

Reston CONNECTION

Julia Schnittger, 4, adds a gumdrop to her gingerbread house at the Junior League of Northern Virginia's 10th annual Enchanted Forest Saturday.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

A Walk Through the Trees

Junior League of Northern Virginia hosts annual Enchanted Forest fundraiser.



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 JLNv. "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,



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

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

GIVING THANKS IN RESTON

As we celebrate the Thanksgiving Day, the Reston 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 Reston?
- 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.

Lynn S., Baby Boomer Writer

"I am thankful for the combined effort of writers and illustrators of 1950s children's books who made me fall in love with reading at a very young age. A love of learning has guided everything I've accomplished since then."



Bill Bouie (pictured at 9 months old)



"I am thankful for access to clean water, food, shelter, safety, good friends and family, surrounded by glorious nature and all the best that our nation's capital has to offer (while trying not to think about traffic!). We are present at a fascinating time in the world. The media reports the extremes, but there is endless potential for good waiting to be tapped.

I would tell them to do a couple of things to get ready for the holidays. First of all, volunteer to read to the young children that participate in the programs at Reston Interfaith. Secondly, I would tell them to go to the Reston Community Center on Thanksgiving morning with about 300 volunteers and collect and sort food to be distributed during the holidays to those that are less fortunate or just having a hard time. These two things will demonstrate just how special a place Reston really is."

Susanne Bowman

1. After more than 30 years apart, I found my cousin was living two miles away - in Reston. It's like we never left each other.

2. I live and work in Reston in Hunters Woods. I am so thankful for the forest and the foxes. The deer - not so much!

3. Peace starts within yourself. Live in the moment - every day you will find something here to be thankful for.

Irma Brosseau

"I am grateful for my health, my family and friends who bring richness and fulfillment to my life. And for living in Reston where the beauty of the woods, trees, paths and lakes brings daily pleasures."



Mary Ellen Craig

1. I have much to be thankful for; particularly my children, grandchildren and extended family members; my friends, my church community, my neighbors and my health.

2. I am very thankful to continue to live in Reston where I have lived, worked, and raised a family during the past 39 years. Life has many different cadences but it is a good memory to run into people from different segments of my life. I am "aging in place; a place called Reston." Reston also has many opportunities for cultural activities as well as great inspiration for keeping the body and soul nourished with great outdoor activity and no vehicle is needed to shop or eat out at restaurant or attend church.

SEE THANKS, PAGE 8

Reston Community Center

**UPCOMING BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETINGS
RCC HUNTERS WOODS**

Dates and times subject to change.
Please check our website for up-to-date information.

Monday, November 22
6:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
7:00 p.m. Finance Committee

Monday, December 6
6:00 p.m. Building Committee
7:00 p.m. Long Range Planning Committee
8:00 p.m. Regular BOG Meeting

Reston: The Opera

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Wednesday, December 1
8:00 p.m.
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Order tickets online at www.restoncommunitycenter.com



2011 Reston DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. Birthday Celebration

Saturday, January 15
Reston Community Orchestra Musical Program
6:00 p.m.
RCC Hunters Woods

Sunday, January 16
Voices of Inspiration
4:00 p.m.
Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation
1441 Wiehle Avenue

Monday, January 17
9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
All events at **RCC Hunters Woods unless otherwise noted**

Commemorative March
9:00 a.m.
Southgate Community Center
12125 Pinecrest Road

Especially for Youth
(1st through 6th grade)
10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Keynote Address and Community Service Awards
10:30 a.m.

Michele Norris, award-winning journalist and current host of NPR's *All Things Considered*.

Issue Discussion, Community Service Projects and Workshops
12:15 p.m.

Art Reception for Reston Elementary Schools
1:30 p.m.

Artwork created by Mrs. Richards and Mrs. Hunstad Kindergarten and 1st grade students, Hunters Woods Elementary, 2009-2010



Reston Community Center
2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston VA 20191
www.restoncommunitycenter.com



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The Bargain Loft Opens its Holiday Shop

Charitable nonprofit Herndon-Reston FISH invites you to shop for holiday gifts and décor at The Bargain Loft, located at 336 Victory Drive, Herndon (off of Spring St.).

The opening of the Loft's Holiday Shop is Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 10 a.m. and the shop will continue through Christmas eve day.

Extended holiday hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Thursdays (Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23) and Dec. 24 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Other operating hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Donations of items are tax deductible and will be accepted throughout the Holiday season. The Bargain Loft will be closed on Saturday, Dec. 25 and will reopen for regular business hours on Tuesday, Dec. 28.

Proceeds from sales at The Bargain Loft help FISH to aid local residents who are experienc-

ing a financial crisis. For more information, call 703-437-0600 or go online to www.herndonrestonfish.org/bargain-loft.html.

Santa Comes to the Lake Anne Plaza

Santa will arrive to the Lake Anne plaza by barge on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 12 noon and greet all of his fans. Come at 11 a.m. for fun activities for the children, and stay after to shop at a special market and lunch at local establishments.

Enter the first annual Gingerbread House Decorating Contest <http://blog.lakeanneplaza.com/special-events/enter-the-1st-annual-gingerbread-house-decorating-contest>.

Arrive at Lake Anne on Saturday, Dec. 4, 2010, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 1609 Washington Plaza North.

Shop With Friends of Reston

Support local businesses and merchants by stocking up on a variety of products, services and gift cards for the holidays, birthdays or any other special event.

You can also purchase an alternative gift by making a tax-deductible donation to Friends of Reston on behalf of a friend or family member.

