

**HOLIDAY**  
**CALENDAR**

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# Menorah Workshop Held in Merrifield

FAITH, PAGE 12

Rabbi Shloime Adler lights the menorah at the Chabad Tysons Jewish Center and the Chabad of Northern Virginia Menorah Workshop at the Home Depot in Merrifield on Sunday, Dec. 18.

**McLean Bible Church  
Hosts Christmas Village**

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**What Do You Wish For  
Most This Holiday Season?**

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14  
PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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- 10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

**CHRISTMAS MORNING:**

- 10:30 a.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist

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## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Church of the Good Shepherd to Hold Three Christmas Eve Services

The Church of the Good Shepherd, a United Methodist church in Vienna, will celebrate Christmas Eve with three worship services on Saturday, Dec. 24 and one worship service on Christmas morning. The community is invited to all services at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road.

At 5 p.m. will be the Children's Christmas Eve Service that includes a giant felt board. "As children come in, we will pass out pieces of the Nativity story and will do the felt board together with music," said pastor Eric Song. Communion and candlelight services will be held at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided for the 7:30 p.m. service.

Christmas morning services with communion will be held at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. For more information, visit the church website at [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) or at [www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna](http://www.facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna) or follow at [www.twitter.com/goodshepherdva](http://www.twitter.com/goodshepherdva).

### Titanic Secret Resurrected in Vienna

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America Inc., invites all veterans, friends, and the general public to attend the Jan. 19, 2017 chapter meeting at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna, at 7:30 p.m. Dr. J. Robert DiFulgo, Vietnam War veteran and author of "Titanic's Resurrected Secret – H.E.W." which traces the story of a deceased Titanic crew member who was found with a stolen object in the cold Atlantic waters. For this alleged crime his name was not recorded on his grave. Come and learn about this unknown story about one of the greatest passenger ship tragedies.

The general public, teachers, and all veterans are invited. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit the web page at [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

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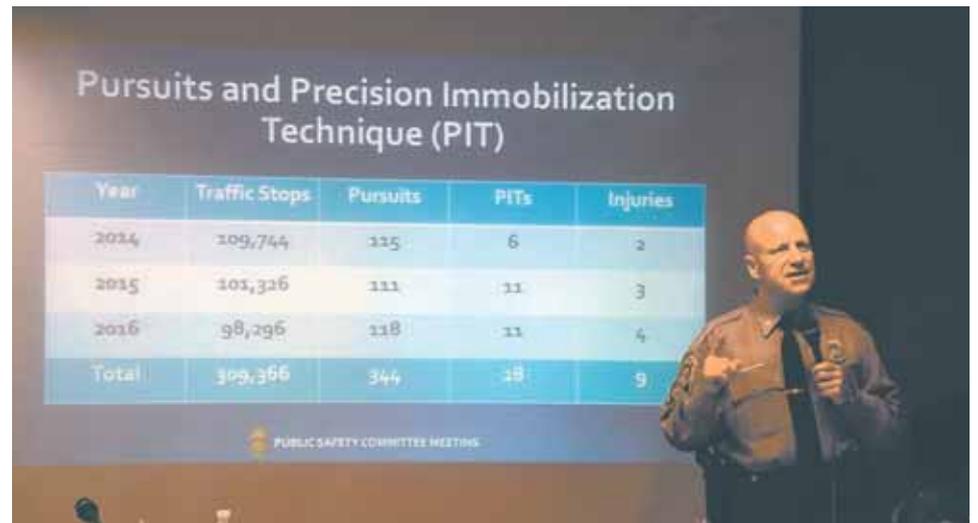
  
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A Dec. 13 presentation from Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair Shirley Ginwright (right), marked the last subcommittee to be heard by the supervisors.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler presents an update to the Public Safety Committee on the Precision Immobilization Technique (PIT) still allowed to be implemented by FCPD.

## Ad Hoc Commission Recommendations: 88 Percent Implemented

Public Safety Committee hears from Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is well on its way to implementing all recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. At the Dec. 13 meeting of the board's Public Safety Committee, they announced 88 percent of the commission recommendations have been implemented or are soon to be so.

"I am proud that 178 of 202 recommendations have been approved in just over a year," Chairman Sharon Bulova said in a statement. "The Board of Supervisors, Police Department and county staff have been moving with deliberate speed to transform these recommendations into actionable policies. By launching Diversion First, establishing the Office of Police Auditor, creating a Civilian Review Panel, hiring a civilian FCPD Public Affairs Director and applying new standards regarding release of information, just to name a few, Fairfax County has made great strides toward enhancing trust in and increasing transparency of Fairfax County Government."

**BULOVA LAUNCHED** the commission in response to public concern and growing distrust of police over the 2013 shooting death of Springfield resident John Geer by Fairfax County Police officer Adam Torres.

Fairfax County Police and the supervisors didn't release case information for more than a year after Geer's death, even to his family. A wrongful death civil suit filed by the family and a court order finally forced the release of investigation files and Torres' name.

Torres was fired in July 2015 and indicted by a grand jury for murder in August 2015, an historic first charge of that kind for any Fairfax County officer. He pleaded guilty to involuntary manslaughter and was released in June of this year, after he received credit for time served for a 12-month sentence.

### Status of Ad Hoc Commission Recommendations

Fairfax County released these totals, as of Dec. 12, 2016:

**119 (58.9 percent)** Recommendations are **Implemented** or **Implemented as Modified**

- ❖ 39 Communications
- ❖ 54 Use of Force
- ❖ 10 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 8 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 8 Independent Oversight and Investigations

**59 (29.2 percent)** Recommendations are **In Progress** (Recommendation accepted and in the implementation process)

- ❖ 11 Communications
- ❖ 3 Use of Force
- ❖ 4 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 13 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 28 Independent Oversight and Investigations

**16 (7.9 percent)** Recommendations are **Under Review** (Recommendation needs more review or approval by the Board of Supervisors before the implementation process can begin)

- ❖ 1 Communications
- ❖ 7 Use of Force
- ❖ 0 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 5 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 3 Independent Oversight and Investigations

**8 (4 percent)** Recommendations are **Not Implemented**

- ❖ 1 Communications
- ❖ 4 Use of Force
- ❖ 0 Diversity, Recruitment and Vetting
- ❖ 0 Mental Health and CIT
- ❖ 3 Independent Oversight and Investigations

The Public Safety Committee has been reviewing the recommendations from each subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Commission over the last several months, including Use of Force, Communications, Mental Health, Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting, and Independent Investigations and Oversight.

