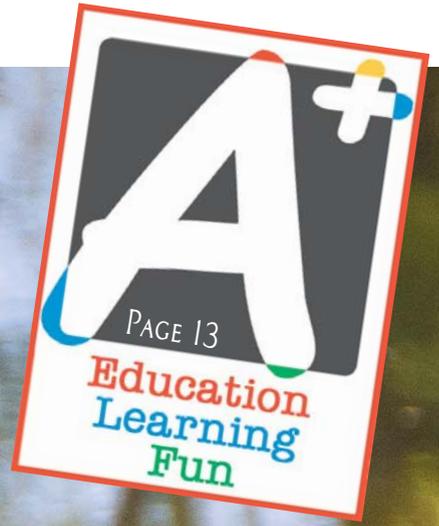


Potomac ALMANAC



Potomac Community Center To Debut 'Marketplace'

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Whitman Grad Helping In Peru

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Vionny Amelia, 12 years old at Roberto Clemete Middle School, picks up trash along the bank of the C&O canal. She was one of a number of volunteers who participated in the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 14.

'Legally Blonde' Takes Stage At Churchill

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Genny Austin as Elle Woods with Brutus in Churchill High's production of "Legally Blonde, The Musical."

'Legally Blonde' Takes Stage at Churchill

"It's really about being true to yourself."

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Femme fatale Elle Woods and her pocket dog Brutus will soon be sashaying into Churchill High School to entertain and delight.

"Legally Blonde, The Musical" — the award winning Broadway musical comedy — will highlight the talents of a cast and crew of more than 100 students, Director Carlos Barillo and Technical Director Scott Selman. The musical tells the story of Elle Woods, a sorority girl who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend Warner. The comedy, filled with energetic music and dancing will be presented at 7:30 p.m. on the evenings of

April 20, 21, 27 and 28.

"I really like the message of the show about the hidden potentials that lie within all of us," said Barillo. "Never judge a book by its cover."

Senior Genny Austin, who plays the lead part of Elle Woods concurs. "There's so much positive energy in the show. Those who come to see it will feel like it's a breath of fresh air. It's really about being true to yourself."

The story begins as blonde bombshell Elle Woods celebrates her engagement to Harvard student Warner Huntington III with her Delta Nu sorority sisters. Soon after, Warner breaks up with Elle because he needs someone more "serious." Elle sets her sights on Harvard Law School where no Delta Nu has ever gone before. Her admission — with all its humorous trials and tribulations — is highlighted in the

SEE LEGALLY, PAGE 12

PCC To Host 'Marketplace'

Inaugural event offers art, gifts and food on April 28.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

"Marketplace" — a shopping mecca for Potomac residents who love jewelry, crafts, art, flea markets, bargains, shopping and great food — will make its debut on Saturday, April 28.

This inaugural event, sponsored by the Friends of the Potomac Community Center, will feature artisans, attic treasures, Peruvian chocolates, organic foods, the "Go Fish" seafood truck and more. Shoppers will have an opportunity to experience the wide range and quality of creative talent within the Potomac community, to purchase lunch to eat on-the-spot or to take home delectable main courses, side dishes or desserts for dinner.

Potomac Community Center Board Member Penny Heltzer is thrilled with the number and variety of vendors who will be showing their wares at the "Marketplace." "We are bringing together artists representing a variety of mediums — acrylic, oil, watercolor, pastels and photography. Our artisans will present jewelry, ceramics, hand-woven baskets, original glass and hand-painted

SEE 'MARKETPLACE,' PAGE 12



Nancy Heindl painting outdoors (plein air) at Kenwood this March when the cherry blossoms were in full bloom.



Soft pastel by Nancy Heindl - "Spring Afternoon at the Tavern Museum" Great Falls, MD 11"x14"



Oil pastel by Nancy Heindl - "Crepe Myrtle at Flinn Park" Kensington, MD 8"x10"

Contest: Name the Mini-Horse

New miniature horse will debut at "Marketplace."

Squeals on Wheels, Potomac's traveling petting zoo, has recently acquired a tiny miniature horse. As yet unnamed, the one-year-old horse weighs less than 50 pounds and stands less than 2-feet-tall. He is the perfect height and temperament for people in wheelchairs to enjoy, says Jill Phillips, Squeals on Wheels owner along with her husband John.

Now Squeals on Wheels and Potomac Almanac invite readers to help name the new mini-horse. The winning name will be chosen by board members from the Potomac Community Center and Potomac Chamber of Commerce.

"He has the most loving personality, he's amazingly sweet," said Jill Phillips. "We've added him to the zoo so those who are in wheelchairs or bed-ridden may reach out and touch him. ... He's a wonderful therapy horse — very, very calm and loves to be touched."

Meet the new miniature horse at the Potomac Community Center Marketplace on Saturday, April 28

SEE NAME THE MINI, PAGE 12



Jill Phillips with her new miniature horse, the latest addition to Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Nadya Rizkia, 16-year-old student at Northwest High School, picks up trash along the path bordering the C&O Canal.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Ashley Otreмба of Arlington, holding onto a tree for support, stretches down to reach a plastic bottle. She was one of many volunteers who participated in the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup on Saturday, April 14.

Helping Clean Up the River



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Vionny Amelia, 12 years old at Roberto Clemete Middle School.



PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Velycia Antoni, 14-year-old student at Northwest High School.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

From left: Jeffrey Hernandez, Diego Hernandez, Ron Howard and Steve Dean.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH POST STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

At the April 14 river cleanup, from left, are Jose Aguilar, Debbie Thomas, Matthew Aguilar and Colleen Sauvage.

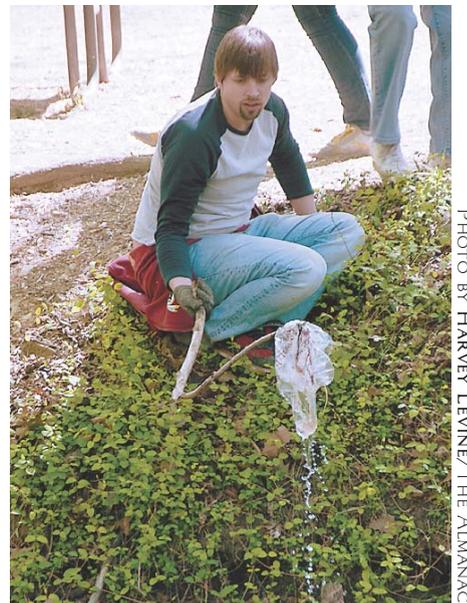


PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

Matthew Razak of Arlington (and former Almanac reporter) uses a long stick to snare trash floating in the canal.

Salma Hasan Ali Bridges Divides with Her Personal Stories

Sharing stories, making connections.

BY SUSAN BELFORD
THE ALMANAC

Potomac's Salma Hasan Ali has learned "the power of sharing personal stories." "Stories humanize," she said. "Our accountings of our past and present are unique to each of us, yet they're universal in the emotions and feelings they stir." Even though her journey seems quite ordinary to her, conveying her own narrative and those of others "communicates who we are and what we value."

