

# The Arlington Connection

## PET CONNECTION

# Helping the Family Pet

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Jill Schutt of Arlington, owner of My Dog's Nanny, with Luke.

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## PET CONNECTION

### B. Benjamin Jenkins

Here is "Ben" a Great Pyrenees who loves the cold weather and snow. Pyrs were originally used in the French Pyrenees Mountains to guard flocks. They are able to kill a bear or mountain lion. They are very independent, and can be completely self sufficient. They love children, and are very friendly, but make excellent watch dogs. There is a lot of hair, and they drool when hot. Ben would love to get to the foxes in Douglas Park, but is protective of the rabbits in our neighborhood, just watching them when they come through our back yard. He loves other dogs, cats and people, and he loves walks and rides.

Ben is a rescue dog. I got him from the Carolina Great Pyrenees Rescue Club in Winston-Salem, N.C. last summer.



He is 2 years old. He was found last May wandering the roads outside Raleigh. He was very matted and extremely thin. The rescue organization trimmed him, cleaned him, had him neutered, and listed him on their web site. I had just lost the last of my 2 pyrs to old age, and went to meet him. He was perfect, and I adopted him

on the spot.

He now weighs 120. He is the happiest puppy you can imagine. We are very fortunate to have found him.

The "B" in his name stands for big!

— TED JENKINS,  
ARLINGTON

## Owner Dies, Pet Lives, Then?

**A trust can assure a pet's care when the owner cannot.**

BY MICHAEL MCMORROW  
THE CONNECTION

**P**et owners, like most people, do not like to think about dying, or becoming incapacitated. Expressed informally or silently assumed, the ordinary owner expects a family member or close friend to provide good care for the loyal pet that has given such pleasure and affection.

Receipt of the veterinarian's bill after the first visit often curdles the new caregiver's best intentions. The pet owner can take steps to avoid this unfortunate outcome. One choice is to create a trust.

"Historically the law did not allow provisions for the benefit of pets in wills. Sadly, this often resulted in heirs giving the pet to a rescue organization and keeping the money designated for the pet," according to lawyer Peter King of the Tysons Corner firm Hauswiesner King LLP.

King added, "In July 2006 Virginia joined the majority of states in recognizing a trust for the benefit of pets." He noted that roughly one in five estate plans now make provision for pets.

Apart from the pet, two parties usually are involved in the trust: The trustee, who holds and manages the money, and the custodian, who provides day-to-day care to the animal. Choosing the right people for these roles is vital if the pet owner's wishes are to be carried out.

A trustee should have ordinary experience handling money and a respect for animals.

Most trustees are individuals, not trust companies. This is because the amounts of money are modest.

Selecting the custodian requires much more care. The person's feelings for the animal and capabilities to provide the needed services must be weighed. An

older person or someone with infirmities may not be able to exercise the pet or drive to the veterinarian. Someone with a job may not have the time for scheduled attention to the animal.

The pet owner should sit with the potential custodian and talk at length about the details of care. A detailed understanding and agreement must be reached.

King advises: "These trusts are extremely flexible, allowing the drafter to specify activities and treatment of the pet." Elements such as training, preferred veterinarian, a pet health insurance policy, food, exercise and anything else designed to provide the desired "good life" for the pet can be written. So can the inevitable arrangements for a pet cemetery or other disposition of remains.

Occasionally, a third party is involved: An advisor (read: enforcer), possibly a member of the local animal welfare organization. Designating such a person to "look in" once or twice a year confers "standing," that is, the right to enforce the trust in court.

Two additional factors deserve mention. Naming an alternate to serve in each role provides continuity in the event a primary designee cannot or will not perform the prescribed duties. Clearly, combining both (or all three) responsibilities in a single individual eliminates oversight of the trustee and custodian.

SEE AFTER PET OWNER DIES, PAGE 4

### More

"Estate Planning for Non-Human Family Members" by Texas law professor Gerry W. Beyer was written for law students and estate lawyers. However, any pet owner will benefit from reading it. An owner's choices to provide for a pet are examined. See <http://www.professorbeyer.com>, then "Articles" and "Animals."

# PET CONNECTION

## Well-Heeled, Good Mannered Yet Playful, Too

### Area dog trainers help the family pet fit in.

BY SANDY LEVITZ LUNNER  
THE CONNECTION

Back in November of 1975, long before there was a Dog Whisperer, England's Victoria Stilwell or Animal Planet, Sandy and Carlos Mejias opened Olde Town School for Dogs. With just 300 square feet of retail space that was previously a florist shop, they introduced Northern Virginians to the idea of sending their dogs to school.

"Dogs, I think, more than any other animal, are like an extension of the family," Sandy Mejias said. "And, just like with a child, you want to make sure your dog has good manners and exhibits proper behavior."

"Not training your dog is kind of like not teaching your child not to interrupt or run through a store pulling things off the shelves," she added. "It's almost imperative they learn the rules."

For the army brat who grew up all over the world, training dogs wasn't a career path she planned on. But shortly after graduating college in 1973, she enrolled in a 3-week dog-training course at the Captain Haggerty's School for Dogs in upstate New York.

"I've always been a big dog lover," Sandy Mejias said. "I think I learned every breed by the time I was age five. I was the kid that brought all the lost and stray dogs home and my parents didn't really like dogs," she added with a laugh.

Captain Haggerty's turned out to be more than just a new career path. It is also where

she met her future husband and business partner Carlos Mejias who had trained to be a trainer at the famous N.Y. institution. She ended up staying in for more than two years honing her newfound career skills.

"In the early years here in Old Town, our first clients were people off the street or friends of my parents who just wanted their dogs to behave," Sandy Mejias said. "We did some specialty work (theatrical, protection, service dog, obedience ring). But, the bulk of our training was, and still is, educating dogs and their owners."

At Olde Town School for Dogs, they like to start early. The Puppy Head Start class is for dogs five months and younger, starting as early as nine-weeks old.

"We've developed and perfected unique ways to have the puppy find its place in the family," Sandy Mejias said. "And, we use only natural methods for correcting behaviors, such as holding the puppy on its side."

In three sessions, Olde Town School for Dog trainers teach puppies basic vocabulary using food and praise as a reward. The puppy learns to accept grooming, to come with a whistle, to

**"There's been a real need in the area for professional, courteous, trained dog walkers that know what they're doing."**

— Jill Schutt

socialize with people and other dogs.

"We want the owner to start realizing, 'Hey, I'm the leader, I'm the one in charge,'" Mejias said. "It's pretty laid back."

Not so with Obedience Training classes at Olde Town School for Dogs which she describes as stricter than most other obedience schools. One-on-one classes with a trainer are available. But Day Care training is their most popular program.

According to Mejias the first day of obedience training they try to have as few distractions as possible.

"But by day two, we use a 15-foot leash and bring the dogs around distractions and natural environments like the local parks,



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Jill Schutt of Arlington, owner of My Dog's Nanny, with Luke.

Market Square and King Street," she said.

In the day care program, dogs are trained 30 minutes at a time, three times a day, Tuesdays through Fridays. Owners get three one-hour private sessions to learn how to handle their dogs.

"With its busy streets near quiet streets and landmarks like the big fountain, Old Town is a great place to train a dog," declared Mejias.

While Olde Town School for Dogs draws clients from Arlington, Mount Vernon and beyond, they are by no means the only game in town.

**THE MOUNT VERNON** Dog Training Club is an AKC club and hobby organization that's been teaching obedience training since 1960.

"Ninety-five percent of people just want to be able to walk their dog without it practically pulling their arms off," said Cheryl Pratt, training director at the club.

### Details

#### OLDE TOWN SCHOOL FOR DOGS

529 Oronoco Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
703-836-7643  
<http://www.otsfd.com/>

#### MOUNT VERNON BASIC OBEDIENCE

##### DOG TRAINING CLASSES

Commonwealth Baptist Church in Alexandria,  
March 22  
The Landings Community Center in Burke, Md.,  
March 7  
2011 Obedience Trial and Rally  
Oct. 7-8  
Catocin Kennel Club  
Point of Rocks, Md.  
703-960-2868, Training Director Cheryl Pratt  
<http://mountvernondogtrainingclub.com>

#### MY DOG'S NANNY

Jill Schutt, owner  
703-899-8617

"Our goal is to get your dog to walk with you and not pull, to stop when you stop. We teach heel, come when called, and stay — sit stay, down stay, and stand stay."

According to Pratt, they offer basic group obedience training in one-hour sessions over the course of eight weeks. They don't deal with puppies under five months, so there's no housebreaking or socializing lessons.

Since they are an AKC obedience club, they also offer three advanced classes for those who want more than the basics for their dog, perhaps with an eye towards participating in an obedience ring competition.

"Even though we are an AKC Obedience Club, we take any dog," Pratt said. "Mixed breeds are now accepted at AKC Obedience Trials, and we'd love to see more mixed breeds compete."

What makes this organization a club has more to do with like-mindedness of the members than club fees or other financial

SEE AREA DOG TRAINERS. PAGE 4



Memphis is with staff member Kim Corcoran inside Animal Welfare League of Arlington Animal Shelter Jan.29.

### Needing Homes



Sandy is 5 years old.



Tasha is 6 years old.



Shadow is 13 years old.



Aspen



Rudy

PHOTOS BY LA SHAWN AVERY-SIMONS/THE CONNECTION



# Area Dog Trainers Help the Family Pet Fit In

FROM PAGE 3

obligations. While they do charge a nominal fee of \$80 for the basic obedience training, the trainer doesn't receive any compensation for the 8-week course.

"We're a group that makes sure we have what we need to carry out our programs," Pratt said.

That includes anything from securing venues for training to getting plaques made for a member's winning pooch to finding judges for the annual Obedience and Rally Trial in October.

And even though they are an obedience club, they do have their share of fun, including Halloween parties with prizes for the best canine costumes. There's also a Fun and Games night where one of the favorite activities features frozen hot dogs on the floor.

Picture dogs searching for the right hot dog to bring back to their handler without chowing down on any of the other temptations on the floor.

Obviously these are not at the kinds of activities dog lovers have come to know and love during the Westminster AKC Club's Best of Show competition on television.

"That's all pure breeds and more like the AKC version of a beauty pageant," Pratt said with a laugh. "That's not obedience."

**AFTER SPENDING** time and money to teach your dog manners, you don't want just anyone taking over the leash. What are dog parents to do when they have to go to work? Eight hours is a long time for even the most obedient pooch to wait for a potty break.

That's where "Your Dog's Nanny" comes in.

Arlington resident Jill Schutt, aka Nanny J, says the name of her business may sound cute. "But it's what I really do," she said with a laugh.

The native Australian has lived in the States since her early 20s. But it was back Down Under in her teens that her entrepreneurial spirit first spread its wings.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOUNT VERNON DOG TRAINING CLUB

**Cheryl Pratt's Great Dane Stella shows off her jumping skills.**

"I used to macramé dog leashes and collars and then sell them to local pet boutiques," Schutt said. "I owned my own business at age 15. And I'd always done training of dogs since I was 13. I knew I wanted to continue in some way."

Schutt says her current business started about seven years ago and evolved from working in the animal hospitals she opened with her ex-husband, an Old Town veterinarian. One of her responsibilities was walking the dogs at the hospitals.

"I realized that people pay a lot of money to train their dogs, and it's important to keep the continuity going," Schutt described. "There's been a real need in the area for professional, courteous, trained dog walkers that know what they're doing."

