Clifton residents of all ages and skill levels played in the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA)’s Fourth Annual Ping Pong Tournament held on Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Town Hall. Adults for Fun and Intermediate finalists: Bob Hamrin (first place) and Tom Greiner (second place).
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Main Entree
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Chilean Sea Bass in Black Bean Sauce
Pork Tenderloin in Black Pepper Sauce
Fresh Crab Meat Fried Rice

Soup
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Holocaust Survivor Shares Her Story

Eva Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank, speaks at GMU.

By Jennifer Kaye
The Connection

More than 1,100 people gathered in The George Mason University Center For The Arts in Fairfax on Wednesday night, Feb. 7, for “A Historic Evening With Eva Schloss.” Schloss, the 88-year-old step-sister of Anne Frank and Holocaust survivor, discussed her wartime experiences, stories of loss, and her hope for future generations and the World. The presentation, put on by the Chabad Lubavitch Centers of Northern Virginia, also included a video presentation and a musical tribute of Ani Maamin by oboist and conductor Eugene Sidorov.

Before the presentation, VIP guests gathered for a reception with guitar music played by Stanley Albert, and also were able to sit down and speak with Schloss one-on-one while getting her book, “Eva’s Story,” signed. There was a steady flow of people gathering around her the entire time, telling their childhood stories, discussing relatives they lost in the Holocaust, and asking her many questions about her experiences.

Eli Rosenbaum, U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Special Investigations, led the talk and Schloss started off with a story about her first encounter with anti-Semitism.

She was 9 years old and went to play with her Catholic friend after school. When she arrived at her friend’s house, the mother slammed the door in her face and told her that she never wanted to see her there again.

A confused Schloss ran home to her mother hoping she could shed some light on the situation, and her mother replied with “This is how life is going to be now.”

She then went on to describe in detail the years her family was in hiding, the separation of her and her mother from her father and brother, and the Dutch nurse who in 1944 pretended to help them hide, but was in the end a Nazi who turned them in to authorities.

With the audience silent and enthralled throughout the presentation, Schloss detailed her nine months spent in Auschwitz-Birkenau and the last moments she saw her father and brother. She ended her talk discussing the importance of education for everyone, and by telling the audience that all need to look after the planet. Schloss said, “It’s a wonderful gift from God for us to enjoy.”

The closing remarks by Rabbi Leibel Fajnland echoed these thoughts by saying, “We must become better not bitter.”

Schloss stayed quiet about her Holocaust experiences for 40 years, and it was not until 1985 that she decided to devote herself to Holocaust education and world peace. Since then, she has written three books, delivered more than 1,000 speeches and had a play written about her life. Schloss is currently on a speaking tour around the United States sharing her and her step-sisters stories, hoping to educate and help end the violence and bigotry that she sees in the world today.
The Varsity Soccer Sportsmanship Challenge

Attorney Ben Glass launches $13,000 initiative to change culture of high school soccer.

By Steve Hibbard

Soccer referee and attorney Ben Glass, 60, of Fairfax Station this week launched the Varsity Soccer Sportsmanship Challenge for boys’ and girls’ high school varsity soccer teams. He is donating $13,000 to start the initiative to change the culture and improve the bad treatment of referees from players, coaches, and parents during soccer matches.

Teams that sign up and accept the challenge by March 9 will win $500 each for the boys and $500 for the girls’ teams (up to $1,000 per school) if that team completes the season without receiving a red or yellow card due to unsportsmanlike conduct. The Virginia high school varsity soccer season starts March 12.

“Some of the Northern Virginia soccer parents are crazy. They think nothing of spewing vile language from the stands towards referees,” said Glass, a referee for 44 years. “When student athletes hear their parents yelling at the referees, they think it must be OK for them to do this too.”

He continued, “We want school administrators to monitor the behavior in the stands and to get those parents to stop or leave. We are trying to raise awareness and change the culture of behavior in high school soccer.”

Glass is targeting 16 teams in Northern Virginia, mostly from Fairfax County public schools. So far, two schools are officially signed on board – Robinson and South County High Schools.

