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# Mount Vernon Gazette



MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER JUNE 21, 2018



PHOTO BY JAMES LEBOVIC

**Driving through the community to pick up dogs for vaccinations and surgery. Dr. Holly Gill in surgery on June 8.**

## Holly's Hands Local veterinarians volunteer to treat animals in developing countries.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he first time Alexandria veterinarian Dr. Holly Gill visited Haiti nearly 20 years ago, she vowed to return. Although the local veterinarian was eager to get back to her Northern Virginia practice, she was simultaneously disappointed to leave the small island country, its hard-working people, and – perhaps most of all – the many Haitian animals she found in critical need of medical care.

“We’ve always traveled a lot of places,” said James Lebovic, Gill’s husband and travel companion. “It was really hard for Holly to see animals in dire need, and Haiti was always the place she wanted to locate for volunteer work.”

Two and a half years ago, all the pieces fell into place for Gill to return to Haiti with Holly’s Hands, the non-profit organization she established in 2013 to help animals in developing countries. Through Holly’s Hands, she treats animals abroad that typically live

on the streets instead of in the homes of people who love them.

“This really has been my idea all along,” Gill said. “We went to Haiti in 1989, and I immediately liked the Haitian people. It struck me how industrious they were. Coming back to contribute in this way has been my dream. Up until now, these trips have been my personal

project, but now we are working to make it all stronger – to improve the lives of the animals here, and also to help people feel that these dogs and cats can really be part of their families.”

Between her first trip to Haiti in 1989, and her return to the country in 2015 as a volunteer veterinarian, Gill has been quite indus-

trious herself. In 1998, she established Hollin Hall Animal Hospital in Alexandria. She has also been to multiple countries where she’s performed a number of life-saving procedures on local dogs and cats.

“I started Holly’s Hands – my charity – in 2013 after going to Ecuador,” Gill said. “I thought, ‘If I’m going to really help these communities, I want to do it as safely as I possibly can.’ So, I formed a 501(c)3 non-profit and invested in anesthetic equipment – the devices that the military actually dropped out of planes in Desert Storm for military doctors to use on wounded service members. I try to use the same standards of care that I employ in my practice at home.”

Holly’s Hands has evolved since its inception five years ago, and today the non-profit is Gill’s vessel to the country that tugged at her heartstrings all those years ago. Both Gill and Dr. Ami Krasner, another Hollin Hall veterinarian, returned recently from their fifth Holly’s Hands trip to Haiti, where they touched many canine, feline – and, in turn, human – lives.

“We vaccinate, deworm, and perform surgeries,” Gill said. “This trip, we vaccinated about 140 dogs and cats and performed about 30 surgeries. We treat disease when we’re over there, too. There were two cases alone in the area of people recently having contacted

SEE FUNDRAISER, PAGE 8



**In Haiti: A very poor part of a poor country.**

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# Celebrating Gum Springs' 185th Anniversary

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

**T**he Gum Springs community, located in the Mount Vernon area of Northern Virginia, is the oldest African American community in Fairfax County. On Sunday, June 17, local residents celebrated the community's 185th anniversary — founded in 1833 — by holding a festival and parade on its community grounds.

Local non-profits such as Mount Vernon Rotary Club, Friends of Dyke Marsh, New Gum Springs Civic Association, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, along with state and local government representatives, displayed their various offerings. Crafts, children's games, and other community groups all attended and celebrated the historic anniversary. Some of the Gum Springs residents are descendants of slaves who worked the land owned by General George Washington.

The New Gum Springs Civic Association named Ada Singletary as the Grand Marshal of the parade. She is 98 years old and a native of Fairfax County and former Fairfax County school system employee. Singletary lives in a Gum Springs home which was originally her mother's. The land which the home sits on was originally her grandfathers' going back approximately a hundred years ago. Singletary is the oldest living resident of Gum Springs.

In a recent meeting at her house, Singletary responded to a question of what she attributes to her longevity: "For as many years as I can remember I exercised by walking, dancing — during the Second World War, she attended dances for the Fort Belvoir military — and working hard. I also believe in God and continue to attend church; I have faith in the power of prayer."

She recalled how proud of her annual volunteering in the past to the Mount Vernon Ladies Association's entertainment in which she served food to the Estate's guests. She also worked for the Fairfax County School system for 17 years.



Gathering before the beginning of the Festival Parade are (from left) At Large Planning Commissioner Tim Sargent; Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck; Grand Marshal Ada Singletary; Sharon Bulova, chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Queenie Cox, president, New Gum Springs Civic Association; and Karen Corbett Sanders, Mount Vernon School Board member.

Ada Singletary serves as Grand Marshal of the parade.



Ada Singletary, when she was an employee of Fairfax County school system.



Puppet from TRex-to-Go at the June 16 Gum Springs Community Day event.

PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH



Celebrating Gum Springs 185th anniversary.



Photos of housing in Gum Springs that did not have indoor plumbing — hence the out-house. These before housing photos were replaced with the now Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority public housing at West Ford. There are three areas of public housing owned by the county.



Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority public housing at West Ford.

# Volunteers Restore Habitat in Dyke Marsh

Planting trees and plants.

BY GLENDA BOOTH,  
PRESIDENT, FRIENDS OF DYKE MARSH

**O**n May 9 and June 9, 35 volunteers planted around 2,000 native trees and plants, 60 species, in the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, an initiative of the Friends of Dyke Marsh (FODM) and their partners, the National Park Service, Earth Sangha and the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia (ASNV). The .65-acre site was previously overwhelmed with non-native or invasive plants, like English ivy, mile-a-minute and stiltgrass.

Many invasive plants reproduce rapidly, outcompete natives and have no natural controls to keep them in check. Native species occur naturally in an area, enable a healthy, functioning ecosystem and provide more support for the native insects, birds and other wildlife with which they co-evolved.



**While many plants were only three to six inches tall when planted, some will grow to four feet or more**

FODM received grants from the National Environmental Education Foundation, Transurban, ASNV and Earth Sangha and member donations to purchase plants.

The Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve, a National Park Service unit of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, is a freshwater, tidal marsh on the Virginia side of the Potomac River in Fairfax County near Alexandria. For more information, visit [www.fodm.org](http://www.fodm.org) and [www.nps.gov/gwmp](http://www.nps.gov/gwmp).



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

**The National Park Service and volunteers cleared the .65-acre site of invasive plants.**



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

**Matt Bright, Earth Sangha, explained the project to visitors on June 9.**



PHOTO BY GLENDA BOOTH

**Much of the land along the Dyke Marsh Haul Road Trail is overwhelmed with invasive plants like porcelainberry and English ivy.**



**Katherine Isaacson helped put in plants and trees.**



**Bettie Samuel, Katherine Knoble and Christopher Logas of Capital Caring**



PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/THE GAZETTE

**Erika Frazier of Mount Vernon At Home**

# Chamber Showcases Nonprofits

BY GERALD A. FILL  
THE GAZETTE

Nonprofit organizations were highlighted at the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce's June net working breakfast at Belle Haven Country Club. The showcase served as the setting for the following program representatives:

- ❖ Capital Caring — Bettie Samuel, Katherine Knoble, Christopher Logas
- ❖ Neighborhood Health — Jane Downing Knops
- ❖ Rising Hope — Mary Hamilton
- ❖ Alice's Kids — Ron Fitzsimmons
- ❖ Mount Vernon At Home — Erika Frazier
- ❖ New Hope Housing — Jan-Michael Sacharko
- ❖ The Koinonia Foundation — Judy Davis.

Chamber President Sonja Caison, and Executive Director Holly Dougherty provided organizational leadership and support for the event.

