



# Springfield CONNECTION

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIED, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY MARGARET REMBISZ

Students from Robert E. Lee High School take to the dance floor at the Day Prom.

# 'A Day to Remember'

NEWS, PAGE 3

Remembering  
On Memorial Day 2017

EDITORIAL, PAGE 6

Debate Can Be Civil, Too

NEWS, PAGE 12

5

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PHOTOS BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON

Students from nine high schools – Chantilly, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Lee, Oakton, Robinson, Stuart, Westfield and Woodson — participated in the Day Prom at the Waterford on May 24.

## ‘A Day to Remember’

Students with special needs enjoy their own Day Prom.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

More than 16 years ago, Poplar Tree Elementary School’s then special education teacher, Chris Pascarella, had a vision of her students’ upcoming high school experience. She just couldn’t accept the reality that the students before her, who loved music and moving to all kinds of rhythms, might not get to experience a high school prom. Pascarella felt that they deserved a signature dance where they could make some lifelong memories. So, she organized a small prom specifically for high school students with special needs.

Since the early 2000s, this prom, with each year’s theme being “A Day to Remember,” has grown into an annual springtime event that brings hundreds of students together from schools across Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). This May, 336 high school students were able to experience the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Day Prom — all with the help of 205 teachers and general education student volunteers.

“When I taught special needs students at Poplar Tree, I knew they loved music,” Pascarella said. “When they were old enough to be going to high school, I started organizing a small dance for the special needs students at Herndon High School and two other schools. At first, we had the event at the Hyatt in Reston, but we’ve since outgrown that space. It grew from three schools, to now students in special ed programs from 18 schools.”

**DAY PROM**, hosted at the Waterford in Fair Oaks, has become an annual event that students anticipate for much of the academic year. The annual dance has gotten so large that organizers had to break the event into



A group of students from Lee High School gather for a photo at the Day Prom.

PHOTO BY MARGARET REMBISZ

two days. This year, the two dances took place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17, and the again on Wednesday, May 24.

“Of course, it’s so rewarding to see Day Prom come together every year,” said Pascarella. “The students start asking about it at the beginning of every school year.”

Although this prom is not an official FCPS event, its execution takes the collaboration and cooperation of special needs teachers and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs) from each school that participates. The Waterford donates the space to hold the event, and the deejay contributes his time and service free of charge. The rest of it is up to teachers and parents to make sure these students get the prom they look forward to every year, even getting creative where necessary.

“In previous years, many of the schools used to send the students in limos,” Pascarella said. “Many schools now use the FCPS buses. Some schools fund-raise, and some PTSAs make donations in order to collect money for food, transportation, and

everything else.”

The morning of Wednesday, May 24, students from nine high schools arrived at the Waterford – Chantilly, Herndon, Lake Braddock, Lee, Oakton, Robinson, Stuart, Westfield and Woodson.

Girls stepped off the school buses in vibrant dresses, and the young men entered the Waterford in button-down shirts, suit jackets, and, many in ties. Before they entered the ballroom, with a wide wooden dance floor surrounded by round tables for taking breaks and eating lunch, teachers and student volunteers pinned boutonnières to the boys’ suit jackets and slid corsages onto the girls’ wrists.

**TEACHERS** and case managers from special needs programs attend the dance as both chaperones and as part of a support system for their students.

Speech pathologists Erin Andreani and Stacy Pete, both from Lee High School, came to the dance prepared to help their students exercise communication skills.

“If we see one of our students needing an

intervention as they try to communicate with any of the other students here, we’re here to step in and help them facilitate a conversation,” said Andreani, who also works at West Springfield. “Being here allows us to see how our kids are reaching their communication goals outside the classroom. And, for the kids here who do go to the general ed prom with their own school, Day Prom is great preparation.”

Pete enjoys being at Day Prom both to see her students demonstrate what they’ve learned in the classroom, and to witness them enjoying themselves in a typical social setting.

“We like to see our kids out in the community, and, in this case, getting to have a prom of their own,” Pete said. “They don’t have to miss out on fun things. Here, they get to enjoy what everyone, including the gen ed kids, does.”

Even though their time at the Day Prom was a work day for school staff members, the teachers said there is no way that Day Prom can compare even remotely to a regular day in the classroom.

“For most of these kids, a late night prom would just be too much,” said Marianne McKeon, a career preparation teacher at Robinson. “Here, they get to experience a semi-formal dance. They all love music so you get to see their little walls come down. This is a day they can be with their buddies, having a good time, without us hovering.”

Just like any classic high school dance, teachers stood at the edge of the dance floor nodding to the beat of both today’s hits and more classic party songs like the “YMCA” and “The Cupid Shuffle.” At this prom, some teachers and student volunteers were on the dance floor, making sure that everyone, even the students in wheelchairs, could lose themselves in the cheerful music.



Old Town Square is jammed to the brim for the season's first Rock the Block concert.



Some of the attendees sitting on Old Town Square's splash-pad area.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



The Darby Brothers perform rock music from the '70s and '80s.

# Thousands Throng To Rock the Block

Old Town Square was the place to be, last Friday night, May 26, for the City of Fairfax's first Rock the Block of the season. The perfect spring night, food and beverage vendors, plus live rock music by the

Darby Brothers brought a couple thousand people to downtown Fairfax to make the event a huge success. Weather permitting, Rock the Block is held on the fourth Fridays of the month, 6:30-9:30 p.m., from May through October.

## Girl Scout Presents 'Bee-lieve in the Honey Bee' Workshop

Ambassador Girl Scout Kate Forrest, of Springfield, is earning her Girl Scout Gold Award by providing a free workshop of fun activities for girls and boys age 6-10 years old on Saturday, June 10, 2017, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Burke Presbyterian Church in Burke.

The "Bee-lieve in the Honey Bee" workshop features games, activities, interactive challenges, and lots of teamwork, with the focus on how to preserve and save the precious honey bee. Registration is required so parents should send an email to [bee.lievinthehoneybee@gmail.com](mailto:bee.lievinthehoneybee@gmail.com) to register.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



## SCHOOL NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Kami Richter**, of Alexandria, graduated from Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colo.) in December. Richter received a bachelor's degree with a major in anthropology.