Ali relayed her story of immigration from East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), the challenges and blessings of raising children in a country with different cultures and customs, the struggle to maintain Muslim traditions and the joy of blending her new life with her past life at the March 13 meeting of Karamah, the Muslim Women's Lawyers for Human Rights organization started by Dr. Azizah al-Hibri.

Ali shared with her audience that her personal stories are an effort to bridge the divides between Muslims and non-Muslims. She refers to something she once read which



Salma Hasan Ali

had a profound impact on her: "It's hard to hate someone whose story you know."

Ali's narrative of her immigration and life, "Pakistan on the Potomac" was published in the December 2008 issue of Washingtonian magazine. A graduate of Columbia University, Ali initiated a blog during

Ramadan (30days30deeds.com), serves as a contributing editor for The Islamic Monthly, volunteers as chief inspiration officer of MoverMoms and has traveled with and written the stories of many inspirational leaders, including Todd Shea, an American who has committed his life to providing healthcare in remote areas of Kashmir and Shaukat Ali, a math and science teacher at one of the girl's schools that Greg Mortensen built in Pakistan. She is married to Arif Ali and has two children, Saanya, age 15 and Zayd, age 10.

"One's own personal story is very instrumental in connecting people. We are all different, but we have many similar experiences. After my article in Washingtonian, I received e-mails that conveyed that many immigrants have had similar experiences. Stories help us cultivate a relationship. They help us develop trust with one another and build a sense of familiarity." Ali fears if we don't relate our own stories, other people will write our narrative.

She started noting her own stories and those of others with the intention of "helping to broaden the conversation so people could see us beyond generalizations, beyond stereotypes and simply get to know us as families, as neighbors, as friends."

Ali and her family immigrated to the U.S. when she was seven years old. When they

landed at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, her father asked a random taxi driver for advice on which neighborhood in the city would be suitable for his family – and thus, their "fate rested in the hands of a New York City cab driver from China." He took them to a motel in Flushing N.Y., an area with many new immigrants. The family assimilated, yet maintained their Pakistani traditions while learning American customs and the English language. After four years, the family moved to Tenafly, N.J., bought a home and car and lived the American Dream.

Life before 9/11 was different from life after for American Muslims, and Ali is hoping that her stories will dispel misconceptions. "Those of us for whom America has become home recognize that taking part in the mainstream of life culturally, socially, religiously and politically is the best way to overcome negative stereotyping."

"We all have tremendous stories — stories of faith and family, of friendship and joy, pain and compassion and extraordinary beauty. There is so much that we have to be proud of. We just need to open up and share ... because stories humanize."

Ali's goal is to write a book of stories to highlight profiles of commitment by Muslims. She can be reached at salmahasanali@yahoo.com.

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About 40 members of the Brickyard Coalition last week delivered a petition containing more than 750 signatures opposing the county decision to lease 20 acres on Brickyard Road to Montgomery Soccer Inc. for soccer fields. The site is officially a future school site and has been leased to organic farmer Nick Maravell for the last 20 years.

So Much Inaccuracy from County

To the Editor:

I went with a group of concerned citizens to file a petition today [April 13] in opposition to the County Executive's secret agreement with Montgomery Soccer Inc. (MSI) to construct and operate soccer fields on the Brickyard School public property. When we reached Ike Leggett's office, the doors were locked and a guard was stationed at the door. We were told these doors are always locked, which is not true. We've been there before when the doors were not locked.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am amazed at how much information given to the public is inaccurate. Perhaps the assumption is that anything can be said because most people won't know that it's inaccurate.

The public was told that neighbors were made aware of the project without clarifying that this information was only provided after the deal done, without any public input. The Maryland State Board of Education has reprimanded the Montgomery County School Board twice for failure to follow proper procedure in this process. The promised traffic study to determine if local roads, congested at rush hour, could handle the extra traffic was never done; probably because it would have indicated that Falls Road cannot handle more traffic at rush hour. MSI has

stated that the Brickyard project will have amenities for residents. The fact is, MSI's fields will be fenced and locked when not in use. We've been told that there will be a farm element — which is a tiny "turf farm" for an unusable corner of the acreage, in other words, one corner will be grass. Farming it is impossible not only because it's too small, but also because farming it would cause massive drainage problems. The public has been told we are NIMBYs when we have six soccer fields in the immediate vicinity, without counting the fields at our local elementary schools, community center, and other schools in the area.

This development is not in keeping with the master plan, which home buyers consult before buying a home. One of the reasons Montgomery County is a pleasant place to live is that the Master Plan is carefully planned and followed, which keeps growth regulated. The master plan specifies that if the land is not to be used for educational purposes, it is for local use. The farm is an educational farm for farmers who want to learn about organic farming and protecting the watershed. It is also offering an educational program for children. The farm is a national treasure: Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack placed Mr. Maravell on the National Board for Organic Standards. The farm fulfills the educa-



Keith Williams, president of the Civic Association of River Falls (CARF), hands the petition to Cynthia Brenneman in the Department of General Services office. The coalition also pointed out issues and problems with the flawed MSI lease in a substantive comment to Brenneman as requested in the Notice. Williams said, "We are making a final public effort to stop this fatally flawed process. However, if the County Executive proceeds with this lease to MSI, we will have no choice except to commence legal action."

tional and farming initiatives the county supposedly espouses.

Finally, because we have been told the soccer fields are for north Potomac and Chevy Chase, it would make more sense in this age of expensive gasoline, for the fields to be in the neighborhood where they are needed so as few parents

as possible have to drive long distances. Since Chevy Chase doesn't seem to have more land for fields, it makes more sense to have the fields in North Potomac which has both the need for fields and the land.

Elisabeth Waugaman

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Whitman Grad Helping in Peru

The Sacred Valley Project promotes academic and personal growth for Peruvian girls.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON
THE ALMANAC

Just over two years ago, in late 2009, Walt Whitman High School alumnus Bianca Crousillat launched The Sacred Valley Project, a non-profit organization to support the educational needs of young Peruvian girls.

Since its birth, and especially over the past year, the program has grown and Crousillat said she has even bigger dreams for the project, which is based out of Ollantaytambo, Peru, and currently operates a dormitory for eight young women from rural communities of the Sacred Valley in Peru.

She added that without the dormitory, these girls would not be attending high school at all due to a variety of economic, geographical and social reasons.

"The dormitory provides a warm and nurturing environment in which the girls live, eat and study during the week as they attend the local secondary school. In addition, the dormitory provides tutorials, educational seminars and after-school classes for the students so as to promote their academic and personal growth," Crousillat said.

Crousillat said she is very pleased with the success and growth of the program, which now involves professional local teachers to develop curriculum.

"In the last year, one of our greatest achievements was developing an educational program for after-school tutorials and classes," she said. "This program involves employing professional teachers to provide more intensive tutorials in reading, writing and math for the students of the dormitory. It also entails the implementation of evaluation systems and procedures so that we may track the progress of our students."

She said that because of this development, the girls' reading comprehension, writing and math skills have already improved. Their confidence, she said, has also skyrocketed as a result.

"In addition, by providing classes in art and theater, we have seen the girls build confidence as individuals and develop on a more personal and social level," Crousillat said.

