

McLean
CONNECTION

MPA Celebrates 50 Years

Artists Jason Horowitz (standing) and Tom Green with former MPA curator Andrea Pollan at the opening of the exhibit marking the McLean Project for the Arts' 50th anniversary.

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Langley Choir Tours Europe

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Coming In from The Cold

THE COUNTY LINE,
PAGE 4

2011
AWARD
WINNING
NEWSPAPER

Virginia
PRESS
Association

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Is Her Beautiful Smile Good Genes, Or Does She Have A Secret?

A smile so natural, only her dentist knows for sure.



Empowered

Eating her favorite foods, free to travel and live the life she wants. Not afraid to laugh or get close to the ones she loves. Many peers have missing or failing teeth, some even have dentures. How does she do it?

Odds Against Us

Virtually every adult will lose a tooth in their lifetime. For many, the suffering doesn't stop there. As we age, factors ranging from poor oral health to heredity often bring about accelerated tooth loss – so much so that the average American will lose 4 or more teeth by the time they reach 50 years of age.

Traditional Remedies

Historically, alternatives to failing teeth often involved a lifetime of glues, creams and adhesives and often were accompanied by discomfort and changes in appearance – meaning the options for treating missing or failing teeth could do little to alleviate the physical and emotional discomfort of tooth loss.

Dental Implants

Dental Implants are now considered a "Standard of Care" when replacing missing teeth and are often a better treatment option than conventional dental crowns, bridges, partial and full dentures. Dental Implants have been proven to be a more successful long term option when compared to these more traditional approaches. The appeal of dental implants is very simple: implants look and perform like natural teeth and fit precisely without the need for adhesives. They are permanent and cared for just like natural teeth and restore one's natural smile.

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Before ClearChoice, getting implants could take over a year and involve endless visits to multiple providers. Our state-of-the-art facilities bring everything together under one roof. The doctors, technicians and cutting edge technology needed for a fast, convenient result can all be found in one place. That is how ClearChoice can deliver beautiful smiles in just one day.*

Consider this:

MYTH: Tooth loss affects a relatively small group of people.

FACT: By the age of 50, the average American is missing 4 or more teeth.

MYTH: Tooth loss is almost always a result of poor oral hygiene.

FACT: Oral hygiene is important, but genetics and age are significant drivers of tooth loss.

MYTH: Dental problems caused by gum disease and tooth loss resolve themselves quickly.

FACT: Most dental problems do not "self-resolve" and usually become worse with time.

MYTH: Dentures are the only option for those dealing with tooth loss.

FACT: Dental implants look and feel like your natural teeth and are a modern alternative to dentures.

Your Satisfaction Is Important To Us

ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers provide comprehensive implant treatment professionally and affordably. That's why an independent survey of thousands of patients showed *they would overwhelmingly recommend ClearChoice to others*[†]. At ClearChoice, we work to ensure that no one leaves until they are happy with their smile.

So Did She or Didn't She?

Almost anyone that has lost multiple teeth or even a single tooth is a strong candidate for dental implants. So next time you see someone over 50 with a beautiful, radiant smile ask yourself ... is she lucky or did she make the ClearChoice?

Discover the procedure that can make even the most troubled smile clear and beautiful – in just one day!*

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Schedule a no-obligation consultation with a ClearChoice doctor right now and receive a FREE 3-D CAT Scan (\$700 value). Call today.

TYSONS CORNER: Stuart L. Graves, DDS, MS • Debora Armellini, DDS, MS • Samantha Siranli, DMD, PhD

ROCKVILLE: Stuart L. Graves, DDS, MS • Ben Javid, DDS

ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers are locally owned and operated by licensed local dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists and restorative dentists across the U.S. *Qualified patients can have their procedure in one day after initial workup without additional bone graft surgery. Results may vary in individual cases. Limited services available at satellite offices. †Independent Dental Implant Survey March 2011. America's #1 Choice determined by an Independent Patient Survey 2011.

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The Langley High School Choir performs at the Benedictine Abbey in Melk, Austria during their Spring Break trip.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Langley Choir Tours Europe

Vocal groups win one silver, three gold medals at 2012 Young Prague Festival.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

On March 29, 113 Langley choral students and chaperones along with their director, Dr. Mac Lambert, and Langley High School administrator Sonya Williams gathered in the Langley High School auditorium with suitcases and passports in hand. At approximately 12:30 p.m., everyone and everything was loaded onto school buses for the first leg of their trip to Dulles International Airport. The Langley Concert Choir, Madrigals, Women's Chamber Choir and Women's Select Treble Choir all performed throughout the beautiful cities of Prague, Vienna and Salzburg.

"After flying overnight on a plane for eight hours, we arrived in Munich, Germany. We then rode on a coach bus for five hours and arrived in Prague in the Czech Republic that same day," said Sarah Salem, a

member of the Women's Select Treble Choir. "We arrived at a beautiful church and had to quickly change into our choir dresses. This was our first experience singing in one of the many churches on our trip and it was amazing being able to hear our sound reverberate throughout the church and echo against the walls and ceiling."

Other students enjoyed seeing the sights around Prague.

"My favorite part of the day was going on the river cruise on the Vitava River," said Women's Select Treble Choir member Celeste Saddler. "We met people from the other choirs and we had the opportunity to see some of the beautiful sights in Prague from the boat."

THE NEXT DAY the students participated in Young Prague 2012, an international competition.

"It began with a concert by Cancioneta Praga (a prominent Czech ensemble of young singers) who sang really fun songs from all around the world," said Ariana Kuhnsman, a member of the Women's Select Treble Choir and the Women's Chamber Choir. "Langley did well at the competition. However, everyone was nervous since there were many other

SEE SAXONS, PAGE 19

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) confers with Supervisors Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Linda Smyth (D-Providence) before the budget mark-up session on Friday, April 20.



BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Budget Session Provides Snapshot of 2013 Budget

Highlights include restored funding for human services, libraries, employee pay.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Nearly 100 advocates packed a conference room at the Fairfax County Government Center Friday, April 20, to get a preview of coming attractions for the next fiscal year.

After months of debate, it appears the final \$6.7 billion fiscal year 2013 budget proposed by County Executive Anthony Griffin will restore pay adjustments for county employees, add public safety personnel, restore library hours and increase funding for a variety of human services programs.

"This budget will maintain the same effective tax rate as included in the budget proposal advertised by County Executive Tony Griffin in February," said Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) after Friday's meeting. The board formally adopts the budget on Tuesday, May 1.

She said shifting a half cent from the storm water fee to the real estate tax rate (\$1.075 per \$100 value) will provide nearly \$10 million in "fiscal flexibility" for next year's budget. Other savings and adjustments - including more than \$4 million in fiscal year 2013 revenue reserve for state reductions - brings up the amount of available resources to nearly \$25 million.

"With that flexibility in place, and with savings identified within the advertised version, the final budget will improve public safety, restore library hours, maintain critical human services and establish a human services reserve, and restore pay adjustments for County employees," Bulova said.

In the proposed budget package, county employees are poised to receive a 2.5 percent merit increase on top of the pro-

posed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment at a cost of about \$16.5 million.

"They deserve a raise," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). "Their cooperation over the past couple of really tough years has enabled us to avoid draconian service cuts without increasing the tax burden."

In addition to the increased pay for employees, the board proposed restoring cuts and providing additional funding for an array of human services programs.

"It does matter when people come to the public hearings," Bulova said. "These (recommendations) are based on feedback in response to recommendation from the Human Service Council."

In the past few years, Fairfax County's award-winning libraries have "taken an inordinate hit," Bulova said. The board recommended restoring nine hours each week at the county's regional libraries, and three hours at the county's community libraries. In addition, the board proposed funding 14 part-time positions to meet staffing needs at community libraries. Total cost: \$674,359.

Foust said he believed the proposed budget reflects "a reasonable balance" of the concerns and priorities we heard from many segments of the community.

"I think we have found some creative ways to restore some of the public safety and human services cuts that had been advertised," he said.

"When we adopt our budget, we are investing in our community's priorities. The fiscal year 2013 budget for Fairfax County, once marked up on April 24 and adopted on May 1, will do just that," Bulova said.



Students from the Langley High School Choir perform in a parade through Prague as part of the 2012 Young Prague Festival, where they won a silver and three gold medals during a Spring Break trip.

Coming In from The Cold

Fairfax County hosts hypothermia meeting to address shelters' concerns.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County officials met with about 75 representatives from churches and other houses of worship Sunday, April 22, to address rumors and concerns that the County's Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter - and shut out many homeless residents - because of fire code violations.

Held at St. Stephens United Methodist Church in Burke, the information session was hosted by county staff, elected officials and nonprofit partners. Panelists included Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS; Kerri Wilson, executive director of Reston Interfaith and Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who called Sunday's meeting.

"In some cases, it might be as simple as installing a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector," she said.

Currently, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless residents during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has been a longtime advocate for the county's homeless population, said she wants to see the county maintain a partnership with the faith community in a safe environment.

"But the more critical issue is how will we eliminate or reduce hyperthermia without the needed housing? Our faith partners are looking to us to do the heavy lifting by providing the housing so they can support the county by serving the clients," Hudgins said.

Sunday's meeting was prompted by concerns from some church leaders that they would be forced to shut down their programs due to fire code violations.

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program.

"Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in from the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars," Kincannon said in the release.

Last week, Bulova said four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire

Fast Facts about Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program

❖ During the 2010-2011 winter season, approximately 1,025 residents sought shelter through Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, in partnership with other agencies.

❖ During the 2011-2012 winter season, partners opened their shelters to "no turn-away" status on Nov. 1, even if the weather was not at freezing temperatures.

❖ FACETS' Hypothermia Prevention Season is Nov. 21 through March 17. FACETS served more than 219 clients last season.

❖ Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOA) Baileys Crossroad's Hypothermia Program served more than 442 clients last season and an additional 84 clients in their other winter seasonal programs for a total of 526 clients.