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class **Kelly C. Quispe** graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. Quispe is the daughter of Nicanor and Edelvina Quispe of Springfield. She is a 2007 graduate of Bishop Ireton High School.

**Camille Thompson**, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2016 dean's list at the University of Dallas (Irving, Texas).

**Sarah Tripplehorn**, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2016 dean's list at the University of Dallas (Irving, Texas).

**Victoria Cullo**, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2016 dean's list at Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.).

**Claire Malkie**, of Alexandria, was named to the fall 2016 dean's list at Hofstra University (Hempstead, N.Y.).

The following students from Alexandria were named to the dean's list at The University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, Ala.): **Matthew P. Huling**, **Austin James Neuberger**, **Aubrie G. Smith**, and **Alexander K. Thiebes**.

**Joseph Faddoul**, of Alexandria, a freshman sport management major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the dean's list for the spring 2017 semester.

**Mary Oliver**, of Springfield, earned an award at the Honors Convocation at Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.).

# PEOPLE



## Springfield Marine Competes in Australia

Marine Cpl. John Brody, of Springfield, competed in a combat marksmanship competition May 18, during Australian Army Skills at Arms Meeting, in Puckapunyal, Australia. The competition brings together roughly 20 countries to compete, learn from each other and build stronger bonds. Brody is a rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, deployed to Australia in support of Marine Rotational Force Darwin.

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## Remembering on Memorial Day 2017

On Memorial Day, we remember all of those who have died in military service, more than 400,000 in World War II, more than 30,000 in Korea, more than 50,000 in Vietnam.

As many as 620,000 soldiers died in the Civil War, stunningly about 2 percent of the population at that time. To compare, while more than 2.5 million soldiers have served in Iraq and Afghanistan, that number is still less than one percent of the U.S. population.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 6,880 U.S. military service men and women have died in support of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

On Memorial Day, there are many ways to remember the fallen, including a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, or many other local commemorations. But at a minimum, wherever you are, you can observe a moment of silence at 12:01 p.m. along with Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), or you can set your own moment at some point during the day.

More than 52,000 U.S. military service members have been wounded in action, although that number is likely to be revised upward. In 2013, the military confirmed traumatic brain injury in more than 220,000 of the more than 2.5 million troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. The long-term consequences of many of these injuries, including mental health consequences, are unknown, but they will require a national commitment to excellence in health care and services for both active duty military personnel and veterans. Virginia's U.S. Senators Mark Warner and Tim Kaine continue to advocate for better service from the Veterans Administration.

Cuts proposed to health care, food assistance and other aspects of the social safety net in the proposed budget would disproportionately harm veterans.

**EVERY YEAR** around Memorial Day, this newspaper names the local men and women who have died in military service since Sept. 11, 2001.

Marcus D. Prince, 22, of Norfolk, Virginia died April 26, 2016 in Juffir, Bahrain. Prince was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Blane D. Bussell, 60, of Virginia, died Jan. 26, 2016 in Manama, Bahrain; Bussell was a U.S. Navy civilian who was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Sgt. Charles C. Strong, 28, of Suffolk, died Sept. 15, 2014 in Herat Province, Afghanistan while conducting combat operations. Sgt. David H. Stewart, 34, of Stafford, was one of three Marines who died June 20, 2014 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

Seaman Philip Frazier Manes, 21, of Fairfax, died Sept. 27, in Manama, Bahrain. He was supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Army Sgt. Lyle D. Turnbull, 31, of Norfolk, died Oct. 18, 2013 in Kuwait, from a medical emergency. Capt. Brandon L. Cyr, 28, of Woodbridge, was one of four airmen who died April 27, 2013, near Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, in the crash of an MC-12 aircraft.

1st Lt. Robert J. Hess, 26, of the Kings Park West neighborhood of Fairfax, was killed by enemy fire on April 23, 2013, Afghanistan. Hess was known as "RJ" and graduated from Robinson Secondary School in 2005, where he played football, lacrosse and was the captain of the swim team. He was a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter pilot who deployed to Afghani-

stan on April 11, 2013. His family remembers his sense of humor and his natural leadership ability.

Master Sgt. George A. Banner Jr., 37, of Orange, died Aug. 20, 2013, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan.

Spc. Caryn E. Nouv, 29, of Newport News, was one of two soldiers who died July 27, 2013 in Ghazni Province, Afghanistan, of wounds suffered when enemy forces attacked their vehicle with an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

Lance Cpl. Niall W. Coti-Sears, 23, of Arlington, died June 23, 2012, while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan. Coti-Sears loved music, played the guitar, composed songs and entertained family and friends at holiday gatherings. Niall was very close to his grandfather, William Coti, who was a Marine. "He was always my protege," William Coti told the Arlington Connection. "He always wanted to be a Marine and he followed my example. It weighs heavily on me that this had to happen."

Chief Warrant Officer Five John C. Pratt, 51, of Springfield, died May 28, 2012 in Kabul, Afghanistan, when his helicopter crashed.

Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Wing, 42, of Alexandria, died Aug. 27, 2012 in Kuwait City, Kuwait.

In February 2012, Brig. Gen. Terence J. Hildner, 49, of Fairfax, was the highest ranking military officer to die in the war. Hildner died Feb. 3, 2012 in Kabul province, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Aaron X. Wittman, 28, of Chester, Virginia, died Jan. 10, 2013 from small arms fire. Sgt. David J. Chambers, 25, of Hampton, Virginia, died Jan. 16, 2013 from a roadside bomb. Sgt. Robert J. Billings, 30, of Clarksville, Virginia, died Oct. 13, 2012 when enemy forces attacked with an improvised explosive device. Staff Sgt. Jonathan P. Schmidt, 28, of Petersburg, Va., died Sept. 1, 2012 from enemy small arms fire. 1st Lt. Stephen C. Prasnicky, 24, of Lexington, Virginia, died June 27, 2012, from a roadside bomb.

Aaron Carson Vaughn, 30, was one of 30 American service members and 22 Navy SEALs killed Aug. 6, 2011 when their Chinook helicopter was shot down in Afghanistan. Vaughn's family has ties to McLean and Burke. He was survived by his wife, Kimberly, and their two children.