BACK IN 2009, Crousillat worked alongside a small board of volunteers and friends to jumpstart the program.

"The idea behind the SVP began in 2009 and the project was officially incorporated in March of 2010," she said. "The idea behind the project came from Alex Ball, president of the Sacred Valley Project, who when working in Socma, a remote, rural community of the Sacred Valley, realized that many students, especially girls, had limited access to education and few expectations for their futures. [He] decided that the best solution would be to build a safe dormitory in town where the girls could live and study while attending high school."

She said she met Ball and joined his efforts while they were both working in a rural village outside Ollantaytambo.

According to Crousillat, the dormitory functions due to the collaborative efforts of a small staff and a small group of volunteers. The project is run by a board of five young professionals and there are also employees in Peru and at the dormitory, including a program director, a dormitory advisory, a cook and local teachers.

Two to six volunteers are usually on site to assist



Bianca Crousillat in a classroom in Peru.

with the day-to-day activities, she added.

"In all, the dormitory is able to run due to the collaborative efforts of a slew of dedicated and inspirational characters," Crousillat said.

Margie Peters-Fawcett, who has been involved with the Sacred Valley Project with her position at the World Bank group, said she has seen many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are intent in helping eradicate poverty in the world, as well as addressing issues such as health, education, biodiversity and environment.

She added that the Sacred Valley Project is particularly impressive to her.

"In terms of gender equality and education, I was impressed with what the Sacred Valley Project is implementing," Peters-Fawcett said. "I saw what they were trying to do on a shoestring in a remote and rural area, with very little staffing resources. I decided to offer to help more than a year ago when they were beginning the program."

Crousillat said such volunteers have been priceless to the Sacred Valley Project.

"As a small and growing organization we have few employees and low overhead costs," she said. "Our volunteers are an integral part of our organization and we understand that without their efforts and contributions a project like ours wouldn't be possible. In the past few years volunteers have collaborated in after-school tutorials, grant-writing, fundraising, website development, administration, research, accounting, photography, marketing and social media development. Every volunteer brings with them new insight and expertise and our project has been able to grow in a positive manner as a result of their tireless efforts."

Peters-Fawcett said she helped in designing grant proposal templates, drafting letters and offered advice regarding funding.

WHILE THE SACRED VALLEY Project's first focus has been on its educational program, Crousillat as a Peruvian-American herself also realizes the importance of keeping the girls' cultural heritage intact.

Crousillat said that since one the program's goals is to maintain and promote the girls' cultural heritage; it encourages the girls' parents to do artisan work for sale. This, Fawcett said, is incremental in helping the families become more self-sufficient.

SEE WALT WHITMAN, PAGE 12

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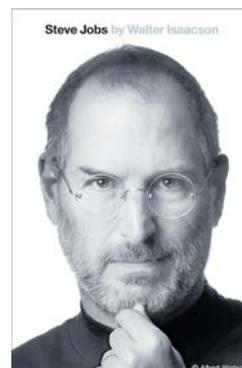
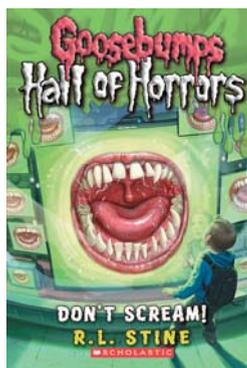


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ENTERTAINMENT



Bethesda Holds Annual Literary Fest April 20-22

Literary guests include Walter Isaacson, Bob Edwards, Marvin and Deborah Kalb, Thomas Friedman and Sally Bedell Smith

Downtown Bethesda celebrates the diversity of modern literature by presenting the 13th annual Bethesda Literary Festival from Friday, April 20 to Sunday, April 22.

Managed and organized by the Bethesda Urban Partnership, Inc. (BUP), the festival will feature an array of local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and children's events. All events are held throughout downtown Bethesda and are free.

The festival features Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author Thomas Friedman, co-author of *That Used to be Us*; bestselling biographers Walter Isaacson, author of *Steve Jobs* and Sally Bedell Smith, author of *Elizabeth the Queen*; former NPR host and current Sirius XM Radio host Bob Edwards, author of *A Voice in the Box: My Life in Radio*; and distinguished journalists Marvin & Deborah Kalb, co-authors of *Haunting Legacy: Vietnam and the American Presidency from Ford to Obama*.

Other participating authors include Pulitzer Prize-winning national security reporter with *The Washington Post*, Joby Warrick, author of *The Triple Agent: The Al-Qaeda Mole who Infiltrated the CIA*; bestselling fiction author most well-known for *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*, Judith Viorst; bestselling author of the *Goosebumps* children's book series, R.L. Stine; and Maryland Poet Laureate, Stanley Plumly.

Bethesda Literary Fest

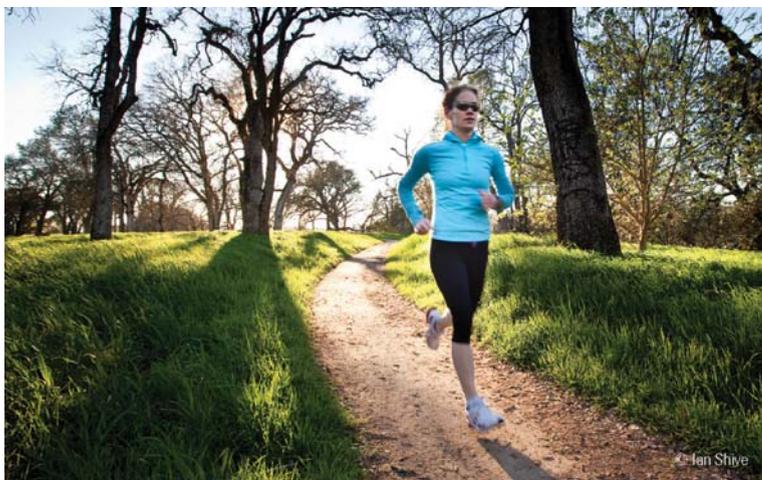
The 13th annual Bethesda Literary Festival will host an array of local and national authors, journalists and poets, as well as writing contests and poetry contests. Featured literary guests include Thomas Friedman, Marvin and Deborah Kalb, Joby Warrick and Walter Isaacson.

In a weekend that includes more than 20 events, the Bethesda Literary Festival will present fascinating literary personalities who will read their work, talk about their craft and take part in discussions with other writers and audience members. All of the events are free and are held throughout downtown Bethesda.

Events begin at 7 p.m. on April 20, 10 a.m. on April 21, and 11 a.m. on April 22.

Other highlights of the Bethesda Literary Festival include the Reading and Awards Ceremonies for the Essay & Short Story Contest, the Youth Writing Contest and the Bethesda Poetry Contest; a meet-and-greet with over 15 of your favorite authors, and author events for children and teens.

There are many different venues throughout Bethesda however most events take place at the Bethesda Library, The Writer's Center, Barnes & Noble, and Doubletree Bethesda. All of the event times and locations can be found at www.bethesda.org/bethesda/schedule.