This Challenge is open to the boys’ and girls’ high school varsity teams at Fairfax High, Lake Braddock Secondary, Robinson Secondary, South County; West Springfield; WT Woodson, Centreville, Chantilly, James Madison, Oakton, Westfield, Thomas Jefferson, Lee, and Jeb Stuart in Fairfax County; as well as Garfield in Prince William; and Fauquier High in Fauquier County.

“What we’re saying is get through the season without a player ejection for these things: foul and abusive language to a referee; and for the coaches, do not get ejected for yelling at a referee; and for the players, no yellow cards for arguing with a referee,” he said.

“We want school principals to really put a lot of pressure on coaches to insist on good behavior from the players. I believe that players do as the coaches do, not necessarily as the coaches say,” he said. “We also want coaches to have conversations with the parents.”

He said the bad behavior usually starts with the coach who questions every call and blames bad things in the game on the referee. “This leads to 16-17-18-year-old players saying things directly to the referee that would never say to another adult face to face, so this leads to an atmosphere of disrespect,” he said.

“Coaches need to develop a culture of respect and teach these kids that the referees are making the least number of mistakes on the field compared to the players. It’s not a good life principle to blame others when you don’t win,” he said.

All over the country, he said the number of referees and officials in all sports is decreasing. In addition, the pool of referees is getting older, and young referees have it worse.

“We lose too many young referees who are tired of the abuse they face on the youth soccer fields, and so you have guys like me, who are 60 and pretty fit keeping up with 18-year-olds,” he said.

The Virginia High School League published stats from the 2016-17 school year stating boy’s soccer had 268 player ejections; the next closest sport was football with 157 ejections – about 100 less, he said. In boys’ soccer, there were 12 coach ejections for the same period. Virginia High School League has strict rules about cursing, he added. Players will get ejected if they use foul language toward a referee, an opponent or a teammate. “If you get ejected for using foul language, it’s a three-game suspension,” he said.

But the problem is not just in high schools. “Some of the things I have seen in the last couple of years really have focused on the bad behavior of parents at youth games.

And when parents at youth games are spending the afternoon yelling at the referee, then the players feel they have the license to do this,” he said.

Glass is targeting 16 teams in Northern Virginia, mostly from Fairfax County public schools. So far, two schools are officially signed on board – Robinson and South County High Schools.

GLASS is a native of Annandale, played soccer at Thomas Jefferson High School as well as the College of William and Mary, where he majored in government and philosophy. He got a law degree from GMU and for 34 years has been in private practice (Ben Glass Law) specializing in personal injury law and disability insurance. He has nine children – five biological and four adopted from China (ages 36-18) – with wife Sandi.

There is no charge to participate in the Sportsmanship Challenge, but schools must confirm their participation by visiting SportsmanshipChallenge.com and completing the web form. Only authorized representatives of the schools are allowed to confirm their school’s participation. For more information, visit JustAskBenGlass.com or contact BenGlassLaw at 703-988-6414.

Discussing Communication Civility

Abdul Rashid Abdullah spoke on communication civility to the Rotary Club of Springfield. President-Elect Jim Hedrick gives a book certificate for a book donated to Garfield Elementary School’s Library to Abdullah, who lives in Herndon and is an adult Boy Scout in the Patriot District (Burke & Fairfax Station), as well as working as a systems architect.
Ping Pong Tournament Nets Good Turnout in Clifton

Clifton residents of all ages and skill levels played in the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA)’s Fourth Annual Ping Pong Tournament held on Saturday, Feb. 10 at the Town Hall.

Throughout the morning, both the young and the young-at-heart slammed, volleyed and chased little orange balls as family members and neighbors cheered them on. The 2018 tournament winners were:
- Children under 12 – First Place: Adeline Betz; Second Place: Annabelle Betz;
- Adult for Fun and Intermediate – First Place: Bob Hamrin; Second Place: Tom Greiner;
- Adult Advanced – First Place: Kevin Reilley; Second Place: Ryan Reilley.

