



The Arlington Connection

HomeLifeStyle

PAGES 10-11

Cora Sehardt, 2 and a half years old, sits on the floor at the end of the crawl through tunnel that is part of the obstacle course for the Superhero Training Day at Shirlington Library. She sits amidst a room full of K-5th graders attending the Jan. 31 event.



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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Empty Bowls Raising funds to help feed those in need.

BY MARY DEMPSEY
THE CONNECTION

For the fifth year, area ceramic studios and restaurants joined forces with the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) for its annual Empty Bowls fundraising event. The fundraiser took place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Sunday, Feb. 5.

AFAC's Empty Bowls event, like many around the nation, is based upon the concept of using art as a way to connect with those in need. Specifically, the hand-crafted ceramic bowls serve as a reminder that there are those in the community who cannot always afford to fill their own bowls or those of their family members.

According to Puwen Lee, AFAC's associate director of programs, the bowl serves dual purposes.

"It's something that [attendees] can take home and love, but they also have the bowl as a remembrance," Lee said.

On Sunday, approximately 250 members of the Arlington community and beyond traded a pre-purchased ticket for an original ceramic dish made by area artists which they could then fill with hot soup provided by local restaurants. They then got to sit down at community tables and enjoy a meal with friends, family, and neighbors.

For some, attending Empty Bowls has become an annual tradition.

"I've been coming as long as I can remember," said Arlington resident Wes MacAdams. "I come for the fellowship, the great food, for the cause. You get to help yourself by doing good."

Many others had come for the first time. Laurel Glenn of Alexandria came to the event after hearing about it from a friend who volunteers with AFAC.

"I hope it's the first time of many times," Glenn said. "It's a wonderful organization. They provide food for the people who need it."

While food drive donations are a boon to the services provided by AFAC, the funds derived from events like Empty Bowls and AFAC's upcoming spring gala, "A Light Exists in Spring," are essential to providing for the roughly 2,200 residents who are served by the nonprofit.

"About 40 percent of the food is donated," Lee said. "The rest needs to be purchased. We can purchase food at a much lower cost." Lee added nutrition is also another major factor and that by purchasing food, AFAC is able to better monitor the nutritional value of the food distributed. It is also necessary for them to purchase almost all perishable food such as meats, dairy, and fresh vegetables.



PHOTO BY MARY DEMPSEY/THE CONNECTION

Volunteers from H-B Woodlawn High School served up the soup, which was provided by local restaurants such as the Carlyle, Lebanese Taverna, and Whitlow's on Wilson.

While the primary goal of Empty Bowls is to benefit those served by AFAC, the event recognizes the work of area ceramic artists as well. Studios such as Lee Arts Center, Alexandria Clay Co-op and Thomas Jefferson (TJ) Community Center Art Studio provided the bowls. Work was also do-

nated by local high school and college art departments, including those at Washington-Lee High School, Episcopal High School and Marymount University.

"Empty Bowls helps us to focus on a common goal," said Steven Muñoz, director at
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Devastating Past, Uncertain Future

Arlington's Syrian refugees shocked and dismayed by recent executive order.

BY VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Ekbal Al Zoubi and his family escaped death. In a war that has killed at least 400,000 people, Al Zoubi and his family are a few of the 15,479 Syrian refugees to make it into the United States in 2016.

"We escaped the war in Syria," said Al Zoubi, "The government there is killing innocent people for demanding their rights."

Al Zoubi said that while his family were fleeing from the government and living in the refugee camps, their focus remained on trying to move into the United States.

"I heard a lot about the United States before I came here," said Al Zoubi. "We were told it was a land of freedom and opportunity. We were told America was a country of law, and that the government doesn't care what your political or your religious beliefs are."

But for Al Zoubi, and many others at the Community Forum hosted by the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc. on Feb 2, there is a rising fear that the America they escaped to may not be the one that was promised. On Jan. 30, President Donald

Frid Mosa (right) speaks to Arlingtonians at the ECDC community forum with the help of translator Ahmed Altamimi (left).

PHOTO BY
VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION



Trump signed an executive order banning persons from seven "terror-prone" countries, including Syria, from entering the United States. The order's legality has been challenged in courts and its implementation remains in question. While Al Zoubi's immediate family is safe, others in the room still have family members seeking asylum in the United States. Many also expressed concerns that the ban could affect the way Syrian refugees are viewed by the public or could lead to more actions taken against

refugees.

"We came here seeking safety, but now we are very uncertain," said Al Zoubi. "Recently, we've seen the United States working against people demanding their rights and freedom."

At the forum, refugees from Syria shared their stories with refugees from other crises.

"These families want a normal life," said Fazela Mahmoodi, a refugee from Afghanistan. "They never feel safe. After every at-

tack, you call everyone you know to see if they're safe."

Mahmoodi said that the vetting process for her immigration was extensive.

"It took me two years from the time I applied to when I got a visa. There are 15 steps, from a medical screening to interviews, and every refugee goes through this process. Many wait much longer."

Yen Le, representing Boat People SOS, was a refugee to Arlington County from the Vietnam War. Le said the executive order has had a broader impact on refugees than just those in the outlined Muslim countries. Le said a man the organization works with was jailed in Vietnam for protesting. He left for Thailand and has been trying to flee to the United States, but has been in limbo since the executive order limited the number of refugees received by the United States.

Representatives from Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner and U.S. Rep. Donald Beyer attended the event, saying that the local members of Congress are opposed to the executive order and have been working to help refugees stuck at Dulles International Airport. Noah Simon from Beyer's

SEE UNCERTAIN FUTURE. PAGE 5

Arlington, Alexandria Construct Bigger and Better 'Bridges'

Local safety net organization helped 500 people last year.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

Like any other Alexandria mother, Amina Amir was bursting with pride that her daughter would be graduating from high school this spring, with plans to go to college, and that her son is in the U.S. Navy in California. But unlike most Alexandria mothers, Amir is a domestic violence survivor. She was taken out of her home a few years ago by a detective who referred her and her 13-year-old daughter and 17-year-old son to Bridges to Independence for emergency shelter from domestic abuse. They were placed in rapid rehousing in a three-bedroom apartment not long after, to rebuild their lives.

At the Screwtop Wine Bar in Clarendon on Feb. 6, this mother of two stood up and thanked a crowd of about 40 community-minded residents for giving her and her children a chance to live outside the shadow of domestic violence. Amin said she remains awed by the dedication of the staff at Bridges to Independence, a safety-net non-profit organization which helps individuals and families in Arlington and the City of

Alexandria out of homelessness and into stable, independent futures. "They miss time with their families to help families they've never met before, generous with their time and their help; they remain our family," she said.

It seemed like family, Monday night. Former U.S. Rep. Jim Moran, who was a founding board member 30 years ago when the organization was called the Arlington-Alexandria Coalition for the Homeless (AACH) was there. "I started working with an Episcopal priest, Rosemari Sullivan, whose vision it was to create this," Moran said.

Lars Flori interjected: "It was Jim Moran who arranged for an earmark of a House Bill to enable AACH to purchase their original building at 932 North Highland St., which is one of the reasons we can raise capital today."

"Bridges" — as it is known in the community — has launched a \$2.5 million capital campaign for a new headquarters space in Arlington. For over 30 years, individuals and families experiencing homelessness have turned to Bridges for support. Bridges' services provide the skills, knowledge, and community

"I've gotten the amazing task of having to talk to all the great people who are involved with Bridges."

— Dan Blaine, Chair, Capital Campaign, Bridges to Independence



Bridges client Amina Amir stands with Executive Director of Bridges Sam Kelly to talk about what it meant to her to get the support she needed a few years ago.

PHOTO BY
EDEN BROWN
THE CONNECTION

networks people need to become and remain self-sufficient. In 2016, Bridges served nearly 500 individuals in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria.

Board member Kopp Michelotti said his favorite thing about Bridges is the Kickball Tournament. "They always pick the hottest day of the summer to hold it, and it is always fun. Sponsors pay to set up teams, so it is a fundraiser, but mostly an event that brings the whole community together." Board

member Kris Finney's favorite thing was the running program she manages. They have about 20 youths, the children of clients, who run together. They train for the 5K races around town: Clarendon Day 5K, Turkey Trot, the Marymount 5K. Pacers Running Shop in Clarendon helps support the runners. "It's the health piece of running, the mental health piece, and the supporting the community piece, yes," said Finney. "But perhaps most important is the mentoring piece." The goal of Bridges is to interrupt the cycle of intergenerational poverty, she said. "So an important piece of that is getting the kids on track. We provide mentors who run alongside the kids and help them train. The mentors are volunteers who come

SEE ARLINGTON. PAGE 13

The Journey to the Other Side of the Street

Success occurs one-on-one.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

Lavonne Williams and Michael Diffley sit sharing an afternoon cup of coffee remembering their journey. They recall the day they met in 2007. Williams said, “I was a homeless ex-offender, staying at the day shelter on Henry Street and sleeping on the streets at night. Mike pulled up in a truck and asked if anybody wanted to help him transfer mattresses donated from hotels to the furniture bank at ALIVE!”

Diffley added, “Like many other days I would look for the older black guys in their 50s because I knew they had been through a lot of stuff and I liked to listen to their stories. My comment to him was he won’t be on the streets. His comment to me was he will come and help me move furniture.”

Though they didn’t realize it at the time, at that moment a bargain was struck.

Williams said, “Mike gave me a jump start on being able to find work.” Diffley said, “You can roll the dice 40 times and the law of probability says you get snake eyes; you get a job. But an ex-offender rolls the dice 40 times and gets rejection and quits. They need people to take them on one-on-one, to roll up their sleeves.” He points to Williams and back to himself. “This works,” he said.

