. Claus will stay for visits and photos until 4:30 p.m.

Parade participation and admission is free. For event information and updates, visit www.restontowncenter.com/events, or call 703-689-4699.

Schedule

Friday, Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving, from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., a full day of events full of holiday cheer and charity at Reston Town Center:

8 a.m.: Reston Town Center retailers open early

8 a.m.: Run with Alan Webb: 10th annual races for tots to teens to benefit Neediest Kids. Donation of \$5 for participation encouraged. Participants can register at www.neediestkids.org.

11 a.m.: 20th Annual Reston Holiday Parade

12:30 - 4:30 p.m.: Visits and Photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Donations will benefit local charities.

1 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.; 4 p.m.; 5:30 p.m.: Those Funny Little People, four performances by the renowned elves, Wally and Victor.

6 p.m.: Tree Lighting and Sing Along. Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in a horse-drawn carriage to magically light up the Christmas tree, followed by traditional holiday songs led by Reston Chorale and brass quintet.

6:30 - 10 p.m.: Horse Drawn Carriage Rides. Proceeds benefit a local charity. Pick-up location is in front of Talbots on Market Street. \$5 per person, children 5 and under ride free with adult.

All day: Ice Skating Pavilion. Open every day for public skating until March.

Trumbower – Ochoco Married

Olympia Marie Ochoco and Adam Richard Trumbower were married on Oct. 16, 2010, at the Williamsburg Community Chapel in Williamsburg, Va. Senior Pastor Bill Warrick officiated.

Following the ceremony, a dinner/dance reception was hosted by the bride's parents at the Garden Pavilion, Ford's Colony Country Club. On the eve of the wedding, the groom's parents entertained with a rehearsal dinner at the William and Mary Alumni House.

Olympia is the daughter of Mel and Annie Ochoco of Herndon. She is the granddaughter of Rear Admiral Brillante and Mrs. Estrella Ochoco of La Union, Philippines, and Mrs. Emerita Andres and the late Mr. Cesar Andres Sr. of Manila, Philippines.

Adam is the son of Dave and Vickie Trumbower of Roanoke, Va.

He is the grandson of Pauline Trumbower of Reading, Pa. and the late Richard Trumbower, and the late Carl and Maxine Grubbs of Roanoke, Va.

Olympia is a graduate of Herndon High School and received her bachelor's degree in Public Policy from the College of William and Mary in 2008. She is a Program Coordinator in the New York Meetings Program of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York City.

Adam is a graduate of Cave Spring High School and graduated cum laude from the College of William and Mary with a degree in Finance in 2007. He is currently employed as an Equity Sales Associate with Goldman Sachs & Co. in New York City.

Following a honeymoon to Italy and South America, Adam and Olympia reside in New York City.



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Olympia Marie Ochoco and Adam Richard Trumbower



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Deadline is Thursday for the following
week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.
For additional listings, visit
www.connectionnewsletters.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 24

Community Interfaith

Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7:30 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Participants will include leaders of the Shoresham Community, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Washington Plaza Baptist Church, Community of All People United Church of Christ, United Christian Parish and Reston Interfaith. Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part. A social time will follow the service. 703-620-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

ESL for Jobs. 6:30 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. English conversation and job skills for adults. 703-689-2700.

FRIDAY/NOV. 26

Open House. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Ave., Herndon. Stop in for a tour and refreshments. 703-421-0690.

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

Weekend Bluegrass Concert

Series: Jimmy Gaudreau and Orrin Star. 7:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon. Tickets \$15. 703-435-8377 or www.jimmygaudreau.com or www.orrinstar.com.

"Nutcracker Ballet." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia. Tickets \$18-\$22, special pricing available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbtnva.org or 703-471-0750.