❖ Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter (ERCS) operates three separate winter programs. The ERCS Winter North County Program and winter seasonal programs served over 298 clients last season.

❖ The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing free flu shots during Hypothermia Prevention season.

For more information on Fairfax County's Hypothermia Prevention Program, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/partnership-highlights-hyposeason2011-12.htm>

codes, not 18, and stressed Fairfax County's longstanding support of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

"I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins," Bulova said in an email announcing Sunday's session.

"I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who attended Sunday's meeting and met with faith representatives last week, said part of the concern was that some churches heard they were on the list (for code violations), but didn't know why.

"There was a real interest in churches to counter the rumor mill," Cook said. "The meeting was a good step in that regard."

Cook said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have encountered similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions. Tensions arise because each jurisdiction has some discretion when interpreting the codes.

"Everyone has to take deep breath, and recognize that we have to work through a process," Cook said. "But there's a significant commitment and confidence on the county's part that we can work through these issues."

"Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety," Bulova said.

"I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal's office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code."

— **Chairman Sharon Bulova,**
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A team of 19 students from Langley High School finished first place, statewide, at the Virginia Science Olympiad. Among those taking part from Langley were Joao Ascensao, Julia Casazza, Ryan Cheng, Saba Eskandarian, Noah Flaxman, Alex Hurr, Na He Jeon, Alan Kai, Dana Kazerooni, Gene Kim, Jaisohn Kim, Liana Kramer, Calvin Li, Kelvin Niu, Debbie Pan, Paige Pizsel, Aishvar Radhakrishnan, Vaibhavi Silamgari and Timothy Tsai. Faculty sponsor is Leah Puhlick.

Langley High Wins Science Olympiad

Langley High School's Science Olympiad team won first place in Division C (grades 9-12) at the Virginia Science Olympiad state competition, held April 14 at Westfield High School.

The Science Olympiad program requires student mastery of 24 technology, engineering and science categories including protein modeling, optics, gravity vehicle, forensics and tower building.

The victory qualifies the Langley team to compete at the National Science Olympiad, to be held May 18-19 at the University of Central Florida.

The community can help to offset costs of the tournament fees and trip by visiting <http://www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS/>.

Team members include Joao Ascensao, Julia Casazza, Ryan Cheng, Saba Eskandarian, Noah Flaxman, Alex Hurr, Na He Jeon, Alan Kai, Dana Kazerooni, Gene Kim, Jaisohn Kim, Liana Kramer, Calvin Li, Kelvin Niu, Debbie Pan, Paige Pizsel, Aishvar Radhakrishnan, Vaibhavi Silamgari and Timothy Tsai. Faculty sponsor is Leah Puhlick.

The team from Fairfax High School placed second in the competition. At the middle-school level, Longfellow Middle School finished in first place.

For more information about the National Science Olympiad, visit www.soinc.org/2012_national_tournament.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send School Notes to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Emily Wallach, a seventh-grader at The Langley School in McLean, was chosen to participate in the Virginia Band & Orchestra Director's Association All-District Junior High Band. She earned first chair trumpet.

James McGrath of McLean has been selected to be a McDonough Scholar at Marietta College. The program helps students gain a deeper understanding of leadership and practice leadership skills.

Julia Diamond of McLean earned term honors for the 2011 fall semester at Skidmore College. She is the daughter of Robert Diamond and Amy Pullman.

Hanna Sophia Longwell of McLean has been named a recipient of the fall 2011 dean's award at Colgate University of Hamilton, N.Y. She is the daughter of George W. Longwell and Jacqlyn R. Longwell.

Philip Deming Stout of McLean has been named a recipient of the fall 2011 dean's award at Colgate University of Hamilton, N.Y. He is the son of Richard D. Stout and Elizabeth C. Stout.

McLean residents **Elizabeth McCune** (Poetry), **YouNa An** (Poetry), **Jordan Goodson** (Personal Essay/Memoir), **Seon Kim** (Science Fiction/Fantasy), **Sung jin Kim** (Science Fiction/Fantasy), **Rishi Malhotra** (Dramatic Script), **Rebecca Oh** (Short Story), **Francesca O'Hop** (Dramatic Script) and **Madeline Reinsel** (Poetry) have won regional recognition in the 2012 Scholastic Writing Awards.

McLean residents **Kate Connelly**, **Jack Connelly** and **Bridget Connelly** have been named to the fall 2011 dean's list at The College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, Mass. They are the children of John and Margaret Connelly.



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

During the Earth Day Assembly, Churchill Road 6th graders Eliza Young, Austin Barre, Lucas Gaitan, Linda Diaz, Katherine Lan, Schuyler Leffler and Anneke Noe perform a skit about scientists who make a robot out of recycled materials.

Celebrating Earth Day at Churchill Road

On Friday, April 20, Churchill Road Elementary School students and staff participated in a school wide pep-rally to celebrate Earth Day. Organized by the school's Environmental Studies Coordinator Debra Maes, 6th grade teacher Meghan Roman and Technology teacher Jordan Craig-Kuhn, the students were entertained by humorous skits performed by their teachers and other students that reminded the children of good recycling practices, cheered on a "sort

the recycling" game show (won by 2nd grade teacher Joshua DeSmyter and 3rd grade teacher Jaimie Lofurno), watched a video created by 6th graders that highlighted the school's environmentally friendly activities and programs and enjoyed song and dance routines performed by David Ericson's third grade class and the school's Eco-Team. During the program, the students learned that Churchill Road has reduced the amount of waste thrown out in the garbage by 90 percent.

Saint Luke Catholic School

Open House

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

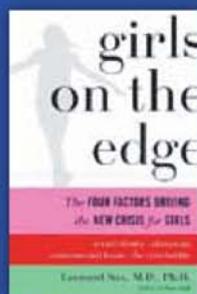
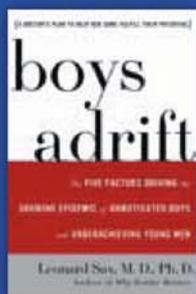
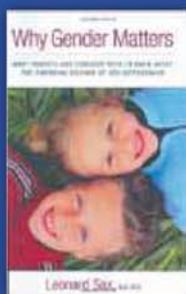
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*Come see how we
pull together to
help each child
succeed!*

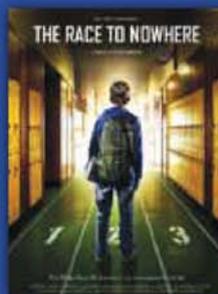
Join the Conversation About Education:



APRIL 16
7pm-9pm

**Facebook
Ate My
Daughter**

Dr. Leonard Sax, psychologist and author of *Why Gender Matters*, *Boys Adrift*, and *Girls on the Edge*, talks about the role of technology in the lives of teenagers – social media, video games, and the effects of growing up in virtual worlds. Dr. Sax will answer questions that parents have today – Should I be my child's Facebook friend? Which video games are OK? How much time spent playing video games is too much?



APRIL 30
7pm-9pm

Race To Nowhere

A documentary film examining the pressures faced by young people, teachers, and parents in our high stakes education system and pressure-cooker culture. Generate dialogue and examine assumptions about how to best prepare the youth of America to be healthy, bright leaders. The movie will be followed by a panel of educational experts including:

Patrick F. Bassett – President of the National Association of Independent Schools

Mary Ellen Weissman, Ph.D. – Clinical Psychologist



The Madeira School • 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean, Virginia 22102

Please register at www.madeira.org/parents/race-to-nowhere-and-dr-leonard-sax
For more information contact 703.556.8273

OPINION

Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage

VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service last Saturday, April 22, "for exhaustive coverage of homelessness in the newspaper's circulation area." The award was announced in Roanoke at the press association's annual convention.

The public service entries were judged by Robert Giles, former editor and publisher of The Detroit News and the immediate past curator of the Nieman Foundation.

Giles wrote of the Connection coverage: "Its stories gave voice to the homeless. Its stories effectively portrayed the plight of the poor living in tents and other makeshift shelters. It reported on how poverty and homelessness affects children. It examined the causes of homelessness and explained why people don't have a place to live even when some have a job. It reported on the role of government and groups that advocate for the poor.

It provided extensive lists of community organizations with missions to help the poor and homeless, and told how individuals could volunteer.

"It invited knowledgeable citizens to contribute guest editorials that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness."

EDITORIAL The online component of the homeless project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O'Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy.

The Connection Newspapers group, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all.

The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and environmental writing; in-depth or investigative

WINNING ENTRIES, CONNECTION, CENTRE VIEW

See a complete list of winners on page 20

❖ Virginia Press Association 2011 Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service

❖ Michael O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, 1st Place, Fairfax Connection, Multimedia Feature Report, An End to Homelessness,

Judges comments: Wow. This is an amazing endeavor. The print and digital components complement each other nicely, although I would have liked to see some aggressive promotion of digital from print. The video and photo gallery provide nice layers to the overall storytelling. The webpage featuring your original coverage will be an excellent home to keep following this important topic. Well-done.

❖ Alex McVeigh, 1st Place, Great Falls Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Education Writing, Judges Comments: What the judges really appreciate about Bonnie's stories is that each one is a unique, interesting and very readable story that makes the sometimes dry subject of education coverage appealing to readers. Much more than the "school board did this and the school board did that" type stories that so many newspapers publish, not to say that this coverage is not important. Bonnie's work really made us want to read it. Good job, and congratulations.

❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Feature Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: These entries were fantastic. Great writing style really makes these unique stories shine. Nicely packaged final product. Well done!

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, Online Slideshow, Wounded Warriors at Bat

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, General News Photo, Warm Welcome, Judges comments: I love how every subject in this photo is engaged into a mo-

ment. Wonderful.

❖ Deb Cobb, 1st Place, Burke Connection, Photo-Illustration, Vampire Feast, Judges comments: The intensity in the model's face combined with the high contrast photo make this a dynamic illustration for a story about vampires.

❖ Victoria Ross, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Jon Roetman, 2nd place, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Sports Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: This entry exhibits solid sports reporting, plain and simple. The completeness of these stories is the name of the game here. The reporter demonstrates versatility, switching from feature to news writing within the articles themselves, giving the reader the whole story.