At the time Williams also panhandled in front of St. Joseph Catholic Church where Diffley is a parishioner. Many people that he calls his “regulars” were giving Williams money and when they asked him what do you want, he would say, “I want work.”

Diffley said, “I got to know him better. I made it a point to talk to him. So many people pass by and don’t even give the time of day to the homeless. Lavonne has a great personality.” At the time Williams had some medical problems; he was a heavy smoker.

Williams added, “They stuck a little cord in my vein to scrape the extra plaque out.”

Williams said when he met Diffley he had gotten “real tired” of living on the street. He slept in used car lots and went to businesses on King Street where trucks were unloading at 5 a.m. to earn \$20 just to get something to eat. He said it took him “a while to get the concept of his situation in its entirety. I was trying to live on both sides of the street at the same time. I have taken Mike through a couple of headaches and he hasn’t given up on me.”

Diffley explains that Williams was on probation and still smoking marijuana. “He thought he could beat the charge. That really hurt and he knew it. We had the walk around the block talk.” Diffley said Williams was close to going back to jail and me saying to myself ‘it’s too hard for me to do anymore.’ But I still remember it. I said, ‘do you want to come over to my side of the street or not.’ He said, ‘I’m ready, Mike.’”

Diffley added, “To do what Williams did, that’s not easy to do. All your friends are over there on that side of the street, your social network, your drug supply.”

Williams said, “There are a lot of people who say they want to do something but to put their foot in it is an entirely different perspective. You would rather stay where you are and beef than to look for work.” He thinks of Jamison who first got him involved in panhandling. “He is a perfect example. Jamison has been panhandling for years. He says he can make more money than working for anybody.” But sometime Jamison will get tired and want to get off the street and sleep on the couch and connect with Diffley.

Williams had been released from Lorton Prison in 1997 and told not to have a D.C. address anymore so he woke up in the D.C. jail and walked to the Potomac Avenue Metro, got on the train and came to Alexandria. He said it’s the biggest letdown because there are expectations that the gov-



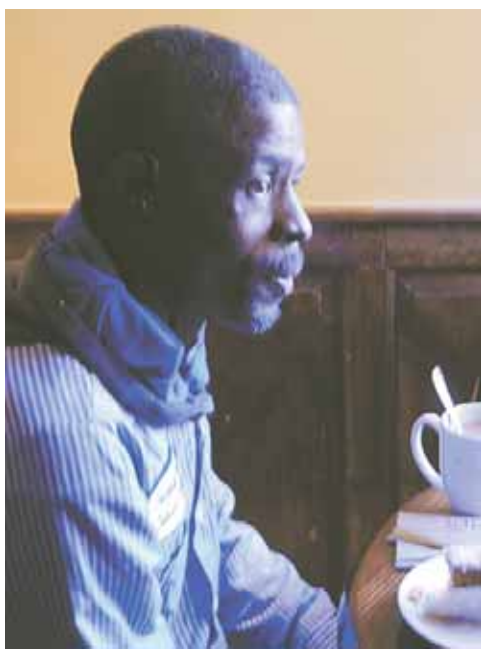
Lavonne Williams, formerly an ex-offender and homeless, remembers the day he met Michael Diffley. They began a journey together, sometimes up and down,

that has led Williams from the streets to a room and his own business, Alexandria Labor Co-Op.

ernment has programs to help you. “Back in the day when you went to the unemployment office they had a Rolodex that they would get out and talk to employers about ex-offenders. There was a tax credit for employers who hired an ex-offender. But,” he added, “if you don’t do one-on-one, sending us out is useless.”

Diffley says there are programs to help write resumes but do they take someone to find a job? “No, they are too busy writing resumes and with their computers.”

Williams says when you get out, “you got



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

Lavonne Williams points out he has taken Diffley through a couple of headaches but “he hasn’t given up on me. We’ve gotten real close.”



Michael Diffley, a former colonel in the Army and later a high school teacher in D.C., says ex-offenders and homeless need people to take them on one-on-one if they are going to make it.

30 days. The first two weeks people are glad to see you. Then it’s ‘what do you do all day? When I leave, you’re here; when I come home, you’re here.’” He was married at the time so had some family support. He lived with his wife and her family. But as time went by he wasn’t comfortable with her family’s illegal activities “so I took her and moved to New Jersey.” Williams got a job “with a pretty good company” repairing computers, a skill he had learned in prison. His job performance was so satisfactory they wanted to hire him permanently. It was when he had to fill out an application that they discovered his prison background and decided he “wasn’t clean enough. So they let me go.”

Williams had been at Lorton for 11 years. “When I went in I knew what I did was wrong but it was based on a vendetta for my sister.” He explains someone gave his sister a “hot shot,” a dose of heroin and cocaine at the same time. Now her mind fluctuates from 12-years-old to her current 53 years “and me and my dad are the only ones she recognizes off the top.” He says he went after the guy who did it.

He said being in jail was close to life on the street. At Lorton, except driving, he says they did everything they did on the outside, like hustling and selling drugs. “We had carry-out soul food, some dormitories had parties.” He says the slightest thing was magnified in jail, “like if you said the wrong thing about somebody’s visiting wife.”

And there weren’t many fistfights. “If you’re coming at me, you’re coming at me to kill me.” Diffley’s personal journey that led him to the street where he met Williams began when he was a colonel in the Army stationed in New Orleans in the early ‘90s. He was involved in the Little Brother

hooked on social justice.” As the 12 years of teaching went by, he fell in love with the youths who were trying so hard, sometimes without any parents. He became much more progressive. “I used to be a Republican.” Now he wants to do the things that society is obligated to do.

Williams says he has a lot of blessings. “I have a program for low-income mothers.” They help him sort food for ALIVE! in exchange for community service hours. He has recommended several homeless for employment and he loads up boxes of food that a police officer delivers to homeless on the street. “Lavonne has become quite a philanthropist,” Diffley said.

With the help of Diffley, Williams has started his own business, Alexandria Labor co-op,

labor source for yard work, moving furniture, heavy cleaning inside and out, and other times when you need a helping hand on a project. Diffley said, “Williams is a hard worker. He once walked from D.C. to the ALIVE! Warehouse to meet his regular Saturday morning obligation. We worked to get him incorporated and so he got some focus.”

Williams said, “You have to reset your mind from being a panhandler.” He currently has regular clients and six employees. His goal for the future is to have a 50 percent self-sufficient business, with vehicles, tools, uniforms and an active payroll. He said when he upgraded from sleeping in used car lots to a couch, “I never understood what this upgrade could mean.” Now he wants more.

Diffley helps subsidize his current room. “I’m in a room now with a private bath.” He says he is on a ladder now that will continue to go up. “Mike and I have gotten so close. Going down is not in the equation.”

Part III

Concluding a three-part series focusing on prisoner reentry in Northern Virginia.

Program and “this was the first time I had interacted with folks on the other side of the street.” He came back to D.C. for his last tour and looked for some way to get involved again. Since he had graduated from West Point, had two degrees from MIT and a Master of Business he decided he had the credentials to teach so got a position in the inner city. “The more I did, the more I got

“Mike gave me a jump start on being able to find work.”

— Lavonne Williams



Mohammed Al Ali (left), Frid Mosa (center), and Ekbal Al Zoubi (right), Syrian refugees living in Arlington.

PHOTO BY
VERNON MILES
THE CONNECTION

Uncertain Future

FROM PAGE 3

office said citizens should get in contact with their local representatives if their family members are being detained.

For many, the persecution and violence in Syria didn't start with the civil war. Chirin Ahmad and Frid Mosa are Kurdish. Mosa said his family wasn't even given Syrian citizenship, and that the Syrian government was killing Kurds before the revolution.

"During the revolution, Syrians were killed without mercy," said Mosa. "Millions fled because of the war. I am one, and I thank God for that. The way people in the U.S. have dealt with us, they consider us human."

Despite issues with the government policy, many refugees emphasized that their experiences

with the American people have been overwhelmingly positive. Since arriving, Al Zoubi says most of the Americans he's met have been very nice and welcoming.

"They try to help us, even though our English is not the best," said Al Zoubi. "It gives me a positive feeling, that people here will accept others. It gives me hope."

Al Zoubi and the other refugees spoke through Ahmed Altamimi, himself a refugee from Iraq who grew up in Yemen. Altamimi is from a Baha'i background, a religious minority persecuted in Iraq and Yemen. While in Yemen, Altamimi said the government detained four other Baha'i and others were told to leave, so his family were working desperately

SEE UNCERTAIN, PAGE 11

OBITUARY

Mary Kay Spink

Mary Kay Spink, 80, a retired CIA administrative officer, died on Feb. 3, 2017 in Arlington. She was a resident of Arlington for nearly 60 years.

Mary Kay was born in South Bend, Ind. to Robert and Marjorie (Blakeman) Spink on Feb. 29, 1936. She was raised in St. Joseph, Mich., and graduated from Purdue University in 1958. Mary Kay was recruited by the CIA while still in college, and moved to Washington D.C., after graduation. She served overseas in Khartoum (Sudan), Paris, London, and Vienna, as well as stateside in D.C. Mary Kay worked for the United States government for 28 years.

In retirement, she was active in the Georgetown Presbyterian Church. A member for nearly 50 years, she served as a deacon, an elder, and in many other capacities. She loved to help others, and especially enjoyed volunteering through her church as a sponsor for refugee families, taking them under her wing on their path to citizenship.

She volunteered for the Wash-

ington National Opera and the Arlington Voter Registration Office, giving countless hours of her time over 20 years. A life-long learner, she enjoyed taking courses through the Arlington Learning in Retirement Institute. Mary Kay enjoyed traveling with her friends, and especially enjoyed singing.