The Mount Vernon magisterial district has a diverse demographic population made up of expensive homes as well as neighborhoods accommodating low and moderate income populations. Thus, despite the overall wealth of the area there continues to be segments of the district's population in need of help: grief counseling for the elderly; shoes for children; food assistance for the poor; affordable housing for those in need of shelter; health and dental care for those without health or dental insurance, etc. The chamber event was a reminder that no matter how well off the community is, there are those that continue to need help.

See [www.mtvernon-leechamber.org](http://www.mtvernon-leechamber.org).



**Judy Davis of The Koinonia Foundation**



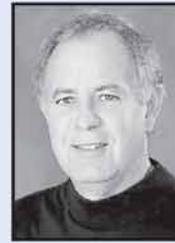
**Jan-Michael Sacharko of New Hope Housing**



**Jane Downing Knops of Neighborhood Health**



**Mary Hamilton of Rising Hope with Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Holly Dougherty**



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Lovely, 4BR, 2BA, 4 lvl Split on a lg, beautiful .3 acre lot w/a fenced bkyd. Freshly painted interior and beautiful refinished hdwds. Main lvl has a spacious & cozy Family rm w/gas FPL, 4th BR, & 2nd full bath. Upper level #1 offers an open kitchen plus Living & Dining Rm. Upper level #2 has full bath & 3BRs. The lower level has a lg partially finished Rec rm. Good price on a super lot.



**Alex/Wessynton \$644,900**  
**3301 Wessynton Way**  
Beautiful home in Wessynton. Mt. Vernon's sought after contemporary community, just a stone's throw to Mt. Vernon Estate & George Washington Pkwy, & is adjacent to Little Hunting Creek. Large kitchen w/ breakfast area, & a separate Dining Rm. Beautiful hdwd floors. FPLs in the lovely Living Rm & Family Rm. Situated in a natural, wooded setting the home's bountiful windows bring outdoors inside. Enjoy the natural landscaping on your deck. 1 car garage. Community amenities include boat ramp, swimming pool, tennis courts.



**Alex/Sulgrave Manor \$559,900**  
**4000 Renault Place**  
Beautiful 4BR, 3BA garage home with stunning renovations on landscaped .69 acre lot <1mile to Ft. Belvoir, Walker Gate. Gorgeous new custom kitchen & lovely remodeled baths. Open floor plan, refinished hdwd floors, 50 yr. roof & skylights (2016), windows (2015). SGD off Master BR to deck. Family rm fireplace with high-end wood stove insert. Fenced play area.



**Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900**  
**8341 Orange Court**  
Stunning & updated 5BR, 3BA Split w/2 car garage on a beautifully landscaped lot looking across to woodlands & winder water views of Little Hunting Creek. Kitchen gutted in 2011 w/porcelain, quartz & SS. Other updates include: painting, floors, baths, roof & A/C. Front windows replaced w/thermal DBL pane. Beautifully updated & meticulously maintained. 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, 25 mins to NTL Airport & 30 mins to the Pentagon.



**Alex/Stratford Landing \$564,900**  
**2620 Culpeper Road**  
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**Alex/Riverside Estates \$559,900**  
**8523 Bound Brook Ln.**  
Lovely Mt. Vernon home w/ attractive floorplan — 5BRs, 3BAs & a 2 car garage. Great curb appeal. Newer roof & windows. Beautiful kitchen w/corion counters, SS appliances, lovely cabinetry & island bar. French doors off kitchen open to deck. Spacious Family rm w/raised hearth fireplace.



**Alex/Mt. Vernon Grove \$679,900**  
**9343 Boothe Street**  
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## The Art of a Deal with the Devil

BY GERRY CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-11)

**A**gainst the backdrop of American and North Korean flags, the world finally got a glimpse into the negotiating skills of the so-called “Master of the Deal.” After much fanfare more appropriate for a reality television show than a historic diplomatic summit, the president emerged empty-handed. Trump gave the North Korean dictator everything he’s longed for — international legitimacy, an audience with an American president, and the cancellation of military exercises with our South Korean ally. And President Trump got nothing.

### COMMENTARY

There is great danger in a president more committed to the optics of a getting a deal than the substance within it. Trump’s on-again, off-again agreement to a nuclear summit with Kim Jong Un was a high-risk gambit that squandered valuable leverage and gained no concessions in return. With little preparation and guided by his “feel” that within the first minute he would know if a deal is possible, the president rolled out the red carpet for Kim, ignoring that the devil is in the details.

Kim got the propaganda he needs back

home, while concrete commitments from the North Koreans to denuclearize remain elusive. The administration’s oft-repeated language that denuclearization must be “irreversible” and “verifiable” was not even mentioned in the joint statement, nor any reference to North Korea’s egregious human rights violations and Kim’s illegal imprisonment of more than 100,000 people in gulags. And the president’s weakness and naiveté signals to nuclear threshold states that they too should adopt the North Korean model of extreme brutality, threats and endless provocation.

Even more troubling, this summit follows President Trump’s shameful behavior with our closest allies at the G-7 summit. While we repay our allies’ loyalty with misguided tariffs and disrespect, the president is cozying up to one of our greatest foes, cementing the worldview that America is retreating again.

The Korean peninsula is a dangerous global flashpoint and we must remain open to diplomatic engagement with the North, but not at any cost and not without assurances that such an endeavor is guided by steady hands. We can’t have amnesia about the past. North Korea has previously made denuclearization commitments in 1994, 2005, and 2012, only to renege on each in 2002, 2009, and 2012, respectively. But Mr. Trump cares little about substance, history or strategy.

We had a model that worked. In response to illicit Iranian nuclear activities, the international community established a robust sanctions regime that drove Iran to the negotiating table. Before

agreeing to formal talks, the United States extracted specific commitments from Iran to freeze portions of its nuclear program. But it was the promise of relaxed sanctions and increased international trade that convinced Iran to reverse its nuclear program and adopt the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with which it is in compliance to this day. Articulating incentives for denuclearization, commensurate with strict and verifiable nuclear dismantlement, should have been an essential component of any diplomatic engagement with North Korea.

When the president tore up the Iran nuclear agreement, simply because it was signed by his predecessor, he set his own standard for North Korea: absolute denuclearization, absolutely verifiable. Anything less than that is a failure by his own admission. Following the summit, we are not even close to the goal of a denuclearized North Korea.

The consequences of a nuclear North Korea are real and rushing to a bad deal could prove catastrophic on a global scale. The president needs to step back and recognize that substance and details matter. You are negotiating with a manipulative, erratic, and murderous dictator. Proceed with great caution, because this isn’t real estate. You can’t just walk away. Millions of lives hang in the balance if you agree to a deal on Kim Jong Un’s terms.

*Connolly is a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.*

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Board, in 10-0 Vote, Approves More Inclusive Policies

To the Editor:

On June 14 at its regular meeting, the Fairfax County School Board approved updates to the Family Life Education Curriculum which are more inclusive of transgender students and family members, and a provision which will teach about ways to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic and inevitably save some of our students from infection.

Many members of the LGBTQ community and many allies came to the School Board meeting wearing purple, outnumbering those opposed by more than two-to-one. School Board members Karen Corbett Sanders (Mount Vernon), Tamara Derenak Kaufax (Lee), Megan McLaughlin (Braddock), Jane Strauss (Dranesville), Dalia Palchik (Providence), Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill), Sandy Evans (Mason), Karen Keys-Gamarra (at-large), Ilryong Moon (at-large) and Ryan McElveen (at-large) spoke eloquently and clearly in support of these provisions. Sully representative Tom Wilson and Springfield representative Elizabeth Schultz spoke against them,

but were in fact away from the table for the final vote; it was unanimous at 10-0.

