

Juniors from South Lakes High School Megan DeSisti, Rebecca Malaret, and Allison Pulgarin came to The Diva Central event and left with dresses, accessories, shoes and gift bags.

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

Prom Dreams Come True

NEWS, PAGE 5

Filmmaker Turns Camera on Reston

NEWS, PAGE 3

Home Life Style

PAGE 9

Children 'Dress Up With Grown-ups'

THE COUNTY LINE, PAGE 4



OBITUARY

Goodbye, My Friend, Joan

To Joan Jockwig Pearson Watkins, 1924-2013.

It is unbelievable to me that you aren't next door any more. I've tried to remember when we first met, but it's almost as if you were always there, part of the background of life at Lake Anne. For years, we were not exactly "ships passing in the night" but "cars passing in the lot J." A friendly "hi" and "bye" over our adjoining fence led to longer conversations about our gardens and neighborhood, as we slowly cultivated the seeds of a friendship that "grew roots."

You and Malcolm were original owners of your Lake Anne property, buying one of the first Reston properties on Dec. 31, 1966, with vision, foresight, business acume, and belief in Reston's founding principles. Your death on March 28, 2013, marks 47 years that you were part of our community. You were also a part of the communities of Tomales, Calif., and Middleton, Mass., where you owned historic properties.

The love of your life, C. Malcolm Watkins, brought you to this area when he accepted a position at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History as the curator of Everyday Life in Early America. You

worked alongside him as a museum consultant focused on exhibition of early American life, such as North Carolina pottery, handmade cornhusk dolls, Asian immigrant items, a Gold Rush era kitchen. You cherished the ideals of freedom, democracy and a government "of the people, by the people, for the people." I'll always remember your description of the 4th of July as a "religious experience." Remember how we channel-surfed on the 4th to see the fireworks from Boston, New York, and Washington, D.C.? I remember one 4th of July in which you brought over an early copy of the Declaration of Independence and insisted on reading the whole thing aloud, as Rick (my husband) and I marched around our dining room, with our chocolate Labrador, Godiva, staring at us quizzically.

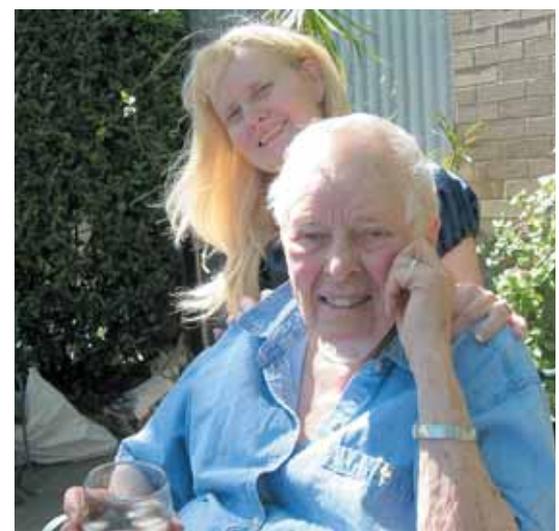
I think you would smile if you heard me describe you now as "zippy." You used that term frequently to describe others you admired who retained a spirit of adventure and energy. The other term you liked to use was a New England expression, "takes the starch out of me," e.g. "These long New England winters really take the starch out of a person!"

You were amazing, Joan! After a musical education as a cellist, you entered the College of Fine Arts and Education at Syracuse University and taught art in Southern California before becoming intrigued with the

world of clay and ceramics. After receiving your master's degree from the New York State College of Ceramics, you operated your own studio and accepted the head position at the Ceramic Department at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. You received the first grant in 1954 to be awarded in ceramics by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation, and were one of six Americans to be awarded an Italian Government Fellowship for advanced independent research in Italy. You received frequent prizes for your ceramic work. Your pieces were exhibited in France and toured European museums and galleries under the auspices of USIA. You were a pioneer in early American television with your own weekly half-hour television program on KQED Channel 9 (San Francisco), "Design Workshop."

You were a patron of the arts, donating to the Essex Museum, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, Old Sturbridge Village, and the Smithsonian. I've read notes from your friends, and most comment on your generosity to them, never forgetting birthdays, holidays or anniversaries. Your interesting, quirky little gifts can be found in every room of my house.

I sometimes wonder, Joan, how such un-



Enjoying a sunny afternoon on the Weise Lake Anne patio: Beverly Weise (standing) and Joan Watkins.

likely people as us became good friends. You were an intellectual, interested in art, music and history—sophisticated and comfortable with people in high positions in art and business circles. I'm into nature, the environment, my doggy, and New-Age spirituality—kind of an aging hippy type. Maybe we had more in common than I recognize or maybe it's true that "opposites attract." Maybe it was something from a past life, or maybe we just needed each other. Bye for now, Joannie.

Love,
Beverly



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Filmmaker Turns Camera on Reston Rebekah Wingert-Jabi wins Peabody Award, begins work on documentary about Reston.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

Rebekah Wingert-Jabi has lived all across the world. She moved to Reston as a child, attended college in Minnesota and California, studied abroad in China and lived in the Middle East. She became interested in still photography at a young age, and while in China she got a video camera and became fascinated with the idea of moving images.

Those moving images, recorded by Wingert-Jabi, won her a Peabody Award this year. Her film "My Neighbourhood" tells the story of a Palestinian teenager in East Jerusalem dealing with forcible eviction by Israelis.

"When I started following these evictions in 2008, three families were being evicted. Everyone I talked to was telling me about this extremely talented young man, only 11 years old, who was writing about his experiences," she said. "He eventually came up to me with his camera and started asking me questions. Eventually I was able to turn my camera on him."

The Peabody Awards are given to recognize outstanding achievements in electronic media. Notable winners include Bob Hope, Charles Kuralt, Walter Cronkite, Jim Henson and more. The awards committee called the film an "honest, hopeful documentary."

WINGERT-JABI and her co-director Julia Bacha tell in a 25-minute film the story of the young man, Mohammed El Kurd, as well as two Jewish residents of Jerusalem who start a grassroots effort to stop the evictions.

She spent time between 2009 and 2012 filming



Reston filmmaker Rebekah Wingert-Jabi recently won a Peabody Award for her film about a neighborhood in East Jerusalem. Her current project is a film about Reston.

"My Neighbourhood," eventually compiling more than 150 hours.

"The first eviction took place in November 2008, and it sent a shockwave through the community. Everyone was afraid of a domino effect, that it would create a legal precedent," Wingert-Jabi said. "These evictions were very traumatic, in the middle of the night these men and women were taken from their home only to watch, hours later, as another family moved in."

The film had its world premiere at the TriBeCa Film Festival in April 2012, and since then it has been shown around the world, in colleges, high school, places of worship and even before European Parliament.

Wingert-Jabi moved back to Reston about four years ago, and it immediately became apparent

to her that Reston was a special place.

"The further away I got from Reston, the more I realized how special it was. I never found the combination of factors I could find right here," she said. "The whole process making 'My Neighbourhood' made me reflect on what makes a community. How was the Reston community built? Do we still have it today? Are we losing it?"

Those are the questions she's trying to answer in her next film, which will tell the story of Reston's first 50 years, and plans for its future.

"This is a perfect time to make a film about Reston, a point to look at how we started, and how we're moving forward," Wingert-Jabi said. "The coming of Metro, the future of the golf course and the village centers, it's all going to define what we are over the next 50 years."