Michael Hershman, chair of the Ad Hoc Commission, said in a statement, "I not only look back on our work as very pertinent given today's national attention on policing and community relations, but am encouraged by the seriousness with which the Board of Supervisors have addressed our many recommendations. Through a series of committee meetings and hearings focusing on our recommendations, the board has displayed a professional and bipartisan effort to make a very good police department into a model for the rest of the country."

A presentation from Recruitment, Diversity and Vetting subcommittee chair Shirley Ginwright, president of the Fairfax County chapter of the NAACP, on Tuesday, Dec. 13, marked the last subcommittee to be heard by the supervisors.

**"What I have seen is community members, leaders and police department working together."**

— Shirley Ginwright

"In some fashion we've touched each one of them," said Public Safety committee chair supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

Ginwright gave brief updates on the status of the subcommittee's 14 recommendations with Fairfax County Police.

"I have to thank them for doing the most critical pieces of our recommendations first," Ginwright said.

Among those implemented are "collaborate and build recruitment-oriented partnerships" (number 5) and "establish a diversity goal for each commander" (number 10).

Less than half of that subcommittee's recommendations are still in progress, said Ginwright.

"We realize there is more that needs to be done, but we started," Ginwright said in a statement. "I applaud the Board of Supervisors for establishing the Ad Hoc Commission, listening to and understanding the cries of the community for changes, and taking some hard hits to get it done. What I have seen is community members, leaders and police department working together."

Cook acknowledged that a number of the Ad Hoc commission's recommendations were directed towards the Sheriff's Office and Commonwealth's Attorney, who don't report directly to the Board of Supervisors.

But, Cook said, the board is reaching out to them regarding those recommendations and inviting them to present and field questions related to the recommendations at the Public Safety Committee Meeting in March, 2017.

Among those recommendations still under review, a number relate to body cameras.

**CHIEF EDWIN ROESSLER** said the cost for cameras has been coming down as the number of vendors in the market increases.

Roessler cautioned the board to learn from the mistakes of other jurisdictions around the United States

that have hastily implemented body camera programs without properly budgeting or planning to manage them.

Cook said the Jan. 31, 2017 Public Safety Committee meeting has already been reserved for a deeper discussion of body cameras.

A progress report of where different recommendations from the Ad Hoc Commission are in the process of implementation is available online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm). A copy of the commission's final report to the board of supervisors is available at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/pdf/adhoc-final-10.8.15.pdf).

# OPINION

## Congress Coming Together To Find and Fund Faster Cures

BY BARBARA COMSTOCK  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (R-IO)



**O**n Dec. 8, I joined with a bipartisan group of House and Senate members, and the Speaker of the House, as the Speaker signed the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act. It was a joyful occasion as we concluded this year's session with what I believe is one of the most important and game-changing pieces of legislation passed this year. It was signed into law days later by the President and supported by more than 700 research, doctor and patient advocacy groups and provides \$4.8 billion in new research investments to the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

At the ceremony, Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander recounted the testimony of Dr. Francis Collins, director of the NIH, who has highlighted the new, exciting cures possible within the next 10 years: an artificial pancreas to help people with diabetes; medicine to limit the effects of Alzheimer's; a vaccine for Zika; a vaccine for HIV; a vaccine for the flu; the use of regenerative medicine using our own cells to restore a damaged heart; and non-addictive pain medicines that will help curb opioid addiction.

Imagine how different our health care system could be with these innovations. It is no wonder that Dr. Collins calls NIH the "National Institute of Hope." In Loudoun County, so many of us have seen that hope in the inspirational advocacy work of families such as Mark and Ellyn Miller, who lost their daughter, Gabriella,

### COMMENTARY

to cancer, and Chris and Roya Giordano, who lost their son, Mathias. The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act honors their efforts with \$1.8 billion for cancer research, which will support the Cancer Moonshot initiative.

Currently, there are only 500 treatments for 10,000 known diseases. With the mapping of the human genome and advances over the past several decades, we have more genetic clues about cancer and other diseases. But we still need to remove barriers to increase research collaboration, identify diseases earlier through personalized medicine, reform the FDA and modernize clinical trials, and remove unnecessary regulation for developing new medical apps. This legislation does this and streamlines the entire biomedical ecosystem.

With the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act now law, many of NIH's initiatives will be enhanced — such as the BRAIN Initiative that will help in fighting diseases like Alzheimer's. The bill will also concentrate funding on NIH's Precision Medicine Initiative that will focus research dollars on genetic, lifestyle and environmental variations of disease.

The Inova Schar Cancer Institute in Fairfax is one of the premier cancer centers in our region that can be part of this new era of innovation. Last month, they announced a new research partnership with the University of Virginia to develop the Global Genomics and Bioinformatics Research Institute, located at the Inova Center for Personalized Health in Fairfax.

I joined our private and public advocates at the announcement where they explained the mission: "The institute will recruit researchers, scientists and investigators who will engage in collaborative research focused on genomics, functional biology, bioinformatics, biologically driven engineering, precision medicine, translational research, development of targeted therapeutics and commercialization of new discoveries." This partnership will also work to achieve designation by the National Cancer Institute as a Comprehensive Cancer Center and establish a regional campus of the UVA School of Medicine at Inova. More partnerships are anticipated, as well as support from my former colleagues in the General Assembly, led by Speaker Bill Howell. As Todd Stottlemeyer, CEO of the Inova Center for Personalized Health, said, "This new partnership will further expand Inova's ground-breaking research in precision medicine and help us to realize the promise of personalized health."