Open House. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Ave., Herndon. Stop in for a tour and refreshments. 703-421-0690.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to herndon@connectionnewsletters.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/NOV. 25

Lupus Support Group. 12 p.m. at Reston Hospital Center, The West Wing, 1850 Town Center Parkway, Reston. lh@ascendcomm.com or www.lupusgw.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 30

Community-Based Wellness Event. 7 a.m.-9 p.m. at Dr. Chris Oliver's office, 208 Elden St., Herndon. Health assessments, risk reviews and biometric screenings in partnership with the Healthy People Grant. Appointments required at 703-904-8528.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 1

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce Education Series. 8 a.m. 1763 Fountain Drive, Reston. "Making your Financial Information Work for You" by Flora Financial Works. Networking and a continental breakfast. \$15-\$25. ashley@restonchamber.org or 703-707-9045.

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

"Nutcracker Ballet." 2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia. \$18-\$22, special pricing available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbtnva.org or 703-471-0750.

Open House. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Great Falls Assisted Living, 1121 Reston Ave., Herndon. Stop in for a tour and refreshments. 703-421-0690.

Bluegrass and Folk Jammers are invited to bring their instruments and voices to a Thanksgiving Weekend Jam at Reston's Walker Nature Education Center (11450 Glade Drive, just east of Soapstone Drive), 1-4 p.m. Playing and singing in the multipurpose room which accommodates 20-30 musicians. Chairs and refreshments will be provided.

Contact: Rick and Karen Elliott for further information. kpelliot@verizon.net; 703-476-1191.

TUESDAY/NOV. 30

Drop-In Story Hour. 7 p.m. Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Old and new picture book favorites. Age 2-5 with adult. 703-437-8855.

South Lakes Choral Arts program presents Jazz Night featuring The Speakers. Led by Jeremy Ragsdale, The Speakers, a Towson University Vocal Jazz Quartet, will join two South Lakes High School students for a night of bee-bops, diddy dots and shoo be doo wahs. The concert will be held at South Lakes High School Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 students and seniors, \$10 adults, \$25 maximum per family. Proceeds benefit the South Lakes High School Chorus program.

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

The Virginia Opera: Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Reston Chorale: The Wonder of the

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce Newmaker Luncheon.

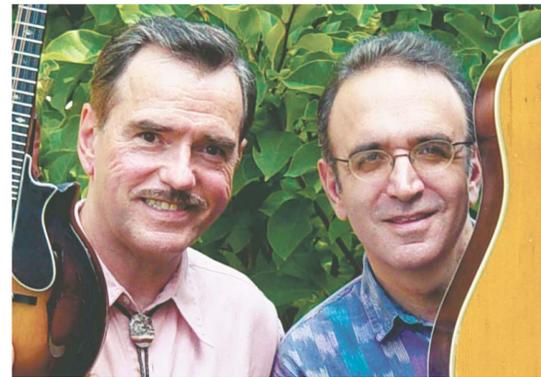
11:30 a.m. Hyatt Dulles, 2300 Dulles Corner Blvd., Herndon. "Hot Business Topics for Upcoming General Assembly," with Barry DuVal, former Secretary of Commerce for the Commonwealth and newly appointed President of the Virginia Chamber of Commerce. dullesregionalchamber.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

The Reston Association Board of Directors will be holding a Special Meeting at 9 a.m. at the Nature House, 11450 Glade Drive in Reston. The purpose of the special meeting is to discuss and consider revising the 2011 capital & operating budgets. For more information, contact: Cate Fulkerson, Director of Administration & Member Services 703-435-6512 or e-mail cate@reston.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

The Hearts of Reston Giving Circle (HRGC) holds a Family Holiday Fun Fair to benefit The Alternative House, 4-7 p.m. at the Reston Farm Market (10800 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston). Tickets are \$10 per adult, free for children. Activities will include: cake walk, Moonbounce,



Jimmy Gaudreau and Orrin Star. The Weekend Bluegrass Concert Series at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1090 Sterling Road, Herndon presents. Jimmy Gaudreau and Orrin Star, 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27. Tickets are \$15. 703-435-8377, www.jimmygaudreau.com or www.orrinstar.com.