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AT THE PUPPET CO. PLAYHOUSE IN GLEN ECHO PARK. 7 and 9 p.m. Tickets are \$15. Amateur and professional puppeteers from all over the East Coast will be performing for a mature audience. Content ranges from the raunchy and risqué to the tender and tear-jerking in a fast-moving succession of both rough and polished acts. At the Puppet Co. Playhouse in Glen Echo Park. Call 301-634-5380, www.puppetryslam.com.

Heidi Rugg of Barefoot Puppets in "The Bard."



PHOTO BY BRUCE DOUGLAS

ENTERTAINMENT

SUNDAYS THROUGH APRIL

Children's Handchime Choir.

11:15 a.m. Elementary-age children are invited to participate in a handchime choir at River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Bethesda. Directed by master bell ringer Brent Keith, the group will meet Sundays at 11:15 a.m. at RRUUC in Room 25. (Teens interested in assisting are encouraged to inquire.) Participants will learn to play the chimes, perform as part of an ensemble, and participate in musical group activities. Contact Ann Richards at 301-229-0400, arichards@rruuc.org. The Unitarian Universalist Congregation is located at 6301 River Road, Bethesda. Visit www.rruuc.org.

NOW THROUGH APRIL 29

"Baby." Presented by Rockville Musical Theatre. Performance dates are: April 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 p.m.; and April 22, 29 at 2 p.m. For tickets, call 301-258-6394. Performances are held at the Gaithersburg Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Adult Book Discussion. 1 p.m. With the Potomac Library Adult Book Club. "Room" by Emma Donoghue. Ask for the book at the Circulation Desk. No registration required. New members welcome. At the Potomac Library.

APRIL 18 TO 21

"The Last Days of Judas Iscariot." American playwright Stephen Adly Guirgis creates a court case with lawyers arguing for Judas Iscariot's defense and his ultimate fate. Performed by Montgomery College theater students. Wednesday to Saturday at 8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m. At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, 51 Mannakee St., Rockville. Call 240-567-5301.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

Sharing Feelings About Vision Loss. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Join the Prevention of Blindness Society for a complimentary lunch and conversation about vision loss and its impact on a person's quality of life. At Friendship Heights Village Center, 4433 South Park Ave., Chevy Chase. Call 301-656-2797 to reserve your spot.

Slow Blues and Swing Dance.

9 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Admission is \$8. With DJ Mike Marcotte and Guests. Slow Blues lesson from 8:15 to 9 p.m. At the Back Room at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Call Donna Barker at 301-634-2231 or go to info@CapitalBlues.org or www.CapitalBlues.org.

Potomac Cuddlups. 10:30 a.m. Stories, rhymes and songs for babies from birth to 11 months and their caregivers. No registration required. At the Potomac Library.

APRIL 20, 21, 27, 28

"Legally Blonde The Musical." 7:30 p.m. Featuring 100 student singers, dancers, musicians and technicians at Winston Churchill High School. Ticket information can be found online at www.wchsarts.com or in the lobby box office outside the Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. The box office will be open Monday through Friday from 10:50-11:50 a.m.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

Music of American Composers. 8 p.m. Free. Presented by Catholic University's Chorus. Conducted by N. Thomas Pedersen, co-chair of musical theatre. Sponsored by the Benjamin T. Rome School of Music. At St. Paul's United Methodist Church, 10401 Armory Ave., Kensington. Ca.. 202-319-5414.

Late Night Swing Dance. 1 to 5 a.m. Admission is \$15. With the Brooks Tegler's Joy of Sax band. This event is part of the annual Washington, DC Lindy Exchange (DCLX) weekend and open to all. Go to www.DCLX.org, email info@DCLX.org, or contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or manchioneal@gmail.com. At the Chevy Chase Ballroom,



Arabella Steinbacher

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

BSO Classical Concert. 8 p.m. Tickets are \$38 to \$98. Beethoven's Violin Concerto with Jun Märkl, conductor, and Arabella Steinbacher, violin. At the Music Center at Strathmore. For tickets, call 410-783-8000 or BSOmusic.org.

5207 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the Blue Crescent Syncopators. Beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. This event is part of the annual Washington, DC Lindy Exchange (DCLX) weekend and open to all. Go to www.DCLX.org, email info@DCLX.org, or contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or manchioneal@gmail.com. At the Bumper Car Pavilion at Glen Echo Park, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Baisakhi Holiday. 3 to 5 p.m. Free. Montgomery County will celebrate the 313th commemoration of Baisakhi, the holiday honoring Sikh Heritage. Baisakhi is an ancient harvest festival, which marks the beginning of a new solar year and harvest season. At the Executive Office Building, Lobby Level Auditorium, 101 Monroe Street, Rockville. To RSVP, email Diane Vu at diane.vu@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Holocaust Memorial Event.

Shoah Shabbaton. Scholar in Residence is Rabbi Robert Frolich, Chief Rabbi of the Dohany Synagogue, Budapest Hungary. Following the keynote address, "Hungarian Jewry: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow", there will be a commemorative service honoring survivors, adult children of survivors and grandchildren of survivors. Rabbi Frolich will also be speaking two more times on Shabbat: "Hungarian Jewry Today: Halachic Challenges" and "Hungarian Jewish Dilemmas and Issues: American Jewish Response." Lunch prices are \$18 for adults; 12 and under, \$8; 3 and under free! Shoah Shabbaton Program sponsorships are much needed. Sponsorship Levels: \$150 inc. 1 lunch; \$325 inc. 2 lunches; \$500 inc. immediate family for lunch. You can register at <https://bsctt.org/paymentsdues.php> scroll down to "other", insert Shoah and then input your selected payment level or email Andrea Marmon at amarmon@bethsholom.org. At Congregation Beth Shalom, 11825 Seven Locks Road, Potomac. Call 301-279-7010 or www.bethsholom.org.

Spring Gala Fundraiser. Tickets are \$500 or \$1,000 for the 2012 Spring Gala Wishin' and Hopin' With Dionne Warwick. 5:30 p.m. cocktails; followed by a 7 p.m. dinner and a concert at 9 p.m. with Ms. Warwick and an after-party at 10:20 p.m. with Big Ray and the Kool Kats. The 2012 Spring Gala at Strathmore is the arts center's signature fundraising event. Tickets can be purchased by contacting the Sorelle Group at 202-248-1930 or Strathmore@sorellegroup.com. At the Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call 301-581-5100.

Swing Dancing — DCLX Weekend. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$20. Featuring Tom Cunningham's Orchestra and Crytzer's Blue Rhythm Band. Beginner swing lesson from 8 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. This event is part of the annual Washington DC Lindy Exchange (DCLX) weekend and open to all. At the Spanish Ballroom at Glen Echo Park. Go to www.DCLX.org, email info@DCLX.org, or contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or manchioneal@gmail.com. The Glen Echo National Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo.

Late Night Swing Dance. 1:30 to 5 a.m. Admission is \$15. With the band, The Careless Lovers. This event is part of the annual Washington, DC Lindy Exchange (DCLX) weekend and open to all. Go to www.DCLX.org, email info@DCLX.org, or contact Robert Patch at 301-674-0080 or manchioneal@gmail.com. At the Chevy Chase Ballroom, 5207 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.

