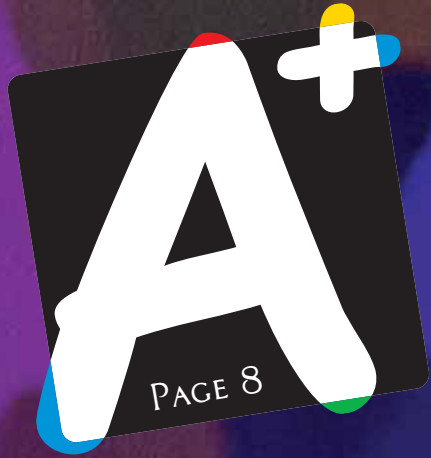




Reston CONNECTION



Robin Dodd (stage name Robin Rex) hosted and performed at Café Montmartre, Saturday, July 8, and was in charge of hiring and planning for the show.

Restonian Brings Comedy to Lake Anne

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PHOTO BY STEVE BROIDO

JULY 19-25, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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2017 All Night Grad Party gratefully thanks our generous donors:

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Safeway, Hunters Woods
Sheets Family
Target
The Counter, Reston
Vellanikaran Family
Vera Bradley
Warstler Family
Young Family

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Byrd Family
Chandrabhatla Family
Cosing Family
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Goll Family
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Konowe Family
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Lubreski Family
Malzahn Family
Masters Family
McCartney Family
Mehta Family
Miller Family
Miller Family
Morales Family
Not Your Average Joe's, Reston
Osborne Family
Paltoo Family
Parisi Family
Parisi Family
Parker Family
Paul Family
Ravulapalli Family
Reverte Family
Rose Family
Schultz Family
Siddiqui Family
Sipher Family
Slaski Family
Sprague Family
Stanisavljev Family
Starbucks
Urquhart Family
Vollmers Family
Wallace Family
Walker Family
Watkins Family
Wiese Family
Wilde-Webster Family



PHOTO BY FALLON FORBUSH/THE CONNECTION

The Reston Lions Club and Herndon Community Leo Club gather for a photo with the group's original charter, signed by its founding members in 1917.



From left: Current and former Herndon High School Leo Club members Subani Adhikari, Smriti Poudel, Aakriti Poudel and Surabhi Khanal performed traditional Nepali dances set to modern music for the gathering. Most of the members of the Herndon Community Leo Club are from families that recently immigrated to the U.S. from Nepal.

'Knights Of The Blind' Celebrate 'Crusade Against Darkness'

The Reston Lions Club celebrates its 50th anniversary.

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Reston Lions Club celebrated its 50th anniversary at the Hidden Creek Country Club in Reston on Wednesday, June 7.

"Our actual charter date is May 12 [1967], but June 7 [1917] is the actual birthday of Lions Club International," Chuck Griffith, vice president of the Reston Lions Club, said during the celebration. "It was a 100 years ago to date in a ballroom that the existing clubs approved the constitution and bylaws to join forces to create the organization we know today."

The century-old Lions Club International, with 46,000 combined clubs across the globe with more than 1.4 million members, gives the organization the position to claim that it is the world's largest service club organization.

THE 50-YEARS OLD Reston Lions Club is a group of men and women who volunteer in Reston, Herndon, Great Falls, Chantilly and Oak Hill. While the group is involved in numerous projects, initiatives and fundraisers, it is best known for its work helping the blind and visually impaired through its free sight and hearing screenings and eyeglass recycling.

Its passion for hearing and vision is no coincidence. The mission goes back to the club's roots.

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and challenged its members to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

Since then, the organization's clubs around the world have worked to aid the blind and visually impaired.

Sally Kenavan became a Lion when she

moved to Stafford in 2001. She found community in the club and became an involved and engaged participant, making her way to serve as the governor of the Lions of Virginia District 24-A region this year.

"I was the new person in town," Kenavan said. "I was invited to join some activities and from there, I just decided that I wanted to be a Lion."

Kenavan said she and everyone in the room that evening celebrating the anniversary dedicated their time to help others and were better off for it. It was through her service that she met her husband, Tom.

And it's through her service with the club that she gets to carry on meeting the challenge that was given to the organization so many years ago to help the visually impaired.

"I am delighted to be here across the border, into Reston," Town of Herndon Mayor Lisa Merkel, joked in her remarks to the crowd of Lions. "I am just delighted to be in front of so many stewards of volunteerism who make things happen in our community."

The mayor told the audience that she was delighted that the Reston Lions Club helped establish a club for students at Herndon High School. These students, known as Leos, participate in the Lions Club International's Leo Club Program.

"The young men and women in the club at Herndon High School are making such a difference in their community at such a young age," Merkel said. "I just want to tell you how impressed I am with all that you all have done."

Many of the students who are part of the Leo Club are recent immigrants, according to Anne Ryan, who is in charge of membership for the Reston Lions Club and advises the club's Leo groups.

The students often have big ideas that



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Don French of Reston completes an information form to receive his free vision and hearing screenings from the Lions Clubs at Herndon's Friday Night Live! concert series on June 9. Chuck Griffin, vice president of Reston Lions Club, helped French complete his form while Herndon Town Councilmember Bill McKenna watched, learned and waited his turn.

they bring to the big-hearted group of Leos and Lions.

Surabhi Khanal, who will be attending Emory University in Atlanta, Ga., in the fall, started her own nonprofit organization, MedLove, Inc. The organization seeks to provide survivors of human trafficking with medical help and social support, hence its name: "Med," "Love."

While she is at school, she will be serving

as her university's president of the Cyber Leo Club, which provide volunteer and leadership opportunities to Leos while they are in college.