As president of FCPS Pride (a social welfare organization for LGBTQ employees, parents of

LGBTQ students, and LGBTQ parents and allies in Fairfax County Public Schools), I would like to express my gratitude for the citizens who came to support, and to the elected officials who re-

sponded to those community members. We look forward to contributing, canvassing and voting at the elections in 2019.

**Robert Rigby, Jr.**  
President, FCPS Pride

## Disappointed by Family Life Education Changes

To the Editor:

*The following statement was issued regarding the Fairfax County School Board’s vote on its Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum.*

While I am pleased that the Fairfax County School Board has voted to retain clergy among the list of people our youth ought to consider trusted adults, I am nevertheless disappointed to see the board has chosen ideology over biology in introducing such terms as “sex assigned at birth” in place of “biological sex” in the schools’ Family Life Education (FLE) curriculum. It is also distressing to see students receiving information about the drug regimen PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) while at the same time not learning that abstinence is the only 100 percent effective way of preventing the

transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). As a community committed to proclaiming the truth about human life, dignity and sexuality, the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Arlington will continue its efforts to educate the public regarding the content of the

FLE curriculum and encourage parents to exercise their God-given right to “opt-out” their children from those lessons that distort the truth and are morally offensive.

**Bishop Michael F. Burbidge**  
Catholic Diocese of Arlington

### Write

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

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# Fundraiser To Support the Work of Holly's Hands

FROM PAGE 1

rabies, so what we are doing is important. I'm usually the only surgeon while Dr. Krasner handles most of the anesthetic procedures and vaccines."

Despite being a practiced veterinarian, Gill too often finds herself surprised at the living conditions of animals in countries like Ecuador and Haiti.

"We usually only stay about a week, but we always have plenty to do because, the area we go to in Haiti, the Sud region, simply doesn't have healthcare for animals," she said. "They don't even have a veterinary pharmacy. It's really a novel situation. We see things there that we don't see in the U.S. There are no vaccinations. What we are trying to do is get people to realize that we have ways to help them take care of their animals, that there are ways to get them domesticated, healthier and safer. As of now, people don't bring them into their homes because they have diseases."

While Gill works with other non-profit organizations and a few locals for logistical support, she and her small team are mostly on their own once in country. Up to this point, Gill and Lebovic have funded these trips out of their own pockets. Finally, after years of performing pro bono procedures on animals in underserved countries, Gill is hosting a fundraiser for Holly's Hands: Howling for Holly's Hands, a com-

edy and Improv show on Sunday evening, June 24 at the historic Lyceum in Old Town, to help fund future trips to Haiti.

"While we've had very small fundraisers here and there, Holly's Hands has mostly been self-funded," Krasner said. "Howling for Holly's Hands is our first big effort. Dr. Gill works so hard and we want to get the word out so that the community can get excited about Holly's Hands. We have looked into grants, but, coordinating an event like this has always been in the back of my mind. It was just about finding good timing."

Krasner is involved in the local Improv scene, so she has lined up a talented group of performers for the show.

A veterinarian of more than eight years, Krasner has not only been instrumental in planning Howling for Holly's hands. She was also key to bringing Holly's Hands to Haiti.

"My cousin, Molly, lives in Haiti, working in women's healthcare in the Sud region," Krasner said. "I had gone with Dr. Gill to Ecuador. We had talked about wanting to go to Haiti, knowing that there would be a big need there. I've enjoyed doing this kind of work also and thought it would be a good experience for us and a good fit for the community. So we were able to connect with my cousin and work with the people in her area to get the word out and help local ani-

mals."

They set up shop in Molly's driveway on their first visit and, from there, word quickly spread. Now, the locals anticipate Holly's Hands visits.

In just a handful of visits to Haiti, Gill and Krasner already see the impact that they are making. Still, they are far from being satisfied.

"You can see how much healthier the dogs we spay and neuter are," Gill said. "We work with animals in different communities in the region. We go to the animals, and to homes when people don't have cars. We also work with one local man in Haiti who gets the word out so that people know when we come so that they just come and meet us, knowing we'll take care of them."

Haiti has been on Gill's mind for years, and the near-to-her-heart country isn't going anywhere. So, her small team has high

hopes for Howling for Holly's Hands this weekend. Even with Gill and Krasner's busy schedules – including their time in Haiti earlier this month – they've coordinated a show that promises to have the audience howling with laughter.

"There's a really great performer coming from New York, an all-female comedy troupe, and so much more," Krasner said. "We'd love to raise \$5,000, because even that would help so much. We want to put more money in the charity and go back to Haiti later this year. I want people to know about this charity and all the work that Dr. Gill and [her husband] Jim put into it. Going to these evolving areas and supporting this mission has been really special to me."

To make a donation to attend Howling for Holly's Hands, and to learn more, visit <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3405704>.

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### THURSDAY/JUNE 21

**Workplace Violence Workshop.** 9 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon District Police Station, 2511 Parkers Lane. Fairfax County Police Department is offering "Business Watch and Workplace

Violence Workshop" in collaboration with Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. All businesses and employees are welcome. Reservations required. Email MPO Robert Urps at [Robert.Urps@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Urps@FairfaxCounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/event/business-watch-and-workplace-violence-workshop](http://www.fairfaxcountyeda.org/event/business-watch-and-workplace-violence-workshop) for more.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 17

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Michael Scott Laemmle, Jr., C/A Class of 2018, in his speech to classmates at graduation



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# Sexual Assault Reported in Fort Hunt Park

## Suspect flees.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE GAZETTE

In the early hours on Wednesday, June 13, police responded to reports of a sexual assault that occurred in Fort Hunt Park off the George Washington Memorial Highway.

The assault allegedly occurred around 7 a.m. but was not reported until 9 a.m., so at that time, officers from several area police departments converged on the park with dogs, and began a search for a suspect. "The offender was long gone at that point," said U.S. Park Service spokesperson Sgt. James Dingeldein, and there is a possibility the victim knew her attacker. "That's the indication," Dingeldein said. "There was no violence or force," he said.

Regular park attendees were alarmed at the police presence, and a search was underway when one Mount Vernon resident who chose not to give her name was walking her dog through the park. "They were searching through the woods this way," she said, pointing from north to south through the wooded area of the park. She said the search was conducted by park police officers, Fairfax County officers and a helicopter. "People in all different kinds of uniforms."



In the back of Fort Hunt Park, there is a small police station and stable for the Horse Mounted Police, called the "HMP."

Fort Hunt Park is a heavily wooded park with a few picnic shelters and remnants of an artillery battery when it was a military installation from the late 1800s to the end of World War II. In the back of the park is a

park police office with a stable and one on-duty officer. There is a two-way loop around the park with isolated spots in the back of the park.

The dog walker went to her house, which



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE GAZETTE

In the heavily wooded part of the park, a lone walker is on the loop.

is about one mile from the park, and looked at her neighborhood online service. "They knew each other," according to the online discussion, she said. She walks her dog in the park every day and sees the same faces from time to time. "I feel the park is safe," she said. "We see the same people every day, a whole bunch of regulars," she added.

According to the U.S. Park Police, the incident remains under investigation by its Criminal Investigation Branch.

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# Talking to Children about Suicide

Creating safe environment is key to opening a discussion.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The recent high profile deaths by suicide make it inevitable that children will ask questions and express a curiosity about the topic. However, some parents might feel a sense of uneasiness about answering those questions. Local mental health educators say that the steady increase in death by suicide each year since 1999 makes those conversations vital.

