

Mosaic Captures Energy of Bryant's Students

83 students graduate.

BY VIVIAN GRAY AND
BEATRICE DE COSTA

Laughter and tears filled the auditorium of Bryant Alternative High School on Thursday, June 15. Guests, faculty, and students' speeches filled the air that mixed with the excitement of the graduating class of 2017.

Bryant serves students who may not have been able to meet their fullest potential at their original schools due to employment or family responsibilities. In Bryant's auditorium, every family cheered as their children, grandchildren, friends, and relatives became a high school graduate.

Bryant's graduating class had 83 students.

Seniors Gabriela Argueta and Talia Hall detailed their experience at Bryant. Argueta, an Annandale resident and recipient of the Outstanding Art Student Award, said, "Making the wall" was her favorite memory at Bryant. She speaks of the mosaic that hangs outside the school walls which took the students "about a month to make. We started last month [May] and finished last week."

Argueta felt that it was her favorite memory because "they all worked on it together, it really brought us together as a Bryant family." Argueta's classmate, Hall, also felt the same way regarding the atmosphere at Bryant.

"It's just like a giant family, honestly," Hall said. "I've never gotten that from any school I've been to before, and as soon as I came here I made friends, people welcomed me quicker than I thought they would." Although both girls had positive experiences at Bryant, they feel great about graduating high school, and have plans for their future.

"NOVA for two years and then George Mason," Argueta said about the local colleges. She plans on studying criminal justice with hopes of becoming a police officer.

Hall, an Alexandria native, is taking a year off but plans to do an apprenticeship during her gap year



Art teacher Rachel Albert with two of her students, Gabriela Argueta and Talia Hall.

with the artist Ali Mirsky who worked with Bryant students on the mural.

"[Art] has always been something I wanted to do since I was little, I've always been into art," Hall said. "My mom finally told me, 'I don't know why you don't do something with art when you graduate.' I didn't think she would be OK with it. Parents want their kid set on one thing and you have to do this, you have to be a doctor. But, my mom said, do you what you want to do as long as you're happy."

Bryant's graduation was full of students similar to Argueta and Hall. Throughout the graduation speeches, students thanked parents for supporting them and also their grandparents. They thanked partners and they thanked specific teachers.



Students of Bryant Alternative High School assemble before the graduation ceremony begins.

Carrie Van Brocklin, an English teacher at Bryant, expressed the same love for the students and for the school itself. "I like the small class sizes and the ability to really get to know the students. Many of them have struggled with so much in terms of being young parents or their parents are in jail," Van Brocklin said.

Many students who go to Bryant have the responsibility of having to behave like parents either to their siblings or other family members; the students persevere to succeed. Bryant not only offers scholarships and extra help, it also has programs like Project Opportunity which is dedicated to helping young mothers at Bryant. In some

cases, some students can't return to public school because they have had a child so this program gives these women a second chance. Project Opportunity not only helps the students take care of their babies during school but the program has connections to local businesses and churches that donate diapers and formula, which sometimes the young moms need and can't afford.

Bryant offers smaller class sizes, a maximum of 18 students per classroom, which gives students the attention they need and one-on-one instruction. After graduation, students either go into a four-

SEE BRYANT, PAGE 18



The new mosaic put together by the students at Bryant Alternative High School.

PHOTO BY VIVIAN GRAY/THE GAZETTE

PHOTOS BY BEATRIZ DA COSTA/THE GAZETTE

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The Barua family smiles for the camera with their two graduates.

PHOTOS BY BEATRIZ DA COSTA/THE GAZETTE



Surrounded by friends and gifts, graduate, Camile Guzman smiles for the camera.

Bidding Farewell To Mount Vernon High School

BY BEATRIZ DA COSTA
THE GAZETTE

The Class of 2017 bid farewell to Mount Vernon High School on Friday, June 16.

The ceremony, which was held in the Bulldog's gymnasium, caused a bit of a stir among guests. Since the gym was over capacity, many family members and friends were forced to watch the graduation in the auditorium via a live stream. The seats in the auditorium were packed, and although some parents complained about not being able to see their children graduate in person, this did not hinder many of them from cheering on their sons and daughters.

As the names were called, groups of loved ones in the balloon-filled auditorium would celebrate, and express it loudly, although the graduates could not hear them.

Once all the names were called and the diplomas were given to the Class of 2017, family and friends waited for the students in the lobby area, where a gate separated the lobby from the gym and outside.

Once outside the graduates took photographs with friends and family, and pointed out the school rock that was decorated by the seniors with drawings of '90s' cartoon characters, to represent the senior class slogan, "90s babies out."

By 4 p.m., Mount Vernon High School's newest alumni passed on the torch to "2000s babies."

Graduates, Anik Barua, Thomas Nguyen and Yannick Ndoumi-Ese pose for a picture following graduation.



The Gibbs family poses for a mother and son picture.



The Quawe family celebrates the graduation of their Mount Vernon student.



Bulldogs graduate, Iziah Morris and family pose for a picture together to commmentate graduation.

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Remembering Norma Hoffman

Iconic volunteer dies, June 23, 1925 - June 11, 2017.

BY GERALD A. FILL
THE GAZETTE

After decades of volunteer efforts, Norma Hoffman's death means she is no longer the essential and iconic volunteer presence at Huntley Meadows Park. But she lives on through the friends of the park and the wildlife that will continue to thrive and entertain the thousands of visitors to the park.

What she is best known for was her successful fight to protect the Huntley Meadows Park by blocking a proposed four-lane highway from being built that would have cut through the park. It took more than 15 years of her determined effort but finally through her leadership and recruitment of hundreds of experts and citizen supporters, the proposed road was cancelled in 1990.

This action created the conditions to preserve and protect the 1,500 acre non-tidal freshwater wetlands area for the long term. For her efforts against long odds, she was awarded more than 30 local, state, and federal awards. In 1992 she was named the Sierra Club's 100 Environmental Heroes. The Virginia Wildlife Federation also named her Conservationist of the Year.

More recently, the Fairfax County Park Authority named the Huntley Meadows Park Visitor Center after her. Until very recently she continued to volunteer at the Visitor Center doing what she most enjoyed: meeting the public and explaining the importance of preserving and protecting the environment with all the visitors and especially the children who came to the park.

Hoffman's daughter Lisa called her "a tiny woman with the heart of a lion and the spirit of a child." Her closest friends agree with that assessment.

Hoffman was known as the mother of Huntley Meadows by her legions of admirers for the past four decades. However, she began her life as a young cabaret dancer in the Boston, Mass. underground cafes during WWII, earning money to help support her family while also finding time to volunteer at a local hospital to help administer to wounded soldiers. She performed with Milton Berle, and attracted the attention of Ethel Merman who invited her to join her on Broadway. She declined in favor of marrying Fred Hoffman, an Associated Press reporter who covered the Vietnam War and, among other positions, served

Plaque Honors Norma Hoffman

Inscription: "We need to recruit new generations of supporters to provide the eternal vigilance that is necessary to preserve and protect these fragile urban wetlands."



Norma Hoffman

PHOTO BY STANTON RUSSELL

The visitor center at Huntley Meadows Park is named in honor of this renowned park advocate and volunteer who fought to protect the wetlands since the park was acquired in 1975.

Norma Hoffman stopped construction of a four-lane highway through the park. She inspired three generations of local environmental activists and co-founded the park's two Friends organizations. Norma works to ensure the preservation of Historic Huntley and teaches thousands of children and adults about the value of wetlands.

Norma Hoffman reminds us all of the power of one.

as principal deputy assistant secretary to Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger.

She found time to manage the political campaign of the first black candidate for public office in the city of Alexandria. In 1972 she worked for the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. That experience may have sparked her interest in the planned road proposed by the park service which threatened the park.

Carolyn Gamble, a close personal friend and former park employee, said they shared a love of dance and the park. "Norma's gift was kindness. That was the motivation behind everything she did, whether she was fighting against the road through the park, striking a conversation with strangers on an elevator, or engaging kids at the Visitor Center front desk.

"When I started working at the park my boss told me it was a foregone conclusion that a road was going to be built through the park. I was horrified. Then along came a tiny dynamo named Norma Hoffman who was speaking against the road at public meetings, distributing flyers, holding rallies, writing letters and recruiting experts. She became my hero right then and there.

"I watched Norma in action and learned not only about civic involvement, but also about being a kind

SEE HUNTLEY MEADOWS, PAGE 15



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OPINION

Losing One of Our Own

Worst fear of any parent of a teenager, losing a child to violence.

Later this week, when area Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan, a month of observance and daily fasting at Eid al-Fitr, the surrounding community grieves with them the loss of 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston.

