

Fiona and Tommy, played by Herndon High School seniors Molly Nuss and Paul Morgan, sing together during the school's production of "Brigadoon."

Herndon High Performs 'Brigadoon'

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH / THE CONNECTION

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Put the Zip on Homelessness

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), in partnership with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness, The Connection Newspapers and Apple Federal Credit Union, has announced the Second Annual Jeans Day to

Put the ZIP on Homelessness (<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>).

On Jeans Day 2012—Friday, Dec. 14—businesses, county agencies, non-profit organizations and civic and faith-based groups in Northern Virginia will allow employees or members to wear jeans to work or gatherings in exchange

for a \$5 contribution to End Homelessness. Last year, more than 100 employers, representing 3,000 employees, participated in the initiative.

Twenty-two organizations, representing nearly 2,000 employees, have already signed up to participate in Jeans Day 2012, including:

- ❖ City of Fairfax Regional Li-

brary

- ❖ CPS Professional Services, LLC
- ❖ Ernst & Young
- ❖ Fairfax County Department of Housing
- ❖ Fairfax County Department of Human Resources
- ❖ Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood & Community Ser-

vices

- ❖ Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court
- ❖ Fairfax County Office of the County Attorney
- ❖ Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- ❖ Fairfax County Retirement Administration Agency
- ❖ Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board-Chantilly Center
- ❖ Helios HR
- ❖ Holland & Knight LLP
- ❖ The ILEX Group
- ❖ Kositzka, Wicks & Company
- ❖ M&T Bank
- ❖ The O'Reilly Law Firm
- ❖ Reston Association
- ❖ Steve Gladis Leadership Partners

❖ Tysons Corner Center
 ❖ Virginia Commerce Bank
 ❖ WSP Environment & Energy
 “We’re proud to partner with the county, through the Office to Prevent & End Homelessness, The Connection Newspapers and Apple Credit Union to provide an opportunity for businesses and their employees to participate in the robust work to end homelessness going on in our community,” said Fairfax Chamber President & CEO Jim Corcoran. “Northern Virginia businesses step up every day to support our community in many ways, but we’re especially excited about this opportunity because it’s a chance for employees to get involved directly.”

“Now, more than ever, we need you to get involved as we move forward with the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness. Everyone is in need of some type of help at one point in time or another. Now, we need your help, and Jeans Day is a great way for you and your business to get involved to prevent and end homelessness in our community as we know it,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

“In Fairfax County, it’s easy to forget that there are homeless families here, homeless children in the schools, and that many people who are homeless here are actually working, but don’t make nearly enough money to afford housing,” said The Connection Publisher Mary Kimm. “The Connection is committed to raising awareness of homelessness and the need to provide permanent shelter, and to recognizing the good works of individuals and

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SEE JEANS DAY, PAGE 7

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NEWS

From left—Jennifer Lucier, president of the Lift Me Up! board of directors, Tracy Kenny, 2012 honoree and board member, and Keira Kenny. Great Falls resident Tracy Kenny, and volunteer Gordon Baker, were honored for their service to the organization.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Celebrating the Magic of Lift Me Up!

Thirty-seventh anniversary gala a spectacular night.

Lift Me Up! therapeutic riding program hosted its annual gala on Saturday, Nov. 17, celebrating the organization's 37th year of bringing the magic of horseback riding to individuals living with disabilities. The event took place at the BMW of Sterling, courtesy of Thomas and Joyce Moorehead, who, for the last seven years, have opened their showroom for Lift Me Up!'s primary fundraiser of the year.

The evening began with guests mingling at a cocktail reception that included hors d'oeuvres by RSVP Catering and a silent auction, full of donations from the community, including the Washington Redskins, Washington Wizards, local jewelers and restaurants, and many more. Throughout the evening, three young riders from the program, Keira Kenny, Camron Saba, and Catalina Smith chatted with guests and raised over \$1,500 by selling raffle tickets for a basket organized by Maggie Johnston of the program's board of directors.



From left—Lauren Carbaugh and Debbie Saba, Lift Me Up! supporters.

Dinner entertainment included an elaborate magic show and an awards presentation where Great Falls resident Tracy Kenny, and volunteer Gordon Baker, were honored for their service to the organization.

The evening also featured a live auction that included a Jorge Adeler one-of-a-kind custom designed necklace donated by Adeler Jewelers as well as an opportunity to view Dr. Lucas Collazo and his Cardiac Surgery Team perform live open heart surgery. Following the bidding, Keller Williams of McLean presented a check for over \$15,000 as the proceeds from the third annual McLean-Great Falls Keller Williams Cares charity golf tournament. The evening ended with another gala tradition known as "Stand Up for Lift Me Up!" where guests raised an additional \$28,000 for this program.

Community support is at the heart of the program's success. More than 300 volunteers comprising local high school students and adults assist the student riders and PATH-certified riding instructors during lessons offered seven days a week. Lift Me Up! serves over 100 riders of all ages, including local veterans wounded while serving in the military.

Lift Me Up! is a 501 (c) (3) charity and a PATH Premier Accredited Center. For more information, visit www.liftmeup.org.



Part of the gala's tradition is a rider testimonial. This year's speaker was Catalina Smith who gave an emotional speech thanking Lift Me Up! for her ability to ride today.



PHOTO BY FRANK SIMMONS

Men from Fairfax and Loudoun volunteered together and managed the constant traffic of shopping carts as 50,000 pounds of non-perishable groceries were loaded into vehicles of families in need from Sterling, Ashburn and Herndon. Christ the Redeemer Catholic processed 55 families an hour, totaling 397 carts between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Working in parallel, Trinity Presbyterian in Herndon handled 404 grocery carts. Seventy-three walk-in families were served at the end of the day.

LINK Helps Hundreds of Families in Need

Friday, Dec. 16 was an extremely busy day as volunteers were sorting food and clothing and tweets were going out seeking additional food items. Facebook was updated with requests for more volunteers to help. On Saturday morning at 8 a.m. LINK was ready to receive the first of 800-plus families.

When the day ended shortly after 4 p.m., LINK and volunteers had served 801 families (4,300 people comprising 2,066 adults and 2,234 children) food to last five to seven days, fresh produce and meat from Capital Area Food Bank. Volunteers made direct deliveries to 11 homebound families; \$21,930 was distributed in grocery card gift cards; 1,592 winter coats, 1,748 pairs of gloves and winter hats and 1,035 scarves and other winter items were distributed to 320 grateful families.

