

Fairfax CONNECTION

By Shadi Najm, Grade 1,
Eagle View Elementary,
Instructor Jessica Chinn

**Children's & Teens'
Connection 2017**



DECEMBER 28, 2017-JANUARY 3, 2018

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CHILDREN'S CONNECTION



By Huda Lahrichi, Grade 5, Mantua Elementary School



Self-portrait,
by Josette Satterfield, 12,
of Fairfax, Grade 7,
Rocky Run Middle School,
Teacher: Ms. Schuetz



By Kherlin Tamir, Grade 6, Eagle View Elementary, Instructor Jessica Chinn



By Sathwika Prasad, 9, Grade 4, Greenbriar West Elementary,
Teacher: Mr. Wright



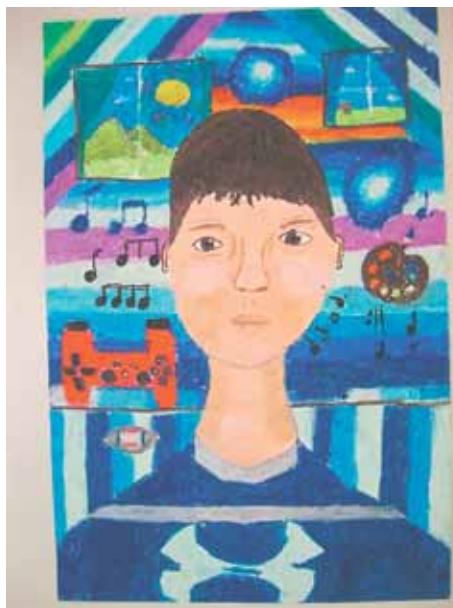
By Daniel Son, Age: 11, Grade: 6, Mosby Woods Elementary

MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

Artwork submitted by teachers Victoria Howes and Lois Petersen.



By Sophia Huh, Age: 11, Grade: 6



By Stephen Kim, Age: 8, Grade: 3



By Dariana Rozenova, Age: 8, Grade: 3



By Peter (Joonie) Dunn, Age: 7, Grade: 2



By Chloe Kim, Age: 11, Grade: 6



By Angelina O, Age: 7, Grade: 2

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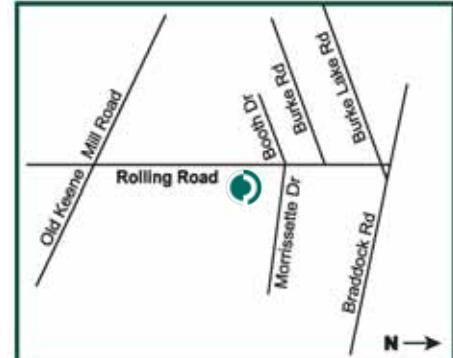
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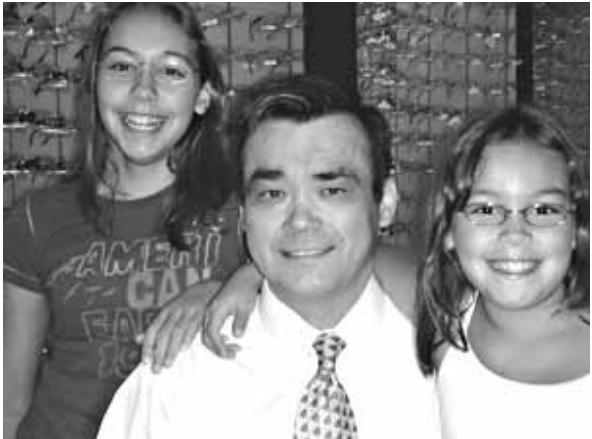
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LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

FROM PAGE 4

know my gratitude, they would be able to know they would be able to know they have been the best they can get. I feel like my parents think they have to work harder for us, but they don't. They are mine and my sister's role models. My gift for my parents would be for them to know my appreciation for them so they can take a break and know they ARE loved to the fullest extent!

— DAHLIA HASHISH, AGE 11

The Gift of Me

If I was to give someone a gift that was priceless, I would choose me. I am the best. Everything I say and do is loved by those around me. Of course, I wouldn't give this gift to my parents for two reasons: First of all, I did cost money and second of all, they live in the same house as me so my gift would mean nothing. Now that I think about it, I shouldn't give this gift to anyone in my family for the same reason I can't give this to my parents. I could give this to anyone who is within 5 feet of me. I could make them my friend and that would be my gift.