Spc. Douglas Jay Green, 23 of Sterling, died Aug. 28, 2011, when insurgents attacked his unit using a roadside bomb in Afghanistan. Green enlisted in 2007, after attending Potomac Falls High School.

Pfc. Benjamin J. Park, 25, of Fairfax Station, died June 18, 2010 at Zhari district, Kandahar, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when insurgents attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

May 12, 2010, Donald J. Lamar II, 23 of Fredericksburg, was killed in Afghanistan. Christopher D. Worrell, 35 of Virginia Beach, was killed in Iraq on April 22, 2010. Steven J. Bishop, 29 of Christianburg, was killed March 13, 2010 in Iraq. Kielin T. Dunn, 19 of Chesapeake, was killed Feb. 18, 2010 in Afghanistan. Brandon T. Islip, 23 of Richmond, was killed Nov. 29, 2009, in Afghanistan. Stephan L. Mace, 21 of Lovettsville, died Oct. 3, 2009 in Afghanistan.

Bill Cahir, 40 of Alexandria, died Aug. 13, 2009 of a gunshot wound while conducting combat operations in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan. After Sept. 11, 2001, Cahir decided to leave his career as a journalist and join the Marine Corps. His application to become a Marine was denied because of his age, but he successfully lobbied members of Congress to get a special exemption.

Lance Cpl. Daniel Ryan Bennett, 23 of Clifton died Jan. 11, 2009, in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Sean P. O'Connor of Burke died Oct. 19, 2008 while stationed at Hunter Army Air Field, Savannah, Georgia. O'Connor was an athlete in soccer, baseball and football who attended Fairfax County Public Schools and was a 1999 graduate of Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington.

Pfc. David Sharrett II, 27 of Oakton, died Jan. 16, 2008 in Iraq. On Oct. 24, 2008, his father, David H. Sharrett, was on hand as the Oakton Post Office on White Granite Drive was renamed to honor his son. But the senior Sharrett has battled to learn the truth about his son's death, that he was killed by his lieutenant in a "friendly fire" incident. In April, 2012, Sharrett Sr. obtained documents confirming some of the details of his son's death and a subsequent cover-up.

Army 1st Lt. Thomas J. Brown, 26, a George Mason University graduate and Burke resident, died on Sept.

23, 2008, while serving in Iraq, from small arms fire.

Sgt. Scott Kirkpatrick, 26, died on Aug. 11, 2007, in Arab Jabour, Iraq. Kirkpatrick, who graduated from Park View High School in Sterling, and also considered Herndon and Reston as his hometowns, was a champion slam poet.

Ami Neiberger-Miller lost her brother, U.S. Army Spc. Christopher Neiberger, in August 2007 when he was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq. He was 22.

Staff Sgt. Jesse G. Clowers Jr., 27, of Herndon, died when an improvised bomb exploded near his vehicle in Afghanistan on Aug. 12, 2007. Jonathan D. Winterbottom, 21, of Falls Church, died in Iraq on May 23, 2007, when an IED exploded near his vehicle.

Nicholas Rapavi, 22, of Springfield, died Nov. 24, 2006, during combat in Anbar province in Iraq. Army Cpl. Andy D. Anderson, 24, was killed by enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq on Tuesday, June 6, 2006.

Spc. Robert Drawl Jr., 21, a 2003 graduate of T.C. Williams High School, was killed by a bomb in Kunar, Afghanistan, on Aug. 19, 2006.

U.S. Army Specialist Felipe J. Garcia Villareal, 26 of Burke, was injured in Iraq and flown to Washington Hospital Center, where he died Feb. 12, 2006. He was a graduate of Herndon High School.

Capt. Shane R. M. Mahaffee, 36, a 1987 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, died May 15, 2006. He was a lawyer, married, with two children.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas Kirven, 21, was killed in Afghanistan in 2005 during a firefight in a cave with insurgents. He enlisted while still in high school after Sept. 11, 2001.

Fairfax Station resident Pfc. Dillon Jutras, 20, was killed on combat operations in Al Anbar Province of Iraq on Oct. 29, 2005.

Maj. William F. Hecker III, a 1987 graduate of McLean High School, was killed in action in Iraq, Jan. 5, 2005. Staff Sgt. Ayman Taha, 31, of Vienna, was killed Dec. 30, 2005, when an enemy munitions cache he was prepping for demolition exploded. Army Capt. Chris Petty of Vienna was killed Jan. 5, 2006.

Staff Sgt. George T. Alexander Jr., the 2,000th soldier to be killed in Iraq, was literally born into the Army here in Northern Virginia, at DeWitt Army Hospital at Fort Belvoir. Alexander died at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 22, 2005, of injuries sustained in Iraq five days earlier.

Lt. Col. Thomas A. Wren, 44, of Lorton, died in Tallil, Iraq on Nov. 5, 2005. Marine Capt. Michael Martino, 32 of the City of Fairfax, died Nov. 2, 2005, when his helicopter was brought down in Iraq.

1st Lt. Laura M. Walker of Oakton was killed on Aug. 18, 2005, in Kandahar, Afghanistan. CW4 Matthew S. Lourey of Lorton died from injuries sustained on May 26, 2005 in Buhriz, Iraq. Operations Officer Helge Boes of Fairfax was killed on Feb. 5, 2003, while participating in counterterrorism efforts in eastern Afghanistan.

Among other local lives lost: Lance Cpl. Tavon Lee Hubbard, 24, of Reston; 1st Lt. Alexander Wetherbee, 27, of McLean; 1st Lt. Jeff Kaylor, 25, of Clifton; Coast Guard Petty Officer Nathan B. Bruckenthal, 24, of Herndon; Army Chief Warrant Officer Sharon T. Swartworth, 43, of Mount Vernon; Command Sgt. Maj. James D. Blankenbecler, 40, of Mount Vernon; Capt. James F. Adamowski, 29, of Springfield; Sgt. DeForest L. Talbert, 22, of Alexandria; Marine Cpl. Binh N. Le, 20, of Alexandria; Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, 34, of Alexandria; Army Capt. Mark N. Stubenhofer, 30, from Springfield; Marine Gunnery Sgt. Javier Obleas-Prado Pena, 36, from Falls Church; Marine Sgt. Krisna Nachampassak, 27, from Burke; Army Staff Sgt. Nathaniel J. Nyren, 31, from Reston; Marine Lance Cpl. Tenzin Dengkhim, 19, from Falls Church, Navy Chief Joel Egan Baldwin, 37, from Arlington; Maj. Joseph McCloud, of Alexandria, and Major Gloria D. Davis, 47 of Lorton.