Over 500 volunteers helped in the week long pre-staging and the event day efforts for all programs. Caring people were needed to collect and pre-stage the food and clothes at the three area churches. Volunteers coordinated the whole event, contacting schools and social workers, comparing recipient lists with other agencies, scheduling guest appointments, managing

the ever-changing volunteer shifts, staffing the guest registration desk and providing Spanish translators.

Knowledgeable people worked with the school listing, and maintained the web site and the data collection process. Experienced volunteers managed the task of getting packers, bags, drivers, addresses, and families all matched together and ensured there was breakfast and lunch at the break rooms. Other volunteers handled the grocery gift cards or loaded guest vehicles with overflowing bags of groceries.

LINK will repeat the process on Dec. 15, but will replace the coats and clothing with new unwrapped toys. As of today, we need about 3,800 new toys for children newborn through 16 years old. It is a huge goal, but one I know we can meet and possibly exceed with assistance from our wonderful Loudoun and Fairfax community. We also need more food to fill the empty shelves left after Saturday.

If you would like to help by coordinating a food or toy drive within your community, church, neighborhood or business, please contact LINK at president@linkagainsthunger.org.

—MARK GUNDERMAN



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION



The townspeople hold a funeral for one of their residents during Herndon High School's production of "Brigadoon," which starts Nov. 30.

Fiona (played by Molly Nuss) and Tommy (played by Paul Morgan) struggle with their feelings for each other during a scene in Herndon High School's production of "Brigadoon."

Herndon High Performs 'Brigadoon'

Theater department puts on annual fall musical.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For many cast members in the Herndon High School Theatre Department, the musical "Brigadoon" wasn't a familiar title to them. The story of two New Yorkers who stumble upon a mystical disappearing Scottish village features one of the young men, Tommy, who falls in love with one of the town's residents, only to be confronted by the fact that the town only appears once every hundred years.

"It's sort of a classic that nobody knows about," said senior Molly Nuss, who plays Fiona, the woman Tommy falls in love with.

Nuss says she really enjoyed the reality of her character, who despite being trapped in a village that only appears once a century, has plenty of depth.

"She shows an entire range of emotion throughout the play, she's sassy and fiery, but also very serious. Her character is very relatable," she said. "Throughout much of the play, she seems to wear a mask, before coming out as she really is."

Senior Paul Morgan, who plays Tommy, says he was familiar with the 1954 film starring Gene Kelly, who is his favorite actor.

"The love songs are really great, they range from confusion, to Tommy finding a direction, only to lose it again," he said. "From a performance standpoint it's the most demanding role I've played, a lot of singing and dancing, but it's also the best role I've played."

NEW YORKERS Tommy and Jeff, played by senior Chris Hrozencik,



Paul Morgan, in the role of Tommy, is haunted by the loss of Fiona, during the Herndon High School production of "Brigadoon," opening Nov. 30.

"From a performance standpoint it's the most demanding role I've played, a lot of singing and dancing, but it's also the best role I've played."

— Senior Paul Morgan

find themselves surrounded by a town full of people trapped in the past. Hrozencik's character is a sardonic drinker that tries to keep Tommy grounded, even as he becomes more infatuated with Fiona.

"He was definitely a fun character to play, he's older and a drunk, but there are scenes, particularly at the end, where there are comic moments that also show the true reality of his character," he said.

Hrozencik isn't the only actor who plays a character vastly different from himself. Senior Amy Freeman plays Meg Brockie, a lovestruck woman who chases Jeff

for much of the play.

"She's so flighty and promiscuous, it was fun to put myself into the role, that's what acting is all about," she said. "I love the song at the end of the first act, 'The Love of My Life,' where she reflects on how strange her love life is. And the whole time she's chasing Jeff, he's so dismissive, but she couldn't care less."

The students stay true to the play, speaking in thick Scottish accents throughout the play, and wearing the tartan attire and petticoats that are Scotland's signature.



From left, New Yorkers Tommy, played by senior Paul Morgan and Jeff, played by senior Chris Hrozencik, discuss the town of Brigadoon in the Herndon High School production of "Brigadoon," starting Nov. 30.

Like most of Herndon's musicals, this one features accompaniment from a pit orchestra, also students at Herndon High School.

"The orchestra helps add power and emotion to the scenes, and that's something we can draw on as actors," Nuss said.

Senior Megan Overton, who plays the role of Jean, said the process of learning a completely new musical was very rewarding.

"Once we started doing research, seeing the movie and learning the songs, it was really a fun process. Once it all starts com-

ing together, with the great costumes and the set pieces, it just adds a whole new energy," she said. "We're so lucky to be able to have the pit orchestra performing, a lot of schools don't have that opportunity."

"BRIGADOON" will be performed at the Herndon High School auditorium Friday, Nov. 30 and Saturday, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit www.herndonadrama.org.

WEEK IN HERNDON



Crime Solvers Seeking Suspects in Herndon-Area Car Vandalisms

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is seeking the public's assistance in identifying the suspects responsible for damaging numerous vehicles parked in an apartment complex over the weekend. An investigation determined that between 11 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24 and 8 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 25, the suspects slashed the tires of at least 64 vehicles parked in the Dulles Greene Apartment Complex. The vehicles were all parked on Astoria Circle; one car was parked on Rock Hill Road, just outside the complex.

Surveillance video shows three males entering the complex on foot that night. One male was heavyset, wearing light-colored clothing. The second male was wearing dark-colored basketball shorts. The third male was wearing dark-colored clothing. Detectives are releasing a photo of these three males in the hopes someone may have seen them in the area that night or may recognize them.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES (274637). A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Find us on Facebook.

Fox Mill Walks Raise \$5,400 for Reston Interfaith

The seventh annual Fox Mill Elementary School PTA Walk for the Homeless was held Thursday, Oct. 25. A total of 254 walkers raised more than \$5,400 to help Reston Interfaith in their efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County.

After being greatly moved by a report about the high numbers of homeless families living in Fairfax County, a past student Kristin Allgaier, with the help of her family, first organized this walk for her school in 2005. Although she has now moved on to Rachel Carson, Fox Mill has been committed to hosting a Walk at Fox Mill each fall. Thirty-three percent of homeless people in Fairfax County are children. Fox Mill's efforts bring attention to the power of children helping children and prove that young people can make a very large difference in their community.