While the legislation advances research and medical breakthroughs and provides for reforms and investments for faster cures and treatments, it also incorporates provisions we had passed to reform our mental health system and fight against the heroin and the opioid epidemic, which was recently declared a Public Health Emergency in Virginia.

This is just the beginning of what will be a new chapter in medical innovation. Virginia can play a critical and lifesaving role in bringing faster cures and treatments to patients plagued with these cruel diseases. We in Congress must continue to be partners by seeking the best policies and investments that allow this innovation to soar.

## Fairfax Police Reform Is Well Underway

BY PHILLIP NIEDZIELSKI-  
EICHNER

**I** endorse the Connection Newspaper's recent editorial on the progress Fairfax County has made implementing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, on which I had the honor of serving as chairman of the Use of Force Subcommittee. I have had the opportunity to interact with many members of the Fairfax Police Department, ranging from commanders to precinct-level supervisors and officers, all of whom I hold in high regard. We have a fine police department that we are fortunate to have protecting us day-in and day-out.

While the August 2013 shooting death of John Geer was the catalyst for the commission's forma-

tion, our charge was to assess the Department's performance against national best practices. As we executed against this charge, we identified both areas for improvement and mechanisms we believed would strengthen the public's trust and confidence in the department.

Forming a commission is a time-honored tool by public officials to delay action — or avoid it altogether — since there are always significant barriers to achieving change to deep-rooted organizational practices, traditions and culture. I commend both the Fairfax Board of Supervisors and the Police Department, particularly its chief and command leadership, with ensuring that the Police Commission's work is not sitting on the shelf gathering dust.

With my seven-month commission experience and a year's worth

of persistent focus on implementation alongside a dedicated subset of fellow commissioners, I can state without reservation that both the letter and spirit of the commission's recommendations have been embraced by Fairfax County.

Fairfax County is well on the way toward approving and implementing the preponderance of the commission's recommendations. Of note in this regard are the following:

❖ The two-pronged approach to independent Police Department oversight advocated by the commission and recently approved by the Board of Supervisors is significant in light of historical resistance to civilian review of police actions.

❖ The changes directed by the supervisors and Chief Roessler with regard to the Police

Department's openness and transparency are substantial and have already helped regain the public trust lost, in part, because of the dismal handling of the Geer case.

❖ The county's investment in Diversion First, which provides treatment rather than jail for non-violent people with mental illness, and broad-based police officer training in crisis intervention techniques, are already paying dividends. Those with mental illness are being treated with greater sensitivity to their affliction, easing the potential for unnecessary suffering, while also reducing the potential for officer injuries and the need for the use of force. Ultimately, this will also help insure a more effective use of tax dollars.

As important and forward lean

SEE POLICE REFORM, PAGE 5

Vienna & Oakton  
**CONNECTION**

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## OPINION

# Police Reform Underway

FROM PAGE 4

ing as these steps are, I believe the recrafting and rewriting of the Police Department's Use of Force policy, also known as General Order 540, warrants particular note. The new Use of Force policy encompasses the commission recommendations, which also incorporated use-of-force recommendations made by the independent Police Executive Research Forum. It gives emphasis to the sanctity of human life, dignity and liberty of all persons as its overarching value or driving theme; and it calls for de-escalation as the strategy of first resort when confronted with a threat rather than the use of deadly force.

Every member of the Fairfax Police Department, from command leadership to police officer will receive training under General Order 540 by the end of January, 2017. Police officer performance will be assessed against the standards set in this policy, while recruitment and vetting of police officer candidates will focus on the abilities and temperament that comport with the values captured therein.

I encourage everyone who is in-

terested to review the Police Commission recommendations progress report at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policecommission/progressreport.htm>. In summary, you will find that 178 of the 202 recommendations (88 percent) have been approved and are either in process of being implemented or have already been implemented; 15 (7.4 percent) are still under review; and 9 (4.5 percent) have been rejected.

The evidence so far is that the deep-rooted change of the nature and spirit advocated by the commission is more achievable now than even the most optimistic expected.

This noted, I caution that the transformative progress I have observed can only be sustained over time with the continued county and Police Department leadership commitment, the active involvement of the police rank and file officers and most critically continued community participation, monitoring and oversight.

*Phillip Niedzielski-Eichner served as chairman of the Use of Force Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, and continues service on the Implementation Committee.*

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Contractors are validated through their Class License and Specialty Licenses. Class C contractors can only perform jobs of a monetary value up to \$10,000.00 and ONLY \$150,000 yr. Class B contractors up to \$120,000.00, and no more than \$750,000 per yr. Class A there is no monetary limit.

For Bathroom or Kitchen remodels a number of different Specialty Licenses are required. BLD License covers framing, drywall, tile work. PLB covers all plumbing such as the replacement of shower and kitchen faucets. ELE covers electrical work such as the replacement of lighting. HVA covers the replacement of ventilation fans and range hoods.

### How do I submit a complaint about my Unlicensed Contractor?

Due to code limitations in the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, complaints regarding construction activity more than two years old cannot be accepted.

- If a person identifies him/herself as a licensed contractor and it is discovered the person is not licensed, it is a violation of State and County Code. Complaints/violations may be reported using the online complaint form; or

- Call the Department of Code Compliance at 703-324-1300, TTY 711, to start the complaint process and an investigator from the Code Enforcement Branch will contact you; or

- Call the Virginia State Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation at 804-367-8500, TTY 711.

### What are the risks of Unlicensed Contractors?

In most circumstances, unlicensed contractors offer lower quotes because they do not pay a licensing fee, or obtain a bond to protect their work, and in many cases, don't purchase liability or workers compensation insurance. Without these

expenses, the unlicensed contractor can offer a lower rate.