AS A FILMMAKER, Wingert-Jabi is very appreciative of the fact that she has access to many primary sources, including founder Robert Simon, as well as members of the early staff, designers of Reston Town Center and more.

"When I was growing up I heard the name Bob Simon a lot, but I didn't know about the principles he founded the community with, or the vision he created," she said. "An exceptional part of this experience has been talking with him and getting that information. Seeing his passion for life, for people, has been a great experience."

Wingert-Jabi said the process has been an exercise in blending her own experiences with the pulse of the community around her.

"I'm investigating my own questions about Reston, questions I think a lot of Restonians have as well. The challenge is capturing outside views as well, and bringing those to a broader audience, people around the



Mohammed El Kurd, a Palestinian teenager and one of the primary characters in filmmaker Rebekah Wingert-Jabi's Peabody Award-winning film, "My Neighborhood."

SEE CAMERA, PAGE 5



PHOTO BY LARRY MARLER

Herndon-Reston FISH honors the 2013 Star Fish: (from left) Peggy LeReche, Claire Dessart and Kay Walter.

Recognized for Helping Others

Community members to be honored at FISH Fling on April 20.

At the FISH (Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help) Fling Gala and Fundraiser, Reston and Herndon's "Star Fish" will be honored. The Star Fish are women whose volunteer work enables the volunteer, non-sectarian, non-profit to meet needs like requests for rent, transportation to medical appointments, help with furniture, utilities, medical items (including prescriptions) and other short term emergency needs.

FISH, which works closely with social workers from Fairfax County, local hospitals and other nonprofit organizations, gets much of their funding from the gala, scheduled this year for Saturday, April 20, at the Crowne Plaza Dulles Hotel in Herndon.

The women to become Star Fish are:

❖ Claire Dessart, a Bargain Loft volunteer since 2009, who works two to three regular shifts per week and is always willing to come in as a sub, even at the last minute. She loves working for FISH and encourages everyone to shop at The Bargain Loft.

❖ Kay Walter, who volunteers for the FISH Family Assistance Program and also drives people

to their medical appointments. She has volunteered for FISH for five years and is always ready to help whenever called by the program coordinators. Kay says, "FISH is a perfect volunteer opportunity for me because I can do my phone assistance from home." She likes that FISH provides a unique service: Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need.

❖ Peggy LeReche has also been a volunteer for five years and currently serves on the Board of Directors. She also coordinates the FISH Financial Workshops. Peggy's mother volunteered years ago at The Bargain Loft, and her volunteer work at FISH helps Peggy continue her mother's legacy. Even though Peggy works full time for Dominion Power, she finds time to help neighbors in need.

The FISH Fling is open to the community, and welcomes local residents and organizations to support the event through purchasing tickets to the event or becoming a sponsor. For more information or reservations for this year's eighth annual FISH Fling, email FISH at FISH@HerndonRestonFISH.org or visit their website, www.herndonrestonfish.org.

THE COUNTY LINE



PHOTOS BY JUSTIN HAYES/THE CONNECTION

Dr. Tehreem Butt, who started Family Dentistry of Fairfax in 2008, received the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson Award for his “compassion and willingness to provide free dental services to children in need.” He attended the gala with his wife and children. (From left) Amna Tehreem, a student at George Mason University, Dr. Tehreem Butt, wife Naima Tehreem, Labibah Tehreem, a sophomore at Centreville High School, and Zukhruf, 14, a freshman at CHS.

Children ‘Dress Up With Grown-ups’

Medical Care for Children Partnerships funds medical, dental care for children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Men donned tuxedos; women wore glittering formal dresses, and children dressed in their cotillion finest.

But stuffiness was not invited to this black-tie gala.

As MC Andrew laid down hip-hop, old school and swinging Sinatra tunes, dozens of children and their parents danced and partied at the annual “Dress Up with Grown-ups Gala,” hosted by the Medical Care for Children Partnerships (MCCP) at the Mason Inn Saturday night, April 6.

Former Redskin player Charles Mann, the master of ceremonies, and Dr. Angel Cabrera, president of George Mason University, welcomed 250 guests to the annual fundraiser, which included many Northern Virginia business leaders and local legislators.

“Children’s health is our mission, and children are a special part of our celebration tonight,” said Alan Harbitter, president of the MCCP Foundation Board of Directors.

“We really want everyone to have a fun and memorable time.”

Judging from the laughter and smiles on the dance floor, they did.

Although the gala was a child-centered celebration—featuring a magician, caricaturist and fire truck—the MCCP Foundation has a serious mission.

THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP funds healthcare for the children of uninsured working families in Fairfax County. MCCP-eligible children, many of whom are immigrants, have working parents who don’t have access to health insurance and whose incomes are too high for Medicaid but too low for adequate, regular healthcare. For a family of four in Fairfax County, the annual income level cut-off is about \$55,000, said MCCP Executive Director Margery Leveen Sher.

“We want these children to have the care that any other child has,” Sher said. “It’s a great cost savings for the community, because without MCCP, they would go to the emergency room, and probably be a lot sicker and need more care. We are often the last safety net.”

Sher said the nonprofit foundation currently provides medical and dental care to approximately 2,500 uninsured children in low-income families in Fairfax County, and last year spent \$172,000 on children’s dental care alone. She said approximately \$600 covers the dental care needs for one child, and estimates about 9,000 children need the help of MCCP.

The MCCP Foundation also marked a milestone at the gala: providing \$1 million in healthcare costs to Fairfax County’s children of low income, uninsured families.

“I like the combination of corporations, healthcare providers and public entities coming together to provide a leveraged model for taking care of the healthcare needs of Fairfax County’s working poor. ... It’s an enriching, rewarding, innovative organization,” MCCP Foundation board member Harry Klaff said.

Partners of MCCP include Fairfax County government, corporations and individual financial supporters. Kaiser Permanente and 300 doctors and dentists provide low or no-cost care to MCCP children. Sher said Fairfax County provides case management for families, and support that includes transportation, language assistance and help accessing specialty care.

“MCCP is a unique partnership between healthcare service providers, like Kaiser Permanente, the county and the foundation that



Aubrey Beasley, 4, dances with her mom, Jessica Tadlock of Fairfax, during the MCCP “Dress Up with Grown-ups Gala,” held Saturday, April 6, at the Mason Inn on the Campus of George Mason University.

fills a critical need in our county—health and dental care for children that would not otherwise have access to it,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who attended the event with his wife Nancy.

Herrity said MCCP “has a special place in my heart” because of his father’s involvement in its formation more than 25 years ago. “It is a great example of personal and corporate responsibility and giving.”

ONE OF THE EVENING’S HIGHLIGHTS was the presentation of the Dr. Jorge Arnoldson memorial award. Arnoldson, a pediatrician who passed away in 2009, was one of the original doctors of the MCCP program in 1988. The award is given to a person who embodies Dr. Arnoldson’s credo that “giving is a matter of conscience.”

Dr. Tehreem Butt, of Fairfax Family Dentistry, received the award.

“Dr. Butt has provided a welcoming dental home to our children for many years, and he is always willing to provide care in an emergency,” Harbitter said. “He always treats our children just like other patients in his practice, with kindness and compassion.”

“I like to see children smile,” Butt said as he accepted his award. “I want to help them stay out of pain. When they come to my office, sometimes they are kicking and screaming, but they leave happy. That’s the best part of my profession.”

