

Holiday Gift Guide

Herndon Graffiti

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Eric B. Ricks puts some finishing touches on a hummingbird, part of his mural. Ricks was one of four aerosol artists who participated in the Council for the Arts of Herndon's Mural Jam Saturday at Trailside Park.

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Event at
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'Fiddler' at Herndon High

BY AMANDA MIESNER
CHANTILLY HIGH SCHOOL

Violin music filled the dimly lit stage. As light fills the area, a bearded man slowly walks onstage, dragging behind him a heavy cart. These are the first moments of Herndon High School's "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Fiddler" was written in 1964, and was immensely popular, earning its place as the fourteenth longest-running show in Broadway history. It follows the life of Tevye, a Jewish man living in Russia in 1905. He and his family must find a way to exist in accordance with old traditions in a rapidly changing world, dealing with love, marriage, and increasingly violent attitudes.

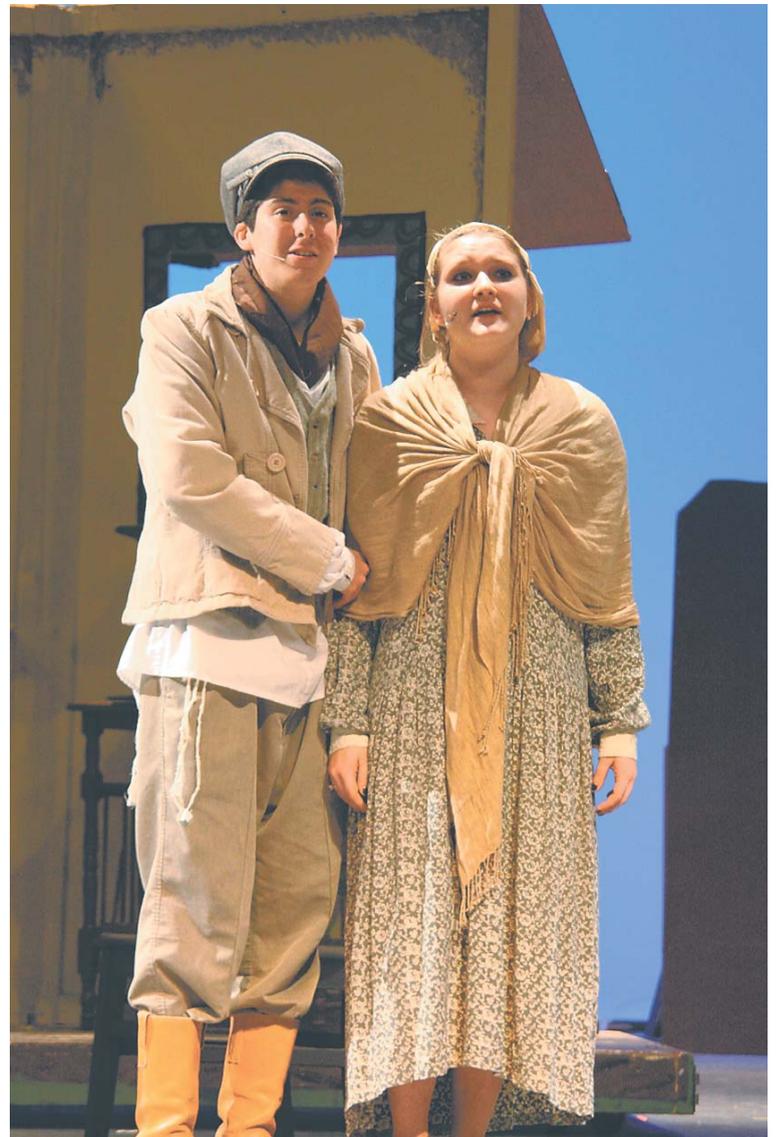
In Herndon's production of this show, their enormous cast of 68 was used to great effect. All harmonies in the music were strong, and could be clearly heard. Everyone knew the choreography, and it was generally performed very well. All the actors showed great respect for the serious subject matter, and delivered heartbreaking performances towards the end of the show.

Andy Raoufi as Tevye provided a very strong performance, using gestures and a well-defined vocal pattern to fully convey his character. His commanding voice aided each of his songs, and he allowed himself to really enjoy the show to its fullest. Playing his second oldest daughter, Hodel, was Christine Bobby, whose lovely, clear voice was a highlight in the show.

A whole town of villagers went into this show, each of whom had their own distinct lives. Some of the most colorful characters were Lazar Wolf (Ian Gildea), Yenta (Emma Miller-Cvilikas), and Fruma Sarah (Liz Peterson). Each of them showed dedication toward their character, and were full of vibrant energy. Some actors did have problems with committing to their character's emotional states, and a few didn't use a full range of facial expressions, but the cast's enthusiasm more than made up for it.

The small town where the story took place was represented by a fairly simple, but effective, set. Some scene changes felt overly-long, but the orchestra's accompaniment allowed them to have a more natural feel. The large orchestra was on-key all night, and never hit a foul note. The actors were aided by twenty-two body mics, all of which ran impressively well. There were only a few instances of static pops, and every performer could be heard clearly.

"Fiddler on the Roof" follows some of the most meaningful parts of life- love, marriage, and the troubles that come after that. Herndon High School dealt very well with the difficult subject matter, and brought to life the beautiful music and emotional scenes of the show.



Senior Andy Raoufi, as Tevye, and Senior Micala Fox, as Golde, perform in 'Fiddler on the Roof.'



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Council for the Arts of Herndon Executive Director Vicky Dorman looks at the sketch for Eric B. Ricks' mural design while Ricks measures out a grid on his canvass.



PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION

Herndon Graffiti

Aerosol artists face off against wind at Council for the Arts of Herndon's Mural Jam.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When Sterling resident and aerosol artist Bobby Moore was looking for a place to paint, he found most towns in this area weren't too willing to have a graffiti artist paint anywhere within their boundaries.

But then he thought about the town of Herndon, where he is a regular at the skate park at Trailside Park, and he placed a call to the town. Not only did he get an affirmative, he was connected with the Council for the Arts of Herndon. They commissioned a project from Moore and several of his fellow aerosol artists.

"I wanted to paint in my backyard, but my landlord wouldn't allow it, so I started calling other local towns for a chance to paint," Moore said. "When I called Herndon, they said 'let's make it an event.'"

THE COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS responded to Moore's request by sponsoring a mural jam, which took place at Trailside Park Saturday. Four aerosol artists set up canvasses at the park, and spent all of Saturday designing pieces that would go up at the Herndon Community Center.

Council Executive Director Vicky Dorman said they had been looking at ideas for an outdoor project, and thought that aerosol art meshed very well with the nature



After a gust of wind knocked down their mural, the artists had to reset everything as separate pieces.

of Trailside Park, especially with the addition of the skate park.

"We wanted to do something outdoors, and this just seemed to fit," she said. "These guys just have to make art, so we figured we could put it to good use."

The four artists, Moore, Dan Roncesvalles of Rockville, Md., James Franzen of Herndon and Eric B. Ricks of Germantown, Md. had four canvasses pieced together as they started their work Saturday morning.