DEL. KEN PLUM (D-36) also joined the celebration and made remarks about the club's work over the years and his experience volunteering alongside its members.

"I have been very impressed over the years, for many years, with the work of the Lions Club here in Reston and the Herndon area," Plum said during the event. "After that experience in southwest Virginia, I'm doubly impressed."

He was speaking about helping with the Remote Area Medical Volunteer Corps in Wise, Va. RAM's yearly clinic in Wise provides those in need with free health care. Members of the Reston Lions Club travel to Wise to volunteer for the three-day event each summer.

"It's a very poor region," Plum said. "When I got there on Thursday to help set up that weekend of activity, I left about 7 o'clock in the evening and the clinic wasn't open until 7 o'clock in the morning. When I drove out, there was a mile-and-a-half of cars of people in their cars waiting to get into the clinic the next morning. That's how desperate situations are."

He applauded the group for their efforts to serve each summer in Wise and for recognizing that people are in need in their own community in Fairfax County.

"Not just in Wise County, in fact in our own community, there are people who don't have the resources they need to live a quality life that they might enjoy," Plum said. "And you've made up the difference in many ways."

Members of the Reston Lions Club's Mobile Health Screening Van program will be conducting free vision and hearing screenings for both children and adults at Herndon's Friday Night Live! outdoor concert series this summer, which runs through Aug. 25.

Help Prepare Children in Need for School

Many opportunities to contribute; tax-free back-to-school shopping is Aug. 5-7 across Virginia.

We live in an area where many, if not most, families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families, families who are barely making it, families who are not able to indulge their children in a shopping spree before school begins, families who are already having trouble making up for the meals their children would be getting at school.

EDITORIAL

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. In some schools, volunteers pack snacks for the students to take home on weekends. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

The Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing (and preparedness and energy savers) is Aug. 4-6. This is a little extra savings that could be paid forward to students in need.

The three-day sales tax holiday starts the first Friday in August at 12:01 a.m. and ends the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m. During the sales tax holiday, you can buy qualifying school supplies, clothing, footwear; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; Energy Star and WaterSense products without paying sales tax.

Each eligible individual school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. For other details see www.tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday

Where To Give in Fairfax County

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided more than 100,000 supply kits and backpacks since

2010. Collect for Kids is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations (some listed here) and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. See collectforkids.org/resources.

❖ **Cornerstones** will work to provide backpacks and other necessities to 3,000 Reston and Herndon area students. You can buy backpacks and other items online and have them delivered to Cornerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office Aug. 7-11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston. In addition to backpacks, Cornerstones also requests donations of new underwear for elementary school age children, and Payless gift card donations (\$25) so young clients can get a new pair of shoes. Contact Cornerstones at 571-323-9568 or volunteer@cornerstonesva.org. Visit www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway. Donations are needed by Friday, Aug. 4. A gift of \$40 completely outfits one student. Please drop checks and backpacks off at UCM's main office (7511 Fordson Road, Alexandria, 22306) weekdays from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. For more information, contact Emily Griffin at emily.griffin@ucmagency.org or by 571-255-8973 or visit www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2017.html.

❖ **Britepaths**, participates in the Collect for Kids Back to School Program each summer and is working to help more than 2,500 students in central Fairfax have everything they need to succeed this fall. Cash donations help purchase supplies at a steep discount. Donate backpacks or calculators by Aug. 5. Larger size backpacks especially needed. Donate cash through Aug. 31. Checks are welcome. Make checks payable to "Britepaths," write BTS in the memo line of the check. Mail to: Britepaths 4080 Chain Bridge Road, 2nd Floor, Fairfax, VA 22030. If delivering in person, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., except for holidays. Call 703-273-8829. Visit www.britepaths.org.

Drop-off sites until Aug. 5:
 — Cinema Arts Theatre At Fair City Mall, 9650-14 Main St, Fairfax, VA 22031
 — Cox Farms 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville, VA 20120
 — Del. Kathleen Murphy Constituent Office, 6888 Elm St., Ste 1C, McLean, VA 22101
 — GAP Solutions, Inc. 205 Van Buren St, Herndon, VA 20170; Drop off in Suite 205
 — Gathering Grounds Cafe At University Mall, 10637 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22030
 — Dr. Gene Sweetnam, OD 5204A Rolling Road, Burke, VA 22015
 — Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

— Pure Performance 3805 Pickett Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Quest Diagnostics 14225 Newbrook Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

— Solaris Laser and Skin Care 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna, VA 22180

— Spine and Joint Institute 9990 Fairfax Blvd. #115, Fairfax, VA 22030

— STEM exCEL 4010 University Drive, #104, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Sugar Mama's Ice Cream 11208 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22030

— Union Bank Burke 6050 Burke Commons Road, Suite A, Burke, VA 22015

— University Mall Theatre At University Mall, 10659 Braddock Road, Fairfax, VA 22032

— Westminster School's Camp Griffin 3819 Gallows Road, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ **FACETS** is seeking to equip more than 300 students in need with backpacks filled with supplies. Use the checklist at the link below as a guide for purchasing backpacks and supplies. Place purchased supplies in backpacks or other bags and deliver to FACETS. Drop off supplies through Aug. 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, 10640 Page Ave., Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030. Contact FACETS at 703-272-3710 or visit facetscares.org/summerbacktoschooldrive/

❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service** is able to buy supplies at a value that beats retail price. Every \$1 donated by July 27 can purchase \$2 worth of school supplies. Mail checks (payable to NVFS, with BTS in the memo line) to: Northern Virginia Family Service, Attn: Back to School, 10455 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Donations of new backpacks and new school supplies will be accepted on Friday, July 28, and Monday, July 31, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at 13868 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151 (between Lotus Vegetarian and PetSmart – our storefront has white-washed windows). www.nvfs.org/support/back-to-school/

❖ **Foundation for Fairfax County Public Schools** www.fcpsfoundation.org/donate.html accepts online donations only – to purchase school supplies in bulk quantity

❖ **Apple Federal Credit Union** www.applefcu.org/appleweb/collectforkids accepts online donations and backpack donations at local branches.