— HENRY COUNTS, AGE 11

The Gift

If I could give a gift to my family, I would give them a memory. Then they could see things in my view and maybe they could understand me better. I wouldn't hear, "Oh, don't you give me excuses" as much because they would see my point of view. I could give my family further understanding. They could live young again through my experiences. I could give them knowledge they never could have gained. It would benefit both the receiver and the giver of the gift. Peace could be achieved.

— XAVIER PARMENTIER,
GRADE 4 - AGE 10

The One Thing

If I were to give my parents one thing, I would give them nothing because they already have everything they could possibly want - love, laughter, and family. And all of this is a pretty good present. They always tell me that they don't want a present, but that's pretty hard to believe. I think that everyone, no matter how old you are, deserves at least one present. It doesn't really matter what it is.

— KIRA CHOJNACKI, GRADE 4 - AGE 9

SEE LAUREL RIDGE, PAGE 12

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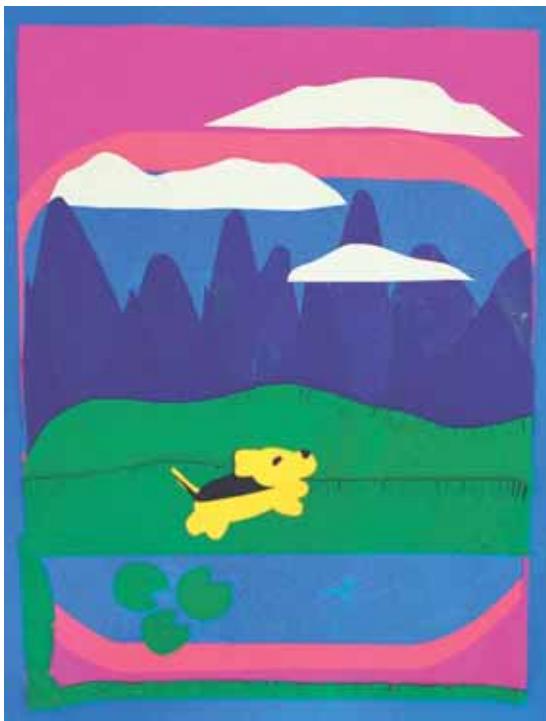
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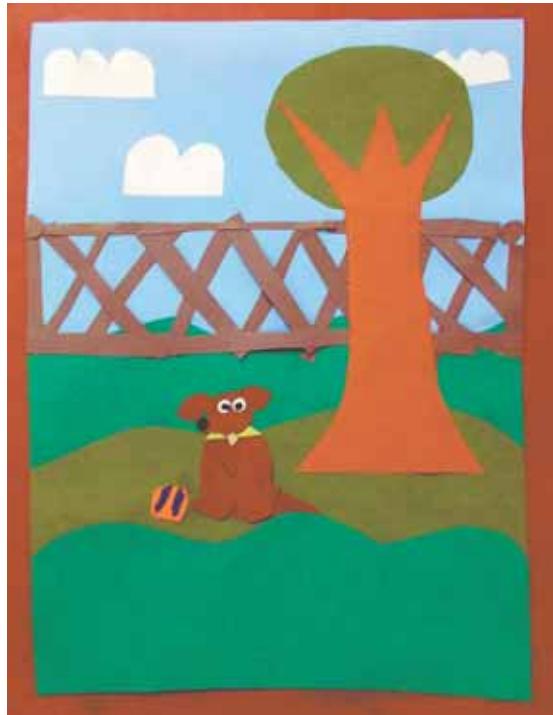