Nabra was among a group of teenagers who were gathered at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society for an all-night event overnight Saturday during Ramadan, and who were returning to the center after going to eat at a fast food restaurant.

Fairfax County Police report: "At about 3:40 a.m. on Sunday, a group of as many as 15 teenagers was walking and riding bikes on Dranesville Road. The group of teens had been attending an overnight event at a mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society or ADAMS Center, and had left to go to a fast food restaurant. As they were returning to the mosque, some were on the sidewalk and others were on the road itself. Detectives believe [Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, of Sterling] came upon the teens while he was driving. The investigation reveals a teenaged boy on a bike began arguing with Torres. Torres then drove his car onto the curb as the group scattered. Witnesses say Torres

caught up with them a short time later in a nearby parking lot and got out of his car armed with a baseball bat and began chasing the group. Torres was able to catch Nabra. His anger over the encounter led to violence when he hit Nabra with a baseball bat. Torres then took Nabra with him in his car to a second location nearby in Loudoun County."

Nabra's body was found in a Loudoun pond. Torres is charged with her murder, which police describe as a road rage incident rather than a hate crime, although more charges could come later.

All parents who have successfully raised children into a teenagers know fear for their safety as they become more independent. We expect our teens to be safe participating in events based at a house of worship. We expect our teens to be safe from violence. Nabra's death means that all of us now have a diminished sense of safety; we all grieve with Nabra's parents, who lost their beautiful and beloved daughter during Ramadan, on Father's Day. We share their horror at what their daughter suffered.

Coming together in support of the Muslim community in vigil, prayers and other support has meant a great deal.



PHOTO COURTESY KHADIJAH ABDULLAH-LARDAS
Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston was a sophomore at South Lakes High School.

"Basically, the outpouring of support from the Christian community, the Jewish community, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahá'í; everyone is comforting to us," Rizwan Jaka of the ADAMS Center told a Connection reporter. "People care so much and it means so much to us."

But we will all feel the loss of Nabra Hassanen, and a loss of sense of safety here, in weeks and years to come.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Update on Short-Term Rental Regulations

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

Fairfax County sent a survey to residents on Monday about Short-Term Rental (STRs) units in the county as it collects citizen information to adopt new regulations as Virginia has authorized them to do after July.

Last year, I wrote about the new "gig economy" and how many of us are using web-based companies like Uber and others to earn some extra income. I highlighted the specific challenge posed by web-based short-term rentals, like AirBnB, and that the General Assembly in 2016 passed a bill authorizing the Virginia Housing Commission

COMMENTARY

to study short-term rentals to learn how to allow Virginians to use their homes to make extra money through housing platforms like AirBnB while establishing an efficient mechanism for the collection of taxes and protection and would work with stakeholders to determine the appropriate level of regulation necessary to address their concerns.

Fast forward to this year and the General Assembly, study in hand, after much negotiation and debate, passed SB1578, introduced by Sen. Norment and signed by Governor McAuliffe, a law that affirms that local governments like Fairfax County have the authority to address zoning and regulatory issues regarding short-term rentals. The bill also addressed the ABC laws and clarifies that short-

term rentals should be licensed just as Bed and Breakfasts are when it comes to serving alcohol. The law goes into effect on July 1 and at that point the county can start the process to regulate short-term rentals.

Fairfax County staff believe that there are upward of 1,000 units offered as short-term rentals throughout the county, and that number is likely to grow with the proliferation of online platforms such as AirBnB, FlipKey, Roomarama and HomeAway. These rental units range in size from a single room within a home to an entire home with multiple bedrooms. This is a trend growing throughout the nation within the new "sharing economy." We live in a digital world and one of the many challenges we face is how we manage short-term rentals, which the internet has made much easier to do, by balancing the desire of some to utilize their property to bring in rental income with the many serious concerns of residential communities mostly around safety and security, property values and privacy issues. Few people want the home next door to become a mini-hotel or Bed and Breakfast.

Now that the General Assembly has affirmed local authority to adopt ordinances pertaining to short-term rentals and how they fit within zoning regulations, it is important for concerned citizens to weigh in on whether or not short-term rentals should be allowed and/or how they should be regulated. Issues that could be addressed include whether there is a maximum number of overnight lodgers, park-

ing considerations, how signage should be displayed, noise control and even whether new linens and towels should be provided to each new guest.

Starting with the recent survey, the county has an Ordinance Timeline whereby the public will be able to participate with input and recommendations. Expect this process to take a few months with the Board of Supervisors voting on a new ordinance sometime around the end of the year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Working Together: It's Imperative

To the Editor:

As I write this column, news of the tragic shooting of Rep. Scalise (R-LA) and others is fresh in my mind, having just occurred hours ago. Early reports indicate the shooter was angry over politics in this country and had set out to kill or maim politicians as a result.

Thankfully the horrible event ended with limited casualties, however the scars from this senseless act run deep and will be hard to erase. While it is clear the shooter was unstable and his actions unspeakably horrific, the event unfortunately highlights in the most extreme fashion the anger and divisiveness currently plagu

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

ing this country. No finger pointing, just an observation that the divide in our nation is real and it's growing worse and it's having a tremendous impact on all of us in so many ways.

I worked for almost 10 years for a Republican member of Congress – former Congressman Norman F. Lent (R-NY) from 1983 to 1992. Rep. Lent was the Ranking Republican on the House Energy and Commerce and as the leader of one of the most prolific committees in Congress he oversaw a myriad of diverse and complicated legislative initiatives from telecommunications to product liability to clean water and healthcare.

Rep. Lent worked closely with another leader on the committee – former Rep. John Dingell (D-MI) – a noted moderate liberal who was chairman of the committee at the time. Theirs was a potentially combative relationship given the deep party differences but despite the divisive, complicated and polarizing issues before them they worked together in such a constructive and bipartisan manner that they managed to pass such comprehensive and lasting laws as Superfund hazardous waste cleanup, Clean Water Act among many other important legislative initiatives.

Over the years I watched two leaders from diametrically opposing backgrounds come together time and time again to overcome their basic differences and forgoing expedient political solutions to forge meaningful, bipartisan answers to some very, very tricky national problems.

My point is simple. Bipartisanship is not a pipe dream and it is absolutely critical to the effective and positive workings of our government. All of us – not just our elected officials – are responsible for the divisive nature of our government right now. How we discuss the values we hold dear and the issues that we care about matters. We can all work to promote a more bipartisan atmosphere by simply looking at how we have conversations on the issues of importance to us – whether it's on Facebook, Twitter, or even in conversations with our friends and family and colleagues.

The Webster Dictionary definition of “bipartisan” states “of or involving the agreement or cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies.”

The challenges we face are many and the solutions varied but if we are to meet these challenges and move forward as a nation it will undoubtedly be because we found that sweet spot ... “the agreement or

cooperation of two political parties that usually oppose each other's policies.” We can do this.

Anne Holloway
Alexandria

Speeding? No Kidding

To the Editor:

The article [The Mount Vernon Gazette, May 25] says that speeding on the GW Park-

way is getting worse. No kidding. I travel down the parkway often, at the speed limit, and am constantly passed and beeped by drivers who are going 10-20 mph faster than me. I never see a police car. Here is a solution that even a grade-school kid could understand:

Install those speed-detection boxes along the parkway. The boxes automatically detect speeders, and take photos of their license plates. Then they can be issued tickets.

And/or station unmarked police cars with speed detectors in the pull-off spots. The police can pull the speeders off and fine them. Plus, put up signs that say something like: “Speed control electronics are monitoring your speed.” This is a cheap and elegant solution. Doing nothing is not.

From an angry, law-abiding citizen.

Frederick B. (Bart) Hewitt
Alexandria

Focus on Short-Term Rentals

To the Editor:

The Mount Vernon District is blessed with numerous great neighborhoods with beautiful homes and relatively low crime rate as compared to other areas. In any community, one important component of relative safety is that residents become familiar with who is living in their community as well as concerning the cars they are driving and their general habits.

In recent years, homeowners have begun renting out their homes on a short-term basis to earn additional revenue during somewhat difficult economic times. As more and more people engage in short-term rental of their homes, an important component of the safety of their communities is necessarily disrupted. New faces come and go. Unknown vehicles arrive and depart. It becomes difficult for long-term homeowners to be able to differentiate between who is actually living in their community and who is coming and going on a short-term basis. This scenario unfortunately permits the criminal element to infiltrate communities undetected.

The Virginia Legislature addressed this issue this year by passing Senate Bill No. 1578 which was signed into law as a new statute section: 15.2-983 which authorizes localities to create a registry for short-term rental of property. This new law authorizes Fairfax County to establish a short-term rental registry and require people engaging in short-term rentals to register annually. The new law requires registrants to comply with all local laws, ordinances and regulations “including those related to land use, zoning, noise, health and safety, the quiet enjoyment of property, parking, litter, yard signs, the collection and remittance of applicable taxes, alcoholic beverage control” and other issues. The new law also authorizes localities to charge fees for registering and to regulate violations.