Due to the fact that the walk was happening right before Halloween, the children were invited to wear masks for the walk in line with the theme—"unmask homelessness" in your community. Prior to the event, Fox Mill Student Council officers took a tour of Reston Interfaith's Embry Rucker Community Shelter in Reston, and then shared facts about homelessness with the rest of the school. Fox Mill Elementary Principal Mie Devers and Assistant Principal Brian Moose were also there along with many of the teachers to show their support for the walk. The children also had Fox Mill PTA President Amanda Owens, Abby Kimble from Reston Interfaith and Clare Tock from Fannie Mae cheering them on.

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The master bedroom suite consists of a sitting room, dressing room, and large walk-in closet. There are decks off the first floor and the basement level. In addition, there is a year round sun room off of the great room.

Large kitchen and great room with a formal living room and dining room. There is a fireplace in the living room and great room. The basement level is partially finished with a full bath and a 2-car garage. Cottage located about 50' from the main house and has a small kitchen—ideal as a guest cottage or mother-in-law house.

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OPINION

Learning in a Global Community

Students in Fairfax County speak 160 languages.

This week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and some of the joys and challenges of having a diverse student body that speaks as many as 160 different languages at home.

Find the series compiled online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/>.

For the director of language acquisition in Fairfax County Public Schools, the 44 percent of students who speak a foreign language at home present an opportunity to create language immersion classes where half a kindergarten is learning Spanish or Korean while the other half is learning English.

For principals of some elementary schools where more than half of their students are not proficient in English, the need to have students meet benchmarks in a variety of subjects is a relentless process. In addition to limited English, immigrant students come from varied backgrounds, some with good basics in their

own languages and some with limited previous education in any language. The parents of these students are similarly varied.

Meanwhile, representation of Latino and African American students in Fairfax County's top instructional centers for gifted students lags dramatically.

EDITORIAL

FCPS is conducting two critical sets of public meetings this week and next. The call for public input is not specifically about growing diversity in the schools, but related challenges make both the possible expansion of centers for the county's most talented students and the selection of a new superintendent of schools that much more important.

A fast moving proposal to expand the number of centers to provide "advanced academic" services is the topic of meetings this week. The meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Westfield High School cafeteria; Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Lee High School cafeteria; and Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Kilmer

Middle School cafeteria.

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale will be retiring in June of 2013. The School Board has hired a search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, which will be gathering community input. Many of the challenges facing the new superintendent will revolve around growing diversity, and a track record of open communication and achievement in this will be key to success.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- ❖ Dec. 3 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, South County HS, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.
- ❖ Dec. 4 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley HS, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101.
- ❖ Dec. 5 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson SS, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale HS, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003.
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306.
- ❖ Dec. 7 - 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600.

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

BY JOHN HOREJSI, COORDINATOR
SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

The presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Non-immigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to,



but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and 10 percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have

been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities, which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

- ❖ Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;
- ❖ Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;
- ❖ Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;
- ❖ Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and
- ❖ Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other both stand to gain.

Write Us

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

Letters to the Editor, The Connection
1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444. ❖ herndon@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS Jeans Day

FROM PAGE 2

businesses in Northern Virginia.” Nearly 3,000 children, women and men face homelessness and the threat of severe temperatures and hunger today in the Fairfax County-Falls Church community. The majority of people without homes in our community are children and working families. Homelessness affects everyone, with social and economic costs to the community, including increased public costs for medical care and education.

Interested organizations can register to participate in the initiative any time between now and Dec. 14, and can do so at <http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>.

More information about homelessness in Fairfax County, and the partnership to end it, is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

Partners

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce (Fairfax Chamber), the Voice of Business in Northern Virginia™, represents more than 625 member companies with nearly 500,000 employees throughout the region. Since 1925, the chamber has been working to build a strong business community by providing unparalleled access to business development & thought leadership opportunities; professional development & mentoring; and business advocacy and strategic community partnerships. Learn more at www.fairfaxchamber.org.

In 2008, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors established a 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) to manage, coordinate and monitor day-to-day implementation of the community's plan. A governing board governs the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness and along with OPEH engages community partners from nonprofits, businesses, the faith-based community, and county agencies in its efforts to implement the 10-Year Plan. More information is available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless.

The Connection Newspapers, an award winning group of 15 weekly newspapers and online sites in Northern Virginia, reaches more than 170,000 home and business readers every week. The Connection is a winner of the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service for coverage of homelessness. The Connection provides targeted marketing tailored to individual business objectives, including print, web and social media. Visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. Free digital subscriptions are available at www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe.

Through a lifelong partnership with anyone touched by education, Apple Federal Credit Union has been helping members achieve their dreams by offering competitive financial solutions, with dedicated personal service, since 1956 in Fairfax County. Apple has 21 branch locations in NOVA (more than any other Credit Union), access to 53,000-plus ATMs nationwide and offers a full suite of mobile solutions.

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OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. **Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times**

Burke		
6100 Eagle Landing Rd.....	\$635,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer... Long & Foster.. 703-503-1812
9417 Ulysses Ct.....	\$414,950.....	Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli..... Weichert.. 703-862-8808
Clifton		
14018 Marleigh Ln.....	\$595,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan..... Century 21.. 703-989-7735
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr..	\$589,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan..... Century 21.. 703-989-7735
Fairfax Station		
7513 South Reach Dr.....	\$849,950.....	Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli..... Weichert.. 703-862-8808
Falls Church		
7937 Freehollow Dr.....	\$571,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock..... RE/MAX.. 703-475-3986
Gainesville		
18197 Camdenhurst Dr....	\$450,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Willie Armstrong... Samson Props.. 703-822-3903
Great Falls		
650 Keithley Dr.....	\$1,395,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Kathy Bradburn... Samson Props.. 703-437-9459
Manassas		
9800 Grant Ave.....	\$159,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Veronica Kressel... Samson Props.. 703-819-9804
McLean		
1825 Westmoreland St....	\$619,900.....	Sun 1-4.....Eileen Aronovitch.. Keller Williams.. 504-319-7002
Reston		
1401 Greenmont Ct.....	\$399,000.....	Sun 1-4..Cathy & John McCambridge... Samson Props.. 703-906-7067
Sterling		
20504 Brandywine Ct.....	\$564,900.....	Sun 1-4.....Keith Howard.. Keller Williams.. 703-431-0055
46569 Riverwood Terr.....	\$359,000.....	Sun 1-4..Cathy & John McCambridge... Samson Props.. 703-906-7067
Vienna		
502 Valley Dr. SE.....	\$1,325,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Patrick Ohlhorst..... Solutions.. 703-853-9300
1711 Dove Point Ct.....	\$1,195,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Ellen Moyer..... RE/MAX.. 703-298-6444
8449 Amanda Pl.....	\$924,990.....	Sat 11-6.....Mike Baron..... RE/MAX.. 703-652-5760
806 Shahraam Ct. SE.....	\$649,000.....	Sun 1:30-4:30.....Judy Gruner... Long & Foster.. 703-435-4900
Woodbridge		
727 Harbor Side St.....	\$416,000.....	Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan..... Wolf Run.. 703-283-7328

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

We Are the World, at Garfield

Teachers discuss challenges of teaching English as a Second Language.