APRIL 22

Social Media for the Curious. 10:25 a.m. Consultant Elizabeth Buie will discuss "Social Media for the Curious: Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Google+." She will talk about their differences, and relevant privacy issues. She will also demonstrate each of these. At River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 6301 River Road, Bethesda; visit www.rruuc.org, call 301-229-0400.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25

Mary Alouette. 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12. Gypsy jazz vocalist will perform tracks from her debut album, Midas. At the Mansion at Strathmore, 10701 Rockville Pike, North Bethesda. Visit www.strathmore.org or call (301) 581-5100.

Arbor Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. At the new Police Headquarters of the Rockville City Police Department, 2 West Montgomery Ave., Rockville.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Stories, songs and rhymes for 3-to-6 year olds and their caregivers. No registration required. At the Potomac Library.

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Potomac REAL ESTATE

IN FEBRUARY 2012, 22 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$1,950,000-\$380,000.

**Sales in February,
\$650,000~
\$1million**



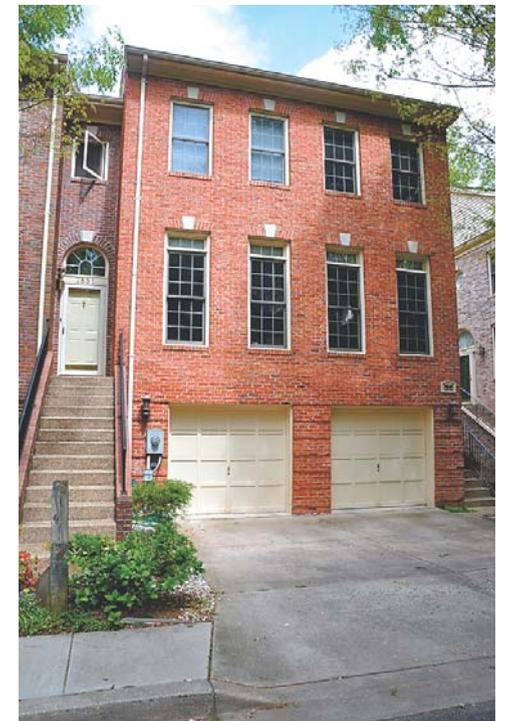
2 10408 Windsor View Drive, Potomac — \$799,000



3 12404 Goldfinch Court, Potomac — \$790,000



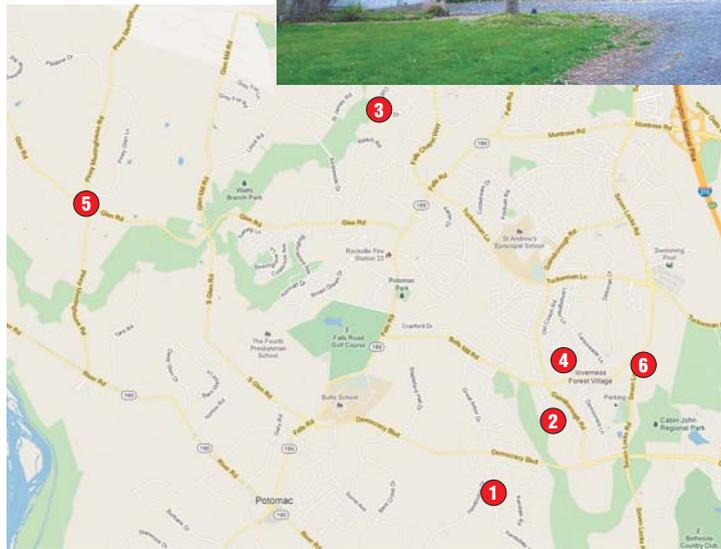
1 9920 Kentsdale Drive, Potomac — \$995,000



4 8445 Bells Ridge Terrace, Potomac — \$725,000

6 7851 Oracle Place, Potomac — \$650,000

5 11250 Glen Road, Potomac — \$650,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9920 KENTSDALE DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$995,000	Detached	0.46	20854	FALCONHURST	02/02/12
2 10408 WINDSOR VIEW DR	5	2	3	POTOMAC	\$799,000	Detached	0.37	20854	WINDSOR HILLS	02/01/12
3 12404 GOLDFINCH CT	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$790,000	Detached	0.29	20854	COPENHAVER	02/15/12
4 8445 BELLS RIDGE TER	3	3	1	POTOMAC	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.06	20854	POTOMAC REGENCY	02/27/12
5 11250 GLEN RD	3	1	1	POTOMAC	\$650,000	Detached	2.01	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE	02/23/12
6 7851 ORACLE PL	3	2	2	ROCKVILLE	\$650,000	Townhouse	0.05	20854	BELLS MILL SPRINGS	02/14/12

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

HOME SALES

In March 2012, 38 Potomac homes sold between \$2,710,000-\$253,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,710,000-\$775,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
9809 BENTCROSS DR	6	6	2	POTOMAC	\$2,710,000	Detached	2.01	20854	FALCONHURST
10725 ARDNAVE PL	4	5	1	POTOMAC	\$1,630,000	Detached	2.03	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
9408 WING FOOT CT	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,588,000	Detached	0.37	20854	AVENEL
10513 RIVERS BEND LN	6	5	2	POTOMAC	\$1,550,000	Detached	1.87	20854	MARWOOD
10641 MACARTHUR BLVD	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,340,000	Detached	0.55	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
7505 HACKAMORE DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.39	20854	RIVER FALLS
9916 WOODFORD RD	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.47	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
12500 PARK POTOMAC AVE #508N	2	2	1	POTOMAC	\$1,045,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20854	PARK POTOMAC
7809 LAUREL LEAF DR	3	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,038,000	Detached	0.57	20854	FAWSETT FARMS MANOR
9905 AUTUMNWOOD WAY	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$1,000,000	Detached	0.44	20854	GLEN OAKS
9 SPRINKLEWOOD CT	6	4	1	POTOMAC	\$967,000	Detached	0.31	20854	PINE KNOLLS
12033 TRAILRIDGE DR	4	4	1	POTOMAC	\$900,000	Detached	0.38	20854	FALLSREACH
12500 PARK POTOMAC AVE #306N	2	2	1	POTOMAC	\$900,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20854	PARK POTOMAC
8310 FOX RUN	5	3	1	POTOMAC	\$830,000	Detached	0.33	20854	FOX HILLS
8811 FALLS RD	4	2	0	POTOMAC	\$825,000	Detached	1.67	20854	POTOMAC OUTSIDE
11901 GAINSBOROUGH RD	6	3	1	POTOMAC	\$815,000	Detached	0.31	20854	WILLERBURN ACRES
2616 OAKENSHIELD DR	6	4	0	POTOMAC	\$810,000	Detached	0.26	20854	POTOMAC WOODS EAST
10422 WINDSOR VIEW DR	4	3	1	POTOMAC	\$800,000	Detached	0.46	20854	WINDSOR HILLS
8 HARROWGATE CT	5	4	1	POTOMAC	\$775,000	Detached	0.28	20854	POTOMAC WOODS

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LET'S TALK Real Estate



by **Michael Matese**

Go Green

Even luxury homes are going green, trying to help the environment. Some tips that home owners are finding handy are:

- Use CFL's - Replace those incandescent light bulbs with qualified compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL). By replacing just five of your mostly frequently used light bulbs, you'll save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by one trillion pounds!
- Plug Air Leaks - Air leaks are the biggest energy waster in homes, but they're also an easy fix. Have decorative weather stripping and caulk installed to stop those drafts
- Program Your Thermostats - Save on your heating and cooling bill while helping reduce emissions from your heating/a/c unit.
- Tune Up Your HVAC - Get a professional tune up every two years and clean or replace your filter every month. Dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce the efficiency of your system.
- Go Low-Flow - Install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators without sacrificing water pressure. They're easy to install too, just screw them on.