The date is Saturday, Dec. 4, from 1-5 p.m. at Reston Association Conference Center, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive. For more information, e-mail friendsofreston@gmail.com

Correction

The website for the Northern Virginia Model Yacht Club, listed in the last week's article ["Holiday at Lake Anne"] should read nvmc.com

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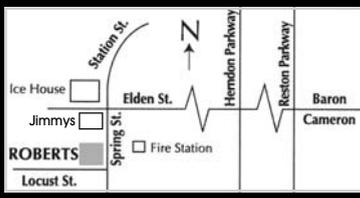
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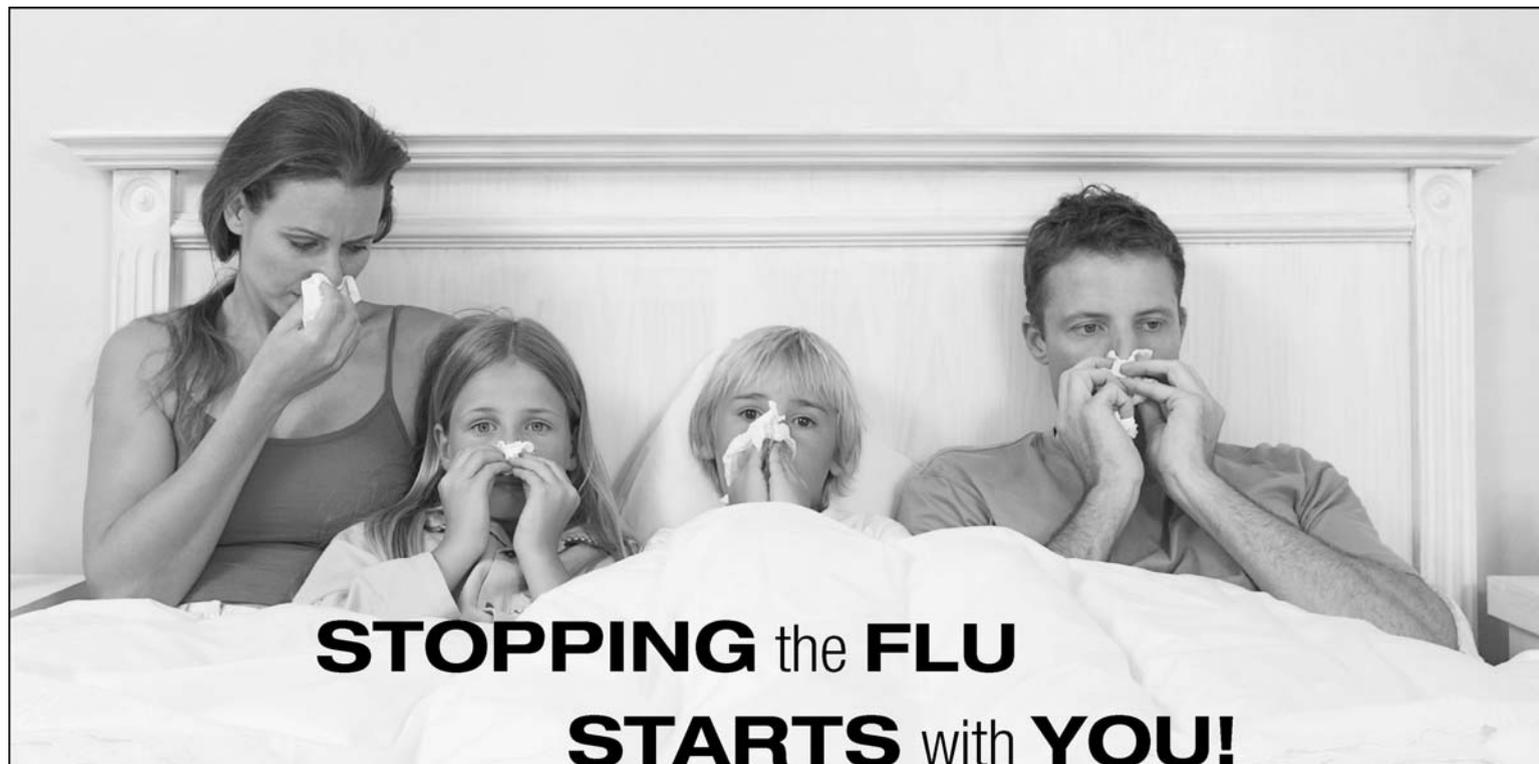
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OPINION

Shop Locally

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

The Milk Party

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



COMMENTARY

I have not endorsed any political or social movements coming out of the state of Florida in many years, but I have just learned of one that I can enthusiastically support: the Milk Party movement. I first learned about the Milk Party from an article by John Morgan, executive director of Voices for Virginia’s Children, in its fall newsletter (www.vakids.org). The Milk Party movement in Florida is being led by David Lawrence, retired publisher of the Miami Herald and nationally recognized leader in child advocacy.

Approaching social problems like the businessperson that he is and like the people who join him in his efforts, David Lawrence is spearheading “The Children’s Movement of Florida” which has as its objective “to make the well-being and education of our infants, toddlers and all other children Florida’s highest priority, especially when it comes to investing public resources (www.childrensmovementflorida.org).”

Lawrence’s pro-children movement got dubbed the “Milk Party” in part because of the techniques he has used to draw attention to

the needs. During a four-week period in September he took his advocacy on the road with major “Milk Party” rallies in 17 Florida cities gaining more than 70,000 signatures of supporters and major coverage in all the news outlets. Hopefully his effort will move right up the coast and into Virginia at some point.