Sweet Annaline’s, a Clifton-based specialty cookie business, sponsored the event. Owner Lauren Betz donated cookies that were shaped like ping pong paddles and decorated with the CBA logo.

The ping pong tournament is an offshoot of Get Fit Clifton, an initiative begun in 2014 to provide fitness and fun for CBA members. In addition to Betz, this year’s planning task force members were Michelle Stein, Steve Bittner, Jim Witt, Lynne Saltzman and Lynne Strang.

— Lynne Strang
Send in Pet Photos Now

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 23.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog? Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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— Mary Kimm
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Letters to the Editor

What Needs to Be Fixed?

To the Editor:

In your editorial (“What’s Wrong with This Picture?” - Connection, Jan. 24-25, 2018) you wrote that the demographic disparity in enrollment this year at Thomas Jefferson High School (TJ) indicates something is wrong and needs to be fixed. To fix this wrong condition you noted that State Senator Surovell has proposed a bill that would consider economics and geography in the selection process.

Here is my concern: I thought that admission to TJ is open to any and all students and the administration strives to assist anyone interested in achieving admission to the school. Admission is based strictly on merit, academic ability and academic achievement.

Therefore, it begs the question, what is wrong and needs to be fixed?

If the demographics at TJ are wrong and the reason for this needs to be fixed, and the solution is to consider economics and geography in admissions, then the admissions standards will be compromised and no longer based on academic ability and academic achievement.

As a final thought, if demographic percentages are so important and are the reason for the needed fix, why was the percentage of Asian students enrolled at TJ omitted?

Dan McKim
Springfield

Respecting Differences

To the Editor:

The Danish Government recently proposed a ban on full-face veils worn by Muslim women. It is repulsive to see that such legislation has been passed in an effort to combat terrorism.

When will these people understand that by forcing others to go against their beliefs only further creates agitation in society?

In light of these unfortunate trends, the love for my country deepens. I look around me and see people who, despite their possibly colossal differences, respect each other and act positively towards each other. A Muslim woman wearing her spiritual clothing isn’t disrespectful, contrary to what the Danish Government believes, however, forcing these women to do the opposite is.

Despite having to hear this horrible news, never for one second should we give up our beliefs or force others to give up theirs.

This is the definition of what it should mean to be an American, and I hope that we can spread this message of freedom to other countries around the world by continuing to be a model ourselves.

Haris Qamar
Clifton

Frustration Turned to Hope

To the Editor:

This is a story of frustration turned to hope. In November last year I sent a check certified through the USPS, it was lost. A month later I stopped payment on it and sent another check certified, unbelievably the second check was also lost. After several phone calls and hours on hold with the USPS, I was told that they were not liable for the lost letters or for the $70 that I had to pay to stop payment. The rep told me if I was unhappy to contact my congressman, so I did the next best thing.

This is where the story turns to one of hope. Tom Barton, the Clifton postmaster recognizing my frustration agreed to send the third check “overnight” at no cost to me. I dropped by my local delivery person, Tim Hugo’s office and met with his District Director, Michelle Baker, who took the information and said she would begin working on getting me compensation.

Michelle contacted Tom who informed her he would write a letter to my bank stating that the USPS had lost my letters and ask them to forgo the surcharge. Michelle also contacted the BB&T bank at Union Mill and spoke with Jackie, Karen, Nabila and Mo who agreed to waive the charges.

Michelle also followed up with a phone to me in the evening (way after working hours) to see how things were proceeding – above and beyond her duties.

While I am disappointed with the response I received from USPS, I have restored faith in our system due to the hard work of these individuals.

Karen Floyd
Clifton

Football Scholarships

To the Editor:

The National Capital Region Chapter of the National Football Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2018 Scholar-Athlete banquet. The Chapter awards five $1,000 scholarships annually to deserving high school senior scholar athletes who played high school football. Nominees are evaluated on academic and athletic excellence, as well as contributions to their school and community. Nomination packets have been mailed to each high school head coach in the National Capital Region. Deadline for submission of nomination packets is April 6.