Born and raised in Lahore, Pakistan, Butt attended dentistry school at the Nishtar Medical College in Multan. In 1986, he emigrated to the United States and completed a two-year dental program at New York University. In 2007, he and his family moved to Centreville, and he opened his Fairfax practice in 2008.

“Since then I have had the pleasure of treating children referred by MCCP. This experience has given a totally new meaning to my dental profession,” Butt said. “To me, children are the most beautiful creatures of God and there is nothing comparable to being able to give them a healthy and happy smile.”

Event sponsors included: Kaiser Permanente, Jones Lang LaSalle, Quest Diagnostics, INOVA, ICF International, Reston Hospital Center, and CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield.

To find out more about MCCP and how to support it, visit mccpfoundation.org.



Melissa Higgins, a senior from Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Maryland, attended the 11th annual Diva Central Saturday, April 6, with her family and found her perfect dress for the upcoming prom.



Catherine La Valley, senior at South Lakes High School, has come to Diva Central three years in a row and has nothing but praise for the event.

PHOTOS BY OLIVIA OVERMAN/THE CONNECTION

Prom Dreams Come True at Reston Community Center

11th annual Diva Central event provides free prom dresses for high school girls.

BY OLIVIA OVERMAN
THE CONNECTION

If you needed a dress for prom, accessories to match and, of course, the all-important shoes, Reston Community Center at Lake Anne was the place to be last Saturday, April 6.

It's almost prom time, so the girls were out in force picking from the hundreds of dresses that were made available at the Diva Central Prom Dress Giveaway. Co-chair for Diva Central and representative from Delta Sigma Theta, Brandi Johnson said, "We are the Fairfax County alumni chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and we help provide prom dresses for

girls. Everything is free and they get everything from accessories, dresses and shoes. All the dresses are donated—we collect them all year long and the sorority girls add dresses.

SOME GIRLS return their dresses from last year too. Right now we are at capacity, so we are trying to purge some.

"The girls come from schools all over the area. In previous years we even had a bus that came from Maryland, bringing girls in from different high schools," she said.

Melissa Higgins came from Hyattsville, Md., with her mom and her sister for the event. A senior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School, Higgins found her complete prom look that included a red dress, silver shoes and costume jewelry, all with the assistance of the Delta Sigma Theta personal shoppers. "I think it's like a scholarship for the girls," said her mother,

SEE DIVA CENTRAL, PAGE 13

Camera Captures 'Pulse of Reston'

FROM PAGE 3

world who want to learn why Reston has had such an impact on the concept of a suburb," she said. "It's tough to put these visions in a narrative form, to give them context and perspective."

Wingert-Jabi will be filming at this week's Founder's Day celebrations, as well as public events throughout the year, including the opening of Metro. The film will have a sneak preview on April 5, 2014, the 50th anniversary of Reston and Simon's 100th birthday.

The film is still searching for sponsors, which so

far include the Reston Community Center, Reston Association and the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. Wingert-Jabi estimated around two-thirds of the film's budget has been raised, but they are still looking for more community support. Donations can be made to the Reston Historic Trust, which is a registered 501(c)3, and primary sponsor of the film.

They are also looking for interns and volunteers to transcribe interviews. A website with more information will launch Saturday, April 13, and can be found at www.therestonfilm.com.

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OPINION

Voting Again

Every year is election year in Virginia, and it's a bit much.

The most hotly contested race for statewide office in Virginia, the Republican contest for lieutenant governor, will be decided at a statewide convention on May 18. That's about a month from now.

A statewide Democratic primary will take place June 11.

On Nov. 5, all eyes will turn to Virginia to follow the conclusion of a fascinating race for governor. Democrat Terry McAuliffe will face Republican Ken Cuccinelli in a contest that will appeal to more conservative Republicans and more liberal Democrats.

The race will feature massive efforts to turn out the vote. Mailboxes will fill up with glossy mailers. Airwaves will no doubt reflect the election.

Wait, didn't we just do this?

Yes, but in 2013, Virginia will choose governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, and all 100 members of the House of Delegates. Arlington voters will also elect one member to the county board and one member to the school board. City of Alexandria voters will also elect a commonwealth's attorney and sheriff.

And it won't be simple.

Right now it appears that there are seven Republican candidates, two Democratic candidates and an Independent Green candidate running for lieutenant governor.

Republicans will choose from their seven candidates at a statewide convention on May

18. Here are the names of the seven: Jeannemarie Devolites Davis (R), former state senator and wife of former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis; E.W. Jackson Sr. (R); L. Scott Lingamfelter (R), state delegate; Steve Martin (R), state senator; Jeff McWaters (R), state senator; Pete Snyder (R); Corey Stewart (R), Prince William County Board chair, and Susan Stimpson (R), Stafford County Board chair.

Democrats will choose a candidate for lieutenant governor in the statewide primary on June 11; candidates are Aneesh Chopra (D) and state Sen. Ralph Northam (D).

Two Republicans and two Democrats appear to be running for attorney general: Democrats Justin Fairfax and state Sen. Mark Herring would face off in the June 11 primary. Republicans would choose between candidates Del. Rob Bell (R) and state Sen. Mark Obenshain (R) at the state-wide convention May 18.

Town of Vienna voters will elect three members of its town council on May 7.

Virginia has a General Election every year on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November; that's Nov. 5, this year. Federal offices are elected in even-numbered years. State and local offices are elected in odd-numbered years. If primaries are called by the political parties, they are held on the second Tuesday in June; that's June 11, this year.

This is a formula for election fatigue, alternating record voter turnout with tepid voter

turnout. Realigning Virginia's election calendar so that the critical statewide races took place in presidential election years would increase voter participation, although this change is not simple and not likely.

The Virginia General Assembly voted this year to impose much more stringent voter identification requirements starting in July 2014, an unnecessary step that suppresses the votes of poor, elderly and minority voters. Instead, they should fund an annual mailing to all registered voters that summarizes what and who will be on the ballot. This would increase the integrity of elections, giving all voters a chance to arrive at the polls informed and engaged.

Here are some good sources for information on upcoming elections:

Virginia State Board of Elections, <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>.

Virginia Public Access Project, <http://www.vpap.org/candidates?display=state>.

Fairfax County Board of Elections, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/calendar.htm>.

Alexandria Board of Elections, <http://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections>.

Arlington Board of Elections, <http://www.arlingtonva.us/Departments/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>.

— MARY KIMM,

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Sustainable Reston Energy

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

Sustainable Reston is one of our youngest and most active community organizations. Founded as part of the Reston Citizens Association, SR defines its mission as preparing Reston for the impacts of climate change, resource depletion as we pass peak oil, and economic problems beyond local control. It encourages local alternatives for food and commerce while minimizing fossil fuel use.

In 2010, Sustainable Reston spun off from RCA to join the Fairfax Coalition for Smarter Growth. The coalition was led by the late Paul Hughes, an environmentalist and visionary who early on grasped the connections between climate change and economic problems brought on by globalization. Now, Sustainable Reston is the engine driving the coalition.

A principal focus under the leadership of President Diane Blust and VP Hank Blakely is local food alternatives to our modern corporate agriculture's extraordinarily negative environmental and health impacts. In conjunction with Reston Association, Reston Interfaith and the Friends of Reston, SR organized and energized a new community garden worked by residents of Cedar Ridge Apartments who now produce healthy veggies for family and community meals. SR recognizes Reston's good fortune to have not one, but two farmers markets and stresses their importance as sources of locally grown nutritious foods.