This week, I received an email from the county inviting me to participate in an online survey concerning this issue to help the county craft an appropriate local ordinance.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Virginia Fire Safety Award

Apparatus Technician John Guy was presented the Virginia Fire Safety Award by the Fairfax Resolves Sons of the American Revolution at his retirement ceremony on May 31. Guy is a 33-year veteran of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and has been a fixture at Fire Station 11 in Alexandria for 23 years. He has been instrumental in training each new recruit at the station, the teacher of Hazardous Materials training for rescue squad technicians and has personally been the lead in setting up three new rescue squads. Guy was selected to receive the award from among candidates of 27 chapters of the Virginia SAR.

The survey may be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals>. I strongly encourage all community members to respond to this survey and, particularly, to provide written comments in the box provided at the end of the survey. Property owners should encourage the county to craft an ordinance which strictly regulates this activity, imposes large fines for violations, limits the number of properties that can be rented on a short-term basis in each subdivision, first come, first served, and makes all best efforts to preserve our property values. One idea might be to require property owners engaging in short-term rental of their properties to display a small but visible county-prepared sign on their home indicating short-term rentals are taking place and require their renters to place a prominent sticker on their vehicles so community members are able to identify the renters and differentiate them from criminals casing the neighborhood. I am sure other great ideas will be suggested. It is essential that community members engage their planning commissioners and supervisors on this issue.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

No Unified Front On Airplane Noise

To the Editor:

While I share Chris Fulghum's views [“Groundhog Day,” letter, Mount Vernon Gazette] that residents of the Mt. Vernon area would be better served if our elected officials — and the media — paid more attention to much more serious issues than speeding on the GW Parkway, on the air-

plane noise issue he erred in lumping state Del. Paul Krizek with other “groundhog” elected officials.

Indeed, since his election 2015, Paul has taken a leadership role on a number of issues of concern to local residents (inter alia, actually getting Dominion Power to replace street lights that had been off for months in Hollin Hills — not an easy task).

Concerns over the FAA's arbitrary and ill-considered decision to reroute southbound flights from Reagan National airport over the highest elevations in the Mt Vernon District — purportedly to save the airlines a few pennies on fuel and a few minutes of flying time — have grown exponentially in the past year and a half, but for the most part, our concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

Paul has been a key player in efforts to energize other elected local, state, and members of Congress — as well as local residents — to persuade the FAA to rethink its ill-conceived decision. Paul's Gazette column provides regular updates, and he has spent hours volunteering at the Farmers' Market and local polling places to spread the word. Supervisor Storck has joined in, and now hosts meetings of the SouthFlow Alliance.

Sadly, the struggle for a common-sense solution has been an uphill slog, with resistance and stonewalling at all levels of government: the FAA; the MWAA (which still has no representative from the heavily impacted Mt. Vernon area); and even the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. (It took more than seven months for the Board of Supervisors to pass — and the chairman to forward to the MWAA — the resolution passed by the MVCCA last June addressing these concerns.)

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 17

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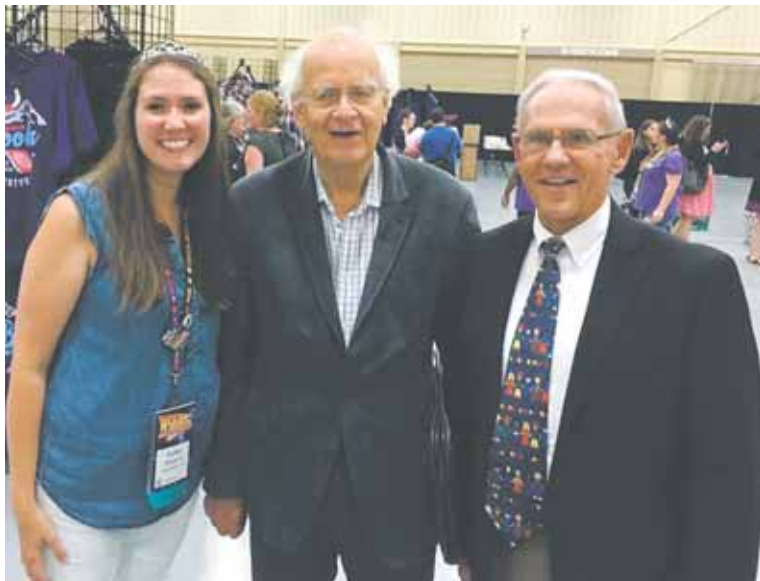
PEOPLE

Supporting American Cancer Society

At the Relay for Life on June 17 in Great Falls, cancer survivor Heidi Jenkins, age 23, rallied the 350 participants with her story of survival, leading to a successful event raising money for the American Cancer Society. Jenkins, a resident of the Mount Vernon area, was executive director for the 2015 and 2016 Relay For Life events at James Madison University, where she graduated last year with a degree in communication studies. Her father, a retired Fairfax County firefighter, and mother, a nurse in the community for over 30 years, were both at the relay cheering her on.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



At National Convention

In June, Executive Leader Katie Williams of Mount Vernon attended the National Convention of Usborne Books & More in Tulsa, Okla. With her is CEO Randall White and Usborne Books Founder and CEO Peter Usborne, where she received special recognition for sales achievement. Usborne Books & More is a leading publisher of children's books, with over 2,000 fiction and nonfiction titles of Usborne and Kane Miller products.



Visiting Arcadia

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis meets Arcadia's flock of laying hens. He visited the farm to talk with the 18 veterans training to be farmers in Arcadia's USDA-backed program. With Mattis is volunteer farm educator Lamot DuPont.

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Finding the Right Mentor

Mentor can brighten a young person's future.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tamyka Mason says that she was struggling with academics, finances and time management. She knew that she needed to make a change, but didn't have a source for guidance. Mason discovered the Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College and her life began to change.

"When I joined WISE, [I] was assigned [a] mentor and learned how to speak about the challenges I was facing and the goals I had," said Mason. "[My mentor] helped me dramatically ... plan for future events."

The upcoming summer months offer teens an opportunity to connect with adults other than parents who can offer guidance through mentorship programs. Finding the right mentoring match can be a life-altering experience, say experts.

"Through supportive relationships with adult mentors, teens can learn how to develop practical goals, identify resources to accomplish goals ... regulate emotions, communicate effectively with others and cope better with stress," said Jerome

Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

The Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) is a source for those who are looking for a mentor or those who want to mentor others. The organization's program managers train mentoring program coordinators and mentors. Their goal is to increase the number and quality of mentoring programs in Virginia. VMP maintains a database where prospective mentors or mentees can plug in a ZIP code and find the closest mentoring program.

"We provide support across the State of Virginia to help align program practices that research shows make high quality mentorship programs," said Betsy Bilharz, Virginia Mentoring Partnership. "We recruit, screen and match mentors with young people using that set of standards."

Recognizing that a mentoring relationship is not usually a relationship of equals is an important aspect of mentorships, says Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "There are really

two types of mentors: those who provide guidance and willingly share



The Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College is designed to address challenges faced by young women in higher education.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

knowledge they have accrued from their experience in the field," she said. "The second type are those who facilitate opportunity, vouching for someone or helping the person with points of contact in their area of interest. Both are important."

THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP develops best when mentors listen to a young person's concerns and expectations [and] empathize and tailor support and skill building around the teen's needs and with their input, says Short. "The relationship should benefit both the mentor and the teen through expressions of gratitude, a sense of accomplishment, and expectations for future support and success."

Tykesha R. Myrick works as a financial aid manager at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and is the founder of

the WISE program, which targets minority women, pairs students with adult professionals who offer guidance to the students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. "The relationships go beyond academic accomplishments and are life changing and life lasting," said Myrick. "The goal is to provide a holistic environment for these young women."

Mentorship programs such as WISE work best when those being mentored are receptive. "The [best] mentees [respect] the mentor's gift of time [and] recognize the importance of learning by listening and ask thoughtful questions, and they are open and responsive to guidance," said Best. "It is equally important to invest not simply in the best and brightest, but those with the smallest glimmer of promise. Good mentors move mountains."

Details

For more on Virginia Mentoring Partnership, visit vamentoring.org or connect.mentoring.org.



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Mount Vernon Gazette



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Jennifer Molden 703.727.6189
ALEXANDRIA / Woodley Hills \$ 975,500

Located in a quiet wooded area, this beautiful brick 5BR/ 4.5BA Colonial is a Must See! Large open foyer, family room, kitchen with breakfast room, office and bonus craft room on main level. A full bar, media and game area on finished walk-out LL. Screened porch and hot tub on deck off the kitchen.