WAKEFIELD FOREST

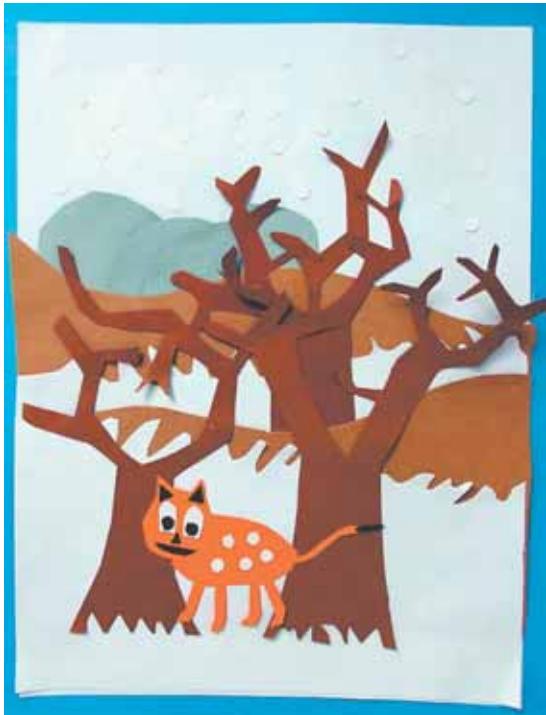
Submitted by Christine Rowader, Art Specialist



"Wabi Sabi,"
by Lauren
Moreth, 11,
Grade 5



"Nora," by
Lyndsey
Ahrens, 10,
Grade 5



**"Winter
Wonderland,"**
by Sarah
Narragon, 10,
Grade 5

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MANTUA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Artwork by students in Nathalie Shirley & Davide Lorenzi's classes:



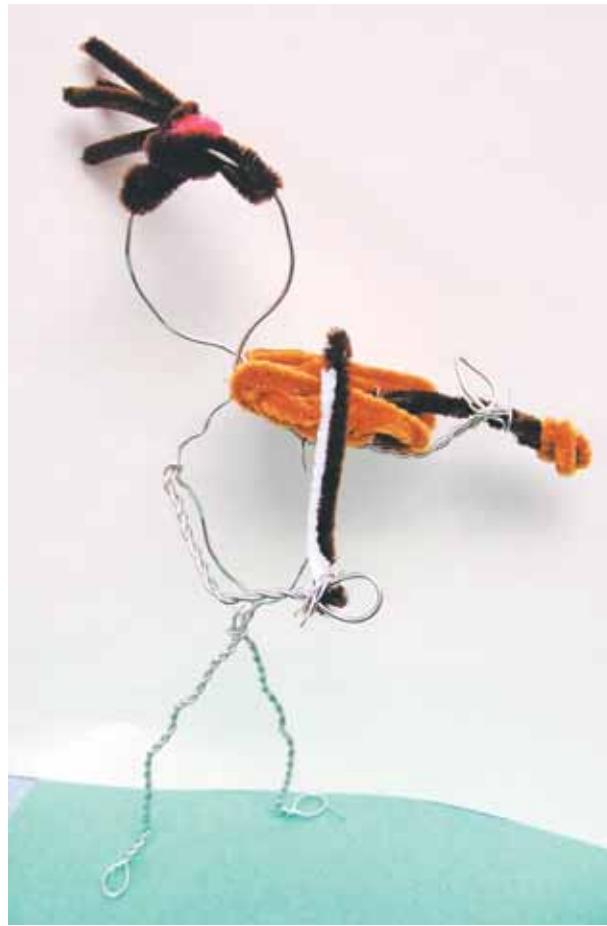
By Riley Mack,
Grade 4,
Mantua
Elementary
School



By Genesee Chinn, Grade 3, Mantua Elementary School



By Tanisha Lanka, Grade 6, Mantua Elementary School



By Chloe Lee, Grade 4,
Mantua Elementary
School



By Allie Chong, Grade 1, Mantua Elementary School



By Hannah Dai, 9, Grade 4, Navy Elementary School of Fairfax,
Teacher: Miss Escolero

LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY



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Seasonal Drawing by Josephine Bronson in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Jean Seo in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Kayla Martinez in Art Classes in Burke



Original Female Character,
line drawing by Kayleen
Grasso, Art Classes in
Burke



INSTRUCTOR
CAROL ZEITLIN



Self-Portrait drawing by Katie
Weyrich in Art Classes in Burke



Seasonal Drawing by Holly Barker,
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POETRY

A Flight in the Night

Soaring with my might
In my midnight flight
The moonlit sky
Filling up my eye
Barely moving my wing
So happy I could sing
Oh what a sight
That is to be seen at night!