While major political party leaders debate budgets and spending, Milk Party advocates propose investments of government resources in our young children as offering the highest rates of return. There are numerous studies that indicate that expenditures for high quality child care, preschool education, and children’s health and mental health programs can produce returns of ten to one in future savings. Children who go to school healthy and ready to learn are much more likely to be successful in school and work and much less likely to be in social service, welfare, or prison programs in the future. The Milk Party folks say that a few public dollars spent wisely early in a child’s life will save many times over the tax dollars he or she may need in the fu-

SEE PLUM, PAGE 13

Counterproductive

BY JACK KENNY
PAST PRESIDENT,
REPUBLICAN CLUB OF
GREATER RESTON



A DIFFERING POINT OF VIEW

Several weeks back U.S. Sen. Mark Warner (D-Va.) released the news that the Congress passed a bill to provide loans and loan guarantees to small businesses. The purpose of the bill was to encourage small businesses to hire and expand. The downside to this approach is more debt for the business, as well as the taxpayers. The small business is widely recognized as the best hope to reduce unemployment. It is the economic engine that keeps the economy moving. It is the retail outlet for the larger share of our productive output. Is small business in trouble? Notice that the wait time for hairdresser or nail appointments is almost immediate. Notice the number of women hairdressers standing around waiting for customers. You men notice that the barber shop wait time is nil. Notice the blank storefronts covered with paper at your local shopping center.

Current national attention is focused on whether or not to extend the Bush tax rates. The rhetoric from the administration is to continue the Bush tax rates for the middle class and increase the tax

rates for the wealthy. Who make up most of the wealthy class? Of course, the small business owner! Thus, on one hand, Sen. Warner, a former Senate staffer then successful businessman, is voting to extend a helping hand to the economic sparkplug in our economic system and on the other hand threatening to take away the fruits of their labor. The small business person is facing increasing government regulations, healthcare costs, taxation, and operating costs.

While the powers-that-be jiggle the consumer price index and deny increasing inflation and continuing unemployment, the small business person can only see uncertainty. They are accused of greed. They are actually the victims of class warfare - the wealthy vs. the middle class. Unfortunately, the real losers in this fight are the poor. The present administration is busy destroying their opportunities. The neat thing about our economic system is that the poorest soul coming up with a new idea, invention, or talent can become a member of the wealthy class overnight.

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THE CONNECTION

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NEWS

Santa and Mrs. Claus will arrive in a horse-drawn carriage to magically light up the Christmas tree,



Holiday Parade at Town Center

A full day of events on Friday, Nov. 26.

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.



Dinoballoon was one of many attractions in the last year's Reston Holiday Day Parade.

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 Talbotts on Market Street. \$5 per person, children 5 and under ride free with adult.
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Holidays are Here!

Friday, November 26

8 am Run with Alan Webb
Stores Open Early!

11 am 20th Annual Reston Holiday Parade

12:30 – 4:30 pm
Visits and Portraits with
Santa & Mrs. Claus

6 pm Tree Lighting and Sing Along

6:30 – 10 pm
Horse Drawn Carriage Rides

Throughout December

Street Entertainment
Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides
Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 4

94.7 Fresh FM – Coats, Blankets & Scarves Drive

Friday, December 10

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Saturday, December 11

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GIVING THANKS IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 3

connections also offers going into Washington also without a vehicle.

3. Special things are those things that impact your mental, physical health and spiritual well being. Advice on seeing these things is to open your attention to what is before you in your environment; pay attention to newspapers, the Community Center activities and events, the RA facilities and special programs, the YWCA, the Town Center special events, organizations like Reston Runners, the Library and much more.

Thomas R. Day, Reston

1. I'm thankful that my family is all healthy and happy
2. I'm thankful that we have such a great public transit system, with the connector buses and the metro coming soon.
3. My advice would be for people to bike around and really explore all the great things to do around Reston/Herndon.



Abbie Edwards

"Dave and I are grateful that our four children are doing well and that we have very healthy and smart eight grandchildren and a great grandchild. We continue to express gratitude every day for the joys of living our retirement years to the fullest with our family and friends.

Rev. Elizabeth Evans Hagan, Senior Pastor, Washington Plaza Baptist Church

1. I will give thanks this year for my community of faith, Washington Plaza Baptist in Lake Anne. I am so proud of the diverse, open minded, and loving citizens of this region with whom I get to work alongside each week. I'm so proud to be a part of a congregation that supports English as a Second Language classes free of charge, serves meals at the hypothermia shelter each winter, and regularly volunteers their time at the Closet in Herndon. They inspire me to want to do all I can to help those in need too.

2. Reston truly is a beautiful community! I am thankful for all the gorgeous parks, all the wonderful community services and the good folks of this area that truly want to get to know their neighbors.

3. It's so easy to get overwhelmed by your problems thinking about all that is going wrong in your life. Yet, thankfulness always starts small. Begin with the little things. Do you have food for lunch? Do you have clothes to wear? Is the sun shining? Then, give thanks and soon you will find more out there's always more good than bad.



Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill)

"I am thankful to be part of this community that demonstrates a genuine joy of giving to others. When I am out at events and see so many people giving their time and efforts to help out others who are less fortunate, or just giving of time and talent to improve our community, I feel truly blessed."