Parents can begin by creating a safe environment for an age-appropriate dialogue, says Linda Gulyn, Ph.D, professor of psychology at Marymount University. "As always, reassure young children that you are there for them no matter what," she said. "Don't feed into the anxiety. Teens understand it 100 percent, probably more than you realize."

"Encourage children to ask questions and answer them honestly," added Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University. "Parents should state that they will help their children handle any bad feelings or problems that happen."

Suicide can be a frightening topic for children and a difficult subject for parents to explain, advised Short. "Explain that people die in different ways and suicide means that people hurt themselves and died from it," he said. "A more detailed explanation is that our thoughts and feelings come from our brain, and sometimes a person's brain is sick. People feel alone, believe they are a burden on others, and are hopeless that it will change. Some people cannot stop the hurt they feel inside by themselves, but they can get help."

Parents should have a general understanding of suicide rates, signs and methods of preventing before embarking on a conversation with their children about the topic, advises Monica Band, Ed.D., assistant professor of counseling at Marymount University, who recommends the National Suicide Prevention and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention as sources of information. "I would also recommend parents challenging their misconceptions and preconceived notions of [those who] who attempt and think of committing suicide because it is an issue that has an impact across cultures."

Some children might not understand the difference between feelings of sadness and clinical depression. "Explain that we all get sad and have good days and bad days," said Gulyn. "Usually we feel better. But kids who commit suicide are so sad that they don't know what to do to feel better. But the truth is there is a way to feel better, and there are very helpful adults in school and at home who are great to talk to."

However, some children might have difficulty grasping the concept of mental illnesses like depression. "Sad is normal, sad is part of life, and usually we feel sad when something outside of us happens,

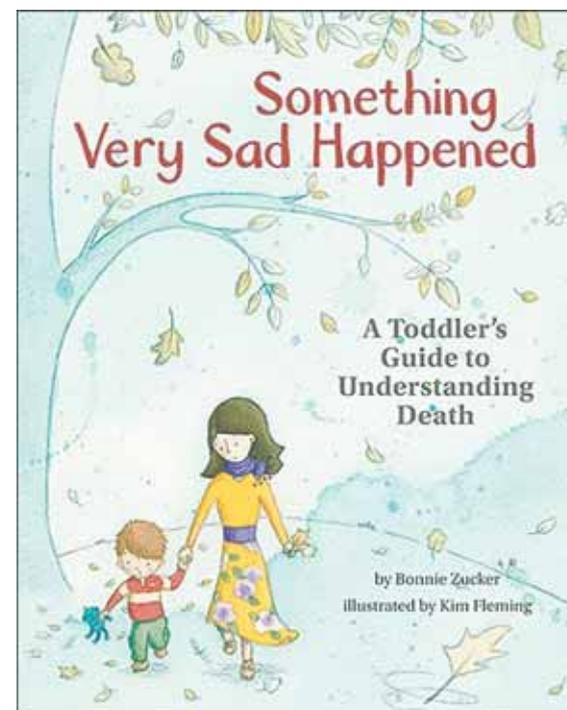


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Books like "Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death" by Bonnie Zucker can help parents explain concepts of mental health to their children.

like when a friend moves away. And we know that we will feel better," said Gulyn. "Depression is when someone feels hopeless that he or she won't be sad anymore. And that makes them not want to do fun things, or take care of themselves."

An awareness of warning signs of mental illness and the fact that depression is not a normal phase of adolescence are two factors that Gulyn underscores. "[Depression] is a serious mental health disorder for which there are effective treatments," she said. "Parents need to be aware of kids isolating themselves from others, especially peers. Other signs [include] not taking care of your physical appearance, consistently performing poorly in school, substance abuse, eating disorders, excessive or inadequate rest."

If a parent notices any of these symptoms or suspects that their child might be depressed, Gulyn advises a straightforward approach. Don't be afraid to ask your teen directly, "Do you think you are depressed?" or "Have you been thinking about hurting yourself?", she suggests.

Teaching a child healthy help-seeking behaviors will give them an invaluable tool when facing mental health issues, advised Monica P. Band, an assistant professor of counseling at Marymount University. "If parents raise the child to have specific religious or spiritual beliefs, this could be a way to begin the discussion of how one finds

strength, resilience, or peace in times when they feel like they're not in control," said Band. "Regardless of one's religious or spiritual beliefs, it is worth it if parents have an understanding and awareness of mood shifts or changes with their children and set an example and expectation with how to address these issues when things aren't feeling right or normal for their child."

## Resources

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline**  
<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>  
**American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**  
<https://afsp.org/about-suicide/risk-factors-and-warning-signs/>

### BOOKS:

- "Something Very Sad Happened: A Toddler's Guide to Understanding Death" by Bonnie Zucker
- "Depression: A Teen's Guide to Survive and Thrive" by Jacqueline Toner and Claire Freeland
- "Danny and the Blue Cloud" by James M. Foley
- "Why are You So Sad, A Child's Book About Parental Depression" by Beth Andrews

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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Jazzy Sundays

Local church has been bringing local musicians to the city.

BY BIANCA MOORMAN

**O**n a Sunday afternoon in Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, a jazz musician plays cover songs by Luther Vandross and Stevie Wonder.

"We've got to let the Alexandria, Arlington and D.C. public know that these awesome artists are here," said Janet Thomas, administrative assistant at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church.

For the last 11 years, the church has been hosting concerts as a way to connect people to the small church. Jazz at Meade, the name of the concert series, is held on the third Sundays of each month between April and December. The concerts are held between 4 and 6 p.m. as way to work with people's schedules as well as the musicians in case they have another engagement.

"What better way to bring people in, than go out in the community, and we go out in the community to spread the Gospel and also let folks know that people who love God, love music and jazz as well," said Thomas.

The purpose of the concerts is not to convert people into a religion but as a way to connect with members of the community.

"I have not seen the emphasis in trying to connect the people who come to jazz to church. I don't see the evangelist aspect in that pursuit," said The Very Rev. Collins E. Asonye, Rector of Meade Memorial Episcopal Church.

Joyce Ramsey, one of the church members who came up with the idea, thought it would be a good way to connect with the community, while also to raise money for the church. Ramsey said she was not sure how members of the congregation would react to her idea.

"We needed to help the church financially and also as an outreach activity. We been able to do both very well I think," said

Ramsey.

Having concerts at the church began long before Jazz at Meade began. Ramsey said there was something called jazz vespers. "Vespers means an evening service, so that would be jazz music played along with the regular service in the evening. I think they used to do that on Saturday night," said Ramsey.

**THE CONCERTS ALLOW** the church to continue the tradition of having local talent playing at the church. Ramsey said a lot of jazz musicians began their careers playing at Meade.

"This church has the tradition of jazz musicians in it and I think we grew from that," said Ramsey.

Ramsey is part of a committee at Meade that plans and arranges the jazz performances at the church. Cris Abad said that the committee starts planning after the last concert in December for the following year's jazz concert line-ups. Abad said they bring local talent and also local talent that has performed internationally.

"All the musicians that we book are local jazz musicians, artists that have international experience. They played all over the world, so they come with great credentials," said Abad.

Some of the people that they have brought included the Marshall Keys Group, ETanya Mari' Quartet, and Ronny Smith, a jazz guitarist.



**Ronny Smith, a jazz musician from Maryland, plays a song before the show closes out.**

PHOTOS BY  
BIANCA MOORMAN



**Members of the Jazz at Meade committee: (From top left) Joyce Ramsey, Deborah Cason Daniel, Denise Brown, Mary Ann Rudy, (from bottom left) Crispin (Cris) A. Abad, Charles Cason, and Gloria Ward Lewis.**

The church finds most of their musicians from word of mouth or when some of the musicians are present at other events and ask about participating in one of the church's shows.