Capt. Jesse A. Ozbat, 28 of Prince George, Virginia, died on May 20, 2012 in Afghanistan from a roadside bomb. Constructionman Trevor J. Stanley, 22, of Virginia Beach, died April 7, 2012 while deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. Pfc. Michael W. Pyron, 30, of Hopewell, Va., died Jan. 10, 2012 in Afghanistan. Maj. Samuel M. Griffith, 36, of Virginia Beach, died Dec. 14, 2011 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. James Ronald Leep Jr., 44 of Richmond, died Oct. 17, 2011 at Forward Operating Base Kalsu in Iraq. Spc. Levi Efrain Nuncio, 24 of Harrisonburg, died June 22, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Michael Wray Newton, 30 of Newport

SEE MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE 11



## COMMENTARY

# Join Us for 'Back to the Bay!'

BY DEL. DAVID L. BULOVA (D-37) &  
DEL. L. SCOTT LINGAMFELTER (R-31)

**M**ost of us in this region have seen cars with a "Save the Bay" bumper sticker. But have you ever stopped to think about what you can do to turn that simple, yet powerful slogan into reality? The answer is that each of us can make a real difference. To find out how, we hope you will join us for the first annual "Back to the Bay" on June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park.

As members of the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative commission representing Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia, we work to advance policies to restore and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Last year the Chesapeake Bay Commission established the second week of June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week.

We did this to engage residents about what is being done to combat polluted runoff and what more needs to be done to restore this precious resource for the enjoyment of future generations. Fewer pollutants in local streams, rivers, and other tributaries means cleaner water, thriving underwater grasses, and rebounding fish, crabs, and oyster stocks in the Chesapeake Bay.

Everyone, seafood producers, the sporting community, and those who use the Bay for recreation will benefit.

The good news is that we have much to celebrate! Virginia has made measurable progress toward reducing nutrient and sediment pollution and we are on track to reach our 2017 milestones. Thanks to these efforts, underwater grasses are at highs not seen in decades. Summer dead zones, places where the water has no oxygen to support fish and shellfish, have been decreasing.

To be sure, the work of restoring the Chesapeake Bay is not complete. In fact, the last phase of effort toward our 2025 deadline will almost certainly be our toughest. And Virginia can't do it alone! With a drainage area of approximately 64,000 miles, restoring the Bay can only be accomplished through a collaborative approach. Virginia, along with our partner states, the District of Columbia, and local governments must continue to prioritize the programs and funding necessary to better manage runoff from farmlands and suburban and urban development.

Virginia has strong bipartisan support for the Chesapeake Bay. Our fellow legislators work "across the aisle" and with the Governor to implement pragmatic solutions. Local governments, private businesses, farm-

ers, and conservation organizations have all joined the effort.

The federal government must also continue to be a key partner. Funding at the federal level goes toward critical monitoring and modeling programs to ensure that our efforts are based on real science and not political science. Federal funding is also used to leverage state and local resources for on-the-ground best management practices that are necessary to meet our targets on time.

At "Back to the Bay" participants will literally be asked to turn their back to the Bay during the program. Why? It is a symbolic gesture to highlight how most of the work to restore the Bay is about what is upstream – that is, literally where we live and work. Ordinary people, by making small changes, can make big differences!

At Back to the Bay, you'll be able to explore history and better understand the living resources of the Bay and our local rivers. You'll see practical ways to reduce pollution going to the Bay, including how to join a stream clean-up project, purchase a Chesapeake Bay license plate (with proceeds dedicated to Bay education and restoration), build a rain garden or a rain barrel at your home, test your soil before fertilizing the lawn, along with many other ac-

## Back to the Bay

Del. L. Scott Lingamfelter, Republican State Delegate representing parts of Fauquier and Prince William counties and Del. David L. Bulova, Democratic State Delegate representing the City of Fairfax and part of Fairfax County are both members of the bi-partisan Chesapeake Bay Commission. They are encouraging Virginians to take part in the "Back to the Bay" event that will be held June 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Mason Neck State Park, 7301 High Point Road in Lorton. For more information about Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week and Back to the Bay, visit [www.vcnva.org/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week/](http://www.vcnva.org/chesapeake-bay-awareness-week/) and follow the event on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/events/249460912171565/](https://www.facebook.com/events/249460912171565/).

tions. Over 30 organizations will be there and are excited to share what they know while having lots of fun at the same time!

We hope you will join us and bring family and friends. Help us to ensure that our children will grow up with the joys of swimming and fishing in a clean Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication at noon. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

## ONGOING

**Senior Line Dancing** 1-2 p.m. Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Court, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**Exercise Program** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton

Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Kingstowne Farmers Market opens.** 4-7 p.m. every Friday through Oct. 27, at Kingstowne Giant Parking Lot, 5870 Kingstowne Center, Alexandria. Freshly picked, producer-only vegetables and fruit, from-scratch bread (including gluten free), baked goods, kettle corn, salsa, hummus, cake pops, fruit popsicles, and ice cream. Email [Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Chelsea.roseberry@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-642-0128.

## CAMPS & CLASSES

**Art Camp.** Various times July 3-7, July 24-28, and July 31-Aug. 4 at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke or the second location is Burke Presbyterian Church, 5690 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Lessons by Carol Zeitlin. Call 703-250-6930 or visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) for more.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 1

**Hometown Thursday's Kickoff.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Back Pages Band is the first of a series of local bands that play on Thursday nights. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 2

**Bingo.** 7 p.m. at 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department hosts smoke-free Bingo every Friday night. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 2-3

**"The Mad Adventures of Mr. Toad."** Friday, at 7 p.m., and Saturday, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Thomas A. Edison High School, 5801 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Performance by Rose Hill Elementary School's Rose Hill Players. Visit [edisonhs.fcps.edu/](http://edisonhs.fcps.edu/) for more.