The 12th Annual Awards Banquet will be held on April 22 at the Army-Navy Club in Arlington. The National Football Foundation was founded in 1947 to promote and develop amateur American football on all levels. The National Football Foundation has more than 115 chapters nationwide. The National Capital Region Chapter has awarded over 65 scholarships and honored over 230 deserving student-athletes in the past 10 years.

The National Capital Region Chapter requests and urges participation from all high schools in the National Capital Region. For additional information, contact your head football coach.

Bob Jarrell
Scholarship Selection Committee Chairman
NCR Chapter, NFF
Styling a Coffee Table

By Marilyn Campbell

There’s an art to designing a living room coffee table, says local interior designer Susan Tucker. In fact, when she’s helping a client create a living room space, she pays particular attention to creating a stylish and functional table.

“It seems like such a small thing, but when designed the right way, a coffee table can become the focal point of a room and really make it pop,” she said. “I believe that there’s a right way and a wrong way to put together a coffee table, but it’s not hard if you keep certain things in mind.”

Vary the height and scale so that each item can shine on its own. “If everything is the same height, none of them will be noticed,” said Tucker. “Think a pretty vase of flowers behind a small porcelain bowl.”

Work to create balance between small and large items, says Alexandria, Virginia-based designer Steven Gambit. “For example, a smattering of small knick-knacks can look cluttered on a coffee table,” he said. “Along the same lines, too many large items on a coffee table can be overpowering. Instead select a few items and group them together by size.”

Change items as the seasons or holidays change. “As spring approaches, consider adding a small bouquet of fresh or silk spring flowers,” said Tucker. “If you celebrate Easter, consider Easter décor, like a bunny or a basket with eggs. I picked up some elegant Easter items at a local home accessories store last spring. One or two simple items can breathe fresh life in a table design.”

Choose items with colors that are found in other places in a room’s design. “If you have a painting with bright colors, for example, choose one of the colors and find an item in the same color to add to your coffee table. If you have throw pillows in interesting colors, consider using one of those colors on your coffee table.”

Consider only decorating one section of the coffee table, especially if the table is large. “It’s a good idea to leave some space free, especially if you entertain a lot,” said Gambit. “Your guests will need a place to put a drink. Don’t feel compelled to fill every inch of space.”

A serving tray can serve two purposes on a coffee table, says Gambit. “An elegant serving tray can make a dramatic statement on a coffee table, and can give a table some structure, especially if it’s holding smaller items,” he said. “If you need to clear the coffee table quickly, like if you’re entertaining, a tray makes it easy.”

Think about what the items on the coffee table will look from different places in the room, suggests Tucker. “Stand over your coffee table and get a sense of what the objects look like gaz ing down at it,” she said. “Sit across the room from it. Can the items be seen fully or are the most appealing parts of an item obstructed? I generally discourage clients from putting picture frames on a coffee table because you can’t see the main attraction — the photo — from behind.”

Be practical and sentimental. “Because people tend to gather around coffee tables, don’t put a breakable family heirloom or an expensive piece on them,” said Gambit. “Coffee table books are a good idea because they can be topics of conversation. You can use a coffee table to display things that represent a part of your personality, lifestyle or a hobby.”

Books add visual interest and can provide topics of conversation when displayed on a coffee table. Consider placing coffee table items on a tray, like this one from the Nest Egg, says Interior Designer Susan Tucker.

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Ongoing

“Uncommon Visions.” Through Feb. 25, various times in W-9 in the Arches Avenue Center, Fairfax. The Torpedo Factory Artists’ Association (TFAA) presents “Uncommon Visions,” the third exhibition at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic. This mixed-media show features the work of more than 40 TFAA member artists. Each of the artists, through use of form, color, technique, or materials, aims to guide the audience into unexpected avenues and share their own personal perceptions. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com.