Pat Wilson 703.598.7279
ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Hills \$ 972,000

Largest model in Hollin Hills (over 3,400 sq. ft. on 2 levels). Spectacular Mid-Century Goodman home - remodeled gourmet kitchen and master suite with luxury bath and walk-in closet. 5BR/3BA, family room, 2 fireplaces, 2 decks, patio and beautiful landscaping are just a few of the many features of this home.



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
ALEXANDRIA / Oakbrooke \$ 769,900

Classic Colonial on cul-de-sac boasts gracious living with great curb appeal. 3 finished levels, 4BR/2FB/2 half baths plus hardwoods, 2 fireplaces, updated kitchen and baths, deck slate patio. Located near river, bike/hike trails, parks, shops, restaurants. Waynewood School District.



Ruth Guirard 703.609.3343
ALEXANDRIA / Mt Vernon \$ 649,500

Charming split level just off Parkway and 2 blocks from trail. 4BR / 3BA, 1st floor family room, eat-in kitchen space. Granite, recessed lighting, new floor, gas oven in brick wall, gas cooktop. Hardwood. 2 fireplaces. 2 baths updated. Wonderful Wellington neighborhood. Waynewood Elementary School.



Kim Muffler 703.282.7739
ALEXANDRIA / Hollin Meadows \$ 639,000

Commanding Hollin Meadows beauty on .35 acre lot on no-through street. 4BR/2.55BA on 3 finished levels. Updated kitchen, baths, hardwoods throughout, newer HVAC and more. Fab screened porch overlooking private / wooded rear yard. 2-car garage - one owner home!



McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885
ALEXANDRIA / MT Vernon Forest \$ 625,000

PRICE ADJUSTMENT. Special home. Convenient location. Open floorplan for entertaining, gorgeous kitchen, Florida sunroom, master + 2BR on ML. LL 4th BR, family room with gas fireplace, work shop, separate laundry and storage. A screened rear porch with side deck, separate patio faces park-like green space.



Martha Deal 703.622.6797
ALEXANDRIA / Hollindale \$ 629,900

2 levels, 3 baths, 4 bedrooms with open floor plan. Sunshine streams into the updated kitchen through a wall of windows. French doors lead to private patio and deck overlooking lush gardens. Hardwoods, 2 fireplaces. Conveniently located. Waynewood School District.



Leah Chapla 703.929.4875
ALEX. / Stratford on the Potomac \$ 609,000

This lovely home backs to trees and a creek beyond has an open floorplan, updated and renovated baths, hardwoods refinished, windows replaced and more. Fabulous, all-season sunroom with lots of windows leads to deck and overlooks treed backyard. Very close to Stratford ES and MS.



Louise Devers 703.795.9944
ALEXANDRIA / Kirk \$ 587,500

This one has it all - updates, fresh paint, a scenic view, large yard and screened porch. Bright home has 5BR / 2BA, rec room with fireplace, basement storage plus laundry room with more storage, and workbench area for crafters / projects. Front / rear yards beautifully landscaped including custom shed with ramp.



Catherine Parker 703.627.5688
ALEXANDRIA / River Farms \$ 434,900

Townhouse has 4BR/4BA on 3 finished levels. Updated kitchen with granite and new appliances. Large master has en-suite bath and lots of closets. 21 x 12 family room with wet bar, fireplace, bath. Community pool, tennis + playgrounds. Easy commute to Ft Belvoir, Alexandria and DC. www.2763CarterFarm.com



Marcy Covvarubias 703.772.6569
ALEX. / Midtown Alexandria Station \$ 299,999

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McCormick & Lusk Group 202.412.8885
ALEXANDRIA / Belle View \$ 225,000

Tucked away in serene setting in amenity rich Belle View. 2BR/1BA, first floor above grade. 5 minutes South of Old Town Alexandria, bike trails, swimming pool, gas cooking, steps to shopping, grocery, and restaurants. Great starter home or investment property.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Giving Voice to the Art of Storytelling

Torpedo Factory adds second show this Friday.

BY LAURYN OVERHULTZ
THE GAZETTE

A new type of art and entertainment is coming to the Torpedo Factory Art Center on Friday, June 23. The Torpedo Factory Art Center is hosting Story District, a D.C.-based storytelling group, for the group's first Virginia event.

According to Alyssa Ross, the Office of the Arts public information specialist, this new art form is being brought to the Torpedo Factory Art Center in an effort to introduce different forms of art to the venue that are not already represented.

"It's just another form of art and if you think of storytelling, it is one of the oldest art forms there is. Every culture on Earth has a storytelling tradition or oral history tradition," said Ross. "People still appreciate a good story."

The Torpedo Factory is home to different kinds of visual art including fabric art and art made using camera technology. By bringing in the storytelling group, the Torpedo Factory Art Center hopes to engage different parts of the community that would be interested in more of an audio type of art.

"Right here in Alexandria, there are groups of artists. Letting people know this is a stage for them, a spotlight for them," said Guzman. "I asked myself: Are we providing a stage for those who didn't have that opportunity, or a voice for the voiceless?"



Vijai Nathan, a member of Story District, a D.C.-based storytelling group, will be performing June 23 at the Torpedo Factory.

Story District is a group of storytellers who tell true stories to a live audience. These stories can be happy or sad, but are mostly humorous. The goal is to get the audience to connect with the storyteller in a way that stand up comedy does not allow.

"You are getting a laugh at times, but also a human connection and that is very unique about storytelling," Vijai Nathan said.

Nathan, a storyteller with Story District, has been doing stand up comedy for about 20 years now. For Nathan, the difference between stand up comedy and storytelling is the way storytelling allows you to share a range of emotions and experiences. She said stand up comedy is more about you

and storytelling is more about connecting with the audience.

"There is that room for having kind of a revealing moment and admitting to something that is hard to potentially talk about or own up to within the context of telling a story," said Nathan. "People like storytelling because you are connecting to the audience in a way like saying 'I see you in myself'."

Story District is different from other storytelling groups, according to Amy Saidman, artistic executive director, because the storytellers spend time collaborating with one another. The storytellers are required to attend multiple rehearsals, which help the storytellers bond and create a community.

"By the time you get to the show, you have this little family and you are all rooting for each other to do well at the show. You're part of something larger than just you and your own story," Saidman said.

Joani Peacock, a co-producer for Story District and an Episcopal priest, said she got into storytelling because a parishioner encouraged her to take her storytelling talents outside of the church. For Peacock, storytelling is something she does every day.

"It's stigma busting. It's community building. It's truth telling. It's relationship building. It's cathartic. It's joyful. It's spiritual," Peacock said.

Storytelling is a different experience for everyone. The audience connects to each storyteller in a different way based

"Every culture on Earth has a storytelling tradition or oral history tradition."

— Alyssa Ross, Office of the Arts

on how the story connects with them.

"It's a mix of what you will come away with," said Peacock. "It's amazing the places people will take you in their stories."

The Torpedo Factory Art Center will present Story District Favorites June 23 at 8 p.m. The 8 p.m. show has already sold out and they have added a late show June 23 at 10 p.m.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Ceramic Show. Various times through July 1 at Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. The "Classic Wedding Whites" Ceramic Guild show at Scope Gallery. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288, visit www.scopegallery.org.

Art Exhibit: Pattern and Repetition. Various times through June 25 at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Artists Reni Gower and Stephen Boocks use repetitive shapes and patterns, combining both precision and randomness to create meditative and mesmerizing pieces. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Native Plants, Herbs, and Heirloom Tomatoes. Various times through mid June at Mount Vernon Unitarian Church Greenhouse, 1909 Windmill Lane. Visit www.mvuc.org.

Flora and Fauna Artshow. Through June 25, various times at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory

Art Center, Studio 29, 105 N. Union St. This show will highlight the work of artists Jeanne Bohlen and Floris Flam. Visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

"By the Seashore." Various times through June 30 at Arts on the Horizon, The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon is a theatre company that produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families in Northern Virginia and the D.C. metro area. "By the Seashore" takes the audience on a journey to the beach. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org, info@ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 703-967-0437.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, at 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-354-2905.

Artwork Inspired by Nature Exhibit. Various times through Aug. 31 at Huntley Meadows Park Nature Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Local artist-photographer Nina Tisara will share some of her mosaic work in an

exhibit entitled "Inspired by Nature." Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Costumes of Mercy Street. Through Sept. 1, at The Lyceum: Alexandria's History Museum, 201 S. Washington St. To learn more about The Lyceum, visit alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-746-4994.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum Relics. Various times through Labor Day at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. Learn the history of the museum, the purchase and see the original woodwork. Call 703-746-4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. 8 a.m.-12 p.m., Wednesdays, through Dec. 14. Fresh local food, artisan crafts. Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mtvernonmkt.htm.