The "Green Living Series" educational programs at the Reston Community Center and Reston Association, in collaboration with SR, won the statewide best new program award from the Virginia Parks and Rec Asso-

INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

ciation in 2012. The series includes practical training for Restonians such as: How to Build a Solar Oven, Eco-Friendly Cleaning, Home Food Preservation, Home Energy Efficiency Workshop with the Local Energy Alliance Program, Organic Gardening and more.

Networking is an SR trademark. SR has found willing and able Reston collaborators enabling this small outfit to greatly expand its reach. RCC, RA, Reston Interfaith, Friends of Reston and the supervisor's office have contributed space, intellectual capital and, yes, financial support. In addition to seminars and community gardens, Sustainable Reston, with support from its partners, showed nearly 20 documentary films in the last few years, including: "Energy Crossroads," "Blind Spot," "Earth: The Operators Manual," "A Community of Gardeners," "Green Fire," and "The Two Lane Search for Mom and Pop." Proceeds from showings at Nature House are split 50-50 between Friends of Reston and SR. Audiences have grown, signaling growing awareness, we hope.

SR has also taken time to recognize sustainability leaders in the community, those showing us how to live in manner that preserves resources for coming generations. Reston Sustainability Awards were presented in 2009, 2010 and 2011 in ceremonies featuring renowned speakers Gar Alperovitz and Michael Shuman.

If you'd like to find out more or offer your skills, passion and expertise to help Reston make the transition to climate change and decreased fossil fuels, send an email to info@sustainablereston.org or check out SR on the web (www.sustainablereston.org and <http://www.meetup.com/Sustainable-Reston/>).

LETTERS

A Tennis Lesson To Baseball World

To the Editor:

It seems to me that the baseball world has something to learn from the tennis world. Recently the footprint of the two tennis courts on Washington Plaza Drive was converted to six tennis courts. These smaller courts, equipped with lower nets, are being used by smaller fry, 5-year-olds and older, provided with slow bouncing balls. To all appearances they are learning more and enjoying their game than would be possible on a regulation court.

I recently watched girls in the lower elementary school grades competing on a regulation-sized baseball diamond. It occurred to me that a much smaller diamond would have fostered quicker learning and greater enjoyment for these youngsters. The run to first base from the plate and beyond was a major trip for the successful hitter. And there was no way in which a player fielding a ball in

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

Reston
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COMMENTARY

Paving the Way

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The Reconvened Session of the General Assembly that met last week concluded work for this year on the most significant funding program for transportation infrastructure approved by the legislature since the historic special session in 1986. The bill that had previously passed the legislature in the 2013 Regular Session was sent to the governor for his approval and signature. He proposed a series of amendments that were voted on last Wednesday, April 3, and approved by the House and the Senate. The governor will now sign the bill into law.

There is no getting around the fact that the new law will cost the motoring public some extra dollars. One advantage of the bill is that it raises most of the money from those who use the roads. The more vehicles you buy, the more gas you use, or the more cars you title the more you will pay for the construction and upkeep of the roads. This very point allowed some legislators who were opposed to raising taxes to vote for the bill, for they considered the new revenues to be coming from "user fees." By whatever name is necessary to develop public understanding, the new law establishes a framework for revenue growth that will help keep up with the cost of inflation and growth. The cents per gallon gasoline tax for example will be replaced with a sales tax on the wholesale price of gasoline. It is doubtful that there will be a noticeable change in gasoline prices at the pump considering the fluctuations in gas prices that already occur based on market factors.

The purchase of new cars has always had a reduced sales tax rate. The current 3.5 percent will become 4 percent on July 1, 2013, and will increase slightly each year until it reaches 4.15 percent on July 1, 2016, still below the sales tax on all other purchases. For the special needs of Northern Virginia there will also be a "congestion relief fee" of \$0.15 per \$100 value of the net sales price of a home. A transit occupancy tax on hotel rooms at the rate of 2 percent is also established for Northern Virginia. While the new law strengthens the statewide maintenance and construction fund, it recognizes the unique needs of the suburbs of Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads and provides that the special funds that are raised in those regions stays there for use in the region. No more sending money to Richmond with a percentage of it not making its way back. Language in the law also requires that priority be given to projects that offer relief from congestion.

There is a strong mass transit component to the law that provides funding for inter-city rail and \$300 million off the top to help with the funding of the Silver Line. The additional funds should help keep tolls to a more reasonable level on the Dulles Toll Road.

The governor offered an amendment at my request and the urging of others that the alternative fuel fee be eliminated or reduced. He chose to reduce it from \$100 to \$64. The House leadership has committed to a study of the fee during this year to consider if it should be re-assessed and if so, the amount, and the special vehicles to which it should apply. I expect major revisions on this issue in the 2014 session. The job is not totally complete in other areas as well. Clearly, though, we have paved the way for Virginians and the future.

WEEK IN RESTON

Celebrating Reston's 49th, Simon's 99th Birthdays

Join Reston Historic Trust and the Reston Museum at Founder's Day to celebrate Reston's 49th and founder Robert E. Simon, Jr.'s 99th birthdays on Saturday, April 13, noon-4 p.m. The theme of this year's event is "Looking Forward." Festivities begin at noon with remarks by elected officials, followed by Beverly Cosham singing "God Bless America."

Musical entertainment continues, featuring selections from the upcoming performance of Xandau by the South Lakes High School Theatre Arts Department, and songs from the past by the Bobby Pins of the Reston Chorale. Following the dedication of the newly-installed commemorative bricks, everyone is invited to join in singing "Happy

Birthday" to Mr. Simon, while enjoying birthday cupcakes at the Reston Museum at 1 p.m.

The third annual Founder's Day Hunt begins at 1:30 p.m. at the Reston Museum, Lake Anne Plaza. Participants will be given clues that direct them to 10 Reston locations, where they will receive stickers proving they have found each site. Return to the museum by 3:30 p.m. when participants will receive medals and be eligible for a drawing of three fine prizes. Children with parents are welcome to participate. Automobile travel is required as the sites are distributed throughout the Reston community.

For more information, call 703-709-7700, e-mail restonmuseum@gmail.com, or visit www.restonmuseum.org.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

the infield, let alone the outfield, could successfully reach the teammate waiting for the throw on the appropriate base.

There may be precedent for the smaller-sized ball field. If not, a

starting point could perhaps be gained from the example of the new Washington Plaza Drive tennis courts; they are about one-third the size of regulation courts.