❖ **Fairfax County Board of Supervisors** Offices will be collecting backpacks during the month of August. See website for office locations and hours of operation. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board/about-the-board-of-supervisors.htm

❖ **Fairfax County Public Schools** Backpack donations at the Gatehouse and Willow Oaks Administrative office locations. www.fcps.edu/

❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** accepts online donations and backpack donations. Check website for more details. Deliver Backpacks to WFCM (July 17-Aug. 11, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.) to WFCM's Office at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, Chantilly, VA 20151. Please bring backpacks to the back door of the Food Pantry. wfcmvva.org/how-you-can-help/annual-backpack-program/

— MARY KIMM
 MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

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COMMENTARY

Systemic Changes to Government Needed

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

While there are a myriad of issues facing government, some advocacy groups are working on changes to the basic way government works as a fundamental means to respond to a host of issues. There are many such advocacy organizations; this column describes a few.



Probably most people would agree with the contention that "there is too much money in politics!" If the influence of big money could be removed from political campaigns and from the legislative process, we would have better government and many issues would be resolved. Every Voice (EveryVoice.org) is an organization addressing this issue. In its most recent survey of candidates running in Virginia elections the group introduced its survey by stating that "People of all political stripes believe politicians are influenced by their dependency on wealthy donors and therefore don't always act in the public interest. This perception fuels cynicism and drives distrust of politicians and our government." Every Voice goes on to point out that "Virginia is one of just a handful of states with absolutely no contribution limits on what wealthy and corporate donors can give to candidates running for office."

At the same time, there are states and cities like Maine, Arizona, and Connecticut that have made reforms in campaign financing providing candidates the opportunity to raise money for their campaigns through small donations and limited public funds if they agree not to accept big donations. I support such a movement in Virginia. While my political stance on issues has never attracted big donors, I would

support a statutory limit on the size of donations, especially those from corporations. While this action is important for Virginia, it is even more critical at the federal level to limit corporate contributions in elections.

Another group working in Virginia to bring about systemic change to the way the government operates is OneVirginia2021 (OneVirginia2021.org) that focuses on legislative redistricting. Under the present system of drawing legislative district boundaries in Virginia and in most states, the organization contends legislators pick their voters rather than the voters picking their legislators. Known for years as "gerrymandering" as boundary lines are drawn around friendly voters to ensure the outcome of elections, OneVirginia2021 has adopted the term "gerryrigged" to describe the same activity. Their documentary by the same name explains the process and its impact on election outcomes and legislative activity (www.youtube.com/watch?v=vD3ZZ-wzrHQ).

In the early 1980s I worked with Common Cause, another organization that proposes basic changes to improve governance, on this issue and introduced the first bill in Virginia and one of the first in the nation to propose that an independent, non-partisan commission be given the responsibility of drawing legislative district lines after each federal census. OneVirginia2021 has done a remarkable job of informing citizens and of enlisting voter support for candidates who support independent and non-partisan redistricting.

Working on individual issues facing the government and society is very important. Equally as important is working on reforms that would make our government work better.

Decline of Community Newspapers

BY JOHN LOVAAS
RESTON IMPACT PRODUCER/HOST

After retirement from my Foreign Service career with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), I worked for 10 years, until 2008, with the Connection Newspapers, a chain of 16 weekly community newspapers in the Metro area. I did a little bit of everything for the business and learned a lot from the owner and from the publisher, a talented journalist and an unabashed liberal.

When I started with the Connection in 1998 major U.S. metropolitan newspapers were already in decline as advertising dollars got gobbled up by other media and the internet. The community newspaper niche in the industry was starting to feel it, too. Still, there were several weeklies in Northern Virginia, including three serving Reston — the Reston Connection, the Herndon-Reston Observer, and the Reston Times. The Reston Connection circulation peaked around 12,000 per week, with a full-time reporter and often an intern on the Reston beat. The paper would average 36 or 40 pages each week. Among the three papers, there might be 20 stories a week about Reston issues and events.



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE

Fast forward to 2017. The Observer is long gone. The Reston Times no longer exists by itself, but as part of the Fairfax (County) Times, with an occasional Reston story. The Reston Connection survives, but with one reporter covering four or five communities. Circulation is sharply lower and the paper offers 16 or so pages

each week.

So what? This decline in local newspapers, I believe, diminishes our community — reducing our knowledge of events and understanding of trends, even weakening bonds that hold us together. Instead of having access to 20 stories each week with different perspectives, we now see maybe five or less. Many stories and subjects are lost to Restonians altogether, beyond what they get by word of mouth. Other big and important ongoing stories and issues get brief items, with few follow-up accounts. We lose the in-depth coverage and any real analysis of events that will affect the future — except for the odd editorial piece and material produced by Reston 2020 which digs in and analyzes government actions in particular.

SEE LOVAAS, PAGE 11

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Diana Smith is ready to rally and to march. The Restonian, a member of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible group, is ready for action. "It's great to see so many people out here. Together is how to make a difference."



Erica Brouillette from Fairfax believes in her sign, "We can End Gun Violence."



From left: Karen Randall, Chris McGlone and Ellen McGlone from Springfield join the rally at the NRA. "I just can't see a reason for someone to need an assault weapon," said Chris McGlone.