Many things can go wrong on a construction site, from injuries to shoddy workmanship to destruction of power, sewer or water lines. Ultimately, all issues are the responsibility of the general contractor. The general contractor and their insurance carriers are the primary payers in the event something goes awry on the job.

What most people don't know is that if you don't hire a licensed and insured contractor to handle your project, **you're the general contractor!** If your unlicensed contractor breaks a sewer line, **you're responsible.** If a worker gets hurt and can't work for two years, and there's no workers compensation coverage in place, **you are on the hook** for that workers' medical bills and lost wages.

The implications of using an unlicensed contractor go beyond the risks associated with the property worked on and injury to the workers. A homeowner or association that hires an unlicensed contractor can also be liable for the negligence of the contractor.

A neighboring property, a passerby or other property that is negligently damaged by the contractor can lead to liability to the person that hired the contractor. As the contractor's employer the hiring party is responsible for the contractor's actions during the course of that employment.

When a general contractor takes on a job they have overall responsibility for legal compliance, safety, quality of workmanship and just about everything else that happens on the job site. What's more, your homeowners insurance or landlord liability insurance isn't going to cover you for these events.

All policies exempt damage caused by the use of illegal or unlicensed contractors. Fire and water damage can be... expensive. If an unlicensed contractor improperly installs an appliance, such as a water heater that leaks and in rare instances explodes, your insurance will not cover it. If an unlicensed contractor installs an appliance, such as a dishwasher, and so on, the product warranty will be voided.

If you knowingly enter into a contract with an unlicensed contractor, you are not allowed to use the fact that the contractor is unlicensed as a defense for non-payment. Note that an unlicensed contractor can still file suit for fraud and deceit.

Those who are caught contracting without a license likely will have to appear before a District Court Judge and DPOR investigator to answer to misdemeanor charges that can carry a potential sentence of up to six months in jail and/or a \$5,000 fine, as well as an administrative fine of \$200 to \$15,000.

If illegal contracting continues, the penalties become more severe. A second offense results in a mandatory 90-day jail sentence and a fine of 20 percent of the contract price or \$5,000. <https://vacode.org/54.1-1115/>

Felony charges are filed against anyone who illegally uses another person's contractor license or who tries to mislead consumers into believing that he or she is a licensed contractor. Anyone who contracts for work in a state or federal natural disaster area without an active state contractor license also could face felony charges. If convicted of a felony, a person may have to serve time in state prison.

Furthermore, your state contractor board will not "typically" help you to make a warranty claim "Contractor Recovery Fund" against an unlicensed contractor. So if you are trying to recover at all, you will need to go to civil court. Even if you win in civil court, without a bond, there's a good chance the unlicensed contractor will not be able to pay your damages.

Recently, Fairfax County has been using sites like Zillow and Realtor.com to see if improvements have been done when selling ones home! AGAIN, the days of hiring an unlicensed "Friend", or "Neighbor" to work for monetary purposes is strictly prohibited and is easily verified through <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup/>.

All in all, it's not worth it! Always protect yourself by hiring a licensed contractor for your remodeling project.

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## HOLIDAY FUN

# McLean Bible Church Hosts Spectacular Christmas Village

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hey said it was an inaugural event, their first go at putting together a free, family-friendly holiday happening for anyone and everyone to enjoy, but the activities, the sets, the quality and quantity of the entertainment and refreshments and the sheer scope of their efforts seemed anything but a novice production.

For six nights – Sunday, Dec. 11 through Friday, Dec. 16 - every inch of the Tysons Corner location of the McLean Bible Church (MBC) at 8925 Leesburg Pike in Vienna was transformed into a magical Christmas Village, inside and out. The organizers were hoping for a good turnout, wishing to spread the joy of the Season to as many as possible. The opening night numbers far exceeded even their optimistic expectations.

“I think we had close to 7,000 to get things started on Sunday night,” reported MBC Associate Senior Pastor Dale Sutherland. “That’s probably the most we have had any Sunday in the building at one time.”

The following weeknights saw crowds of over 2,000 each night, though everyone was preparing for the Friday night Grand Finale. “I have a feeling that will be a big one. But we’re ready,” declared Rosie Pinkerman, MBC Director of Host Teams, on Wednesday evening. Pinkerman was speaking from her post in the church’s upper level Main Lobby - or “Village Square” for this occasion - where she said she was “really just keeping out of the way of all our amazing volunteers. They’ve got this covered.”

According to Pinkerman the event was first discussed three years ago but really hit the design board about two years later. “It’s a true testament to the great McLean Bible Church spirit and about 800 volunteers!” Just about everything involved in the final product was the result of volunteer efforts. That includes building, the set up and supervision of a dizzying number of activities, most of the forest of decorated Christmas trees, food and beverage offerings and serving, vehicle traffic control and pedestrian flow.

OK. Back to the start of this adventure at the “Village Square” where dozens of costumed “elves” greeted, directed and generally spread plenty of Christmas cheer. They helped friends and families take photos in front of a massive tree and on either side of a polar display as the crowds made their way to a full-sized carousel for a quick spin before heading to the auditorium for the Christmas Show.

**WITH THREE PERFORMANCES** a night and featuring the MBC Worship Band that had the packed houses singing along, the Christmas Concert and Show included a humorous kid-narrated film about the “Story of Christmas.” When that laughter died down, there was interactive storytelling by church member Paul Cunningham who enthralled an audience



**“It’s snowing!” And so it seemed to be during one of the MBC Worship Band’s performances. The group played to a packed house and had the audience signing right along to some of the time-honored traditional Christmas carols and rocking to some of the more modern numbers.**



**Round and round we go! The full-sized carousel brought lots of smiles and wide-eyed wonder to the guests at the MBC Christmas Village.**

of youngsters surrounding him by the stage.