—JIMIN YIO OF FAIRFAX, 12, GRADE 7,
ROCKY RUN MIDDLE SCHOOL

The R in RESPECT

Respect is a gift.
The most important thing to a friend.
Respect is a beautiful and delicate thing,
Worth being treasured in every way imaginable.
The gift of respect is giving to people of all different sizes.
Respect is given to the tall,
Respect is given to the small,
Respect is given to the strong,
Respect to the wrong.
Respect to yourself,
Respect to your peers and toys on the shelf.
But the R in RESPECT, is for resilience.
Resilience to love, resilience to respect everyone.
The R in RESPECT represents the people who care,
Who love, who hope, who dream,
Who live, who laugh, who respect.

—VIOLET TAYLOR, AGE 11,
LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY

The Gift

If I were to give a gift to my parents,
it would be something that's not so apparent.
It's something that can grow like a tree
and it's something that can be from you and me.
Love is the word that I'm thinking of,
It flies into life like a little dove.
It doesn't matter whether you're big or small,
As long as you know that there is love for all.

—PETER SHERIDAN, AGE 11, GRADE 5,
LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY

Hope

Earth is a fallen world
So many disasters
But there is one thing we can clutch onto to preserve it forever
Hope
We must share it with others
It's too good to keep to ourselves
We must believe that everything will be alright
We need to hold on tightly
To hope

—GRACE OH, GRADE 6,
MOSBY WOODS ELEMENTARY

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Fourth Graders' Opinions in Mary Zavaleta's class.

Favorite animal?

A human- because I'm a human and we can find a way to live peacefully (or not.)

—EVAN JONES

Cheetahs- it must feel good to run that fast! I wish I could. Do you? <b1>—Victoria Shea

Elephant- When I was younger, I thought an elephant could give me a shower. When I was 2 or 3, I wanted to be an elephant when I grew up. Even now, I still like elephants because they are very cool.

—FIONA MULCAHY

A Galapagos tortoise- I want to ride it! They were almost instinct. <b1>—Keshav Parikh

A dog- It's a very interesting story about how dogs came to be real. They have super puppy cuteness that can make a heart melt. They are friendly-well, most of them. You can teach them tricks.

—SAMUEL GRIFFITH

JANUARY 13TH

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LAUREL RIDGE ELEMENTARY



City of Fairfax Children's Events

Funday Monday

Mondays, 10:30am, Old Town Hall

Free, weekly children's series sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts

Jan. 8 - Story Time & Craft

Jan. 22 - Zumba Kids

Jan. 29 - Oh Susannah

Feb. 5 - Mr. Skip

Feb. 12 - Story Time & Craft

Feb. 26 - Zumba Kids

Mar. 5 - Mr. Skip

Mar. 12 - Story Time & Craft

Mar. 19 - Drew Blue Shoes Magic

Mar. 26 - Zumba Kids



There is no Funday Monday on Jan. 1, Jan. 15, or Feb. 19 due to City holidays.

Sherwood Family Movie Nights

Select Fridays

7:00pm

Sherwood Center



Free movies on the big screen!
Food drive donations accepted for Britepaths.

January 19 - Smurfs Lost Village

February 23 - Captain Underpants

March 23 - Despicable Me 3

FROM PAGE 6

The One Thing

If I could give a gift to someone that didn't cost money, I would give my best friend my friendship. A gift of friendship is one of the best gifts because it's the one thing they will probably cherish for a long time. If you give them something like a necklace, they might not wear it after a while. A string of friendship is hard to break even if your best friend moves. Friendship is amazing!

— ABIGAIL FRYAR, GRADE 4 AGE 10

The One Thing

I would give my parents love or happiness because that is very peaceful and beautiful. Love and happiness is equal to a bar of gold. Love is very kind for everyone. Happiness gives you a big smile on your face and a calm and nice heart. If somebody has this, that person is very lucky. Love and happiness is something that makes you feel very excited. Imagine that you are a bird and you are trapped in the cage of stress and sadness. When you find the key of kindness, you can unlock yourself to the freedom of happiness and love.

— NICHOLE BILLONES, GRADE 4

Three Things

Most people stress about how much money a gift will cost or how good it is. But really, three things that don't cost a cent can be really, truly meaningful. These things are: Love, Happiness and (this will probably be in your parents top 10 best things) No fighting. The gift of love grows like vines. It spreads like a plague, but a good one – making everyone feel happy and appreciated. Happiness is like love, but it can be broken. This is why people should pick very special, caring people to give it to, or in other words, your parents. Most siblings fight as most parents know and it doesn't please them. "Why do they do it?" some people may ask. Well, it's in your nature, but try pushing that piece of your nature away. I would give these things to my parents because these items aren't even items – making them priceless.