All the President's Pups. Saturdays 10 a.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. All the President's Pups Walking Tour, along the way, learn about George Washington's love for dogs, his dogs' unusual names, and his efforts to improve the quality of his hunting dogs through breeding. \$7. Visit

www.mountvernon.org.

The Lyceum: 175 Years of Local History. Ongoing, Monday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. On view in the museum's Coldsmith Gallery, the historical objects and images featured represent The Lyceum, the community at work, and commemorations and celebrations.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors are invited to "be the curator" and think about why the various artifacts are in the museum's collection, and about how tangible representatives of the past help tell the story of Alexandria's history. Free. Visit www.alexandriahistory.org.

Medical Care for the Civil War Soldier Exhibit. Ongoing at the Fort Ward museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. ongoing exhibit which features original medical instruments and equipment from the Civil War period and information on Union Army hospital sites in Alexandria. Free. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/fortward.

Alexandria's Nurses and Hospitals During the Civil War. Ongoing at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. An exhibit on the life of Clarissa Jones, a nurse at The Lyceum

hospital during the Civil War. The true story of a nurse in Alexandria during the war, drawing parallels with characters portrayed in the PBS drama "Mercy Street," with references to the experiences of other nurses, such as Anne Reading, who worked in the Mansion House hospital, and Jane Woolsey, who served at the Fairfax Seminary hospital. Admission is \$2. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/lyceum.

Shield of Earth: Defending the Heart of the Union exhibit. Ongoing, museum hours Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. -5 p.m., Sundays, noon-5 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum, 4301 West Braddock Road. Highlights of the exhibition include military passes issued by Provost Marshal's Office, construction tools, and original photographs of some of Washington's defenders. 703-746-4848 or www.fortward.org.

Alexandria Cars and Coffee invites car enthusiasts to meet for coffee at Hollin Hall Shopping Center in front of Roseina's, 1307 Shenandoah Road. Owners of classic cars, hot rods, exotic cars, motorcycles and more meet to share car stories and drink coffee. Group meets the first Sunday of every month. 8:30-11 a.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 18

ENTERTAINMENT

Four Beers to Enjoy All Summer

By HOPE NELSON

Summertime is the perfect time to sit down, kick back, and open a beer in the back yard or at your favorite watering hole. Here are some of the season's best beverages and where you should enjoy them.

Cigar City Maduro

The Front Porch, 2006 Mount Vernon Ave.

When the weather turns hot, there's always an Adirondack chair or picnic table at The Front Porch to cool things down. Take a look at the chalkboard for the beers of the day and it's easy to get stymied. Fruity, hoppy, light, sour: What to do?

When you're in the throes of a beer dilemma, you could do worse than the Maduro brown ale from Tampa's Cigar City brewing. Roasty but not overwhelming, Maduro is a full-bodied beer that also doesn't limit itself to one tasting. Rich but easy to drink, it's a brew that you'll want to come back to time and again – sometimes in one sitting, sometimes every week.

Commonwealth Wapatoolie Rustico, 827 Slaters Lane

Let's get one thing out of the way: Regardless of the taste, it's fun to order Commonwealth Brewing's Wapatoolie. Thankfully for all, the beer is as easy to drink as it is fun to say.

The Virginia Beach-based brewery's version of an American IPA pours a little lighter in color than you might expect, but don't be fooled; the hops are readily apparent, accompanied by a fruity finish that isn't overwhelming with sweetness but ever-present. Order a tasting sample at Rustico if you wish, but know you'll be coming back for a full pint soon enough; may as well save yourself the trouble and pick it up on the first go-round.

Stone Enjoy By 07.04.17 IPA Lost Dog Café, 808 N. Henry St.

Whereas many beers taste even better when aged, Stone Brewing takes a different tack. Indeed, the expiration dates on their unfiltered IPAs aren't to be trifled with. This is a beer that wants to make hay while the sun shines, because life is short, and aged beers take too long to mature.



Look for the fifth annual release of Port City Brewing's Derecho at the end of the month.

This addition to Stone's "Enjoy By" series is intensely hoppy, which can be off-putting to those anti-hoppers around but is eminently enjoyable to those who appreciate a rich, tangy depth with their drink. Pick it up on draft at Lost Dog Café – but hurry.

Derecho Common Port City Brewing, 3950 Wheeler Ave.

The local brewery's homage to the city's 2012 intense summer storm returns at the end of June, on tap and in bottles for a fifth season. Mild and light, but definitely not simple, it became a seasonal classic soon upon its debut after the infamous derecho caused a five-day power outage at Port City Brewing, bringing to light a wonderful example of a California common.

Celebrate Derecho's launch on June 29 at El Chucho in D.C.; the Mexican restaurant, too, is celebrating a five-year anniversary this summer, and the brewery and eatery have joined forces for a dual party. After June 29, expect to see Derecho on tap around town (and at Port City), as well as bottled for your backyard enjoyment.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 16

Fifty Years of Collecting. Tuesday-Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays 12-5 p.m. Fort Ward Museum, 4301 W. Braddock Road. An anniversary exhibit of objects from the Fort Ward collection. Free. Visit www.fortward.org or call 703-746-4848.

Dinner for the Washingtons. 12 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. A walking tour that goes behind the scenes to find out how food was prepared and served before the era of microwaves and TV dinners. \$5 in addition to estate admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Second Thursday Music. Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. 7 p.m. Second Thursday of every month. Visit nvfaa.org to view concert calendar and listen to upcoming Second Thursday Music artists.

The Monday Morning Birdwalk takes place weekly, rain or shine

(except during electrical storms, strong winds, or icy trails), at 7 a.m. (8 a.m. November through March), is free, requires no reservation and is open to all. Birders meet in the parking lot at the park's entrance at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Direct questions to park staff during normal business hours at 703-768-2525.

Civil War Sundays. 1-5 p.m. at Alexandria Archaeology Museum, 105 North Union St., #327. Learn more about the Civil War as it occurred in Alexandria. Find dioramas, newspaper articles and more. Free. Visit www.alexandriarchaeology.org.

Doggy Happy Hour. Starting April 5, Tuesdays through October 5-8 p.m. at Jackson 20 and Hotel Monaco Alexandria, 480 King St. Doggy Happy Hour at Jackson 20 and the Hotel Monaco Alexandria offers specials on cocktails and beers plus treats and water for canine companions. Free, but drinks sold separately. Visit www.monaco-alexandria.com for more

SUMMER SUNSET MOVIES IN MOUNT VERNON

The Mount Vernon Rec Center at 2017 Belle View Boulevard will be the location for family-friendly movies throughout the summer. Twice a month, from 7-11 p.m., movies will start at sunset. The movie schedule is as follows:

- ❖ June 30 - "Nine Lives"
- ❖ July 14 - "The Jungle Book"
- ❖ July 28 - "Secret Life of Pets"
- ❖ Aug. 11 - "The Lego Batman Movie"
- ❖ Aug. 25 - "Beauty and the Beast"

Wake Up Wednesdays featuring The Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. on Wednesday's near the King Street Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance located near 2000 Duke Street near Motley Fool. The cafe will feature coffee, live music to help commuters start the day off right and donuts from Sugar



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a fireworks display will take place as part of a public evening event, Independence Fireworks at George Washington's Mount Vernon on the following dates:

Friday, June 30, between 9:30 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)
Saturday, July 1, between 9:30 p.m. and 9:45pm (15 minutes)

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

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ENTERTAINMENT

Shack. maurisapotts@gmail.com
Community Dance. 7:30-9:30 p.m. every third Friday at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Live music. Tickets are \$4. Call 703-765-4573.

Life Drawing. Del Ray Artisans offers a range of open life drawing sessions for anyone to develop life-drawing skills further. Drop-in for the session and bring supplies to draw or paint live models. Fee ranges from \$8-\$12. All skill levels are welcome. Del Ray Artisans is located at 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Visit www.TheDelRayArtisans.org for a schedule.

The Harmony Heritage Singers (Mount Vernon Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society), a daytime, a cappella, Chorus, rehearses on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, monthly, at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Newcomers welcome for fun or to book for a performance. Visit www.HHSingers.org, or call Bruce at 703-352-5271.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

Whole Foods Fundraiser. 7 a.m.-10 p.m. at Whole Foods Market Old Town, 1700 Duke St. Whole Foods Market Old Town will donate 5 percent of all proceeds from purchases to RunningBrooke, which inspires at-risk kids to move, sparking their learning for success in school and life. Email info@runningbrooke.org.

Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Tour the demonstration gardens with a Master Gardener docent who will narrate with stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterwards, a traditional English afternoon tea. \$32. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Business After Hours. 5:30-7 p.m. at Daniel O'Connell's Irish Restaurant, 112 King St. Irish fare while networking with other business professionals on their upstairs patio overlooking Old Town. \$10, \$25 for non-members, \$25 for members at the door. Visit www.alexchamber.com.

Meet the Filmmaker. 7 p.m. at the Nannie J Lee Center, 1108 Jefferson St. Local writer and filmmaker Jerry Casagrande, who co-created The Anthropologist film, will be on hand to supervise the kids watching The Wing, so parents can watch his film. Email JC@JerryCasagrande.com or call 703-717-3603.

The Del Ray Players. 7:30 p.m. at Logan Fringe Arts Space, 1358 Florida Ave., NE, Washington, D.C. Preview of world premiere of local

writer and musician Neal Learner's sung-through musical, "LIFE: A Comic Opera in Three Short Acts," at the Capital Fringe Festival next month in Washington, D.C. The work will be staged five times from July 9-23. Visit visitdelray.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23

Outdoor Fitness Classes. noon-1 p.m. at John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. A free outdoor fitness series called Fast Friday's and Slowdown Sunday's to encourage individuals to get their sweat on this summer and try a new workout with experts from various Alexandria fitness studios. Weekly, the class is Friday's, noon-1 p.m. and Sunday's 9:30-10:30 a.m. from June 23 through Aug. 27. Free, provide personal mat and water. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

Storytellers from the Story District. 8 p.m. at the Torpedo Factory, 105 North Union St. An open-mic storytelling experience including the NEA's Big Read, Atlas Performing Arts Center, INTERSECTIONS: A New America Arts Festival, Woolly Mammoth, Capital Fringe Festival, Dance Place, and Sixth & I Historic Synagogue. Visit torpedofactory.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Mount Vernon Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road. The flea market features: furniture, art, china, glass, porcelain, pottery, books, photographs, lighting, tools, comic books, vinyl records, novelties clothing & sewing, toys, jewelry, collectibles, homemade items, soaps & scrubs, antique & vintage items, crafts, dolls, household items, hobby items, tapestries, and clothes. Visit mountvernonfleamarket.wordpress.com for more info.

Well Ray Festival. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. along Mount Vernon Ave. between Custis and Uhler avenues. This free outdoor festival features free fitness classes; health, wellness, and nutrition demonstrations and exhibits. Visit www.visitdelray.com.

Summer Bouquet Floral Design Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Learn how to make a summer bouquet to take home with the help of floral designer Betty Ann Galway. \$38 plus \$25 supplies. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

Tea Program: The Old Farmer's Almanac. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. Celebrate a total solar eclipse this year and the 225th anniversary of the Old Farmer's Almanac. \$32 for tea, \$12 for program only. Visit



PHOTO BY LAURA MANN

Enchanted

On June 24-25, "Enchanted, the Musical" is playing 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in 4915 E. Campus Drive. Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria Va. will perform their spring production. \$20-\$23. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes or call 703-642-5173.

6th Annual Vine on the Waterfront Festival. noon-6 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Visit www.visitalexandriava.com.

8th Annual Youth Arts Festival. 1-5 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center, 2701 Commonwealth Ave. A family-oriented event showcasing art (visual and performing) by students citywide, with music, entertainment, and interactive exhibits for children and adults. Visit www.arha.us/events;703.5392742;arhacontact@gmail.com.

DelRay Poetry Slam. 8-11 p.m. at Fireflies, 1501 M. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Del Ray Players presents Great Del Ray Poetry Slam. Local poets are invited to share original poems for enjoyment and prizes. Alexandria Poet Laureate Wendi Kaplan is special guest & expert judge. Visit www.facebook.com/DelRayPlayers/.

JUNE 24-25

"Enchanted, the Musical." 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center in 4915 E. Campus Drive. Metropolitan School of the Arts (MSA) of Alexandria will perform their spring production. \$20-\$23. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 25

Junior Docents Tours. 2-5 p.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St. 4th, 5th, or 6th graders lead the tour Sunday afternoons through Labor Day weekend. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/GadsbysTavern or call 703-746-4242.

MONDAY/JUNE 26

Charity Golf Tournament. 11 a.m. at Mount Vernon Country Club, 5111 Old Mill Road. Charity event for AIA NOVA partners with United Community Ministries, a social services provider to the most vulnerable community members. Visit www.aia.nova.org or www.ucmagency.org.

JUNE 27-JULY 30

Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery. Various times at the Torpedo Factory, 105 N. Union Street, ground floor Studio 29. Show is called "Under the Big Top," highlighting the work of three featured artists: Janet Barnard, Paige Garber, and Anne-Sanderoff Walker. Call 703-548-0935, or visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 28

Wake Up Wednesdays Pop Up Cafe. 7-9:30 a.m. near the King Street Metro Tunnel - Carlyle Entrance, 2000 Duke St. near Motley Fool. Sugar Shack will be in the Carlyle District on a weekly basis for the Wake Up Wednesdays Pop Up Cafe featuring sweets and treats. Visit

www.alexandriava.gov/c/16209.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 1

Celebrate American Freedom. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. \$30-\$34 for adults and \$20-\$24 for youth. Visit www.mountvernon.org.

Saturday Cinema at Carlyle. 8:37 p.m. on John Carlyle Square, 300 John Carlyle St. Top Gun is the first of this series. Free. Visit www.AlexandriaVA.gov/CarlyleFun.

JULY 3-30

Ceramics Show. Various times at 105 N. Union St., ground floor Studio 19. The "Rough around the Edges" Kiln Club show. Call 703-548-6288 or visit scopegallery.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

Independence Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Event includes a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military reenactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all guests. \$18; children ages 6-11, \$9; and children under 5. Visit www.mountvernon.org/herbthyme.

Wayneood Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Wayneood Recreation Park, 1027 Dalebrook Drive. Plant sale is after the community parade. Call 479-221-0883.

THURSDAY/JULY 6

Great War Discussion. 7:30 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. To commemorate the 100th anniversary of America's entrance into the Great War, Historian Dr. Mitchell Yockelson will tell the story of some of the individuals who fought in the Meuse-Argonne. A book-signing will follow the lecture. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum or call 703-838-4994.

JULY 8-AUG. 5

Adult Woodworking Class. 5-8 p.m. at the Alexandria Seaport Foundation, Union St. Woodworking 101, hosted by ASF's Middle School Math Program Manager, woodworker, and furniture designer Nicole Reidinger of Habitat Woodworks. \$250. Visit www.alexandriaseaport.org or call 703-778-0977.

SUNDAY/JULY 9

Behind the Scenes Geek Tours. noon-1 p.m. at the Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St. Outside of the regular tour parameters, an expert guide leads this tour, including the rarely open basement and 3rd floor of the historic pharmacy. Tour recommended for adults only. \$15. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Apothecary or call 703-746-3852.

Opening Reception. 4-6 p.m. at The Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. "Pairs : Fiber Art from New Image Artists." Curated by Trudi Van Dyke, Pairs is an exhibition by 13 contemporary fiber artists who are members of the New Image Artists group. Exhibit runs from June 29-Aug. 6. Visit www.nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

MAY 31-AUG. 25

Summer Theatre Camps. Various times at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. Preschool-8th graders can learn acting, musical theatre, dancing, improv, Shakespeare, film making. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

JUNE 26-28

Civil War Mini-Camp. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Camp participants will explore life during the Civil War through fun and educational activities such as drilling and marching, hands-on craft lessons, 19th-century games, and learning from guest reenactors. Ages 9-12. Call 703-746-4848 or visit www.fortward.org.

JULY 17-21

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages

8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017 for more.

JULY 18-20

History Camp for Kids. 9 a.m.-noon. at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington St. Engages children in American history and life in historic Alexandria through artifacts, storytelling, singing, crafts, old-fashioned games, and visits to nearby historic places. \$105. Visit www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum, or call 703-746-4994 for more.

JULY 24-28

Del Ray Artisans 2017 Summer Art Camp. All day at Del Ray Artisans gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Ages 8-14 are invited to spend one week creating art and architecture, followed by a one-day gallery show. All art supplies and snacks are provided. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/event/Art-Camp-2017 for more.

Huntley Meadows Park's Iconic Volunteer Dies

FROM PAGE 5

person. She also demonstrated the importance of preparing thoroughly and speaking graciously. She made her message memorable with humor and heartfelt emotion. She never gave up or tired of repeating herself. She also showed her appreciation of others, including opponents. If someone got angry in response to her efforts, she never seemed to take it personally. And she was always kind.

"Her legacy is the park itself. Her story will continue to inspire current and future generations of park visitors. I suspect there are many of us eager to honor her memory by reinvigorating our efforts to protect natural and cultural resources."