Schutt not only provides dog walks that reinforce obedience training. She also has a doggy taxi service that includes taking small groups of dogs to a local dog park for socialization and exercise.

Schutt talked about a Portuguese water dog that won several obedience titles while under her instruction. She is still that dog's

nanny, helping the owner who is home bound. The dog, in turn, is helping others. Schutt has involved the dog in the pet therapy program at Mount Vernon Hospital's head trauma unit.

"That breed has to be kept busy during the day. The more you give them to do or make them think, the happier they are," Schutt said.

"It's very rewarding."

**THE MAIN** thing with dog training, according to Sandy Mejias, is no matter who you end up working with, you want to make sure it's someone that uses a balanced method of training in the real world.

"You have to build a team: you, your dog and the trainer," she said, noting that Cesar Milan, whose show "The Dog Whisperer" airs on National Geographic Television, has helped a lot of viewers see it's important to be a team.

Mejias suggests that before you enroll your dog in a class, meet the trainers, ask about their credentials and how they learned their craft. Ask about the dogs they've trained. And, make sure it's someone you can get along with.

Be careful, she advises. There are some organizations that just about anyone can join and get a certificate that says they're a dog trainer, but there's no real licensing or examination to pass that actually qualifies a person to train dogs.

"We've had many dogs that were trained in other places come here for retraining," Mejias said.

It's like anything else, she added. When you're about shop for a new flat screen TV, you have to do your homework.

Be sure to do the same for the furry family member.

## Health Insurance for Pets

A special segment of the insurance industry provides health coverage for pets. While all companies cover dogs and cats, several include birds, fish and other exotic animals.

The policies are similar to those of human owners and use much the same terminology: premium, deductible, co-pay, exclusion and preexisting condition. If the pet owner is comfortable examining his or her own insurance, considering the terms of a pet policy is not difficult.

A brief note on the subject cannot address the many variables that go into a decision to buy or not buy such insurance. These include: animal's age and expected lifespan; individual health history; deductible level; reasonableness of premium in the owner's judgment; and

personal willingness to handle the whole claims process on a reimbursable basis, since veterinarians and animal hospitals do none of the paperwork.

However, there are many resources available to guide the pet owner through the decisional process, such as:

❖ "Pet Insurance University: A Vet's Guide To Pet Insurance"

<http://www.pet-insurance-university.com>

❖ "Pet Insurance Fact Sheet"

<http://www.veterinarypartner.com>

❖ "Pet Insurance Buyer's Guide: [American Animal Hospital Association] Seal of Acceptance"

<http://www.healthypet.com>

— MICHAEL McMORROW

## After Pet Owner Dies ...

FROM PAGE 2

The amount of money to deposit in the trust is open to many variables, but can be quite reasonable. The kind of animal, its expected lifespan, the level of pet health insurance and special wishes of the owner must be tallied. One place to begin considering costs is the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' website ([www.aspc.org](http://www.aspc.org), then "pet care costs").

Attorney Sean A. Dunston of Alexandria developed a focus on pet care before the Virginia trust law came into effect. He explains what happened.

"I was updating an estate plan. The client said that any of three cats surviving her were to be 'put down.' That bothered me because I am a pet owner. Routinely, I began to recommend that pets become gifts to others who would care for them."

Dunston noted that not everyone needs a pet trust. However, where the animal is treated almost as a child in the family, a provision in the estate plan should be given serious consideration. Young people without children and older "empty nesters" are the most receptive to this suggestion, he said.



**Our cat, Dylan hoping to get a glimpse of Santa.**  
— Nancy Williams, Old Dominion Drive, Arlington

PHOTO BY RYAN WILLIAMS

# Violence Behind Closed Doors

Domestic abuse statistics skyrocket in Arlington as economic fears linger.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

Arlington is experiencing a dramatic spike in domestic violence, and the county's safety net is struggling to keep up with the steadily increasing demand. Instances of choking have spiked. Calls to the county's hotline have increased significantly. And arrests for domestic violence have skyrocketed. Throughout the county, police officers and social workers are trying to meet the growing need for victims of domestic violence.

"We've never seen this kind of increase locally," said Jo Johnson, coordinator for Arlington County's Project Peace. "Never."

Arrests for domestic violence increased 107 percent between 2009 and 2010, and the number of hotline calls went up 103 percent during that time. No data exists that shows an increase in choking, but social service providers say they have seen anecdotal evidence showing it's an increasing trend among victims of domestic violence. Experts say Arlington's statistics are part of a larger trend, with Virginia statistics showing a similar increase.

"We've seen a downturn in the economy and an increase in substance abuse," said Gena Boyle, domestic violence advocacy manager for the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. "And we know both of these lead to an increase in domestic violence."

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** has been around for as long as mankind, but it wasn't recognized as a separate category of the law until the last few decades. Starting with the women's movement of the 1970s, public perception of domestic violence began to shift. By 1981, the first battered women's shelter in Northern Virginia opened its doors in Alexandria. New laws were instituted, and prosecutors were given new tools.

Yet the problem hasn't gone away. "Domestic violence is like a low-grade fever," said Arlington Commonwealth's Attorney Richard Trodden. "One hopes the effort to do something about it pays off, but the problem stays there."

According to a statewide database that collects information from local providers, the problem of domestic violence is on the rise across Virginia. The number of hotline calls has grown by 8 percent in the last year, and the number of women, children and men

staying in a domestic violence emergency shelter on an average night has increased 22 percent. More than 2,000 families were turned away in 2009 because existing shelters were full, a 54 percent increase

over the previous year.

"We know we've got a lot of work to do," said Johnson. "Our goal is to see more people coming forward for help,"

**ACCORDING TO A 2004** study by the National Institute of Justice, domestic violence occurs more in households facing economic distress. Because a higher percentage of African-Americans live in disadvantaged neighborhoods and face economic distress, they experience higher rates of domestic violence compared to whites. When comparing African-American and whites of similar incomes, the study found that levels of violence were similar.

"The stress that accompanies losing a job and seeking personal income shrink can result in severe consequences for individuals, intimate couples, and the communities in which they live," wrote Michael Berson and Greer Litton Fox, authors of the report. "The research also suggests that service providers may want to monitor changes in the local job force because cutbacks could potentially increase the level of intimate violence."

Since the 2004 study was re-

SEE DOMESTIC ABUSE, PAGE 19

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- When you're not using a fireplace, close the flue.
- Replace your furnace filter once a month.
- Turn your hot water heater down to warm or low, never more than 120 degrees.
- Replace all cracked or broken window glass, consider adding storm windows, caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows.
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# Making It Count

Survey tracks number of people who are homeless.

BY DELIA SAVA  
THE CONNECTION

If you want to do a really good job, and you want really accurate information, you've got to hit the streets," said Kathy Sibert, executive director of A-SPAN (Arlington Street People's Assistance Network) about the organization's Point-in-Time Count conducted on Wednesday, Jan. 26.

The "homeless census" in Arlington is part of a nationwide count that takes place during the last 10 days in January. "The Point-in-Time Survey is very important as it provides meaningful data outlining homelessness in the nation, region, and Arlington and allows us to assess how we are doing on Arlington's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness," said Sibert.

In 2010 the count recorded 531 homeless persons in Arlington County, a 30 percent increase since 2008; of these, 347 (65 percent) were single adults, while 184 (35 percent) were in families. "It gives us a really good snapshot of what's going on with the homeless population, which has been so impacted by the recent economic downturn," Sibert said.

According to Sibert, 80 percent of those single adults are unsheltered. "That's shocking because what it means is that all these people, anywhere between 250 to 300 are living in the metros, they're living in the underpasses, they're living between buildings, they're living in the parks and they're

living down by the Potomac River."

Sibert added that the Arlington County Emergency Shelter (EWS), which A-SPAN operates from Nov. 1 through March 31, averages 65 to 70 people per night. She stressed that in terms of shelter and housing, there are very few options, for the majority of the single adults living on the street. "Now we have to look at the needs of the single adults and about a third of that population have mental illness and so we have to get focused on that." Data collected during the count helps communities understand trends, justify requests for federal funding and assess progress toward ending homelessness.

In addition to the shelter, A-SPAN provides life-sustaining services to the homeless, which include daily outreach, drop-in services such as showers, laundry and food, as well as a bagged meal program serving up to 80 individuals on a daily basis. Sibert is encouraged that the community's support of a year-round shelter continues to grow and she expressed her gratitude to the business community for their assistance. Volunteers from Lyon Hall Restaurant were preparing and serving dinner the night of the count at the emergency shelter.

**WORKING FROM** 7 a.m. until midnight, teams of A-SPAN staff and volunteers visit areas frequented by homeless persons, including malls, metro stations, parks and libraries. During the day, indoor meeting places included SEEC (Shirlington Employment and Education Center), A-SPAN's Opportunity Place, the Arlington County Emergency Winter Shelter (EWS) and the Central United Methodist Church in Ballston.

Solomon Abawi, a social worker with A-SPAN was at the church where lunch was being served from noon to 4 p.m. Meals are



Volunteers Sean Illemszky, left, and Andy Carlson

PHOTOS BY DELIA SAVA/THE CONNECTION



Solomon Abawi



Kathy Sibert



Robert Mormon

offered at indoor locations as a way to encourage participation. Abawi noted that the great majority of the homeless people queried, are willing to answer the questions on the short survey: age, gender, race and whether they are employed and/or have a source of income.

By mid-afternoon the wet and cold weather from the "thunder-snow" was posing additional challenges. Abawi observed that horrible weather is not uncommon at this time of year and in fact, the last couple of years the weather has been particularly nasty. "We work our way through it ... trying to find them is especially challenging

because they're scattered all over the place," he said.

As the weather worsened and the meal service wrapped up at the church, Sibert expressed her concern. "As people are leaving, I'm asking them, 'where are you spending the night?' and it's very illustrative that they don't want to tell you exactly where they're sleeping in Arlington County," she said adding, "They want to stay hidden because they don't want to be picked up or dislodged."

Abawi hands out bus tokens to those who need them as people head back out into the pelting sleet and bone-chilling cold.



Shaun Tirrell, owner of Piano Craft and Allison Silberberg, National Chamber Ensemble board member.

## Liebermann and Beethoven

The National Chamber Ensemble presented a concert featuring composer-pianist, Lowell Liebermann at the Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere on Saturday, Jan. 29.



Historic 1865 Steinway piano on loan for the performance from Piano Craft.



Leonid Sushansky, left, (violin, artistic director) with Lowell Liebermann (piano, composer)

PHOTO BY  
DELIA SAVA  
THE CONNECTION

# SENIORS

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington's Office of Senior Adult Programs for Feb. 14-18.

**Arlington senior centers:** Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Culpepper Garden, 4435 N. Pershing Dr.; Langston-Brown, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Madison, 3829 N. Stafford St.; also TJ Comm. Center, 3501 S. 2nd St., Arlington Mill at Fairlington Comm. Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

**Pablo Picasso's Blue and Rose periods**, illustrated discussion, Monday, Feb. 14, 1 p.m., Aurora Hills. \$6; register, 703-228-5722.

"**FLOURISHING AFTER 55**"

**Pickleball games** and coaching, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Walter Reed. Free with 55+ Pass. Details, 703-228-4745.

**Full fitness exercise classes**, intermediate and advanced. Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10 a.m., TJ Community Center. \$60/15 sessions or \$4 drop in. Details, 703-228-4745.