They started around 10 a.m., and the contrast in styles was immediately apparent. On one end, Ricks carefully measured out a grid for his piece, while on the other end Franzen dove right in. The other two started by rolling on their backgrounds, but once that was done, the rollers went

away, and it was spray paint for the rest of the day

They painted on sheets of foam insulation, which made the pieces easily transportable to the Herndon Community Center.

"We usually do work on concrete walls, but this is the easiest cheapest material when it comes to a project like this," Roncesvalles said. "But it's the same method when it comes to painting."

Unfortunately, the lightness of the boards made them an easy target for the gusts of wind that blew all day Saturday, and the group was only about an hour into the project when an especially powerful gust blew over the entire display.

The frame supporting Franzen's

SEE ARTISTS, PAGE 7

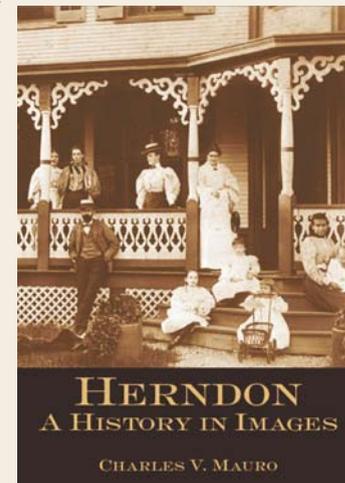
Civil War Books for the Holidays

A Book Event At Jimmy's Tavern

Three local authors will be signing and selling their latest books on Civil War history Dec. 11, 6 - 8 p.m., at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern on the corner of Elden and Spring Streets in Herndon.

Eric Buckland will be selling his latest book "Mosby's Keydet Rangers" (Second Edition, Revised and Enlarged), a booklet entitled "Charles Broadway Rouss: Mosby Ranger, Millionaire, Philanthropist" and "Mosby Men," a CD containing over 600 photos of Mosby Rangers and over 500 photos of Ranger graves.

Don Hakenson will be signing his latest book "This Forgotten Land II: Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia," "This Forgotten Land: A Tour of Civil War Sites and Other Historical Landmarks South of Alexan-



Herndon In Images, front cover.

dria, Virginia," and his Mosby Vignettes.

Chuck Mauro will be signing his latest book "A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe," his books on Herndon, and the Civil War in Fairfax County.

These and their other books will be available. For more information call 703 435-JIMS (5467).



Reading to Hope at Herndon Elementary

In Susana Williams' 2nd grade class at Herndon Elementary, the students had a special guest during their reading class. As Mrs. Williams' dog Hope entered the classroom, smiles and excitement filled the room. During their language arts center time each student practiced their oral fluency while reading to Hope.



Raising Funds for the United Way

Reston Hospital Center & Dominion Hospital CEO Tim McManus kissing a pig from Frying Pan Park as the finale of the United Way campaign. The kiss the pig fundraiser raised more than \$1000 for the United Way.

WEEK IN HERNDON

Dress Up Herndon For the Holidays

Town of Herndon residents are invited to deck the halls, hang wreaths, string lights - and nominate their own or their neighbors' homes for the fourth annual "Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays" Neighborhood Decoration Contest, sponsored by the town's Cultivating Community Initiative.

The contest is open to all town residents. Nominations should be forwarded by Friday, Dec. 10, to information@herndon-va.gov or call 703-435-6800 ext. 2084.

The judging panel, made up of volunteer citizen members of the Cultivating Community committee, will circulate throughout the Town on Monday evening, Dec. 13, to determine contest winners. Judges will be looking for classical design, traditional themes, whimsical or creative decorations and more. Decorations on all nominated homes must be easily visible from the street.

Contest winners will be presented on the evening of Dec. 13 with a festive sign, suitable for display; winners will also be recognized by Mayor Stephen J. DeBenedittis and the Town Council at the Jan. 11 public meeting.

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

Transportation Funding Forum Set for Dec. 2

Transportation funding promises to be a major topic in the 2011 Virginia General Assembly. Governor Bob McDonnell has promised to submit a plan, but has yet to release the details.

Before McDonnell or others propose specific funding plans, the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance will present their view as to where the Commonwealth currently stands in terms of transportation funding - sources, distribution, shortfall, maintenance crisis, audit results and more.

The Alliance is sponsoring a forum Dec. 2 at the Center for Innovative Technology, 2214 Rock Hill Road in Herndon. The event opens at 7:30 a.m. and the program starts at 8.

The event will feature presentations by VDOT Commissioner Greg Whirley and VDOT Chief Financial Officer John Lawson as well as remarks from several area legislators including Senate Finance Committee Chair Chuck Colgan, Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw and Delegates Tom Rust and Vivian Watts. More than 20 state and local elected officials have registered to attend.

For more information call: 703-883-1830 or email: info@nvta.org



Roxanne Rice, Food for Others executive director, and Fouad Qreitem, Paisano's president and CEO.

Paisano's Pizza Helps Food for Others

Collecting canned goods for families in need.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Besides serving its own customers every day, for the second year in a row, Paisano's is collecting canned and boxed food to help local people in need. Last year, it did so for St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Clifton, which gave these items to four charities, including Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM).

This time, Paisano's is collecting for Food for Others. Headquartered in Merrifield, it's a lifeline for the increasing number of Northern Virginia's working poor unable to provide food for their families. And Fouad Qreitem, Paisano's president and CEO, is happy to lend a hand.

From Nov. 26 through Dec. 19, area residents may donate canned or boxed food items at any of Paisano's six restaurants, including Paisano's in Reston and Herndon, plus Bella Pizza (also owned by Qreitem) in Centreville. Customers may also give these items to Paisano's drivers when they deliver carry out food.

As a Fairfax County native, Qreitem says he considers those who'll receive the food his "extended family." Besides that, he explained, "This should be something every small, successful business owner should do. Because we've been blessed and fortunate, we should pay it forward and help others."

QREITEM HOPES shoppers will just pick up a few extra items at the grocery store, while doing their own shopping, and contribute them to the cause. "We'll see that the products get into the hands of Food for Others so that needy families receive the donations," he said. "This is the time of year to be thankful; a canned ham, corn meal, pudding mix, fruit cocktail or something similar can make a real difference to those less fortunate."

Last year, through the efforts of Paisano's employees and the community, the company was able to amass nearly 10,000 cans, plus boxed food, to donate. This year, with more people than ever needing help, said Qreitem, "We hope to double that amount and donate 20,000 cans. Even though Northern Virginia is considered one of the wealthiest areas in the country, a great amount of citizens are living in pov-

erty, struggling to feed themselves and their children."

Food for Others serves more than 2,000 families a month at their Merrifield warehouse, said Food for Others Executive Director Roxanne Rice. "Some are referred by social workers and others come for the USDA food program. Ninety-eight percent of our clients come from Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria counties but, by far, the most come from Fairfax County."

After hearing about Paisano's collection efforts last fall - and facing a severe food shortage - Food for Others contacted Qreitem and asked his organization for help. He agreed and, last week, visited Food for Others - and what he saw made a big impression on him.

"We were pretty blown away," he said. "While we were there, people - including children - were picking up food. This is something I watched firsthand, and it was humbling. Seeing people pick up cans and cereal there made it real for me. I know the cans we'll donate will really affect our neighbors' lives."