Kathy Kaplan

"When I was nine years old my neighbor, Louella Urbanczyk, wrote out her address on a slip of paper and I took it with me when my family left the next day. Louella was the mother of my best friend, David. I moved from Sacramento to Salt Lake City that October. I sent Louella a letter as soon as we had a house to live in. Louella and I have continued to write to each other for 51 years. When I was fifteen Louella sent me a column from the Sacramento Bee called The White Plume. It was a poetry column and they had published several of her poems. I hadn't known that she wrote poetry. I was enchanted. Within a few months I wrote my first poem. I have continued to write poetry and I inflict those poems on friends, post them on facebook and occasionally get them published. I spend an hour every morning writing poetry. Mostly I write



SEE THANKS, PAGE 9

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GIVING THANKS IN RESTON

FROM PAGE 8

about the small piece of Reston I can see from my chair out on the back patio. I can see all the way to the far side of Glade Stream. I create poems about the work of art I live in, the work of art created by Bob Simon. I write about catbirds, wood poppies, sassafras - all friends. I am thankful for Louella, for

the poetry, and the wonderful place I live with my husband, my daughter, my grandchildren, and my friends. My Thanksgiving prayer is that the artwork of Bob Simon continues to endure and its loveliness survives the changes the county is poised to inflict upon us."

Stacie Kirby, Greater Reston Arts Center

1. I am thankful for what it means to be an American. The ability to pursue one's desired lifestyle, travel freely, practice one's preferred religion without persecution and express oneself through art or written word is priceless. Living in the land of the free, it is easy to take for granted. However, when I reflect on my life, including my accomplishments and future goals, to discount the importance of simply being American is impossible. The raw individualism, courage to break from convention, and pioneering spirit demonstrated by our founders so many years ago has clearly molded my character of today.

2. I am thankful for the progressive thinking, modern design and attention to detail that fueled the development of this acclaimed planned community.

I appreciate that shopping centers and apartment buildings are camouflaged with carefully placed foliage, streets are lined with colorful wildflowers and trees exploding with color at the turn of each sea-



son.

I appreciate Reston's cultural offerings. With venues like the Greater Reston Arts Center, Initiative for Public Arts, the Reston Community Orchestra, and the Reston Historic Museum (to name a few), there is less need to make that drive into the District for a "culture fix."

I'm thankful that to experience "the great outdoors," I can walk through our public parks on the 55 miles of trails winding through 700 protected acres of forest and

meadows.

Finally, I am thankful for the remarkable and interesting residents that support and promote this amazing community.

3 If you can't find something to be thankful for in Reston, then you simply aren't looking. The fastest route to find gratitude is to get involved and give back. Reston nonprofit organizations offer countless opportunities to explore, volunteer and/or offer support through sponsorship or attendance at many diverse and educational events.

D. M. Lewis

"I am thankful for our beautiful surroundings outside our doors or within walking distance of all residents: mature trees, sparkling lakes, and fresh air."

Najwa Margaret Saad, NMS Enterprises

1. I will give thanks this year for the health of my family, living in the greatest country on Earth, and being able to sit down with my 89-year-old Mom and my brother and celebrate my favorite holiday. I will attend my 38th Thanksgiving Day game featuring the Detroit Lions. Could this be the year that they start winning again?

2. I am thankful for living in Reston because it is a caring community where people look out for each other, and everyone is invested in the community, which started as a dream of Bob Simon's and continues today. It is great to have Bob here to celebrate with all of us.



Bob Simon, Reston Founder

1. I am thankful for the eighteen years I have had living with Cheryl, my intelligent, humorous, beautiful wife.

2. I am thankful to be living and working in a warm and caring community.

3. It should not be difficult for Restonians to find special things to be thankful for - a few suggestions: 50 miles of trails for walking and biking, Lake Anne Plaza, Fountain Square and Center Stage.



Cheryl Terio Simon and Robert E. Simon Jr., Reston's founder, watch the Reston Community Orchestra's Brass Quintet at his 95th birthday celebration in

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ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to reston@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.
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



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.cbntva.org or 703-471-0750.

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.cbntva.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.

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.cbntva.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. klpelliot@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, diddly 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 "Così 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

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.
"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.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

The Virginia Opera: Mozart's "Così 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 scores 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.

Synergy Brass Quintet: "Christmas in Brass." 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Brass arrangements of Bach's choral works, Handel's triumphant "Messiah" and a selection of classic Christmas carols. \$22-\$44, youth through grade 12 half

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to reston@connectionnewspapers.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. ashleyo@restonchamber.org or 703-707-9045.

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 adults, free for and children. Activities will include: cake walk, Moonbounce, Children's Craft Corner, visit with Santa, Festive Seasonal live music. Food & drink available for an additional cost. Donations of gifts for the children accepted. Email HRGC at info@heartsofreston.org to choose from the virtual giving tree we have set up. For more information, visit www.Heartsofreston.org.

MONDAY/DEC. 6

Ezra Klein, The Washington Post and Newsweek economics and domestic affairs columnist, will speak at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston, 703-437-7733, at 8 p.m. His topic is The Economic

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2010 Reston Association CALL FOR BOARD CANDIDATES

In Spring of 2011, Restonians will elect two Reston Association Board members - one from the Hunters Woods/Dogwood District and one At-Large Director, each serving a three-year term. The RA Board of Directors determines the Association's goals, policies and makes a significant and lasting contribution to the community.

Reston Association Members are invited to attend an Election Information Session on **Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2010, 7 p.m.** at Reston Association, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive Reston, VA 20191-3404.

For additional information please contact Cate Fulkerson cate@reston.org or 703-435-6512.

Reston ASSOCIATION

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NEWS

Achievement Week Celebrated

Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity hosted their annual Achievement Week Brunch at the Waterford of Fair Oaks. More than 80 men, women and children were in attendance. The guest speaker was Dr. Ibe Mbanu, M.D. who gave a motivating address on self-achievement and perseverance.