"We get new artists that find out about us and they ask who could they contact. Some of the artists are playing with an artist and will say 'I would like to bring a group in.' It is a good feeling," said Gloria Ward-Lewis.

Smith has been playing at Meade for the last three years and described the audience as being positive and responsive to the music being played.

Will Allen, a drummer playing with Smith, said he was excited to see the audience so engaged with the music. At the concerts many kinds of jazz are offered like traditional, smooth, Latin and African jazz.

Paul Blumstein from Annandale said he has been coming to concerts for eight years and he is never disappointed. He was first invited to attend by his neighbor.

Deborah Cason-Daniel said when she goes to the concerts she likes to feel surprised because she never knows who is performing.

"I invited a person who is from the Alexandria area and, during the concert when we took a break, she said to me that this is best keep secret in Alexandria," Ramsey said.

Charles Cason said since they have been having these concerts, they have gained some members but have not lost any members. Even though the audience tends to be older, they have seen some youth come to their concerts.

"When a teacher comes, a number of his students come and that is fun," said Cason-Daniels.

Upcoming shows will be on July 15, Aug. 19, Sept. 16, Oct. 21 and Nov. 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. at Meade Memorial Episcopal Church, 322 N Alfred St.

"The goal is to have sell-out performances once a month," said Thomas.

### CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday.

#### ONGOING

**"The Nance."** Through June 23 at the Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St., Alexandria. It's 1930s New York, a time when it was easy to "play gay," but dangerous to be gay. A headliner called "The Nance" was usually played by a straight man who would portray a campy homosexual in musical vaudeville parodies. However, in this drama, Chauncey Miles not only plays a gay man but is homosexual himself. "The Nance"

will take the audience into the wild world of burlesque and tell the backstage story of Chauncey and his fellow performers. Admission: \$19 Wednesdays and Thursdays; \$22 Friday through Sunday. Call 703-683-0496 or visit [www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com).

#### China Photography Reception.

Through June 24 at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Presented by the Confucius Institute at George Mason University, China in My Eyes offers a window into China today, taken by a diverse group of photographers living in northern Virginia. Free. Call 703-746-1714 or visit [alexlibraryva.org](http://alexlibraryva.org).

**Doubling Up Show.** Through June 24, 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily at The Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, in the Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. The theme focuses on duality, as in the use of two or more techniques in one piece or work created collaboratively with another gallery artist. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com) or call 703-548-0935.

**Art Exhibit: "Wanderlust."** Gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mt Vernon Ave. "Wanderlust" is an art exhibit about adventure, travel and new experiences that celebrates the

diversity and beauty found in every corner of this world, both near and far. The exhibit runs through June 24, 2018 at Del Ray Artisans. Exhibit details and workshop registration can be found at [DelRayArtisans.org/event/wanderlust](http://DelRayArtisans.org/event/wanderlust).

#### Bethesda Painting Award

**Finalists.** Through June 30, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Eight painters, including Kim Abraham of Alexandria, have been selected as finalists for the Bethesda Painting Awards, a juried competition and exhibition produced by the Bethesda Arts & Entertainment District. Nearly 300 artists from Maryland, Virginia

and Washington, D.C. submitted work to the 14<sup>th</sup> annual competition created to honor regional painters. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

#### Duende District Bookstore.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through June 30 at Torpedo Factory Art Center's New Project Studio, 105 N. Union St. Duende District Bookstore is a collaborative pop-up bookstore by and for people of color where all are welcome. On Saturday, June 30, 3-4 p.m., Duende District will welcome Cinelle Barnes, author of "Monsoon Mansion," a memoir about her rags-to-riches childhood in the Philippines. Visit [www.duendedistrict.com](http://www.duendedistrict.com).

# ENTERTAINMENT

**Art Exhibit: "Selfie: Not for Sharing."** Through July 1, daily, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. In a celebration of a satisfying selfie, ceramics go self-centered and self-involved, placing individualism at the forefront, with the priority of plates for each personage, mugs for mavericks and clay for every character. Call 703-548-6288 or visit [scopegallery.org](http://scopegallery.org).

**WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 20-23**

**Student Congratulations.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Top It Off, 1906 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Congratulations Alexandria students. Parents who bring a child and report card will receive their choice of free mesh squeeze ball or squishy keychain. Contact Beth Jones at 703-519-1850.

**THURSDAY/JUNE 21**

**AHS Awards Ceremony.** 5:30-9 p.m. at River Farm, 7931 East Boulevard Drive, Alexandria. Honoring the American Horticultural Society's 2018 Great American Gardeners and Book Award Honorees from across the country. Outdoor reception overlooking the Potomac before the banquet, then enjoy the awards dinner in the tented garden of the Estate House. Visit [www.ahsgardening.org/awards](http://www.ahsgardening.org/awards).

**THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 21-24**

**"The Music Man, Jr."** At 2 and 7 p.m. June 21-23; and 2 p.m. only on June 24 at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Suite 4, Alexandria. Metropolitan Homeschool Productions presents a

## Book Fair

Throughout the day, there will be a variety of free events for toddlers, young children, teens and seniors. If store guests buy anything and mention that they are there for the bookfair, a portion of the sale proceeds will go to summer reading program. Sponsored by the Friends of Beatley Central Library. Saturday, June 23, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard Center, 3651 Jefferson Davis Highway. At 1 p.m., Markette Sheppard reads "What is Light." At 3 p.m., legal expert Sally Hurme discusses "Checklist for Family: A Guide to My History, Financial Plans and Final Wishes." Visit [stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2867](http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2867) for more.



**Sally Hurme**



**Markette Sheppard**

family-friendly rendition of "The Music Man, Jr.," featuring some of the most beloved songs in musical history. Tickets \$9.75 ages 2 and up. Visit [metropolitanhomeschool.org/](http://metropolitanhomeschool.org/).

**JUNE 21-OCT. 31**

**Row by Row Junior.** Local quilt shops like Artistic Artifacts (4750

Eisenhower Ave.) are welcoming children participating in Row by Row Junior to their shops. It's the junior version of the summertime travel event for quilt making fans known as Row by Row Experience. Kids visit shops in person, collect a free sewing pattern, and find inspiration in colorful, creative world of sewing. At home, families can find free tutorial



**In celebration of National Yoga Day on Thursday, June 21, The Alexandrian, one of Alexandria, VA's most popular hotel destinations, will be hosting a dog yoga class, led by a talented Yogaworks instructor!**

## Yoga and Yappy Hour

Guests and their four-legged friends unwind in a yoga session in the outdoor courtyard of Jackson 20, The Alexandrian's on-site American fare restaurant. Following the hour-long session, participants and their pooches are welcome to indulge in drink specials and other treats offered during Jackson 20's Yappy Hour. Proceeds go to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria. Guests must RSVP by June 19 and are encouraged to bring their own mats. Thursday, June 21, 6 p.m. at The Alexandrian, 480 King St., Alexandria. Free, donations welcome. Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search "Dog Yoga."

support and activities online by visiting [rowbyrowexperience.com](http://rowbyrowexperience.com) or [www.artisticartifacts.com](http://www.artisticartifacts.com) for local quilting.

**FRIDAY/JUNE 22**

**SummerQuest Kick-Off Party.** 2 p.m. at Charles E. Beatley Jr. Central Library, 5005 Duke St., Alexandria.

SummerQuest – the Library's summer reading program for ages 0-12 – is a great way to keep children learning over the summer months. The event launches with a kick-off party featuring crafts, games, snacks and prizes for children. Visit [www.alexlibraryva.org](http://www.alexlibraryva.org).