A one-time member of church choir, she also performed with a number of singing groups, including the Arlington Senior Singers Chorale. Mary Kay was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Barbara (Daniel) Yoder, of Mark Center, Ohio. She is survived by her nephews, Jerald (Lois) Yoder of Hicksville, Ohio, Richard (Karen) Yoder, and Philip (Linda) Yoder, all of Mark Center Ohio, as well as 18 great-nieces and nephews, and 31 great-great nieces and nephews. A memorial service for family and friends to honor Mary Kay's life will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, at Georgetown Presbyterian Church at 1 p.m. Interment will be in South Bend, Ind., in a private ceremony. Memorial contributions may be made to Georgetown Presbyterian Church.

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OPINION

First Amendment Is Alive and Well

BY RONALD GOLDFARB

“Congress shall make no law ... abridging ... the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Having worked in D.C. and lived in Alexandria since 1961 when I came to work for Robert Kennedy in the Justice Department, I've experienced the First Amendment in real time action, by assembling and petitioning my government for redress of grievances.

In 1963 my wife and I stood near the Lincoln Memorial where Martin Luther King, Jr. pleaded to the world for civil rights for all people, and delivered his immortal “I Have a Dream” speech. About 250,000 people — black and white — peacefully gathered in the nation’s capital to plead for President Kennedy to provide 19 million Afro-American descendants the right to vote, travel, and work.

Fears abounded. The D.C. police and FBI were present on the streets. There were altogether over 8,000 guardians of the peace. The federal government and many businesses were closed. Hospitals canceled elective surgery so all beds would be available for riot-related emergencies. Jails were emptied to provide room for predicted arrests. Judges were on around-the-clock standby.

These precautions were not necessary. The assembly was non-violent. People arrived from all over the world and marched with dignity. Many swarmed around the Reflecting Pool in

a field of humanity that ran all the way to the Washington Monument.

On that day we listened to the greatest orator of his time pleading for racial justice, claiming that the time had come “to lift our nation from the quicksand of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood,” calling for “the fierce urgency of now,” then urged on by Mahalia Jackson, departed from his prepared text and segued into his immortal plea, “I have a dream,” that reverberates still in the hearts and minds of all decent people.

The New York Times called the event “the most impressive assembly for a redress of grievances in America’s history.” The Washington Post reported that the assembly was a happy combination of prayer meeting, picnic, and political rally, a crowd “united in a sense of brotherhood and common humanity.” The next year, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed.

Unfortunately, many of the social injustices deplored on that summer day in Washington, D.C., have not yet been overcome. But Aug. 28, 1963, was a seminal moment in American history. It demonstrated the power and dignity of democracy in action.

In 1971, the scene was more fractious when my wife and I joined Vietnam War protests on the streets of Washington D.C., a gathering which was rougher and more proactive than the 1963 event. We were gassed, with many others, near Dupont Circle by police overreacting to the noisy protests. Eventually the public demonstrations worked. The war was ended, too late, but it might not have ended when it did without these public protests. Crit-

ics of the war hastened the end of it, and resulted in a president leaving politics.

In 1986, my wife, daughter and two human rights activist friends, the late Pat Derian and Rose Styron and their daughters marched on a sunny day near Congress in a sea of women who came from across the country to support the ERA. But this time their pleas were not successful in terms of reaching the goal that gave rise to that march. But peace prevailed and eventually the goals they asserted then have been advanced in major ways.

On Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017, an estimated half million Americans filled the streets of Washington, as did huge crowds in other cities in America and around the world to claim rights they felt were disparaged by the Trump campaign and election. The Saturday crowds far surpassed Friday’s relatively insignificant inaugural crowds. President Trump now argues about the relative size of his crowds — those applauding his election, and those crying out against it.

My children who attended here in D.C. and other locations reported a cheering good spirit, upbeat communal behavior, welcoming friendly law enforcement officials, filled bleachers, and an upbeat camaraderie.

Now what remains after people returned to their homes away from Washington, D.C. is the question: how does this experience change the future? Will the energy become harnessed into a movement that changes politics? We all ponder that question, bravo to the people who are trying.

COMMENTARY



Lillian Barrett, 7-years old, works diligently on her superhero cape. While she isn't ready to reveal exactly the symbolism of what she is drawing, she points to the specific places in the middle of the design where the super power resides.



A Superhero Training Day participant is throwing balls at three circles before advancing to the hurdles. The room is crowded with children running, jumping and gluing sparkles on black masks and parents pulling red string through decorated capes. “You can decorate your cape and then go through the obstacle training. When it is complete, you will get your cape and become a superhero.”



Superhero Training Day

Henry Rahn and his sister Juliette decorate their superhero capes at Superhero Training Day at Shirlington Library on Jan. 31. Henry’s favorite superhero is Superman and Juliette’s is Bat Girl. Black masks are scattered on the table. “You can glue feathers, put on colorful tape or anything you want, then decorate your cape.”

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PHOTO BY MARY DEMPSEY/THE CONNECTION

As attendees entered, they picked out a bowl that they could use for their soup and also keep as a memento.

Raising Funds for AFAC

FROM PAGE 2

Lee Arts Center. "It is a unique event that helps bring the community together through art, a bowl of soup and the desire to fill the empty bowls of our neighbors in need."

Homer Ailstock, studio technician at TJ Art Studio, appreciates how the event highlights that hand-crafted ceramic vessels are both functional and deeply meaningful.

Ailstock emphasized the relevance of ceramic arts in today's society. "We are living in an era of mass-produced plastic products and instant gratification," he said. "The process of making pottery is about patience" and the resulting vessels "can be used over and over" and have "more value. Not monetary value, but real value."

Participating restaurateurs also enjoyed the sense of togetherness and shared responsibility brought about by the event.

Grace Shea, who co-owns the Lebanese Taverna family of restaurants with her siblings, is an AFAC board member and Arlington resident. Decades ago, she and her family came to the Westover neighborhood as immigrants. They founded their first restaurant there 37 years ago. They now have almost a dozen restaurants and cafes in the

Washington area. Lebanese Taverna provided lentil soup for the event.

"Food is our business, but it's also our mission," Shea said. She emphasized how special it is to be able to "come together and break bread" with "the town we grew up in and started our business."

Jason Kaufmann, head chef at the Carlyle, came with his son to help in the kitchen. They also brought along his signature lobster bisque, which was a crowd favorite.

"Our restaurant is community first," Kaufmann said. "[Empty Bowls] is a great opportunity just to help and give back."

As attendees ate soup and chatted they listened to the music of Simon's Junction of Reston.

The trio played traditional celtic and folk music on violin, hammer dulcimer, guitar and mandolin.

Before the afternoon was over, AFAC Executive Director Charles Meng spoke about the unpredictability faced by Arlingtonians in the coming years, especially those who risk being marginalized.

Nonetheless, he reassured the crowd that AFAC will continue its mission of service to the community, emphasizing that "if you are hungry in Arlington, we're here to help."

"FLOURISHING AFTER 55"

"Flourishing After 55" from Arlington Office of Senior Adult Programs, for Feb. 12-17.

Senior centers: Lee, 5722 Lee Hwy.; Langston-Brown Senior Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St.; Walter Reed, 2909 S. 16th St.; Arlington Mill, 909 S. Dinwiddie St.; Aurora Hills, 735 S. 18th St.

Senior trips: U.S. Army Band's Anniversary Concert, Ft. Myer, Sunday, Feb. 12, \$6; Arena Stage, "Watch on the Rhine," Wednesday, Feb. 15, \$55; Dept. of the Interior, D.C., Thursday, Feb. 16, \$8; afternoon of bowling, Saturday, Feb. 18, \$26. Call Arlington County 55+ Travel, 703-228-4748. Registration required.

NEW PROGRAMS:

Dress up desserts with chocolate, Monday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m., Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

Art lecture, Toulouse-Lautrec exhibit, Monday, Feb. 13, 1:30 p.m., \$6, Lee. Register, 703-228-0555.

Recipes for healthy seafood dishes, Monday, Feb. 13, 1 p.m., Gunston. Register, 703-228-5722.

Famous athletes in history, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 11:15 a.m., Lee. Details, 703-228-0555.

Free legal counsel for eligible seniors, Tuesday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Walter Reed. Call for appointment, 703-228-0955.

Arlington Walking Club, Wednesday, Feb. 15, 9:30 a.m., Lubber Run, \$4. Register, 703-228-4403.

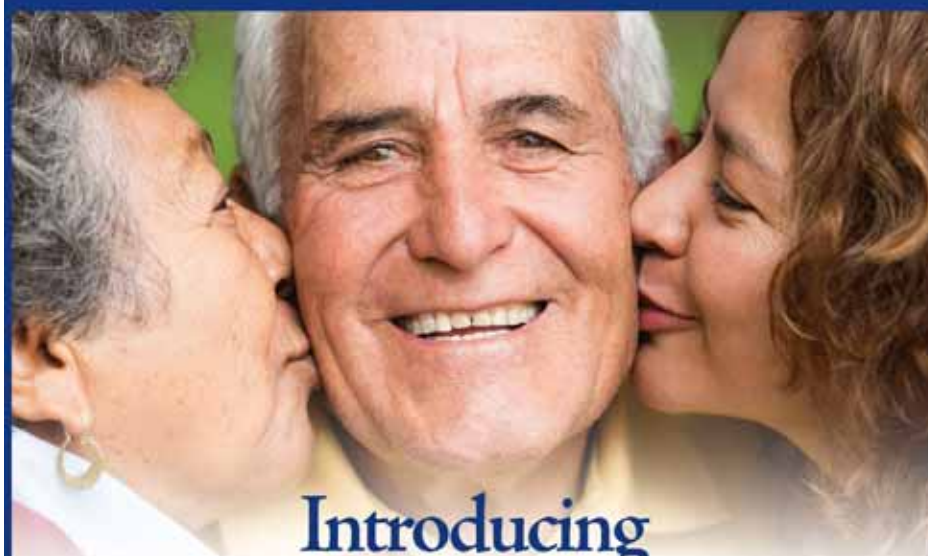
Free home repairs for low income homeowners, Thursday, Feb. 16, 11 a.m., Langston-Brown. Details, 703-228-6300.