Omicron Kappa Kappa Chapter celebrates Achievement Week to recognize Omega Men that made a significant contribution in the community. This year the following awards were presented: Omega Man of the Year to James Freeman; Superior Service Award to Mike Edwards; The Founders Award to Ricardo Sewell and the Citizen of the Year award was presented to Robyn Cochran, principal of Dogwood Elementary.

THREE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS Reginald Hayes (Herndon High, \$500), Isaiah Floyd (Mount Vernon High, \$300) and Reani Lewis (Mount. Vernon High, \$200) were awarded scholarships for their winning essays on "what steps should we as Black Americans

take to further our political agenda?"

Finally the new officers of OKK Chapter were installed. The brunch kicked off a week of activities for Omicron Kappa Kappa. This year the Achievement Week Committee was chaired by Dr. Gary C. Powell (Nu Omega, 1996).



The Dogwood Elementary Principal, Robyn Cochran, is presented Citizen of the Year Award by Dana Walker and Dr. Gary Powell.

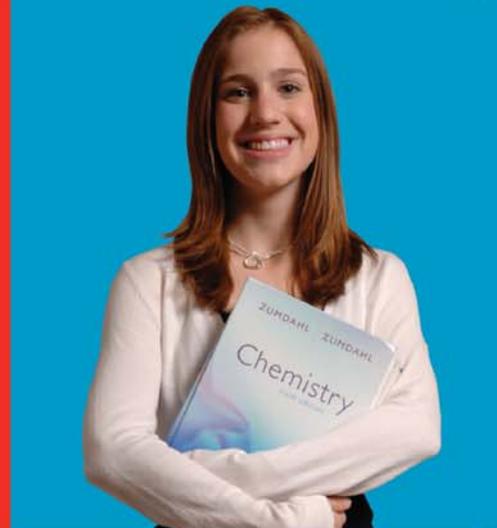
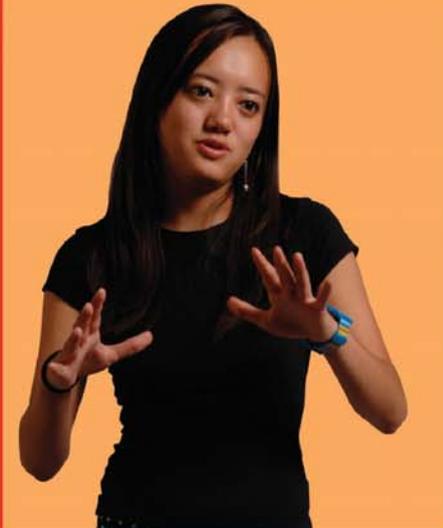
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NEWS

Alternate Ways of Thinking

Charitable gifts change how we think about gift giving.

BY JODI IMEL

The area's largest Alternative Gift Market will be held Saturday, Dec. 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave.

Alternative Gifts are donations to local and international charitable organizations that help those most in need. Purchasers will receive a gift card for the recipients of the gift, along with explanations of how the donations will be used.

Choose from seven local and 23 global charities, including Fair Trade Crafts from Ten Thousand Villages. All money collected goes directly to support charitable organizations.

"This will be the 10th year we have held the Alternative Gift Market", said coordinator Judy Erickson. "2008 was our biggest year, raising \$33,487. People really look forward to doing their holiday shopping at the market every year. I think this was very evident

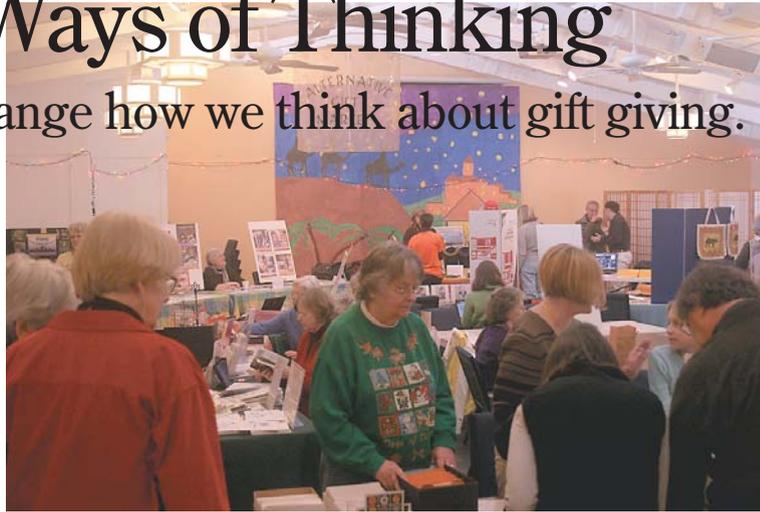


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Customers shop at the Alternative Gift Market in Reston last year, which allows shoppers to donate to needy people around the world.

last year when we raised \$24,704 despite the fact we were competing with our first big snow storm of the year and the recession."

Shoppers can purchase gifts for donations as little as \$5, which will provide after school snacks for a child in Reston. For \$11, you can give a gift of 5 pounds of crop seed for a family in Zimbabwe, and just \$50 will provide a community Micro loan to Nigeria. And they haven't forgotten chicks, goats, cows, and bees, from Heifer Inter-

national.

"I give my teacher a card every year donating school supplies to a child in Kenya or Peru and each teacher always tells me it was the best gift they have ever received", said Elli Imel, who attends Crossfield Elementary School.

Maybe Alternative Gifts are your answer to your holiday shopping this year. For more information, visit the Unitarian Universalist Church in Reston website at www.uureston.org.

Plum

FROM PAGE 6

ture without the early investment. Programs like child health care coverage, early childhood/school readiness initiatives, screening and early treatment service for children with special needs, support and education for parents, and mentoring programs for at-risk school age children are what the Milk Party is about. We need a chapter of the Milk Party in Virginia to work with Voices for Virginia's Children.