Qreitem also praised his customers for their generosity in past fund-raising efforts for a sick child and for the Police Unity Tour. "I want to thank them because they really come through for us, all the time," he said. "Whenever I think they can't do anything else, they always surprise us and support us even stronger; they're really wonderful people."

PAISANO'S VIRGINIA is on Facebook and it will post a weekly can-collection count there. As part of Paisano's "Can for a fan" promotion, for each person who becomes a fan of Paisano's Virginia on Facebook, Qreitem will donate a can on their behalf.

"Paisano's is representative of many community organizations, businesses, churches and schools that, together, help us provide the services we do to people in need," said Rice. "They're wonderful, and we're thrilled they're committed to doing as best they can. Paisano's wants to do even more than last year and, for that, we're grateful."

She said the majority of the food distributed by Food for Others is donated. "There's no way we could do it without all this help," said Rice. "Starting in October 2008, the numbers coming to us for help became unprecedented and they've not gone down."

She also noted that food donations are needed in the summer, as well. Said Rice: "We're so grateful for the generosity at this time of year, but want to remind people not to forget their neighbors, the rest of the year, too."



The Brough family receiving the Good Neighbor Award from Mayor Steve DeBenedittis at the Nov. 23 Herndon Town Council meeting.

Herndon Celebrates 'Good Neighbors'

Two families and two couples are the recipients of the Town of Herndon's 2010 Good Neighbor Awards. The Brough and Malito families, Drew and Krista Curtiss, and Andrew and Andrea Loftus are being recognized by the Herndon Town Council for their friendliness, neighborliness and contributions to the community.

The Brough and Malito families were nominated for the award by their neighbor, Ruth Tatlock, who said that "these two families have been the movers and helpers of our little cul-de-sac for years." According to Tatlock, children in both families regularly help with

lawn-mowing, dog-walking and other tasks, while their parents assist neighbors with snow shoveling and other chores and regularly organize neighborhood events.

Tracy Malito nominated Drew and Krista Curtiss for the award, crediting them with devoting time and energy to the neighborhood Home Owners' Association and with their efforts to beautify the community.

Susan Tahernia nominated Andrew and Andrea Loftus for the award, saying they are those rare neighbors that "are not only willing to provide a helping hand when asked but also take the ini-

tiative to be of assistance without being asked."

The Good Neighbor Award is produced as part of the Town of Herndon's Cultivating Community Initiative, a program designed to encourage beautification and enrich the quality of life in the town's neighborhoods. Programs are developed by citizen volunteers and also include the Yard of the Month Awards, the Herndon Garden Tour, the Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon and Dress Up Herndon for the Holidays, a holiday decoration contest.

For more information, visit the town's Web site at www.herndon-va.gov.

OBITUARIES

Community Leader Mukit Hossain Dies

Local community leader Mukit Hossain died on Saturday, Nov. 27. Mukit and his family - including his wife Sabrina Hossain and two daughters - were very active in community service, helping those in need, interfaith dialogue, and civic engagement.

Mukit was one of the founders of Project Hope and Harmony, which represents various faith communities, nonprofit organizations, and community volunteers who worked to create an organized day labor site in Herndon

and provide social services to the workers.

In 2004 Hossain was named the Herndon Citizen of the Year and also recognized the Virginia State Senate in a Joint Resolution sponsored by Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) and Del. Tom Rust (R-86). Mukit was also founder of Food Source Foundation, which provides meals to homeless people in Fairfax County, and was involved with food banks and Meals on Wheels.

In 2006, he worked with Jewish leaders to push for legislation in the Virginia General Assembly

that made it a crime to mislabel halal or kosher products. In April of this year he was mentioned in the Washington Post as a man who filled a niche through providing organic-raised halal goat meat for the Muslim community.

Mukit was a former ADAMS (All Dulles Area Muslim Society) Social Activities Chairperson (2000-2002) and Former ADAMS Board Member (2003 to 2006).

Mukit shall be missed, however his contributions shall remain as a reminder of mercy, peace, citizenship, and harmony.

Dorothy Mae Howard Brown, 79. Dies

Dorothy Mae Howard Brown of Herndon, formerly a resident of Hampton and Newport News, Va., died on Monday, Nov. 22, 2010. She worked for many years at the former Reston-Herndon Medical Center and then at a physician's office.

She was born in Newport News,

Va., on Aug. 18, 1931. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 50 years, Thomas E. Brown Sr.

She leaves behind three children, Thomas E. Brown Jr. (Judy) of Bowie, Md., Ronald E. Brown (Kathy) of Herndon, and Mona D. Brown of Alexandria, Va., along with five grandchildren, two great

grandchildren, five sisters-in-law, one brother-in-law, and many nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends. Viewing was held on Saturday, Nov. 27, at Oak Grove Baptist Church, 22870 Dominion Lane in Sterling, followed by services.

Lyles Funeral Service, 1-800-388-1913.

Happy Holidays
&
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for a
Prosperous New Year

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OPINION

Holiday Safety Net for Celebrating with Alcohol

Plan ahead, have a designated driver and carry the SoberRide number.

Safely Home

Washington Regional Alcohol Program's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program will begin at 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17, 2010, and run through 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home up to a \$30 fare, call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. WRAP needs sponsors and contributions to continue to offer this service. See www.wrap.org to contribute.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence. This year, with increased awareness about so-called "distracted driving," it's worth noting that both driving after drinking at a party and using your cell phone while you drive are behaviors you can control.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend, but the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents provide a chilling reminder.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after he was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22. Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and was convicted of manslaughter.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In

fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in the death of one of his friends in the car and permanent injury for another. One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home.

Such tragedies, if they do not touch us personally, often seem remote. Perhaps in these tough economic times, it's also worth adding up some the financial cost of an arrest for driving under the influence. In Fairfax County, there were more than 3,100 arrests for driving under the influence in 2008. In Arlington, 677 arrests. In Alexandria, 515 arrests. In the City of Fairfax, 181 arrests. Such an arrest is likely to cost as much as \$20,000 or more in legal fees.

A conviction results in long term increases in insurances costs of \$1,500 a year or more. A conviction could result in losing a job. And once convicted you'll have to answer "yes" on any job application that asks if you have been

convicted of a crime.

DON'T TAKE THE RISK. Plan ahead, leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own this holiday season, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with you when you head out, and be sure any young adults (must be 21 or over) in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area. The program gave more than 500 people a safe ride home on Halloween weekend this year.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

WRAP's 2010 Holiday SoberRide program is available beginning from 10 p.m., Friday, Dec. 17 to 6 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1, 2011. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$30 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older. (Callers are responsible for anything over \$30.)

EDITORIAL

The Chanukah Miracle Revisited

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND

I have been asked to explain the inner meaning of many Jewish observances, but eating potato latkes (pancakes) on Chanukah has never been one of them. After all, what is there not to understand? Take a bite, chew, and swallow. Repeat this several times until you have eaten six latkes too many.

Few have ventured into the deep mystical symbolism of the latke. But let me break with tradition.

I don't want to upset folks in Idaho, but the operative ingredient in the potato latke is not the potato; it's the oil. (Proof: Israelis eat the sufganiya - a deep fried pastry, also known as a jelly donut.)