❖ Jeanne Theismann, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Feature Story Writing, 10th Anniversary of 9-11, Judges comments: Good job of writing about the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 — many stories were written, this was one of the better ones. Nice work.

❖ Louise Krafft, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Picture Story or Essay, Graduation Day in the Mount Vernon District, Judges comments: Good variety of a regular event in the community.

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, Business and Financial Writing

❖ Lashawn Avery-Simon, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, General News Photo, ribbon cutting at park, Judges comments: great expression and tight composition

❖ Michael Lee Pope, 2nd Place, Arlington Connection, Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Judges comments: Excellent writing. Diverse topics. Took what could be dry material and led me through it and kept me interested. Good work.

❖ Marilyn Campbell, 2nd Place, Great Falls Connection, Personal Service Writing, Beating the Holiday Blues, Great

Writing, Judges comments: Excellent writing. Diverse topics. Took what could be dry material and led me through it and kept me interested. Good work.

❖ Marilyn Campbell, 2nd Place, Great Falls Connection, Personal Service Writing, Beating the Holiday Blues, Great

Read the Winners

Many of the winning entries are posted at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/

reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won individual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of "wounded warriors at bat," and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature portfolio. Alex McVeigh won first place for in depth or investigative reporting for his coverage of a land use issue in Great Falls. Montie Martin won two first place awards, one for business writing, the other for personal service writing.

The Children's Connection won an award and judges said it was a "simple and elegant idea showcasing children's artwork, a great way to attract young readers."

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,

WWW.TWITTER.COM/MARYKIMM

American Smokeout, Getting into 'Right Fit' Private School; Judges comments: Trio of strong entries.

❖ Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions, End to Homelessness, Judges comments: "End to Homelessness" tab. It is nice to see a newspaper commit to a project such as this in the form of a special tab.

❖ Julia O'Donoghue, 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Education Writing W2W06 31912 Judges comments: Very nice variety in these stories, again, like the first place winner, going much deeper into the multitude of possibilities available in coverage of education and schools.

❖ Kenny Lourie, longtime columnist and Connection advertising representative, won two 1st place awards from the Maryland Delaware DC Press Association, one for local column and one for sports column. Lourie has been writing about his odyssey with Stage IV lung cancer, and the judges noted: "Writer chooses tough subject, his own mortality, and handles it quite well. He gives us an honest look at a very personal issue."

❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmattulla, 3rd place, Reston Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions W2M08 30698, Children's Connection, Judges comments: Simple and elegant idea showcasing children's artwork, a great way to attract young readers.

❖ Victoria Ross, 3rd place, Fairfax Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting

❖ Mary Kimm, 3rd Place, Burke Connection, Editorial Writing, Judges comments: Mary Kimm's columns are strong, particularly the one taking to task a school board on its disciplinary procedures in light of a student's suicide. The community is better for her work.

❖ Michael Pope, 3rd place, Mount Vernon Gazette, In-Depth Or Investigative Reporting



Victoria Ross



Deb Cobb



Robbie Hammer



Alex McVeigh



Bonnie Hobbs



Jon Roetman



Jeanne Theismann



Louise Krafft



Michael Lee Pope



Lashawn Avery-Simon



Marilyn Campbell

McLean
CONNECTION

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LETTERS

Fighting for Women's Rights

To the Editor:

It is time to pay attention to the serious threats to women's rights that are taking place in our state and across the nation. At stake are fundamental liberties that affect everyone, not just women.

At least 39 state legislatures in recent session and the US Congress have proposed laws restricting women's basic health care rights. Among them:

- ❖ Allowing employers to fire women who use contraception.
- ❖ Denying insurance coverage for contraception.
- ❖ Requiring doctors to lie to women about established medical facts.
- ❖ Prohibiting malpractice suits against doctors who lie to women about the health of a fetus.
- ❖ Forcing women to carry a fetus to term even if it will be stillborn or threatens the mother's health.
- ❖ Requiring women to have invasive, medically unnecessary procedures which they have to pay for out of pocket.
- ❖ Criminalizing miscarriage and abortion.
- ❖ Taking funding away from organizations that provide the full range of health services to poor women.
- ❖ "Personhood" legislation that elevates the rights of a single cell over that of existing human beings.

This isn't about abortion. Many of these measures were written specifically to coerce, humiliate and discourage women considering an abortion. But they go much further than that. They restrict a woman's choice or control in becoming pregnant. They restrict how pregnant women must behave. They force women and physicians to ignore medical reality, putting life and liberty at risk.

The pushback against basic rights isn't stopping there. The conversation in the public arena has taken on a very ugly, very anti-women tone. It's not just Rush Limbaugh calling a Georgetown law student a "slut." It's the Idaho lawmaker who said that women are not able to tell if they have "really" been raped. It's the Georgia lawmaker who compared women giving birth to "cows and pigs." It's the Wisconsin lawmaker who thinks abused wives should "remember why they got married in the first place." It's the Virginia lawmaker who couldn't bring himself to say the word "vagina" but was happy to mock women's concerns (and his own wife) in a suggestive speech at the state Assembly.

Yes, Virginia, it's happening here. On March 3, 2012, there was a peaceful rally held in Richmond to protest the Virginia ultrasound bill. There were over 1,000 demonstrators of all ages. Babies, children in strollers, parents and grandparents. There was nothing threatening about the crowd. No demonstrator carried so much as a stick. How do I know? I was there. I saw the massive police presence that included riot police and dogs. Thirty people were arrested and handcuffed for simply sitting on the steps of the Capitol. They were kept cuffed

with their hands behind their backs — some of them for over seven hours, on hot buses with no access to water, toilets, or legal counsel. The state plans to prosecute them and they may face jail time.

What all this adds up to is a systematic attack on women, and on men who care about women. Those of us who marched for women's equality in the 60s and 70s are relearning the lesson that our rights and our freedoms have to be fought for again and again. As a mother of four daughters, it's a bitter reality to face that my children are still not considered equal in our society.

Thankfully, more and more people are becoming aware of what's going on, and are trying to do something about it:

Women's rights rallies will be held in 50 states and the District of Columbia on Saturday, April 28 sponsored by the grassroots women's group Unite Women (<http://www.wearewomenmarch.net/>). The rallies are open to everyone. Those who can't attend can still help by donating to the group to defray the costs of permits, insurance, and security.

Concerned Virginians have formed the Women's Strike Force (<http://www.womensstrikeforce.org/>), a PAC created with the goal of defeating in the next election the Virginia legislators who promoted the most recent anti-women legislation in the state Assembly.

I hope that those who read this will take the time to learn more about these issues, and will join in taking action and in donating to these two groups. If not us, who will do it? And if not now, when?

Ann Aoki
McLean

Distortion of Delegate's Votes

To the Editor:

Last week a good sized group of citizens attended a "town hall" meeting where our elected Delegate, Barbara Comstock, was supposed to give us a rundown on the recent session in Richmond and then take questions. Many in attendance were concerned about her recent votes — especially on education, transportation and women's issues — and feel that her votes have short-changed us here in Northern Virginia.

Delegate Comstock voted to cut \$65 million in costs to compete funds that benefit northern Virginia schools; she voted to divert a portion of our general funds to transportation and failed to admit that the money would have to come out of our education, health, and public safety funds; and she voted against additional funds for Dulles Rail.

In a rambling and lengthy presentation she provided us with a stunning distortion of her votes to deny and restrict women's access to health care privacy. She claimed her vote for mandatory invasive ultrasounds was to give women a choice to look at their ultrasound image (an expensive and often useless procedure). She continued to disguise her voting record by claiming she voted for the personhood bill because it was actually a wrongful death bill. Even a simple

question from a constituent on when and how we might see new transportation money resulted in a ten minute almost incoherent explanation about how gas prices are high.

Her obfuscation of the facts was shocking. I was amazed that she could think anyone would go along with her explanations. I certainly wasn't fooled.

Kathleen Murphy
McLean

Different Perspective

To the Editor:

If "lifelong Democrat" Jim Daniels ("Missing Republican Party," Connection, April 11-17) would remove the partisan goggles he might find there really is another way of looking at the world. Every time a fraudulent vote is cast, a legitimate vote is canceled and a voter disenfranchised. Up till now anyone who showed up at the polls without proper ID was allowed to vote by simply signing an affidavit swearing they're a registered voter. We require valid ID to board a plane, buy cigarettes, or beer and no one seems to find it unduly burdensome. Few would be foolish enough to be satisfied with having a 15-year old beer purchaser sign an affidavit saying "sure I'm 21 years old." Why should voting be held to a lesser standard than fraudulent teen beer-buying?

"Women's control over their reproductive health" is a strained rationalization for gutting the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion. Especially since no one is preventing any woman from controlling her reproductive health, just stopping the abortion industry from forcing religious objectors to fund practices they find morally reprehensible. Doesn't sound so high-minded when you look at it from someone else's perspective, does it?

It would be easier to believe a claimed commitment to fighting "dependency on fossil fuels" when the crusaders begin abandoning their own luxury cars and jets for wind-powered wagons. And wasn't it just a short time ago when "the truth of global

climate change" was "the truth of global warming" and before that "the truth of global cooling"? Nostalgic for the ozone hole, acid rain, and nuclear winter? Seems like "the truth" is whatever notion is politically useful this week.

And how exactly is the Democrat takeover of healthcare respectful of "privacy rights"? Every personal health decision is to be forcibly pried into and approved or disapproved by swarms of apparatchiks. Where exactly are the Democrat programs that would decrease their power?