On the lower level it quickly became clear that there was so much to see and do that it was no wonder why some, like the Paulsen family from Springfield, decided that one trip to the MBC Christmas Village just wasn’t enough. “We were here on Sunday night,” said Howard Paulsen, with his two boys Michael and Brian in tow. “We found out we had missed the train ride and some of the other activities, so we came back for more.”

A train ride? Absolutely. And a good-sized one at that with room for the whole family to hop on board as they were driven at a pretty good speed through the “Christmas Tree Forest.” Further along the lower level “Main Street,” for those who hadn’t finished

their Christmas shopping, there was a “World Bazaar” featuring handcrafted gifts at booths decorated to call to mind the country of origin. Regions of Latin America, Asia and Africa were represented with their items being sold to benefit ministries around the world that focus on ending poverty.

The spirit of giving was not forgotten in this Winter Wonderland. “Operation Christmas Child” was set up next door to the Bazaar to garner donations for children who otherwise might not see a gift beneath the Christmas tree.

Across the “street” children were lined up in “Candyland” for some time in the Bouncing Christmas Castle, a bit of face-painting, and a few other interactive offerings. If that

wasn’t enough action to satisfy even the most energetic youngsters, there was still the “Polar Playground” complete with a variety of obstacles courses sure to have some of those little ones falling asleep on their rides home.

Shows. Markets. Carousel and train rides. Lots to eat and drink. Sounds complete, and then some. But what would a Christmas Village be without the chance to do a little “ice” skating? Not to worry. The MBC elves thought of that, as well, transforming one large room into an indoor skating rink, where the organizers kindly provided helpful portable hand rails for those most in danger of spending more time sitting on the rink, rather than skating around it.

Just like the Christmas Show and the Christmas Experience that started Village event, the MBC folks capped off their presentation with a reminder of what they are all about. “Our Village is for everyone, regardless of their beliefs. All are welcomed and will feel welcome,” said Pastor Sutherland, but their mission in what they do is to “communicate the story of Jesus and what He did for Mankind.” And so the last thing that guests encountered set up outside the church was a live Nativity scene complete with Holy Family, their visitors, quite a few sheep and even a donkey. Then it was back to their cars, with the calls of “Thanks for coming! Merry Christmas!” ringing in their ears.

**INAUGURAL EVENT**, remember? That means there are already plans in the works for next year’s Village. A word to the wise? Don’t miss it if you did this year, and if you were part of this year’s fun, who knows what new adventures await you at the 2017 McLean Bible Church Christmas Village?

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



**The Richards family of Reston pause for a photo opportunity while enjoying the delights of the McLean Bible Church Christmas Village. “Something for everyone” they said, with kids ranging from 2 to 11.**

## VIEWPOINTS

What do you wish for most this holiday season?

—DONNA MANZ

**Laurie DiRocco,  
Mayor,  
Town of Vienna**

“My fondest wish is for people to gather, talk, laugh, and enjoy time with family and old and new friends this holiday season. I hope people take time to really relax and experience the true joys of the season.”



**Chap Petersen,  
Virginia State Senate  
[D-34th], Fairfax**

“My fondest wish for Christmas is to see a spirit of mutual respect and humility when the new administration begins in Washington, D.C. And, yes, that applies to all people.”

**Peggy James, Vienna**

“I wish peace, happiness, and faith to my loved ones. For the last few years, I have been a little sad at Christmas, as I lost my mother to a long battle with Alzheimer’s in 2013. This year, for some reason, the sadness has finally been lifted and I am, once again, in love with the holidays and all of the joy and hope and peace that comes along with this season. As it turns out, everyone is not in the same headspace as I am, and a few people very close to me are going through some real challenges and sorrows... So, for this year, I wish, the most, that the people I love and cherish can find some joy and peace in this holiday season, and that hope and faith will come to them, and grant them peace and happiness at this holiday time and for all of the days to come.”



**Mike Davis, Vienna**

“I wish everyone happy holidays, a wonderful Christmas, and a fantastic new year.”



**Joan Dempsey, VVFD**

“Good health for my family, and for those less-fortunate, I wish you a warm place to sleep and food on the table. And for those fortunate to have these, I wish you to share with those who do not.”



**Michelle Scott,  
Shepherd’s Center of  
Oakton-Vienna**

“My fondest wish for the holiday season is that we have good weather for First Night Vienna. I’ll be volunteering for the Freeman Store - so stop by and say hi.”



**Lydia Russo,  
Vienna**

“I wish for my family to have good health, and, safety for all the first-responders during the cold winter months.”

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NIGHTLY MARTIAL ARTS DEMONSTRATIONS

# Holiday Grief

Workshop helps others deal with loss.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he holiday season is bittersweet for Jeanne Rorke. The days leading up to Christmas are filled with memories of her parents. Her mother committed suicide when Rorke was 12, and her father died on Christmas Eve eight years ago.

"No one really helped me through the grieving process," said Rorke, recalling her mother's death. "My family was like, 'Don't talk about it.' ... My Christmases have always been kind of sad ... even though I put on a happy face for my family."

Roarke joined about two dozen others at a workshop on handling grief during the holidays called, "Facing the Empty Chair: Surviving the Holidays after Losing a Loved One" at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria. From those who are preparing to celebrate a first Christmas without a loved one to those who've been grieving for decades, participants shared experiences, supported each other and gained tools for surviving the season while facing the reality of the empty chair in which their loved one once sat.

"The holidays can be time of longing for those who've lost someone," said Carey Gauzens, a licensed clinical social worker at the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean. "The holidays are a time when you reflect on family, and it's hard for someone who's aware that that person isn't there."

At the workshop, Gauzens clarified some of the misinformation surrounding grief, especially during the holidays. "First and most important, is that normal grieving is really hard for most people. Some people believe the myth that grief lasts only for a few months, but it's hard to measure your healing because it's an up and down process, not a smooth, straight line."