Caroline Doherty as Sugar Plum Fairy, in the 2009 CBT production of the "Nutcracker Ballet." The Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia presents the "Nutcracker Ballet" on Nov. 27 and Nov. 28 at the Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Tickets are \$18-\$22, and special pricing is available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbtnva.org or 703-471-0750.

Season. 7 p.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. lindacke@verizon.net.

"Amahl and the Night Visitors." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Harris Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Gian Carlo Menotti's classic story. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Turtle Island String Quartet. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With jazz pianist Cyrus Chestnut and mandolinist Mike Marshall. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins 45 minutes prior to the performance on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets \$22-\$44, available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Reston Chorale: The Wonder of the Season. 7 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. lindacke@verizon.net.

Gifts That Give Hope Alternative Gift Fair. 12-5 p.m. at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Donations and some tangible items for local non-profits in all price ranges, from \$15 for a gallon of milk plus a dozen eggs for 3 families up to \$75 to help prevent eviction for a family with children. More than 20 non-profit organizations will be on-hand. www.givingcircleofhope.org or www.giftsthatgivehope.org

Old-Fashioned Country Christmas on the Farm. 1-7 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Equestrian and blacksmithing demonstrations, wagon rides, photos with Santa, children's holiday shopping and live music. Strolling carolers singing traditional yuletide tunes. Storytelling and children's activities. Park admission free, some activities have fees. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fpp or 703-437-9101.

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SUNDAY/DEC. 5

The Virginia Opera: Mozart's "Cosi

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community, including special holiday services. Send to herndon@connectionnewsletters.com. Deadline is Thursday.

Minister Regina Boyd, M.Div. will lead an Advent Discussion Group on Nov. 30, Dec. 4 and Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. at Panera Bread, 460 Elden St., Herndon. The topic will be "Locating Our Theological World in Preparation for the Coming Christ." Contact 703-758-0527 or capuce21@gmail.com.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St. in Herndon, presents "Journey to Adulthood", a comprehensive Christian Education for youth in grades 6-12. It uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, outreach ministries and both serious and playful activities to underscore its core message that adulthood must be earned.

Bright Pond Bible Study presents their 12th year of Bible study, a non-denominational group of women searching the Bible for God's truth. Meeting at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1133 Reston Ave. in Herndon, starting 9:30 a.m. Sept. 22. bpbiblestudy@aol.com.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon,

Fan Tutte." 2:30 p.m. at George Mason University Center For The Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$48-\$98. 888-945-2468 or www.tickets.com.

Artists' Reception: International Pen and Brush. 5 p.m. ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. Works by artists and poets from Northern Va. and Runnymede, England. Live music. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

"Sweetie's Healthy Start." 2 p.m. Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Book talk and signing by author Terlene Terry-Todd of Sterling. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Master Singers of Virginia: Christmas Around the World. 7 p.m. at Church of the Epiphany, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Herndon. A 28-member a cappella ensemble, under the direction of Dr. Erik Jones, explores holiday music of different cultures. Pre-concert lecture at 6:15 p.m. www.msva.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 7

Handel's Messiah Sing-along. 7:30 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. With the Reston Chorale and the Reston Community Orchestra. \$10. Rental seats available. lindacke@verizon.net.

Flutopia. 8 p.m. at George Mason University Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With flute students from Mason's School of Music and area high schools. Free. 703-993-8898.

FRIDAY/DEC. 10

Waverly Consort's "A Christmas Story." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. In the spirit of the medieval church dramas and mystery plays, eight singers and five instrumentalists play reproductions of medieval instruments. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Family Friendly Irish Set & Ceili Community Dance. 7 p.m. at Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Live music by the Bogwanderers Ceili Band & Friends. \$12-\$35. www.ccepotomac.org or 703-521-4340.