Michael Crawford
Great Falls

Deserving Better

To the Editor:

On Tuesday, April 10, I attended Barbara Comstock's town hall meeting in Great Falls. As a constituent, I wanted to ask her why she voted for mandatory ultrasound procedures for women (HB462) and why she voted for the so-called "personhood" bill (HB1) that would give full rights to zygotes and could restrict a woman's access to birth control, while voting against funding for two of our northern Virginia priorities: education and transportation (HB30). Her explanation was less than satisfactory. She claimed that the mandatory ultrasound bill was meant to give women a choice, represented that the personhood bill was a wrongful death bill, and never clearly explained her opposition to education and transportation funding. It is unclear to me why Ms. Comstock would support controversial and divisive legislation that could discourage businesses to move to Northern Virginia, particularly at a time when the jobs, education and fixing gridlock should be our priorities. We also have a right to know where our representatives in government stand on issues; they should be willing to acknowledge and defend their positions, rather than provide evasive answers and mischaracterizations. I don't believe that Ms. Comstock represents the majority of Northern Virginians. We deserve better.

Deborah DeMasi
McLean

Thinking Strategically at Churchill Road

Churchill Road Elementary school held a Strategy Game Night for Grades K-6 the evening of Thursday, April 12. More than 180 students, their parents and siblings filled the cafeteria and played over 30 different strategy games. The students had a great time using their problem-solving abilities and mathematical reasoning skills while interacting with their parents and friends. This evening was organized by Cheryl Bamdad, CRS Math Lead Teacher, and Corinne Almquist, Advanced Academics Resource teacher. Students enjoyed the opportunity to play with the more than 20 Churchill Road teachers who helped with the event as well.



PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

Churchill Road teachers pose "strategically" at the conclusion of a successful evening of strategy games. Pictured from left, back row: Janice Donnell, Krista Zier, Claire McHale, Sharon Jones, Nick Kilpatrick, Jan Clark, Joshua DeSmyter, Sarah Winn, Lisa O'Donnell; (front row) Jinhai He, Jaime Lofurno, Bob Timke, Corinne Almquist, Cindy Zemke, Sarah Finger, Cheryl Bamdad, Dustin Lee and Jordan Craig-Kuhn; (seated in front) Jill Hamlin, Mike Romanelli and Jennifer Ezzell.

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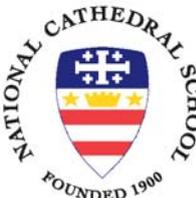
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PHOTO BY MARY GRACE OAKES/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Karen Panetta poses for a quick photo with Senior Micah Parks (left) and Junior Chelsea Hartanto (right), the two AP Physics students who introduced her.

'Nerd Girls' Founder Comes to Madeira

BY MARY GRACE OAKES
THE CONNECTION

On Thursday April 12, Tufts University engineering professor and “science rock star,” Dr. Karen Panetta, spoke to students at the Madeira School.

In addition to being the founder of “Nerd Girls,” a nationally-acclaimed outreach program aimed at inspiring female students to pursue engineering, Panetta is also a recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering, and currently serves as the Worldwide Director of the IEEE Women in Engineering. Her visit to the Madeira School was part of a promotional tour for the upcoming USA Science & Engineering Festival, known as the Nifty Fifty Program, in which top scientists and engineers travel to D.C. area schools “to ignite middle and high school students’ passion for science and engineering.”

After energizing the audience by giving away “freebies” that included “Nerd Girls” bouncy-balls and purple IEEE highlighters, Panetta explained to the students just what makes a “Nerd Girl.” “I want to dispel the idea that nerds are ugly. Nerds are really cool,” she said, joking that “President Obama

thinks so too.”

She then described the paths her career has taken. Panetta lamented that, like other female scientists, she has faced the “negative stereotypes” of women which are reinforced by the media; she claims the biggest challenge she faced in achieving tenure at Tufts was that “my first day I wore a pink suit and pink high heels...that automatically set the bar lower for me.”

Yet despite facing obstacles, Panetta asserted that she has had a rewarding career, telling students “I love helping people, and that’s why I love being an engineer.”

After describing her involvement in projects ranging from the construction of a solar-powered car, to the development of an electro-larynx that better mimics the natural voice, Dr. Panetta opened the floor to questions. When asked by senior Caroline Hudson-Hale if she had any advice for students, Dr. Panetta replied, “Connect your passions to science and engineering.... I want you to go for it.”

The USA Science & Engineering Festival and Book Fair is a “free, family-friendly expo,” hosted by Lockheed Martin, which takes place at D.C.’s Walter E. Washington Convention Center from April 28-29.

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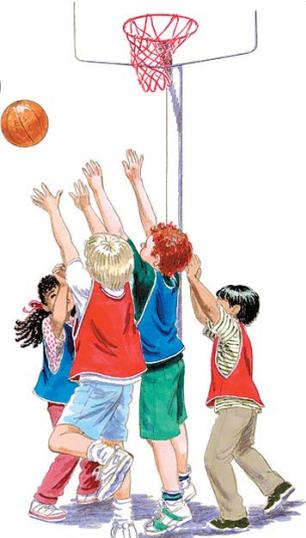


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BY MAX JOHNSON
MCLEAN HIGH SCHOOL

CAPPIES REVIEW

Under his renowned pseudonym, Theodore Geisel engineered the unprecedentedly zany yet immortally endearing myths of Seuss. Infused with vivid color and imaginative zoological reimaginings, where felines flaunt headwear and pachyderms act as both protector of the tiny and incubator of or-

phaned eggs, the works of Dr. Seuss are among the most beloved pieces of children's literature of all time. With a musical that brings these colorful creatures to stage, Oakcrest School presented their delightful and vivacious take on "Seussical the Musical."

Despite its initial failure on Broadway in 2000, closing after only 198 performances, "Seussical" has gone on to be one of the most beloved and com-

monly performed musicals in high schools and community theaters. Written by Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty, "Seussical," follows Jojo, a young who is struggling to control his wild "thinks," and Horton, a benevolent Elephant tasked with protecting Whoville (which just happens to be situated upon a dust speck resting on a clover). The show also features references to many other

SEE REVIEW, PAGE 11

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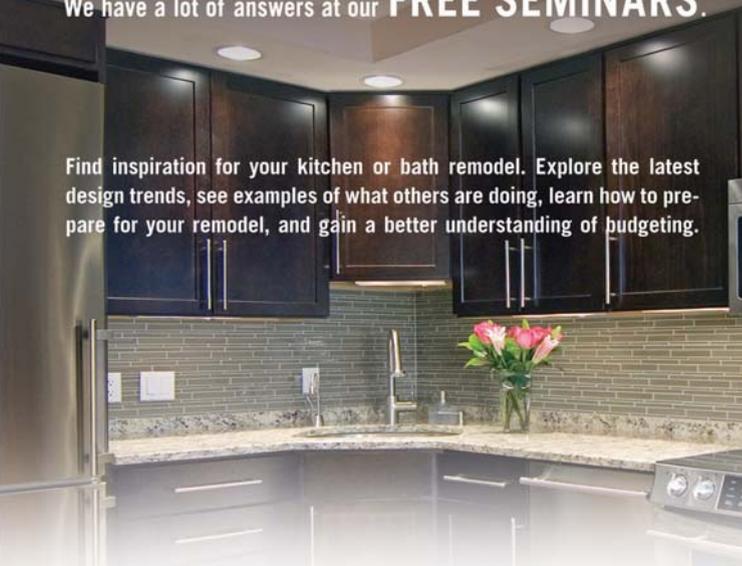
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PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34), Virginia's First Lady Maureen McDonnell, Gov. Robert McDonnell, Kevin Fay, Dranesville District Rep. Fairfax County Park Authority Board, Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (D-At-Large), and Juliann Clemente, hostess and President of Friends of Clemyjontri Park, welcome supporters to the Park's annual fundraiser.



PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

Members of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Allison Bailey, Tim Wade, Greg Rupert, and Andrew Hesse provided the entertainment for the event.

Supporting McLean's Clemyjontri Park

Concert in the Park moves indoors, to the home of Dan and Juliann Clemente, minutes away from the Park.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

On Saturday, April 21, the Friends of Clemyjontri Park Foundation in McLean held their second annual Concert in the Park – sort of. The theme of this year's black-tie fundraising event was "Under the Big Top" and was scheduled to take place under the park's newly installed 900 sq. ft. canopy, built to provide shade and available for rental for special occasions. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra was prepared to play an appropriate selection of circus-worthy selections under the baton of FSO Music Director, Christopher Zimmerman.

The event had been re-scheduled from last September, due to inclement weather. Sadly, the weather once more refused to cooperate: Instead of gathering under the Big Top, the 100 guests, including Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell and First Lady Maureen, huddled under umbrellas as they entered the new venue – the home of Dan and Juliann Clemente, just minutes away from the Park.

Julie Clemente is the founder and president of the Friends of Clemyjontri Park, and along with her husband and numerous family members, has been instrumental in seeing the park come to life from the drawing board and the dreams of Adele Lebowitz, the widow of Mortimer Lebowitz who founded Morton's Department Stores in Washington, D.C. in 1933 and ran them for more than 60 years. In 2000, Adele Lebowitz donated the family's 18.5 acre McLean property to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). The name, Clemyjontri,



PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Member Kevin Fay, Friends of Clemyjontri Board Member and hostess Julie Clemente, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova present an overview of the mission and successes of Clemyjontri Park

was derived from Lebowitz's four children: Carolyn, Emily, John, and Petrina.

"She had just a few conditions to go with her very generous donation," said Clemente. "The park had to be built within five years. It had to have a carousel, and that carousel and all the playground's equipment had to be accessible to all, regardless of mobility. And that is how and why Dan and I got involved." Clemente explained how they were contacted by the FCPA in the fourth year following the bequest. "Building and maintaining an all-accessible

playground costs a lot more than a regular play park," she said. "I guess they figured with 9 kids, we would be unfair users of the facility," she laughed, "so we got the call, we founded the 501(c) (3) Friends, and the money was raised. Now there is this wonderful park, the first in the Commonwealth, and one of just a handful anywhere, where everyone can play and enjoy themselves.