FRIDAY/feb. 16
B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, $1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasury chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxfd.com or call 703-272-3638 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/feb. 16-17
“Loyal Heart.” Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 1 p.m. at Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Woodson High senior Paul Hardin has written a musical that tells the story of young King Henry VIII, who jousted under the name Sir Loyal Heart in 1511. Hardin composed 24 original songs, fully orchestrated for a 16-piece pit orchestra. The performances are free and open to the public. Contact Pam Hardin at 703-425-7996 or pamhardin@verizon.net or Joan Brown at jcbrown1@fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/feb. 17
Country-Western Dance. 6:30-7:30 p.m. and open dancing, 7:30-10 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for NVCWDA members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, $2 and 16 and older, $4. Craft supplies included with admission. Visit www.nvcwda.org or call 703-245-7282.

SUNDAY/feb. 18
NTRAK Scale Model Train Show, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Admission, Museum members and age 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, $2 and 16 and older, $4. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org, www.facebook.com/FXSR or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/feb. 19
Winter Concert. 3.5 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Northern Virginia Youth Winds, the youth division of the City of Fairfax Band Association, presents their winter program. Free. Email info@fairfaxband.org or visit www.fairfaxband.org.

THURSDAY/Feb. 22
Diy Open House, 5-7:30 p.m. at Board and Brush, 7002 Spring Garden Drive, Springfield. Board and Brush offers a wide variety of hands-on, DIY art instructional workshops taking visitors through the steps to create a beautiful classic wooden piece. Visit boardandbrush.com/springfield/

FRIDAY/feb. 23
B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, $1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasury chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

SUNDAY/feb. 25
Burke Historical Society Meeting. 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6550 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Guest speakers will be Heather Boldinger and Jeff Clark, who will bring back to life some of the lost towns of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

I Remember When... Concert. 6-3:30 p.m. at Lanier Middle School, 3801 Armantron Road, Fairfax. Join the Main Street Community Band for a musical stroll down memory lane. $10 adults/$5 seniors/children always free. Visit fairfaxband.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1
Orchestra Concert. 7-8:30 p.m. at South County High School Dale S. Rumpler Performing Arts Center Auditorium, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Come enjoy the South County High School Orchestra’s program of classical and popular music featuring spring. Free. Visit www.schoolsoffg.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2
B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, $1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasury chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

Songwriting Contest Finalists Perform. 7-3 p.m. at Bethesda Blues & Jazz Supper Club, 7719 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda. Six songwriters have been chosen as finalists and one will win the $10,000 Grand Prize. A 25-hour of complimentary recording studio time at Innovation Station Music. Three songwriters from the Young Songwriters category (including Skyler Foley of Burke) will also perform live and compete for $2,500. Tickets will be $5 and $20 and available at www.bethesda.org.
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If you haven’t been to the Workhouse Arts Center lately, there are good reasons to visit now. Under the protective arched brick canopy of the Workhouse’s walkways are two distinct cultural opportunities just steps away from each other. One opportunity may be for those with an adventurist spirit and a desire to help in the completion of the new Lucy Burns Museum being built in honor of the Women’s Suffrage movement. The other is a family-friendly, treasure trove exhibition of original Fraggle Rock puppets and Muppet Babies comic strips. Together, the two demonstrate the eclectic nature of the Workhouse as a Northern Virginia cultural destination.

FOR THE LUCY BURNS MUSEUM, progress continues with the refurbishment of the physical space; including original cells where Suffragists were once housed. Once open to the public, the Burns Museum will offer a rare experience. Visitors will be able to see refurbished cells and the long cell-block where women were imprisoned after marching in front of the White House to secure voting rights for women over 100 years ago. The women were fined, jailed and imprisoned for “obstructing free passage of the sidewalk.”

During a recent tour, Ava Spece, President and CEO of the Workhouse Arts Center, said that “The new Lucy Burns Museum is an exciting project that will be dedicated to the incredible chronicle of the Suffragists, their ordeal at the Workhouse Prison, and the significant changes to our society that resulted from their hard work and sacrifice.”