Harry Glasgow, a personal friend and park volunteer, said, "Norma was a soft spoken person whose determination and hard work routinely surprised her adversaries who underestimated her capability. She had an indelible impact on her supporters but also her adversaries. For example, the County Board of Supervisors discovered too late that with Norma you can't win a debate without facts. She delivered her points of view in a soft spoken effective manner. She lives on in the hearts of her friends and supporters, future champions of the park, and the variety of birds and animals that will

continue to thrive and entertain visitors to the park."

Suzanne Lepple, a friend and ally who along with Hoffman formed the Citizens Alliance to Save Huntley Meadows (CASH), said, "Norma was my mentor and inspiration. I learned a lot from her over the decades but I am most grateful for the environmental consciousness she helped us instill in our children. Norma believed that the key to environmental preservation was engaging future generations to be good stewards of the environment."

Connie Carpenter, a former staff member and volunteer for the park and Historic Huntley, said, "Her genius was the unassuming but genuine smile that hid a steely resolve in this tiny elf-like person to keep the wetlands and its inhabitants safe. At a most critical time in the life of the park she meant everything to it."

Karen Sheffield, park manager, Huntley Meadows Park, and Historic Huntley, said, "Norma was many important things to the vitality and importance of the park. She was a unifying force that mobilized the community to stop the road from being built; she was a sweetheart and dearly loved to share the wonders of the nature world with children. She will be dearly missed but lives on in the park volunteers and many citizen supporters who care for the cultural and

natural resources; advocating, teaching, and sharing the natural wonders of the park."

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay said, "Norma Hoffman ... an environmental champion, positive spirit, lover of nature and the many young people who visited the park. She was a volunteer, advisor, and friend to us all. You did it all, Norma, and generations are grateful. You will always be the keeper of Huntley Meadows Park and the reason for its existence. Also, you will always be present in the nature we experience daily at Huntley Meadows Park."

Lisa Hoffman, Norma's daughter, said, "I really won the 'mom lottery.' I wish everyone could be blessed with a mother like mine. Her lodestar was leaving the world a better place for having lived. She had boundless appreciation for all who touched her life. Her living legacy, along with her beloved Oasis, are the folks she inspired and influenced, the children she influenced to appreciate nature, and the park's wildlife

residents who will thrive and share their existence with future generations."

Fred Hoffman, her husband of 72 years, said, "I was blessed many times over, to have spent nearly three quarters of a century with Norma. I am so fortunate to have realized what a rare gift I have been given. She was unfailingly the kindest, most gentle soul I have ever known. It is no exaggeration to say that everybody who knew her loved her. Even people who touched her in passing felt her warmth. I have seen it in their smiles, over and over again. Our love lives on, forever."

Services and inurnment for Norma Hoffman will occur in several months at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Friends of Huntley Meadows Park are planning a celebration of her life and contributions later this summer.

For details about this or other plans, see www.demaineFuneralHome.com, Haddasah.org, or www.friendsofhuntleymeadows.org.

Huntley Meadows Park includes the largest non-tidal wetland in northern Virginia. Over 200 species of birds and a wide variety of animals call the park home. The central area is visited using a unique ADA-accessible, raised boardwalk 0.6 miles in

length. Primarily due to the boardwalk experience, Huntley Meadows is the premier location for close up wildlife observation and is regionally known as a birding hot spot. Annually, 200,000 visitors come to enjoy the park.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SOBER-RIDE-FOR-INDEPENDENCE-DAY

Free Sober Rides. Tuesday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Wednesday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code SOBERJULY4 in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code. Visit www.soberride.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

The Gum Springs Senior Program is looking for a Line Dance Instructor. An Urdu-speaking Grocery Shopper is needed in Alexandria to assist an older adult male twice a month.

The Kingstowne Center for Active Adults needs Instructors for the following classes: Art, Line Dance, Hula Hoop Class and African Style Dance.

OBITUARY

K'waune Devanté Marshall, Sr.

K'waune Devanté Marshall, Sr., 25, of Alexandria, died June 9, 2017. He was born on May 4, 1992.

K'waune is survived by his wife, Tamara Lachelle Marshall of Alexandria;



Warrenton, Va., Journey Frazier of Thornburg, Va.; maternal grandmother, Rachael Marshall, paternal grandmother, Flossie Bundy of Fredericksburg; and a "special grandmother,"

Sonya Johnson of Warrenton, Va.

Funeral services were held on Monday, June 19, 2017, at Walnut Grove Baptist Church, 8909 Meetze Road, Warrenton, Va. The Rev. André Marshall, Sr., delivered the eulogy. Interment was in Baker-Marshall Family Cemetery, Warrenton, Va.

Online condolences can be given at www.joynesfuneralhome.com.

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Scholarships as Building Blocks

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

For Stephen Campbell it took an experience with his grandmother's wheelchair and the invention of the "SenSei," a computerized sensing device that made steering the wheelchair easier. For Andrew Wolverton, it was the dedication to his studies at West Potomac coupled with the swim lessons he gave at Stratford pool, and his dedication to serving others on the lifeguard stand. For Rackeb Mered, it was her business mind at Hayfield Secondary and the desire to see the letters "CEO," by her name one day. These efforts didn't go unrecognized as they gathered at a recent



Stephen Campbell, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology graduate and Mount Vernon resident heading to Southern California University

Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce to accept \$2,500 scholarships to help them be future community and business leaders



Andrew Wolverton, a West Potomac graduate, is a Stratford pool lifeguard, going to the University of Virginia.

in southern Fairfax County.

Campbell remembered the wheelchair experience from eighth grade and he didn't want his grandmother to have issues with it back then. "She had been through so much, World War II and all," he said.

"Our intent is to build our business leaders," said Holly Hicks Dougherty, the chamber's executive director. "If we have strong businesses, we have a strong community," she said.

Scott Stroh, the chamber's president, had the same feeling towards the high school

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE



Scholarship winners and Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce members

graduates that were now heading on to colleges all over the country. Campbell is off to USC in California, while Wolverton is off to the University of Virginia, and Mered to Duke. "It is a wonderful opportunity to see these young men and women who are going to further their education and preparing themselves to be future leaders in our businesses and community," said Stroh.

The chamber collected most of the money for the scholarships from a golf tournament fundraiser on May 17 with contributions

from Pen Fed Credit Union, Ourisman Automotive Group, The Cleaning Authority, Gunston Hall and ServiceMaster and others. The scholarships are there to "try to provide the best opportunities we can," said Paul Velkey from Pen Fed.

In addition, two other scholarships went to Evan Sparks from South County Secondary School, who is into filmmaking, and Mia Linh from Lee High School who is a member of the National Honor Society. They were not present at the ceremony.

SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to gazette@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

Six University of Virginia students have received grants from the University Award for Projects in the Arts program, allowing them to follow their artistic muses this summer. They include **David Joo**, of Alexandria, a third-year chemistry major focusing on materials science and music. Joo plans to create super-black handmade paper for works of origami using traditional East Asian methods, and embed colored nanoparticles into the paper to acquire a super-black appearance.

Joo, who sees his work as the intersection of science and art, said this project was inspired by Surrey NanoSystem's Vantablack, a super black coating that is considered the darkest man-made substance. But instead of coating the paper, Joo's object is to incorporate nanotechnology into the paper itself.

"The project reflects what kind of science I'm most interested in and offers questions of science's greater role within society since this is not strictly a chemistry research project or a sought-after piece of engineering," he said. "Scientific methods can be used to engineer exquisite materials for art. Both paper and the color black can be easily approached from a chemical as well as an artistic perspective."

A member of the New Music Ensemble in the McIntire Department of Music, Joo is a graduate of West Potomac High School. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in materials science and/or nanotechnology and explore further combinations of science with art.

Mary Grace Vivian Killmer, of Alexandria, received a bachelor of arts degree in accounting with a minor in mathematics, cum laude from Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.).

Kristina L. Karlsson, of Alexandria, graduated from Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine) with a major in economics and Francophone studies.

Rashida Green has accepted the position of assistant principal at Willow Springs Elementary School for the 2017-2018 school year. She gradu-

ated from Mount Vernon High School then attended the University of Virginia where she received her B.A. in English and Masters in Education. She started her teaching career as a middle school 6th grade teacher in Alexandria City Public Schools and later received her Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from George Mason University. In recent years, she has been an instructional coach in schools and central office. During the winter, she had the opportunity to serve as the Acting Assistant Principal at Willow Springs Elementary School.

Mary Michael, of Alexandria, earned a bachelor's degree in communication studies from the University of San Diego.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

New Station Captain

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck greets the new Mount Vernon District Police Station Captain Anthony "Tony" Matos who was stationed in Mount Vernon at one time, reassigned, and has now returned to replace Captain Shawn Martin who was there for the last four years.