Hope Fellowship Church will temporarily be meeting at Woody's Golf Range, 11801 Leesburg Pike, Herndon. Sunday Worship Services for this new Southern Baptist church are at 10:45 a.m. The public is invited to join a growing Bible believing, multi-ethnic/multi-cultural congregation, with Bible-based sermons and uplifting music. 703-599-3527 or www.hopefellowshipchurchloudoun.org.

Knitters needed the first and third Wednesdays of the month, at 7 p.m., at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,** 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. The church's Shawl Ministry is offering free knitting instruction while providing shawls, blankets and other knitted items for people in need. No cost and yarn can be provided. E-mail shawl@saint-timothy.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothy.org.

Nondenominational Christian businessmen meet for prayer, Biblical discussion and fellowship 7 p.m. Fridays at Anita's, 1051 Elden St., Herndon and 12 p.m. Thursdays at 555 Grove St., Suite 200, Herndon. Call 703-795-1257.

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Herndon's Hennessey Shines at State Cross Country Meet

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

The Herndon High girls' and boys' cross country teams put together strong showings at the Virginia State AAA championship meet races, which were held Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Great Meadow course in The Plains.

In the girls' race, the two Northern Region runners to finish among the leaders were Lake Braddock's Sophie Chase and Herndon's Carolyn Hennessey. Chase, a sophomore, finished second overall with a time of seventeen minutes, 41 seconds. She finished right behind Stafford High first place finisher Hannah Lowery (17:41), also a sophomore who barely crossed the finish line ahead of her Bruin rival. Meanwhile, Hennessey, a senior, finished in fourth place overall at 18:16. She finished behind third place Megan Moye of Cosby High (Midlothian), who timed at 18:03.

HENNESSEY, who hopes to run at William & Mary next school year, has qualified for states in each of her four years as a Herndon cross country runner - only the third female cross country runner from Herndon to accomplish that feat. Two years ago as a sophomore, Hennessey finished ninth at the state meet. She

earned all-state recognition in both her 10th grade season and this fall as well. During her high school cross country career, she has been a district champion and earned All-Northern Region recognition three times.

"She's probably the best cross country runner in school history," said Herndon coach Pete Sherry. "She's always run well at the big meets and she's gotten better each year."

Hennessey ran an outstanding race at the state meet two weeks ago.

"It was as good as she could have possibly run," said Sherry, of Hennessey's outing. "It was her best race. Her goal since the beginning of the year was to finish in the top four [at states]."

Hennessey will compete at this Saturday's Southeastern Regionals meet in Cary, N.C. This winter and spring, she will compete in track and field program. Last spring, Hennessey finished fifth in the state in the two-mile run.

"She's as coachable a kid as anyone I've ever had," said Sherry. "She stayed healthy this year and has trained since the summer."

IN THE GIRLS' TEAM standings



Herndon's Carolyn Hennessey has earned All-State recognition two times during her high school cross country career.

at states, the top finishers from the Northern Region were Thomas Jefferson High (136 points), Lake Braddock (160), West Potomac (188) and West Springfield (223), who finished in fourth, fifth, seventh and 10th places, respectively. Sixteen teams, in all, participated. Midlothian (104) won the girls' team title, ahead of second place Maggie Walker (113) of Richmond.

Jefferson's top finishers were Stephanie Marzen (18th place)

and Kelly Rogers (26th). Other good races from Northern Region runners came from Dale Lescher (16th place) of West Potomac, Myah Hicks (17th) of Edison, Madison sophomore Anna Stone (20th), Lake Braddock freshman Hannah Christen (21st), Washington-Lee's Isabel Amend (27th), Lake Braddock freshman Katie Roche (31st), West Springfield High's Maddie Wittich (35th), Lee High freshman Bailey Kolonich (36th), and Oakton's Hailey Dougherty (38th).

IN THE BOYS' AAA RACE, South Lakes' top two finishers were Nick Guarnaccia (21st place)

and Will Sickenberger (33rd). Herndon's top runners were Jimmy Luehrs (20th) and Troy Hunsaker (34th).