**Opening Reception: New Works by Ken Strong.** 5-9 p.m. at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong's new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Exhibit runs June 22-Aug. 9. Light refreshments will be served. Open to the public. Call 703-354-2905 or visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net).

**Sunset Movie Night.** 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Outdoor movies every Friday night in June. This week's show is "Thor: Ragnarok." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies will start at sunset. Free. Visit [www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com](http://www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com).

**We Are The Champions Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Del Ray United Methodist Church, 100 E. Windsor Ave., Alexandria. An ALL CAPS celebration with Alexandria Citizens Band. Wear your 2018 Stanley Cup shirts and sing along as they play "We Are the Champions." Visit [www.delrayumc.org](http://www.delrayumc.org).

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

**CALENDAR**

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4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

**Let us know about an upcoming event**

[connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar)

Aldersgate Church Community Theater proudly Presents

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Friday & Saturday @ 8 pm  
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Aldersgate United Methodist Church  
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Alexandria, VA 22308

Tix/Info: [acctonline.org](http://acctonline.org)

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## ENTERTAINMENT

# Filipino Food, Culture on the Docket

## At Torpedo Factory book event.

BY HOPE NELSON

Filipino culture, largesse, a subsequent fall from family wealth — it's all on display in Cinelle Barnes' first book, "Monsoon Mansion." And the food is, as well; from decadent coconut crab to the lowly mung bean, Barnes' roots sit close to the surface.

"I've been on my book tour since April 28 and it's been all sorts of events from straight-up readings to Q&As to panels, but so far my favorite types of events are the types that involve food," Barnes said.

Filipino food — as well as the culture fueling it — will be one of the topics of discussion on June 30 at the Torpedo Factory, as Barnes sits down with Genevieve Villamora of Bad Saint, one of the District's hottest restaurants of late.

"I just want to talk to Genevieve about why each of us thinks that the general audience or the general foodie is suddenly craving, in every sense of that world, Filipino food and Filipino stories and what is it about our flavors that's not just 'on trend' but that's hopefully becoming a mainstay in not just cultural conversations but also cultural palates," Barnes said.

"Monsoon Mansion," a memoir taking readers on a roller-coaster journey chronicling Barnes' family's rise to and fall from grace, encompasses all manner of emotions. From a successful nuclear family to one that's fractured and at times traumatic, the story takes readers on a veritable tour of

## If You Go

"Monsoon Mansion" author Cinelle Barnes talks with Bad Saint's Genevieve Villamora

**Location:** Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St.

**Time:** 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
**Cost:** Free, but RSVP required at [www.eventbrite.com/e/monsoon-mansion-a-conversation-on-filipino-literature-food-culture-tickets-46988630258](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/monsoon-mansion-a-conversation-on-filipino-literature-food-culture-tickets-46988630258)



Cinelle Barnes

life in the Philippines at a specific point in time and place.

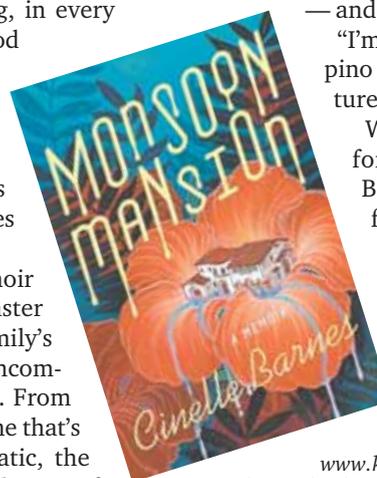
"It's really exciting to see that Filipino stories and Filipino-American stories are getting attention," Barnes said, adding that she is but one of several authors writing from a Filipino perspective who are on tour at the moment.

The June 30 event, sponsored by Duende District Bookstore, will focus on Filipino culture, literature and, of course, food — and the cuisine's long reach across the world. "I'm hoping that we can talk about how Filipino food has translated into mainstream culture," Barnes said.

While the event is free, RSVPs are required for the event due to limited space. And Barnes says she and Villamora are looking forward to welcoming the attendees and contouring their remarks for the audience at hand.

"I think we're both very energetic and we're both really lively people and I think it's going to be so fun," she said.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at [www.kitchenrecessionista.com](http://www.kitchenrecessionista.com). Email her any time at [hope@kitchenrecessionista.com](mailto:hope@kitchenrecessionista.com).



## CALENDAR

**Screening of "Black Panther."** 8:45 p.m. at Market Square, 301 King St., in front of City Hall, Alexandria. The screening will be shown on a three-story high movie screen. Admission is free. Screening offered in partnership between the City of Alexandria and The Goodhart Group. Call the Special Events Hotline at 703-746-5592.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 23

**Mount Vernon Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 8717 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Flea Market will take place every fourth Saturday of the month through September. Vendors will sell items such as: homemade goods, lavender sachets, jewelry, soap, antique and vintage items; books, CD's and DVDs, comic books and more. Refreshments will also be on sale. Hosted by the Mount Vernon Masonic Lodge No. 219. Rain or shine. Visit [www.facebook.com/mountvernonfleamarket/](http://www.facebook.com/mountvernonfleamarket/).

**Historical Marker Dedication.** 9 a.m. at Third Baptist Church, 917 Princess St. A state historical marker issued by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources highlights the founding in 1864, during the Civil War, of Third Baptist Church by a group of emancipated African Americans and its first minister the Rev. George Washington Parker. Open to the public. Visit [www.baptistalexva.org](http://www.baptistalexva.org) or call 703-683-3772.

**5th Annual Well Ray Festival.** 9

a.m.-1 p.m. along Mount Vernon Ave. between Custis and Uhler avenues, Alexandria. Well Ray is a community-wide effort to highlight resources for living healthily and happily. Browse health and lifestyle inspired tents, take free exercise classes and more. Check out wellness-inspired fashion from local fitness clothing designers, jewelers and boutiques. Visit [www.wellraydelray.com](http://www.wellraydelray.com).

### Hamilton Summer Tour: BFF and Frenemies.

10 a.m. at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal St., Alexandria. Hamilton's world emerges through the rooms of Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Hear about Hamilton's "BFF's and Frenemies" who all came to the tavern — Washington, Lafayette, Jefferson, Madison, and Burr — alongside stories from enslaved men and women working at the tavern, like Candas and Moses. \$12 per person, \$10 GTMS/Volunteers. Purchase tickets in advance at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

**Book Fair.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Potomac Yard Center, 3651 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Alexandria. Sponsored by the Friends of Beatley Central Library. Throughout the day, there will be a variety of free events for toddlers, young children, teens and seniors. At 1 p.m., Markette Sheppard reads "What is Light." At 3 p.m., legal expert Sally Hurme discusses "Checklist for Family: A Guide to My History, Financial Plans and Final Wishes." Visit

[stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2867](http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2867).

**Growing Herbs.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Learn about culinary herbs. Program is called "Plants & Design: Herbs-A Baker's Dozen." In this class, Herb Society of America member and horticulturist Peggy Riccio will discuss how to grow 13 common culinary herbs. \$18 per person. Call 703-642-5173 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring).

**Arts Fair.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Str., Alexandria. Free. More than 80 arts and crafts vendors, food, beer and children entertainment. Thousands of residents and visitors of all ages stroll King Street and the Waterfront Park to enjoy jewelers, silversmith and beaders, woodworkers, pottery makers, soap crafters, items for home and garden, clothing, glass makers, painters, sculptors, fabric artists, and more. They offer beer, cider and food and everyone will have a chance to leave their mark on a boat with paint. Rescheduled from an earlier date due to weather. Visit [www.VolunteerAlexandria.org](http://www.VolunteerAlexandria.org).