To make a long story short: About two thousand years ago, after years of Greek oppression, the Jews revolted and were miraculously victorious. When they entered the Holy Temple in Jerusalem they found that everything had been defiled. The services could not be performed until ritually fit materials were procured. One jug of olive oil, necessary for the kindling of the great Menorah,

was found still sealed by the High Priest. There was enough oil to light the menorah for only one day, but a miracle occurred and it lasted for eight days.

So, in addition to lighting the special Chanukah menorah

for eight days, we indulge in potato latkes dripping in oil.

Why oil? Because oil, specifically olive oil, expresses the secret of survival. Olive oil is produced by crushing the olive. Even squeezing is not sufficient; this would produce mere olive juice. When the olive is crushed, the substance that floats on top is oil.

Kabalistically, this oil is a symbol of the essence of our soul. It may not be revealed at all times, but it is always there. It is our immutable connection with G-d.

There are times in our lives when the olive is crushed. We are placed under immense pressures from within and without, that challenge and provoke us. This was the story of Chanukah. It was then that a small courageous band



of Jews took on the powerful Greek army who wished to obliterate their identity.

So often we live our lives without contemplating who we really are. How each of us has a unique and special contribution to

make to the world. Yet when our very existence, as a person, and as a nation, is being challenged, it forces us to do just that. And to then fight if necessary to preserve our soul, humanity, and identity.

This is the oil; it hides and is almost invisible inside the fruit. But when push comes to shove, when it is broken and crushed, the essence comes out, and it floats on top of all else.

Preceding the Chanukah story, the Greeks instituted stifling decrees against Jewish observance. This challenge to Judaism called out the core spark of the Jewish people present in the depth of her soul. Jewish survival prevailed and we were granted a miracle of oil. Though the Holy Temple was eventually destroyed, and the

Community Chanukah Events

Outdoor Chanukah Festival
Thursday, Dec. 2, 6 p.m. at the Lake Anne Waterfront and the Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N # A in Reston.

Witness the lighting of a giant ice Menorah. Enjoy live family entertainment, prize drawings, hot chocolate, Chanukah donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt, free dreidels and balloons, Chanukah family film, and lots of holiday cheer for the whole family.

Family Menorah Workshop
Sunday, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.-12 noon, at the Home Depot, 1651 Reston Parkway.
Make your own menorah with many different materials. Make your own dreidel. Take part in an olive press workshop and press your own oil. Enjoy hot Latkes and much more. Admission is free, reservations at www.chabadrh.org

seven-branched menorah is no longer lit. The Chanukah menorah of eight branches will continue to illuminate the night, and inspire us all to bring light and goodness to our darkened world.

Now, finish eating that latke before it gets cold!

Rabbi Leibel Fajnlend is the director of Chabad of Reston-Herndon. He can be reached at Rabbi@chabadrh.org

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From left, Artists Eric B. Ricks, Dan Roncesvalles, James Franzen and Bobby Moore prepare their canvasses at Herndon's Trailside Park Saturday.

Artists at Work at Trailside Park

FROM PAGE 3

piece broke, and the fall made a few dents in Moore's piece as well. "Every time we build one of these walls it falls down, but I've never seen the wood break like this before," Franzen said.

The other three artists were able to get back to work after about 45 minutes of re-setting everything, but the lost time proved to be essential for Ricks, who was painting a vivid portrait of a red rose, surrounded by a hummingbird and a bright green frog.

"I had to finish the bird in about 45 minutes, which was the quickest I'd ever done it," Ricks said. "But it's like life, sometimes you have to fight through the hardships to get over the hump, but it feels great once you get there."

Moore agreed, saying "it's just one of those things you have to take as a challenge, you have to overcome, but it makes you better as an artist."

THE ARTISTS' WORK attracted a crowd throughout the day, not so much from the dozens of skaters, but from people who were just passing by.

"My husband was walking the dog this morning and saw it, and we looked it up online to see what it was," said Ann Thorsen, who lives only a few blocks away from the park. "I think it's fabulous, a

really cool idea. And it definitely gets your attention."

Herndon resident Michael Greenfield was just driving by Trailside Park late in the afternoon when he saw the murals, and he had to stop and snap some photos.

"You just don't see this sort of stuff being made every day, it's beautiful," he said. "I've seen similar art in Alexandria and D.C., but never anything like it in Herndon. Seeing it get made on TV is one thing, but watching it happen is something else."

"These guys just have to make art, so we figured we could put it to good use."

— Vicky Dorman

The artists battled sore fingers and backs in addition to the wind, but all four agreed it was worth it.

"It was a great environment to work in, the people who stopped by were so friendly," Ricks

said. "The only thing I could have asked for was a sunnier day."

The artists had worked with one another before on occasion, but never all four of them together.

"I had met the guys before, but never worked with them at once as part of the same project," Moore said. "I'm glad we got to do it here, this skate park has a good energy, it's a fun place to work."

The pieces will be on display by next weekend at the Herndon Community Center, for the annual arts and crafts event. More information on the Council for the Arts of Herndon can be found at www.herndonarts.org.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

Outdoor Chanukah Festival. 6 p.m. at the Lake Anne Waterfront and the Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N, #A, Reston. Lighting of a giant ice menorah, live family entertainment, prize drawings, hot chocolate, donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt, free dreidels and balloons and a Chanukah family film. Family menorah workshop. 703-476-1829 or rabbichabadrh.org.

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. lindakce@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.

The Towne Square Singers Annual Yule Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, Spring St., Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or at 703-787-7300.

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. lindakce@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



The Waverly Consort performs "A Christmas Story" on Friday, Dec. 10, 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 and recount the events of the Biblical Christmas story. \$21-\$42, youth through grade 12 half price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

students and seniors. 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Jingle on the Lake. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lake Anne Plaza Waterfront, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Holiday arts and crafts market, petting zoo and gingerbread decorating contest from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Cookie decorating 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Santa arrival at 12 p.m., departure at 2 p.m. Free admission. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

The Towne Square Singers Annual Yule Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, Spring St., Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or at 703-787-7300.

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.

42nd Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Led by the United States

Marine and a 400-member choir. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the entrance for Toys for Tots, but are not required. Free admission. 703-255-1917 or grahamb@wolftrap.org.

The Towne Square Singers Annual Yule Concert. 2 p.m. at the Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, Spring St., Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or at 703-787-7300.

Make Your Own Menorah. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. at the Home Depot, 1651 Reston Parkway, Reston. Make a menorah with a variety of different materials. Make a dreidel, join an olive press workshop, enjoy hot latkes and more. Free admission. Reserve at www.chabadrh.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. lindakce@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. 703-993-8998.

The Honey Dewdrops. 7:15 p.m. at The Folk Club of Reston-Herndon, in the Back Room of the Tortilla Factory, 648 Elden St., Herndon. Laura Wortman and Kagey Parrish, a husband and wife folk singer-songwriter duet from Charlottesville. \$9 members, \$10 non-members. DAHurdSr@cs.com.

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 price. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Holiday Recital. 4 p.m. at The Music

Loft, 1141 Elden St. Suite 212, Herndon. Holiday and classical pieces performed by Music Loft students. Refreshments served. www.TheMusicLoftOnline.com.