**Join the Merrymakers**, performing arts group, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 10:30 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Details, 703-228-4403.

**English/Spanish dialogue sessions**, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1 p.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

**Table tennis**, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Details, 703-228-0955.

**Line dancing classes**, free, Tuesday through Friday at senior centers, Details, 703-228-4721.

**Learn to play chess**, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Black History Month** program, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 10:30 a.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Tax questions answered**, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 10 a.m., Culpepper Garden. Free. Details, 703-228-4403.

**All about soy** including cooking demo, Thursday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m., Walter Reed. Free. Register, 703-228-0955.

**Techniques of relaxation** to counter stress, Thursday, Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m., Langston-Brown. Free. Details, 703-228-6300.

**Comedy Club** at Aurora Hills, classic radio and TV shows, Fri., Feb. 18, 10:30 a.m. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

**Fast-paced walking group**, Friday, Feb. 18, 9 a.m., Aurora Hills. Free. Register, 703-228-5722.

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Orthopedic Surgeon

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FREE Community Seminar

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Arlington Central Library

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Arlington, VA 22201

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# OPINION

## Making One's Own Pet Connection

We love our pets, but millions more need homes.

**A**re you considering adopting a dog or a cat or another animal? Be sure to rescue one in need.

More people have turned in pets to animal shelters in the past couple of years, in part because of the recession and increased foreclosures.

Approximately 6-to-8 million pets end up in animal shelters each year, according to The Humane Society of the United States. Of that number, 3-to-4 million are adopted, but the remaining 3-to-4 million pets end up being euthanized.

Here are a few places to adopt a pet who needs a home. There are many rescue organizations, including some that specialize in particular breeds. There are also networks of people, like PetConnect, mostly communicating on the internet, who help save adoptable animals from overcrowded shelters from near

### Where To Adopt

#### ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE OF ARLINGTON

www.awla.org  
2650 South Arlington Mill Drive  
Arlington, Virginia 22206  
703-931-9241  
mail@awla.org  
Adoption hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Noon - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays, Closed  
Saturdays-Sundays, Noon - 4 p.m.

and far.

### Super Bowl Parties, Fun and Safe

#### EDITORIALS

This year's Super Bowl might even turn out to be a game worth watching.

Super Bowl parties are fun even for those who are not big football fans. It's a great reason to get together at home or out in a restaurant or bar with friends.

Just be sure that you or your guests get home safely.

The McLean-based organization Washington

Regional Alcohol Program suggests tips for safe celebrating to on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6. During Super Bowl Sunday 2009, 50 percent of all U.S. crash fatalities included drivers who were intoxicated according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Plan ahead: designate a driver if you're celebrating with alcohol, or use alternative transportation like taxi or public transportation.

If you're hosting the Super Bowl party: serve high protein food like meats and cheeses with alcohol; serve non-alcoholic beverages as an option; designate a bartender so guests don't mix their own drinks; close the bar at least an hour before you expect your guests to be leaving; don't serve alcohol to anyone who appears to be impaired; never serve minors; never allow anyone who has had too much to drink to get behind the wheel.

If you're driving on Super Bowl evening (or anytime), wear your seatbelt. "Wearing a seatbelt may be your best defense against a drunk driver," said Kurt Erickson, WRAP director. "The routine wearing of seatbelts is the single most effective measure to reduce crash-related deaths and injuries."

## It's Time To Take Bullying Seriously

BY ADAM EBBIN  
STATE DELEGATE (D-49)

**C**arl Joseph Walker-Hoover was just 11 when his mother found him hanging by an extension cord in their home in Massachusetts in 2009. The sixth grader was taunted and threatened by classmates for weeks before he killed himself. They reportedly called him gay on a daily basis, made fun of his clothes, and threaten to cause him physical harm.

Fifteen-year-old Phoebe Prince from Boston took her own life in January last year after being bullied relentlessly for three months via texts, Facebook messages, and in person by a group of students at school. One of them even wrote "accomplished" on Prince's Facebook page the day of her suicide.

And here in Virginia, York County high school student Christian Taylor, 16, hung himself after enduring months of bullying at school. Taylor's mother said she reported the bullying to school administrators but that nothing was done to stop it. On one occasion the bully said to Taylor, "You need to just go commit suicide and get it over with." Taylor's mother recently told me that the same bullies are now harassing his brother, and now they're moving to a different school in a different state.

These tragic stories are just a few examples of students being driven to suicide by cruel and relentless bullying. It's a storyline we've unfortunately been hearing again and again over the past year. While we adults have a tendency to dismiss bullying as a harmless rite of childhood, its time we recognize that these days it's more than simple teasing on the playground



### RICHMOND REPORT

— sometimes it's serious and even life-threatening abuse.

That's why I'm sponsoring HB 1576, a bill that will make egregious cases of bullying — resulting in bodily harm or death — a crime in the state of Virginia for the first time. This legislation, which is co-sponsored by my colleague David Englin, will also allow victims to sue bullies who have been found guilty and provide for expulsions from school.

Some have argued that bullying is best addressed at the school level, while others suggest that existing laws are sufficient. However, the rash of suicides across the country prompted by severe bullying — and the fact that, time and again, parents of victims had complained to school officials who did nothing to stop it — shows just how inadequate and inconsistent school policies are in dealing with the problem.

And police themselves have acknowledged the shortcomings of existing law. Following the suicide in York County, a sheriff's spokesperson said, "There is no bullying statute in the state of Virginia, so we are not investigating a crime." This is outrageous and has to be changed.

My legislation will make it much more likely that law enforcement will investigate and prosecute in extreme cases by removing the current legal ambiguity surrounding bullying and explicitly criminalizing it, as we have hazing.

## ARLINGTON CONNECTION

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### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.  
Send to:

Letters to the Editor  
Arlington Connection  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call 703-778-9410

E-mail: arlington@connectionnewspapers.com

# PEOPLE

## Crossover Concert

Dar Williams and Ibis Chamber Music Society performed original arrangements of Williams' music, as well as classical and traditional vocal music at the Artisphere's Spectrum Theatre in Rosslyn on Sunday, Jan. 30.



**Jen Hitt and Daniel McCormick**



**Barry Taylor and Jessica Weitz**



**Donna Christenson, Ibis board member, and Michael Lane**



**Carole Robinson**

PHOTOS BY DELIA SAVA  
THE CONNECTION

**Mary Elkind**



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- ☛ Cornmeal Crusted Oysters
- ☛ Manicotti
- ☛ Linguine w/Shrimp and Clams
- ☛ Beef & Lamb Moussaka
- ☛ Moroccan (Red) Chicken w/Moulkia Sauce
- ☛ Chicken Curry

**\$5 OFF** Lunch with the purchase of two entrées

**\$8 OFF** Dinner with the purchase of two entrées

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# Arlington REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION

## 2010 Sales in Berkshire Oakwood



**1** 6507 36th Street North, Arlington  
\$1,700,000

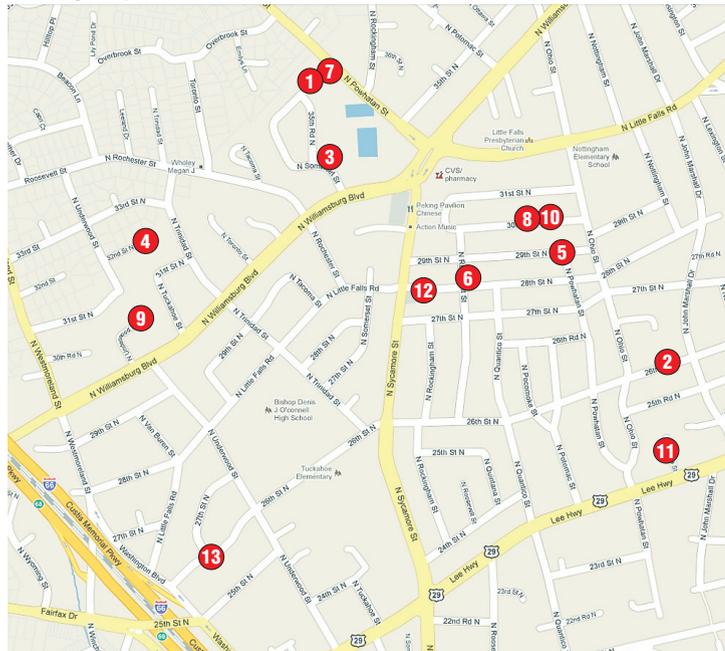


**2** 6017 26th Street North, Arlington — \$1,600,000



**3** 3517 Somerset Street North, Arlington — \$1,550,000

© Google Map data



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 6507 36TH ST N	5	5	2	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.24	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	06/14/10
2 6017 26TH ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.22	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	04/29/10
3 3517 SOMERSET ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.28	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	08/30/10
4 6626 32ND ST N	5	5	0	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.24	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	10/15/10
5 6201 29TH ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,455,000	Detached	0.18	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	05/24/10
6 2800 ROOSEVELT ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,410,000	Detached	0.16	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	02/19/10
7 6506 36TH ST N	7	6	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,385,000	Detached	0.23	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	04/30/10
8 6213 30TH ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,310,000	Detached	0.18	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	01/20/10
9 3017 UNDERWOOD ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,291,000	Detached	0.23	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	10/07/10
10 6206 30TH ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,267,500	Detached	0.16	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	03/19/10
11 2409 OTTAWA ST N	5	4	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,099,000	Detached	0.16	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	08/17/10
12 6431 28TH ST N	5	5	1	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,060,000	Detached	0.17	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	07/29/10
13 6743 27TH ST N	4	3	0	ARLINGTON	ARLINGTON	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.24	BERKSHIRE OAKWOOD	08/27/10

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM.

# FASHION

## Crystal Couture Returns

Spotlighting local designers.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Crystal Couture kicked off its third annual week-long festival of fashion Jan. 31 with a preview of this year's theme: Exotic and Elegant to Everything Everyday.

"Like most people, I can start my day in a track suit, change into a business suit and end up in a cocktail dress before the day is over," said Angie Fox, CEO of the Crystal City BID and organizer of the event. "It's all about the costume changes and this year's Crystal Couture will offer inspiration for everyone."

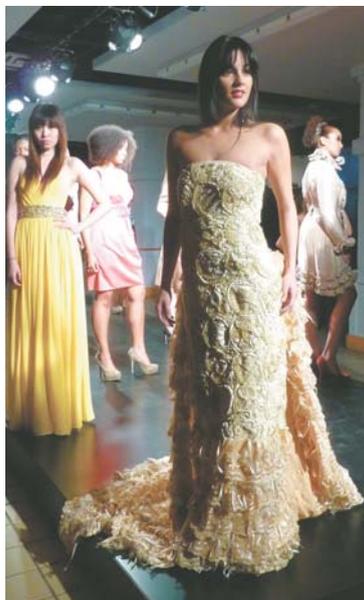
Taking place in the former Crystal City Food Court at 1750 Crys-

tal Drive, each night of Crystal Couture will spotlight more than 20 local boutiques and designers with many selling their fashions right off the runway.

"This is an amazing journey," said Samuel Ugglee, a young designer who specializes in knits. "Crystal Couture provides a showcase for independent designers and I am very grateful for that."

Special guests for the week include local celebrity and America's Next Top Model contestant Bianca Chardei and HOT 99.5 DJ Sarah Fraser will host a special Go Red for Women night Feb. 4 to raise awareness for heart disease.