BY MICHELLE KAIN
THE CONNECTION

Garfield Elementary School in Springfield, like all of Fairfax County, has a population that reflects a wide range of backgrounds. With 33 languages spoken, the school's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program has had to expand. The school has a first grade class of 60 students, 58 of whom are ESOL students ranging from levels one through four.

Jane Cofie-Raczko, who has been a teacher for the past 13 years, teaches one of three first grade classes in which all 20 of the students have English as a second language.

The majority of these students are from Hispanic or Middle Eastern backgrounds and common languages include Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese. The challenges involved with teaching these students depend on their proficiency with the English language.

"For students who speak almost no English, it can be difficult to communicate to the students that you want them to succeed and that you are there to help them. It can also be difficult to get the students to ask for help, mostly due to their lack of confidence in their speaking ability. For students with a better knowledge of the social language, it can be tough to give them a similarly strong academic language. Add the already difficult material to learning English for the first time and it can be very challenging," said Cofie-Raczko.

"The success of the students with the curriculum and their preparedness for middle and high school depends on the schooling they received in their home country as well as when they enrolled



Jane Cofie-Raczko gives her first grade class the details regarding their upcoming test.

at Garfield," said Rozi Khakpour, an ESOL teacher at Garfield Elementary.

Students who have attended Garfield from the start get the opportunity to develop oral language at an early age through programs such as Lunch and Bunch in which kindergartners with English as a second language meet twice a week to have lunch and practice this important skill.

The program, along with others, have proven to be successful as "students who have been at Garfield since kindergarten often exceed in high school and earn positions on the honor roll," Khakpour said.

"Another thing that has proven to be helpful," said Kirsten Howard, another first grade teacher, "is Garfield's social curriculum." This social curriculum, which concentrates on teaching students cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control, has given students a greater awareness outside themselves and has helped them in middle in high school as demonstrated by their willingness to take on leadership positions.

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE KAIN/THE CONNECTION



Mariana Del Cid-Quintanilla, Spanish, Parents from El Salvador



Anmul Jan, Pashtu, Born in Pakistan



Michael Opuni, Akah, Parents from Ghana (Michael born in US)



Yusuf Ouanina, Arabic, Morocco



Tracy Huynh, Vietnamese, Vietnam



Mohammed (Jafar) Abdulridna, Arabic, Iraq

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

'Hidden Curriculum'

FROM PAGE 8

of being Italian." Dalila carried that warning with her when she entered Marshall. The dire warning turned out to have no basis at her new school. "When I tell people here I'm Italian, they say, 'oh, I love Italy' and then, I'm so relieved. Yes, I am proud to say I'm Italian here."

In Italy, it was always school and studying through late evening, Dalila said. She had no social life there.

"When I came here, it was such a relief," she said. "I was so happy I finally had time for myself."

Millan Mbise, from Tanzania, was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interaction between students and teachers. Teachers are less approachable than in the U.S. Millan, whose native language is Swahili, grew up speaking English,

up their native language.

"Studies show that bilingual students do better academically."

Bloom said the school helps newly-immigrated students to transition by embracing the families as they enter the school. Relationship-building is how he refers to the partnership. "When you establish that relationship with new families from other countries, you get rid of a lot of hurdles. When you do that, the families feel valued and a part of the Freedom Hill family. We have students learning from one another simply from their exposure to each other."

The children of Freedom Hill Elementary School are so accustomed to establishing relationships within the classroom, they don't recognize barriers, Bloom said. "It's a representation of the world."

Bloom refers to the school's di-

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together."

— Scott Bloom, Freedom Hill principal

as well. English is compulsory in the schools, and, Millan calls it the "unofficial" language of Tanzania.

Millan is bused from Marshall daily to Falls Church High School for a class in "pharmacy technology." He learned what he wanted to do with his life while living here and attending an American school. He wants to be a pharmacist some day.

FREEDOM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL feeds into the Marshall pyramid. Like Marshall, Freedom Hill is the world in microcosm. There are more than 42 languages spoken in the students' homes and the children of Freedom Hill represent more than 53 countries. Some Freedom Hill students are from diplomatic families, already bilingual or multilingual with English exposure. Others are new to English. The school, through its many ESOL levels, works with these students to help them adapt to English.

"Within the realm of school, the kids are held accountable to communicate in the English language," said first-year Freedom Hill principal Scott Bloom. As the kids interact with their peers, they pick up English.

"I like to think we also recognize the importance of kids having that dual-language skill," Bloom said. "We want them to learn English, but, we don't want them to give

versity as a "hidden curriculum."

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together," Bloom said. "You set the stage for the children to share their history, backgrounds, culture, and experiences. "There's so much power in bringing all these different cultures together that I think it's justified to call it a hidden curriculum."

"The kids don't even know they're learning from this diversity."

Marshall's roundtable students eager to discuss their new lives all said that school life is more pressured in their native countries with little opportunities within the school system to learn nonacademic things. Schools do not promote extracurricular activities as they do here.

"Students are pushed by their parents to excel academically in Malaysia," Kasthury said. "Many of these kids commit suicide. They're told, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed.'"