AN ADDED BENEFIT to the park not thought of when it was created is how it is now being used by military personnel in-

jured in combat. Clemente and Heather Cox, Executive Vice President with sponsor Capitol One Bank, both spoke about the rising use of the park by this constituency. "What a way to give back to our community," Cox said. "It is so heartwarming to see our service personnel who have already sacrificed so much, really able to play with their children, not just watch from the sidelines," added Clemente.

The Foundation continues to raise funds to add additional equipment like the wheelchair-accessible Liberty Swing installed last year and to maintain the park's facilities. "All the money raised goes directly to the park. No salaries and overhead," added Clemente.

The distinguished supporters who enjoyed the delights provided by Susan George Catering and the strains of the Fairfax Symphony Quartet, included Kevin Fay, Dranesville District Representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, and the evening's Master of Ceremonies. Fay introduced Gov. and Mrs. McDonnell, Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, delegate Barbara Comstock, the Clementes and other honored attendees. "Although everyone here is a distinguished guest," noted Mr. Fay, "none of this is possible without each and everyone of you."

Governor also addressed the gathering. "Next time Virginia has a drought, I am calling you Julie," he joked with Mrs. Clemente. Governor McDonnell then thanked all the contributing sponsors and guests for their continuing efforts and support and care for the residents of Fairfax County, and in fact, for all Virginians.

TO LEARN MORE about Clemyjontri Park, or to become a Friend of this foundation, check out their website at www.Friendsofclemy.com.

Review

FROM PAGE 9

Dr. Seuss stories, including "The Butter Side Battle," "Oh The Thinks You Can Think," "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," and "McElligot's Pool."

Acting as the show's effervescent catalyst and narrator, Danielle Dar Juan captured the essence of the suave and mischievous Cat in the Hat with an impish vaudevillian twist. Dar Juan was liable to steal scenes with her impeccable comedic timing, coupled with an expressive and fluid physicality. In addition to her madcap antics, Dar Juan danced with apparent skill, aptly managing segments of solo song, and cleverly interacted with the audience. Sophie Buono, as Horton the Elephant, sang out her difficultly low part, powerfully emoting while performing in a low, tenor range.

Carolyn Lucas set the audiences hearts a flutter as the insecure bird desperately vying for Horton's affection. Lucas's quirky cuteness allowed for an extremely relatable and likable character, reflected in her awkward flappings and charming devotion to her estranged elephant. With no trouble simultaneously performing challenging dance and song, Lucas' voice was perfectly pitched, possessing a tone fitting for her enchanting and adorable characterization. Mr. Mayor, played by Jamie Rule, wholly took on her role, with a proper posture and vocal tone for the confident political leader while portraying an actively caring parent. Aiding the Cat in her hijinks were Thing One and Thing Two, played by Bonnie Newton and Sophie Frelk, entertained with their uproarious and childlike tomfoolery, squirting the audience with water guns and proudly waving a bubble machine in the background, among numerous other shenanigans.

Oakcrest's makeup crew did a commendable job at duly representing the outlandish illustrations of Seuss upon the stage. With varying degrees of difficulty, from straight makeup to garish character makeup, each design was approached with thorough creativity and thought. With exaggerated blush on the whos, subtle yet effective feline makeup on the Cat, and gaudy, bright colorations on all of the birds, complete with absurdly large fake eyelashes, the makeup crew artistically enhanced the world of "Seussical."

With remarkable vocals, bursting energy, and hilarious capers by a childhood icon, Oakcrest's "Seussical the Musical" provided an entertaining look into the brilliant mind of the Doctor himself, encouraging all thinkers who think to think more than ever before.

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MPA Celebrates 50 Years

McLean Project for the Arts curators select works from their favorite artists for a golden anniversary exhibition.

McLean's reputation as a trailblazer in the world of art is little known. It has the distinction of hosting one of the longest continually-running non-profit art centers in the Washington-area, the McLean Project for the Arts. The MPA is also the first public-private partnership in the arts in Fairfax County.

But to those familiar with the history of MPA, this is only a small part of what makes the art organization special. Nancy Bradley, one of six women who founded the organization fifty years ago, and who is its only surviving founder, joined former curators, its current curator, numerous art lovers, artists and MPA supporters last week to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the McLean Project for the Arts.

"A bunch of us were studying art at American University," said Bradley, "finding places to show our paintings. And we said there ought

to be a place in McLean, which is growing. It's a cultural dessert. We could have a gallery if we got a little money together and rented a space, and we could invite artists."

That's exactly what the group did. They rented the basement of what is now the Salona Village Shopping Center. They had to go through the back alley and down the stairs to access the gallery. But as Bradley said, "it was a nice big space."

THE YEAR WAS 1962, and the gallery slowly grew. In the late 1960s, the group started a membership program. That was one of the turning points, according to Bradley. People paid \$30 per year to join. "There was a period of time, if I was at a cocktail party, I was out selling memberships to the gallery," said Bradley. "People hated to see me come in," she laughed.

The MPA moved eleven times

before it finally found its permanent home in the McLean Community Center. "It's just been fascinating to see the vision and dedication that this group, the board members and the first founders, have brought us here today," said Nancy Perry, Executive Director of the MPA.

Though the MPA has been celebrating its anniversary all year, Perry called this exhibit which opened last week, its premier event. The exhibition titled "Four Perspectives: Becoming MPA," features artists selected by three former curators and the current curator. It will run through June 2.

Nancy Sausser, current curator at the MPA, said that for the 50th anniversary exhibition, the task was to "figure out a way to honor all of these wonderful artists who have shown their work in our spaces over the years. And what better way to do that than also to

honor this incredible lineage of curators that we have."

Andrea Pollan was the first curator for the MPA, and served there for ten years. She selected a few artists that she had worked with closely, who might be open to an "unorthodox presentation." She wanted to avoid the "yet another group show" presentation. The "unorthodox presentation" refers to her collection which is displayed in a playful, yet respectful way. Some of the works she chose included pieces by Ken Ashton, Kendall Buster, Susan Eder, Helen Frederick, Tom Green and Brandon Morse, among others.

One piece in particular, an extreme close-up of an individual which the artist, Jason Horowitz, calls "Lady Sofia Karrington Boulevard No. 3" is indeed, as Pollan describes it, "a very confrontational but amazing piece." It stops you in your tracks.

Sarah Tanguy served as curator for the MPA from 1996 to 1998. During her tenure, she enjoyed being able to "experiment with artists and themes. And no one saying that you can't do that, it's too



Nancy Perry, Executive Director of MPA, Nancy Sausser, current MPA curator, Nancy Bradley, MPA founder and board member, and former MPA curators Sarah Tanguy, Andrea Pollan, and Deborah McLeod.

PHOTOS BY LORI BAKER/THE CONNECTION



Artist Joy Every with her acrylic and oil painting titled "Beacon."

weird." When Tanguy was asked to take part in the anniversary show, she immediately thought of late artist Don Cook. Before he died, he had given her an acrylic on canvas

piece, titled "There is a Zone." And she knew right away that she would use that as a theme for this exhibit. The theme centers on the contrasts between the realm of ghosts and the living, and light and

shadow. All five of the artists that she selected deal with those concepts. The artists that she selected include Donald Cook, Michael Platt, Tanja Softic, John Ruppert and Colby Caldwell. Former curator, Deborah

McLeod, didn't start with a theme for her anniversary exhibition. But in assembling her collection, one soon evolved. She selected artists whom she "personally loved." The pieces she chose happened to represent nature or "philosophies that

we need to care for and protect." McLeod's collection includes works from Elsabe Dixon, Pat Goslee, Rebecca Kamen, Isabel Manalo and Betsy Packard and Craig Pleasants, to name a few. She said that her collection calls to

"All of the artists who are in the show are really meant to be there for some reason."

—MPA Curator Nancy Sausser

mind the Ray Bradbury story, Fahrenheit 451, in which the protagonists are determined to save books from being burned in a "futurist age of suspicion and intolerance."

CURRENT CURATOR, Nancy Sausser, selected pieces for her exhibit based on the challenge of showing in the Ramp Gallery. She only considered artists who had previously shown in the Ramp Gallery, since it is a unique space, with specific challenges. "All of the artists who are in the show are really meant to be there for some reason," she said. Sausser's collection includes works by Solomon Wondimu, Joy Every, Jeffrey Smith, Gretchen Schermerhorn, and Michael Mendez.

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To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:
mclean@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to:
The McLean Connection,
"Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,"
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ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Fenwick Fellow Lecture and Reception. 2 p.m. George Mason University, Johnson Center Instruction Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With Dr. Michael Chang, 2010-2011 Fenwick Fellow, on "Service at the Manchu Court: The Young Kangxi Emperor and His Personal Advisors." Refreshments served. 703-993-2491 or dhogan1@gmu.edu.

"No Crime Like the Present." 7:30 p.m. Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. A whodunit murder farce. \$5-\$8. fchsdrama.org.

Singer/Songwriter John McCutcheon. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

"No Crime Like the Present." 7:30 p.m. Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. A whodunit murder farce. \$5-\$8. fchsdrama.org.

Friday Afternoon Chess Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All ages and skill levels welcome. 703-757-8560.

"The Fantasticks." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.



The Washington Balalaika Society will present a concert of Russian and Eastern European folk music on Saturday, April 28 at 7 p.m. at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E. in Vienna. The concert will feature soprano Olga Orlovskaya, the WBS orchestra with conductor Svetlana Nikonova and traditional Russian instruments. Tickets are \$15-\$25, age 12 and under free with adult. www.balalaika.org or 703-644-9151.

"Deathtrap." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy-thriller about a play within a play. \$14-\$16, group rates available. 866-811-4111 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

The Life And Music Of Sam Rotman. 12 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., N.W., Vienna. A variety of classical music from the works of Beethoven

and others. \$20, includes lunch and program. www.viennapres.org/samrotman or www.bridgepointconnections.org/bpluncheon.

Spring Heirloom Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Flowers, herbs, heirloom annuals, vegetable transplants and some herbaceous shrubs. 703-442-7547 or www.1771.org.