Ballroom dance, Friday, Feb. 17, 1 - 3 p.m., Lee. Free. Register, 703-228-0555.

Travel discussion group meets monthly to share experiences, Friday, Feb. 17, 2 p.m., Walter Reed. Register, 703-228-6300.

The Sounds of Classical Music, Friday, Feb. 17, 1 p.m., Madison. Details, 703-228-4403.

Open House Every Saturday in
January & February • 2:00-4:00pm • RSVP



Introducing CaregiverConnect at The Kensington Falls Church

— A Monthly Gathering for Caregivers —

with Aging & Dementia Expert Anya Parpura, MD, PhD

Feb 15, Mar 1, Apr 5 & May 3, 2017 • 6:30-8:00pm

Light refreshments served • **RSVP**

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with experts each month. Guest facilitators will offer information, advice and support in a welcoming,

private setting. Topics to be covered include: How to Visit; Accepting Loss; and Enjoying the Remaining Strengths of Your Loved One. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, MD, PhD, an expert in aging and dementia, will lead our Caregiver Connect program. Dr. Parpura is the president of Aging Perspectives, Inc., the Scientific Review Officer with CSRA International, an adjunct professor at The Catholic University of America, and a faculty member at the Washington School of Psychiatry. Dr. Parpura brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

Be sure to save the date each month. Join us at our community, located at 700 West Broad Street. RSVP by calling 703-992-9868.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

“The Lion in Winter.” Through Feb. 11, weekends only, Friday and Saturday performances at 8 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m., at the Thomas Jefferson Community Theatre, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. After the Feb. 5 matinee there will be a Post-Show Discussion with the cast and production team to learn more about the process of putting together the show. Visit www.thearlingtonplayers.org for more.

“Color Rush!” Art Show. Through the end of February at the Gallery Underground, 2100 Crystal Drive. Member artists were challenged to create dynamic works in splashy wake-you-up colors that will pop off the walls. Opening reception: Friday, Feb. 3, 5-8 p.m. Visit www.galleryunderground.org for more.

Arlington Arts Light & Shadow Class. Through March 29, 4:30-6 p.m. at Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. This new multimedia course focuses on value, arguably one of the most important elements of art. Exercises in charcoal, acrylic, chalk, and collage will lead to dramatic, high-contrast images. \$195. Visit education@arlingtonartscenter.org.

Pickleball. Through March, noon-3:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Call 703-228-7790 for more.

Cancer Park Runs. Saturdays, 9 a.m. at Roosevelt Island, George Washington Memorial Parkway. American Cancer Society partners with parkrun USA to promote fitness in the fight against cancer. Free. Visit www.parkrun.us/rooseveltislanddc/ for more.

Friday Night Live. 8 p.m. Fridays at the Church at Clarendon, 1210 N. Highland St., Suite A. Local musicians perform. Free. Visit 1bc.org for more.

Culinaire’s Winter Lunch. Tuesdays through Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Art Institute of Washington, 1820 N. Fort Myer Drive, 12th floor. Culinaire, the student-run restaurant of the Art Institute of Washington, is now serving lunch from their winter menu on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Visit www.artinstitutes.edu/arlington for more.

Arlington’s Historical Museum Open on First Wednesdays. The Arlington Historical Museum is open to the public on the first Wednesday of every month from 12:30-3:30 p.m. The museum consists of exhibits chronicling Arlington County’s history from Native American settlements up to the present day. The museum will continue to be open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located in the former 1891 Hume School building at 1805 S. Arlington Ridge Road. Contact Garrett Peck at 571-243-1113 or at garrett.peck@arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

LGBT & Straight Friends Social. Tuesdays. Happy Hour, 3-7 p.m.; Mikey’s “Bar A” Video Wall, 7 p.m.; start time at 8 p.m. IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. For 21 years and older. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com for more.

Open Mic Comedy. Wednesdays 8-10 p.m. at Ri Ra Irish Pub, 2915 Wilson Blvd. Doors open at 7 p.m. Age 21



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

‘Working the Ground’

Resident artist Pam Rogers’ “Working the Ground,” on exhibit through March 26, explores the relationship between humanity and the natural world where nature is challenged, contorted, filtered, and reborn. Saturday, March 4 artists will be at the Arlington Arts Center, 3550 Wilson Blvd. 1-4 p.m. to discuss their works.

and up only. Free show, \$25 cash prize for best joke. Call 703-248-9888 or Visit www.RiRa.com/ Arlington for more.

Food Truck Thursdays. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the corner of North Irving St. and Washington Blvd. Find a round-up of regional food trucks. Free to attend. Visit www.dmvfa.org.

Invasive Plants Removal. Work parties are held every month to keep the parks free of destructive invasive plants. Teens, adults and families welcome. Every second Sunday of the month 2-4:30 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center, 3608 Military Road; call 703-228-3403. Every third Sunday of the month 2-5 p.m. at Long Branch Nature Center, 625 S. Carlin Springs Road; call 703-228-6535 or Visit registration.arlingtonva.us. Free, no registration required.

Poetry Series. 6-8 p.m. second Sunday of the month at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Hosted by poet Miles David Moore. Featured artists share their poetry followed by open readings. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Open Mic Nite. 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m. every Wednesday at IOTA Club & Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Sign-up times are 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Bring instruments, fans and friends. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com or call 703-522-8340.

Karaoke. 8 p.m. on the first Sunday every month at Galaxy Hut, 2711 Wilson Blvd. Call 703-525-8646 or visit www.galaxyhut.com.

Pub Quiz. 8 p.m. every Sunday at Whitlow’s on Wilson, 2854 Wilson Blvd. Prizes for first place. Free. Visit www.whitlows.com or call 703-276-9693.

Storytime. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30-11 a.m. at Kinder Haus Toys, 1220 N. Fillmore St. Storytime with Ms. Laura. Call 703-527-5929.

Lego Club. Monthly on the first Wednesday. 4-5 p.m. Glencarlyn Branch Library, 300 S. Kensington St. The library provides tubs of legos and a special challenge and after the program the creations are displayed for everyone to see. No registration required. Call 703-228-6548.

Crystal City Sparket. 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

on Wednesdays at 1900 Crystal Drive. Sparket — A Creative Market is an extension of DC’s Eastern Market with arts, crafts, and handmade goods. Free to attend. Visit www.crystalcity.org.

Open Mic Night. Wednesdays, at 8 p.m., sign ups are at 7:30 p.m. and 10 p.m., at Iota Club & Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd. Free. Visit www.iotaclubandcafe.com/.

Art for Life. Third Thursday of each month. The Hyatt Regency Crystal City’s “Art for Life” Partnership with National Kidney Foundation brings a new artist each month to The Hyatt for a reception. Free. Visit www.torpedofactory.org.

Brunch at Freddie’s. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Freddie’s Beach Bar, 555 23rd St. The Arlington Gay and Lesbian Alliance gathers for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet (\$9.99). All are welcome. No reservation is required. Visit www.facebook.com/events/700174390103305.

THURSDAY/FEB. 9

Teen Broken Hearts Party. 3-4:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Celebrate Valentine’s Day without having to worry about finding a valentine. For middle and high school students. Visit arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/2815420 for more.

Bingo Happy Hour. 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Rooftop Bar & Grill, 2424 Wilson Blvd. A benefit for Arlington Thrive that delivers same-day emergency funds to those in crisis. Free. Call 703-558-0035 or email nlafrag@arlingtonthrive.org for more.

Dance Company Benefit. 6-8 p.m. at Bistro 360, 1800 Wilson Blvd. Rosslyn’s Bistro 360 is hosting the third-annual Sip & Sample Wine & Food Tasting to benefit Bowen McCauley Dance. Visit www.rosslynva.org/ for more.

A Centennial Celebration of African American Churches. 7 p.m. Marymount Gerrard Dining Hall, 2807 N. Glebe Road. Visit www.marymount.edu/ for more.

Adapted Yoga for Adults. 7:35-8:25 p.m. at Langston-Brown Community

Center, 2121 N. Culpeper St. This yoga class is specifically for adults with disabilities and will include sound therapy (chanting), eye exercises, breathing exercises, body postures, and deep relaxation. A guardian or caregiver is included in the cost of the class. \$87. Visit www.specialyoga.com for more.

Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist. 7:30 p.m. at Marymount University, Reinsch Library Auditorium, 2807 North Glebe Road. CNN Correspondent Sara Ganim, who won a Pulitzer Prize for her coverage of the Jerry Sandusky child sexual abuse scandal at Penn State, will discuss ethics in sports. Visit www.marymount.edu or call 703-522-5600 for more.

Author Visit and Discussion. 7 p.m. at Woman’s Club of Arlington, 700 S. Buchanan St. Dr. Alfred O. Taylor, Jr. author of “Bridge Builders, Nauck/Green Valley” will present the history, discuss the present and the future of Arlington’s 172-year-old, earliest black settlements, Nauck. Call 703-553-5800 for more.

FEB. 10-12

Pet Adoption Weekend. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday at Pet Valu, Graham Park Plaza, 7249 Arlington Blvd. Support local animal shelters, dogs and cats for adoption. Call 703-942-8796 for more.

FRIDAY/FEB. 10

Celestial Stroll. 7-8 p.m. at Fort C.F. Smith Park, 2411 N. 24th St. A moonlit walk through the forest searching for nocturnal animals. Come learn how the moon moves, its phases, its effect on wildlife and learn legends about the moon. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/fort-cf-smith-park/ for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

“Grasses for the Masses” Workshop. 9-10:30 a.m. at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., Room 118. Chesapeake Bay Foundation’s program provides an opportunity for

Virginia residents to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia. \$40. Visit www.cbf.org/ grasses for more.