Bob Simon
Reston Founder

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Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

February, 2013 Top Sales in Great Falls, McLean, Reston, Herndon, Oakton and Vienna



1 9697 Mill Ridge Lane, Great Falls — \$3,022,457



6 1200 Ballantrae Lane, McLean — \$2,000,000



2 1200 Carol Raye Street, McLean — \$2,270,000



12 3228 Navy Drive, Herndon — \$920,000



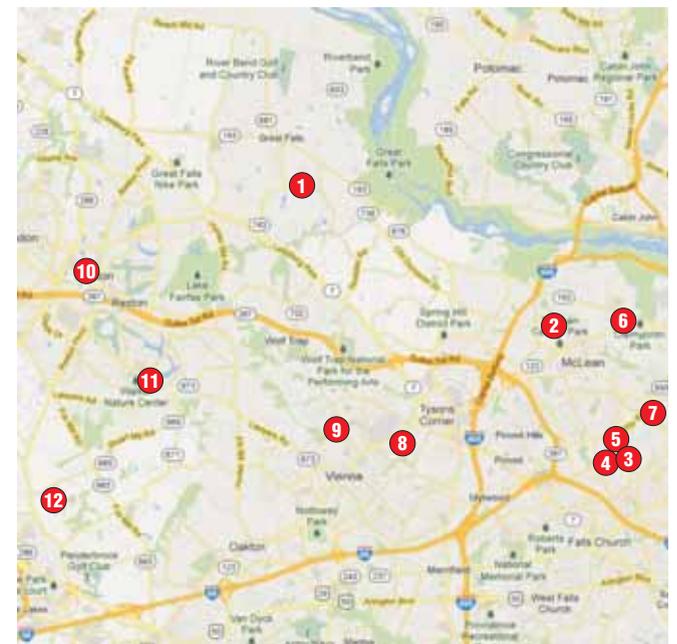
8 1006 Polly Street SE, Vienna — \$1,400,000



11 2260 Compass Point Lane, Reston — \$1,089,000

Address	BR	FB	HB	...	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 9697 MILL RIDGE LN	5	5	1		GREAT FALLS	\$3,022,457	Detached	2.62	22066	LANE AT FOUR STAIRS		02/08/13
2 1200 CAROL RAYE ST	5	5	1		MCLEAN	\$2,270,000	Detached	0.50	22101	HANSBOROUGH		02/04/13
3 2109 VIRGINIA AVE	6	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,245,000	Detached	0.40	22101	FRANKLIN PARK		02/28/13
4 2119 ELLIOTT AVE	7	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,100,000	Detached	0.49	22101	FRANKLIN PARK		02/14/13
5 1928 MACARTHUR DR	6	4	1		MCLEAN	\$2,065,000	Detached	0.48	22101	KENBARGAN		02/08/13
6 1200 BALLANTRAE LN	5	6	1		MCLEAN	\$2,000,000	Detached	2.04	22101	BALLANTRAE FARMS		02/19/13
7 10692 CHESTERWOOD GLEN LN	5	4	2		GREAT FALLS	\$1,925,000	Detached	1.76	22066	CHESTERWOOD ESTATES		02/28/13
8 1006 POLLY ST SE	5	3	1		VIENNA	\$1,400,000	Detached	0.39	22180	FAIRWAY MANOR ESTATES		02/28/13
9 601 MCKINLEY ST NE	5	4	1		VIENNA	\$1,390,035	Detached	0.29	22180	AYR HILL HEIGHTS		02/15/13
10 11990 MARKET ST #1804	3	2	1		RESTON	\$1,160,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	MIDTOWN@RESTON TOWN CTR		02/18/13
11 2260 COMPASS POINT LN	3	2	1		RESTON	\$1,089,000	Detached	0.30	20191	RESTON		02/21/13
12 3228 NAVY DR	5	5	0		HERNDON	\$920,000	Detached	0.70	20171	DARTMOOR WOODS		02/28/13

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© Google Map data



PHOTO BY CASE DESIGN/REMODELING, INC.

Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., created a two-story entertainment room with a bar, heated flooring and stonewall adjacent to the new garage, which features a bedroom, bath and office space above it.

Remodeling in Reston

Local homeowners and designers create ideal entertainment space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When the homeowners of a Reston colonial home decided to turn a breezeway that connected their main house into a detached two-car garage, their first thoughts were relaxation and entertainment. The primary concern of the design team they hired was combining safety and style.

"The main challenge on this project was framing the cathedral ceiling over the sunroom, given that it is about 24 feet up. Doing that well and safely is a true testament to our team," said Bruce Case, president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., who designed and built the project.

The homeowners' original goal was to build a detached garage with a breezeway that connected to the main house. Once construction was underway, the project expanded and the space above the garage became a living space with a bathroom. The breezeway became an open,

two-story sunroom with a bar and powder room.

The homeowners decided to transform the space between the home and the garage into a guest suite that was ideal for hosting guests. The result also includes a two-story entertainment room with a bar.

"The breezeway turned into a sunroom and then blossomed from there," says Sean McIarty, senior project manager at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "The garage is now the man cave, while the space above the garage includes a bedroom, bathroom, office for him and art studio for her. The studio leads to a deck with a cabana below."

The main level of the addition houses a horseshoe-shaped bar, sitting room with heated stone flooring, waterfall feature and clerestory windows that overlook the pool. The manufactured stone wall leads to an arched window that opens to a landing above the garage and into the new guest quarters.

"The 28-foot-high ceiling made this project interesting," adds Case carpenter Tom Barber, who, along with carpenter David Frock, worked on the project over the course of four months.

The bar area includes a commercial refrigerator, two televisions and pool access. "The house is deceiving on the outside," said Barber. "The colonial facade masks the extraordinary, Italian-inspired interiors with this gracious new entertainment wing."

"The main challenge on this project was framing the cathedral ceiling over the sunroom, given that it is about 24 feet up."

— Bruce Case, president of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

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HomeLifeStyle



Historic Garden Week is scheduled for April 20-27 and will include sites in Alexandria and Fairfax County.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GARDEN CLUB OF FAIRFAX

Virginia Historic Garden Week Celebrates 80th Anniversary

Celebration raises money to restore and preserve Virginia's historic landmarks.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Virginia will be in bloom later this month when more than 250 of the state's picturesque gardens, homes and historic landmarks open to the public for Historic Garden Week. The statewide event, which is in its 80th year and runs April 20-27, includes sites in the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County.

"Virginia is especially beautiful during Historic Garden Week," said Lynn McCashin, executive director of the Garden Club of Virginia, which sponsors the statewide house and garden tour. "Every year is different, and this one is extra special because of the anniversary."

Karen Cauthen Miller, Historic Garden Week state director, says the event will feature approximately 32 separate tours throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. The event raises money to restore and preserve Virginia's historic landmarks.

"Historic Garden Week has transformed the landscape of Virginia over its 80-year history. It's really an incredible accomplishment," said Miller. "One-hundred percent of proceeds go to the restoration

and preservation of the state's most important public properties. The list is a who's who of any place your kids would visit on a school fieldtrip. We restored the Bowling Green at Mount Vernon with funding from the Historic Garden Week, for example."

Miller added that Historic Garden Week is the largest ongoing volunteer effort in Virginia and is put on by 3,400 volunteers who work year-round.

"The restorations are of such a scale that they require the combined efforts of all 47 clubs that make up the Garden Club of Virginia. In Northern Virginia alone, the projects that have benefited from Historic Garden Week include Mount Vernon and Green Springs, the state's only Beatrix Farrand garden," said Anne Geddy Cross, chairwoman of Historic Garden Week.

There are 78 special events throughout the commonwealth of Virginia planned during the weeklong celebration. In Alexandria, for example, those who purchase tickets to the Old Town Alexandria tour will also have admission fees to George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens waived on April 20.

Ticket prices for Historic Garden Week vary. For a tour schedule and ticket information, visit www.vagardenweek.org.