"Jimmy was solid," said Sherry, of Luehrs, a senior. "We were hoping to be in the top 15, that was the goal. It was his first time at the state meet and it was tough for him."

Sherry said Luehrs has been named the Herndon boys' team MVP this fall.

"He made it to the state meet,"

said the coach. "Last year he was a solid runner for us, this year he was excellent."

Annandale High's Ahmed Bile captured the individual title with a winning time of 15:27. The junior finished barely ahead of second place Silas Frantz (15:27) of Douglas Freeman High School in Richmond.

Chantilly High sophomore Sean McGorty finished in fourth place overall at 15:44, ahead of senior and fifth place finisher Sam Rubenking of Lake Braddock (15:45). Lee High's Abraham Jacob, a senior, earned a sixth place standing at 15:47 and Jefferson senior Jonathan Phillips (15:51) took ninth place.

Other top outings at states for local boys' runners came from West Springfield senior Colin Taylor (16th place), Woodson High junior Paul Gates (18th), and South County junior Dylan Miller (30th).

In the boys' team standings, the top finishers from the Northern Region were sixth place West Potomac (173), eighth place Lake Braddock (217), ninth place South Lakes (229) and 10th place Herndon. Midlothian High (46) was the team champion, besting second place Colonial Forge (104) of Stafford.

Lake Braddock's top finishers were Rubenking and Nick Tuck (23rd).

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

Marshall High School has announced the hiring of Ann Jopke as its new head swim coach. Coach Jopke brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Statesmen swim program. She has been assisting on the collegiate level at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse the past two years. Prior to that, she worked with the Curl Burke Swim Club and the Northern Virginia Swim League. Coach Jopke is a teacher in the Fairfax County Public School system and currently coaches for Curl Burke in Alexandria. Marshall High School and the surrounding community are excited about the upcoming season with Coach Jopke leading the Statesmen program.

Will Simonton, a Vienna resident and 2010 graduate of Marshall High School, has made a verbal commitment to

play basketball at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Simonton, a 6-foot-11 inch center, is currently a post grad student at Fishburne Military Academy in Virginia. The NCAA Div. 1 UIC men's basketball team is coached by Howard Moore, who recruited Simonton. The Flames are members of the Horizon League.

Ed Huckaby, who coached three years in the Horizon League at Wright State, believes UIC is getting one heck of a prospect.

"He's just very skilled, put together at 225 or 230 pounds," said Huckaby, of Simonton. "He can face the basket and is comfortable out there, even at his size. When it's all said and done he is going to be one heck of a player. He is the type of big man you would find at Wisconsin or Butler. He can be that good."

Garrett Roe (Vienna) has been named an alternate team captain for the St. Cloud State

University (Minn.) men's ice hockey team for the upcoming 2010-2011 season. Roe is a senior on the NCAA Div. 1 squad. Last year, he tied for the team's scoring lead with 49 points from his forward position.

Roe was one of three captains named by head coach Bob Motzko.

"I am very confident in turning over the captain's duties to these three guys," said Motzko. "They are loyal and hard working young men who really carry the spirit of this program. I am certain they will do a great job leading this team in 2010-11. We couldn't be in better hands."

Roe has put together a storied career at St. Cloud State. He led the Huskies with 20 goals and 29 assists during his junior campaign, and he already ranks fifth in the team records with 142 career points and 87 career assists. He ranks 10th with 55 career goals and sixth with 23 power play goals.



PHOTO COURTESY/MADRID

Great Falls Madrid Captures Richmond Capital Classic Cup

The Great Falls Madrid, a NCSL Div. 2, under 12 boys' soccer team coached by Jose Venegas of Hi Performance (HP) Soccer, competed in the 2010 Richmond Capital Classic Soccer Tournament over the weekend at the new and amazing SportsQuest facilities in Midlothian. The Madrid brought home the Championship Cup after a stellar outing, going undefeated in four games and shutting out the competition by 10 goals to none.