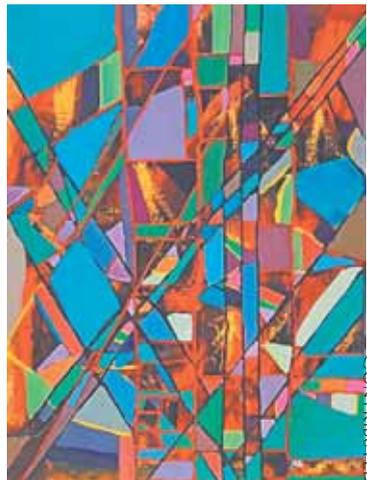
Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the marching band, the literary magazine and other programs. "In Panama, you have to find one place to fit in. But, here, you can fit in in many places."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

The Early History of Reston—Translating the Dream to Reality. 7-9 p.m., at the Jo Ann Rose Gallery at the Reston Community Center, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. A panel of early Reston-marketing experts present a program on the origins of Reston, the nation's first large-scale planned community. 703-709-7700, restonmuseum@gmail.com or www.restonmuseum.org.



Hot Anger Stained Glass, by Mary Ellen Mogee

Color: Bold & Vibrant

Andrea Cybyk, Mary Ellen Mogee and M. Jane Johnson, local abstract artist who make vibrant, energetic abstract works of art are exhibiting together. Their show opens Tuesday, Dec. 11 and runs through Saturday, Jan. 20. An artists reception, on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 3-5 p.m. provides a chance to meet the artists at the Post Gallery, ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

The Reston Chorale: The Wonder of the Season. 4 p.m., 7:30 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Gloria presented with chorus, organ, brass and percussion—the 90-vocie chorus also performs excerpts of Handel's Judas Maccabeus and popular holiday favorites. \$25, adults; seniors and youth ages 16-18, \$20; youth under 15, free. 7003-436-1111 or www.restonchorale.org.

Global Campfire 2012. 4-6 p.m., at the Walker Center Fire Ring on Soapstone Road between Glade and Lawyers Roads, Reston. An awareness event featuring group sing-along, camp games, marshmallow roasting, a campfire, music from Ashleigh Cevalier and welcome from Global Camps Africa Founder Phil Lilienthal; bring chairs, blankets and flashlights for your group. www.GlobalCampsAfrica.org.

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides. 4-9 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market Street, Reston. Enjoy carriage rides through Reston Town Center with pick up location on Market Street next to Talbots and all proceeds benefitting local non-profit organization. \$5; children under 5 free.

Holiday Tree Lighting and Sing-Along. 5-6 p.m., at the corner of Lynn and Elden Streets, Herndon. Come for carols, a tree lighting and a visit from Santa. 571-323-5301 or www.dullesregionalchamber.org.

Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce 30th Anniversary Celebration. 7-11 p.m., at The Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Dr., Reston. The entire community gets down to commemorate three decades of service and leadership in the Dulles corridor with the help of valet service, South Lakes High School's string quartet, dance band Diamond Alley, a silent auction, photo booth and an open bar with Ice Luge; sponsorships available. \$135-175. 703-707-9045 or <http://www.restonchamber.org/events/eventdetail.aspx?EventID=947>.

Towne Square Singers' Holiday Concert: Decembers Past. 7:30

p.m., at Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Encores of favorite musical numbers from holiday shows of the past 30 years, sung loud and clear for all to hear. \$12. 703-787-7300 or www.herndonva.gov.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus Sale. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at the club's trailer at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Fresh Florida navel oranges, pink grapefruit, tangelos and gourmet peanuts, Vermont cheese and Ohio Buckeye Chocolates available; purchase proceeds benefit sight and hearing programs in Reston-Herndon area (eyeglasses hearing aids also accepted for recycling). www.RestonLions.org.

Herndon Holiday Arts and Crafts Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at The Herndon Community Center, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. A tableaux of 100-plus arts and crafts, vendors, unique gifts, holiday decorations and handmade items. 703-787-7300. www.herndonfestival.net.

Towne Square Singers' Holiday Concert: Decembers Past. 2 p.m., at Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Encores of favorite musical numbers from holiday shows of the past 30 years, sung loud and clear for all to hear. \$12. 703-787-7300 or www.herndonva.gov.

MONDAY/DEC. 3

Speaker Series: Stevern Pearlstein of the Washington Post. 8 p.m., at the Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Ave., Reston. The economic and business columnist, Pulitzer Prize-winner and Robinson Professor of Public Affairs and International Relations at GMU speaks on voter and our current economic policy. www.nvhcreston.org.

"The Voter's Have Spoken: What Is Our Economic Policy Now?" talk given by Steven Pearlstein at NVHC. 8 p.m., at Northern Virginia Hebrew Congregation, 1441 Wiehle Avenue, Reston. Steven Pearlstein, 2008 Pulitzer Prize winner for his outstanding economic commentary and Robinson Professor of Public Affairs and International Relations at George Mason University, will be the third speaker of NVHC's Fall Speaker Series. www.nvhcreston.org.

FRIDAY/DEC. 7

A Christmas Chaos. 7:30 p.m., at the Industrial Strength Theater, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. When the Royal Shakespeare Company fails to show up for their performance of A Christmas Carol, a fearless band of hapless actors and technicians try to pull together their own production in a matter of hours. \$15, general admission; \$10, children 10-and-under. www.eldenstreetplayers.org.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Holiday Model Train Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Herndon Municipal Center, 777 Lynn St., Herndon. The W&OD caboose opens for tours and the Herndon Depot Museum ferries visitors around the museum on tours. 571-323-5304.

Jingle on Lake Anne. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Lake Anne Plaza, 1609 Washington Plaza, Reston. Rain or shine, the holiday arts and crafts makret, petting zoo, cookie decorating station, caroling, children's crafts and other activities will go on in the name of Christmas joy—Santa also plans to visit at noon. www.lakeannaplaza.com.

FRIDAY/NOV. 30

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the club's trailer at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Fresh Florida navel oranges, pink grapefruit, tangelos and gourmet peanuts, Vermont cheese and Ohio Buckeye Chocolates available; purchase proceeds benefit sight and hearing programs in Reston-Herndon area (eyeglasses hearing aids also accepted for recycling). www.RestonLions.org.

Artist-led Creativity Challenge. 7-10 p.m., at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Work in teams with limited materials to design unique, nature-based creations inspired by artworks in the current CAIRNS: Works by Pam Rogers exhibit; beverages and light snack included. \$10 per person for members and residents of Small District 5; \$20, non-members/non-residents. www.restonarts.org/AdultPrograms.htm.