Local Civil War Authors Book Signing. 6-8 p.m. at Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, on the corner of Elden and Spring Streets in Herndon. With local authors Eric Buckland, Don Hakenson and Chuck Mauro. 703-435-5467.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

The Holidays at Mason: Believe in Miracles. 7 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts Concert Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Mason Symphony Orchestra, University Chorale and University Singers perform selections composed by Alan Silvestri, Glen Ballard and John Rutter. Audience-sing-along. \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. Limited number of free tickets for students with a valid Mason ID. Charge tickets at 888-945-2468 or cfa.gmu.edu.

Christmas Cantata. During the 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship services at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Presented by the Floris choirs and a full orchestra. www.florisumc.org.

Voice Chamber Singers: Home for Christmas. 4 p.m. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St., Herndon. Christmas carols, classical and contemporary holiday music. \$23 adults, \$18 seniors, \$8 for age 24 and under. Tickets at the door an additional \$2. Purchase at www.voice.org/tickets or 703-277-7772.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

Sesame Street Live: Elmo's Healthy Heroes. 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets \$15-\$28, available at www.ticketmaster.com or 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. www.sesamestreetlive.com.

2010 Graduating Artist Showcase. 6-9 p.m. George Mason University Art and Design Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Fall 2010 Senior Exhibition Reception. Exhibits of over 60 graduating artists including paintings, sculpture, animation, graphic design, drawing and more. Live music and refreshments available. Free admission. 703-993-8898 or hilllerra@gmu.edu.

GIFT GUIDE

Wine Gifts for the Holidays

By Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler
INTERNATIONAL WINE REVIEW

Why not give wine for the Holidays? Wine makes a great gift. Both the casual wine drinker and the seasoned wine enthusiast will be excited to receive a gift of wine. Local wine shops are a great place to browse for that special wine gift. One of the many benefits of living in Northern Virginia and Maryland is the abundance of choices of wines from all over the world and at every price level.

Make your gifts exotic by choosing wines from lesser known countries and producers. Some countries like Argentina and Chile are well known for their wines, whereas Austria and Portugal are relatively new international producers.

Of course, which wine you buy as a gift depends on both your pocketbook and the person you're giving to. We usually think of wine-drinkers as falling into three categories: The Casual Wine Drinker, who may not know the difference between Chardonnay and Pinot Grigio. Serious Wine Drinkers, who know what they like but pretty much limit themselves to the popular brands. And the Semi-Pro who knows wine and probably has more than a few bottles stashed in a wine cooler, closet or cellar.

Let's consider which wines each of these might like to receive for the Holidays. We've limited our choices to wines that should be available in most good wine stores. All prices are retail prices recommended by the winery or importer; the shelf price is often lower.

The Casual Wine Drinker. While you might not be spending lots of money on the casual wine drinker, you can still give a bottle that will give a lot of pleasure. Stick with the well-known varietals, but find a new producer or new region. Argentine Malbec would fit the bill. Ask your purveyor for a mid-priced Malbec from a producer like Andeluna, Salentein, or Doña Paula. We recently tasted the 2009 Doña Paula Los Cardos Malbec and especially like it. Best of all, it costs just \$10 a bottle. Everyone these days loves Pinot Noir, and a good one for the casual drinker has been produced by Carneros winemaker, Sean Minor. His 2009 4 Bears Pinot Noir (\$17) is ripe, flavorful and fleshy and is unbeatable. SEE WINE. PAGE 11



Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler of International Wine Review offer tips for the gift of wine this holiday season.

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12603 SAYLERS CREEK LN	4	2	0		HERNDON	\$340,000	Detached	0.20		HIDDENBROOK
13144 KIDWELL FIELD RD	2	2	1		HERNDON	\$335,000	Townhouse	0.03		MCNAIR FARMS
13210 STONE HEATHER DR	3	2	2		HERNDON	\$328,000	Detached	0.21		CHANTILLY HIGHLAND
322 MISSOURI AVE	4	2	2		HERNDON	\$300,000	Detached	0.25		CHANDON WOODS
1543 SADLERS WELLS DR	4	2	1		HERNDON	\$299,000	Detached	0.21		HIDDENBROOK
3284 TAYLOE CT	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$295,000	Townhouse	0.06		FRANKLIN FARM
2403 FARM BUGGY CT	3	3	1		HERNDON	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.03		MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11
408 PATRICK LN	5	2	0		HERNDON	\$289,900	Detached	0.26		CHANDON
13618 VENTURI LN #167	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$286,000	Townhouse			COPPERMINE CROSSING
12957 CENTRE PARK CIR #401	2	2	0		HERNDON	\$272,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			BRYSON AT WOODLAND PARK
1309 BAYSHIRE LN	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$269,900	Detached	0.20		BENICIA ESTATES
13520 TRANQUILITY CT	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$261,000	Detached	0.10		FRANKLIN FARM
1117 PLAYER WAY	3	2	2		HERNDON	\$254,900	Townhouse	0.04		POTOMAC FAIRWAYS
1206 AUTUMN PL	5	3	1		HERNDON	\$250,000	Detached	0.20		FOUR SEASONS
13153 MARCEY CREEK RD	3	2	0		HERNDON	\$249,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOX MILL STATION
511 DAKOTA DR	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$223,000	Townhouse	0.04		WATERFORD PARK
13365 HUNGERFORD PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$223,000	Townhouse	0.03		REFLECTION LAKE
2177 MAGER DR	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$184,000	Townhouse	0.03		REFLECTION LAKE
1194 DUBLIN PL	4	2	1		HERNDON	\$180,000	Townhouse	0.04		TRALEE
13324 APGAR PL	3	2	1		HERNDON	\$170,000	Townhouse	0.03		REFLECTION LAKE
609 CENTER ST #104	2	2	0		HERNDON	\$125,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			LIFESTYLE
603 CENTER ST #T1	2	1	1		HERNDON	\$112,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			LIFESTYLE
625 CENTER ST #204	3	2	0		HERNDON	\$107,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			LIFESTYLE

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To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.

REAL ESTATE NOTES

Send announcements to herndon@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the next week's paper.

The Weichert Family of Companies announced the start of the 32nd Annual Weichert Toy Drive. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at each of the company's sales offices through Dec. 10. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children.

Weichert employees at the company's corporate headquarters in Morris Plains, as well as in other company locations throughout the United States, will also participate in the yearly community service event. To date, the annual toy drive has yielded hundreds of thousands of items for underprivileged children in the communities Weichert serves. Last year nearly 24,000 toys were distributed to charitable and service organizations.

To make a donation, visit any Weichert, Realtors sales office. To find your local office, go to www.weichert.com

Christopher Pezzana, manager of Weichert, Realtors' Reston/Herndon office announced the start of its 12th annual coat drive to benefit the Salvation Army. The community is invited to drop off new or gently worn coats from now until Dec. 8 at Weichert's Reston/Herndon office, located at 1760 Reston Parkway, Suite 111 during normal business hours. Those who would like to schedule a pick up can call the office at 703-264-0000.

The donated coats are tax deductible and will be cleaned by Bergmann's free of charge and then distributed to the needy by the Salvation Army. To find out more about this organization please go to www.salvationarmyusa.com.