Throughout the process, and particularly during the holidays, being able to tap into a source of strength other than oneself is a factor that Gauzen underscores: "It's important to have a support group, friends, a therapist."

Finding someone who is also grieving can



PHOTO COURTESY OF CAREY GAUZENS

**Carey Gauzens of the the Center for Pastoral Counseling of Virginia in McLean, led a workshop on grieving during the holidays at St. Aidan's Episcopal Church in Alexandria.**

be particularly helpful. For example, when Beverly Bell's husband died nine years ago following an extended illness, she found strength and comfort in a friendship with another widow.

"[We] had a wonderful relationship ... for several years following my husband's death," said Bell, who attended the workshop. "We had a regular lunch date and also shared a number of holidays. She also died a couple of years ago, and I realized that I am particularly missing her presence."

Earlier this year, Bell's brother died as well. "I found myself re-experiencing many of the feelings I had had when my husband died, [but feeling] particularly helpless to comfort my sister-in-law," she said. "Perhaps [my] presence is the most important thing I can ... offer my sister-in-law."

Some of the workshop attendees wanted to learn how to better support others. "I am a member of the Community of Hope International, a group of lay pastoral caregivers whose ministry is to visit those who are experiencing sickness, trauma, tragedy or loss of a loved one," said Caroline

McCormack, one of the participants. "I wanted to have a better understanding of the grieving process, so I might be a more compassionate listener."

She and Bell learned that process is different for everyone. "My husband's death was preceded by a long illness. My brother's death was sudden," said Bell. "I wondered if something about the timing made a difference in how we experience and cope with grief. I learned that it really does not."

**"The holidays are a time when you reflect on family, and it's hard for someone who's aware that that person isn't there."**

— Carey Gauzens, LCSW

"... We all experience grief in different ways and it can show up at unexpected times and places and so we need to be gentle with ourselves and find ways that we can express our grief in ways that feel healing and safe for us," added Revered Elizabeth Rees, Associate Rector, St. Aidan's Episcopal Church.

This is a point Gauzens tried to underscore: Grieving is an individual process and there is no one-size-fits-all method for coping. Even people who are grieving for the same person can experience it differently and have different needs. "For example, one person might want to talk about the loss, but others might not," she said. "It's important to be sensitive to family members who grieve differently and compromise so that each person feels emotionally safe."

Cultivating self-awareness and knowing what is normal to expect while one is grieving is important. "Sometimes the symptoms are so intense it makes people feel like they're going crazy and frightens them sometimes," said Gauzens. "They might cry at the drop of a hat, get angry or feel unable to control their emotions. There could become deeply distracted or confused like get lost going someplace they know well.

"Give yourself permission to make careful decisions about how you'll spend your time," she added. "It's helpful to discern within yourself what feels right. Decide whether to maintain holiday traditions or do something completely different."

Avoiding all festive, social activities might do more harm than good, however. "A person who's grieving might end up isolating because they won't go to places they once went to with the person they've lost," said Gauzens.

Instead, Gauzens suggests planning "something to look forward to after the holiday to reward yourself for getting through the holidays."

She also stressed the need for self-care, including exercising, eating healthy and staying hydrated. "It's important to minimize your use of mood altering substances like alcohol," said Gauzens. "It's tempting to try to numb the pain, but it comes back."

Changing customs can make holidays less painful, says Dr. Linda Guly, Ph.D., professor of psychology, Marymount University in Arlington. "I like to break with traditions that are familiar and that remind us of the loved one we lost," she said. "Sometimes it's good to shake it up and start a new tradition, so you're looking forward instead of behind you."

"The days are darker and colder, which exacerbates any sadness that we might be feeling anyway," said Guly. "Hang in there. It will feel better and you will get through it. The holidays will go by and we'll get back into our routine and productive lives that help with healing."

There is a point however, when assistance from a mental health professional is a necessary, Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, George Mason University in Fairfax. "People should seek professional help if they have significant distress and difficulty in daily self-care and functioning at home or work that has lasted more than two weeks without improvement," he said. "Common symptoms for depression are low mood, lack of pleasure in previously enjoyable activities, social isolation, and thoughts of hopelessness and helplessness."

## Free Holiday Cab Rides Help Prevent Drunk Driving

**C**ombating that holiday period which the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says is a "dangerous time to be on the road due to a high number of drunk drivers behind the wheel," a local nonprofit organization will offer free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area during the winter holidays.

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), operates the annual Holiday SoberRide program between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. each evening between Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 and Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 as a way to keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk, holiday period.

During the evening hours, between Dec. 16 and Jan. 1, Washington-metropolitan area residents celebrating with alcohol

may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30 fare), safe way home.

"Last December, nearly 1,500 (1,456) Greater Washington residents did the right thing and availed themselves of this lifesaving service rather than possibly driving home impaired," said Kurt Gregory Erickson, WRAP's president. "For SoberRide's hours of operation during just

last New Year's Eve, alone, such ridership (580) translated into the removal of a would-be drunk driver from our shared roadways every 49-seconds."

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 65,385 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

More information about WRAP's SoberRide initiative can be found at [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

# CALENDAR

**DEPTINI ȘI OBICEIURI DE SĂRBĂTORI**  
 romanian christmas and new year traditions  
 wednesday, december 28 | 7 pm

Grupul Bucovina din Atlanta  
 Narcisa Băleanu  
 Alin-Alexandru Rusu  
 Grupul Folclor

On Wednesday Dec. 28 there will be a Romanian holiday traditions celebration from 7 - 9 p.m. at The Patriot Hall - American Legion Post 180, 330 Central Street North, in Vienna. Caroling on Christmas and New Year is the most wonderful and colorful manifestation of the Romanian folk traditions. This is a time of year filled with unique and ancient rituals and customs celebrating the birth of Christ and the arrival of a new year. This show will highlight the traditional carols, dances, songs and wishes for prosperity and rich harvest, one could hear in Romania's towns and villages and will also include the famous Goat and Bear dances. [www.youcaring.com](http://www.youcaring.com)

Send announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Ongoing Contemplative Candlelight Service** St. John's Episcopal Church, located at 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. One mile east of Beltway Exit 44. Experience God in word, chant, and silence and pray by lighting a candle. No evening services on December 25 or January 1. [www.stjohnsmclean.org](http://www.stjohnsmclean.org)

**CHO Food, New Toy, and Bike Drive** Nov. 1-Dec. 31 at various locations around Vienna. Dish soap, canned fruit, chili, canned beef stew, diapers and wipes, canned salmon, Spam, tuna, tomato sauce, and laundry detergent are in particular need. CHO requests that no food be expired.