Towne Square Singers' Holiday Concert: Decembers Past. 7:30 p.m., at Elden Street Players' Industrial Strength Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Encores of favorite musical numbers from holiday shows of the past 30 years, sung loud and clear for all to hear. \$12. 703-787-7300 or www.herndonva.gov.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Reston Lions Club Annual Citrus Sale. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., at the club's trailer at Lake Anne Village Center, 1609 Washington Plaza N, Reston. Fresh Florida navel oranges, pink grapefruit, tangelos and gourmet peanuts, Vermont cheese and Ohio Buckeye Chocolates available; purchase proceeds benefit sight and hearing programs in Reston-Herndon area (eyeglasses hearing aids also accepted for recycling). www.RestonLions.org.

Holiday Homes Tour of Herndon. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at various homes in Reston. Tour Herndon homes in high holiday fashion—tickets available at Herndon Florist, ArtSpace, and Herndon Community Center. \$15 in advance; \$20 day of. 703-435-6800 ext. 2222 or facebook.com/holidayhometour.

Winter Open House. 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center Street, Herndon. Glass harpist Jamey Turner plays while shoppers look for crafts from the Council for the Arts of Herndon; refreshments courtesy of the Fortnightly Club and Friends of the Herndon Library. 703-437-8855 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library.

Amadeus Concerts: Gloria. 4 p.m., at the Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Sacred and secular holiday seasonal favorites make a varied, festive concert. \$30. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

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Oakton Football Wins Northern Region Championship

Cougars beat Westfield for first region title since 2008.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After a 6-0 start, the Oakton football team's 2012 season nearly derailed during a four-game losing streak. Doubt started to creep in after a 49-28 defeat against Centreville in the regular season finale on Nov. 2. The Cougars finished fifth in the six-team Concorde District and went a month without tasting victory. Oakton managed to qualify for the playoffs, but how long would the Cougars last?

"To be honest, we did lose the faith," Oakton senior Andy Boone said. "I think we lost the faith when we lost to Centreville, because that was such a heart-wrenching loss. ... They just ran all over us [and] we couldn't do anything in the second half on offense. It felt like some of the guys were down and we just didn't know what to do. Some of the kids were getting ready to go back to basketball season."

Oakton would enter regionals as a low seed, meaning the Cougars would face a tough opponent in the quarterfinals.

"First, we thought we were going to play Westfield and all the kids on the team were bummed," Boone said. "We thought we were going to be out of the playoffs."

Instead, No. 7 Oakton was matched against No. 2 Lake Braddock, the team which knocked the Cougars out of the 2011 playoffs. With a chance for revenge as motivation, Oakton won, 20-13, on Nov. 9 — the Cougars' first win in 35 days. The following week, Oakton edged No. 3 Centreville, 14-13, in the semifinals on Nov. 16.

On Nov. 24, Oakton traveled to face top-seed Westfield with the region title on the line. While the Cougars might have been intimidated by the undefeated Bulldogs at the start of the postseason, a confident Oakton team took the field on Saturday and brought home a banner.

OAKTON DEFEATED WESTFIELD, 23-16, in the Division 6 Northern Region football final at Westfield High School, continuing a considerable turnaround for the Cougars. Oakton rebounded from a four-game losing streak to beat the top three seeds en route to the Cougars' first region championship since 2008.

"Just looking back on our season," quarterback Kyle Downer said Saturday, "it's amazing how we got here."

Downer had another big game for Oakton, carrying 18 times for 119 yards and a touchdown, and completing 4 of 10 passes for 53 yards and two scores. He also intercepted a pass on defense. Downer's 3-yard touchdown run with 37 seconds remaining in the second quarter gave the Cougars a lead they would not relinquish.

Oakton led 13-7 at halftime and, after a scoreless third quarter, took a two-possession lead on Brian Burns' 31-yard field goal with 9:08 remaining in the fourth. Burns missed an extra-point attempt earlier in the game, but head coach Jason Rowley didn't lose faith in his kicker, saying the missed PAT was a result of the wind.

"I've got all the confidence in the world in Brian," Rowley said. "He did a great job today."

Burns' field goal gave Oakton a 16-7 lead. Westfield fumbled on its next offensive play and Oakton's



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton quarterback Kyle Downer threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score against Westfield in the Division 6 Northern Region football final on Nov. 24.

Daniel Mansfield scooped up the ball and returned it to the Bulldogs 10-yard line. Four plays later, Downer connected with Boone for a 4-yard touchdown on fourth-and-goal, helping give the Cougars a 23-7 advantage with 6:31 remaining. Westfield would score a touchdown and add a late field goal, but it wasn't enough.

Boone finished with four receptions for 53 yards and two touchdowns. He also had 22 rushing yards on three carries.

"It feels like a relief," Boone said of winning the region title. "I've been in probably nine championships in my life and I've never won one before, so just to win a championship feels amazing — just that weight lifted off your shoulder."

Westfield defeated Oakton during the regular season, 28-14, on Oct. 19. The Cougars totaled 401 yards of offense, but had trouble finishing drives. Oakton ran 19 plays after reaching the Westfield 30-yard line, but managed just one touchdown. The Cougars' other score came on a 35-yard run.

ON SATURDAY, Oakton scored four of the five times it had the ball inside the Westfield 30, including three touchdowns.

"It was all about finishing drives," Rowley said. "It felt like in the first time we played them that we could get the ball to the 30 and then we'd get stifled and couldn't put the ball in the end zone. Since that game, we've really talked about finishing drives on offense."

After a scoreless first quarter, Oakton took the lead when Downer hit Boone with a 21-yard touchdown pass with 7:30 remaining in the second. Trailing 7-0, it didn't take Westfield long to respond. Devon Burns returned the ensuing kickoff to the Oakton 30-yard line and running back Dalaun Richardson carried the ball into the end zone on Westfield's next play from scrimmage.

Oakton countered with an 11-play, 80-yard drive, capped by Downer's 3-yard touchdown run. Westfield wouldn't score again until quarterback Chris Mullins crossed the goal line on a 1-yard sneak with 1:31 remaining in the fourth quarter.

Richardson rushed for 117 yards and a touchdown for Westfield.

With the victory, Oakton advanced to the state playoffs. The Cougars will host L.C. Bird at 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 in the semifinals. L.C. Bird, the Central Region champion, is undefeated.

SPORTS BRIEFS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Marshall's Mackenzie Haight, seen at the VHSL state meet, competed at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24.