Sustainable Landscaping. 9 a.m.-noon at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Interactive class will present ideas to create an easy-to-care-for and environmentally sustainable yard or common area. Visit mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.

Valentine’s Paint and Sip. 10 a.m.-noon at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Create a Valentine’s Day themed painting project, fruit infused water will be available while painting. \$8. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747 for more.

Composer Camille Saint-Saëns. 7:30 p.m. at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, 1611 N. Kent St. French romantic composer Camille Saint-Saëns celebrates the Valentine holiday, performing Vive la France: The Magic of Saint-Saëns. Free garage parking, entrance on Arlington Ridge Road. 301-540-4842.

Valentines Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, 1611 N. Kent St. Featuring the music of Camille Saint-Saëns. \$33 Adult and \$17 Student. Call 703-685-7590 or Visit www.NationalChamberEnsemble.org for more.

FEB 11-12

Capture a Valentine’s Day Memory. noon-5 p.m. at Pentagon City, 1100 S. Hayes St. Celebrate the holiday with the Valentine’s Day photo booth. Free. Visit www.simon.com/mall/fashion-centre-at-pentagon-city for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 12

Special Olympics Basketball. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. at Yorktown High School, 5200 Yorktown Blvd. Athletes with and without disabilities from across Northern Virginia take to the hardcourts for Special Olympics Virginia’s Potomac Region Basketball Tournament. Free. Visit specialolympicsva.org or call 571-748-6671 for more.

We Love Animals. 1-2 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road. Make your favorite animal a valentine, and learn ways you can help them in the wild. Ages 6-10. \$5. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/ for more.

Tu BiShvat Seder Gathering. 5-6:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, 4444 Arlington Blvd. A festive gathering, featuring fruits and nuts in honor of the Jewish holiday of Tu BiShvat, the New Year of the Trees. Visit www.KolAmiVirginia.org for more.

MONDAY/FEB. 13

Seafood in a Snap. 1-2 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Learn tricks and techniques to make seafood part of the weekly routine. Free. Call 703-228-6980 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ for more.

Crime Fiction Author Book Signing. 7 p.m. at One More Page Books, 2200 N. Westmoreland St., Ste 101. Ian Rankin introduces “Rather Be the Devil.” Visit www.onemorepagebooks.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 14

Black Arts Movement Poet. 2-3:30 p.m. in the Reinsch Library Auditorium, Marymount University, 2807 North Glebe Road. E. Ethelbert Miller is the recipient of the 2016 George Garret Award for Outstanding Community Service in Literature and the author of several collections of poetry. Visit www.marymount.edu/.

ENTERTAINMENT

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Paris 1900: Toulouse-Lautrec. 1-2:15 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Tour the City of Lights at its cultural peak with highlights from the Phillips Collection exhibition "Toulouse-Lautrec and the Belle Epoque" \$6. Call 703-228-6980 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ for more.

FEB. 15-MARCH 19

Wordless Production of "The Taming of the Shrew." 5-6:30 p.m. at Synetic Theater, 2155 Crystal Plaza Arcade T-19. \$35. Ages 14 and up. Visit www.synetictheater.org for more.

THURSDAY/FEB. 16

Bio-inspired Sensing. 7-8:30 p.m. at Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Dr. Christal Gordon will discuss examples that illustrate how sensing and processing take place in biological systems. Free. Visit arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/3131765 for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 18

Arlington's Earliest Amphibians. 10-11 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road. Wood frogs, spring peepers and spotted salamanders that have spent the winter hibernating will soon begin to move to our ponds. Come learn about Arlington's amazing amphibians. Ages 13 and up. \$5. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/ for more.

Vegetable Gardening Part 2. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. Review garden requirements and discuss easy-to-implement practices for selecting the best site and evaluating and improving the soil. Visit mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.

Keeping Warm Campfire. 6-7 p.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road. Spend a chilly evening by the warmth of the campfire while making s'mores and learn how animals have adaptations to stay warm and survive winter outdoors. Ages 3-10. \$5. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/ for more.

Flora & Fauna Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive. Under the baton of Artistic Director and Conductor, Dr. Nancia D'Alimonte, "Flora & Fauna" will offer traditional and contemporary music by Durufle, Barber, Orff, Whitacre and others. Visit www.arlingtonchorale.org.

Ted Lange Reading Play. 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Episcopal

Church, 166 East Broad St., Falls Church. Lange, who played Isaac the bartender on "The Love Boat" tv show from 1977 to 1986, reads his original play "George Washington's Boy." \$25. Visit tinnerhill.org or call 571-533-9566 for more.

FEB. 18-28

Lions Fundraising Fruit Sale. Various times, at the Overlee Bath House (Lower Level), 6030 Lee Highway. Fresh Florida and California citrus, Georgia pecans, and Vermont maple syrup. Call 703-528-1130 or email lionskk@earthlink.net for more.

TUESDAY/FEB. 21

Selling Collectibles. 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Walter Reed Community Center, 2909 S. 16th St. Matthew Quinn, a regular on Antiques Roadshow and a Falls Church native, will discuss how to address the emotional and financial aspects of liquidating personal possessions. Call 703-228-0935 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 22

Comedy Club. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Relive the bygone days of comedy and laugh together with video and audio selections of The Honeymooners, I Love Lucy, Sid Caesar, Milton Berle, Bill Dana and Bob and Ray, Andy Griffith, with Mike Bloom, comedy book author and former Disney writer. Free. Call 703-228-6980 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ for more.

Controlling Clutter. 6:30-8 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. A financial education representative from VA Cooperative Extension will provide helpful tips and strategies to reduce clutter, including junk mail and other paper clutter, and make for a healthier lifestyle. Call 703-228-7790 for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 25

Project DAPS. Lauching Saturday, Feb. 25, an ongoing online exhibition and searchable digital collection of desegregation in Arlington Public Schools at Arlington Public Library system, at projectdaps.org/ built from thousands of photos, documents and recordings. Call 703-228-5966 or email localhistory@arlingtonva.us for more.

Your Child's Development 2017. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Kenmore Middle School, 200 S. Carlin Springs Road. Parents and caregivers of children aged 0-5 years old can meet and get resources from several County

agencies and community organizations. Free. Email tsfoster@arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-1630 for more.

Wake up, Wood Frogs. 10-11 a.m. at Gulf Branch Nature Center 3608 Military Road. Learn all about these and other amphibians. Ages 5 and up, \$5. Visit parks.arlingtonva.us/locations/gulf-branch-nature-center/ for more.

Wintertime Pruning. 10 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. at Bon Air Park 965 N. Longfellow St. Learn hands-on training on the proper way to prune hedges, evergreen and deciduous shrubs, and deadhead perennials. Visit mgnv.org or call 703-228-6414 for more.

2017 Feel the Heritage Festival. 1-6 p.m. the Drew Community Center, 3500 23rd St. S. Live music and dance, a "Hall of History" with photos and artifacts from Arlington's historically African-American churches and organizations. Free. Call 703-228-5725 for more.

SUNDAY/FEB. 26

U2-charist Service. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at St Peter's Episcopal Church, 4250 N. Glebe Road. A multimedia Episcopal communion service using music of the Irish rock band U2. Donations. Visit Saint-Peters.org or call 703-536-6606.

MONDAY/FEB. 27

Intro to Bridge: Teens and Seniors. 3-3:45 p.m. at Gunston Community Center, 2700 S. Lang St. Learn the basics of the game of bridge alongside the middle schoolers. Free. Call 703-228-6980 or visit parks.arlingtonva.us/ for more.

TUESDAY/FEB. 28

St. Mary's Pancake Supper. 6:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church, 2609 N. Glebe Road. Preparation for the fasting season during the 40 days of Lent. \$5 or \$10 per family. Call 703-527-6800 or e-mail Office@StMarysArlington.org for more.

FEB. 28-MARCH 3



Treemonisha. 10 a.m. at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Road. Opera NOVA promotes message that education is the key to a full and free life. \$4 teachers free. Visit www.operanova.org/ for more.

FEB. 28-MARCH 26

"Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing." Various times at the Signature Theatre, The Village at Shirlington, 4200 Campbell Ave. Visit www.sigtheatre.org.

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Fireplace as Focal Point A hearth is in demand for cold weather.

BY JOHN BYRD

“Fireplaces have never fallen out of favor,” said David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions. “We may be seeing a preference for gas over a traditional wood-burner, but the hearth itself is hugely popular — with homeowners continually seeking distinctions in style, building materials and, even, where it will be located.”

Foster says he’s currently working on several home remodeling projects that feature a fireplace as an interior focal point.

“A fireplace offers aesthetic and functional benefits at one price,” he said, “so it’s an attractive option.”

Fireplace-desire can also be a spur to creative thinking that stimulates a more engaging and original remodeling project.

Case in point, the new formal dining room created for Burke homeowners Dennis Perzanowski and Jack Ellison. The goal: convert a three season-room into a year-around dining room complete with a gas-fueled hearth on one elevation.

“We were looking for a mix of old and new styles,” said Perzanowski. “We wanted to feature a traditional dining room set with sideboards, but there are modern touches such an industrial-style chandelier.”

In this context, a gas fireplace with an brushed steel frame was a perfect offset. Mounted on the east wall elevation and with an oil painting just above, the stacked geometrical shapes lend balance and symmetry to an otherwise blank wall between two floor-to-ceiling windows.

Chris Arnold, a Foster partner who managed the project, knew there would be challenges in adding a hearth in a somewhat restricted available space, but with a little research found a 42” x 38” gas insert that perfectly suits the spot allocated for an eye-catching focal point.