Kenny

FROM PAGE 6

The Marxists-socialists are fond of reporting that the major portion of wealth in the country is possessed by a small percentage of the inhabitants. As it stands now, more than half of the inhabitants of the United States pay no income taxes, yet consume the greater portion of the revenue extorted from the wealthy. Marxism-socialism is great until we run out of other people's money to spend.

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HOLIDAY CALENDAR

Send announcements to reston@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

Reston Chorale: The Wonder of the 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

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.

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.

"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.

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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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SCHOOLS

Ready to conquer Scotland! Back row, from left: Kyle Norfleet, 16; Kirrolos Guirguis, 15; Jacob Savage, 15; Robert Bouwmeester, 17; Phil Vollman, 17; Michelle Slivinski, 15; front row: Jenny Rubin, 16; Kemi Akinbileje, 15; Brionna White, 15; teacher Maria Harris; Eric O'Brian, 15; Kenzy Forman, 15.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/
THE CONNECTION

Seahawks Fly to Edinburgh

South Lakes High students to participate in the largest arts festival in the world.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

For the second time in a decade, South Lakes High School's Performing Arts Department, under the direction of theater and dance teacher Maria Harris, has been selected to perform during "The Fringe," the largest arts festival in the world that draws more than a half million tourists to Edinburgh, Scotland every summer. Reston's South Lakes High School is the only school attending the festival from Virginia.

All the city's a stage for three weeks in August, as more than 1,800 different performing companies from all over the world participate in the American High School Theatre Arts Festival (AHSTF), which runs in conjunction with the world-renowned Fringe Festival in Scotland's capital city.

"All the city really does become a stage," Harris said. "Performances are everywhere, and we're so excited and honored to be taking students again to this fantastic festival."

According to Smithsonian Magazine, the historic city turns into a "wall-to-wall performance space. Art happens everywhere - in nightclubs, delis, moving buses, swimming pools, pubs and playgrounds."

FORTUNATELY, Reston's 15 theater arts students attending the festival will perform in a more traditional venue - the Church Hill Theatre, one of the city's main stages. Harris said they recently got the rights to perform Neil Simon's slapstick comedy *Rumors*, an absurd adventure in which several wealthy couples arrive at a posh dinner party to discover there are no servants, the hostess is missing and the host, who happens to be the deputy mayor of New York City, has shot himself through the earlobe. Comedy happens when the guests try to conceal the suspicious events from the media and police.

"Trying to find a play that travels well, and obtaining the international rights, is a long, involved process," said Harris "This one has great costumes, and a lot of opportunities for slapstick comedy. It's the perfect mix of physical and verbal comedy." The students will perform four shows during their two-week stay.

"What's really fun is that we have to walk the Royal Mile and sell our show," said Harris, who has been South Lake's Theatre Arts director for 21 years. "We have to do something unique to draw attention and

get people to our theatre, since we're competing with a thousand other shows. If you ever 'walked the mile,' you know how crowded it is with all kinds of street performers and tourists," Harris said.

"Walking the Royal Mile," is the tourist thing to do in Edinburgh. An eclectic mix of tourist shops, restaurants, street performers and ancient historical attractions, the Royal Mile is always jam-packed, but during The Fringe, it becomes the heart of avant-garde artists, buskers, bagpipers, and other acts. At one end of the mile, perched on an extinct volcano, is Edinburgh Castle, the royal seat of power for centuries, where Mary Queen of Scots gave birth to King James VI. At the bottom of the mile is the 12th century Holyrood Palace, where Queen Elizabeth still spends one week in residence at the beginning of the summer.

"I'm so excited. It's really cool that we get to perform in such an historic city during this amazing festival," said Jenny Rubin, a junior at South Lakes.

"Just the chance to perform elsewhere is a great opportunity," said 15-year-old Jacob Savage.

"It's great to be able to perform with these people I've known for a long time," said Robert Bouwmeester, 17, who created his own magic company two years ago, and frequently performs in local theater productions.

AHSTF Board of Advisors selects top high school theatre programs based on nominations from state, regional, and national theatre organizations. High schools are selected based on their most recent bodies of work, awards, and community involvement.

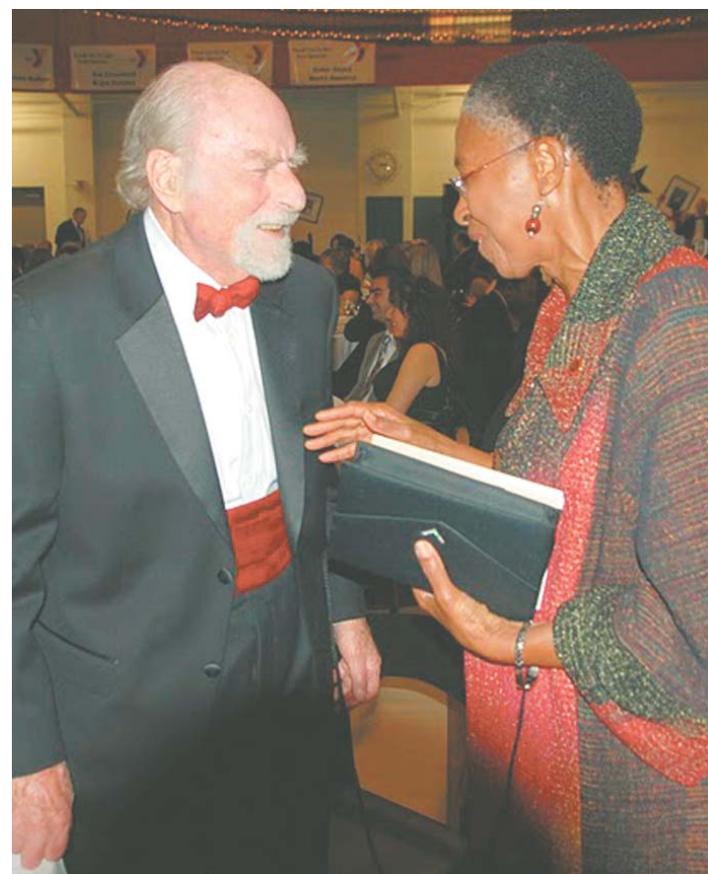
ACCORDING TO HARRIS, the students' performances may get reviewed by the press, but the AHSTF does not rank the performances at the festival. "Just by being selected, we've already won. I can't tell you how excited I am to be taking this group of talented students. It's such an awesome experience as a teacher, to see the world through their eyes. It's so fresh," she said.