Green Tip: The average home emits 27,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually; almost three times that of a midsize sedan. Following these steps will reduce your home's emissions.

For professional advice on all aspects of buying and selling real estate, call:

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Bethesda (20817)

6724 Landon Ln.....\$1,285,000.....Sun 1-4.....Frankie Laborwit.....Long & Foster..301-461-4548
8703 Irvington Ave.....\$1,599,000.....Sat/Sun 1-4.....Autumn Ambrose..Potomac Heritage..240-687-1104

North Potomac (20878)

12615 Granite Ridge Dr.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-3.....Peter Yin.....Libra..301-972-5588
14140 Saddle River Dr.....\$650,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kenneth Bennett.....WC&AN Miller..240-899-0356
14625 Rolling Green Way.....\$689,000.....Sun 1-4.....Jill Aharon.....Coldwell Banker..240-326-2640

Potomac (20854)

11000 Dobbins Dr.....\$1,049,000.....Sun 2-4.....Adaline Neely...Wash Fine Props..301-480-2213
1115 Churchview Pl.....\$749,000.....Sun 1-4.....Mesook Lee.....Long & Foster..301-204-7149
11409 Falls.....\$1,699,000.....Sun 1-4.....Norman Domingo.....Xreality.NET..888-838-9044
12530 Falls Rd.....\$1,280,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kimberly Hahn.....New Star..301-762-4987
12724 Greenbrier Rd.....\$2,574,999.....Sun 2-4.....Carl Becker.....Premier..301-873-3221
13801 Longacres Preserve Terr..\$2,399,000.....Sun 1-4.....Herbert Wechsler.....Herbert..301-840-1417
1501 Kersey Ln.....\$747,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
8830 Belmont Rd.....\$1,950,000.....Sun 2-4.....William F. X. Moody...Wash Fine Props..202-243-1620
9206 Belmont Rd.....\$3,695,000.....Sun 2-4.....Adaline Neely...Wash Fine Props..301-580-2214
9229 Bentridge Ave.....\$1,063,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster..301-980-0085
9909 Autumnwood Way E.....\$819,000.....Sun 2-5.....Krystyna Litwin.....Long & Foster..301-983-0060

Rockville (20850, 20852)

13205 Jasmine Hill Terr.....\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Leslie Friedson.....Long & Foster..301-455-4506
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2318..\$391,335.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll..410-979-6024
11750 Old Georgetown Rd #2332..\$449,335.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll..410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1326..\$474,040.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll..410-979-6024
11800 Old Georgetown Rd #1406..\$543,995.....Sat 11-6.....Bob Lucido.....Toll..410-979-6024

For an Open House Listing Form, call Deb Funk at 703-778-9444 or e-mail debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

Potomac Community Center To Host 'Marketplace'

FROM PAGE 3

Romanian eggs. The farmer's market will include tasty treats including fresh fish, soups, breads, tarts and chocolate temptations as well as organic vegetables and fruits."

A wide assortment of food vendors will fill the Farmer's Market. "All Things Olive" will be on hand with fresh California extra-virgin olive oil, wine, apple cider and balsamic vinegars, citrus and herb-infused olive oils and olive kalamata tapenades. The "Go Fish" truck (Montgomery County's only mobile seafood) will serve fresh salmon, flounder, tilapia, lobster rolls, crab cakes, fish/shrimp tacos and crabby melts as well as ready-to-cook seafood which can be pre-ordered to be taken home. The Peruvian Chocolate Company will feature chocolates made out of the highest quality cacao found in the Peruvian Amazon. Pastry chef Natalie Morelli, owner of "Made with Love" will provide cakes, pastries, and other delights from her kitchen. She explains the name of her business with a smile, "Mami always taught me to do all things with love because they would just turn out better. She always said, 'if I wasn't going to do it with love, why do it at all.'"

Rockville's Great Harvest Breads, owned by Dan Heather Gottfried, will be featuring a variety of wholesome breads. Bakery Le Printemps will bring their Mediterranean cookie selection, while The Granola Bar will offer hand-baked granola. Oh Pickles will have every kind of pickle imaginable as well as kimchi, sauerkraut and pickled beets.

An array of crafts, paintings, jewelry and ceramics will also be featured. Hand-crafted



Crafters for a Cause will exhibit their belt buckles and jewelry.



belt buckles, earrings, necklaces, brooches — all wearable art — as well as photography, paintings and more will be available for purchase. Some of the local artists who will be participating are Linda Morelli, Crafters for a Cause, Nancy Heindl, Lucy Shapiro, Kati Pataki and Marie Power. Heindl has been painting plein air landscapes in the Potomac area as well as along the C & O Canal and Potomac River since 1968. Power is a watercolor artist who also paints the local landscape. Morelli and Shapiro will exhibit their jewelry and crafts. Quilter Kati Pataki will offer hand-crafted placemats, potholders and her "can't live without" baked potato bags — for use when microwaving potatoes and corn. They keep vegetables moist and warm for 30 minutes.

An area of attic treasures will provide an



Baby shower cake by Pastry Chef Natalie Morales.

opportunity to locate that "one-of-a-kind" item — or to sell one's own possessions and/

Name the Mini

FROM PAGE 3

from noon to 4 p.m. where Squeals on Wheels Petting Zoo will be part of the fun along with arts, crafts and the farmers market. Residents can enter the contest on the spot.

The person who picks the winning name will have their photo printed with the miniature horse in the Potomac Almanac, and will get a free "Bunny and Peeps" petting zoo experience from Squeals on Wheels. See www.squealsonwheels.us.

Enter at the Potomac Community Center on April 28, or send suggested name for the miniature horse, your name, address, phone number and email address to almanac@connectionnewspapers.com (be sure to put Mini Naming Contest in subject line)

or submit your name online at www.PotomacAlmanac.com/namethemini

Entries accepted until May 7, and a winner will be announced later in May.

or clean out to make room for more treasures. To participate and register for a table at the Potomac Community Center "Marketplace," e-mail Penny Heltzer at acentmo@gmail.com or call her at 301-983-9624 or (cell) 301-641-9001.

Walt Whitman Grad Helping in the Education of Peruvian Girls

FROM PAGE XX

Peters-Fawcett said she is proud to be a part of an organization like the Sacred Valley Project.