“This is something of a formal dining room,” Arnold notes, “yet the fireplace design is so understated it’s visually compatible the rest of the décor.”

RAISE THE ROOF

Meanwhile, not far away, the interior design solution to a Vienna great room also depended on profiling a new hearth.



The McLean makeover features an 11-foot cathedral ceiling dominated by a window wall, and a post-modern hearth as the central interior focal point.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Ted and Wanda Rogers had asked had Foster to renovate the circa-1960’s ranch they had occupied for 30 years.

The remodeler added more than 1,000 square feet of additional living space. But the question that generated really serious discussion was how best to introduce a new hearth.

Wanda Rogers wanted to eliminate the original builder-grade brick-facing fireplace, which was situated in the middle of the house and too drafty and cold.

Ted Rogers agreed in principal, but was attracted to a gas-fueled fireplace alternative, which offers considerable heating efficiencies.

As all soon learned, the existing 8-ft ceiling to the Rogers home was too low to yield much design benefit. That’s when Foster proposed re-working the entire mid-house interior by opening sightlines out and up.

To implement changes that now called for connecting the new kitchen to a front-facing family room, the remodeler replaced an obstructive bearing wall with concealed structural supports.

Giving sightlines free-reign, likewise, meant removing the living room ceiling and shelling-in previously concealed roofing rafters.

An ascending vertical accent was now introduced: a floor-to-ceiling hearth constructed of dry stacked LedgeStones.

The new hearth is designed for a gas-fueled insert equipped with blowers and remote control. Vents draw air in from the outside. The couple can adjust a thermostat for the desired temperature. This is a useful since, at full speed, the unit can generate 55,000 BTUs of heat — enough to keep the entire great room toasty and warm even during the dead of winter.

Foster’s architect proposed a wood-trimmed ledge above the fireplace, a simple motif that draws the eye upwards to the accent-lighted vaulted ceiling.

As a housewarming gesture, Foster fashioned a rustic mantle from the rough-sawn oak previously deployed in the rafters of the original structure. It’s a little keepsake of the old place.

Though higher interior ceilings, theoretically, make a room harder to heat, the remodeler re-insulated the ceiling and installed an eco-slate roofing, dramatically improving the thermal efficiency of the entire residence.

The new fireplace is flanked by arches: a recess for shelving and cabinetry on the left; a sympathetically curvilinear entry to the new master suite on the right.

“The effect in all directions is exciting,” Wanda Rogers said. “Looking in from the kitchen, the room opens out and up; it feels really warm.”

The new vaulted wall expanse also

doubles as display space for her private art collection, which is now illuminated by track lights.

FAMILY-GATHERING PLACE

In nearby McLean, a Foster client was looking for a floorplan re-configuration that would include a front-facing family-gathering niche — with a window wall and a fireplace.

“We all saw the aesthetic opportunity,” Foster said. “There would be larger windows on all sides. But also a new front-facing family room — with an 11’ cathedral ceiling dominated by an extensive window wall, and an appropriately post-modern hearth as the central interior focal point.”

The window wall would help to contextualize a more symmetrical front elevation — one defined by a processional entrance way with double French glass doors and sidelights.

Taken as a whole, however, the floor plan is functionally a “great room” formed by clever variances in room width and ceiling height differentiated as clearly identified “use” spaces.

“The slightly narrower width confers a degree of intimacy on the family room that suits its purpose,” Foster observes. “The hearth, in particular, really defines this.”

The stainless steel hearth features gas burner elements embedded in river rock and functions as both a heat source and an ornamental focal point.

Flanked by open “cubbies” with glass display shelves, cherry wood cabinetry, and a wine rack abutting a wine refrigerator, the “built-ins” define a functionally separate family entertainment zone that includes a wide-screen plasma TV mounted above the fireplace.

A more congenial spot for holiday entertaining is hard to imagine.

FROM BRICK TO ELEVATED HEARTH

Ed and Kelly Grems of Vienna have worked with Foster on a number of projects over a decade, but held off on upgrading the family room because the family’s design process was gestating slowly.

“We’re particular; we let the look come to us piece by piece,” Kelly Grems said.

One notable piece, was deciding on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. In the end, FRS designers created interior elevations that bear no resemblance to the excess of brick that came with the original circa-1990s house.

The earlier half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

“It’s an entirely different mood from the sun room,” Grems said, “and perfectly satisfies another dimension of our lifestyle.”

Foster Remodeling Solutions periodically offers workshops on home remodeling. Call 703-550-1371 or see fosterremodeling.com.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.



The Grems decide on a formal and traditional look for the fireplace in the family room. The half-brick floor-to-ceiling backwall was replaced by symmetrical built-ins, crown molding and an elevated hearth with a marble surround and an Edwardian-style mantle.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

HOME SALES

In December 2016, 224 Arlington homes sold between \$2,700,000-\$128,000. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$2,700,000-\$604,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
1881 NASH ST #2309	3	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$2,700,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	22209	ROSSLYN
2325A QUEBEC ST N	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$2,000,000	Detached	0.19	22207	FARRINGTON RIDGE
2521 UPLAND ST	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,858,586	Detached	0.37	22207	BROYHILL HILLS
4207 31ST ST N	6	5	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,750,000	Detached	0.31	22207	BROYHILL HILLS
6213 31ST ST N	5	5	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,650,000	Detached	0.19	22207	FALLVIEW
3101 TAYLOR ST N	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.24	22207	BROYHILL FOREST
2010 STAFFORD ST	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.17	22207	CHERRYDALE
4413 VACATION LN	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.24	22207	LEE HEIGHTS
1401 OAK ST N #606	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,550,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	22209	THE WESLIE
512 LITTLETON ST N	5	5	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.19	22203	BOULEVARD MANOR
3210 1ST RD N	4	5	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.17	22201	ASHTON HEIGHTS
4775 WILLIAMSBURG BLVD	5	5	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,475,000	Detached	0.23	22207	COUNTRY CLUB MANORS
1201 NASH ST #503	2	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,435,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	22209	ROSSLYN
1826 CAMERON ST	1	1	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,350,000	Detached	0.13	22207	UNKNOWN
3210 4TH ST N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,313,000	Detached	0.14	22201	ASHTON HEIGHTS
3425 N EMERSON ST	5	4	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,310,000	Detached	0.29	22207	STRATFORD HILLS
3637 NELSON ST	5	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	0.74	22207	BELLEVUE FOREST
5432 24TH ST N	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.15	22205	GARDEN COMMONS
1307 GEORGE MASON DR N	4	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,233,025	Detached	0.18	22205	LACEY LANE
2172 21ST CT N	3	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,230,000	Townhouse	0.07	22201	HILLCREST
408 TAYLOR ST S	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,216,000	Detached	0.16	22204	NORTH BARCROFT VILLAGE
1308 EVERGREEN ST N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,211,107	Detached	0.14	22205	LACEY LANE
4325 11TH ST N	6	4	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,207,000	Detached	0.07	22201	BALLSTON
400 GEORGE MASON DR N	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,200,000	Townhouse	0.03	22203	BALLSTON ROW
5019 22ND ST N	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.18	22207	HIGHVIEW PARK
505 LOMBARDY ST N	4	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.19	22203	SPY HILL
2525 KENILWORTH ST	5	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.14	22207	LEEWAY GARDENS
3600 26TH ST N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,135,000	Detached	1.17	22207	RIVERWOOD
134 ABINGDON ST	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,129,000	Detached	0.29	22204	O HARA S 2ND ADD NORTH BARCROFT
3508 14TH ST N	5	4	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,068,500	Detached	0.14	22201	CLARENDON
5200 22ND ST N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,065,000	Detached	0.15	22205	BROYHILL HEIGHTS
3317 20TH RD N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,045,000	Detached	0.14	22207	CHERRYDALE
1409 EDISON ST N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,035,000	Detached	0.19	22205	WAYCROFT WOODLAWN
2427 FORT SCOTT DR	5	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$1,000,000	Detached	0.19	22202	AURORA HILLS
409 N UPTON CT	5	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$997,000	Townhouse	0.02	22203	BALLSTON ROW
4907 29TH ST N	4	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$975,000	Detached	0.23	22207	SHIRLEY WOODS
1441 GREENBRIER ST S	5	5	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$970,000	Detached	0.15	22206	CLEVELAND HEIGHTS
4409 25TH ST N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$970,000	Detached	0.34	22207	LEE HEIGHTS
4632 2ND ST N	4	4	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$967,000	Detached	0.16	22203	ARLINGTON FOREST
1117 VERMONT ST N #A	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$965,000	Townhouse	0.02	22201	VERMONT COURT
3625 10TH ST N #607	2	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$950,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	22201	THE MONROE AT VIRGINIA SQ METRO
1324 KENMORE CIR	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$930,000	Detached	0.11	22204	MAJESTIC OAK
2225 TRENTON ST N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$917,500	Detached	0.18	22207	LEE HEIGHTS
4732 OLD DOMINION DR	3	2	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$905,000	Townhouse	0.10	22207	THE BIRCHES
4875 WILLIAMSBURG BLVD	4	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$905,000	Detached	0.16	22207	COUNTRY CLUB MANORS
4714 17TH ST N	3	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$897,500	Detached	0.14	22207	WAYCROFT WOODLAWN
2746 FORT SCOTT DR	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$895,000	Detached	0.23	22202	AURORA HILLS
2548 WAKEFIELD ST N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$890,000	Detached	0.22	22207	LEE HEIGHTS
924 20TH ST S	4	4	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$880,000	Detached	0.14	22202	ADDISON HEIGHTS
2315 VAN BUREN CT	3	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$879,000	Townhouse	0.04	22205	FENWICK COURT
1733 13TH ST S	3	3	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$849,835	Townhouse	0.00	22204	CARVER PLACE
2420 LINCOLN ST	4	2	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$838,000	Detached	0.21	22207	DOVER CRYSTAL
430A THOMAS ST N	3	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$830,000	Townhouse	0.02	22203	BUCKINGHAM COMMONS VILLAGE
5206 25TH RD N	2	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$825,000	Detached	0.15	22207	GARDEN CITY
6012 2ND ST N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$820,000	Detached	0.12	22203	SPY HILL
6930 27TH RD N	4	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$815,000	Detached	0.14	22213	ARLINGTON WEST
2144 N QUEBEC ST	3	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$810,000	Detached	0.12	22207	CHERRYDALE
719 IRVING ST	4	2	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$800,000	Detached	0.14	22201	LYON PARK
5129 3RD ST N	4	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$800,000	Detached	0.14	22203	ARLINGTON FOREST
1731 13TH ST S	3	3	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$799,450	Townhouse	0.00	22204	CARVER PLACE
1302 S. ROLFE STREET	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$775,640	Townhouse	...	22204	CARVER PLACE
1318 GEORGE MASON DR N	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$767,000	Detached	0.13	22205	LARCHMONT
1111 19TH ST N #1803	2	2	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$759,900	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	...	22209	WATERVIEW
866 ARLINGTON MILL DR N	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$757,000	Detached	0.21	22205	DOMINION HILLS PARK
1700 CLARENDON BLVD N #124	1	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$755,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	22209	GASLIGHT SQUARE
2200 WESTMORELAND ST #305	2	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$750,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	22213	WESTLEE
2 COLUMBUS ST N	4	2	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$749,500	Detached	0.26	22203	ARLINGTON FOREST
1154 TAYLOR ST N #1	3	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$749,000	Townhouse	...	22201	OLDE BALLSTON TOWNE
2343 QUEEN ST S	2	2	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$745,000	Townhouse	0.05	22202	FOREST HILLS COMMONS
1306 S. ROLFE STREET	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$741,670	Townhouse	...	22204	CARVER PLACE
606 JACKSON ST S	3	3	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$740,000	Detached	0.12	22204	ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
1700A CLARENDON BLVD #116	1	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$740,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	...	22209	GASLIGHT SQUARE
1310 S. ROLFE STREET	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$739,920	Townhouse	...	22204	CARVER PLACE
1509 KENILWORTH ST	3	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$738,005	Detached	0.12	22205	WESTOVER
1725 13TH ST S	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$735,935	Townhouse	0.00	22204	CARVER PLACE
2100 QUINTANA ST N	3	1	2	...	ARLINGTON	\$725,000	Detached	0.18	22205	ARLINGTON EAST FALLS CHURCH
1314 S. ROLFE STREET	3	2	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$724,940	Townhouse	...	22204	CARVER PLACE
6419 LEE HWY	4	3	0	...	ARLINGTON	\$724,000	Detached	0.15	22205	ADDN TO SOMERSET
205 ABINGDON ST	3	1	1	...	ARLINGTON	\$715,000	Detached	0.14	22203	ARLINGTON FOREST