To fund the trip, Harris said students will rely on South Lakes Theatre Arts Boosters, and a variety of fundraisers throughout the year.

"We're planning all kinds of things this year, including a Casino Night, a tag sale and selling handmade tapestries," Harris said.

On Friday, Dec. 3, the school is hosting the Jason Linett Comedy Hypnosis Show in the South Lakes Little Theater; Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. "It's a hilarious show. It's back by popular demand because it was so funny last year."

To support the students' trip to Edinburgh, or to get tickets to the comedy show, call the school at 703. 715.4500.



PHOTOS BY MIKE MCKEE

Reston Founder Bob Simon and Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill).

YMCA Gala Brings Community Together

A huge crowd filled the Reston YMCA facilities to overflowing this past Saturday evening for the annual Fall YMCA fundraiser. Monies raised benefited the YMCA's programs, scholarships, childcare and summer camps.

Many local leaders turned out for this event, including Reston Founder Robert E. Simon, Jr., Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Del. Ken Plum (D-36) and his wife Jane, Reston Association President Kathleen Driscoll McKee, and many busi-

ness leaders and community activists.

The award winning DJ, Cerphe, was the Host of the festivities. The evening moved along rapidly and featured an opening reception, musical entertainment, a catered dinner, award presentations, a raffle, a silent auction of items donated by local businesses, artists and others, a live auction, featuring Delegate Ken Plum as the auctioneer, and a dessert reception.

— MIKE MCKEE



Del. Ken Plum (D-36) with his wife Jane. Plum was again the auctioneer for the event.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes earned a trip to the Div. 5 playoffs where it defeated Mount Vernon (pictured) before seeing its season end against Stone Bridge.

Seahawks Play Bulldogs Tough in Region Playoff Loss

South Lakes football concludes first season under Coach Hill with an 8-4 record.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

What turned out to be an outstanding breakthrough season for the South Lakes High football team came to an end last Friday night when the Seahawks lost to Stone Bridge, 36-15, in a Northern Region Div. 5 semifinals game in Ashburn.

The Seahawks, who completed their first season under former Park View High head coach Andy Hill, concluded the fall campaign with an 8-4 overall record, a marked improvement from the team's 5-6 mark in 2009.

South Lakes, which overwhelmed Mount Vernon, 39-0, in a first round (quarterfinals) playoff game on Nov. 12 in Reston, was going up against a Stone Bridge team that has dominated the region in recent years. The Bulldogs (12-0), who will play Hayfield for the Div. 5 region title this Friday night, went a perfect 10-0 in capturing the Liberty District title this season. They had played South Lakes in a late season, week nine Liberty District meeting on Nov. 5 and defeated the home team

Seahawks that evening, 49-13.

Hill's squad knew it would have to play a near flawless game in last Friday's postseason meeting if it was to have any chance of defeating coach Mickey Thompson's Bulldogs, who scored 30 or more points in eight of their regular season wins before dominating Stuart, 55-0, in a first round playoff game.

STONE BRIDGE, in Friday's win, jumped out to a 14-0 lead after one quarter. Bulldog running back Marcus Harris (171 rushing yards) scored from three yards out to open the game's scoring. Later in the quarter, Stone Bridge ran an interception back for the home team's second touchdown of the evening.

South Lakes cut the deficit to 14-7 in the second quarter when sophomore quarterback Rashaan Jones connected with receiver Sean Price for a 71-yard scoring play.

But Stone Bridge scored later in the quarter, on a one-yard run by Harris, to carry a 21-7 lead into the halftime.

Jones and Price hooked up again for a touchdown pass play, this one

from 41 yards out, in the third quarter to keep the Seahawks in the game at 21-13. South Lakes, later on, saw its defense come up with a huge play when it tackled a Stone Bridge ball carrier in the end zone for a two-point safety in the fourth quarter to get the guests within 21-15.

South Lakes, at that point, was in position to pull off what would have been a huge upset. But the playoff seasoned Bulldogs did not allow things to get away from them.

A long scoring pass play, followed by a two-point conversion run by Harris, increased Stone Bridge's lead to 29-15. Later, Harris scored his third touchdown of the game, from seven yards out, for the game's final touchdown.

Price, South Lakes' senior wideout, finished the night with nine catches for 163 yards.

Only two teams, Westfield and Madison, played Stone Bridge closer than South Lakes did this season.

Westfield, in the season's opening week, lost to Stone Bridge, 7-3, and Madison, in a week six game in Vienna, fell to the Bulldogs, 28-10.

Hennessey Shines at State Meet

Herndon, South Lakes boys also represent their teams well.