Marshall's Haight Competes in Regional Championships

Marshall junior Mackenzie Haight, who earned all-state this year, competed at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C. He finished 49th with a time of 15:46 in the seeded boys' race. The top 10 finishers qualified for nationals on Dec. 8 in San Diego.

Haight finished 10th at the VHSL state meet with a time of 15:52 on Nov. 17 at Great Meadow.

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty won the Foot Locker regional meet with course-record time of 14:28.

In the girls' race, three Northern Virginia harriers qualified for nationals. Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase won the event with a time of 17:05. West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta placed eight with a time of 17:19 and Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz was ninth with a time of 17:29.

Athletes from Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia competed in the meet.

Herndon Field Hockey Players Honored

Herndon sophomore forward Sofia Palacios earned first-team All-Northern Region honors for the 2012 season. Senior defender/midfielder Sarah Betti and sophomore midfielder Taylor Stone were named second team all-region.

Betti, Palacios and Stone also received first-team All-Concorde District honors for the 2012 season.

Junior midfielder Rachel Delmontagne, senior defender Annie Kelley and junior goalkeeper Sarah Suter and junior midfielder Katherine Wilson were named to the second team.

Herndon Boys' Basketball Home Opener

The Herndon boys' basketball team will face West Potomac in its home opener at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

Langley Boys' Basketball Season Opener

The Langley boys' basketball team will face Centreville for its season opener at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29 at South Lakes High School. The following night, Langley will face Oakton at 5:30 p.m. at South Lakes. The Saxons' home opener is Dec. 14 against South Lakes.

South Lakes Boys' Basketball to Open Season

The South Lakes boys' basketball team will open the 2012-13 season with a home game against Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29. The following night, the Seahawks will host Centreville at 7 p.m.

FAITH

A Chanukah Message

Fix the darkness.
.. make light.

BY RABBI LEIBEL FAJNLAND
DIRECTOR OF CHABAD OF
RESTON-HERNDON

The holiday of Chanukah is set to begin. The menorah lighting, parties, dreidel games and gelt-giving will once more be in full swing. And though last year we promised the world not to treat ourselves to too many latkes and jelly donuts, this time around, once again we will have to start some weight loss program to shed the extra pounds as soon as the holiday is over.

Although for many of us, that above would be an accurate portrayal of the standard time-tested celebration of Chanukah, Chabad mysticism teaches us that this year, as in every Chanukah holiday (and ever holiday for that matter) of every year, there is a new Chanukah light, a new never revealed before energy that permeates all of us, empowering us to reach yet loftier heights in the spirit of Chanukah, in the triumph of light over darkness.

Have you ever eaten a doughnut and wondered where the hole went? Ah yes, this riddle has plagued carb lovers for years. Yet the answer still evades us.

A similar question, though less popular, has been asked by great thinkers of the past: When one lights a candle in a dark room, where does the darkness go? The



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rabbi Leibel Fajnland

answer given is that darkness has no existence of its own. It is a non-entity. It is simply the absence of light. Once a candle is lit, the darkness disappears. It doesn't go into the closet, or to the next room. It simply disappears.

On Chanukah we light candles. We start with one candle, enough for the initial expulsion of darkness. Each day we add a candle, going a step further in brightening our lives, until the light reaches its ultimate goal: to completely dispel the darkness.

Every year on Chanukah we celebrate the great triumph of the Macabees, led by the brave Judah the Macabee, over the mighty Greek army which had invaded the Holy Land of Israel, threatening to prevent the Jews from practicing their traditions.

After a courageous fight, the Macabean army, small and weak

as they were, prevailed with the help of G-d, over the enemy. The victory is a symbol of a small glimmer of light being triumphant over a great darkness—which at the time seemed to be in command. With the notion that darkness is but the lack of light, the victory was easily attainable.

In a world where G-dliness—and goodness for that matter is, say, not on the top of everyone's prioritized agenda, one may feel at times that darkness is, in fact, prevailing. It may seem that the mundane is sometimes taking more precedence on our daily lives and directing our everyday activities. To combat the darkness, we must remember it is but an absence of light. We must light that small candle, bring that little bit of G-dliness, or goodness, back into our lives and the world around us.

Once we begin with the tiny flame within us, the process of riding the world of darkness will increase, until we will be able to bask in the ultimate light of goodness, decency and harmony.

It is my hope and prayer that all our combined efforts to publicize the message and inspiration of Chanukah—of light over might, decency and freedom over darkness and oppression, unites all people and brings us one step closer to an age where there is only peace and respect among of all of G-d's children.

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

Community Chanukah Events

FAMILY MENORAH WORKSHOP

Join us for a fun Chanukah experience at the Home Depot. Make your own menorah with tons of different materials. Make your own dreidel. Enjoy Chanukah treats and much more. Sunday, Dec. 2, 2:30-4 p.m., at the Home Depot, 1651 Reston Pkwy., Reston.

OUTDOOR CHANUKAH FESTIVAL

Witness the lighting of a giant ice menorah by a special guest. Enjoy live family entertainment, prize drawings, hot chocolate, Chanukah donuts, latkes, chocolate gelt and

dreidels, Chanukah family film, and lots of holiday cheer for the whole family.

CHANUKAH STORY HOUR AND OLIVE PRESS WORKSHOP

Join us at Reston Regional Library for Chanukah story time. Have your kids spellbound as they make their own oil at our famous Olive Oil Workshop. All little artists can test their skills with a Chanukah craft. Enjoy Chanukah treats and much more, Thursday, Dec. 13 from 4:15-5:15 p.m., at the Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston.

All events are free. Reservations are available at www.chabadrh.org.

FAITH NOTES

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

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Brown's Chapel, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston, holds monthly classes for the general public. Gen Kelsang Varahi, an American Buddhist nun, will teach 'Living Meditation: Meditation for Relaxation,' teachings and guided meditations that teach students how to relax their body and mind. \$12.

www.meditation-dc.org or 202-986-2257.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road in Herndon, has Sunday Worship Service at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are available during worship services. Youth and Adult Sunday School is held Sundays from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Herndon, has

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

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 1700 Wainwright Drive in Reston, holds Sunday services at 7:45 a.m., 9 a.m., 11:15 a.m. and contemporary service at 5 p.m. Nursery, Sunday School and Adult Education available. Morning Prayer on Monday at 9:30, Holy Eucharist Wednesday at 8:15 a.m. 703-437-6530 or www.stannes-herndon.org.