## Rose Show

**The 61st annual Rose Show is this weekend at Merrifield Garden Center - Fair Oaks, at 12101 Lee Highway. Hours are Saturday, June 3, 1-6 p.m. and Sunday, June 4, 11-4 p.m. Elements of the show include a photography, design and horticulture competition, hosted by Arlington Rose Foundation at Merrifield Garden Center- Fair Oaks. Rosarians will be on duty to answer any questions at this free event. Call 703-371-9351 or email [arfiinformation@aol.com](mailto:arfiinformation@aol.com) for more.**

## FRIDAY/JUNE 2

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 3

**Fit Foodie Festival and 5K.** 8-11 a.m. at the Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Benefit run for No Kid Hungry. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

**Walking Tour of Old Town Fairfax.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Historic Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Tours lasting approximately 90 minutes will begin in front of the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse, corner of Chain Bridge Road and Main Street, and include a short tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison House, \$10/adults; \$5/youth, ages 6-12, children 6 and under are free. All proceeds benefit the preservation of the City of Fairfax's public historic properties. Call 703-385-8414 for more.

**Scent Workshop.** 10:30-11:30 am at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Family Workshop opens with Lawrence F. Lowery's illustrated book, "Fragrant as a Flower," and includes hands-on sensory experiences that help children and their grown-ups learn about our sense of smell. \$25. Children in grades pre-K to 1. Visit [www.shopfairoaksmall.com](http://www.shopfairoaksmall.com) for more.

**Kidz Korner Summer on the Square.** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square. Free show. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/) for more.

**Fido Fest.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/) for more.

**Climate Change Documentary.** 1 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Center, Alexandria. The Kingstowne Cares Conservation Club hosting a post-screening discussion with special guests State Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36) and Seth Heald, Chair, Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Free. Space is limited, RSVP to [jessicabowser@gmail.com](mailto:jessicabowser@gmail.com).

**Sounds of Pohick.** 4 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. St. Francis Choir and St. Cecelia/St. Alban Choir, both for children; the Pohick Pickers, the Pohick Bell Choir, the Pohick Early Church Music Ensemble, Choir of Pohick will perform. Call 703-339-6572 or visit [www.pohick.org](http://www.pohick.org) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 3-4

**Civil War Living History Weekend.** Various times at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Demonstrations of camp life, musket firings, candle making, Civil War re-enactors from the Victorian Dance

Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation in formal ball dress of the time dancing and teaching authentic dance steps of that period. Admission: museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), or call 703-425-9225 for more.

**Springfield Days.** Various times, in Springfield Plaza, 7206 Old Keene Mill Road. Events begin with a fun run and conclude with a cardboard boat regatta. Visit [www.springfielddays.com](http://www.springfielddays.com) for more.

**"Mulan" Performance.** 12:30, 4:30, and 7:30 p.m. both days at the GMU Center for the Arts, Harris Theatre, 4400 University Drive. Acting for Young People acting school is doing a stage adaptation of Disney's animated film. Visit [www.afyp.org/](http://www.afyp.org/) for more.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 4

**Yoga on the Square.** 10 a.m. at the Old Town Square, 3999 University Drive. Bring a yoga mat and a water bottle. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Historic Sydenstricker Celebration.** noon at the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse, 8511 Hooes Road, Springfield. Fairfax County Historic Marker dedication and celebration at the Historic Sydenstricker Schoolhouse. Free. Call 703-455-2935 or email [info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org](mailto:info@sydenstrickerschoolhouse.org).

**Wine, Whiskers and Wags.** 1-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Benefit hosted by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Wine tasting, food, a Silent Auction, raffle and much more. Well-behaved children and dogs welcome. Admission is \$40/person in advance and \$45 at the door. Visit [ffcas.org](http://ffcas.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 7

**West Springfield High School Wind Symphony.** 7-9 p.m. in the West Springfield High School Auditorium, 6100 Rolling Road. Concert commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the high school. Free. Visit [wshsspartanband.org](http://wshsspartanband.org).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 9

**Meet the Author.** 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Springfield Golf & Country Club, 8301 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. Great Harvest Bread Company Jeff Connelly, will share how they may be a national company, but they have the spirit and heart of a locally owned small business. Also Keith Clemons, will be speaking about the book he authored. Call 703-922 6438/703-913-9844 or visit [SpringWmConn@yahoo.com](mailto:SpringWmConn@yahoo.com).

**Music on the Plaza.** 7 p.m. at the Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Music and dance performances. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov](http://www.fairfaxva.gov) for more.

## JUNE 9-11

**Celebrate Fairfax.** Various times at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax. Community-wide celebration with art, musical performances, and rides. Everclear is on the main stage on Saturday night. Visit [celebratefairfax.com/](http://celebratefairfax.com/) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 10

**FootGolf National Qualifier.** 1:30-9 p.m. at Pinecrest Golf Course, 6600 Little River Turnpike. Pinecrest Golf Course will host the U.S. National Qualifier for the American FootGolf League. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf/pinecrestgc/) or call 703-324-8782.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 11

**Tiny Dancers Ballet Recital.** 10:15 a.m. (Fairfax studio); 1:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m. (Mosaic studio) at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Call 703-785-5580 or visit [www.tinydancers.com](http://www.tinydancers.com) for more.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 13

**Women Only Golf Tournament.** 9 a.m. at Greendale Golf Course, 6700 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. It's Captain's Choice on the front 9 and better ball on the back 9 for two-person teams. \$45. Call 703-971-6170 for more.

**BHS Research Seminar.** 7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road. "Using the Washington Library at Mount Vernon" is the topic. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org).