Tamika Mallory, co-founder of the Women's March, talks to the press before getting the event underway.

Marching for 'Sensible Gun Laws'

Hundreds rally outside NRA Headquarters for march to Department of Justice.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The organizers were out-of-towners and many of those in attendance came from miles away. Boston. Miami. New York City. Richmond. Newtown, Conn. But in the mix at the "NRA2DOJ" rally and march were dozens of people from the greater Washington region, and from Fairfax County.

Cecile Heatley of Falls Church has been joining a faithful group of gun regulation reform advocates standing vigil outside of the National Rifle Association's (NRA) Fairfax headquarters one day every month since the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December of 2012. "I always knew gun laws were a problem, but until Newtown, I just didn't see them as my problem." This morning Heatley said she had never seen a crowd like the one that was gathered all around her. "Maybe some will come back and join us next month."

Instead of the usual handful of protesters who quietly congregate outside their offices each month, on Friday, July 14, the NRA was the target of hundreds of protesters as they gathered to first rally at the organization's homebase on Waples Mill Road and then proceed to march some 18 miles to the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C. where another rally was scheduled



Marchers on the move.

to take place on Saturday. Erica Brouillette of Fairfax was also inspired to participate in the protest efforts by the deaths of the Sandy Hook children and their teachers, as well as the many gun-related deaths that have taken place since then. "I guess we just have to do something to make people more aware." Brouillette seemed a bit daunted

by the prospect of a march in the sweltering humid weather and the threat of afternoon thunderstorms, but she said she was going to "give it a try." She looked hopeful holding her "We Can End Gun Violence" sign.

The Sandy Hook victims were much remembered during the day, with a sobering banner, featuring the life-sized silhouettes of all 26 lives lost at the school, with brief



Marchers on the move.

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER/
THE CONNECTION

epitaphs of each, stretched across a stone wall opposite the NRA building, but there were signs and photographs memorializing numerous victims of gun violence, including the high-profile cases of Trayvon Martin and Philando Castile and the victims of the Pulse nightclub shootings along with photos and memories of loved ones lost that perhaps no one in the crowd had heard of before.

THE NRA is not the cause of these tragedies, acknowledged attendees



Not everyone was there to demonstrate against gun violence and demand gun law reform. A small group of counter-protesters also attended, walking among the crowds and holding signs with their viewpoints. A few less-than-friendly words were exchanged here and there, but the event remained civil, and peaceful.

like Karen Randall, and Chris and Ellen McGlone of Centerville, but "they seem to work to instill fear and pursue their own agenda," said Chris McGlone, "instead of using reason and common sense. And I'm sorry, but I see no reason for people to need assault weapons." That was a sentiment that Diana Smith of Reston, a member of the Herndon-Reston Indivisible group, including the high-profile cases of Trayvon Martin and Philando Castile and the victims of the Pulse nightclub shootings along with photos and memories of loved ones lost that perhaps no one in the crowd had heard of before.

A small group of counter-protesters from Annapolis, Md., were there, as well, continuously wandering among the crowd wearing prominently displayed firearms and carrying their own signs, like the one which read "Free Speech by Any Means Necessary."

The organizers of the Women's March on Washington, which saw an estimated one million people swarm the streets of the nation's

capital on the day after the inauguration of Donald Trump, were behind this action, as well.

The larger issues driving today's protest are calls for more gun legislation, a ban on assault-type weapons, an end to gun violence, and what some protesters called systemic racism as the reason behind several deaths, particularly of minority males, at the hands of law enforcement personnel. "No one is safe unless everyone is safe" T-shirts, banners, and buttons were everywhere.

The catalyst for this two-day rally, march, and vigil stems from two recent events, the first being the acquittal of Minneapolis police officer Jeronimo Yanez in the shooting death of Philando Castile as the African-American man sat in his car with his fiancé and 4-year-old daughter. Pulled over by Yanez, Castile told the officers that he was legally carrying a firearm. Castile was shot several times when he reached to get his driver's license as requested.

"Where was the support from the NRA for Philando as a legally armed citizen?" Tamika Mallory, a founder of the Women's March, asked as she addressed the crowd outside the NRA building.

THE SECOND MOTIVATING FACTOR that led to the civil action was the release of an NRA video on Facebook that portrayed protesters as people who "smash windows, bully and terrorize law-abiding citizens." Radio host Dana Loesch, who narrates the video, goes on to say that the only answer is for the police to then "do their

jobs" and for those "law-abiders" to "fight back with the clenched fist of truth."

Mallory and many others viewed the ad as inflammatory, saying not only was it completely incorrect in its portrayal of the many Americans who openly oppose the President and the Republican agenda, but that it endorses the use of violence by NRA members and Trump supporters against those with whom they disagree.

Mallory wrote an open letter to the NRA asking that the video be removed and that an apology be issued. The NRA declined, and instead produced another video, this time using NRATV host Grant Stinchfield as spokesperson, who called out Mallory personally among others, and said "no way will we ever apologize for telling the truth," and again categorized the protesters as lawless looters and paid instigators.

Mallory and company prepared their own response to the new video — the "Women's March from the NRA to the DOJ," and brought along a few hundred friends to be sure their response was heard. "We know that we are not safe," she wrote in her letter and she called out to the rallying crowd. "But we will not be intimidated into silence."

Organizers and attendees asked that a special "thank you" be sent out to the Fairfax County Police Department for their professional and friendly assistance and escort, and to the Fairfax County EMS staff who came to the aide of several demonstrators who were overcome by heat.



Saturday's FunnyFriend Productions comedy show brought 75 paid guests to the Café Montmartre in Reston.