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Devastating Past, Uncertain Future

FROM PAGE 5

against the clock to flee the country.

"I remember receiving the call to come to the United States," said Altamimi. "You think about the dreams you'll have in the United States."

Altamimi will become a citizen in September. He said he was not expecting Trump to win the election. He said he believed up until it happened that Americans would go against his rhetoric. Many speakers said they were discouraged and shocked by the executive order, but Imam Johari Abdul-Malik from the Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center in Falls Church finished the meeting with a message of hope.

"If you and I work together and struggle together, we will all be free," said Abdul-Malik. "Millions wish they could come to America, but God blessed you to be the ones here."

Abdul Malik said that like many, he was surprised at Trump's election, but said that in the aftermath he's been inspired by the outpouring of support for the Muslim community.

"People thought justice and freedom would roll down on the wings of inevitability," said Abdul-Malik, "but justice is never inevitable. We have to work for it. [Trump] is a great organizer. He brought us together and we will never be divided. He has created the greatest opportunity for us to organize together."



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Excella Consulting employees take a painting break to pose with FACETS' D'Ivonne Holman (front left).

Giving Back Employees from Arlington-based company spruce up Fairfax group home.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

On a day dedicated to Martin Luther King Jr.'s memory, people throughout the country honored his legacy last week by doing various projects to help others. Among them were employees of Excella Consulting of Arlington who helped spruce up Sojourn House, a group home in Fairfax.

It's run by nonprofit FACETS and is part of Linda's Gateway, a permanent, supportive-housing program for chronically homeless individuals and families. Sojourn House is just for single adults and currently houses five people, although up to seven can live there.

"It originally began in 2010 as an emergency housing shelter," said FACETS Volunteer Manager D'Ivonne Holman, in charge of the Jan. 16 event there. "And in October 2016, it transitioned into a group home. FACETS provides case-management services and partners with the Fairfax County Health Department to offer onsite medical services. And we staff Sojourn House 16 hours/day, seven days/week."

Looking for a community project for Martin Luther King Day, Excella came to FACETS via Volunteer Fairfax. And last Monday, from 1-5 p.m., 12 Excella employees volunteered their time and painted the home's conference room and staff offices — four rooms total.

"And that's just the beginning of the homey touches we're trying to add here at Sojourn House," said Holman. "We'll also hang artwork on the walls and put in some new furniture, including lamps, end tables, couches, chairs and throw pillows."

But, she added, "We could really use the community's help in obtaining these items. We could also use kitchen things, such as pots and pans, dishes, drinking glasses, kitchen towels and dish soap." Anyone wishing to donate anything to Sojourn House should contact FACETS' community engagement coordinator, Josh D'Antonio at jdantonio@facetscares.org.

Standing on a ladder while painting the wall above the conference room's doorway, Excella Senior Consultant Andrew Lindberg said he appreciated his company's community outreach. He was also having a good time.

"It's a great opportunity to connect with the community's efforts here," he explained. "And I'm enjoying meeting a lot of my fellow colleagues. I just started working at Excella last week, and it's a good way to get to know them."

Screwing back an electrical-outlet faceplate onto a wall was Beth Gomolka, an Excella project manager who's been with the company six years. "It's nice to be able to give back to the community and

work with my co-workers on something out of the office," she said. "You learn about their painting skills and their lives outside of the work context."

Consultant/software developer Christie Goddard said the company's volunteer program is part of ExcellaVision. "We work closely with Homestretch, which works with homeless people and finds them jobs," she said. "And we do various community-service projects throughout the year."

Sean DuGuay is a principal consultant who does business development for Excella. He said 212 technology employees who could have made money for their company last Monday instead contributed their time to work on community projects throughout the Washington Metropolitan area.

The best part about helping out Sojourn House, said DuGuay, is "Giving people a chance to have something that's going to make them feel better about themselves. I also like working for a company willing to invest in supplying their employees' time to benefit others."

"We've been doing things like this for several years," added Zak Mahshie, general counsel and partner with Excella. "It's our belief that there's a corporate responsibility to not just use community resources, but to give back, as well, and make the community stronger."

A Fairfax High grad whose parents still live in the City of Fairfax, he helped paint the walls and trim at Sojourn House. "This went pretty smoothly," he said. "This was my eighth time painting, and I'm now mildly proficient at it. But it's important because we're making an impact. These rooms were a sickly yellow before and now they're a blue-gray. We met some of the residents here, and they said that, because of us, they won't have to wait for someone else to do it."

Mahshie also noted that Excella is a growing consulting company, with most of its employees disbursed geographically at their clients' sites. So, he said, the project in Fairfax gave them "an opportunity to come together, get to know our co-workers a little bit better and meet the new ones."

As for Holman, she was delighted with the way things turned out. "I'm extremely grateful that Excella came to Sojourn House," she said. "The volunteers added warmth to this space to kick-start beautifying the home and making it an inviting place for our residents. We couldn't have done it without them."

Holman said volunteers are always needed there to be case managers, lead a game night, cook a meal or provide transportation to and from residents' medical appointments and job interviews. Contact her at dholman@facetscares.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to arlington@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

BORROW A SNOWBLOWER

The Department of Parks and Recreation lends a limited number of snow blowers to civic associations and community groups, increasing the number of passable sidewalks during snow events. Their goal is to ensure snow blowers are geographically distributed throughout the county. Snow blowers are loaned to groups who agree to plow for the public good and who meet specific criteria. Learn more at emergency.arlingtonva.us/weather/snow-ice/snow%20blower/

FIRST TUESDAY EACH MONTH

Volunteer Bike Repair Night. 6-9 p.m. at Phoenix Bikes, Barcroft Park, 4200 S. Four Mile Run Drive. Volunteers gather to refurbish bikes, sort parts or help with essential tasks. No experience necessary. raymond@phoenixbikes.org

THROUGH APRIL 18

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays, Arlington Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. Available free to taxpayers with low to moderate income, with special attention to those 60 and older. 703-829-6192

FEB. 8-9

How the Arts Live. 7-9 p.m. at Arlington Economic Development 1100 N. Glebe Road, Suite 1500. Learn more about Artspace and a feasibility study on housing needs, financing, and facilities for Arlington. Call 703-228-0808 or email AED-Events@arlingtonva.us for more.

SATURDAY/FEB. 11

Sycamore School Open House. 10

a.m.-noon at the Falls Church Presbyterian Church, 225 E. Broad St., Falls Church. Upcoming Open Houses for The Sycamore School will highlight "pop-up" classrooms where students can participate in experiential learning and parents can talk with staff. The school is located at The Arlington Center, Suite 300, 4600 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington. Visit www.thesycamoreschoolva.org.

We Support the Girls. 2-4 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. U.S. Rep. Don Beyer is special guest for the event, and Peggy Fox of Channel 9 Fox News is moderating a panel of educators, therapists, medical specialists and a high school survivor. Visit www.wesupportthegirls.org for more.