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



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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

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 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.

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).

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.

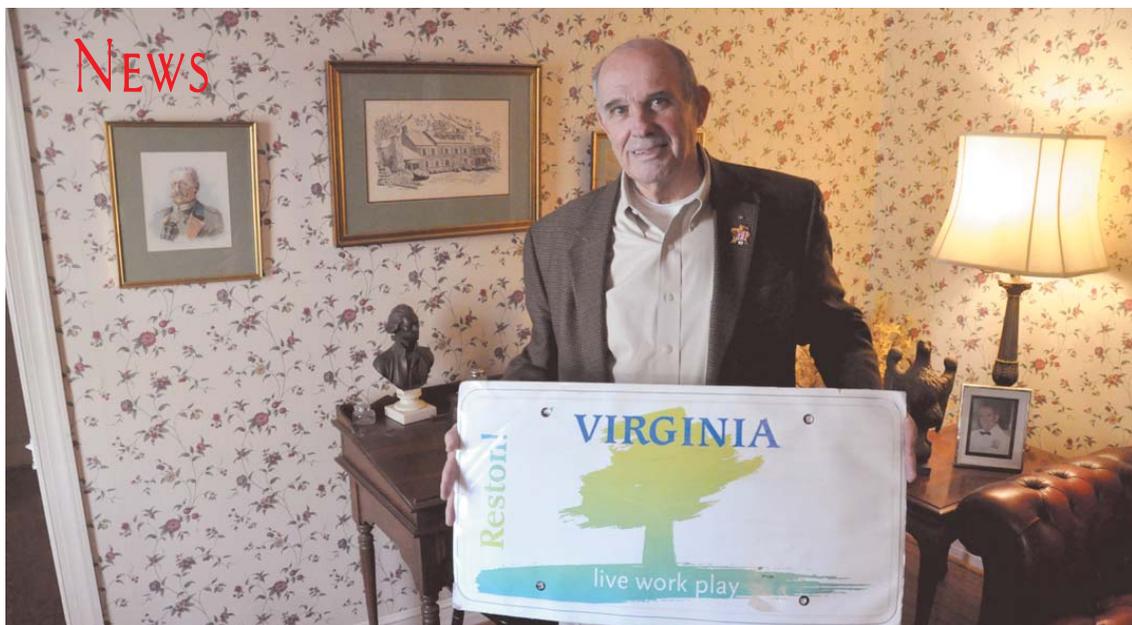


PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Reston Resident Dan McGuire, vice president of the Reston Citizens Association, is encouraging Reston residents to register for the Reston license plate. The RCA needs 350 applicants for the DMV to offer the plate officially, they currently have 150.

License for Community Pride

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Reston resident and vice-president of the Reston Citizens Association Dan McGuire is something of an expert when it comes to customized license plates. Five years ago, he helped create a University of Maryland license plate for his alma mater, and after years of advertising in alumni newsletters, announcements at athletic events finally drew enough applicants to make the plate official.

Now, McGuire has set his sights on promoting the Reston license plate, which needs 350 applicants to become official. They currently have approximately 150.

"When you pull into a parking lot, and see a plate with your organization on it, it fills you with a sense of pride, and we want to establish that sense of pride in Reston residents," McGuire said. "Something as simple as a license plate identifies you as a resident who is proud of where you live."

There are only seven locations in Virginia, cities Fairfax, Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, as well as the areas of Jamestown, the Northern Neck, Colonial Williamsburg and

the Eastern Shore, according to the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles.

"It's a recognition of our community by those who are living here, and when we go outside the community, it's a unique way to advertise the pride we have in Reston," said George Kain, treasurer for the RCA, and one of the applicants for the plate. "We're advertising that we live in a unique community."

THE PLATE costs \$10 per year, and another \$10 if applicants want to keep their current tag number or vanity plate.

"People are reluctant to change their plates, they can get attached, so it's a process," McGuire said. "No one has said 'No way, I'm not going to do it.' People are interested, they just need to sign up and get it."

The plate itself contains the classic Reston brush-stroke tree logo in the middle, the word "Reston!" on the left side, and the Reston principles of "live, work, play" across the bottom. It was designed in February 2007 by Doug Fuller, a corporate designer who does freelance work. He won the contest held by the RCA for the design.

"I've done a lot of work for Reston organizations in the past, and they usually included some sort of tree, so I figured the logo had to have that," said Fuller, who has lived in Reston since the early 1990s. "The green and the blue represent the trees and the lakes, which are really the most notable feature of Reston."

FULLER said he designed it like he does most of his logo work, literally doodling it on a napkin.

"I had never done a license plate before, but it's similar to a poster. You have to make it memorable at a glance, and it has to convey the idea from a distance," he said. "It also can't distract from the numbers on the plate, so it has to have the logo as a background."

Until the applicants reach 350, the RCA will hold the \$10 fee in a special account, as well as the registration form, and they will turn them over the DMV once they hit 350.

Residents who pay but move away from the area can contact the RCA to get their money back.

Information on ordering the Reston license plate, including a pdf of the DMV form, can be found at www.restoncitizensassociation.org

Sharing the Story

Kemal Kurspahic, managing editor for the Reston and the Oak Hill/Herndon editions of the Connection Newspapers, spoke to the Reston Lions Club at the group's meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 17 held at the China Star Restaurant. He spoke about his experiences in Sarajevo in 1992-1995 and how he and his staff managed to publish a newspaper every day despite constant sniper and artillery fire during the war in Bosnia. Above from left are Mike Moseley, Club President; Kurspahic and club members Anne Ryan and Jonathan Ingman.



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