Laura McKe, chair, Workhouse Museum and History Committee noted that the refurbishment of the Museum, ongoing at the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Detailed information, including opportunities for potential donors for reservation-required walk-throughs of the nearing-completion Lucy Burns Museum or how to donate to the museum’s completion, email info@workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900. Reservation-required tours for potential donors to completion of the Lucy Burns Museum on Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m., and Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. and March 4 at 3 p.m. Free parking.

The Lucy Burns Museum at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Detailed information, including opportunities for potential donors for reservation-required, walk-throughs of the nearing-completion Lucy Burns Museum or how to donate to the museum’s completion, email info@workhousearts.org or call 703-584-2900. Reservation-required tours for potential donors to completion of the Lucy Burns Museum on Feb. 19 at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 22 at 1:30 p.m., and Feb. 24 at 10 a.m. and March 4 at 3 p.m. Free parking.

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From Page 10
original cells is being funded by pri-
vate donations. The private donations have also been used to enlarge the
physical facilities as a welcoming venue for visitors. When opened to
the public, the Burns Museum will have more than 8,000 square feet in-
cluding the cell-block and areas for exhibitions, classes and field trips.
Three key suffragist leaders will be highlighted in the museum: Lucy
Burns, Alice Paul, and Dora Lewis.

For those with interest in learning about becoming a donor for the final
fitting-out of the Lucy Burns Museum, there are reservation-required tours
of the facility in the coming weeks. More information is available in the
"where and when" box of this article.

FOR A FAMILY-FRIENDLY
display to be seen nowhere else in the area there is a newly installed exhibition
of original cells from the 1980s and original puppets from the award-winning tele-
vision show "Fraggle Rock." The ex-
hibition is "Imagination is the Me-
dium: Guy Gilchrist and Bill Dia-
mond."

According to Jaynelle C. Hazard, Workhouse director of exhibitions, the installation aims to introduce close-up and explore the world of Gilchrist and of Emmy Award winner Diamond, Jim Henson's original illus-
trator and puppeteer.

The exhibition features a wide-
range of objects created throughout Gilchrist and Diamond's careers. It is expected they will bring smiles to
those to whom they recall them from their youth or introduce them to their
own children and perhaps grandchil-
dren.

By KENNETH L. LOURIE
I realize that given the growth and evolu-
tion of the world most of us live in, and how business is transacted, there are two words, a phrase that whose very existence is threat-
ened: "Bill me." “C.O.D.” “Cash on delivery” is likely itself on the precipice of extinction, a doctrine that never was one. However, since “Money makes the world go ‘round,” or at least it made the hit musical “Cabaret” go round in 1966, credit and one good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills
have to be paid or else the world doesn’t “go round” so far. Moreover, if the money is los-
ing, there’s less to sing about.

Ergo an ideal/system was devised whereby people/entitites to whom you owed money
would have semi unlettered access to your money – without having to talk to you,ask
permission. Once the consumer/"owner" had signed an authorization granting such access, the game was on and the money withdrawn (debited)
regularly, as agreed to.

Occasionally, financial inducements were offered to entice the consumer to subject his
money/accounts to such plundering. But
eventually, the process became all the rage. Moreover, consumers couldn’t transact busi-
ness any other way, and despite any hesita-
tions or objections (anger) to the contrary, it was either debit or die. And though this sys-
tem didn’t cause a revolution or become a motto on a license plate, it did change how we
bank, buy and balance.

Within the last few weeks I’ve added two more automatic monthly debits. Payments
which I was given no other real choices for,
no other real control. It was taken away a
good name can only stretch the dollar so far. Bills
have to be paid or else the world doesn’t “go round” so far. Moreover, if the money is los-
ing, there’s less to sing about.

Regardless of how I fear all of these com-
mon scenarios, notwithstanding, what can I do? If I
don’t pay in and don’t pay, then I am
likely having to fend for myself. I may still have
plenty places to go to, but what am I going to
do when I get there? My wallet (unlike George
Washington) has many places to go to, but what am I going to
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To learn more about our communities visit our website at rui.net.