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OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, APRIL 13 & 14

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

Centreville
14177 Royal Oak Ln.....\$299,000.....Sun 1-4.....Janice Farr.....Samson Props..703-618-8358

Chantilly
42344 Astors Beachwood..\$800,000.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662
13425 Melville Ln.....\$574,500.....SUN 1-4.....Barbara Blumer.....Coldwell Banker..703-405-5993

Clifton
12130 Sangsters Ct.....\$1,425,000.....Sun 12-3.....Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000
6817 Compton Heights Cir \$619,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Fairfax
3783 Penderwood Dr.....\$959,000.....Sun 1-4.....Bill Hoffman.....Keller Williams..703-309-2205

Fairfax Station
8309 Crestridge Rd.....\$1,495,000.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365
6205 Simpson Patent Ct.....\$710,000.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Great Falls
10906 Great Point Ct.....\$1,400,000.....Sat 12-3.....Leslie Thurman.....Long & Foster..703-895-6000
1003 Riva Ridge Dr.....\$774,900.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Richardson.....Weichert..703-231-1812
10001 High Hill Pl.....TBA.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Ellickson/Molly Decker.....Weichert..703-862-2135

Herndon
2612 Litchfield Dr.....\$509,900.....Sun 1-4.....Mike Lefevere.....Weichert..571-228-5050
1106 Treese Ln.....\$449,900.....Sun 1-4.....Mary Miceli.....Long & Foster..703-362-2242
2534 James Madison Cir...\$445,000.....Sat 1-4.....Dean Moore.....Samson Props..571-278-9161
12913 Alton Sq.....\$1,600 per month.....Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert..703-447-1662

Franconia/Kingstowne
6304 Walkers Croft Way...\$439,900.....Sun 1-4.....Jim Souvadis.....Long & Foster..703-919-9191

Oakton
3702 Waples Crest Ct.....\$1,899,900.....Sun 1-4.....Brenda Davis.....Weichert..703-938-6070

Reston
2054 Swans Neck Way.....Call Agent.....Sun 1-4.....Anne Lefevere.....Weichert..703-402-7595

Sterling
21211 Edgewood.....\$689,000.....Sun 1-4.....Mary Miceli.....Long & Foster..703-362-2242

Vienna
9860 Palace Green Way...\$1,199,000.....Sun 1-4.....Dean Yeonas.....Yeonas & Shafran..703-790-3330
402 Meadow Ln SW.....\$1,175,000.....Sun 12-3.....Casey Samson.....Samson Props..703-508-2535
1908 Aubrey Place Ct.....\$759,900.....Sun 11-2.....Debbie Kent.....Cottage Street..703-740-7654

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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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/APRIL 11

Brian Quenton Thorne and Francis Conlon. 2:15-3:30 p.m., at Center Stage, Reston Community Center Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. The tenor and pianist collaborate on works of well-known composers and lyricists; the fourth in a series of seven free Thursday afternoon "Meet the Artists" concerts. 703-503-3384 or www.olligmu.edu.

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., at the Falls Church Community Centre, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church. The Falls Church Area American Association of University Women (AAUW) is holding its 37th annual Used Book Sale. More than 40,000 books for browsing and buying. Most books priced at \$3 or less. Proceeds benefit AAUW's scholarship programs. 703-534-5345.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

Empty Bowls Fundraiser. 5:30-8 p.m., at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. A dinner of soup, bread, beverage and dessert and a bowl handcrafted by a local potter; proceeds go to hunger relief in Northern Virginia. \$20 donation minimum. 703-665-9334 or emptybowls@givingcircleofhope.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 13

Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Falls Church Community Centre, 223 Little Falls Street, Falls Church. The Falls Church Area American Association of University Women (AAUW) is holding its 37th annual Used Book Sale. More than 40,000 books for browsing and buying. Most



"Night Sparks," by Ryan Dunn

Fine Art Photography Competition Showcases Finalists

The work of 35 finalists in the 2013 Fine Art Photography Competition goes up in the Fine Art Photography exhibit, opening Tuesday, April 23, and up through May 26. The 35 were selected from 76 photographers submitting over 200 entries; juror Barry Schmetter announces winners during the Opening Reception and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 27, from 7 to 9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. www.artspaceherndon.com.

books priced at \$3 or less. Proceeds benefit AAUW's scholarship programs. 703-534-5345.

Founder's Day 2013. Noon to 4 p.m., at Reston Museum at Lake Anne Plaza, 1639 Washington Plaza N., Reston. Celebrate Reston's 49th and Reston founder Robert E. Simon, Jr.'s 99th birthday; live music, selection from the upcoming performance of

Xandau by South Lakes High School Theatre Arts Department, a 1:30 p.m. third annual Founder's Day Hunt and birthday cupcakes at 1 p.m. are among the festivities. 703-709-7700 or www.restonmuseum.org.

Vinifera's World Tour. 6-10 p.m., at Vinifera Wine Bar & Bistro, 11750 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Guests have the opportunity to sample

national treasures such as traditional Spanish tapas, paella cooked in a 3-foot wide paella pan, Portuguese favorite caldo verde and much more; wine to complement each dish and sangria with fresh fruit available. Without wine: \$50; with wine: \$75. <http://www.viniferabistro.com>.

"Mind, Heart, Vision" Artist Reception. 7-9 p.m., at Post Gallery, ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. This juried exhibit features the art of the students and teachers from Herndon High School. 703-956-6590 or www.artspaceherndon.org.

SUNDAY/APRIL 14

The Frying Pan Spring Meeting House. 2-4 p.m., at 2615 Centreville Road, Herndon. This is an opportunity to learn about the historic battles and famous people, like Colonel John Singleton Mosby and J.E. B. Stuart. It is also a chance to shake hands and talk with re-enactors from the "Black Horse Calvary" and Fourth Virginia Regiment and hear about the Emancipation Proclamation and the back military experience. 703-437-9101.

Sunday Afternoon Dances. 2:30-4:30 p.m., at RCC Hunters Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Dance and/or socialize at an afternoon featuring music of all genres; light refreshments served. \$3 for Reston residents; \$6 non-residents. www.RestonCommunityCenter.com.

Tom Paxton. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road Vienna. Folk singer/songwriter Tom Paxton will headline at The Barns, showcasing his insightful lyrics and earnest tunes. \$24. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

FAITH NOTES

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

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, has Sunday worship services at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Nursery and childcare are provided and youth and adult Sunday school classes are held prior, from 9:40-10:45 a.m. 703-437-5500 or www.trinityherndon.org.

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston, holds monthly classes for the general public which use Buddhist teachings to practice meditation. 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.

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-reston.org.

RESTON ASSOCIATION WANTS YOUR BUDGET IDEAS

The Reston Association Board of Directors is seeking input and suggestions from residents concerning the 2014-2015 budget. The board will adopt the budget in the fall of 2013.

Complete and send us a suggestion form by Friday, April 26, 2013 by e-mail to RABudget@reston.org or by mail to Reston Association, ATTN: RA Budget Suggestions, 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA 20194.

To download a 2014-2015 suggestion form, go to www.reston.org and select "Inside RA" from the menu at the top of the page. From there, navigate to the "Budget" page and scroll down to "Important Documents."



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SPORTS



Zachary Deker (4) and the South Lakes boys' soccer team beat Mount Vernon 1-0 on Monday night.



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes senior Elvin Arbaiza, left, and Mount Vernon's Erik Rodriguez go for the ball during Monday's game at Mount Vernon High School.