— KATE NAGLER, AGE 10

A Gift

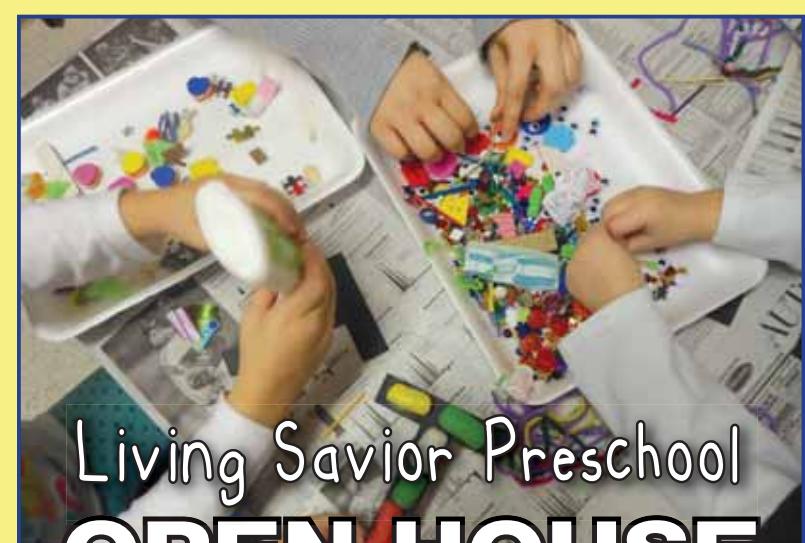
The best gift that somebody could ever give is your dedication, time and companionship. You don't have to love somebody to give them these things. That way you can give it to everybody. I think that the best gift is also the one everybody can receive, because that way we don't get too strong of a sense of our own self-importance. If you give these things to everybody, then everybody feels loved and special to somebody. I would give this gift to everybody I know, especially to my parents, because my mom is overseas. I would also give this to my Au Pair, Solene, because she has to go back to France early to get her wisdom tooth removed. I love to make people feel good about themselves and not feel left out. It makes a difference in the world even if it gets one person to feel good about themselves. My self-set mission is to make everyone feel wanted.

— ALISON LYNCH, GRADE 5

There's No Gift BETTER

Personally, I think either love, kindness or some music by Handel, Bach, Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky or Dvorak. I think I would pick love, but my family is very musical, but kindness is also a possibility. They are really kind- well, as much as I've seen. So I think I'm down to love, or music. I really love them and they really love me. I also think they are really musical. My brother owns at least 16 instruments! My sister is 26, my brother is 24 and my other brother is 21.

— DANIEL FOOTE, GRADE 4



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FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

By Riya Patil,
11, 6th Grade
Fairhill
Elementary.

Submitted by
teacher Joan
Swanson



The Best Gift Ever

The best gift that I have been given in my life was the gift of vacation. I always love going on vacation to different places all over the world. Every year my family takes me to Hungary, which is definitely my favorite place to go to when going on vacation. I always will remember how awesome it was and how nice of my family it was to take me there. I will forever appreciate you!

—ALEX KOLOS BUNDICS, 10, GRADE 5

What Makes a Good Friend?

In my opinion, what makes a good friend is someone who is kind, cares for others, and thoughtful. They help to remind other people when they forget things, like a notebook. Another reason is that a good friend always cheers people up. They tell jokes to one another to make other colleagues laugh and smile. Laughter also helps when people are somber too. My third reason is that they cheer other colleagues on when in contests or races. When one person is nice to another, he/she makes others feel good too.

—LOGAN JOHN GREENELTCH, 10

SPRINGFIELD ESTATES ELEMENTARY

Victoria Nutley, fifth grade

The Cold Season

The gray
Icy or misty
Snowing and freezing
Peacefully
Winter

—ERIC LI

Dad

My blazing warm dad
Shovels swiftly
In the icy snowy winter
In the white slippery driveway
So we can go play

—JERECK MONTOMAYO-SERRANO

Santa

Jolly, round man
Quickly gives out presents
On a snowy Christmas night
From the North Pole and beyond
So kids behave well

—ANDRE GONZALEZ

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Legals

AT&T Mobility Services, LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing water tank located at 9780 Main Street, Fairfax, VA 22031. The new facility will consist of replacing 3 antennas (1 per sector) at tip heights of 109 feet above ground level (AGL) and adding and replacing RRHs at a center height of 105 feet AGL. Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6117006577-SF c/o EBI Consulting, 6876 Susquehanna Trail South, York, PA 17403, or via telephone at (781) 273-2500.