David Houghtaling and **Jalil Achir** of Reston were among the Coldwell Banker agents receiving The Award of Excellence from the nationally renowned real estate marketing and technology speaker and REALTOR.com® Vice President, Max Pigman. The Award of Excellence program was created to recognize top real estate agents across the country who consistently provide great marketing services on behalf of their buyers and sellers.

Nikki Ryan of Keller Williams Realty in Reston has earned the "Certified Distressed Property Expert" designation, having completed extensive training in foreclosure avoidance and short sales. Realtors with the designation can offer the homeowner better alternatives to foreclosure, which virtually destroys the credit rating.

Jerry Sardone, Realtor Emeritus of Jerry Sardone, Realty, Inc. along with the Lakeview Condominium Board, have been able to petition the Federal Housing Administration to approve the Lakeview Condominiums for approval for FHA financing. The approval has now been granted. This financing will allow potential purchasers to purchase these units with as little

as 31/2 % down.

For further information you may contact your local Realtor or Jerry at 703-906-5555

Joe Amatangelo has been named as the The Long & Foster @ Companies Inc. vice president of residential property management and the rental service center. Prior to joining Long & Foster, Amatangelo worked at Mission Residential, Kettler Inc. and Kettler Management Corp., Carl M. Freeman Associates, and Interealty Corp. Amatangelo holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and is a certified public accountant in the state of Maryland. He is an active member and volunteer with The American Diabetes Association and is also a member of the parish finance council at St. Philip's Catholic Church. Amatangelo lives in Annandale with his wife and two children.

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors announced J.D. Callander of the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for outstanding results in March. A neighborhood specialist, Callander led the company for dollar volume and resale dollar volume. Additionally, she led the region for resale dollar volume. The region comprises offices located throughout Virginia.

The sales associates from the McLean/Dolley Madison branch, located at 1313 Dolley Madison Boulevard, can be reached at (703) 760-8880.

GIFT GUIDE

Wine Makes a Great Gift

FROM PAGE 9

for the price.

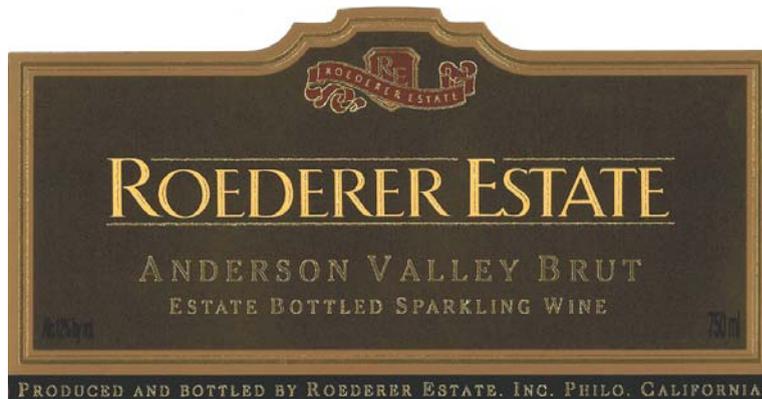
A good, sparkling wine is another option. One that all casual wine drinkers would love is the Roederer Estate (\$18) from California's Anderson Valley.

If your friend prefers white wines, try a cool coastal Chardonnay from California. When we visited the Santa Lucia Highlands last year we enjoyed the 2008 Mer Soleil Barrel Fermented Chardonnay (\$19). While a little more pricey than the other wines recommended here, it's a sure thing.

The Serious Wine Drinker.

The Serious Wine Drinker is likely to be a little more open than the Casual Wine Drinker to trying something new. Here we recommend you find something that will stretch his or her wine knowledge just a bit. Our first choice might be a different varietal from a reliable producer. One such bottle we tasted this past year is Montes Alpha Carmenere (\$19) from Chile. It's a reasonably priced, delicious, full-bodied red wine from a very good Chilean winery. (We also offer many suggestions on pairing Carmenere and food on our website www.iwinereview.com.) Among white wines, we'd recommend an Austrian Grüner Veltliner such as Anton Bauer's 2009 Rosenberg Reserve (\$24) or other Anton Bauer cuvees. They combine flavor, acidity, and minerality that is hard to find in one bottle.

Red table wine from Portugal would also be different. We recommend the 2008 Quinta Vale Meão Meandro (\$20), the 2008



Quinta do Vallado Tinto (\$29), or the Herdade do Esporão Reserva (\$21) all wines which have abundant red and black fruit, spice, and complex flavors.

The Semi-Pro. The Semi-Pro is the most difficult to buy for. If you have lots to spend, you can pick a top end wine that is certain not to disappoint. The 2008 Phelps Insignia (\$185) is one such wine – expensive but worth it, and the person receiving it will recognize both its quality and value. If your pocketbook is looking for something a little lower in price, there are many options. Everyone loves a good Oregon Pinot Noir, and Cristom produces some of the best. The 2007 Cristom Marjorie Vineyard Pinot Noir (\$50) is exceptionally good, but so are Cristom's other bottlings, (reviews at www.iwinereview.com).

Another option is a rich, full-bodied Ribera del Duero wine like the 2006 Bodegas Condado de Haza Crianza (\$30) or the 2006 Cyclo (\$51). If these specific bottlings are not available in your local store, ask for something similar from Ribera del Duero.



Another terrific wine gift is an introductory subscription to the International Wine Review, just \$25 for six months. Purchase online at www.iwinereview.com.

Mike Potashnik and Don Winkler have for the past twenty years traveled the globe and tasted thousands of wines in search of the best wines and innovative winemakers to recommend to consumers and wine professionals. They have published the International Wine Review, based in McLean, since 2005.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FRIDAY/DEC. 3

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at the club's trailer, North Point Village Center on Reston Parkway. Fresh Florida navel oranges and pink grapefruit, Whitley's Gourmet Virginia Peanuts and Cabot Private Stock Cheddar also available. All proceeds support sight and hearing programs and more in the Reston and Herndon areas. Eyeglasses accepted for recycling at the sales' site. GeraldW318@aol.com.

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

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus

Sale. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. at the club's trailer, North Point Village Center on Reston Parkway. Fresh Florida navel oranges and pink grapefruit, Whitley's Gourmet Virginia Peanuts and Cabot Private Stock Cheddar also available. All proceeds support sight and hearing programs and more in the Reston and Herndon areas. Eyeglasses accepted for recycling at the sales' site. GeraldW318@aol.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

The Hearts of Reston Giving Circle Family Holiday Fun Fair. 4-7 p.m. at the Reston Farm Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Proceeds benefit The Alternative House. Admission \$10 adults, children free. Cake walk, moonbounce, children's craft corner, visit with Santa, live seasonal music. Refreshments available for purchase.

Donations of gifts for children accepted or online giving tree at info@heartsofreston.org. www.Heartsofreston.org.

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus

Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the club's trailer, North Point Village Center on Reston Parkway. Fresh Florida navel oranges and pink grapefruit, Whitley's Gourmet Virginia Peanuts and Cabot Private Stock Cheddar also available. All proceeds support sight and hearing programs and more in the Reston and Herndon areas. Eyeglasses accepted for recycling at the sales' site. GeraldW318@aol.com.