**Sacramento Community Day.** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sacramento Neighborhood Center, 8792 Sacramento Drive, Alexandria. United Community Ministries and its neighbors are celebrating the Sacramento community with fun-filled family activities and

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# ENTERTAINMENT

entertainment, including games, arts and crafts, yoga, a moon bounce, basketball and soccer, community information, food, and more. UCM is seeking volunteers – from staffing the moon bounce, to check-in and setup – to help with every aspect of the day. Visit [www.ucmagency.org](http://www.ucmagency.org).

## Meet the Artist: "Peregrination."

2-4 p.m. at The Margaret W. and Joseph L. Fisher Gallery on the second floor of the Rachel M. Schlesinger Center on the Alexandria campus of the Northern Virginia Community College, 4915 E. Campus Drive (off Beauregard Street), Alexandria. Arlington-based fine artist Bryan Jernigan's solo show – "Peregrination" – will run June 16-July 28. Peregrination, also known as a long, meandering journey, encapsulates the artist's abstract take on real and envisioned landscapes. Visit [www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter](http://www.nvcc.edu/schlesingercenter).

**Home Makeover 1850s.** 2 p.m. at the Lee-Fendall House Museum and Garden, 614 Oronoco St., Alexandria. Explore the extensive renovations that the Cazenove family made to the Lee-Fendall house and garden in the early 1850s. Learn about the fashionable trends that shaped their decorative decisions and discover the modern conveniences they added to make the home more comfortable. Cost is \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Visit [www.leefendallhouse.org](http://www.leefendallhouse.org).

## SUNDAY/JUNE 24

**Apothecary Geek Tour: Pharmacy Nerds.** 11 a.m.-12 p.m. at Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105-107 S. Fairfax St., Alexandria. Spend time touring the Apothecary Museum with a museum volunteer who is also a pharmacist. The tour guide will focus on the historic medicinal ingredients that are still used today in modern medicine while also touching upon the Stabler and Leadbeater family and business history. \$15 per person. Pre-order tickets online at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov) or by calling 703-746-3852.

**Free Music Concert.** 3 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St., Alexandria. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association presents the Kidder Family playing chamber music gems from the 1930s. Free. Visit [www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum](http://www.alexandriava.gov/Lyceum) or call 703-838-4994.

## MONDAY/JUNE 25

**Book Signing.** 5-8 p.m. at Del Rey pizzeria DRP Belle Haven, 1401 Belle Haven Road, in Alexandria. Nicoletta Shane Scarnera and Chef Mauro Molino will sign copies of their new book, "Piedmont Style: A Delectable Journey Through Northern Italy." Comprising over 144 Northern Italian recipes, divided into three complete meals for each month of the year, the book is certain to pique interest in lovers of all things Italian. Visit [www.delraypizzeria.com/belle-haven/](http://www.delraypizzeria.com/belle-haven/).

## MONDAY-TUESDAY/JUNE 25-26

**Girls Basketball Clinic.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac Girls Basketball Program offers a two-day Girls Basketball Clinic for rising 6th-9th graders. \$40. Proceeds will go the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club and will help fund the "Wolverdome Project" which will provide a much needed renovation to our gymnasium and gymnasium lobby ([www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html))

Registration required at [www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html)



**Return to Harper's Ferry by Ken Strong, 48x32, Oil on Canvas**

## New Works by Ken Strong

Shipped straight from his studio in Australia, Ken Strong's new works represent a variety of subjects from Australia and the United States. Gallery hours at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Exhibit will run June 22-Aug. 9. An opening reception takes place Friday, June 22, 5-9 p.m. Call 703-354-2905 or visit [broadwaygalleries.net](http://broadwaygalleries.net) for more.

[summer-camps.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html).

## MONDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 25-29

**Kids Camp at Fort Word.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. each day at Fort Ward Museum and Historical Site, 4301 West Braddock Road. Registration is now open for Fort Ward Museum's Civil War Kids Camp, a fun and educational history camp for children ages 8-12. Pre-registration is required. \$250 per child. Call 703-746-4848 or visit [www.fortward.org](http://www.fortward.org) to register.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 26

**Twilight & Tipple Tuesday Tours.** 6-9 p.m. at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. A rare opportunity to experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour is a chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky, bring a new dimension and radiance to the typical tour experience. Grab a drink, included in the price of the ticket, and take an informative and fun guided tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. Visit [www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org](http://www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org).

**Serenade! Choral Festival.** 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 South Pitt St., Alexandria. Free with Eventbrite Registration. Featuring the Ensemble Tyva Kyzy (Tuva Republic); Chennai Children's Choir (India); Tiharea (Madagascar); Indonesian Children and Youth Choir – Cordana (Indonesia). Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search "Serenade St. Paul."

## JUNE 26-JULY 29

**Art Exhibit: Graffiti.** At Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, Graffiti. Graffiti's unique form of artistic expression inspires this show's theme: big and bold graphics, hip hop culture, and social commentary. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit [www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com](http://www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com).

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

**History Talk.** 7:30 p.m. at George Washington Masonic National Memorial, 101 Callahan Drive, Alexandria. The Alexandria Historical Society, the George Washington Masonic National Memorial, and the Office of Historic Alexandria present "The Stupendous Works of the Great Architect." Exploring the History of the Alexandria Museum. Tickets \$5. Arrivals by 7 p.m. will be offered access to the GWMNM tower observation platform (weather dependent) before the program. Visit [www.alexandriahistorical.org](http://www.alexandriahistorical.org).

## WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/JUNE 27-28

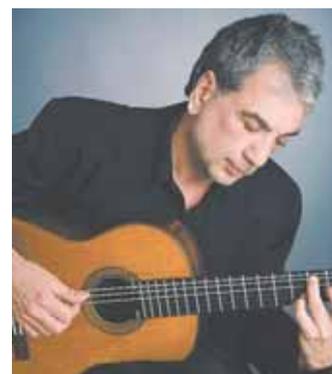
**Girls Basketball Clinic.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac Girls Basketball Program offers a two-day Girls Basketball Clinic for rising 1st-5th graders. \$40. Proceeds will go the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club and will help fund the "Wolverdome Project" which will provide a much needed renovation to our gymnasium and gymnasium lobby ([www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html)) Registration required at [www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html).

## FRIDAY/JUNE 29

**Four Mile Movies: Mary Poppins.** 6:30 p.m., film begins at dusk, Four Mile Conservatory Center 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave. A summer tradition in Alexandria returns with a host of new and old favorites on the last Friday of the month this summer. Fun with friends and family, a picnic dinner, and a blanket or chair. Free. Visit [www.fourmilemovieseries.com](http://www.fourmilemovieseries.com).

**Sunset Movie Night.** 7-11 p.m. at Mt. Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd. Outdoor movies every Friday night in June. This week's show is "Black Panther." Bring a blanket, beach chairs, picnic dinner. Movies will start at sunset. Free. Visit [www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com](http://www.ZelsmanPowersGroup.com).

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special



**Bill Zito**

## Classical Guitar

The Athenaeum presents an intimate evening of solo guitar music featuring works by Bach, Britten and 20th century Spanish romantic composers. Bill Zito has performed at venues such as the Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall in New York City and has toured all over the world. Friday, June 22, 7 p.m. at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St., Alexandria. \$15, tickets available at [www.nvfaa.org/events/celebration-classical-guitar-bill-zito](http://www.nvfaa.org/events/celebration-classical-guitar-bill-zito).

summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 29-30

**Evening Fireworks.** 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Hwy, Mount Vernon. Enjoy an evening of family fun and fireworks choreographed to patriotic music. This special evening event, which includes musical performances and games, takes place June 29-30 only. \$30-\$35 for adults and \$20-\$25 for youth. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/fireworks](http://www.mountvernon.org/fireworks).