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Announcements

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POETRY CORNER

Heart of Ice, Cave I Dwelled

My eyes drifted to the snow
Feelings faster than the storm
I saw my joy fade
The sun's light fading
Foggy mist
I couldn't see
My steps led me to snow
Like being buried
Beneath it all
My heart stung
The wolves hungry for my soul
I started forward
I didn't look back
Mind swirling
Tears a blizzard
White scattered my path
Icicles dripped like how I faded
I Wish you could know
I'm sorry
But I knew I must keep going
The fog then lifted
Bringing the sun to my heart
It reached out its hand
I opened my eyes
The frozen dew sparkled
The snow endless mountains of white
I cried for it
I didn't know why
As the wind shifted my coat
My heart as well
I found myself on a cliff
I slipped on pure ice
And started to fall
The ice was so pure
It's cold, the sparkling crystals swept me off my feet
It wasn't just my feet
I hung paralyzed
Lost
Afraid
Alone
My joy ran away
It leaped so fast a blur
Swallowed by shadow
My heart of ice
But it came back to me
Back to me as wonder
With wonder came joy
As I hung with shadows growling
The jagged peaks begged for gloom
I only held on tighter
I then knew I must not fall...
Delicate snowflakes stroked my skin
I knew those who need me

I hung
My eyes glistening with glaze
If you were to throw an arrow at my heart
It wouldn't pierce my heart of ice
I'm so sorry
I let go
My heart was glowing
Brighter than that below
Fell to the cliffs...
Fell to the peak of my life...
The shadow...
The snow that scarred me...
Landed on a cloud
I lived
I yelled
I yelled because of it that haunted me
For the snow that had me survive
No, I'm going back
I started to run
The frozen pond singing
Tears dripping
Heart knowing not
But to keep going
Not today...
Not today...
I will run till I die
Death's scythe will not touch me...
It's not my time...
I grasped onto my life
I knew
And I ran home
That it wasn't I
But my wonder
Than the light
It came through the clouds
Not a sleep
But the entire sky
I hugged my life
Only I will touch
You will not haunt me
I had run away
I had fallen
But had gotten up again
The birds of past screeched
The present birds cried
The future eagle looked with its eyes
So that it pierced so much
My heart of ice melted
I do not know why
The ice wrapped around me
And then I flew

BY HANNAH BANG, 12, 6TH GRADE
GRADE 6, FAIRHILL ELEMENTARY

Can you guess my favorite season?

It's a season where people may get fevers or shivers from the cold
It's a season where divine, decorative, and delightful snowflakes unfold
It's a season with laughter and soft and warm dinks where we hit them together and they go CLINK!
This season gives you a reason to go to the ice skating rink
Did you guess it, it should be clear, so grab your coats because my favorite season winter is here

—RUGIATU AISHA WURIE, 11, FAIRFAX, GRADE 6, COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY



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BULLETIN

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

HOLIDAY SOBER-RIDE

Free Sober Rides. The annual Holiday SoberRider program will operate 8 p.m.-4 a.m. each night from Friday, Dec. 15, 2017-Monday, Jan. 1, 2018. area residents age 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may download Lyft to their phones, then enter the code in the app's "Promo" section to receive their no cost (up to \$15) safe transportation home. WRAP's weekly Holiday SoberRide promo codes will be posted at 2 p.m. on Dec. 15, Dec. 23 and Dec. 31 on www.SoberRide.com.

BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED

The American Red Cross urges eligible donors to give more life by giving blood this December. In December, donations decline but the needs of patients remain steady. During the holiday season, set aside an hour to give the most important gift – give blood and give more life. All those who come to give blood or platelets Dec. 21, 2017, through Jan. 7, 2018, will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt, while supplies last. Make an appointment to give blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Springfield

Dec. 26: 1-5 p.m., South Run RECenter, 7550 Reservation Drive
Fairfax - Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200 (unless otherwise noted)
 Dec. 26: 10:45 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
 Dec. 27: 12:45-8 p.m.
 Dec. 28: 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Pennino Building 10th Floor Conf Rm, 12011 Government Center Parkway
 Dec. 28: 12:45-5:45 p.m.
 Dec. 29: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Dec. 30: 7:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Dec. 31: 7:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m.