Concert Pianist Joyce Yang. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Including pieces by Bach, Schumann, and Brahms. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

"My Love, My Love." 7 p.m. Joyce Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. A peasant girl uses love to bring people together. \$5. 703-846-8963.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. Admission is free and guests will be able to purchase food from more than 25 local restaurants. Alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase. Proceeds benefit The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. info@vffd.org or tasteofvienna@vffd.org.

Salting Fish Participatory Event. 1-4 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Visit the colonial Claude Moore Colonial Farm family as they clean and salt-down their yearly catch of herring. Help scale, prepare and pack the fish into jars. Learn about the contributions the Potomac River made in colonial times. \$3 adults, \$2 children, under 3 free. www.1771.org.

"No Crime Like the Present." 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church. A whodunit murder farce. \$5-\$8. fchsdrama.org.

Children's Show: The Smithsonian and Jammin' Java present Tim and the Space Cadets. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Vance Gilbert at 7 p.m.; Aaron Crawford & The Badcards at 10

p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Rare and Unusual Teas. 1 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dark tea, brick tea, red tea, blue tea and hard to find teas. \$25. Reserve at 703-759-2771.

Washington Balalaika Society. 7 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Russian and Eastern European folk music with soprano Olga Orlovskaya, the WBS orchestra with conductor Svetlana Nikonova and traditional Russian instruments. \$15-\$25, age 12 and under free with adult. www.balalaika.org or 703-644-9151.

Run for the Children 10K Race and 3K Run/Walk. 8:30 a.m. Fairfax County Courthouse, 4110 Chain Bridge Road Fairfax. ChronoTrack timing and scoring. Proceeds support CASA volunteers advocating for abused and neglected children. \$20-\$35. www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com.

Music: An Insider's Guide Lecture. 4 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Broadway Classics. Presented by A. Scott Wood, conductor of the Amadeus Orchestra. Adults. 703-356-0770.

"The Fantasticks." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

"Deathtrap." 8 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy-thriller about a play within a play. \$14-\$16, group rates available. 866-811-4111 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

Lake. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile.

www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

Yard and Bake Sale. 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Wesley United Methodist Church Preschool, 711 Spring St. S.E., Vienna. Proceeds will be used to purchase supplies for the preschool. yardsaleforwesley@gmail.com.

Spring Heirloom Plant Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Flowers, herbs, heirloom annuals, vegetable transplants and some herbaceous shrubs. 703-442-7547 or www.1771.org.

Folk Duo The Niels. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolftrap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Traditional folk music. \$18. www.wolftrap.org.

"My Love, My Love." 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Joyce Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. A peasant girl uses love to bring people together. \$5. 703-846-8963.

"Mardi Gras for Missions"

Auction. 7 p.m. Vale United Methodist Church, 11528 Vale road, Oakton. More than 250 items available for bid, including seating for the Macy's Thanksgiving parade, a private flight over Virginia, vacation getaways, sports tickets and more. All proceeds fund local and international missions. Red beans and rice, jambalaya, King (cup) cakes, beignets and chicory coffee available. ahrjturn@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

8th Annual Vienna Elementary PTA 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk. 8 a.m. Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. South, Vienna. With chronotrack timing system on a USATF Certified 5K course (VA-11019-RT). \$25-\$30, age 14 and under \$15. 703-625-0247 or www.vienna5krun.org.

Walk On the Hill. 2-5 p.m. Windover Heights Historic District, Vienna. Visitors can walk through any yard with an "Open" sign. Refreshments provided. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., district residents and Town of Vienna Departments of Parks & Rec and Public Works. 703-938-5187 or www.historicviennainc.org.

Children's Show: The Great Zucchini. 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

"The Fantasticks." 2 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Musical comedy. \$14, \$12 students and seniors. 703-255-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TRACI J. BROOKS PHOTOGRAPHY

Laura Peterson and Dan Eddy in the McLean Community Players' production of "Deathtrap" opening on April 20 at Alden Theatre.

Where and When

"Deathtrap" from McLean Community Players, at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Performances: April 20-May 5. Fridays-Saturdays 8 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. Tickets \$14-\$16. Call 703-304-3176 or visit www.mcleanplayers.org.

Note: Adult themes, production is most suitable for audiences 15 and older.

6360 or www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

"Deathtrap." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Comedy-thriller about a play within a play. \$14-\$16, group rates available. 866-811-4111 or www.mcleanplayers.org.

Virginia Ballet Company: Swan Lake. 2 p.m. Northern Virginia Community College Ernst Cultural Center Theater, 4001 Wakefield Chapel Road, Annandale. Tchaikovsky's four-act full-length classic ballet, with local dancers

Christine Gilmore and Eleni Thomas alternating in the role of Odette/Odile. www.virginiaballetcompany.org.

MONDAY/APRIL 30

The Pentimento Campfire Tour: Toh Kay and Sycamore Smith. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Tales to Tails. 4:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Read aloud to Beamer, a trained therapy dog. Age 6-12. 703-293-6227.

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Breakfast. 8 a.m. Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Honor volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County and finding new ways to serve. www.volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3816.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Armand Cabrera, landscape artist in oil and acrylics. 703-790-0123.

Cat Adoptions. 6:30-8:30 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Friday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Federal Resume Development Workshop. 10 a.m. Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. \$25-\$35. Resume essentials, appropriate resume format for government positions and more. 703-281-4928 ext. 276.

Healthy Responses to Anger. 9:30 a.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Workshop. \$35-\$45. 703-281-4928 ext. 276.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Real Estate Seminar Series. 1 p.m. Keller Williams Realty, 774-A Walker Road, Great Falls. Get tips from a professional stager, home inspector,

appraiser and more. Reserve at lyonsmcguire@TeamGreatFalls.com.

Our Constitution and How it has Evolved Since 1788. 12:45 p.m. Fairfax Unitarian Church, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Focus will be on the profound changes from the original provisions and also the continual tension affecting the role of religion as originally provided in the First Amendment.

MONDAY/APRIL 30

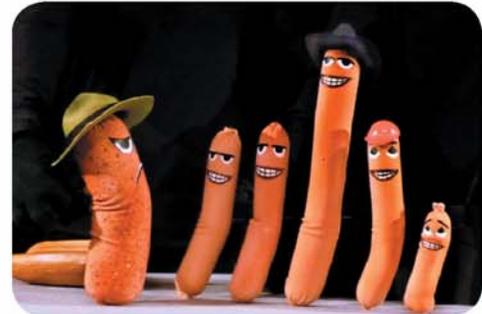
Great Falls Historical Society. 1-5 p.m. Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Meeting Mondays through April. www.gfhs.org.



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Here's What's Happening at MCC



McLean Kids Series
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Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m.
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5th & 6th Grader Parties
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Friday, May 4, 7 p.m.
\$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Jammin Junior Concerts

Wednesday, May 9, 16, 23, 12:30 p.m.
Free; McLean Central Park

For Rising 7th Graders
OFTC Open House

Thursday, May 10, 7-8:30 p.m.



A Studio Rep Production
"Make 'Em Laugh"

Friday & Saturday, May 11-12, 8 p.m.
\$10/\$5 MCC district residents

McLean Kids Series
Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band

Saturday, May 12, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101



703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



Growing Up in a Virtual World

The effects of today's technologies on the lives of teenagers.

BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Until recently, we didn't know that the average teenage girl sends or receives a staggering 4,050 text messages per month. That boils down to at least one message every seven minutes during her waking hours. This is a problem, said Dr. Leonard Sax, well-known author and psychologist, not just because of the amount of time spent, but because this and other research findings show that today's teenage girl is hyper-connected to her peers; and she is more disconnected than ever from herself.

This Neilson Company study is one of many that Dr. Leonard Sax shared with an audience of more than one hundred parents and educators gathered at Madeira School last week. Sax, author of "Why Gender Matters, Boys Adrift,

and Girls on the Edge," travels internationally to share research he has collected on the effects of social media and video games on the lives of teenagers. Sax is often viewed as an expert on the subject of teens and technology. Last week's presentation mainly focused on the effects of social media on girls, and video games on boys.

Children and teens today represent pioneers in the virtual world, making technology a popular topic for parents. This, according to Meredyth Cole, Assistant Head of Madeira School, is the reason why the school invited Sax to speak at Madeira, and why the McLean independent school opened the talk to the community.

THE AVERAGE GIRL today is more anxious than the average girl admitted to a psychiatric inpatient treatment unit 40 years ago for treatment of anxiety, said Sax. Al-

though there may be many reasons for this, one explanation, he said, is the saturation of social networking into the lives of teenage girls.

Years ago, girls would spend free time writing in their diaries, or just "goofing off," as he put it. This introspective time was important in helping girls figure out who they are. Now, a typical teenage girl spends much of her free time on Facebook, or other social networking sites, or texting her friends.

In fact, said Sax, one Stanford study found specifically that "Facebook makes girls sad. It pushes a positive spin. It turns out as an empirical finding that girls typically post only fun and happy things about themselves." This is only a problem because the typical teenage girl is very ready to believe that other girls are having much more fun than they are. In fact, he added, "last year a researcher found that the more time a girl spends on Facebook, and the more Facebook friends she has, the more likely she is to become depressed."

Social networking sites do not value authenticity. "She is polish-

ing a mask, she is perfecting a brand, creating a persona not true to who she is, partly because she doesn't know who she is," he added.

However, he told the audience, technology is not all bad and social networking sites are okay. They are just not to be used in lieu of actual social situations.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING, boys do not spend as much time on social networking sites or texting as girls do. They do, however, spend more time playing video games. In fact, Sax noted that teenage boys have become disconnected and, in fact, unmotivated due in large part to the amount of time they spend playing video games. He shared some well-known statistics showing that the level of violence in videogames is harmful to children and teens. In addition, he shared statistics

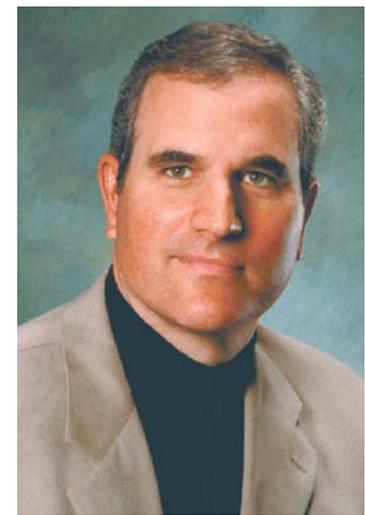


PHOTO BY CLAY BLACKMORE

Dr. Leonard Sax, psychologist and author, shared his presentation, "Facebook Ate my Daughter" last week at Madeira School.

that show a direct relationship between the hours spent playing videogames (starting at six hours per week), and a decrease in achievement.