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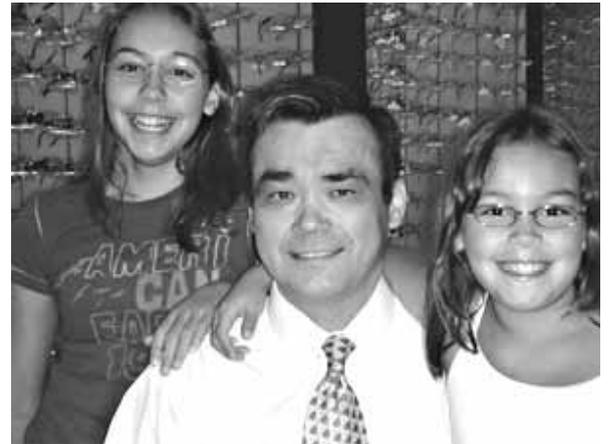


PHOTO BY KATHERINE KNOBLE

### Greenspring Residents Donate Books to Crestwood Elementary

Members of the Greenspring community recently donated more than 200 books to Crestwood Elementary students in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Greenspring's GrandInvolve volunteer program was recently honored with a 2017 Governor's Community Organization Award for their volunteer efforts mentoring students, reading books and working in classrooms at Crestwood in Springfield.

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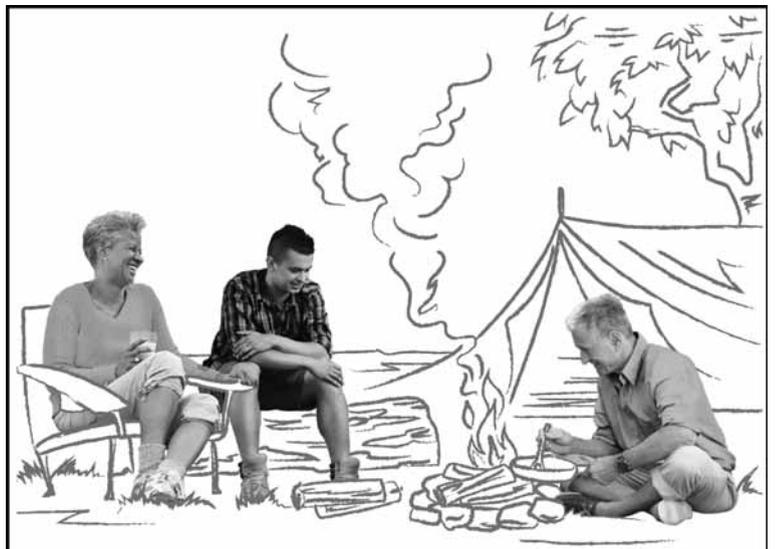
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## NEWS



**Simone  
Dinnerstein  
(center in white)  
in Cuba with the  
Havana Lyceum  
Orchestra during  
their recording  
of "Mozart in  
Havana."**

PHOTO BY ARIANNA DOMINGUEZ/  
COURTESY OF FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

# Fairfax Symphony Launches New Series

**"FSO Presents" features guest  
artists and ensembles in venues  
throughout Fairfax County.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

## Where & When

**I**n honor of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra's (FSO) upcoming 60th Anniversary and the 275th Anniversary of Fairfax County, we are proud to expand our commitment to the community with the creation of a new series, FSO: Presents," said Jonathan Kerr, Executive Director of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. "The new series feature guest artists and ensembles in an intimate concert setting in venues throughout Fairfax County."

"The series will bring unique performing arts experiences to Fairfax, further strengthening the FSO's contribution to the cultural, educational, and economic vitality of the community," added Kerr. "We at the FSO want to engage our audiences with world-class music and innovative arts education programs."

"FSO: Presents" will launch with the return of the acclaimed New York-based and Northern Virginia audience favorite pianist Simone Dinnerstein. Dinnerstein will perform with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra in their American debut and the first stop on a national tour. The tour will be the first time a Cuban orchestra of this size has traveled to the U.S. in more than 50 years. Dinnerstein and the Havana Lyceum Orchestra will perform works from her new album, "Mozart in Havana." The album was recorded in Havana last June.

Dinnerstein and the Havana Lyceum Orchestra will begin their Fairfax residency on Thursday, June 15 with a chamber music performance by the Havana Lyceum Orchestra Woodwind Quintet with Simone Dinnerstein at the piano. The performance will be at the Jewish Community Center of

❖ Fairfax Symphony and the JCCNV present Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Woodwind Quintet in concert at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Performance Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$35 (Reserved seating), \$25 (General Admission). Purchase tickets on-line visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org)

❖ Fairfax Symphony presents pianist Simone Dinnerstein with the Havana Lyceum Orchestra in concert featuring works from Dinnerstein's album, "Mozart in Havana" at George Mason University's Harris Theatre, 4440 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance: Sunday, June 18 at 5 p.m. at George Mason University's Harris Theatre, 4440 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets: \$45, \$38, \$30. To purchase tickets on-line visit [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org) or by phone at: 888-945-2468. Note: Following the concert, Classical WETA's David Ginder will host a discussion with the artists on stage.

Northern Virginia. Dinnerstein and the full Havana Lyceum Orchestra will next perform at George Mason University's Harris Theatre on Sunday, June 18. Beyond the two performances, there are education programs and Fairfax County school visits planned.

José Antonio Méndez Padrón is the founding music director of the Havana Lyceum Orchestra. The Orchestra was founded in 2008.

Dinnerstein spoke of the Havana Lyceum Orchestra as youthful musicians with a "desire to explore music which can too often be worn away by familiarity, as well as by their beautiful sound — a sound they made despite the fact that even the simplest supplies, like strings and reeds, have been hard to come by in Cuba."

"FSO: Presents" patrons will experience not only the debut of the new series, but a unique collaboration and historic event. "It will be a testament to music's ability to cross cultural and language barriers," said Dinnerstein.

# OPINION

## Memorial Day 2017

FROM PAGE 6

News, died June 11, 2011 in Afghanistan. Capt. Charles A. Ransom, 31, of Midlothian was one of eight airmen who died April 27, 2011, at the Kabul International Airport, Afghanistan, from gunfire. Sgt. Sean T. Callahan, 23, of Warrenton died April 23, 2011 in combat in Afghanistan. Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Venetz Jr., 30, of Prince William died Jan. 28, 2011 in Afghanistan, after being seriously wounded months before. Spc. Sean R. Cutsforth, 22, of Radford, died Dec. 15, 2010 in Afghanistan. Spc. William K. Middleton, 26, of Norfolk died Nov. 22, 2010 in Afghanistan. Staff Sgt. Christopher F. Cabacoy, 30, of Virginia Beach died July 5, 2010, in Afghanistan.