PHOTO BY STEVE BRODIO

Restonian Brings Comedy to Lake Anne

Robin Dodd performs before full house at Café Montmartre, returns on Sept. 23.

BY THOMAS KENDZIORA
THE CONNECTION

Raunchy, crude and explicit jokes flew from the stage across the packed Café Montmartre for nearly two hours on Saturday night, July 8.

It was exactly what Robin Dodd wanted.

The high school teacher and Reston native, who performs stand-up comedy in Washington, D.C., with stage name Robin Rex, founded FunnyFriend Productions and spent months hiring and planning for the event. It was her first time booking and promoting a show, so she was nervous about it for the three months it was being planned, but everything ultimately came together.

"It is kind of like a marathon," Dodd said after the show. "You build up, you build up and then you're just spent and then you think, 'I'm never doing that again.' ... But it was so nice to see all my friends, and the show went so well we agreed to do another one."

Most shows like this are in the District, and the ones that branch out don't usually venture farther than Arlington. Dodd wanted to give the Reston community a chance to see comedy at home rather than drive several towns over.

Bringing in an audience was no problem, as the café filled up and some guests had to stand in the back; there were 75 paid guests. The Lake Anne plaza restaurant isn't usually packed, so the night was successful on both ends, and Dodd can use this as

a selling point going forward. "To fill a place to capacity, I had someone taking pictures so that now, if I want to go to another venue, like in Herndon or Arlington or something, I can say this is what I did, and this is how much business I brought to this restaurant," Dodd said.

The Café Montmartre had never held a comedy show — although several bands and musical guests had performed there — so it was a new experience for management. Since the event brought several new faces to the café, its staff was excited to make plans for another one. "This turned out great. I love it," said Ahn Le, the café's general manager. "This is a first try for the long run."

The comedy lineup was headlined by Rob Maher, who has appeared on Comedy Central's "Hart in the City," among other places. He followed Gil Segev, Dominic Rivera and Chelsea Shorte, who filled in for Franzi French, another Reston native, after French had to bow out because of a dental emergency. Dodd said she was looking for a variety of comedic styles, which was on display Saturday.

During the show, Dodd and Le agreed to hold another event in the café on Saturday, Sept. 23. Dodd hasn't been in comedy long, so to put a successful show together and have plans for another is an impressive start.

"I think this was an absolute success, and I feel really good about my production company now, and so I can go forward and do other things," Dodd said. "But I love Reston, and I definitely wanted to get a show back here."

Summer Book Clubs for Children

Ideal time to instill a love of reading, say experts.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Encouraging children to read during summer months can be challenging for some parents, but worth the effort, say local educators, because diving into books offers students an opportunity to boost their reading skills before the start of the next school year. Book clubs with their peers allows children to read in a relaxed, informal setting.

“Book groups during summer vacation are the perfect time for friends to gather and share the love of reading,” said Julie M. Esanu, lower school librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. “The summer is a perfect time for readers to explore and enjoy a variety of books across different genres and formats, including ebooks, audiobooks, and graphic novels.”

While parents must provide a basic structure for the book club, Esanu says that allowing children to be involved in the planning and book selection, will cultivate a positive attitude toward books and reading.

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge,” said Esanu. “Consider the members of the book group and their various interests when selecting titles and let the members have a say in what they’re reading.”

Allow for organic discussions inspired by the readers rather than formal discussions that require too much preparation, advises Esanu. “[Formality] feels too much like homework for students and we want them to dive into books during summer,” she said. “Kids have a lot to say about the books that they read and that can lead to fabulous conversations. It is important for children to select the books that they read, especially over the summer.”

In her role as the lower and middle school librarian at Bullis School in Potomac, Katherine Brewer helps students make book selections by asking them about the last book they read and enjoyed. “This helps me find out what types of books they are into and suggest other titles they might like,” she said. “I might ask what about the book they liked. Then I will give several suggestions.”

Preparing and organizing the book club session without over planning, avoids chaos and leads to success, advises Laura Maffei,



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Studies show that reading self-selected books cultivates positive attitudes towards books and reading, says librarian Julie M. Esanu.

humanities teacher at BASIS Independent School McLean. “Set the stage by helping the children to understand the setting and any unfamiliar events or vocabulary they might encounter,” she said. “For example, before reading ‘Misty of Chincoteague’ learn about Virginia, specifically Assateague and Chincoteague Islands, watch a documentary on the round up, make a craft that teaches the parts of a horse and its riding equipment, look at examples of life in the 1950s to see how it differs from today.”

WHEN THE MEMBERS of the book group are not all at the same reading level, as can be the case with children, reading the same book can be pose a challenge, says Maffei. “... An option would be to read the same content, but each reader gets a book at their reading level,” she said. “I’ve done this with Shakespeare, Greek Mythology, and classics like ‘Peter Pan’ that come in a variety of book types from picture to early reader to original text.”

“If the children aren’t around the same age [and] reading level or have varying interests, I would select a topic and suggest books that they could read and share,” added Brewer. “Students can have the book read to them or listen to an audio version if they prefer.”

Brewer, who runs book clubs for students at Bullis, says that during her meetings, children share the book they read and encourage others to read it. She also discourages

penalizing children who haven’t finished the book. “We use the book talk format popularized by [the television series] ‘Reading Rainbow,’ share a bit about the book and why others would want to read it, but no spoilers,” she said. “They will be more interested if they have choice and input in the club’s topic, books and activities.”