South Lakes Boys' Soccer Wins Fifth Straight

Seahawks beat Mount Vernon 1-0 Monday night.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

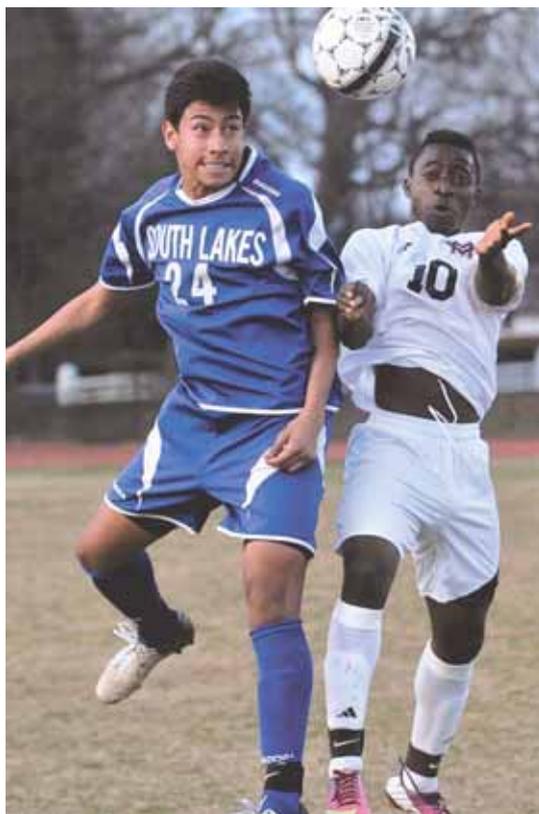
After opening the season with a loss to T.C. Williams on March 14, South Lakes boys' soccer coach Marty Pfister said the Seahawks needed to regain the team unity they had during a winning 2012 campaign.

On Monday night, senior captain Elvin Arbaiza said the Seahawks are learning to play with one another. While South Lakes might be a work in progress, it didn't stop the Seahawks from capturing a fifth-consecutive victory.

South Lakes improved to 5-1 with a 1-0 win against the Majors on Monday at Mount Vernon High School. Junior striker Jhonny DeSouza scored the Seahawks' lone goal with a header off a corner kick from Arbaiza in the 37th minute.

"All of our set plays on corners, we try to get Jhonny involved," Pfister said. "He's about 6'-2", 6'-3" [and] really good in the air."

After losing to TC 2-0 South Lakes won five straight one-goal decisions. The Seahawks beat Lee (1-0), Herndon (2-1), Edison (3-2) and Falls Church



South Lakes' Andrew Duran, left, and Mount Vernon's Simond Kargbo battle for the ball on Monday night.

(1-0) prior to defeating the Majors.

"It was a tough game, it was physical and we did what we needed to do to get the W..." Arbaiza said. "Every game we're learning. It's a young team; we lost a lot of seniors last year, so we're learning how to play with each other..."

Last season, South Lakes finished 7-6-4, including a 3-1-3 mark during the Liberty District regular season—the Seahawks' best district record under Pfister, who is in his fifth season as head coach. South Lakes reached the district tournament semifinals and beat Herndon in the first round of the Northern Region tournament before falling to Lake Braddock in the quarterfinals. This year, South Lakes opened district play against Stone Bridge on Tuesday, April 9, after The Connection's deadline. The Seahawks

will host Marshall at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 11.

"We kind of came on the scene last year in league play," Pfister said. "We look forward to it. We want to represent our district. ... We had our best district record last year and we just want to capitalize on that."



PHOTO BY ED MICKA

Bobby Rae Allen pitches for the South Lakes baseball team.

South Lakes Baseball Falls to Langley

The Langley baseball team hosted the South Lakes Seahawks on Tuesday, April 2, and The Seahawks lost another squeaker, 2-0, on a frigid night. Three nights later, South Lakes lost to Madison, dropping the Seahawks' record to 2-6 (1-3 in Liberty District) on the season.

Against Langley, the Seahawks threatened in the first but were turned away. The Saxons struck in the bottom of the fourth with two runs to complete the scoring for the game. Senior Bobby Rae Allen pitched a complete game in the loss.

The Seahawks defensive play of the game came in the fourth inning, when junior shortstop JoJo Lear snagged a ground ball and quickly fed the ball to sophomore second baseman

Matt Wojciechowski, who relayed it to sophomore first baseman Kyle King to help end a bases-loaded threat from the Saxons.

Two weeks ago, South Lakes traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C., to compete in the Mingo Bay Classic spring break tournament. When the fields finally dried, the Seahawks took to them on March 25 against Virginia High School. The Seahawks finished pool play in second place with a 1-1 record. The highlight was a 13-0 win over Gar-Field High School. Allen pitched a one-hit shutout and received plenty of offensive support. The Seahawks lost to Battlefield High School in the first round of elimination play in a 17-11 shootout.

—KEVIN DARBY

Diva Central Makes Dreams Come True

FROM PAGE 5

Raquel Higgins.
But Higgins almost didn't make it to the event after getting lost and having to return home disappointed. "We were supposed to get here at noon and we got here around 1:30 p.m.," said her mother. It was Higgins' father who drove her to the event to ensure his daughter was able to choose from the hundreds of dresses that were being given away that day.

Juniors from South Lakes High School in Reston Megan DeSisti, Rebecca Malaret and Allison Pulgarin also came to pick out dresses, accessories and shoes for the upcoming prom season.

"We all got dresses, accessories and gift bags," said DeSisti.

ASKED WHY they decided to come to the event DeSisti said, "I had a lot of friends who got their dresses from here last year and they were so beautiful."

Kenny Burrowes, Reston Community Center director of teen programs, said, "We had a bubbling cider champagne toast earlier, and raffles all throughout the day. We do promotional work [for the

event], plus my assistant and me went to all the local high schools last week to spread the word. We also had Mix 103 donate some air-time.

"I've never turned down anyone for a dress. There's no way to say you deserve a dress, and you don't deserve a dress. We just see it as serving the community. The girls can save the money on a dress and spend it on dinner," Burrowes said.

Catherine La Valley, senior at South Lakes High School, said of the event, "We, as a family, have always known about it and know it's a very good organization. We just loved what they did last year with it. Even if we are not necessarily going to prom, I use it for everything because I'm an actress and I have things I have to go to where I have to wear formal dress. It's such a nice thing to be able to have. They do a phenomenal job and they make it so accessible for everyone. I have friends and they couldn't even dream about affording a dress in a thousand years, but if they can come here, they can get everything. It's just great to have options for people."



PHOTO BY OLIVIA OVERMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Diva Central event at the Reston Community Center where free prom dresses were provided for teenage girls Saturday, April 6.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MONDAY/APRIL 15

Reston Planning and Zoning Committee. 7:30 p.m., at North County Government Center in the Community Room, 12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. A presentation on environmentally friendly school design practices and discussion on the Wiehle-Reston East Metro Station Access, with Patty Nicoson and Bill Penniman, providing insight from the perspective of the Reston Master Plan Special Study Task Force. 703-579-7525 or 703-638-7555.