Dining For Women. 1 p.m. Unitarian Universalist of Reston, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Kathleen Colson, president of the Boma Foundation, on working to alleviate poverty in Laisamis district and Karare region of northern Kenya. DFW is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women internationally start businesses, improve health care and provide education. www.diningforwomen.org or 703-713-6743.

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Sun: 10:00-5:00

Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CONNECTION



Every year between Christmas and New Year's, The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: herndon@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

THE CONNECTION
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SPORTS



PHOTO COURTESY/RESTON WILDFIRE

The Reston Wildfire, a U-13 elite girls' travel soccer team from the Reston Soccer Association, won the Hunt Country Classic Tournament last weekend in Warrenton. The Wildfire was undefeated in four games in the Elite Division of the two-day tournament. The team advanced to the championship game on Sunday afternoon and defeated the current West Virginia state champions, 2-1, in a thrilling match. The Wildfire, a travel team in the Washington Area Girls Soccer League (WAGS), recently concluded its fall season in which they lost just one game. The team is led by coach Adam Schulman and assistant coach Ramsey Meiser. The girls on the team come from Great Falls, Mclean, Reston, Chantilly, Sterling, Oak Hill, Oakton and Herndon.

The Herndon Hawks' 12-and-under travel baseball team won the National League's Central Division of the Old Dominion Baseball League (ODBL) this fall season. The Hawks, in the league's 19-team postseason tournament, finished third overall. For the season, Herndon went 19-5 and scored 216 runs (9 runs per game) while allowing 96 (4 per game). The team's coaching staff consists of manager Shawn Boynton, assistants RJ House and John Broussard, and bench coach Adam Boynton. The Hawks are spon-

SPORTS BRIEFS

sored by Al's Towing and Omia's Grille.

Herndon High cheer team captured first place at the Northern Region championships held at Robinson Secondary. The Hornets edged runner-up Fairfax by one point to garner the crown. Herndon cheer is under the leadership of head coach Jenny Goff. The Hornets went on to compete at the Virginia State Championships at the Siegel Center in Richmond.

Herndon High School recently announced the hiring of Dave Baggetta as its' new boys la-

crosse coach. Coach Baggetta is coming back to the Hornets' Nest where he served as the head coach from 2001-2003. In recent years, he has coached at Robinson and South County Secondary schools.

Bridgewater College senior football linebacker T.J. Montague (Reston) earned First Team All-ODAC honors after a standout season for the Eagles. Montague was a standout at linebacker for the Eagles, leading his position teammates with 85 tackles on the year. He recorded 11 tackles and forced a fumble against Washington and Lee, and posted a season-high 13 tackles at Randolph-Macon. T.J. is the son of Melanie Holmes of Reston.

Thomas Jefferson High cross country runner Jonathan Phillips, of Herndon, has been named both All-Northern Region and All-State this fall. Phillips placed an outstanding place ninth at the State AAA Championships.

Meanwhile, the Thomas Jefferson varsity girls' team finished out its season by taking second place at the Northern Region championships and fourth at states.

Congratulations to the Jefferson varsity girls team of Sarah Stites (Reston), Stephanie Marzen, Rachel Kuprenas, Kelly Rogers, Sarah Nielsen (Reston), Rekha Schnepf, and Lisa Junta that went undefeated through districts.

Also at states, the South Lakes High boys' team took ninth place. The Seahawks were made up of Will Sickenberger, Nick Guarnaccia, Austin Leggett, Alex Clough, Andy Reinhold, Kevin Muir, and Michael McHugh.



PHOTO COURTESY/PEGASUS

Herndon Pegasus, a premier U12 girls' travel team which went undefeated this fall season, was a finalist at the Nov. 20-21 Hempfield Soccer Tournament in Lancaster, Pa. The team played 11 versus 11 against teams from Maryland and Pennsylvania. Pictured, in the back row, left to right are Emily Jones, Kate Colclough, DJ Chi, Leah Fri, Cara McFerren, Erica Griffith, Cabrey Keller, and Kelsey Kiley. Middle row: Caroline Glazier, Annie Colclough, Seanna Adam, Mia DiTommaso, Maddy Patrick, Kiley Lanigan, and Renee Kohler. In the front, center is Ashley Wilson.

Christensen Makes Top 30

Former University of Virginia women's swimmer Mei Christensen, a South Lakes High graduate who completed her eligibility on the UVA swim team in 2010, was selected as a Top 30 honoree for the National Collegiate Athletic Association's Woman of the Year award. The award honors female student-athletes who have distinguished themselves throughout their college careers in the areas of academic achievement, athletics excellence, community service and leadership.

"It is obvious by her academic and athletic accomplishments that Mei Christensen is a champion and fierce competitor in the classroom and in the water," said UVA Athletics Director Craig Littlepage. "Few student-athletes have compiled a more impressive resume. She is one of our program's all-time greats."

The Top 30 honorees, nominated by conference and independent members, are representative of multiple sports. Three finalists (3 each from NCAA Div. 1, 2 and 3) will be chosen to form the nine finalists for the Woman of the Year award.

The national winner will be chosen by the NCAA Committee on Women's Athletics.

"I am extremely surprised and honored to be selected as one of the Top 30 female student-athletes for Woman of the Year," said Christensen. "It's neat to look back at past winners and all the schools they represent. I am honored to be in the running."

Christensen repeated as the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) Swimmer of the Year in 2010 and was also tabbed the conference's scholar-athlete of the year for women's swimming and diving.

The Reston native defended her ACC individual titles in both the 100 and 200 backstroke events and claimed league championships as part of the 200 freestyle, 200 medley and 400 medley relay teams.

As a team captain in 2010, Christensen led the Virginia women's squad to its third consecutive conference title - a first in program history.

The Cavaliers went on to place ninth at the NCAA Championships, their best finish since 1988.

"It is a tremendous honor for the University of Virginia and all student-athletes who represent our school in competition for Mei to be honored in this way," said Virginia head coach Mark Bernardino. "Obviously, Mei's athletics accomplishments throughout her storied career have been well chronicled. What has not been as well chronicled is her work as a human being in the Charlottesville and University communities as well as her exceptional academic achievement. We are extremely proud of Mei and all she has accomplished as a student, person and athlete."

Christensen went on to pick up All-America honors in the 100 backstroke, 200 backstroke, 200 freestyle relay, 400 freestyle relay and 400 medley relay at the 2010 NCAA Championships.

She finished her career at UVA as the school and conference record holder in the 100 and 200 backstroke events, as well as the 200 medley, 400 medley, 200 freestyle and 400 freestyle relays. She earned eight career All-American and four honorable mention All-American honors and was a 12-time ACC champion. A recipient of the ACC's Weaver-James-Corrigan postgraduate scholarship, Christensen was named to the ACC Academic Honor Roll four times.

In addition to being named the conference's swimmer of the year in 2009 and 2010, Christensen earned a spot on the United States National Team in the 100-meter backstroke. She was also selected as the 2009 ACC Swimmer of the Championships.

Christensen was actively involved in University and Charlottesville community service endeavors. She was a member of UVA's Student Athlete Advisory Committee for two years and participated with the Madison House Boosters as part of Cavs in the Classroom. She also served as a Big Sister to the CYAC Swim Team and was involved with the Special Olympics 10K Run.