TUESDAY/JAN. 9

American Legion Post 177 Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Presentation on "Advanced preparation and arrangement for funeral/memorial" by Peter Hause, Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home. \$11. Call 703-280-2356 for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke sponsors a monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, noon-1:30 p.m., for caregivers to learn and to share with others experiencing similar challenges. Before attending, contact the facilitator, Eileen Thompson at 703-451-8626 or eileen.thompson1@gmail.com.

Haven of Northern Virginia provides support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. To become a Haven volunteer, please call 703-941-7000 to request an orientation. Volunteers must complete a 30-hour training and commit to one year of service answering Haven phones (2.5 hours weekly). Next training is scheduled for fall 2017.

ONGOING

Volunteers needed at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Museum offers a variety of exciting volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Contact volunteers@fairfax-station.org or 703-945-7483 to explore services that will fit your schedule and interests. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

RSVP, a volunteer network for seniors seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, offers a wide array of opportunities for volunteers 55 and older. RSVP volunteers enjoy flexible schedules, free accident and liability insurance while serving, optional mileage and meal reimbursement and are invited to volunteer group projects and social gatherings. To sign up for an upcoming orientation, email Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

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"Cansir"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I want to treat the disease – and my having been diagnosed with the disease, with respect, I don't want to treat it with the utmost reverence. I mean, it's not the Pope.

It's an affliction, not an affection. Certainly not one worth embracing anyway. But definitely one which needs engaging.

Treating and living with lung cancer shouldn't be a vertical-type, up or down, either-or set of options. There should be more integration with non-Western, holistic and alternative approaches rather than, as has been my experience: you're on your own; and your oncologist, generally speaking – or potentially legally-liable from speaking, knows/say less about it than you the patient.

I've tried to straddle this line going on nearly nine years now. Adhering to the conventional wisdom/treatment didn't seem like enough. Perhaps hearing the extremely grim prognosis that I received on Feb. 27, 2009: "13 months to two years," affected my thinking. Perhaps hearing the equally grim likelihood – statistically referencing, of living beyond five years (low single digit percentage); heck, even living beyond two years, might have given me pause as to what course of treatment: chemotherapy, I was starting and why. But what did I know? I had just been blindsided and then bewildered as to why and how I was going to live the rest of my life.

Yet here I sit, nine-years old, so to speak. Some days I believe my amazing good fortune has to do with the treatment and care I've received from my oncologist and staff at the Infusion Center. Other days, I think it has to do with some of the alternatives I've assimilated into my life. Though I can't honestly include exercise in that life, I have modified my diet somewhat and most definitely can mention vitamins, supplements, alkaline water and apple cider vinegar, among a few others; along with a positive attitude with mostly good humor, as important elements. It hasn't been easy, but it has been me. Meaning, I am proud of how I've managed a bad situation and so far, not made it worse.

Though I am somewhat unique, statistically measuring, in how long I've survived (however, I'm not exactly 108-year old Paul Edgecomb/Tom Hanks from the movie "The Green Mile"), I don't know that the varied steps I've taken and the humor and attitude with which I've put one foot in front of the other are likewise unique.

Of the many patients/survivors I've met along this way, many, if not all, have exhibited similar good humor and more of a can-do attitude quite frankly, than I. I've always been happy to make their acquaintance and eager to hear their stories, as they have been interested in hearing mine. Although cancer is not exactly catchy, I've found that, in speaking/sharing with fellow cancer survivors, what goes around comes around. And what 'that' is that is going around is, to invoke The Beach Boys: "Good Vibrations," and that is catchy and healthy too!

When I was first diagnosed – and caught up in my own circumstances, I was not interested – too much, in interacting with other lung cancer patients/survivors. I was more concerned with my own fragile emotional state and was afraid that exposing myself to more bad news: other "terminal" lung cancer patients' stories would weaken my resolve.

I don't recall how many months or years it was before I realized how wrong I had been. Weaken? My involvement with fellow lung cancer patient/survivors has only strengthened my resolve. Has that openness and appreciation for my fellow lung cancer patient extended my life? I'd like to think it has. But if it hasn't, I guess the jokes on cancer. And that's a laugh with which we can all live.

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

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