Book club activities are an important tool in helping children develop a love of reading, says Tom Longano a third grade teacher at the Heights School, an all boys school in Potomac. “With most of our books I will invent a quick game that includes acting out the characters or key events from the story,” he said. “I have found this to be an excellent way for the boys, who often have a very concrete approach to the world yet boundless imaginations ... to enter into the stories and feel them as actually real. This generates a love for the books that goes beyond just reading them, because they have in a sense lived them as well, acted them out.” Longano says that this excitement about books can also be achieved with dramatic readings and assigning children characters from the book and having them act them out. “Anything to bring the text

off the page and into their direct environment,” he said.

“The activity should be fun and hands on, with the children taking the lead on the project,” said Brewer.

Summer book club activity ideas include visiting local public libraries or bookstores and browsing the shelves for ideas, says Esanu. “Visit the Alexandria or Arlington Public Library or an independent bookstore, such as Hooray for Books! in Alexandria or One More Page Books in Arlington, and browse the shelves for ideas,” she said. “Each book club member could choose a book that catches their eye and then the group could vote on which book they want to read.”

Reading a book and taking a field trip that is related to the book is another activity that Esanu recommends. “For example, Tonya Bolden’s award-winning book, ‘How to Build a Museum’ shares a behind-the-scenes look into Smithsonian’s National Museum for American History and Culture,” she said. “This is a great way to explore the museum before a visit.” “Jack and the Geniuses: At the Bottom of the World” offers inspiration for another journey, says Esanu. “It’s the first book in a series packed with adventure, science and engineering and is written by Bill Nye [from the children’s television series, ‘Bill Nye, the Science Guy’] and Gregory Malone,” she said. “This would be the perfect book to read before heading the National Building Museum to explore the Hive Interactive Exhibit [which runs through Sept. 4].” Guiding a discussion by asking questions that connect the book to current or personal events, playing games such as Charades, 20 Questions or Pictionary can help spark a lively discussion of the book,

says Maffei. “If the book has a movie version, watch the movie after reading the book,” she said. “Look for differences in plot, how the characters and setting look compared to how you thought they’d look.” Offer an opportunity for children have a snack to talk informally, advises Esanu. “Make sure that there’s food involved and find new places for the group to meet, maybe in a park or by the pool,” said Esanu. “Mix it up.”

“Themed snacks are fun,” added Maffei. “Maybe something that gets eaten or drank in the book or something from the same time period or place.”

“Summer reading is all about exploration and inspiration, so let the readers take charge.”

— Julie M. Esanu, Lower School Librarian, St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Melissa Parks, of McLean, was named to the dean’s list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.).

Russell Goldman, of McLean,

graduated from Wesleyan University (Middletown, Conn.) with a B.A. in film and theater.

Yongsun Lee, of Falls Church, graduated from Wesleyan University (Middletown, Conn.) with a B.A. in sociology.

Kritika Singh, majoring in bioengineering, was named to the dean’s list for the spring 2017 at Northeastern University (Boston, Mass.). Singh is a member of the University Honors Program.

Rebecca Weil, of McLean, was named to the dean’s list for spring 2017

at Georgia State University.

Camille Ruley, of McLean, graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in animation and motion media from Emerson College (Boston, Mass.).

Rachael Moxley, of Falls Church,

was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. Moxley was initiated at Virginia Tech.

Trevor Rocks, of McLean, was awarded a B.S. in robotics engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.).

ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

THURSDAY/JULY 20

ZoosDay. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Child-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. restontowncenter.com.

JULY 20-AUG. 20

NextStop Theatre. Various times at 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. "Rodgers & Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" \$17.50-\$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 21

Live Music at Tavern64. 6-10 p.m. at Tavern64, 1800 Presidents St., Reston Town Center. Live music every Friday night. Call 703-925-8250 or visit tavern64.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 22

Guava Jelly Concert. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Children and adults will be dancing and singing along with music infused with a lively island feel. Free. Call 703-476-4500, or visit restoncommunitycenter.com/ffe.
Family Game Days. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St., Herndon. Different games each Saturday from corn hole to sack

races. Free. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

African American History Lecture. 5:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road. Radcliffe Bailey and Dr. Tuliza Fleming. Q&A with the audience to follow the formal discussion. Free. To RSVP, email William.Parker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Seythian Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Play a blend of Celtic and klezmer music. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com/concerts for more.

Eddie from Ohio Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Arrowbrook Centre Park, Field Point Road, Herndon. Cross between folk and alternative music. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

SUNDAY/JULY 23

Exercise with Athleta. 11 a.m.-noon at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Barre with Brooke from Pure Barre of Reston; part of Athleta's free fitness sessions with a variety of fitness instructors every Sunday morning. Call 703-668-0256 or visit stores.athleta.net/store-4866/.

Sunday Art in the Park. 3-5 p.m. in the Park Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St. See local art and talk to artists. Visit <http://restonarts.org> or call 703-471-9242.

TUESDAY/JULY 25

Design and Wine with the Artist. 7-9 p.m. at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St. Mary Sears, local Herndon artist and art educator, presents "Painting by the Seashore." \$35 per person which covers wine, light

snacks and supplies. Call 703-956-9560 or visit www.artspaceherndon.com/ev/design-wine-painting-seashore/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 26

The Grandsons Jr. (Children Songs). 10-11 a.m. at the Visitor Center Pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Wednesday Morning Children's Series. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov

Meet Me at the Movies. 10 a.m. at Bow Tie Cinemas, 11940 Market St., Reston Town Center. Reston Association presents "Gifted." Refreshments and door prizes provided prior to movie. Free to 55+. Information at Ashleigh@reston.org, 703-435-6530, or reston.org.