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8

Last summer I was part of a group organized by Paul and state Sen. Adam Ebbin (who also deserves credit for his efforts) that traveled to Capitol Hill on a 100-degree day to meet with U.S. Sen. Mark Warner about the airplane noise issue. To our surprise, Warner failed to appear, and even his staff director didn't show up until the end of the meeting. The lack of apologies – and the failure to follow up in support of our concerns, were startling, and disheartening.

Senator Kaine has sent staffers to a couple of meetings, including the South Flow meeting, but thus far he has shown no interest in joining the effort to get the FAA's attention.

More troubling, state Sen. Scott Surovell, the Mt. Vernon resident leading the charge to address GW Parkway issues, has remained silent on airplane noise.

U.S. Rep. Don Beyer appears to be the only Virginia member of Congress who has shown any interest (he organized the Reagan airport meeting – and even got our parking fees waived), but his efforts have produced little. To his credit, Beyer managed to get an amendment into this year's DOD budget calling for a joint FAA/DOD study of the impact of low-flying military helicopters – another issue of concern in our area. However, three months after it was due, the study has yet to begin.

Beyer also joined the House Quiet Skies Coalition that is trying to address the issues resulting from the FAA's NextGen rules, but that group is dominated by New York and California congressmen. Beyer has also written to the head of the FAA citing lack of progress and calling for a timetable for when these

issues will be addressed, but has yet to have a response. It is not clear whether he has been urging others in the Virginia delegation to play a bigger role.

Meanwhile, the FAA continues to blow us off, refusing to meet with us again, claiming variously that there were not enough complaints, that only a few people complained, that the residents of Accokeek, Md. deserved more attention than Virginia residents living south of the airport, etc.

It is interesting that Maryland's elected officials – local and statewide, including Governor Hogan – managed to unite to pressure the FAA on noise issues in Montgomery and PG counties, and they are getting a response.

We urge Mr. Fulghum and other local residents – and the media – to join the fight. Maryland got results when its legislators joined forces; will we be as lucky?

Mary Tracy
Hollin Hills

Write

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

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1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call 703-917-6444
Email gazette@connectionnewspapers.com

Obituary



Martha Jean Mitchell born December 11, 1921 in Tipton Co., the only child of Ruth Dale Foster Patterson and Harry Patterson, peacefully passed away on Tuesday May 16, at 6AM in Alexandria Hospital in Alexandria, VA.

My Mother and Father, Richard Eugene Mitchell (passed October 1999) were married in Hopewell Church in Tipton Co., Indiana on Memorial Day 1941. I remain their only child, Ruth Elizabeth (Mitchell) Britt, born in New Orleans, LA in 1949.

Mom's early years were spent in a lovely old home/farm at US31 and Normanda Pike in Tipton Co., . Her passions growing up were music (singing and playing piano) and school government activities. Her year book shows her in costume as the lead in an operetta. Later on she sang locally on radio.

After school, Mom worked in banking while Daddy was serving in WWII. Upon his return, he joined Shell Oil and from that time forward they traveled the United States, Canada and Venezuela for work. She continued to work as Bookkeeper or Bank Teller when she was not taking care of me.

They returned to their home in Tipton Co. in 1965 to be near their parents. Mom then returned to banking with activities to include: singing in the Kemp Methodist church choir, playing bridge, cooking, creating lovely needlework items(2 of which were later honored with awards at the Woodlawn Needlework Show in Alexandria VA) and was a member of Eastern Star.

In 1996 they sold the farm and moved to Alexandria VA (Montebello Condominium), to be near me, where she lived for 21 years. Again she continued in bridge groups, the garden club, performing with the music club and sharing time with me, even ride a long with lunch to see many of my clients. The past 3 years after a difficult fall, she lived in an Assisted Living Community in Alexandria, VA.

Mom was a huge influence in my life as my cheerleader-supporter, a shining example of womanhood through her strength and love and most of all my best friend who was always there for me. I have been very lucky and truly blessed to have had so much wonderful time with her.

A Grave side service was held at Fairview Cemetery in Tipton IN, where she was joined with my Father, at 1PM on Monday May 22, 2017.

Obituary

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Relatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you live long enough, it's quite likely that many of the family members/generations born before you will have predeceased you. Moreover, the family members born before them, two generations-plus behind, are most surely to be geshtorbin (Yiddish for dead) as well. The effect: memory loss. Specifically, the memories lost of a generation of great grandparents – and beyond, you probably never knew or for whom you have extremely limited knowledge; after all, you were an infant when your maternal grandmother died. And when your widowed mother died nearly nine years ago, you lost what may very well have been that final anecdotal connection to your family's history, especially if your Jewish and your grandparents immigrated from Russia, Romania, The Baltic States, etc. before World War II where recorded history of Jews was evidence not documentation.

It just so happens that in my family, in fact, our closest surviving cousins, Ronnie and Gil, who themselves are in their 80s, are alive and extremely well and living with their daughter, Jayne, in Massachusetts. This past weekend, Ronnie and Gil drove eight hours to visit my brother Richard and me. And though we are regularly in touch over the phone, it has been years since we were all together in Washington, D.C. And being in their company, naturally we reminisced – ALL WEEKEND. What spawned this column was a comment Ronnie (a singer/pianist in Boston for 25 years) made in response to a question we asked about whether there was any other musical talent in the family. She said quite matter of factly that my maternal great-grandfather – who I had never met or even heard of before, “was a cantor in Russia – with a beautiful voice” (who never left Russia). “What! I never knew that.” I don't recall knowing anything about my great grandparents, maternal or paternal.

You see, Ronnie was there almost at the beginning. She was the first born to my mother's oldest sibling and only sister, my Auntie Lee. My mother was the baby of the family – after two brothers were born. As such, the age difference between my mother and Ronnie was about 14 years, atypical for a niece and an aunt. As a result, Ronnie was witness to lots of family history that I thought might have been lost forever when my mother died in 2008. As a few examples, Ronnie knows who was present at my mother's “Auntie's” house for Passover Cedar in the early 1960s. She knew that “Auntie” was my mother's mother's brother's widow, not my mother's mother's sister. I certainly didn't. She knew that three families/our cousins lived together in this three-story home and all worked together in the family market: Levine's. Still more that I didn't I know.

Another family connection Ronnie and Gil reminded us of was a family line we have in South America. Again, before World War II, one of my maternal grandfather's (Hyman) brother's Simon (Shimon) immigrated to Argentina where to this day exists first (Eduardo) and second cousins (names I'm afraid don't know) I've never met, though Ronnie and Gil have met numerous times in Miami and in Argentina (Ronnie and Gil used to live in South Florida). The more we talked, the more we travelled back in time. But I won't self-indulge myself and bore you any longer. I will try to wrap it up in the next paragraph.

My mother, Celia died in December 2008, my father died in December 2006. With their passing, my brother and I lost – among a million other things, their first-hand, on-site accounts of our Lourie/Blacker history dating back 150 years or so to Russia/Eastern Europe, before any of my relatives immigrated to America. Ronnie, my mother's cherished niece, knows as much about our family history as there is still to know and her husband of nearly 63 years, Gil, knows almost as much. Their visit wasn't just a weekend. It was a lifetime. A weekend of a lifetime for which Richard and I are extraordinarily grateful.

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

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NEWS



PHOTO BY BEATRIZ DA COSTA/THE GAZETTE

Carrie Van Brocklin, an English teacher at Bryant, before the graduation ceremony.

Bryant

FROM PAGE 1

year college, to Northern Virginia Community College, or go straight into the work force.

Graduation is a celebration for the next step of life or just a celebration of being done with high school, but to Bryant students and faculty it's more. Van Brocklin said, “Bryant graduation is special. It's a celebration because so many of these students have had struggles to get to this place, either academically or in their personal lives. It has changed my life teaching here. I love it.”

Ali Mirsky, an artist from Ashton, Md., was hired to help the students create the idea for the mosaic and she provided the materials. According to art teacher Rachel Krieger Albert, the meaning behind the mosaic is, “Really thinking about representing the different destination goals and the fact that we all achieve those goals and destinations by following different paths. The abstract idea really resonates with the students' love for graffiti style of art.”

The creation of the mosaic was done completely by Bryant students who donated approximately 100 service hours to the project. It took five weeks to complete and through fundraising like a Go Fund Me page, the students reached the goal of raising \$8,500.

The students began creating the mosaic after spring break on the large white retaining wall facing Popkins Lane.

“I've driven by the wall every day for 11 years and it just felt like there was a new energy this year with the school and the great group of students, so let's do something ambitious and it was just time” to do it, Albert said.

The mosaic doesn't stop here, according to Albert, the goal is to continue the mosaic around the blank wall next semester.

5

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