"Being a part of a large institution such as the World Bank, and a previous employee of the International Monetary Fund, I admire the young people who have such a passion in helping the developing world, es-

pecially when it comes to women and the inequalities they experience in some countries — in this case, being unable to get an education due to their remoteness, while boys can be sent to the towns alone," she said. "Sacred Valley Project offers a unique concept in establishing a 'dorm' that is safe for young girls to stay at while attending township schools to complete their education, which they have a right to. The dorms

also have tutoring and mentoring, as well as allowing the girls and their families to earn from working at arts and crafts and selling them, a way of preserving their cultural heritage."

Crousillat lives in Peru where she says she continues to work with the young women of the dormitory at the ground level, assisting with tutorials while managing the day-to-day objectives of the dormitory.

"I am enthusiastic about the future growth of the program and hope to provide educational solutions for 18 more Andean girls by 2014," Crousillat said. "With greater public help, the program will be able to benefit a greater number of students who will return one day to their communities as empowered indigenous leaders; some may start their own business, teach classes of their own, or even go to college."

'Legally Blonde, The Musical' Takes Stage at Churchill

FROM PAGE 3

plot. Even though she is definitely not studious, nerdy or a typical Harvard student, she is determined to prove herself to Warner and everyone else who pegged her as merely a dumb empty-headed female. She is admitted into Harvard Law School — and the plot thickens.

The student performers range from freshmen to seniors. Junior Erik Rigaux who plays Professor Callahan is enjoying performing in the play. "It's a funny show — there are parts that are just hilarious."

Senior Tiffany Bamdad plays one of the

Delta Nus. "I have learned how important it is to have a support system, particularly when you go away to college. It's important to be there for other people. The play also shows that anyone can do anything they put their mind to it."

Neil Suttora (Elle's dad) said he never knew that "Legally Blonde" would be so much fun — and have so much heart. "The play really accen-



tuates that stereotypes are not usually right — that everyone is an individual."

Barillo said, "This play lines up perfectly with Churchill's character program, its anti-bullying position and the need to accept different types of people in our lives. It has a great message about supporting one another and the importance of meaningful relationships."

The students and crew are putting in long hours to be ready for the performance. Unfortunately, a fire in the auditorium has set back the building of the set and rehearsals on the stage. However, cast, crew and director say they will be ready when the curtain rises.

Purchase tickets for this musical comedy at www.showtis4u.com or in the lobby box office outside Bish Auditorium, 11300 Gainsborough Road, Potomac. The box office will be open one hour before each performance and Monday through Friday from 10:50 – 11:50 a.m.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Kindergarten students at Norwood School in Bethesda/Potomac slice carrots and cucumbers to make a vegetable pizza. Instructors say cooking classes can help enhance math and reading skills.

Culinary Classes for Children

Little gourmands cook up fun in the kitchen.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

If you lick your hands you have to wash them,” said instructor Beth Bigler as she teaches a class of kindergartens students how to make vegetable pizzas.

“Are these pickles?” asks a 6-year-old student as she clutches a dark-green, cylindrical vegetable in her tiny fingers.

“No, these are baby cucumbers,” said Bigler. “We need to cut the ends off and then chop them up very, very finely. Always put it on a cutting board so you don’t cut your hands. We’re going to do the same thing with the celery and carrots. We have lots of vegetables to cut.”

Soon the click-clop of plastic knives hitting cutting boards fills the air, along with the giggles and squeals of curious young foodies.

This is a typical session for Tiny Chefs, one of a handful of local culinary schools that cater to children. In these classes, pint-sized gourmands are introduced to all things epicurean. They also learn about kitchen safety and the importance of eating healthy food. Instructors say the lessons extend beyond the edible.

“Cooking classes for kids build and instill confidence,” said Anna Reeves, founder of Tiny Chefs. “Children get to do things that they didn’t think they were able to do. A 4 or 5-year-old may not be used to someone handing them a bowl or spoon and saying ‘Stir this all by yourself.’”

In addition to after school classes like the one at Norwood, local culinary schools offer parent-child classes, seasonal classes, holiday classes, cooking birthday parties and cooking summer camps. The level of complexity depends on the age and interest of the children.

“We teach simple techniques like sautéing and

braising,” said Stephen Sands CEO of Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna. “Students make full meals in our summer camps. We have other classes during the year. We do a pasta class where kids make fresh pasta. They learn what goes into it instead of just seeing it come out of a box. They learn how to make sauce instead of just opening a jar.”

DURING A TYPICAL CLASS, pint-sized culinary enthusiasts come in, wash their hands, don aprons and begin the prep work for the day’s dish.

Classes are often divided by theme and culinary discussions are intermixed with food preparation. “The theme this session is ‘On the Farm,’” said Bigler, an instructor with Tiny Chefs. “Students learn about fresh vegetables and where they come from.”

Students are introduced to new ingredients or get hands-on experience with familiar food items. “Maybe they’ve heard of cinnamon, but have never smelled or touched a cinnamon stick,” said Reeves. “They’ve probably heard of eggs, but they’ve never actually cracked one.”

Instructors say the lessons can also be academics disguised as recreation. “They have so much fun that they don’t even realize that they are working on math and reading skills,” said Arlington resident Whitney Gray, director of auxiliary programs at The Langley School.

“Students learn how to use cooking tools and they get to add and subtract fractions by using measuring cups,” said Jennifer McInroy, a Tiny Chefs instructor who teaches classes and summer camps at The Langley School in McLean.

Social skills are also enhanced. “With five or seven kids in a group they learn to wait their turn and cooperate work together and have patience,” said Reeves.

An increasing number of local schools are offering cooking classes as an afterschool activity for students.

“Cooking is an important life skill,” said Liz Holland, afterschool activities coordinator at Alexandria Country Day School. “Children definitely need to be making healthy choices for themselves and having those skills is definitely enriching.”

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"Meagulpa"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a veteran of the chemo wars, I should have been better prepared mentally for the food/taste challenges often caused by the infusion of such cancer-fighting chemicals, but I wasn't. Oh, I was ready for the hair loss, the fatigue, the diabetic-type neuropathy, the overall aches and pains (general feeling of discomfort/feeling out of sorts), but for some inexplicable reason, I wasn't ready for the food issue. Specifically, I refer to its lack of taste, and a directly-related effect: minimal interest in eating. Whether the effect/cause was in my head or in my taste buds, it was most definitely an effect from a cause.

Not that I appear, at present, to be the least bit undernourished (disheveled, maybe), or not in need of a modest reduction in weight; nevertheless, not being able to enjoy my daily bread, as but one example, was/is disappointing. Moreover, being one of the many individuals who uses food as a stress-reducer and oral-fixator, not being satisfied by any of my staples has made for a very dull boy. Not cranky. Not irritable. More like miserable. And this misery doesn't like company, and has made this four-time infusion much less palatable than I had anticipated. I had anticipated: been there done that; no problem. However, as experienced as I thought I was; having survived/endured six infusions (round one) three years ago, my overconfidence for this second round seems to have led me to a bit of an emotional thud. I thought I was going to slide through this treatment unscathed. Unfortunately, I have been scathed.