**"Ten Best Friends"** a solo show featuring Joan Fegan's oil portraits of the ten most popular breeds of dog in the US, has been extended through the holidays. Cost: Free. The location is The Frame Factory Gallery, at 212 Dominion Rd., NE, Vienna, VA 22180; 703-281-2350. Gallery hours are Monday - Saturday, 9:30 am - 5:30 pm, on Thursday 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Visit <http://theframefactory1.com/index.htm>.

**Drop-off boxes** are available at Town Hall, 127 Center Street S; Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E; Bikes @ Vienna, 128 Church Street NW; Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE; Doctors Covell, Stack, and Henon, 120 Beulah Road NE; Evolution Fitness, 216 Dominion Road NE; Rexall Drug Store, 150 Maple Avenue W; Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant Street NE.

**Winter Walk of Lights at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens** open every day beginning on Friday, Nov. 18, 2016, through Jan. 8, 2017. Open Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's, too. The walk of lights runs daily from 5:30 - 10 p.m. Last tickets sold at 9:30 p.m. This family-friendly six-week winter wonderland of spectacle is only a

few years old but has garnered a loyal following from throughout the Northern Virginia area, particularly Vienna and its environs. To buy timed tickets online: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/winter-walk-of-lights>

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon - 4 p.m. 131 Church Street NE Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. [Historicviennainc.org](http://Historicviennainc.org)

**"Ensemble"** — Friday, Dec. 9 - Jan. 9 at the New Katibeh Art Center 2070 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 180, Vienna, VA 22182. The Vienna Arts Society presents "Ensemble", a collection of members' artworks, to include paintings and original etchings, sculpture, woven bead jewelry and fused glass, at the Katibeh Art Center. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org)

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**Bingo Night. Sundays.** 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**Gentle Yoga.** Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 24

**Children's Christmas Eve Service** 5 p.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist Church 2351 Hunter

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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# I Have Ca, Ca, Ca, Cancer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Here I am thinking, believing, writing that I'm Mr. Well-Adjusted cancer patient and all it took was one conversation in a restaurant the other night at the Connection Christmas party to prove that I'm not. It was a casual, festive atmosphere with everybody enjoying food and drink. I was sitting in a booth with my wife, Dina, my co-worker, David, and his mother Sherry, who I had never met before, who was in-town visiting her sons and planning a drive downtown to see the National Christmas Tree. We were all exchanging pleasantries and getting on quite well when I remembered that David's mother is a nurse. I thought she would be the perfect person to ask about my oncology nurse. But to give the question some context, I thought I had to tell her I had cancer. And when I did, I could barely get the word out. After I stammered I asked, if there was any professional reason/advisory explaining why I haven't heard back from my long-time (seven years) oncology nurse who, I had learned four weeks earlier at my last infusion when he wasn't there to tend to me, retired early. He didn't exactly leave me adrift but a month later, he still hasn't returned my cellphone message (an email to his Verizon account bounced back and he hasn't posted anything current on Facebook).

Obviously he's entitled. Nevertheless, I'm perplexed. We were buddies. We were extremely compatible: sports, humor, from the Northeast, same age, Jewish and both spoke a little Yiddish. Heck, I had even been to his house for a Super Bowl party; plus we've been out to lunch a couple of times after my infusion, met locally for a medical follow up (not exactly a house call but he did come to me), and as I may have written in a previous column, he likely saved my life when I showed up at the Infusion Center with an oxygen level of 85. (Subsequent to that reading, he went into high gear making the necessary arrangements to get me transferred to on-site urgent care and ultimately "ambulanced" to Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring where I spent the next week. Though he didn't visit me; he later explained that he rarely visited patients, he did call to check on me.) The short story is: our relationship went beyond patient-nurse. I wouldn't say I looked forward to my infusions, but because of him, I didn't dread them either.

It's not as if he has to do anything for me or acknowledge me or even stay in contact with me. He has his own life; he's made a change and presumably, his oncology patients are not part of it. I can understand that. In the medical specialty field, oncology is one of, if not the most, emotionally demanding/wrenching: patients with whom you've developed a relationship often die. I can imagine how there's only so much loss of life one can take. However, I thought our relationship went beyond that, in spite of the challenging demands that dealing with a "terminal" patient can exact.

Oddly enough, I'm not taking it personally. My feelings are not hurt, really. Until I know more of the circumstances surrounding his retirement (health, family, lifestyle, etc.), I'm not begrudging him at all. Moreover, he doesn't owe me an explanation. His retiring is not about me. It's about him and because of that, I want to know why he decided to leave and whether we can still stay in touch. So far, we haven't; he hasn't.

There's no doubt that he's been an important part of my cancer-patient life, and in a way, I thought — through my personality and survival, important to him also. Perhaps I was, professionally. Personally, I thought so as well. I just haven't heard any evidence of it in the last month. Still, I will always be grateful for his care and concern.

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

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I believe the future is only the past again, entered through another gate.  
-Arthur Wing Pinero

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# FAITH

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to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Questions? Please contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

**Chabad Tysons Jewish Center** is hosting a Chanukah Wonderland Dec. 25 till Dec. 30 in Vienna at 226 W. Maple Ave. from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. every day and a Menorah lighting at the first night Vienna.