GIVING THANKS IN HERNDON

FROM PAGE 3

**Laura Readyoff,
CEO, The Music Loft**

1. My new business The Music Loft, my business partner Leanne, my Vice President Jason DiMambro, and the support of family, friends and loyal customers who believed that we could make a difference in the lives of children and adults through music.

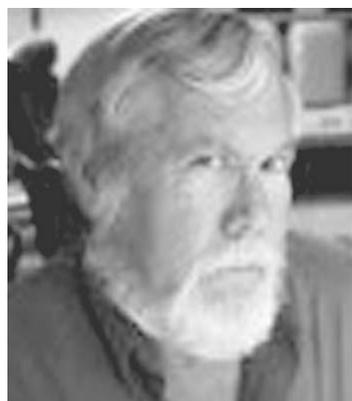
2. I am thankful that my town Herndon has a real sense of community and heritage. I love the cobblestone roads that still peak through the asphalt roads, the houses with tin roofs and the red caboose. I also believe that our school teachers and parents take a special pride in speaking words of encouragement into our young people. I am personally grateful for all of the amazing students that The Music Loft is able to teach!

3. There is so much simple joy and beauty in the world. The laughter of a small child, an elderly couple holding hands, teachers encouraging students to dream big; there are endless possibilities. You just need to open your heart.



Rebecca Trachtman

"I live in Loudoun County, but If I had anything to say, I would mention my love of being involved in The Closet in Herndon for so many years. The opportunity to work with and interact with such dear people is truly a highlight in my life. These people include employees, volunteers and the wonderful people who shop there. For residents in the area, I highly recommend making The Closet a part of your lives."



**Donnell Williams,
Herndon Police Crime Prevention Council**

1. The satisfaction of living in the United States of America - I have been in many other countries, liked them all for different reasons, but am happiest in the U.S., and am very proud of being an American. Plus thanks for my family and friends, always.

2. Sure, we have our problems. But we also have our joys - some of the best public service in the area, without complaint. Our town has the best elected officials and the best staff ever, always willing to help, to listen. And the town has a lot of fun!

3. Volunteer a little more! Your Neighborhood Watch needs you (and you'll meet some great people), your town, in a variety of capacities, needs you (and you'll meet some great people), your local schools need volunteers (Yeay, Team 116, Herndon High School Robotics - and you'll meet some great people). I might also add, pick up after your dog, please.

Scouting For Food

Herndon scouts collect food for the homeless at Trinity Presbyterian Church across from Herndon Elementary School on Saturday, Nov. 13.



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5:00 PM: Children's Service
7:00 PM: Contemporary Worship Service
9:00 PM: Traditional Worship Service
11:00 PM: Traditional Worship Service

Christmas Day
5:30 PM: Relax and Renew Casual Service
701 Bennett St., Herndon, VA
703-707-6271

To Highlight your
Faith Community,
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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 24

Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Eve Service. 7:30 p.m. at the United Christian Parish, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Participants will include leaders of the Shoreshim Community, All Dulles Area Muslim Society (ADAMS), Washington Plaza Baptist Church, Community of All People United Church of Christ, United Christian Parish and Reston Interfaith. Virginia Delegate Ken Plum and Fairfax County Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will also take part. A social time will follow the service. 703-620-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 27

"Nutcracker Ballet." 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia. Tickets \$18-\$22, special pricing available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbtnva.org or 703-471-0750.

SUNDAY/NOV. 28

"Nutcracker Ballet." 2 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Presented by the Classical Ballet Theatre of Northern Virginia. \$18-\$22, special pricing available for military families and Girl Scouts. www.cbtnva.org or 703-471-0750.