Crystal Couture runs each night from 6-10 p.m. through Feb. 5 and is free and open to the public. For more information and schedule of events, visit [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).



Models take to the runway Jan. 31 for opening night of Crystal Couture 2011. The event runs through Feb 5 in Crystal City.

PHOTOS BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION



Arlington County Board member Barbara Favola shops for a cocktail dress during the opening night reception Jan. 31.



Designer Samuel Ugglee, right, makes last-minute adjustments to one of his dresses on opening night of Crystal Couture 2011.

### HOME SALES

In December 2010, 206 Arlington homes sold between \$2,495,000-\$105,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$245,000-\$105,000 range. For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Subdivision
1300 ARMY NAVY DR #806	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$245,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			HORIZON HOUSE
900 TAYLOR ST N #520	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$242,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			JEFFERSON RETIREMENT CONDOS
1720 14TH ST S	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$240,000	Detached	0.11		SOUTHGATE
1601 13TH ST S	2	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$240,000	Detached	0.12		SOUTHGATE
1723 TROY ST N #8-404	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$237,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			COLONIAL VILLAGE
2621 WALTER REED DR S #A	2	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$230,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			THE ARLINGTON
56 BEDFORD ST N #56A	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$220,000	Townhouse			BEDFORD PARK
1200 ARLINGTON RIDGE RD S #203	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$217,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE CAVENDISH
4372 PERSHING DR N #43722	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ARLINGTON OAKS
5532 LEE HWY #21-E	2	2	0	ARLINGTON	\$204,500	Garden 1-4 Floors			FOUNTAIN COURT
222 THOMAS ST N #222-3	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$203,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ARLINGTON OAKS
763 HARRISON ST	2	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$200,000	Duplex	0.07		COLUMBIA HEIGHTS
4501 ARLINGTON BLVD #313	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$195,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			THE CHATHAM
900 TAYLOR ST N #2031	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$179,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			JEFFERSON RETIREMENT CONDOS
1210 TAFT ST #409	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$175,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			TAFT TOWERS
820 ARLINGTON MILL DR S #3-103	2	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$162,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARK GLEN
1021 ARLINGTON BLVD #744	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$162,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RIVER PLACE
702 ARLINGTON MILL DR S #16103	2	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$160,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			PARK GLEN
4600 FOUR MILE RUN DR #913	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$120,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			THE CARLTON
1111 ARLINGTON BLVD #648	0	1	1	ARLINGTON	\$115,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			RIVER PLACE
1021 ARLINGTON BLVD #514	0	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$109,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors			RIVER PLACE
5308 8TH RD S #110G	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$71,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
900 TAYLOR ST N #2029	1	1	0	ARLINGTON	\$69,999	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors			JEFFERSON RETIREMENT CONDOS

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## OPEN HOUSES IN ARLINGTON SAT./SUN. FEB. 5 & 6



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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) & click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

### 22201

2130 21st Rd N	\$1,325,000	Sun 1-4	John Eric	Wash Fine Prop	202-274-4668
925 N Danville St	\$1,550,000	Sun 1-4	Ron Cathell	Keller Williams	703-975-2500

### 22204

742 S Granada St	\$499,990	Sun 1-4	Dave Lloyd & Associates	Weichert	703-593-3204
4200 Arlington Blvd	\$939,000	Sun 1-4	Sharon Sheldon	Long & Foster	703-231-8000

### 22206

4522 34th St S	\$399,900	Sat 2-4	Saundra Giannini	Wash Fine Prop	703-242-4240
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### 22207

2701 Lorcom Ln	\$675,000	Sun 1-3	Bob Kenney	RE/MAX Allegiance	703-217-7023
2022 Dinwiddie St	\$725,000	Sun 1-4	Priti Malhotra	Weichert	703-821-8300
4001-4009 N Richmond St	From \$1,999,000	Sun 1-4	Sharon Chamberlin	McEneaney	703-533-0537

For an Open House Listing Form,  
call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

East Falls

Ballston-MU

Virginia Sq-GMU

Clarendon

Court House

Rosslyn



### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

**“Out in the Silence” (2009).** 8 p.m. Admission is \$6. A film by Dean Hamer and Joe Wilson that captures the remarkable chain of events that unfold when the announcement of filmmaker Joe Wilson’s wedding to another man ignites a firestorm of controversy in his small Pennsylvania hometown. At the Dome @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100 or visit [www.arlingtonmedia.org](http://www.arlingtonmedia.org).

### DANCE WEDNESDAYS

**Dance Wednesdays.** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. dance classes; 8:30 to 11 p.m. dancing. Tickets are \$15/\$12 at door. On Wednesdays, dance the night away at Artisphere, to zydeco, cajun, rock, R&B and swing. The new center features a 3,000 square foot dance floor, one of the best in the area. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

- ❖ Wednesday, Feb. 2 — Boilermaker Jazz Band.
- ❖ Wednesday, Feb. 9 — Dancing by the Bayou: Rosie Ledet & The Zydeco Playboys
- ❖ Wednesday, Feb. 16 — Caz and the Commotions — Swing, hand dance, shag and boogaloo.

### SALSA TUESDAYS

**Salsa Tuesdays.** 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. dance class; 8:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. dancing. At the Ballroom @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington. Call 703-228-1850. The following events are \$15/\$12 students, all tickets at the door only.

- ❖ Tuesday, Feb. 8 — Sin Miedo — Music and dancing.
- ❖ Tuesday, Feb. 15 — DJ Saborinquen — Music and dancing.

### THURSDAY/FEB. 3

**Gargoyle Literary Magazine’s 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reading.** 7 p.m. Free. A free reading with authors Toby Barlow, Barbara DeCesare, Nani Power, Venus Thrash, and more. At the Dome Theatre at Artisphere.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 5

**Huun Huur Tubbc.** Tickets are \$28. Performs xöomei, or throat singing, a style of ancient folk music rarely heard outside of Tuva, the former Soviet autonomous republic. At the Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere. Visit [www.artisphere.com](http://www.artisphere.com), or call 703-875-1100.

**“Summer Wars” Film.** 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Admission is \$6. In this animated film, Kenji Koiso, a timid 11th-grade math genius, has been falsely implicated in the hacking of a virtual world. With the aid of friends, Kenji must prevent the real and computer-simulated worlds from colliding. Won the 2010 Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 9

**Zydeco Dance Party.** 8:30 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$15. With the band, Rosie Ledet and the Zydeco Playboys. Beginner Zydeco dance lesson taught by Michael Hart and Sharon Schiliro at 7:30 p.m.; dancing from 8:30 to 11 p.m. At the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.



### FRIDAY/FEB. 11

**Artist Talk: Anna U. Davis.** 6 p.m. Free. Artist Anna U. Davis discusses the expansion of her drawing series “The Dance before the Kill.” At the WIP Gallery at Artisphere.

### NOW THROUGH FEB. 13

**“Las Historias Mas Sexy Del Mondo!” (Nos. 1&2).** A Film by Eric

### SATURDAY NIGHTS AT 11:01

**11:01 Saturday Nights.** Starts at 11:01 p.m. Late-night dance party. Tickets are \$15/\$12 students. At the Ballroom at Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-228-1850.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 2

**“Chocolate City.”** 8 p.m. Admission is \$6. A film by Ellie Walton and Sam Wild that follows the story of 400 low income families, formerly of the Arthur Capper/Carrollsburg housing projects in Southeast District of Columbia, who lost their homes in 2001 to make room for new development. At the Dome @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100 or visit <http://www.arlingtonmedia.org>

**CheEVERS.** Free. The 30-minute film is on a loop and runs continuously while the Terrace Gallery is open. At Bijou Film Theatre @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100.



### NOW THROUGH FEB. 13

**Anna U. Davis: A Work in Progress.** Free. Party Crashers artist Anna U. Davis will create a large painting from start to finish in the WIP Gallery. Experience the artistic process first hand while observing the artist while she is at work. At the WIP Gallery @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100.

### NOW THROUGH MARCH 12

**Sweet-Meat Cherry-Whip Flip: Victoria F. Gaitán.** Gaitán’s photographic series uses human subjects to create “flesh and blood” still-lives. The photographs explore the commercialization of women’s bodies and women’s sexuality.

### FIRST TUESDAY

**Wroteo with Holly Bass.** First Tuesday, Feb. 1 from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Open Mic Poetry Slam. Performance artist and host Holly Bass’s Wroteo Show is an open mic where slam, sonnets, hip hop and haikus hold hands and sing kum-ba-yah! At the Dome @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 13

**DC Record Fair.** 11 a.m. early admission \$5; noon to 5 p.m. \$2. Some 30 vendors, vintage and rare LPs, 45s and ephemera. At the Ballroom at Artisphere.

### TUESDAY/FEB. 15

**Writeo Poetry Workshop.** 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$25/\$15. Hot for teacher: Poems About Teaching and Learning. Writeo is the companion workshop to Wroteo Show, a themed monthly open mic. In addition to writing exercises, participants can practice performing their work and receive priority for the Writeo open mic sign up.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 16

**“Yoo-Hoo Mrs. Goldberg” (2009).** 8 p.m. Admission is \$6. A film by Aviva Kempner. A humorous story of television pioneer Gertrude Berg. She was the creator, principal writer and star of The Goldbergs, a popular radio show for 17 years, which became television’s very first character-driven domestic sitcom in 1949. Berg received the first Best Actress Emmy in history, and paved the way for women in the entertainment industry. At the Dome @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100 or [www.arlingtonmedia.org](http://www.arlingtonmedia.org).

### FEB. 17 TO MARCH 20

**“Juno and the Paycock,” by Sean O’Casey.** Presented by the Washington Shakespeare Company. Tickets are \$25 to \$35. Juno chronicles Captain Boyle, his long-suffering wife Juno, his drinking companion, Joxer Daly, a daughter desperate to escape their world any way she can, and a son caught up in the internecine struggle that followed the Irish Civil War. At Black Box @ Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Call 703-418-4808 or visit <http://www.washingtonshakespeare.org>.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 19

**Children’s Theater Festival.** 11 a.m. Tickets are \$10. Six hours of bi-lingual theater and other activities to delight the entire family. At the Spectrum Theatre at Artisphere.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 19

**Winter Nature Celebration.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nature crafts, activity booths, live animal visits, coupons from Kettler Iceplex, and a kid-friendly Ballston Walkabout with WALKArlington. Refreshments including hot beverages courtesy of Chik-fil-A. At Ballston Mall Food Court, 4238 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Snow date Feb. 26. To RSVP, email [office@arlingtonenvironment.org](mailto:office@arlingtonenvironment.org) or call 703-228-6427.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

**Steve Riley and The Mamou Playboys.** 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15. At the Artisphere, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

## THEATER

# Ethel Waters' Career in MetroStage's Spotlight

"His Eye is on the Sparrow" more bio-play than bio-cabaret.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE CONNECTION

With "His Eye is on the Sparrow," MetroStage adds Ethel Waters to the string of noteworthy African American vocalists of the 20th century who have been the subject of the bio-cabarets that have given audiences a chance to sample the performance style of the likes of Nat Cole, Duke Ellington, Pearl Bailey and Alberta Hunter while receiving something of a dramatized briefing on their lives and careers.