Families Walk 'A Fine Line'

Several McLean and Great Falls residents that attended the presentation described how they balance the role that technology plays in their households.



Kim Overdeck, mother and physician at Virginia Hospital Center, from McLean:

"We are, for better or for worse, moving into more of a technological society where the kids are going to be expected to be computer savvy, and know how to deal with all of the new technology. And there's a fine line between not getting enough, to the point where they're not facile with it, like their peers. In our house we have a rule that my son gets a half hour of video games in the afternoon, after he's done his homework (I have an 8 year old that this mostly pertains to); and then on the weekends he can play a little bit more. But it's hard to keep it in check."



Tracy McGowan, mother and owner of a corporate housing business, from McLean:

"You hear that too much is a bad thing. But how about nothing? Is that keeping your kids at a disadvantage? They crave it. And it's a struggle. Sometimes when you limit things it becomes this attraction, so it's hard to know. It feels like the right thing to do, but it's hard in this society. We limit it, but we introduced it pretty late. My kids are 6 and 8, but I feel already like I am fighting the standard with handheld [devices]."



Lisa Kory, full-time mom, from Great Falls: (Photo 2)

"I am saying I don't think we should do it 24/7. Between the TV, the computer, the this-and-that, I just try to limit it. I try to say an hour per day. I can't say I do that every day, but I try. Everybody says 'oh, you've got to be more with-it.' I say, I'm as with-it as I want to be."

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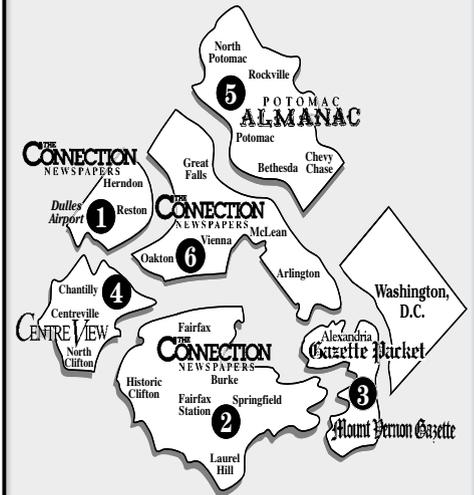
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Really?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently upgraded my cell phone, I have finally, due to its larger keys and simplified data-entry process, learned how to enter "contacts" and their phone numbers as well as select some of these key contacts for speed-dialing. This relatively basic function, which had eluded me for years, has opened up a slew of possibilities, that even I can see will lessen the burden on my brain to remain engaged. Now I won't have to think nearly so much about what I've spent 40-plus years doing: dialing a phone number from memory and/or referring to a phone/address book for that number. Thanks to my new phone, I have finally turned the corner of technology. I have passed "Go." Next we'll see where I land: "Boardwalk" or "Baltic" and see if there is a monopoly of my time as a result.

One week into my new communication life, I have entered 16 contacts, some with only one phone number, others with mobile, home and work. In addition, I have entered/selected two speed-dial numbers. Obviously, I have ample space remaining for future contacts and certainly more space for speed-dials. Going through the list of prospective "speed-dialers" and "contacts-to-be," I have now reached a point where I'm sort of looking for people/numbers to add; I suppose you could say I've reached the second tier. I've already entered/allocated from the top tier (most called, most familiar, most logical: friends, family and business). Yet spots remain, so I've begun a mental search of who/what numbers might be cell phone-worthy (meaning whose phone numbers might I want to include in my cell phone) either as a "contact" or a "speed dial" since the process of doing so is now clearly within my rather limited abilities.

Two numbers that I've thought about adding – and which relate directly to this column's title, are my car's auto repair shop and my oncologist. I have most definitely entered them as contacts. However, given the semi-precarious nature of driving a car with 137,000 miles on the odometer, perhaps it would be prudent to assign a speed dial number to my mechanic. Not that I want to be calling him that often or have the circumstances be so time-sensitive that speed – in our ability to connect with one another over the phone – is of the essence but, hoping and praying don't necessarily make it so. And let's be honest, my car is not getting any newer.

I have similar feelings toward my oncologist. I don't want to have to/need to call him that quickly, but again, let's be realistic; I'm probably not getting any healthier. As such, if I did call him, presumably it wouldn't be to inquire about the weather; more likely it would be to inquire whether a new symptom or a deterioration of some kind relating to my being a stage IV lung cancer survivor (who has now outlived his original "13-month-to two-year prognosis" by years) is significant. But if I'm being honest about my life/health circumstances, who better to call – and be able to call quickly and efficiently, than the doctor who is primarily responsible for my well-being/treatment? I don't want to feel this way, but if there's anything that seems increasingly more relevant (as I continue to live beyond my original prognosis), it would be to plan for circumstances that are beyond my control (although I'm not saying/admitting to their inevitability), especially if there are other people (close to me) who might need some assistance attempting to control those circumstances, should they occur.

Admitting to their significance – and need however, and in turn acting/planning on their behalf, so to speak, are tough pills to swallow. Never do I want to give credence to my original diagnosis and accept my fate, sort of. Nevertheless, organizing my phone to prepare for the worst, while still hoping for the best, might be the best way – for me, to take care of myself and those closest to me as well. But thinking that technology, specifically my phone, would play a major role in that task, is a really big surprise, all things considered.

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

Saxons Perform in Prague, Vienna, Salzburg

FROM PAGE 3

great choirs from all over: Puerto Rico, Denmark, the United Kingdom and many other countries."

Andrew Jones, a member of the Madrigals, said he enjoyed seeing such a diverse group of acts.

"The cultural interaction and immersion proved to be a very eye-opening experience for me personally," he said. "The opportunity to see a variety of musical styles across a plethora of cultural backgrounds helped me to better understand and appreciate the many forms of music in our world's varied society."

On their final day in Prague, the group sang in the historic St. Nicholas Church before joining in a parade with the other groups in the competition.

"The parade was very fun because we would do the 'Hail Saxons' cheer and high-five many of the people of Prague. After the parade, we had dinner at our hotel and got ready for the awards ceremony and disco party," said Lauren Meyer, a member of the Women's Select Treble Choir. "The party was at the National House Vinohrady where we had performed the day before. They announced the winners of each category and Langley did extremely well, winning three gold awards and one silver award."

Some students called that day the highlight of the trip.

"This day was my favorite because it was loads of goodness all compiled into 24 hours," said Hannel So of the Concert Choir. "It was a very joyful and proud moment for me and I felt like a true representative of Langley High School and the USA."

ON APRIL 1, the group made their way to the Vienna - to sing at the Schloßkapelle Imperial Chapel in the Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna.

"The palace is so beautiful and, despite the cold, I think the concert sounded great. Following the concert, we quickly passed through a market on the palace grounds," said Amy Welch of the Women's Chamber Choir. "I enjoyed this because I was able to try my first Austrian pretzel and see the stilt-walking chicken lady. It was exciting to experience the Austrian culture in the market."

Julia Isacson said the trip to Vienna was a breath of fresh air.

"We came from the cold, rainy weather of Prague to the shining sun and the warm weather of Vienna. When we performed in the Schonbrunn Palace, it was a life changing experience. The acoustics in the chapel were phenomenal," she said. "The notes lingered in the air a couple of seconds and with each second, the sound was more breathtaking. I will never forget visiting the music capital of the world."

During their next day in Vienna, the students were able to visit the graveyard where



Members of the Langley Choir visit the Mirabell Gardens in Salzburg during their Spring Break trip to Europe, where they were awarded one Silver and three Gold medals in the 2012 Young Prague Festival.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Students from the Langley Choir visit Schonbrunn Palace in Vienna during their Spring Break trip to Europe.

many famous composers were interred.

"As choir nerds, we were just a little over-excited to see the musical geniuses' graves," said Ivy Kenton of the Women's Select Treble Choir. "We then went to the large chapel within the cemetery grounds. It was breathtakingly beautiful. There was so much color with a huge dome ceiling decorated with blue tiles."

Andrew Myers of the Concert Choir called the Benedictine Abbey in Melk the most beautiful building he has ever seen.

"We toured the different colored rooms and in each room were amazing artifacts made of gold and gems," he said. "In the library, there were thousands of big books. The ceiling of the library had the most beautiful painting I could ever imagine."

Jesse Levine of the Madrigals said the acoustics of the church made that performance one of their best ones.

"The reverb of the room made the parts sound especially uniform and I believe it was our best performance," Levine said.

"The church was also decorated beautifully and almost completely covered in gold."

While in Vienna, the students went on a tour inspired by "The Sound of Music."

"I loved going to the gazebo where they filmed the number 'Sixteen Going on Seventeen.' We also saw the real von Trapp house as well as the two houses they used for the movie," said Jamie Joeyen-Waldorf of the Women's Select Treble Choir. "We then toured the Salzburg Salt Mines, donning miners' smocks. The slides were very fun to go down and we traveled from Austria to Germany underground in seconds."

After their tour of the mines, the group gave their final performance at the Parish Church of Mulin in Salzburg.

"It was great seeing that we made the people we performed for happy," said Emily Nesbit of the Women's Select Treble Choir. "The last thing we did on our trip was go to a Mozart dinner. The singing was beautiful and it was a great conclusion to an altogether amazing trip."