THIS IS "HOWARD"



Stop the presses...Howard needs to get his picture on the front page so he can show the world how adorable he really is. This incredible fella is long, low and a total loverboy. He loves everyone and is gentle enough for even a baby to cuddle with. He's 5 years young and still loves a game of fetch...though you may be the one getting the most exercise! His ears alone will have you under his magic spell, and his soulful expressions will seal the deal. Come and meet the best pal you'll ever have!



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

E-mail to: ChildrensNorth@connectionnewspapers.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.



OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

Burke

6100 Eagle Landing Rd.....\$635,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812
9417 Ulysses Ct.....\$414,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Clifton

14018 Marleigh Ln.....\$595,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735
6324 Deepwood Farm Dr.....\$589,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21..703-989-7735

Fairfax Station

7513 South Reach Dr.....\$849,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Falls Church

7937 Freehollow Dr.....\$571,000.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Gainesville

18197 Camdenhurst Dr.....\$450,000.....Sun 1-4.....Willie Armstrong...Samson Props..703-822-3903

Great Falls

650 Keithley Dr.....\$1,395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Kathy Bradburn...Samson Props..703-437-9459

Manassas

9800 Grant Ave.....\$159,000.....Sun 1-4.....Veronica Kressel...Samson Props..703-819-9804

McLean

1825 Westmoreland St.....\$619,900.....Sun 1-4.....Eileen Aronovitch..Keller Williams..504-319-7002

Reston

1401 Greenmont Ct.....\$399,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cathy & John McCambridge...Samson Props..703-906-7067

Sterling

20504 Brandywine Ct.....\$564,900.....Sun 1-4.....Keith Howard..Keller Williams..703-431-0055
46569 Riverwood Terr.....\$359,000.....Sun 1-4.....Cathy & John McCambridge...Samson Props..703-906-7067

Vienna

502 Valley Dr. SE.....\$1,325,000.....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Ohlhorst.....Solutions..703-853-9300
1711 Dove Point Ct.....\$1,195,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ellen Moyer.....RE/MAX..703-298-6444
8449 Amanda Pl.....\$924,990.....Sat 11-6.....Mike Baron.....RE/MAX..703-652-5760
806 Shahraam Ct. SE.....\$649,000.....Sun 1:30-4:30.....Judy Gruner...Long & Foster..703-435-4900

Woodbridge

727 Harbor Side St.....\$416,000.....Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan.....Wolf Run..703-283-7328

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Pechacek-Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Monday at 3 P.M.

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MONDAY NOON

Pay Now, Bye Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Contrary to last week's column, if I do pay for it now (things I can't afford), then I'll be so in debt later that I may end up saying "bye" anyway - from the stress of it. And if that were to happen; dying with a smile on my face, so to speak, would I be truly better off now anticipating that later was not going to be my problem? Do I want to be a modern day version of George Raft, the American actor from the 1930s and 40s best known for his portrayals of mobsters, who said about his Hollywood money: "I must have gone through \$10 million during my career. Part of the loot went for gambling, part for horses and part for women. The rest I spent foolishly."

My problem is that I don't want to spend my money foolishly, just in case I continue to outlive my original prognosis. There's plenty of things I can afford to do without, but money unfortunately is not one of them. The real question, to me, is: do I want to take responsibility for my own actions (lifestyle choices, purchases, miscellaneous financial commitments) and live within my means, or do I want to spend selfishly, live my life and let the chips - or rather bills, fall where they may? After all, eventually (if you know what I mean?), payment may be difficult to collect. And given the fact that as a stage IV lung cancer patient, I am considered "terminal," which means my best years may be behind me, don't I have enough problems at present whereby I shouldn't worry too much about what happens later (somebody else's problem by then)? Then again, if I do pay now, surely there would be a sense of satisfaction/sense of accomplishment, but would paying for any of it (or all of it) now compromise my future? Need I be overly concerned about later when the ship I'm presently steering is listing and taking on water?

Stress hardly provides aid and comfort when imposed on a cancer patient and more so than on an able-bodied, non-terminal man or woman. Finding that balance between what I need today to get me to tomorrow, versus what I need tomorrow to get me through today, is the axis on which that bane of my existence turns. Do I indulge myself? Do I deprive myself? Do I live like there are plenty of tomorrows? Or do I live like tomorrows are in short supply? Do I reach for the brass ring (on the Merry-go-round of life, metaphorically speaking) or do I saddle a real horse and ride off into the sunset? Is time on my side or is it running down my leg?

Unfortunately, there's nothing that I can do today to guarantee me a tomorrow. I have cancer. However, living recklessly, irresponsibly, selfishly may in an awkward way get me through today easier than if I towed the typical Kenny-type line (I'm funny, but I'm not fun). Nevertheless, I keep coming back to an emotional instinct I have: I don't want to give up on myself or my future and paying now assures that I won't. I do plenty of pretending but I'm not going to pretend that I'm the reincarnation of George Raft (besides, he was also an excellent dancer, which I'm not). He may have known what he was doing; I'm not really sure I do.

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

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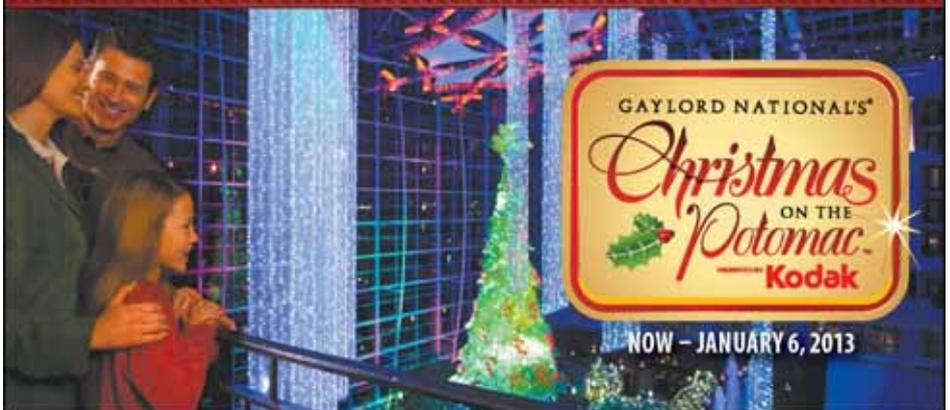
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