Often these programs have been light on the biography in order to provide playing time for the impersonation/performance. Those performances have been stellar while the bio material was briskly covered in interesting and digestible bite-size asides. This time, however, the evening adds up to more of a play and less a cabaret, and that sense of heft is welcome.

As Waters, Bernardine Mitchell returns to MetroStage where she starred in the bio-cabaret of gospel singer Mahalia Jackson in 2005 and again last year, as well as appearing in "Three Sistahs" in 2004 and again in 2007. She "got the joint jumpin'" with "Mahalia" to a greater extent than she does here, but that is because the material in this show is a bit more subdued and dramatic.

The life that Ethel Waters lived lends itself to this more dramatic tone. She was born in Pennsylvania as the result of the rape of her mother and she had a hugely difficult childhood. Indeed, she says in her autobiography (also titled "His Eye is on the Sparrow") that "I was never a child. I never was coddled, or liked, or understood by my family. I never felt I belonged."

She earned stardom, but as the play makes clear, it was not all a bed of roses. She was married by age 13 and divorced by 14. Touring the south as a black entertainer in the early part of the 20th century she'd sometimes have to lodge at houses of prostitution because no legitimate hostelry would admit her. She once arrived at the back door of a theater to give her show only to find a black boy had been lynched in front for having had the audacity to speak to a white lady. At another time, she was injured in an automobile accident and the white people in the area refused to rescue her from the wreckage, saying it served her right for being in a white man's car. Later she was forced to undergo multiple painful surgeries without the aid of anesthesia because such drugs were not made available for women of her race in that area of the deep south.

It is a history like that which gave her the depth of emotion on which to draw for songs such as "Little Black Boy," which Mitchell on opening night performed a capella with great impact, and "Stormy Weather," which was one of her biggest hits as a result of the pain she was able to communicate in its story of a hard life. Mitchell's full-length rendition of that singular torch song was full of mannerisms that bring Waters' performance to mind.

Waters broke many barriers over the course of her career but none quite so remarkable as when she became the first black woman to star with whites in



Bernardine Mitchell stars as Ethel Waters in "His Eye is on the Sparrow."

a Broadway revue, Irving Berlin's "As Thousands Cheer." Those who think of Berlin as the writer of such up-beat material as "White Christmas," "Easter Parade," "Over There" and "There's No Business Like Show Business" may find the song he wrote for her for that show a revelation. "Supertime" tells of the pain of a mother having to prepare dinner for her children despite the knowledge that their father won't be coming home as he's just been lynched. Mitchell imbues the song with an incredulous air that adds to its poignancy.

William Knowles provides single-piano and keyboard accompaniment from center stage on a set adapted from the design of R. Paul Thomason. It provides three main playing areas that the actress wanders among. Jessica Winfield provides overly obvious peripatetic lighting for these wanderings with the effect that the actress is often ill-lit or completely out of the pool of light while the projections and visuals displayed on the back wall are in shadow or overwhelmed by the silhouette effect of overly intense backlight.

The view we get of Waters looking back at the end of her career is dramatically more interesting than the other bio-cabarets, but the script does raise some questions. It isn't clear precisely why it shows Waters singing "Sweet Georgia Brown" at the age of 14 when the song wasn't written until she was in her late 20s. But more importantly, Waters had a reputation as a strong-willed and demanding star with a temper. While that temper flares a few times in this production, a kinder, gentler Ethel Waters appears on stage than her reputation might lead you to expect. Perhaps that is because the playwright, Larry Parr, places the piece at the end of her career when she has joined the crusade of the Rev. Billy Graham and she may well have found a new sense of calm or acceptance with the advent of religion in her life. This is a theater review not a history evaluation and it is a pleasure to report that the play is dramatically interesting and holds together well. I'll leave to others the question of how well it squares with the stories of Waters' more combative periods.



Christina Paschyn and Hans Dettmar star in "The Seagull" at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre.

## Brophy Directs Substantial 'Seagull'

The Arlington Players present Chekhov's landmark.

BY BRAD HATHAWAY  
THE CONNECTION

The most important decision a theater makes when choosing to stage Anton Chekhov's revolutionary (for the late 19th century) introspective play, "The Seagull," is selecting a director. After all, when the play premiered in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1896 it was a flop. Two years later, however, with a new director it was a big hit in Moscow. Right now, The Arlington Players are reviving this gentle human drama and the production has all the marks of a director letting the material take its natural course toward a satisfying evening of theater.

TAP selected Blakeman Brophy, who has directed a dozen shows for them in the past, including another drama that requires a careful directoral touch, "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." For this new production, Brophy brings a thoughtful touch that keeps the piece from feeling like a museum piece. Instead, it has an impressive heft entirely fitting for its story of people involved in multiple triangular relationships — some romantic and some familial but none completely satisfying to the characters. Some are, however, completely satisfying to the audience in the hands of the cast that Brophy recruited.

This was Anton Chekhov's first major contribution to the Russian theater, and along with "Uncle Vanya," "Three Sisters" and especially "The Cherry Orchard," it revolutionized that country's theater arts and laid the foundation for big changes in drama world wide. Unlike the overly dramatic, classical tradition of his predecessors, Chekhov brought to the stage the light touch but sharp focus he had developed in his equally revolutionary work as a short story writer.

For "Seagull" he created not one or two starring roles with many supporting characters but, rather, a play for an ensemble with as many as six roles sharing prominence in different scenes.

There's a young playwright who, like Chekhov himself, wrote plays not in the then-popular mode. Played here with a nice blend of emotion and naivete by Mark Jennings, the young playwright is in love with a neighbor girl (attractive Christina Paschyn) who appears in his new play in a performance staged at the lakeside estate of his uncle, the just nicely avuncular Gerald Kamens. The young playwright hopes to impress his mother, a professional

### Where and When

The Arlington Players' production of Anton Chekhov's "The Seagull" continues at the Thomas Jefferson Theatre, 125 South Old Glebe Road through Feb. 12. Performances are Friday - Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 - \$15. Call 703-549-1063 or log on to [www.thearlingtonplayers.org](http://www.thearlingtonplayers.org).

SEE SEAGULL, PAGE 15

# ENTERTAINMENT

## SATURDAY NIGHTS

**Skate Night.** Every Saturday night from now to March 26, 2011. Family skating from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Teen-only skating from 9 to 11 p.m. Live deejay. Admission is \$2/person; skate rental is \$3/person. At Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 2<sup>nd</sup> Street South, Arlington. Call Mary McMullen at 703-228-4711 or visit [www.arlingtonva.us/teens/](http://www.arlingtonva.us/teens/)

## FRIDAY MORNINGS.

**Line Dancing Class.** 10 to 11 a.m. Line dancing with Barbara Allen. Covers the basic steps, then combines them to music for a gentle, social, aerobic workout. More experienced line dancers are welcome as they can assist the newer dancers. At Aurora Hills Senior Center. Call 703-228-5722.

## NOW THROUGH MARCH 6

**Passport to the World: A Festival of Music, Dance, Art and Story.** Music and Dance troupes will perform on Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (2/5, 2/12, 2/19, 2/26 and 3/5). These performances will be preceded by free dance workshops and demonstrations at 4 p.m. on select Saturdays. (2/5, 2/12, 2/26) Sunday afternoons will feature family-friendly puppet and story theater presentations (2/6, 2/27 at 2 p.m. and 2/13 at 4 p.m. Tickets for performances are \$15 for adults and \$12 for students and seniors, and \$5 for puppet and story theater events. ArtSpace Falls Church is located at 410 South Maple Avenue in the Pearson Square Building. Free Parking is available in the 400 and 410 South Maple Buildings. For tickets, visit [www.creativecauldron.org](http://www.creativecauldron.org).

## NOW THROUGH FEB. 12

**"Light Up the Sky."** Free performances. Presented by Mount Olivet Players; directed and produced in conjunction with Keegan Theatre. Fridays: Jan. 28, Feb. 4, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. Saturdays: Jan. 29\*, Feb. 5\*, Feb. 12\* at 7:30 p.m. Sundays: Jan. 30, Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. \* Dinner Theater with Saturday shows, 6 p.m. (adults: \$12, children: \$6). At



Mount Olivet UMC, 1500 N. Glebe Road, Arlington. For tickets, call 703-527-3934 or [www.mountolivetumc.smartevents.com](http://www.mountolivetumc.smartevents.com).

## NOW THROUGH FEB. 28

**Treasures from the Heart.** A show and sale that will feature art by Arlington artists, specially themed for Valentine's Day. Presented by the Arlington Artists Alliance. Opening reception is Saturday, Feb. 5 from 5 to 8 p.m. At the Arlington Arts Gallery, 5179 Lee Highway, Arlington.

## FEB. 2-5

**Crystal Couture.** 6 to 10 p.m. nightly. Free. With a theme of "Exotic and Elegant to Everything Everyday," five nights of fashion, fun and festivities. Twenty fashion boutiques and designers each night, runway shows, local DJs, open bar, free snacks, free makeovers from makeup artists and hair stylists - and more!  
Feb. 2 - Host, Bianca Chardei, America's Next Top Model Contestant;  
Feb. 3 - Host, Karen Sommer Shallett, DC Modern

## FEB. 11 AND 12

**Comedian Andy Kindler.** Friday at 9:55 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20. Andy was a series judge on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" this summer and voices Mort the mortician on the Fox animated series "Bob's Burgers," after "The Simpsons." At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>.

Luxury;  
Feb. 4 - Host DJ Sarah Fraser from HOT 99.5 - Go Red for Women;  
Feb. 5 - Closing bash hosted by BisNow - The Scene; At 1750 Crystal Drive, Crystal City, Arlington. Visit [www.crystalcity.org](http://www.crystalcity.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 3

**U.S. Army Concert Band.** 7:30 p.m. Music from the Heart: Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet, John Philip Sousa's Fairest of the Fair, and more. At Brucker Hall. Ft. Myer, Arlington. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

## FEB. 4-5

**"Les Miserables."** 7 p.m. Free. At Rivendell School, 5700 Lee Hwy., Arlington. Donations are welcome.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 5

**Sister Rock.** 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. Featuring Friday Harbor, The Bluff, Sound Limit, and more bands. A Benefit concert for the Arlington-Aachen Sister City Scholarships and Programs. At Lyon

Village Community House, 1920 N. Highland St., Arlington.

**Found Footage Festival.** Admission is \$12. Old Videos and Comedy. Hosts Joe Pickett (The Onion) and Nick Prueher ("Late Show with David Letterman") return to the Drafthouse with their most densely-packed lineup of videos to date, complete with bad celebrity career moves, drunk guys mooning Hare Krishnas, and, at long last, cats riding motorcycles. At Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>

**Halftime Step Show.** 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$10. The area's best step dance teams will compete for cash prizes and the right to be called the best Halftime Step Dance Team in the Washington, DC area. The team registration fee is \$65 now through January 21. Late registration between January 22-28 is \$90. All registrations fees are non-refundable. For team registration and tickets please call 703-228-4747 or register online at [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) - use Activity Code: 970005B for team registration. For Tickets: 970005A for tickets. At Washington Lee Auditorium.

**Broadway Desserts.** 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$35. Broadway musical selections and desserts presented by the Bishop O'Connell High School Music Department. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit [www.bishopoconnell.org/desserts](http://www.bishopoconnell.org/desserts) or call 703-237-1462.