Christensen earned her bachelor's degree in psychology in May of 2010. She is currently enrolled in UVA's Curry School of Education and is slated to receive her master's degree this month.

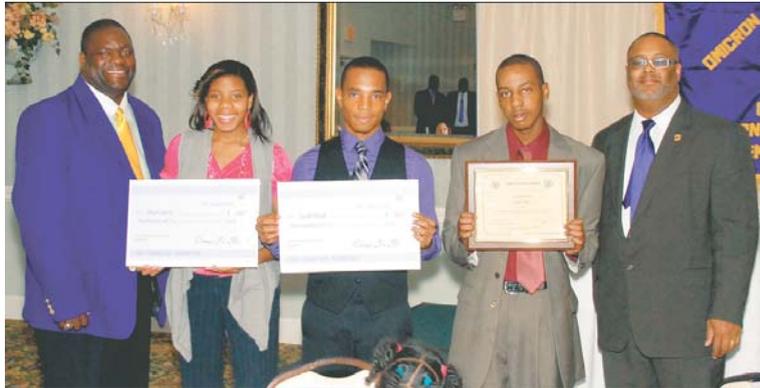
SCHOOLS

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).



Dana Walker and Dr. Gary Powell (left and right) presented the school seniors, Reani Lewis, Isaiah Floyd and Reginald Hayes, scholarships for their winning essays.



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

FAITH NOTES

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

Ladies Night Out: Evening in December. Monday, Dec. 6 and Tuesday, Dec. 7 at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon. Holiday Marketplace and refreshments from 6-7:15 p.m., live entertainment 7:30-9:30 p.m. Music by Grammy nominee Kathy Troccoli, message by Christian humorist and author Ellie Lofaro. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org.

Minister Regina Boyd, M.Div. will lead an Advent Discussion Group on 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 capucc21@gmail.com.

The United Christian Parish will hold four services on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 24 at 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. Children's Nativity Services will be at 4 and 5 p.m., and children will have the opportunity to be participants in the story of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The services at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. will include scripture lessons, music by adult and bell choirs, and candlelight. The United Christian Parish is an ecumenical church uniting four denominations: United Methodist, Presbyterian Church (USA), United Church of Christ, and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) 703-620-3065 or www.unitedchristianparish.org.

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St. in Herndon, presents "Journey to Adulthood", a comprehen-

sive 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, holds worship services at 8 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays with a Latino service on Saturdays at 7 p.m. 703-793-0026 or www.florisumc.org.

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-timothys.org or visit the Pastoral Care page at www.saint-timothys.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.

Adult Sunday school will be held 9:30 a.m. Sundays at the Washington Plaza Baptist Church at Lake Anne Village Center. The group is studying the Gospel of Mark. Services follow at 11 a.m.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis.

Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays.

Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

The Baha'i community of McLean holds a weekly fireside, a meeting of discussion, devotion and fellowship, at 7500 Box Elder Court in McLean, at 8 p.m. every Friday. An opportunity to learn about the Baha'i faith. 703-556-3400.

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



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10:25 a.m. Sunday school/Music: grades 3 - 12
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service

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The Rev. James Papile, Rector
The Rev. Jacqueline Thomson
The Rev. Denise Trogdon
703-437-6530
www.stannes-reston.org
1700 Wainwright Dr., Reston



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SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 A.M.

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Herndon United Methodist Church
www.HerndonUMC.org

Christmas Eve
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,

Call Karen at 703-917-6468

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 2

Outdoor Chanukah Festival. 6 p.m. at the Lake Anne Waterfront and the Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N, #A, Reston. Lighting of a giant ice menorah, live family entertainment, prize drawings, hot chocolate, donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt, free dreidels and balloons and a Chanukah family film. Family menorah workshop. 703-476-1829 or rabbi@chabadrh.org.

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.

The Towne Square Singers Annual Yule Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, Spring St., Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or at 703-787-7300.

SATURDAY/DEC. 4

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.

Jingle on the Lake. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Lake Anne Plaza Waterfront, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Holiday arts and crafts market, petting zoo and gingerbread decorating contest from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Cookie decorating 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Santa arrival at 12 p.m., departure at 2 p.m. Free admission. www.lakeanneplaza.com.

The Towne Square Singers Annual Yule Concert. 7:30 p.m. at the Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, Spring St., Herndon. Tickets \$12, available at the Herndon Community Center or at 703-787-7300.

SUNDAY/DEC. 5

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.

42nd Annual Holiday Sing-A-Long. 4 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. Led by the United States Marine and a 400-member choir. Donations of new, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the entrance for Toys for Tots, but are not required. Free admission. 703-255-1917 or grahamb@wolftrap.org.

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Insurance Assurance



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I once sold life and health insurance for a living – and still maintain my license by fulfilling Continuing Education requirements every two years, I am no longer in "the business." As a result, I know much less about policies and procedures now than I once did. And what policies and procedures I did know about – then, I knew primarily about "individual" life and health insurance as opposed to Group/Business/Employer-provided insurance. Factor in recent White House-initiated and recently passed Health Insurance legislation, euphemistically – and often disparagingly – referred to as, "Obama care," and what little I did know/remember has been overtaken by what I don't know.

Throw into this vat of change and uncertainty, the fact that I am an active cancer patient – undergoing treatment still, chemotherapy (\$7,500 per session) every three weeks, covered by a Group Health insurance plan provided by my "small" employer at Connection Newspapers, whose annual health insurance renewal is up now, and perhaps you can guess the anxiety and worry I've been experiencing of late: What if the coverage is dropped? What if the coverage is maintained but the price and/or benefits are modified – for the worse, because of my treatment and the average age of our group? Alternatively, what if the company changes insurers and I have to change oncologists? And if there is new coverage, given the size of our group, will my pre-existing condition be excluded? Not covered for 90 days? Or prohibitively expensive?

So you can imagine my relief when quite unexpectedly, I received my new health insurance identification card in the mail recently. It is from the same HMO/insurer whose oncologist has been treating me since Feb. 27, 2009, when my Internal Medicine doctor called to tell me the results of my week-previous biopsy, that the pain I had initially felt in my rib cage – two months prior (the time it took to be assessed and scanned by multiple doctors and machines to get to this current point), was unfortunately a malignant tumor. At that point, having health insurance mattered more to me than almost anything; my treatment could proceed without consideration of coverage and/or cost, and so it has.

Until possibly now. Or so I thought, given all the changes in the industry, and of course, the new legislation. But I tried not to think about it too much because it was mostly out of my control. And for cancer patients (maybe any terminal patient, or so I've been told), controlling what you can and letting go of what you can't, is an adage to live by. Still, I was mindful of the calendar knowing that sometime in the fall, our policy renews/we shop carriers, and that change sometimes happens.

But since I'm scheduled for chemotherapy tomorrow, I can't worry about it too much today. However, I haven't been sleeping very well of late. Perhaps that was my insurance-coverage subconscious worried about its insured's consciousness? No more. I have my new card. I have my new (same old) coverage. I don't have to change doctors, change facilities, change how I buy my medication. The only thing I have to change is how much I co-pay, co-insure and premium-pay. Neither of which is an improvement/enhancement over my previous coverage. Nevertheless, it's change I can live with, hopefully for a long time.

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

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