Dog Days of Summer. 4-7 p.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. Dogs and owners can frolic in the Pavilion as it is transformed weekly into an off-leash play area. Treats, toys, areas to cool off, pet friendly giveaways, and more. Every Wednesday through Sept. 27. Free. Visit restontowncenter.com for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 27

ZoosDay. 10-10:45 a.m. at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston Town Center. Animal and miniature animal petting zoo with hands-on, educational experiences. Kid-friendly giveaways plus activities like Legos and Play-Doh. Free. Rain or shine. Visit restontowncenter.com.

Summer Movie Series. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Hindi musical about a musician who falls for an unhappy woman who is waiting for her absent love to return. In Hindi, with English subtitles. Free. Call 703-689-2700 for more.



Karen Vincent and Matthew Hirsh in "Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing" at NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive (Inside the Sunset Business Park on Spring Street), Herndon. Performances: July 20 to Aug. 20. Tickets \$17.50 to \$55. Call 866-811-4111 or visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

PHOTO BY S. METCALF
COURTESY OF NEXTSTOP THEATRE

Jazz History Lecture. 6-7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103. Michael J. West is a jazz journalist that delivers a lecture followed by open conversation. Free. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242.

FRIDAY/JULY 28

Live Music at Tavern64. 6-10 p.m. at Tavern64, 1800 Presidents St., Reston Town Center. Live music every Friday night. Call 703-925-8250 or visit tavern64.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 29

Family Game Days. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Town Hall Square, 730 Elden St. Different games each Saturday from corn hole to sack races. Free. Email parksandrec@herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300 for more.

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10-10:45

a.m. at Reston Town Center Pavilion, 11900 Market St., Reston Town Center. A show filled with audience participation and humor. Visit restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-476-4500 for more.

Dollars and Sense Book Club. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Topic will be "Things a Little Bird Told Me" by Biz Stone. Free. Call 703-689-2700 for more.

Love Canon Concert. 7:30-10 p.m. at Reston Town Center, 11900 Market St. Bluegrass version of hits from the '80s. Call 703-912-4062 or visit www.restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 30

Sunday Art in the Park. 3-5 p.m. in the Park Reston Town Square Park, 11900 Market St. See local art and talk to artists. Visit restonarts.org or call 703-471-9242 for more.

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Employment

Job opportunity available for a Teacher's Assistant in a Montessori school in McLean. The classroom age range is 3-6 year olds. Hours are generally 8:15-1:30, M-F, and will begin the last week in August. Experience with children preferred. Interested applicants should send their resume to info@ridgemontmontessori.com

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NEWS

The Arts Council of Fairfax County works with area companies and artists to improve pocket places which generates economic activity on a countywide scale. Pictured here, Tysons Tiles, worked with the Arts Council on their "Imagine Art Here" public art project aesthetically enhancing a park in a Tysons Corner office area.



VITA IMAGES

Nonprofit Arts Boosts Economic Picture

The Arts Council of Fairfax County recently released information from a 2015 study by the Americans For The Arts that stated "the nonprofit arts and culture industry generates over \$271 million in annual economic activity in Fairfax County, supporting 6,220 full-time equivalent jobs."

In Tysons Corner, the Capital One project in a space just north of the McLean Metro station on the Silver Line, is putting in a 1,500 seat performing arts audi-

torium, a black box theater and two classrooms that will be available for public use. The Arts Council of Fairfax County is supporting this effort as part of the bigger picture to generate economic activity. "This highly-anticipated facility will create more jobs in the County, encourage more visitors and accelerate the prosperity of Fairfax County," said Laura Dailey of the Arts Council of Fairfax.

FCPS Students Win National Merit College-Sponsored Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2017 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Kanishk Singh of Langley High School (diplomatic service), National Merit Carleton College Scholarship.
- ❖ Carlyn Kranking of McLean High School (journalism), National Merit Northwestern University Scholarship.
- ❖ Abhishek Mishra of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (computer science), National Merit University of Maryland Scholarship.
- ❖ Aditi Sundararaman of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit University of

Maryland Scholarship.

- ❖ Christine Wang of TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

- ❖ Diana Zavela of TJHSST (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.

- ❖ Andrew Elaryan of Woodson High School (mechanical engineering), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

- ❖ Brian Ward of Woodson High School (political science), National Merit Boston College Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,500 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2017. This is the final group of scholarship recipients for the class of 2017.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Dulles Toll Road Nighttime Lane Closures

Starting Monday night, July 17, nighttime lane closures, including intermittent full closures, on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road at Route 7 will occur over the next several weeks in order to remove beams from the old Route 7 overpass, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation.

Single-lane and multi-lane closures on the Dulles Toll Road and Dulles Airport Access Road will take place each night between 7 p.m. and 5 a.m. There will also be total stoppages lasting up to 20 minutes at a time each night between midnight and 5 a.m.

The schedule is as follows, weather permitting:

- ❖ Monday night, July 17 – Thursday night, July 20: Eastbound Dulles Toll Road

- ❖ Wednesday night, July 26 – Friday night, July 28: Eastbound Dulles Airport Access Road

- ❖ Tuesday night, Aug. 1 – Thursday night, Aug. 3: Westbound Dulles Airport Access Road

- ❖ Monday night, Aug. 14 – Friday night, Aug. 18: Westbound Dulles Toll Road

Drivers should expect delays and are advised to use alternate routes.

The work is part of the Route 7 over Dulles Toll Road project, which is scheduled for completion in spring 2018.

WEEK IN RESTON

CenterStage to Host Radcliffe Bailey In Conversation with Dr. Tuliza Fleming

Greater Reston Arts Center in association with the National Museum of African American History and Culture and in partnership with Reston Community Center will present a conversation with Radcliffe Bailey and Dr. Tuliza Fleming, curator at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, on Saturday, July 22, 5:30 p.m. at the CenterStage at Reston Community Center. Q&A with the audience to follow the formal discussion.