What upsets me most about my circumstances is that I think I should have known better, especially since I take such pride in trying to know better/be prepared (I'm not exactly a Boy Scout, but I am usually more on the ball). Yet I wasn't. And when the food began to taste bad a week or two after my second infusion (as if it were a surprise), emotionally I went south. Not only was I "disappointed" in the taste of food, I was more disappointed in my lack of awareness of a fairly likely/predictable occurrence when chemotherapy is infused. If Hostess Brands, the makers of Twinkies, Ding Dongs, Ho Hos, Cupcakes, etc., had not already filed for bankruptcy protection back in January, 2012; given my modest - and uncharacteristic - first quarter consumption of such delicacies, they likely would have been forced to file for bankruptcy in April of 2012. I wouldn't say however, that as an adult I've maintained the pace of my indulgent adolescence (almost a box a day); who could? But I have eaten my share (and a few others' shares, no doubt) and am proud of the hours I've spent satiated and of the product knowledge I've gained as a direct result. This second round of chemotherapy ended all of that. No taste, no pleasure. No pleasure, no patience. No patience, no happiness. And it's all my fault. I have been down this road before, bumpy as it was, and I should have been better prepared, mentally.

If there's one thing I believe I've learned during this whole cancer trip, and some wisdom I feel I can impart, it would be: managing expectations, both good and bad. Control what you can, don't worry about what you can't. Remember what you know and be mindful of what you don't. Expect the unexpected and don't take anything for granted. And though this food/lack of taste thing will pass soon enough, my arrogance in not preparing for/anticipating it will linger. I'll get over it, I suppose, but not before I've told you readers about it first.

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

Whitman Senior McGill Thriving in Return from Injury

Left-handed pitcher has not allowed an earned run in 19 2/3 innings.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE ALMANAC

Members of the Whitman baseball team exuded energy and excitement as they acknowledged Ryan McGill's role in a victory at Quince Orchard on April 13. As the Vikings gathered near the left-field line, one player shouted, "No. 27 is back!"

In a battle of two of Montgomery County's top teams, McGill, a senior pitcher, tossed a complete game, allowing just one unearned run as Whitman defeated Quince Orchard 2-1 to extend its season-opening win streak to eight. After the game, McGill smiled and spoke about the joy he felt just being out on the field with his teammates.

The left-hander wasn't taking the experience for granted because it wasn't long ago that McGill's postgame thoughts and emotions were littered with disappointment and sadness.

During the winter of his junior year, McGill suffered a broken left ankle while playing for the Whitman ice hockey team. He required a plate, five screws and 11 weeks to return to full strength, resulting in McGill missing basically all of the 2011 baseball

campaign (he received one at-bat late in the regular season). McGill had been a standout pitcher as a sophomore, helping Whitman reach the 2010 regional semifinals, where the Vikings lost to Gaithersburg. With McGill on the bench the following season, Whitman again lost to Gaithersburg in the regional semifinals.

"I think that he took our playoff loss harder than anybody," Whitman head coach Joe Cassidy said.

McGill described the difficulty of watching from the bench as a Whitman team led by school record-breaking leadoff hitter James Dionne and standout shortstop and pitcher Michael Flack fall short against the Trojans for the second consecutive season.



Whitman senior Ryan McGill is excelling on the mound after missing the majority of his junior year due to injury.

"It was probably the hardest thing I've ever done in my life," McGill said. "Emotionally, mentally, I can't even describe it. It was the hardest thing in the world to watch. With the team we had last year ... there were nights when I

cried at home — not because we lost or anything, but because I couldn't be out there.

"I'm a kid that loves to be out there every day."

"He's like our Jamie Moyer. You look at him and [think], 'How am I not getting a hit off of him?' You've got an 0-for-3 and he wins a 2-1 game."

— Whitman baseball coach Joe Cassidy about pitcher Ryan McGill

McGill returned for his senior season and has made the most of his opportunity. In three starts and one relief appearance spanning 19 2/3 innings, the southpaw has yet to allow an earned run. He has issued just one walk and surrendered only 13 hits on his way to a 3-0 record.

"I come out every game just letting it all out," McGill said. "I play every game like it's my last game."

Cassidy describes McGill as a "crafty lefty." No. 27 isn't a flame-thrower, so he relies on location and changing speeds to retire opposing batters. Unlike Whitman's other primary starting pitcher, Flack, who totaled 33 strikeouts in his first 19 1/3 innings, McGill has just 10. Despite a limited number of punch-outs, a solid Vikings defense has helped the left-hander succeed with a pitch-to-contact approach.

"He's like our Jamie Moyer," said Cassidy, comparing McGill to the 49-year-old Colo-

rado Rockies hurler. "You look at him and [think], 'How am I not getting a hit off of him?' You've got an 0-for-3 and he wins a 2-1 game. ...

"He's very good at mixing [speeds] and trying to keep kids off balance, but he doesn't throw hard enough that he's going to be able to blow it by them. Sometimes he does try and get — I don't want to say too cute — and he misses a little bit. There's a fine line with him, but what helps is the three or four fastest kids on the team are in the outfield."

Against Quince Orchard, McGill threw 59 of 83 pitches for strikes, and tossed a first-pitch strike to 16 of 26 Cougars batters.

"He had control of every pitch he throws," senior catcher Josh Biel said. "... He was locating real well, getting ahead in the count, really let me call anything I wanted once he got 0-1, 0-2, 1-2 in the count. They were really off balance at the plate."

After beating Quince Orchard, Whitman suffered its first defeat of the season on April 16, dropping a home game against Churchill, 6-1. The Vikings (8-1) will host Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18. Whitman defeated B-CC 6-5 on April 2. As Whitman enters the second half of the season, the Vikings are considered one of the favorites to capture the program's first region championship — thanks in large part to the return of McGill, who Biel called "the most outgoing guy on the team, by far."

"It's the most exciting thing to be out on the field," McGill said. "It brings so much happiness. I get antsy just thinking about. I can't wait to get out and play."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Churchill Boys' Lax Beats WJ, Whitman

The Churchill boys' lacrosse team improved to 6-1 with victories against Walter Johnson (10-5, April 11) and Whitman (11-9, April 13). The Bulldogs will host Richard Montgomery on Friday, April 20.

Churchill Girls' Lax Wins Third Straight

The Churchill girls' lacrosse team defeated Walter Johnson (13-8) on April 12 and Whitman (14-6) on April 14 to improve to 5-1. The Bulldogs have won three in a row after losing to Damascus

on March 26, Churchill's first loss to a Montgomery County opponent since 2010.

Churchill will host Bethesda-Chevy Chase at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 18 and will travel to face Richard Montgomery at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 20.

Churchill's Edwards To Attend Emerson

Churchill senior Kyle Edwards, a starter on the school's boys' basketball team, announced he plans to attend and play for Division III Emerson College in Boston. Edwards was part of a 2011-12 Churchill team which reached the program's first region championship game in 33 years.



Mairin Hall, seen against Paint Branch on March 28, and the Churchill girls' lacrosse team improved to 5-1 with wins over Walter Johnson and Whitman.

PHOTO BY HARVEY LEVINE/THE ALMANAC

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