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❖ **Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, Robbie Hammer**, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, *Potomac Almanac*



Alex McVeigh



Mary Kimm

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, General Makeup, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Staff**, SECOND PLACE, Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Robbie Hammer

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Headline Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Jeanne Theismann

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Lashawn Avery-Simon**, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, *Arlington Connection*

❖ **Mike O'Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy**, SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Fairfax Connection*



Lashawn Avery-Simon

❖ **Julia O'Donoghue**, SECOND PLACE, Education Writing, *Fairfax Connection*

❖ **Marilyn Campbell**, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, *Great Falls Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, SECOND PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*

❖ **Jon Roetman**, SECOND PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, *Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection*



Kenny Lourie



Ken Moore



Jeanne Theismann



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Louise Krafft

❖ **Louise Krafft**, SECOND PLACE, Picture Story or Essay, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Ken Moore, Laurence Foong**, SECOND PLACE, Infographics, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Carole Dell**, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, *Potomac Almanac*

❖ **Susan Belford**, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story, Profile, *Potomac Almanac*



Laurence Foong



Susan Belford

❖ **Louise Krafft**, THIRD PLACE, Pictorial Photo, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Breaking News Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*



Michael Lee Pope

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Mount Vernon Gazette*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Alexandria Gazette Packet*

❖ **Mary Kimm**, THIRD PLACE, Editorial Writing, *Burke Connection*

❖ **Victoria Ross**, THIRD PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, *Fairfax Connection*



Kemal Kurspahic

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Amna Rehmatulla**, THIRD PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, *Reston Connection*



Amna Rehmatulla

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The Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation Dress-Up with Grown-Ups Gala was held at the McLean Hilton on Saturday evening, April 21. The event featured a silent auction, dinner, dancing and other games and fun for both the children and adults and helped to raise funds for the foundation.

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

Caring for Children

Dress-Up with Grown-Ups Gala held at the McLean Hilton.



The MCCP Foundation Dress-Up with Grown-Ups Gala featured fun activities for all who were in attendance, including music, dancing and games for the children.



The MCCP Foundation Dress-Up with Grown-Ups Gala featured fun activities for all who were in attendance, including music, dancing and games for the children.

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Worek Wants to Continue McLean Football's Winning Ways

Former Langley, Madison head coach believes Highlanders have strong program in place following three years under Jim Patrick.

BY ALEC HAVÉUS
THE CONNECTION

This past Jan. 25, McLean High School announced that Dennis Worek would be the man to coach the Highlanders' high school football team. This after Jim Patrick stepped down as the McLean head coach to devote more time to being the school's director of student activities.

Coach Worek arrived at McLean High School after spending two seasons as the defensive coordinator at Thomas Jefferson High. But he has a lot more experience than that.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

McLean High football, shown here in action versus Fairfax High last year, was 0-10 in Jim Patrick's first year as head coach in 2008. But the Highlanders, under Patrick, went on to qualify for the region playoffs the following three years. Patrick, following last year's successful season, stepped down and Dennis Worek, a long time football coach in the Northern Region, was named the Highlanders' new head coach. Patrick remains a big part of McLean High athletics as the school's director of student activities.

Starting off as a freshman coach at West Springfield High, he became the offensive coordinator at Hayfield after just one year with the Spartans. He moved on to be the offensive line coach at Lake Braddock and after that stop became offensive coordinator at Catholic University (Wash., D.C.).

Worek next joined W.T. Woodson as a defensive assistant/special teams coach before landing his first job as a head coach at Langley High School. After spending four years at Langley he joined James Madison High School to become their new head coach.

After seven years as James Madison's head coach, Worek looked for a new challenge and found it at Chantilly High School, becoming its new assistant Principal.

He ultimately got back into football coaching, joining the Jefferson High program as its defensive coordinator and then, most recently, landing the job as McLean High School's head coach.

Coach Worek believes that former McLean head coach, Jim Patrick, did a great job before stepping down. Worek explained that he wants to continue the winning tradition.

"McLean is already competitive," said Worek. "They have been in the D-5 playoffs the last three years. There is a strong program in place."

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

This week the undefeated McLean High boys' tennis team, under head coach Aavo Tomkov, had a challenging slate of competition versus Liberty District opponents. The Highlanders (8-0), earlier in the week on Tuesday, April 24, were scheduled to travel to cross-town and Liberty District rival Langley High (7-1). Two days later, on Thursday, April 26, the Highlanders were set to host district opponent Jefferson High (6-2) for a 3:30 p.m. competition. The match versus the Colonials will be the second meeting between McLean and Jefferson this spring. The Highlanders won a close match versus Jefferson in the first meeting. Last spring, Jefferson captured the Northern Region championship. On way to the crown, the Colonials defeated McLean in the region semifinals, 5-3. The Colonials then bested district opponent Langley in the region finals.

The Langley High girls' softball team hosted the Marshall Statesman last Friday, April 20, winning 7-6. Emily Templin pitched all seven innings for the Saxons, holding the Statesman to two runs and four hits while striking out eight and walking one over the

first six innings.

A triple by Ashley Panetta in the first inning gave Langley a 1-0 lead. Marshall tied it up in the top of the fourth and Langley retaliated in its half, swinging hard, multiple hits by Taylor Chason, Kaitryn Evans, Maggie Natal, Panetta, and Templin, as well as a home run by Gabi Pijaca.

Marshall squeaked out an additional run in the top of the fifth. As Langley approached the seventh inning, it looked as if the Saxons had the game well in control, but the Statesman rallied behind six hits to get within 7-6. With the bases loaded and two outs, Templin struck out the last batter (her ninth strikeout of the game) to secure the win for the Saxons.

Earlier last week, Langley, playing at home, lost 9-5 to rival McLean. Julia Weeks, Evans, and Chason each hit home runs for the Saxons.

This week's Northern Region Top 10 Baseball Coach's Poll is as follows: Lake Braddock of the Patriot District remains at the No. 1 position, with a trio of Concorde District clubs - No. 2 Centerville, No. 3 Chantilly, and the No. 4 Herndon Hornets - following. The five through seven slots are filled by teams from the Liberty District



Some of the Langley women crew members displaying one of the boats that was re-laced in a show of support for Coach Hess.

Langley Crew Wins Races, Helps Community

The Langley crew team has three regattas under their belt with some great successes: Several boats have come in first, second or third in their heats. The freshmen and novice boats have produced some great times - building future successes for the team. Out of 23 events, well over half of the boats have placed in the top three positions—including five first places finishes. Langley Crew has raised several hundred dollars for Share of McLean during their annual "Ergathon" — an indoor rowing competition held every year in February against West Springfield HS.

And Langley Crew has joined with the larger

Langley community in supporting Coach Hess and his family. Coach Hess's daughter was recently diagnosed with cancer and the Langley community has rallied to support the Hess family. There have been various fundraisers, including the students selling bright neon green shoelaces to show their support. If you are unfamiliar with rowing you might not know that the rowers actually lace their feet into special shoes built into the boats called foot stretchers. The Langley rowers re-laced the stretchers this spring with the green neon laces as a show of support.

— JAN ROSSBERG

with the McLean Highlanders at No. 5, the Madison Warhawks No. 6, and the Stone Bridge Bulldogs No. 7. The next two teams in the poll are defending Northern Re-

gion champion South County (Patriot District) at No. 8 and Oakton (Concorde District) at No. 9. Two teams, Langley High (Liberty District) and Westfield (Concorde)

are tied for the No. 10 position. Other teams receiving votes were: W.T. Woodson, West Springfield, Robinson, and Marshall.



Fairfax County Public Schools: Visual and Performing Arts

Coming Next Month: Summer Activities and Programs

The Power of Art

"If I were a rich man, ya ha deedle deedle, bubba bubba deedle deedle dum."

"If I Were a Rich Man," *Fiddler on the Roof*

A catchy show tune, a mesmerizing photograph, stunning computer graphics, a stirring orchestra rendition, an eloquent pencil drawing, or the graceful movements of a modern dance performance – each has the power to move audiences and transport them to a moment in time.

This Just In:

Fifteen Fairfax County Public School students received national medals for their entries in the 2012 Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers.

Whatever the talent or interest, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides students with a comprehensive arts education.

Students in grades K through 6 receive music and art instruction taught by certified art teachers. Middle school and high school students may choose to enroll in a variety of elective course offerings in all fine arts disciplines to include dance, music, theatre, and visual art. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) art classes are offered for students in grades 11 - 12.

Art engages students in a process that helps them develop the self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self motivation necessary for success in life.

"Art making involves critical thinking and problem solving to create a product," said Aaron Stratten, art education specialist at FCPS. "In this sense, art is an authentic approach to providing students with essential skills they will need in the 21st century to

develop creative solutions to challenges. Creativity and problem solving are essential components of innovation which will feed the economy and industries of the future."

Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Stratten. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."

Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at www.fcps.edu and click on the blue Events tab.



Getting To Know Us:

Herndon High School Theatre Teacher
Zoë Dillard

Zoë Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's

here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," said Dillard. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic design skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting."

"I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are seniors, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."

Did You Know?

More than 33,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-12 school year:

- Visual art – 12,400
- Music – 12,600
- Theatre – 2,600
- Dance – 200

Cappies: Award-Winning Performances



For those who would rather critique than perform, the Cappies, or Critics and Awards Program, is designed for high school theatre and journalism students who are trained as theatre critics, attend shows at other schools, write reviews, and publish the reviews in local newspapers and online. The international program was launched by FCPS in 1999.

Each spring, Cappies critics nominate actors and technicians for Cappies awards, which are presented, along with awards for critics, at the annual Cappies Gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Cappies Gala showcases the amazing artistic talents of our high school students," said Judy Bowns, co-founder of Cappies and theatre arts and dance specialist at FCPS. "Student actors, backstage technicians, singers, dancers, and musicians are honored with a Cappie by their peers who acknowledge this excellence by their votes. It's the only student theatre awards program that is student-driven with no awards decided by adults."

The gala draws more than 2,000 theatre students and their families. For more information visit www.cappies.com.

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