Radcliffe Bailey is an Atlanta-based mixed media artist whose work is currently on view at the Greater Reston Arts Center and at the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

This event is free. RSVP required. To RSVP, email William Parker at William.Parker@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Lovaas

FROM PAGE 5

Let me give a couple examples of what we are likely missing. Hundreds of people in the Reston area are actively involved in a group calling themselves Herndon-Reston Indivisible (HRI, which obviously should be RHI!). HRI first took shape shortly after the inauguration of him whose name we dare not speak. The Indivisible movement is mass political action sweeping the country, working to resist the policies and actions of the administration including: treatment of immigrants, Russian influence, environmental protection, elections, women's rights, health care, and more. Our own HR Indivisible is one of the biggest and most active — lobbying politicians, encouraging new, progressive candidates to run for office, marching and protesting. There are several meetings each week and many of your neighbors are engaged. It's been in high gear for six months, yet it is largely invisible in the community. Three newspapers would have been all over it 15 years ago, following people involved and impacts on Washington and Virginia pols.

More intensely local actions get little ink. A current example is District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins rush to rezone Reston to increase our population density from 13 to 16 persons per acre. Doesn't sound like much, but could mean 20,000 or more additional people, taking us to around 100,000. We've had three acrimonious public meetings to date and a final one coming before the Board of Supervisors brings down the hammer on our fate. Yet, how much do you and your neighbors know about it, and are you ready to fight? Of course, most of you aren't because you've seen so little news of these events. I could count the stories on one hand.

Already, we've lost some sense of community and our democracy, I fear.

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For the first time in almost exactly 25 years: bathroom demolition, times two. With financial assistance from my father-in-law, along with use of our home equity line, we have committed to and contracted for, a complete renovation of our two full bathrooms ('full' meaning: tub/shower, commode, sink, vanity, mirror, shelves, lights/fixtures, counter top, floor and shower tile, and paint). Ergo, over the next eight to 12 weeks, our house will officially become a construction site.

Never having experienced this level of upheaval and chaos in any of our previous homes before, we are looking forward since we have no reference looking backward.

We know one thing for sure: our five indoor cats will be miserable and scared and likely hiding for days on end. Considering that the workers will be in our home from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., I don't know when the cats are going to feel like eating since their routine will have been completely thrown off having so many new people in the house for so many hours per day. (I don't even want to think about the litter box implications.)

Nevertheless, time marches forward, and given that our home is historic/over 250 years old, its bathrooms, though not exactly pre-Colonial, definitely are showing their age. Their design, form, function, efficiency and attractiveness barely blip the radar. Both bathrooms are old, and that's the only compliment I can give them.

I imagine the next two to three months will likely be a journey of discovery; Columbus-like in that we will be discovering a new world with modern bathroom amenities and conveniences, color coordination and functionality, many of which we've not been the beneficiaries of in over 25 years.

Our kitchen remains as it has been all those years ago: large but clearly deficient in many ways compared to modern kitchens. As a matter of fact, as the designer, project manager and I walked into the kitchen looking for the access panel to the adjacent bathroom, I said, "As you can see, our kitchen needs work, too. Any chance you all offer a 'BOGO? Buy one, get one free?" Of course, they both laughed and shook their head. They didn't have to say "No." It was more a rhetorical question anyway.

Considering the time we've all had together, we have no doubt the contractor and his workers know what they're doing. We're not sure however, as homeowners that we know what we're doing. From our first meeting, a few months back, the process has seemed clear enough as do the drawings/design ideas we've now seen/decided upon do. Still, when it goes from their paper to our property, how will it all transfer? They seem confident and complimentary which certainly has been reassuring but we're novices in this transformation.

For us each step forward is yet another step into the great unknown. And since we can only take it one step at a time, we have no choice but to live and learn and hopefully not regret and decisions we've already made (although changes can still be made).

So far — and it's not very far — so good. However, it's the process of starting and ultimately finishing that worries me. Not that I run on a schedule (heck, I can barely walk), but my wife, Dina, sort of does; and it seems as if she and the workers might be occupying the same space at the same time.

I suppose the timing and all eventually works itself out but it's the interim with which I'm concerned. I realize there are no guarantees in any of this.

I guess I just have to deal with it as I do with my having cancer: take the bad with the good, keep a sense of humor and try to remain positive. Doing so has kept me alive for eight years and four months. I'd like to think I can manage for another eight to 12 weeks.

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

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KITCHEN REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Finding Focal Points

.....
Avoid confusing and visually busy patterns in your kitchen space by selecting one or two focal points. Invest in items that will make the strongest impact. A backsplash, accent countertops, furniture, textured walls, and fixtures can all act as the foundation of your focal point.



BATHROOM REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Capturing the Resort Feel

.....
Plan on a variety of shower heads like a ceiling mounted rain shower and a body sprayer for a spa-resort like feel. Free standing or pedestal bathtubs make a nice focal point in a bathroom. Ceiling-mounted light fixtures add style and sparkle, while additional wall-mounted lights positioned at eye level illuminate your face from both sides.



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BASEMENT REMODELING DESIGN TIP:

Endless Possibilities

.....
Basements are ideal for entertaining adults and children. Incorporating good lighting and maximizing space along with adding built-in shelving and storage areas are few things to consider when you're planning the layout and design.



CHOOSING THE RIGHT FLOORING TIP

.....
When choosing a new floor for your home, asking yourself a few key questions at the beginning can dramatically increase your satisfaction in the end. Is it a high moisture area? Are pets or kids walking on this floor? What is your square foot budget? Do you want flooring that requires very little maintenance?



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