SATURDAY/APRIL 20

South Lakes Band on the Run 5K and Fun Run. 8:30 a.m., at South Lakes High School, 11400 S Lakes Drive, Reston. Join the first annual South Lakes Band on the Run for the benefit of the SLHS band program. Team and individual registrations are accepted for the 5K. Fun Run available for kids under 12, and all Fun Run participant will earn a medal. Post-race refreshments provided. Registration required. \$15- \$40. <http://pracing.racebx.com/> or 571-239-6541

Overcoming Anxiety and Depression. 10-11:30 a.m., at Unitarian Universalist Church, 1625 Wiehle Ave., Reston. Practical advice from Buddhist teachings to help reduce the anxiety and depression that can come from living in a fast-paced, high pressure world. \$12. 202-986-2257 or www.meditation-dc.org.

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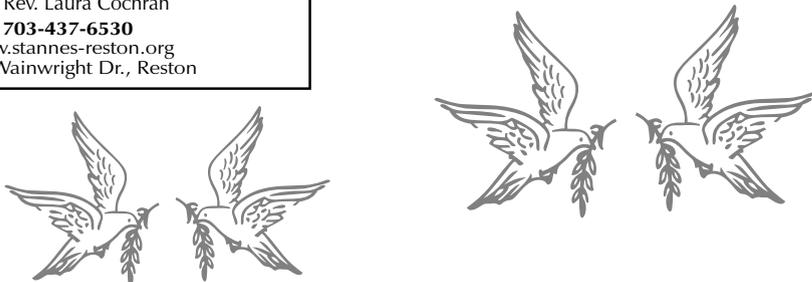
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Asked and Answered



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I think about it enough, I don't want to think about it too much. What's "it?" Cancer. That's what!

Given the undeniable fact (although I try) that I do have cancer – the terminal kind, and therefore have to deal with its all-consuming, underlying, overriding and everywhere-in-between effects, mental and otherwise, there are plenty of times during the day when I'd prefer the subject not be front and center, but rather back and off to the side. At night, too. Apparently, I can't stop what I think about when I sleep any more than I can control what I think about every night as I lie in bed trying to get to sleep, so I'd sure like to have some moments during the day – when I'm awake and living what appears to be a relatively normal life, when I need not be reminded of the rather unfortunate set of circumstances in which I find myself medically entangled and emotionally wrought.

Though I may have learned long ago that "Da Nile is more than just a river in Egypt," dwelling on the present facts as they are accounted for and on my fate that may very well be accompli, doesn't seem particularly helpful or beneficial. Pretending, denying, ignoring, deluding, accepting, all add up to the identical emotional toll: wearisome and worrisome, if you let it. Not that one can avoid it entirely (if at all); let's face it, being diagnosed with terminal stage IV lung cancer is hardly the stuff of dreams – more like nightmares. Nevertheless, there are choices to be made.

From my perspective, the high road (and no, I have not been prescribed medical marijuana) means trying to remain positive, where good humor and an even better disposition trumps the low road: negative, depressed, self-indulgent and miserable. Where's the future in that? (Heck, where's the present?) There isn't – in my opinion. If my behavior/attitude causes people to not want to be around me, then I probably won't be around long myself – or with others. But if I can somehow be a semi-breath of fresh air, not a gloomy Gus or a dismal Jimmy, perhaps I've earned, so to speak, the time that has not been promised to me.

Not that this strategy for my survival has been culled from any wise man's book of survival. Hardly. It's simply yours truly using some common sense and what personality and instincts I have, together, to make the best of a bad situation. My thinking is, if I don't lose any of these emotional-type skirmishes, maybe I won't lose the battle royal. Not that I see surviving cancer as a battle of good over evil or might vs. right – or wrong; I still want to act like I've been there, like it's not my first touchdown. Sure I want to win/live, but sometimes, the less said about it, the better. I won't mind really. In fact, as this column has attempted to say, I'd almost prefer it. From my perspective, I see nothing wrong with that! Besides it's very difficult to tell a terminal patient how to live their life. I don't mind if you try, but don't take it personally if you fail. Thanks for your understanding.

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

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A Journey of Discovery

Mary Jo Smrekar of Reston and Sue Ries Lamb of Alexandria facilitate The Women's Collaborative.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“Join With Us in Discovery.” That’s the header on the invitation for the 2013 Women’s Collaborative, a “journey of discovery” that takes place in three four-day sessions at Meadowkirk Retreat and Conference Center in Middleburg. The first session takes place Thursday, May 30, through Sunday, June 2; the second takes place in August; and the last is in October. They all promise to “create a container that is safe and strong enough to allow us to be in authentic relationship with each other ... to learn ... about being in harmony and community with ourselves, each other and our world.”

The designers and facilitators of this journey, Mary Jo Smrekar and Sue Ries Lamb, know a thing or two about building and maintaining re-

lationships. After all, they met in 1972 as employees of American University, and have been friends—and occasionally colleagues—ever since. As young professional women in the ‘70’s, it’s no wonder that they became at first interested, and ultimately passionate, about what was then simply “the women’s movement,” and what some historians today describe as the “second wave of feminism.”

IN THE MORE THAN 40 YEARS since their first meeting, both women have gone on to enjoy successful careers. Lamb has worked as an organizational development consultant for more than 30 years with a variety of organizations from locations in Washington, D.C., to Kabul, Afghanistan. Smrekar is a licensed clinical psychologist currently in private practice in Reston and has worked with organizations from

the Peace Corps to federal law enforcement agencies. She is also certified in EMDR, a therapy that has been successful in treating people suffering from trauma, post traumatic stress, anxiety and other emotional issues. But even the demands of ultra-busy professional and personal lives did not keep Smrekar and Lamb from coming together time after time to explore the role of women in the world and in society. “Asking and maybe answering questions about who we are as women,” said Smrekar, “how we can connect more deeply with others, how our pasts as women have shaped us, what we need to leave behind, what we want going forward.”

Their interests in exploring these questions brought them to a process that began in the 1980’s in Boston, founded by Alexandra Merrill and Joyce Weir, that ultimately took shape as The Women’s Leadership Collaborative. No surprise that Smrekar and Lamb took that three-year journey, attending the first Women’s Leadership Collaborative at the Hope Springs Institute in Ohio, meeting for five days, two times per year, for three



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Planning the 2013 Women’s Collaborative sessions are, from left, Sue Ries Lamb of Alexandria and Mary Jo Smrekar of Reston.

consecutive years. “It was an amazing experience,” declared Lamb. “We knew, after that,” added Smrekar, “that this was something, particularly with our backgrounds, that we wanted to take and share with the women of our area.”

Consulting with Merrill, and with the two mentors they worked with at Hope Springs, Lamb and Smrekar created their local Women’s Collaborative. “We’re the third generation,” Lamb said, “starting with Alexandra, then with Suzanne and Patricia (the organizers of the Hope Springs meeting). We wanted to be true to the legacy, but bring our unique gifts to the process.”

THE 2013 COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS will be the third for Smrekar and Lamb, who design the course and co-facilitate, “and learn, too, and make more wonderful friends,” said Lamb with a

smile. They stay in contact with the “graduates” of the programs and are pleased that the first two gatherings have resulted in building a close network among the women who attended. Since there are no topics that can’t be brought to the table, they also talk about women who have used their experiences with the collaborative to resolve life issues, to clarify and achieve goals, and to improve their relationship and leadership skills both in their personal lives and in working situations, too.

Mary Jo Smrekar and Susan Ries Lamb are enthusiastic and dedicated guides on this journey of exploration. They invite women interested in checking out this enlightening trip to contact them at surieslamb@mac.com or mjmsrekar@aol.com. The website, www.womenscollaborative2013.com, will also provide additional information.

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