**Country Western Dance.** 7:30 p.m. line dancing; 8:30-11 p.m. dancing. Scotty and Lynne Inman will teach an advanced beginner West Coast Swing lesson at 8 p.m. Includes Two Step, Waltz, line, Swing, Cha Cha, and specialty dances. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallow Road, Falls Church. Visit [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or call the hot line 703-860-4941.

**The Ancient Avant-Garde.** Huun Huur Tu Rethinks Tuva's Age-Old Music on Ancestors Call. At Rosslyn Spectrum Theater, 1611 North Kent St., Arlington. Call 703-875-1100.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 8

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

## Visit These Houses of Worship

Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

<b>Assemblies of God</b> Arlington Assembly of God...703-524-1667 Calvary Gospel Church...703-525-6636	<b>Church of Christ</b> Arlington Church of Christ...703-528-0535	<b>Resurrection Lutheran Church</b> 703-532-5991	of Arlington 703-892-2565
<b>Baptist</b> Bon Air Baptist Church...703-525-8079 McLean Baptist Church...703-536-8080 Memorial Baptist Church...703-538-7000	<b>Church of God-Anderson, Indiana</b> Church of God...703-671-6726	<b>Churches Lutheran(Missouri, Synod)</b> Our Savior Lutheran Church...703-892-4846	<b>Churches-United Methodist</b> Trinity United Methodist Church of McLean...703-356-3312 Charles Wesley United Methodist...703-356-6336
<b>Buddhism</b> The Vajrayogini Buddhist Center 202-331-2122	<b>Churches-Episcopal</b> St Andrew Episcopal Church...703-522-1600 St George Episcopal Church...703-525-8286 St Johns Episcopal Church...703-671-6834 St Mary Episcopal Church...703-527-6800	<b>Churches-Nazarene</b> Arlington First Church of the Nazarene...703-525-2516	Calvary United Methodist...703-892-5185 Cherrydale United Methodist...703-527-2621 Chesterbrook United Methodist...703-356-7100
<b>Churches-Catholic</b> St. Agnes Catholic Church...703-525-1166 Cathedral of St Thomas More...703-525-1300 Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek Catholic Church...703-734-9566 Our Lady of Lourdes...703-684-9261 Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic...703-979-5580	<b>St Michael S Episcopal Church</b> 703-241-2474	<b>Church-Brethren</b> Church of The Brethren...703-524-4100	Clarendon United Methodist...703-527-8574 Community United Methodist...703-527-1085 Mt. Olivet United Methodist...703-527-3934 Walker Chapel United Methodist...703-538-5200
<b>St Ann Catholic Church...703-528-6276</b> St. Charles Catholic Church...703-527-5500	<b>Churches Lutheran(ELCA)</b> Advent Lutheran Church...703-521-7010 Faith Lutheran Church...703-525-9283 German Lutheran Church...703-276-8952 Lutheran Church of The Redeemer...703-356-3346	<b>Churches-Baptist</b> Arlington Baptist Church...703-979-7344 Cherrydale Baptist Church...703-525-8210 First Baptist of Ballston...703-525-7824 Mt. Zion Baptist Church...703-979-7411	<b>Churches- United Church of Christ</b> Bethel United Church of Christ...703-528-0937 Rock Spring Congregational United Church of Christ...703-538-4886
<b>Vatican II Catholic Community</b> NOVA Catholic Community...703-852-7907		<b>Churches-Baptist-Free Will</b> Bloss Memorial Free Will Baptist Church...703-527-7040	<b>Non-Denominational</b> New Life Christian Church - McLean Campus...571-294-8306

### Saint Ann Catholic Church

#### SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM  
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 AM  
1:30 PM Spanish Liturgy  
5312 North 10th Street  
Arlington Virginia 22205  
Parish Office: (703) 528-6276

#### DAILY EUCHARIST:

Weekdays  
Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM & 8:30 AM  
Saturday, 8:30 AM

All Are Welcome!



**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
[www.rc.net/arlington/stann](http://www.rc.net/arlington/stann)

#### Churches-Presbyterian

Arlington Presbyterian Church...703-920-5660  
Church of Covenant...703-524-4115  
Clarendon Presbyterian Church...703-527-9513  
Little Falls Presbyterian Church...703-538-5230  
Trinity Presbyterian Church...703-536-5600  
Westminster Presbyterian...703-549-4766

#### Churches-Unitarian Universalist

Unitarian Universalist Church

#### Metaphysical

Arlington Metaphysical Chapel...703-276-8738

#### Presbyterian Church in America Churches

Christ Church of Arlington  
703-527-0420

#### Synagogues - Conservative

Congregation Etz Hayim...703-979-4466

#### Synagogues - Orthodox

Fort Myer Minyan...703-863-4520  
Chabad Lavavitch of Alexandria-Arlington...703-370-2774

#### Synagogue - Reconstructionist

Kol Ami, the North Virginia Reconstructionist Community...571-271-8387

## HOW TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE CONNECTION

### Calendar Listings

The Connection Newspapers contain a Calendar of Upcoming Events every week. While we cannot guarantee that every event we receive information about will be listed, here is the information we need for your upcoming event to be considered for the Calendar. We welcome photographs of similar events held previously, which sometimes appear with Calendar items.

**Name of Event:**

**Day of the Week, Date and Time:**

**Name of the Place Event will Be Held:**

**Address of the Place Event Will Be Held:**

**Name and Phone Number for More Information:**

**Three Sentences Describing the Event:**

Please submit your calendar information at least two weeks before your event. Clear photographs from similar previous events are always welcome. All events should be open to the public. We give first priority to free events. E-mail listings to:

[arlington@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:arlington@connectionnewspapers.com)

or mail to:

Calendar, Connection Newspapers  
1606 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314.

For more information, call 703-778-9410.

**THE CONNECTION**  
to your community

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

With the Smokin' Polecats with Marianna Previti. At the Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd., Arlington.

**American Composers Love the Violin.** 7:30 p.m. Program includes music by Philip Glass, Donald Erb, and a performance of Steve Reich's Different Trains for Amplified String Quartet. At Brucker Hall, Ft. Myer. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 10

**U.S. Army Ceremonial Band.** 7:30 p.m. Music by legendary composers such as John Philip Sousa, Igor Stravinsky, and Franz Von Suppe; as well as a new suite featuring music from some of today's most popular video games. At Brucker Hall, Fort Myer. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

## FEB. 11 AND 12

**Red Wanting Blue.** 9 p.m. Cost is \$12. At IOTA Club and Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Visit [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com).

**Comedian Andy Kindler.** Friday at 9:55 p.m. and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$20. Andy was a series judge on NBC's "Last Comic Standing" this summer and voices Mort the mortician on the Fox animated series "Bob's Burgers," after "The Simpsons." At the Arlington Cinema & Drafthouse, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington. Visit <http://ArlingtonDrafthouse.com>.

## FEB. 11 THROUGH FEB. 14

**Singing Valentines.** A Women's Quartet from the Potomac Harmony Chorus offers singing valentines. You may choose two of the following love songs: "Blueberry Hill," "Cuddle Up A Little Closer," "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do," "It Had To Be You," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," and "True Love." Valentines can also be sung via phone. For more information and to order Singing Valentines, email [singingvalentines@potomacharmony.org](mailto:singingvalentines@potomacharmony.org) or call 703-764-3896 or visit [www.PotomacHarmony.org](http://www.PotomacHarmony.org). Order by Feb. 8.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 12

**Spaghetti Dinner.** 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5; maximum cost per family is \$15; free for children under 5. A freewill offering will be taken for Arlington's homeless citizens through Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN). At St. John's, 415 South Lexington St., Arlington. Go to <http://stjohnsarlington.thediocese.net/> for directions.

**Chinese New Year Festival.** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dragon and Lion dances, Asian foods, workshops on Chinese cooking and language, craft and business booths, and a Lunar New Year Parade. At Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Contact Tiny at 703-868-1509, [tiny.tang@verizon.net](mailto:tiny.tang@verizon.net) or visit the web site : [www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org](http://www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org)

**Valentine Making Workshop.** 1 to 3 p.m. Free. An AAC artist will guide you in making a handmade Valentine for a family member, friend, or sweetheart. At the Barnes & Noble at Clarendon Market Commons, Arlington.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 13

**DC Record Fair.** 11 a.m. early admission \$5; noon to 5 p.m. \$2.

Some 30 vendors, vintage and rare LPs, 45s and ephemera. At the Ballroom at Artisphere.

**U.S. Army Blues in Concert.** 3 p.m. Free. A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald featuring guest vocalist Delores King Williams. At Washington-Lee High School Auditorium, Arlington. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

**Isn't It Romantic?** 4 p.m. Free. IBIS Chamber Music Society featuring music for piano trio and flute by Kreisler, Chopin, Gaubert and Brahms. At Rock Springs Congregational Church, 5010 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Visit <http://www.ibischambermusic.org>

## MONDAY/FEB. 14

**Wine, Comedy and "The Princess Bride."** 7 p.m. Cost is \$8. Starts at 6:30 p.m. with a Wine Tasting; Stand-Up Comedy starts at 7 p.m.; Movie starts at 7:45 p.m. At the Arlington Cinema & Draft House, 2903 Columbia Pike, Arlington.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 15

**Swing Dancing.** 9 to 11 p.m. Admission is \$10. With the Jimmy Cole Band. At Clarendon Ballroom, 3185 Wilson Blvd.

**Brucker Hall Chamber Music Series.** 7:30 p.m. Featuring Pershing's Own Chamber Players. At Brucker Hall, Ft. Myer. Visit [www.usarmyband.com](http://www.usarmyband.com).

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 16

**Arlington Free Clinic Night.** 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Support medical care for the uninsured. Drink and food specials, guest bartenders every hour, door prizes. \$10 donation at the door. At Velocity Five, 2300 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington. Visit [www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org](http://www.arlingtonfreeclinic.org).

## THURSDAY/FEB. 17

**Floral Designer Sarah von Pollaro.** 11 a.m. Free. Will speak to the Rock Spring Garden Club on the basics of floral design and flower care to show how you can create your own floral designs at home. At Little Falls Presbyterian Church, 6025 Little Falls Road, Arlington. RSVP to 607-425-4176.

**2011 Economic Update.** 6:30 p.m. Dr. Lawrence Yun, chief economist and senior VP of research for the National Association of Realtors. At Bishop O'Connell High School, 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington. Contact Gerry Vent at [gvent@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:gvent@bishopoconnell.org) or 703-237-1445.

## FEB. 18 TO MARCH 6

**"A Midsummer Night's Dream."** Directed by Elena Velasco with music composed by Barbara Schelstrate. Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 18 to March 6 at 7:30 p.m.; Sundays at 3 p.m.; Adults \$20; Students and seniors \$15. For tickets, call 703-892-0202, ext. 6. At the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. (Route 50 and S. George Mason Dr.), Arlington.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 20

**25th Wammies Award Show.** 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35/general; \$20/WAMA members; \$15/nominees. A pre-Wammies VIP reception will be held at Argia's, Falls Church. To be held at The State Theatre in Falls Church. Visit [www.wamad.com](http://www.wamad.com) or call 703-368-3300.

## Brophy Directs Substantial 'Seagull'

FROM PAGE 13

actress who has earned some fame but not much money in her career. The self-absorbed mother is played by Kelly Cronenberg with the most dramatic performance of the evening, which is appropriate for a character that is supposed to be an actress.