MONDAY/FEB. 13

Placement Exams for English as a Second Language for Adults. 5 p.m. at Arlington Mill Community Center, 909 S. Dinwiddie St. Arlington Public Schools' REEP Program is giving placement exams for the Feb. 21-May 11. English (ESL) classes to be held at Arlington Mill Community Center/Thomas Jefferson School. \$200 for county residents, \$350 for non-residents. 703-228-4200 or www.apsva.us/reep

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 15

Digital Destiny: Learning in Arlington. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 1015 N. Quincy St. An ongoing series focusing on the future of learning in Arlington and how it is impacted by the Digital Revolution. Free. Visit arlingtonva.libcal.com/event/ or call 703-228-5990 for more.

Joint Advisory Council Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at the Syphax Education Center, Room 101/103, 1426 N. Quincy St. Instruction and Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs: New High School Instructional Focus. Visit www.apsva.us/engage



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Pruning Class on Daingerfield Island

Casey Trees held its annual Pruning 101 class on Feb. 4. Participants learned how to prune, when to prune, and why pruning is important, and then walked out onto the National Park Service Elm tree nursery where they practiced their skills with hands on pruning of the Elm trees the NPS grows to replace trees on the National Mall. The Elm trees, which provide shade on the Mall, have suffered from Dutch Elm Disease since the early 1900s and need pruning to help them grow up disease free. For more information about Casey Trees, to take classes or volunteer, see www.caseytrees.org.

Arlington, Alexandria Construct Bigger and Better 'Bridges'

FROM PAGE 3

from all walks of life and help expose the kids to people from outside their circle they wouldn't ordinarily meet. It may seem like a minor aspect, but those mentors have a big impact." Finney is always looking for volunteers.

"Let me tell you what I love about Bridges," said Jennifer Murchandani, the new president of the board. "It's the Lemonade Stand, because what Bridges does, especially for the kids, is a lot of non-tangibles. The Lemonade Stand is about that. The kids have all the fun of setting up a stand, making the lemonade, and selling it. They bond. But they also work out the real life finances: 'How much did we spend? How much did we take in?' Since Bridges is about breaking the cycle of intergenerational poverty, the values which are conveyed by such activities are important and possibly not otherwise available to these kids. It may be intrinsic in families who don't know poverty to talk about finances, teach kids about money, and engage in healthy exercise. But it may not be intrinsic in families with challenges. So we teach them to have fun, give back, and handle money. It is really hard to quantify a program like this, but the results show it works," said Murchandani.

Amir and her children are a good advertisement for the program. Amir went to school and got a degree in criminal justice,

although she joked that she still has her retail job at Williams Sonoma and knows more about kitchen equipment than she ever thought she would, and her children participated in the youth development program affiliated with the 4H program. They are still in the same three-bedroom apartment that was originally found for them by Bridges but they are self-sufficient. And they still have Bridges in their lives, like alumni of a good school: they come back to give back.

"I have a great story about the lemonade stand," said David Sklar, another board member. "I remember when the kids decided to donate the proceeds of the stand to a homeless animal shelter. It wasn't until I went in one day and saw these dogs all over the place and the kids holding up a big paper cheque for '500 dollars' that it hit me: here were these kids who were homeless, working to raise money to help homeless pets. I was moved. And you know what? I was so touched by their willingness to help these dogs, I picked one out and adopted it."

Departing Board President Lars Flori says Bridges is entering a new phase, having spent the previous 30 years building up an organization and expanding its services. It is ready to go to the next level, especially given its success with children. Over 60 percent of Bridges clients are under the age



PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Former U.S. Rep. and founding member of AACH Jim Moran with Microsoft "Youth Spark" representative Tunesha Thigpen, and Strategic Consulting Partners Chief Development Officer Jasmine Gould. Microsoft is involved with Bridges through its Youth Spark initiative, which is part of the STEM Program.

of 18. Bridges has hired Strategic Consulting Partners to help them plan into the future.

Dan Blaine, chair of the Capital Campaign, urged those in the room to get involved. "Bridges was lucky to find Dan," said Jeanette Norton, director of development.

"He is very active in the nonprofit community in both Arlington and Alexandria, and although he is an insurance broker, he just happens to also have a background in fundraising and agreed to take on this project."

Blaine didn't seem daunted at all by having to raise \$1.5 million for a building that hopes to open in September 2017. "I've gotten the amazing task of having to talk to all the great people who are involved with Bridges," he said. "Think about what you might be able to do for us. Consider a hard hat tour (of the building under construction), discuss how you might be able to help, and get the word out: showing up is critical."

Sam Kelly, executive director of Bridges, told the crowd of supporters Bridges will contribute \$1 million from the sale of its previous building. When coupled with the additional \$1.5 million fundraising goal, the campaign will fund the purchase of the organization's new ground floor headquarters, a 4,700 square-foot multipurpose space, as well as outfitting the building and furnishing it to fulfill Bridges' expanded programmatic and organizational needs. "I know you will show up for us as you always have," he told the crowd.

To learn more about the capital campaign and donate, call 703-525-7177, ext. 112, or visit <https://bridges2.org>.

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PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 22, 2017 • Ads close: Wed, Feb 16, 2017

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets. Reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 22, 2017, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16. We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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-Arthur Wing Pinero

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AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 66') on the building at 2110 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA (20170014). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to modify an existing facility (new tip heights 68') on the building at 4241 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA (20170005). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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There is contamination from Petroleum impacted soil on site at Gilliam Place, 3507 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with Gilliam Place LLC c/o Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to develop a Remedial Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact Vincent Maiden, P.G., Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Northern Regional Office, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23218, Vincent.Maiden@deq.virginia.gov or Jason Beck, C.P.G., Senior Environmental Project Manager, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 703-471-8400, jbeck@ecslimited.com

As part of the remedial action process a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of DEQ on January 10, 2017, which allows for corrective action at the property to begin immediately. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed RAP with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact the Corrective Action Project Manager, Vincent Maiden, whose contact information is listed above. You may also contact Jason Beck, the environmental consultant for Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, whose contact information is listed above. DEQ will consider written comments regarding the proposed Remedial Action Plan until February 24, 2017 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is a significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address listed above. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; VRP Case # 00664.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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Completely Off Topic



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That topic not being cancer. The topic being candy, or rather the disappearance of candy, from my hiding place at home. The reason I'm even discussing/divulging this publicly is that I've been forced by circumstances beyond my control to already involve my wife, Dina, in the disappearance of said topic: my post-holiday purchase of 75-percent-off-the-regular-price of snack-size type candy, typically available the day after a holiday.

Before I proceed, let me provide a bit of context for some of you irregular readers: I love chocolate. I don't just have a sweet tooth, I have sweet teeth. However, given certain realities/habits in my life, I almost always (unless times/circumstances are desperate) only buy these delicacies when the items are on sale and even more so when the items are both on sale and I have coupons. Now add into that mix an extra \$5 off a \$15 purchase — or a percentage off \$20 or \$30 store-specific coupon, and I'm spending pennies (almost literally) on the dollar. On these occasions — and Rebecca, you should probably stop reading — I load up. ('Load up' for a typical person might mean months. For yours truly, honestly, it means weeks, sometimes even days.)

Now when I bring this much volume into the house, my wife, Dina, need not know anything about it. Generally, I will stash the non-cash in places where I'll doubt she'll look (and I'm not saying the oven; that's an old Henny Youngman joke), and when I do indulge, it won't be in her presence, nor will there be any sign that I've unwrapped anything.

One of my hiding places, which will now be changed, was downstairs in our cellar in a top drawer of an old bureau I use for collecting miscellaneous bank statements, credit card bills, insurance forms, etc., and for years, my candy and previously unmentioned consumables. On the particular day in question — a day now seared into my memory — as I am habitually wont to do, I went to my downstairs drawer to replenish my upstairs drawer (in yet another hiding place) and was shocked and awed to find my two remaining bags of Kisses and Rolos empty, both gutted like a fish, ripped along their sides with nary a wrapper to be seen, 40-50 bite-size pieces gone.

My first reaction was of course to accuse my wife. Doing so however, would have exposed my secret: I buy candy and hide it (although, she probably knows it, and since I'm not exactly losing any weight ...). But what other cause/culprit could be behind such a dastardly deed? A break-in? No. A ghost who loves chocolate? (We do live in a 250-year-old house.) Mice? Squirrels? It's possible. There are some animal-friendly access points under our foundation. And even though the bureau is flush up against a retaining wall/crawl space for critters, I did notice that the bureau drawer was open an inch or two. Barely enough access. Otherwise, there is no entry. But if critters were responsible, where are all the wrappers and/or feces or any other evidence of their transgression? There weren't any. If the candy was indeed pilfered, it was "The Great Escape" of candy heists. Forced with this dilemma and daring-do, I was forced to confront my wife with these facts and ask if she in fact was responsible. She denied everything and blamed either a ghost or an animal. She was surprised, or so she claimed, at where I had hid the candy, not that I hid candy, so we weren't breaking any new ground, but apparently, my secret had been safe.

It's been a few weeks since this non-insurance loss, and there's been no sign or evidence to indicate what happened to my chocolate. My wife seems to have forgotten the incident. As for me, I bought a 3.4-pound container of Kirkland-brand chocolate-covered raisins from Costco so my inventory is back where I want it to be. I just wish my Kisses and Rolos were back as well.

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

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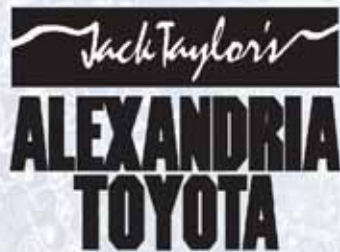
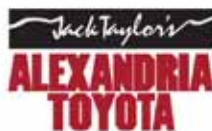
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