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

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SATURDAY/DEC. 4

Jingle on the Lake Holiday Event. Join us on the Lake Anne Waterfront as we kick off the holidays on Saturday, Dec. 4, with Jingle on Lake Anne - a Holiday Event Celebration, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Community organizers and plaza retailers will host a variety of festive activities ranging from a special visit from Santa (arriving on a lake barge), strolling carolers, a petting zoo, wine tastings, merchant specials, a gingerbread house decorating contest, cookie decorating, holiday arts & crafts market, holiday entertainment and much more. The day will be filled with activities and holiday delights for all ages.

Free, Rain or Shine. Website: www.lakeanneplaza.com

Reston Chorale: The Wonder of the Season. 7 p.m. Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The Ceremony of Carols by Benjamin Britten. lindacke@verizon.net.

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The Mount Vernon Gazette
- Zone 4:** Centre View North
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Got My "Wish"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Who says you can never go home again? Somebody does. Well, in spite of the well-worn admonition, I did in fact go home again. In mid October, I received an invite/offer from my best friend, Cary, that I absolutely couldn't refuse: fly up to Boston for a visit and to attend the NBA's opening night, marquis match up, between the Boston Celtics and the new-look Miami Heat; eighth row, top of the key. It didn't take me long to say "Yes." Actually, it took me about a day. I needed to be certain the tentative Sunday afternoon departure, Wednesday morning return itinerary I was considering, didn't adversely affect/impact what routine I maintain here in Maryland: chemotherapy/pre-chemotherapy lab work every three weeks, Connection Newspaper deadlines, spouse and/or family obligations and any previously scheduled miscellaneous appointments/commitments, medical or otherwise. Obviously I wanted to go north, but I wanted to be able to go with minimal hassle, all parties and issues concerned. Once satisfied that all was indeed manageable, on-line I went and the airline reservations were made.

The trip was pretty much about me, for me, to accommodate me; as it was intended to be, per Cary's insistence: tickets for the Celtic's game (duh!), Italian food in the North End - of Boston; a visit - and Chinese food with - my most important cousins, Ronnie, Gil and their daughter, Jayne (a semi-tradition); Boston pizza from Cary's favorite local place, fresh cut-up fruit from Whole Foods for a healthy breakfast for me every morning (my diet); chocolate from Cary's candy store/warehouse; access to a computer to facilitate any work-related issues that might arise while I was out of town; and experiencing the kind of warmth, compassion, hospitality, kindness, generosity, love and understanding provided by my oldest friend (and his wife, Mindy and their three boys) and by my dearest cousins, at a time in my life when I needed it most. I don't think I can string together enough superlatives to accurately describe all the feelings that I felt. Special - beyond words, is as simple as I can say it.

That being said, there was a feeling gnawing at me throughout my three-day stay. The feeling that, though I was indeed home again, was this trip, in fact, given my diagnosis/prognosis, the last time I would be home, see my best friend, visit with my closest cousins, eat my favorite foods, go to all the familiar places, etc? After all, I may not be getting any healthier. Was this visit, all about me as it was - and planned to be so by Cary, Mindy and the Lipmans, sort of a final-type wish come true for me, à la The Make-A-Wish Foundation, coincidentally the very charitable organization to which Cary's parents made contributions in my parent's memory when each of them died (Cary's father and my mother knew each other as children and grew up in the same Dorchester, Mass. neighborhood 75 years ago)? The feeling didn't exactly keep me from sleeping at night but I couldn't stop thinking about it when I was awake - doing anything/everything that I wanted to do but, being in Maryland, am unable to do.

I wouldn't say the feeling ever passed, but three days sure passed quickly. Now that I'm home, and remembering and writing about it, perhaps getting my "Make-A-Wish"-type emotions/thoughts down on paper will get it out of my head and out of my mind as well. I hope so. I don't want to ever forget the weekend, though; I would like to forget part of what made it so special - for me: my cancer diagnosis.

As Cary was dropping me off at Logan Airport, the last thing he said was, "Let's do this again next year!" "That would be great," I said, as I hugged him back.

I can live with that, and look forward to it, too.

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

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