If you know of someone who should be included in this list, or if you would like to share how you are honoring the memory of a family member or friend lost, or about the progress of someone injured, please let us know.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### BULLETIN BOARD

Send community/civic notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke** serves those 50 and older who no longer drive.

**Volunteer drivers** are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. **Office workers** are needed to answer phones in the SCFB office (Monday-Friday) to match drivers and those who need rides. Call 703-323-4788.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 1

**Burke Road Realignment Meeting.** 7 p.m. at the West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road. The meeting will begin with time to review the project plan and display boards and a formal presentation at 7:15 p.m. FCDOT staff will then host a question and answer period with attendees. Visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 3

**Sexual Trafficking Walk.** 8 a.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Help raise awareness and prevent teen sex trafficking by participating in the Just Ask Walk/Run for Freedom. Sponsored by Just Ask Trafficking Prevention. Visit [justaskprevention.com](http://justaskprevention.com) for more.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

**Hypothermia Skills.** 11 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Mark Chapin, the founder of the Mountaineer Wilderness outdoor program in Virginia and West Virginia, an Air Force veteran and graduate of the Wilderness Survival School and Sea Survival School will be sharing his knowledge with teens and adults. \$10. Call 703-323-6600 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burkelakepark/) for more.

**Autism Speaks.** noon-3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy Range, 3721 Stonecroft Blvd., Autism Safety Fair in Fairfax county, in collaboration with the Fraternal Order of Police, the Autism Society of Northern Virginia, and Parents of Autistic Children Northern Virginia. Visit [act.autismspeaks.org/fairfaxsafetyfair](http://act.autismspeaks.org/fairfaxsafetyfair).

### JUNE 9-11

**White Elephant Sale.** Various times at St. Mary's Church, 5200 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Jewelry, antiques, furniture, sports, housewares, electronics, games and toys. \$5 admission Friday; free both Saturday and Sunday. Call 703-978-4141 for more.

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## Price Points — In the Wrong Direction



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I need a pound bag of M&Ms to weigh 16 actual ounces (it's now down to 10.70 oz.) or a half gallon of ice cream to weigh 64 ounces (rather than the 48 oz. it currently is) or the "family" size bag of Utz potato chips to measure more than its current/meager/non-typical-family size of 9.5 ounces (down from 14 ounces that I remember), nevertheless; I do need to feel the love, and right now I don't. I sort of understand price points and the business models ingrained to retain customer loyalty (price matters more than size, generally), but I am hard-pressed to ignore the fact that even though I'm spending the same amount of money as I always have, I'm not getting anywhere near the same amount of product as I always have.

Not that the few items I've listed here are staples (well, maybe not to you they aren't), or the necessary building blocks of a healthy diet, they are pieces to a puzzle which characterizes some of my eating habits — and probably some of yours, too. After all, we are all victims of advertising messages which bombard us 24-7, on television, on radio, in print and on devices. In a way, we're all sitting ducks targeted to quack accordingly because some entity/marketing strategist knows who we are, what we're doing and when we're doing it. It's not exactly "Big Brother," but it's a bit more than "Little Sister."

My brother, Richard and I grew up in the 50s. We ate cookies, candy and snack cakes until the cows came home, and we didn't even live on a farm. Quite the opposite, we lived in suburbia, seven miles from Boston, according to the sign on Rte. 9. We ate dessert after breakfast, lunch and dinner and a few times in between: after school and before bedtime. Why? Because my mother had been non-stop advertised-to about the importance of calcium and the best way for children to get calcium was to drink eight glasses of milk per day to "build strong bones and healthy bodies." And the only way to get us boys to drink that much milk was to feed us something for which milk was a kind of elixir: cookies, cakes, snack cakes, etc. So we ate and drink to our hearts content, but more importantly, we ate and drank to the development of our bones and bodies. And so it continues to this day, sort of, mostly. As my sister-in-law, Vanessa says and then laughs after listening to Richard and I talk about our dessert issues: "Boy, your mother did some job on you two."

I'm exaggerating, a bit, with respect to our current daily consumption. I mean, who could keep up that pace? Moreover, given certain age/weight/cancer realities (particularly concerning yours truly), it would be totally, extraordinarily irresponsible to continue to snack-cake and cookie our way through the day. Still, the urge to splurge seems hard-wired into our brains and when the moment is right, it might not be Cialis that we always think of. (Do you remember the Seinfeld episode when George was determined to combine sex and eating and brought a sandwich to bed? For the record, the thought has never crossed my mind.)

I imagine as you've read this column you've developed a sense that given the Lourie's long-standing — and sitting commitment to such hedonistic pursuits, pennies, nickels, dimes or quarters on the dollar are unlikely to dissuade either one of us from our Santa-like appointed rounds.

Still, we're not idiots. We're aware of the effects on our bodies if we devolve into the snack cake eating machines of our youth/adolescence. We're not getting any younger nor are we likely getting any thinner or healthier. I'd like to think we've gotten smarter and more respectful of what foods go in and by association what money goes out.

But as difficult as it is to turn an ocean liner around after it's headed out to sea, so too is it difficult for yours truly to care less about what I've spent my entire life caring more about: desert/sweets. However, I do anticipate a reaction to this most recent size reduction. As my mother, Celia, used to say: "It's enough already."

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

# Debate Can Be Civil, Too

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

At the May 23 lieutenant governor candidates' forum at George Mason University (GMU), there was none of the verbal fireworks or often embarrassing vitriol that has come to characterize the political debating arena of late.

Instead, the six major party candidates — three Republicans and three Democrats — sometimes passionately, but always politely, fielded questions posed to them by moderator Mark Rozell, dean of the co-hosting GMU Schar School of Policy and Government. So civil toward each other were the candidates that there were only two occasions when any of them took advantage of the 30 second “opportunity for rebuttal rule.”

The fact that the forum was split into two sessions, with the GOP hopefuls taking the first shift, followed by the Democratic contenders after a brief recess, may have influenced the tone of the event.

**THE REPUBLICANS** seeking the position are all current office holders and they took the opportunity to discuss some of their governmental accomplishments during opening statements. The Democrat candidates have never held elected office.

State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27) is an advocate for rural economies and a supporter of school choice legislation. She also introduced bills to strengthen the enforcement of immigration laws.

Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-17) is a former Army Ranger and police officer. Describing himself as “Pro-Life and Pro-Gun” Reeves says he seeks to “protect our values and outlaw sanctuary cities” and grow the state’s economy.

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) says he is the one with a “plan to unleash Virginia” with tax reform, attracting “21<sup>st</sup> century jobs, modernizing education” and cutting “government red tape.”

**ON THE DEMOCRATS’ SIDE**, Justin Fairfax is a former assistant U.S. attorney and businessman.

Gene Rossi spent 27 years as a federal prosecutor. Rossi told the audience that he led the largest investigation ever to address the opioid epidemic, helping to secure 200 convictions of “unscrupulous pain doctors, pharmacists, health professionals, and drug dealers.”

Susan Platt served as chief of staff to former Vice President Joe Biden and serves on the Virginia Tourism Board as an appointee of Tim Kaine.

**ALL SIX TROD CLOSELY** along their party’s lines. The Republicans focused on economic development in the Commonwealth via tax reform, defending Virginia’s “Right-to-Work” status, exploring other options before increasing taxes, and reducing what Reeves called the “regulatory burdens placed on businesses.”



State Sen. Jill Vogel (R-27), Sen. Bryce Reeves (R-27), and Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) answer questions posed at the Lieutenant Governor’s Candidate Forum at George Mason University.

Reeves sees the “constant change in the regulatory environment” as an inhibitor to economic health. “We need some stability,” he said, and a process to appeal to business investors.

Vogel agreed. “For the first time, more people are leaving Virginia than coming here. We need tax reform and financial stability and predictability.”

“We used to be the number one state for business, now we are 13th,” added Davis, “and we need to better market ourselves” and tout the resources and advantages of the state.

Again, all three candidates stuck with the GOP platform on issues like opposing state regulation of utilities, the expansion of Medicaid, and the notion of collective bargaining for workers, and protecting gun rights.

Davis said he voted six times against expanding Medicaid, stating that the monies spent on Medicaid in the Virginia budget have already doubled in less than 10 years and needed to be reined in.

Regulating utilities like Dominion Power is not to their liking, either. “Competition solves the issues,” according to Davis, while Vogel maintained that with government, “less is usually more.”

A simple, but emphatic “No,” was how Vogel, Reeves and Davis all “voted” on the subject of collective bargaining.

“I’m flabbergasted, why would anyone choose to make the state less competitive?” was Vogel’s comment when asked if Virginia should turn away from its Right-To-Work status and more toward unionization.

“I would fight that tooth and nail,” said Reeves.

“That would mean a negative outlook for our credit rating,” predicted Davis. Recent indicators that suggest a less-positive outlook on the state’s future credit worthiness is of significant concern to the Republican trio of candidates.

When the Democratic candidates were seated for their session, the overall tenor of the forum remained unchanged. Dean Rozell asked similar — and sometimes iden-

## Party platforms and civil discourse highlight forum for Lieutenant Governor candidates.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

The Democratic candidates seeking the position of Lieutenant Governor: Justin Fairfax, Gene Rossi, and Susan Platt.

tical — questions of the second candidate panel, with Fairfax, Rossi and Platt usually agreeing with each other in principle and disagreeing with the GOP approach offered during “Round 1” of the forum.

Fairfax does not subscribe to the more dire economic picture painted by his Republican rivals. “Unemployment has declined from 5.4 percent to 3.4 percent. Our economy is strong,” he said, but admitted that more work, especially in developing “middle skill jobs” needs to be done. He is a particular proponent of lessening the burdens of student debt, saying that freeing young workers from this obligation would benefit everyone as these graduates could “start their financial lives sooner ... buying homes, starting families and getting the capital to start and grow their own businesses.”

On the subject of collective bargaining and Virginia’s Right-to-Work laws, the three would support unions and changes to the laws, but none of them saw this issue as a fight that could be easily won. “Let’s concentrate on filling the 175,000 jobs that are open because our workers are not trained or qualified for them first,” said Fairfax. Platt agreed, saying she supported unions, but realistically sees Virginia as a Right-to-Work state. “It’s entrenched here.”

**THE EXPANSION** of Medicaid was another area the three firmly supported, in contrast to the GOP line. “Not doing so, that’s \$10.4 billion lost to our economy, plus more jobs and healthcare coverage for another 400,000 Virginians,” said Fairfax.

Rossi told the audience of his daughter’s battle and victory over a form of lymphoma, as well as his own more recent blood disorder. Saying Virginia needs a brand new blood supply, “and I am the candidate with new blood,” Rossi pledged that he would “fight like a dog for Medicaid.”

All three Democrats approved of the regulation of utilities as emphatically as the Republican candidates were against it.

Solving the woes that plague Metro also served to highlight the differences between

the two camps, but the unity within each party. Vogel, Reeves and Davis are not in favor of a proposed 1 percent regional tax to subsidize the ailing Metro system.

The Democrats, on the other hand, see Metro as vital to the area’s economic health and growth and all are convinced that a dedicated and sustainable revenue source is needed. “Metro was a great story, but we kept kicking the can. You reap what you sow,” said Fairfax.

Platt suggested going after more federal funds to support Metro, coupled with better planning of communities to avoid “two-hour commutes,” while Rossi said this was another issue he was willing to fight for. Rossi also warned that the Trump administration’s cuts would devastate Northern Virginia.

The two groups came closest together when it came to the subject of tax reform. While the Republicans placed the greater emphasis on its need and the shape it should take, the Democrats did not disagree that tax reform should be on the table, and that Virginia’s budget should be more predictable.

Platt was the only one, however, to tie this issue to the “need for income equality and an increase in the minimum wage.”

They also all agreed, Democrats and Republicans alike, that each would make more of the position than it has been traditionally viewed in the past, looking for ways to more actively engage and to be real advocates for Virginians and the state’s economic development. All stated that whichever party took the Governor’s Mansion in the fall, they were ready, willing and able to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

**THE PRIMARIES** for both parties will be held on June 13 and voters will choose who goes forth to the election on Nov. 7. “Whoever wins,” said attendee Joe Spellicy of Herndon, “this has been a really great forum. I like this process, and it was good to hear from both sides, all candidates, answering the same questions.”