Add a slightly supercilious short-story writer played with panache by Hans Dettmar, the manager of the estate (the strong presence of Bill Fleming) and his wife (sharp-tongued Diana Shield) and their daughter (Rebecca Hausman) and, especially, Tom Flatt who makes more of the role of the family friend and town doctor than many actors might, and you have an ensemble of note. Others add to the mix. Particularly notable is Jimmy Garza scurrying about as the workman on the estate.

The action takes place on the wide and deep stage of the Thomas Jefferson Theatre on four fine sets designed by Amanda Acker. The exterior set for act one benefits from AnnMarie Castrigno's rippling lakeside lighting while the interiors of rooms in the main house are substantial and nicely subdued, almost not like stage settings at all. Unfortunately, most of the furniture, and therefore, much of the action is placed so far away from the lip of the stage that the feeling of intimacy the play requires is hard to achieve.

The Arlington Players had to make one other major

decision, one that probably came after the selection of the director, and therefore, had his full participation. That was the selection of the translation/adaptation to use for the production. There are nearly two dozen English versions available. Indeed, one of the premiere English playwrights of our day, Tom Stoppard, is quoted as saying that "You can't have too many English 'Seagulls.'" Of course, he might feel that way because he wrote one of the "English 'Seagulls.'"

The Arlington Players chose the version by Christopher Hampton, the author of the play "Les Liaisons Dangereuses" and the books for the musicals "Sunset Boulevard," "Dracula" and "Rebecca." He brings a modern sense of streamlining to the story while using a new literal translation from the Russian by Vira Liber. The result is a fine version that avoids the stilted feeling of a century-old play in a translation that requires footnotes for the out-of-date references.

Instead, everything flows nicely toward the final event, one that places Jennings alone on stage with no lines of dialogue but a cryptic instruction in the script that he's to spend "several minutes" tearing up his manuscripts. As Brophy has directed the scene and Jennings plays it, it is quite clear to the audience just what is going on in the character's mind as he reaches the final decision of his life. It is an effective and affecting piece of acting.



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# Yorktown Battling Injuries as Districts Approach

## Paduda, Grove excelling for Patriots.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

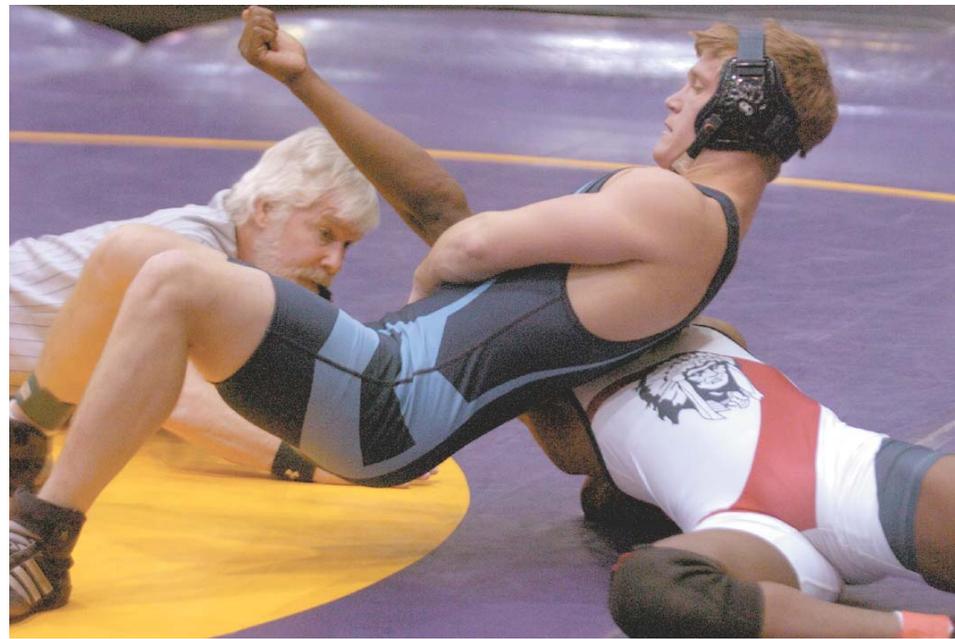
**A**lex Grove understands the predicament the Yorktown wrestling team faces heading into the National District tournament.

The Patriots are beat up. With injuries to several grapplers leaving holes in the lineup, Yorktown has forfeited multiple weight classes during recent competition. In a dual meet at South County Secondary School on Jan. 29, the Patriots forfeited six weight classes en route to an 81-0 loss to the Stallions, winners for the 2009 Patriot District crown.

Grove, a senior who started the season at 171 pounds but plans to wrestle at 160 during districts, has battled the injury bug for most of his prep career. Grove suffered a broken ankle during his freshman campaign and a knee injury affected his sophomore and junior seasons. Now, Grove says he's "completely healthy" and "ready to go," but some of his teammates haven't been able to join him in competition.

"It's definitely a change in perspective," Grove said.

Along with injury problems, the canceling of three practices due to inclement weather led to conditioning and weight is-



**Yorktown senior Alex Grove wrestles against Gar-Field on Jan. 29 at South County.**

sues for the Patriots on Saturday. Yorktown split its two matches, defeating Gar-Field and Thomas Jefferson (forfeit) and losing to South County and South Lakes. With the district tournament scheduled for Feb. 5 at Stuart, Yorktown head coach Kyle Allen said he isn't certain which grapplers will be available to compete — but that hasn't stopped some of the Patriots from continuing to work hard.

**"The guys that are here, the guys that are putting in the time, they're doing extremely well."**

— Yorktown head wrestling coach  
**Kyle Allen**

"The guys that are here, the guys that are putting in the time," Allen said, "they're doing extremely well."

Grove, who won two of his three matches on Saturday, said the Patriots who are healthy are focused on what they can control.

"The mentality of the guys who show up [is:] they come here, they want to wrestle and they're ready to go," Grove said. "We pump each other up and we're able to keep a pretty high morale with the guys that we have."

Junior 135-pounder Nolan Paduda won two of his three matches on Saturday after going 7-0 at the National District Duals on Jan. 21-22 at Hayfield. Paduda said a support-your-teammates mentality implemented by Allen, a first-year head coach, has helped Yorktown.

"At one point in the season we had a full lineup and within a week we lost almost a third of them due to grades or weight problems," Paduda said. "... Even against South County, when we were getting dominated [with] one match left — we hadn't won one — we still cheer on the last guy. It makes it more of a your-teammates-still-have-your-back atmosphere."

Several Patriots have a shot at winning district titles this weekend, highlighted by Paduda, Grove and 125-pounder Danilo Downing.

"Nolan, he went 7-0 at the district duals," Allen said. "I'm not saying I'm expecting him to win the district, but I think that's a realistic goal."

### SPORTS BRIEFS

## Yorktown, W-L Capture Swim Titles

Yorktown won the National District swim and dive championship and Washington-Lee captured the boys title on Monday.

In girls action, Yorktown finished first with 637 points, nearly doubling the 327 points of second-place Washington-Lee. Falls Church finished third with 304.5, followed by Mount Vernon (252), Stuart (164), Edison (147.5), Hayfield (142) and Wakefield (129).

Yorktown set a district record in the 400 free relay with a time of 3 minutes, 42.56 seconds, breaking its own record from last season. This year's team was composed of Ann Carpenter, Molly Merkel, Abigail Young and Lydia Carpenter.

Yorktown's Stephanie Romano won the 200 free with a time of 1 minute, 58.35 seconds. Romano's teammates Ellie Belilos (2:00.13), Merkel (2:00.69) and Carla Vazquez-Ramos (2:02.18) finished second, third and fourth, respectively. Romano, Belilos and Merkel posted regional-qualifying marks.

Yorktown's Young finished second with a regional-qualifying time of 2:14.33. Teammate Rachel Robertson was third (2:24.59).

Yorktown's Angela Slevin (25.65) and Ann Carpenter (25.88) finished first and second, respectively, in the 50 free.

Wakefield's Laurel Bartalon was third (25.92).

Yorktown's Amanda Didawick finished second in the 100 fly with a regional-qualifying mark of 1:00.85. Wakefield's Bartalon also qualified for regionals with a time of 1:01.63, good for third place.

Lydia Carpenter (54.42), Vazquez-Ramos (57.26) and Merkel (57.41) finished first, second and third, respectively in the 100 free, with Carpenter posting a regional-qualifying time.

Romano won the 500 free with a regional-qualifying 5:15.03. W-Ls Lindsay Cronin finished third (5:46.98).

Slevin (1:00.04) and Young (1:00.26) finished first and second, respectively, in the 100 back, with each posting a state-qualifying mark.

Ann Carpenter won the 100 breast with a regional-qualifying 1:09.91, followed by teammates Belilos (1:11.91) and Lydia Carpenter (1:12.23).

Yorktown (Slevin, Belilos, Didawick, Mason Nassetta) won the 200 medley relay with a regional-qualifying 1:54.42. The Patriots (Ann Carpenter, Young, Didawick, Lydia Carpenter) also won the 200 free relay with a state-qualifying time of 1:42.38.

Nassetta finished second in the 1-meter dive competition with a score of 329.15, nearly 50 points behind Falls Church's Maggie Cullather (370.10).

In boys action, Yorktown's Matthew Essig

posted a regional-qualifying 1:48.38 in the 200 free, finishing second.

Yorktown's Max Fish won the 100 fly with a time of 56.22. W-Ls Tyler Cook finished fourth (59.93).

W-Ls David Palmer finished third in the 100 free (52.15), followed by teammate Philip O'Doherty (52.40).

Yorktown's Will Tarkenton finished second in the 500 free (5:11.66), followed by W-Ls Michael Emanuel (5:16.30) and Gregory Lemek (5:41.15).

Essig won the 100 back with a regional-qualifying time of 55.31. Teammate Tarkenton finished second (57.44).

W-Ls Stewart Brown finished second in the 100 breast with a regional-qualifying 1:02.85. Fish's third-place time of 1:03.15 was also a regional-qualifier.

Yorktown (Tarkenton, Fish, Jimmy Linek, Essig) finished second in the 200 medley relay (1:44.23) and W-L (Jay Delancey, Brown, O'Doherty, Palmer) finished third (1:44.30). Each time was a regional qualifier.

W-L (Tyler Cook, Jack Schrider, O'Doherty, Palmer) finished third in the 200 free relay (1:38.63).

Yorktown (Linek, Connor Healy, Fish, Essig) finished second in the 400 free relay with a regional-qualifying 3:26.69. W-L (Brown, Emanuel, Delancey, Lemek) finished third (3:30.94).

Yorktown's Angus Moloney finished third in the 1-meter dive competition with 305.55

points. Mount Vernon's Mitch Ortiz won with 376.95 points.

## Softball League

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Anyone over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, call Donna at 703-938-0387 and check out [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

## Art Show

Sandi Parker's current body of work "inMOTION: celebrating arlington high school athletics" will be on display at Cassatt's Café and Gallery, located at 4536 Lee Highway in Arlington, through Feb. 27. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. on Saturday and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sunday.

Parker's collection of oil paintings presents a celebration of teen athletics, with almost every high school sport represented — even Yorktown/HB Ultimate Frisbee and skateboarding. The show features both girls' and boys' sports from Arlington's Yorktown and Washington-Lee High Schools, and the artist plans to donate a portion of sales to those schools' athletic departments.

Parker is the mother of both a freshman at Yorktown and senior at W-L.

# SPORTS

## Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

**M**ore than 1,000 high school, college and masters athletes from throughout the region descended on T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria Jan. 29 for the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints, one of the world's largest indoor rowing competitions.