**Christmas Eve Service** - Charles Wesley UMC, "The Hunger Church," 6817 Dean Dr., McLean is inviting community to join them in a service of carols and candlelight - something for the whole family, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. [www.thehungerchurch.org](http://www.thehungerchurch.org)

**The Church of the Good Shepherd**, a United Methodist church in Vienna, will celebrate Christmas Eve with three worship services on Saturday, Dec. 24 and one worship service on Christmas morning. The community is invited to all services at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road.

At 5 p.m. there will be the **Children's Christmas Eve Service** that includes a giant felt board. As children come in, we will pass out pieces of the Nativity story and will do the felt board together with music, said pastor Eric Song. Communion and candlelight services will be held at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. (child care provided for the 7:30 p.m. service). Christmas morning services with communion will be held at 10:15 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 25.

The Church of the Good Shepherd will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. For more information, visit the church website at [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) or at [www.Facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna](http://www.Facebook.com/GoodShepherdVienna) or follow at [www.twitter.com/goodshepherdva](http://www.twitter.com/goodshepherdva).

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church** at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check [www.stthomasmcleanva.org](http://www.stthomasmcleanva.org) for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

**Church of the Holy Comforter**, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel). The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Questions? Please contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at [vhayes@holycorforter.com](mailto:vhayes@holycorforter.com).

**Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held** Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free

**Mom's Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m.** at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna.

Please join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care available during the summer. 703-759-2082.

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**McLean Bible Church** Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds traditional services every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. [www.stdunstans.net](http://www.stdunstans.net).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms** are open every Saturday, 1-4 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist Church** is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. 703-356-7100 or [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church**, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-938-2119 or [www.elcvienna.org](http://www.elcvienna.org).

**Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church** holds Centering Prayer Group Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour begins with a 20-minute prayer period, followed by a brief reading related to Centering Prayer. E-mail Chris Mason at [derce@cox.net](mailto:derce@cox.net) or call the church at 703-759-3509.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Mill Road, Vienna. The Children's Christmas Eve Service includes a giant felt board. As children come in, we will pass out pieces of the Nativity story and will do the felt board together with music, said pastor Eric Song. Communion and candlelight services will be held at 7:30 and 10:30 p.m. Child care will be provided for the 7:30 p.m. service.

**Family Christmas Eve Service** 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church. 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. Come enjoy a family-friendly Christmas Eve worship service that includes our children's nativity pageant and the congregational singing of many wonderful carols. [AndrewChapelUMC.org](mailto:AndrewChapelUMC.org)

SUNDAY/DEC. 25

**Christmas Morning Service** 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist Church 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The Church of the Good Shepherd will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com)

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## FAITH

# Menorah Workshop Held at the Home Depot

**Calendar of other Hanukkah events in the area.**

**A**bout 80 members of the Chabad Tysons Jewish Center and the Chabad of Northern Virginia attended a Menorah Workshop at the Home Depot in Merrifield on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016.

"We're here to bring the excitement of Hanukkah to the children with a hands-on event where children build a menorah. The kids worked at their own pace. We have latkes, dreidels and chocolate gelt," said Rabbi Chessy Deitsch of the Chabad Tysons Jewish Center. "We're also doing an olive oil press demonstration."

"We are very excited about the turnout of all of the families," said Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, Director of the Chabad of Northern Virginia. "If we could add to their excitement during the holiday, then we have accomplished what we wanted to. We want each child to feel pride in their holidays."

Mike Anderson, Assistant Store Manager for Home Depot, said they do all sorts of different workshops for different groups, birthday parties, and Wounded Warriors; just different ways to bring the community together. "It's part of our values in being able to give back to the community," he said.

Sam Kooritzky, a retired lawyer from Oakton, said the menorah workshop was a good way to get kids interested in the Jewish holidays. "It's more than just a service. We want to give them good knowledge of the religion itself," he said. The congregation is relatively small compared to others in the area, he said. "Here, everybody's part of the family. It's family oriented; every couple of months we get an invitation to have dinner with the Rabbi. You don't have to be religious to belong; there's no pressure on anybody."

Some upcoming holiday programs from Chabad of Northern Virginia include:

❖ Hanukkah Wonderland from Dec. 25 to 30, 2016, daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at 226 W. Maple Ave., Vienna, VA.

❖ Flip Like a Latke at Flight Trampoline Park, Saturday, Dec. 24, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., at 7200 Fullerton Road, Springfield. Cost is \$10/person; \$25/family. Visit ChabadVA.org.

❖ Menorah Lighting on Wednesday, Dec. 28 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at Springfield Mall. Includes giant menorah lighting, magic show, take a photo with Judah Maccabee and the Dreideal Man, Chanukah arts and crafts, and hot chocolate, latkes and doughnuts.

❖ Menorah Lighting on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 6:30 p.m. at Fairfax Square.

❖ Menorah Lighting on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at The Greens in Vienna.

❖ Camp Gan Israel's Winter Camp 2016 from Dec. 19 through Dec. 30, daily from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. At 3939 Prince William Drive, Fairfax. Register online at [www.CGINOVA.com](http://www.CGINOVA.com).

— STEVE HIBBARD

**Members of the Chabad Tysons Jewish Center and the Chabad of Northern Virginia participated in the menorah workshop.**

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION



**Zoe Hicks, age 9, of Vienna, makes her menorah.**



**Members of the Chabad Tysons Jewish Center and the Chabad of Northern Virginia participated in the menorah workshop.**



**Rabbi Sholom Deitsch, Director of the Chabad of Northern Virginia, with his family members.**



**Ali and Eli Kulman of Falls Church make a menorah at the Home Depot in Merrifield.**



**Nancy Gabriel, a Garden Associate at the Home Depot, serves latkes, a potato pancake.**



**Noah and Aden Mozar of Fairfax make their menorahs.**