Athletes competed in more than 100 events, averaging 2,000 meters (approximately 1.25 miles) as they vied to reach the National Erg Sprint Championships.

Yorktown, Bishop O'Connell and Washington-Lee high schools were well represented in the competition and Arlington resident Bill Kostoff qualified for the Masters division international Crash-B sprints in Boston later this year.

Top Arlington finishers in the Junior divisions are listed below. For complete results, go to [www.ergsprints.com](http://www.ergsprints.com).

Junior Men (age 17-19) 2000M (lightweight/155lb)

1. YORKTOWN: Ben Vihstadt 00:06:56.8
2. BISHOP O'CONNELL: David Robinson 00:06:58.6

7. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Brian Edmonds 00:07:02.3
9. YORKTOWN: Adrian Blust 00:07:11.4

15. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Charles Spencer 00:07:16.3

### Junior Women (age 17-19) 2000M (lightweight/135lb)

13. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Shannon Edmonds 00:08:18.1
20. YORKTOWN: Galit Little 00:08:33.8

### Junior Men (age 18-19) 2000M

2. YORKTOWN: Daniel Thom 00:06:38.8

### Junior Women (age 18-19) 2000M

4. YORKTOWN: Tabitha Andelin 00:07:34.6
5. YORKTOWN: Hannah Yoest 00:07:38.00

### Junior Women (age 17) 2000M

10. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Maddy Bernero 00:07:49.9
17. WASHINGTON-LEE: Kayla Schoomaker 00:07:56.7

### Junior Men (age 17) 2000M

3. YORKTOWN: Fielding Williams 00:06:28.5
12. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Charles Fidler 00:06:47.9

20. WASHINGTON-LEE: Chris Lent 00:06:56.6

### Junior Women (age 16) 1500M

7. YORKTOWN: Madeline Stanke 00:05:55.1

15. YORKTOWN: Claire Stump 00:06:05.5

16. YORKTOWN: Jennifer Frey 00:06:05.5

18. YORKTOWN: Katharine Linek 00:06:08.6



PHOTO BY JEANNE THEISMANN/THE CONNECTION

**Maddy Bernero, a 17-year old senior at Bishop O'Connell High school, is cheered on by teammate Gabby Salcedo as she competes in the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints Jan. 29 at T.C. Williams High school in Alexandria. Bernero placed 10th in the Junior Women's 2,000-meter sprint with a time of 00:07:49.9.**

### Junior Men (age 15-16) 1500M (lightweight/155lb)

2. YORKTOWN: Jaime Ranfone 00:05:05.7

5. YORKTOWN: Andrew Knizner 00:05:12.6

16. YORKTOWN: Theo Van Dyke 00:05:19.6

19. WASHINGTON-LEE: Joseph Crandall 00:05:23.1

### Junior Women (age 15-16) 1500M (lightweight/135lb)

3. YORKTOWN: Eleanor Love 00:05:58.4

15. YORKTOWN: Amanda Gaylord 00:06:15.8

### Junior Men (age 15) 1500M

7. WASHINGTON-LEE: Nathan Heinzman 00:05:03.3

14. YORKTOWN: Sam Gallerano 00:05:18.3

16. YORKTOWN: Jonathan Wabeke 00:05:21

18. YORKTOWN: Henry Love 00:05:23.00

### Junior Men (age 14) 1000M

1. WASHINGTON-LEE: Jacob Weiser 00:03:22.8

2. WASHINGTON-LEE: Matthew Zetkolic 00:03:29.7

6. YORKTOWN: Luke Burneson 00:03:32.3

8. YORKTOWN: Timothy Wamsted 00:03:34.5

13. WASHINGTON-LEE: John Pierce DeGross 00:03:45.1

14. BISHOP O'CONNELL: Jack Sullivan 00:03:46

15. YORKTOWN: John Schneider 00:03:49.7

16. YORKTOWN: Nat Hill 00:03:54.6

17. WASHINGTON-LEE: Daniel Sharp 00:03:55.6

19. YORKTOWN: Jake Silbermann 00:03:57.4

### Junior Women (age 14) 1000M

4. YORKTOWN: Olivia Blust 00:03:49.6

6. YORKTOWN: Jane Townshend 00:03:54.1

12. YORKTOWN: Amanda O'Keefe 00:04:00.8

### Junior Men (age 13) 1000M

1. WASHINGTON-LEE: Grayson Steigler 00:03:17.3

3. WASHINGTON-LEE: Brent Pizzamiglio 00:03:46

4. WASHINGTON-LEE: Andrew Hunt 00:03:48.2

### Junior Women (age 13) 1000M

2. YORKTOWN: Helena Yoest 00:04:06.4

5. YORKTOWN: Lauren Richards 00:04:17.8

7. YORKTOWN: Madeline Donley 00:04:22.3

8. YORKTOWN: Kalina Newman 00:04:24.3

9. WASHINGTON-LEE: Eleanor Lent 00:04:44.4

10. YORKTOWN: Madison Gonzalez 00:04:57.7

11. WASHINGTON-LEE: Rebecca Yohannes 00:05:08.8

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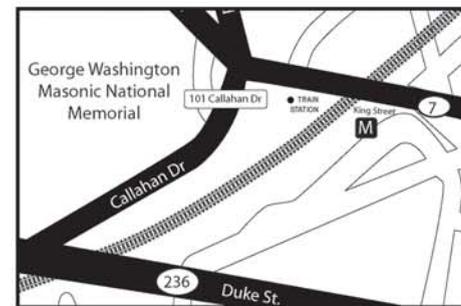
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## Membership Has Its Privileges



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Membership in the cancer club, that is. And the specific privilege to which I refer is sponsorship, to invoke a familiar component of Alcoholic's/Narcotic's/Gambler's Anonymous' multi-step recovery program: someone to talk to, 24/7, who's been there and still doing that; a voice of experience and reason, a compassionate and caring individual who can appreciate – and relate, to the new life your cancer diagnosis has forced you to live. My sponsor is Mary Kimm, Publisher/Chief Operating Officer for Connection Newspapers. Diagnosed with breast cancer a month or so before I was diagnosed with lung cancer; neither of us a smoker or a child born into a family with a history of cancer, Mary has repeatedly offered her time and insight to me – whenever I needed it. In effect, she has become my go-to cancer survivor.

As yet, I have not cell-phoned Mary on her off-time, but I nearly did so a few Sundays ago which led me to realize – in my mind, anyway, that our regular weekly cancer conversations about life in the cancer lane these past two years have created in me a kind of reliance on her judgment, not uncommon I would imagine, among people experiencing similar kinds of traumatic-type diagnoses and life-changing circumstances.

What comfort for me to know there is someone so close and so available to whom I can reach out – and not touch, whose words have been so touching and reassuring to me on so many occasions. Mary has told me that she has enjoyed a similar relationship with some women in a cancer support group she regularly attended; learning about her cancer and treatment as she listened, and subsequently sharing some of what she learned with me. I never would have guessed that someone else's participation in a cancer support group in which I was not a direct participant would have mattered and affected me so much. But I'm grateful every day that Mary is "paying it forward" and so lucky to be the recipient of her kindness.

Who's to say what contributes to my better-than-expected health result? Is it my body's tolerance to the chemotherapy? Is it a reduction in stress brought about by a different work schedule/routine and a corresponding nearly 100 percent elimination of my daily/weekly commute? Are the financial changes in my life/income contributing as well to an improved quality of that life, even though I still have stage IV lung cancer? Are the thoughts and prayers of readers – regularly mailed, e-mailed and phoned, likewise contributing to my atypical good quality of life? Is the love and support from family, friends and co-workers helping me Carpe diem ("seize the day") without worrying too much about the night? Is having a sponsor (Mary Kimm) providing the kind of unspoken – and spoken comfort a phone call away – any-time, more valuable than perhaps even I realize?

The answer is; yes, yes and yes! However, you probably need everything working for you to defeat (deter) cancer but missing anything might have tragic consequences. If I had written a what-I-need-to-do list to survive cancer back in February 2009 when I was first diagnosed, I don't think, given my nature, I would have listed having/need a go-to-type sponsor/support person as a necessity. Two years later, I've certainly learned my lesson.

Cancer is bigger – and badder – than any one person, and thinking that suffering in silence earns you some kind of medal for valor is foolish – and stupid! Thanks to Mary Kimm, I was never allowed to be either; not too often, anyway. It's been my privilege – and great, good fortune, to be so sponsored.

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

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## Domestic Abuse Rises

FROM PAGE 5

leased, economic indicators have served to underscore that point. Arlington's unemployment rate is currently about 4 percent — low by national standards but higher than it's been in many years. That means thousands of people are out of work, setting the scene for an increased threat of domestic violence. Many victims end up sustaining injuries that are more serious as a result of the down economy because they end up staying in bad relationships longer before seeking help.

"The economy is having a huge impact," said Johnson. "People will stay in bad relationships because they need to feed their kids or because they don't think they can get a job to support themselves."

**AND THE TREND** is not limited to adults. A recent poll of the Family Violence Prevention Fund found an alarming number of teen dating violence. Almost half of American teenagers said they have been in a relationship in which they felt controlled, threatened or pressured to do things they did not want to do. Nearly one in three was a victim of sexual or physical abuse, and nearly one in four has been victimized through technology.

"Many teenagers are not equipped to handle serious relationships, nor are they usually prepared to properly respond when a relationship turns abusive," said Fran Inge, director of the virgin Family and Children's Trust Fund, in a written statement announcing the survey results last year. "So when bullying, abusive texting or cruel Internet activity occurs, they usually don't tell their parents, don't know how to make it stop and often participate in it, which makes the situation worse."

### BULLETIN BOARD

**The Arlington County Commission on the Status of Women** is soliciting nominations for the 2011 Women of Vision Awards. Categories for the 2011 award are business, non-profit and government. Nominations are due Feb. 10.

Visit the Commission's web site at: <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Commissions/WomenCommission/WomenCommissionMain.aspx>

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 4

**Responsible Conduct of Animal Research.** Noon to 4 p.m. At the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 North Stuart Street, Suite 200, Arlington. Call 703-525-0770.

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 5

**Open House.** 10 a.m. to noon. Arlington Unitarian Cooperative Preschool (AUCP) will hold an Open House for interested families. The preschool is located at 4444 Arlington Boulevard. Call 703-892-3878 or visit [www.aucpva.org](http://www.aucpva.org).

**Spring Course Preview.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hosted by the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute. At Washington-Lee High School, Cafeteria, 1301 North Stafford St. Call 703-228-2144.

### 12 Commercial Lease

**GREAT FALLS RENTAL**  
Retail shop 750 sq ft, \$40/ft.  
540-303-3059

### 21 Announcements

**ABC LICENSE**  
T. Nguyen Enterprise, LLC trading as Pete's New Haven Style Apizza, 3017 Clarendon Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer on Premise/Mixed Beverage on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Joel Mehr, owner

### 26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for antique furniture and mid-century Danish/modern teak furniture, STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, jewelry and costume jewelry, paintings/art glass/clocks. Schefer Antiques @ 703-241-0790. Email: [theschefer@cox.net](mailto:theschefer@cox.net)

### 116 Childcare Avail.

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\* [www.aupaircare.com](http://www.aupaircare.com)

### 29 Misc. for Sale

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### 102 Instruction

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