## SATURDAY/JUNE 30

**Drawing Flowers with Colored Pencil & Acrylic Workshop.** 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road, Alexandria. Adults. Drawing from colorful photographs or still-life objects of flora and fauna, artist Dawn Flores helps participants explore the techniques used to take colored pencils a step beyond their traditional use. \$90 per person. Register online at [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes) using code 290 332 0801 or call 703-642-5173.

**Children's Craft Workshop.** Noon-1:30 p.m. at Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Visit the Alexandria Black History Museum before attending the opening reception for the dollhouse exhibit, "Our Alexandria" and give children the opportunity to portray an important piece of history. Local artist, Shannon Beacham, will help students create their own diorama and bring to life their choice of an African American historic event and site. Cost is \$2 for adults; \$8 for children 5-plus. Visit [shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx](http://shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx) for tickets.

**Author Event: Cinelle Barnes.** 3-4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through June 30 at Torpedo Factory Art Center's New Project Studio, 105 N. Union St. Duende District will welcome Cinelle Barnes, author of "Monsoon Mansion," a memoir about her rags-to-riches childhood in the Philippines. Duende District Bookstore is a collaborative pop-up bookstore by and for people of color where all are welcome. Visit [www.duendedistrict.com/upcoming-events](http://www.duendedistrict.com/upcoming-events).

**Serenade! Choral Festival.** 5:30 p.m. at Alfred Street Baptist Church, 301 S. Alfred St., Alexandria. This Performance will honor the 100th anniversary of the birth of South African revolutionary, politician and philanthropist, Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. Lineup includes Nathaniel Dett Chorale (Canada). Free with Eventbrite registration. Visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) and search "Alfred Street Baptist."

## JUNE 30-JULY 13

**Del Ray Artisans Grown-Ups Art Camp.** At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. GUAC offers a chance to customize your own "art camp" by taking classes during 10 days of art-filled workshops taught by local artists. Nearly 20 classes to choose from include: techniques in painting, smartphone photography, polymer clay, mixed media, book-making, journaling/drawing, jewelry-making, leather-working, paper and fiber art, sculpture, and more. Visit [www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/guac-2018](http://www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/guac-2018).

## SUNDAY/JULY 1

**Concert.** 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association presents their weekly free summer chamber concert series. This week's concert features the US Army String Quartet and the music of Brahms and Caroline Shaw. Free. Donations appreciated. Call 703-799-8229 or visit [www.wmpamusic.org](http://www.wmpamusic.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

**Daytime Fireworks and Military Reenactments.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway, Mount Vernon. Celebrate with a display of made-for-daytime smoke fireworks in patriotic colors (1 p.m.) during Mount Vernon's annual July 4 event. Mount Vernon's Independence Day event also includes a naturalization ceremony for 100 new citizens, military reenactments, a special wreath-laying ceremony, free birthday cake for all guests (while supplies last), and a visit from the "first" first couple, "General and Mrs. Washington." Tickets purchased online: adults, \$18; children ages 6-11, \$11; and children under 5 admitted free. Visit [www.mountvernon.org/july4](http://www.mountvernon.org/july4).

## FRIDAY/JULY 6

**Mount Vernon Nights.** 7:30 p.m. at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture and community spirit. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's special summer traditions. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights).

## FRIDAY/JULY 13

**Alexandria After Work Concert Series.** 6-8 p.m. at the Lloyd House, 220 North Washington St. The Folklore Society of Greater Washington and The Office of Historic Alexandria sponsor a concert on the second Friday of the month with locations rotating between the Murray-Dick-Fawcett House, Lloyd House, and The Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum. Concert features Ship's Company Chanteymen – traditional chanties and songs of the sea. \$15 suggested donation for the musicians, light refreshments available, and a cash bar. Visit [www.fsgw.org](http://www.fsgw.org).

# Fort Hunt Little League Holds All-League Games

Over the last two weeks, Fort Hunt Little League held its All League games for all divisions.

“Players on our All League teams are selected for displaying outstanding skill, sportsmanship and coachability — the highest ideals of Fort Hunt Little League,” said Barry Meuse, president.

Players are selected by peer voting and input from coaches and managers.

This year’s All League players, by division, include:

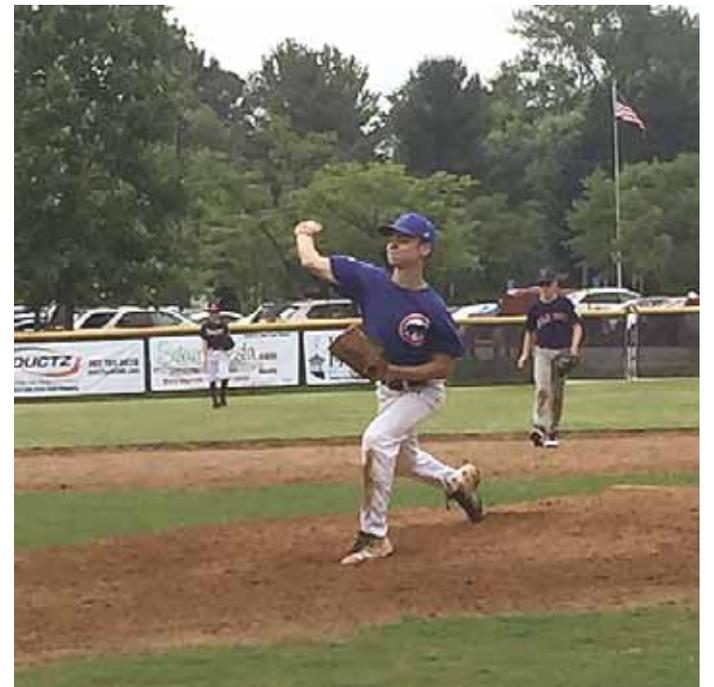
**AA:**

- Hank Kleeman
- Cavan Duffy
- Gabe Coats
- Colin Bowdring
- Ellis Gianchetta
- Crawford Baker
- Brad Lee Khaner
- Braeden McGrann
- Noah Wagner
- Jack Jones
- John David Loving
- Lucas Kratovil
- Matthew Bresset
- Riley Travis
- Connor Hardy
- William Allen
- Dylan Lansburgh
- Matthew Beddis
- Jameson Stuart
- Andrew Stolarz
- Taran Hogan
- Hudson Lewis
- Fionn Miller
- Wyatt Johnson
- Thomas Phillips
- Ben Pearce
- Ethan Dwyer
- Noah Brink
- Reese Meyers
- Charlie May

**AAA:**

- Charles Adkins
- Teddy Azer
- Brennan Casey
- Liam Fore
- Walker Hardin
- AJ Hartwell
- William Healy
- Quinn Kasprzyk
- Logan Miller
- Evan Schultz
- Adam Stanger
- Colin Vieira
- Bennett Winkelfoos
- Gary Barton III
- Elijah Briede
- Keller Estenson
- Wesley Ferguson
- Like Haskin
- Robert Kane
- Callahan Kenney
- Quentin Lisecki
- Luc Mellette
- Teddy Murray
- Dylan Oldham
- William Shaw
- Brooks Weinstein
- Bryce Yoder

**All League AA  
Connor Hardy**



**Majors All League Max Ciovacco**



**Majors All League Ryan  
Stradtman and Max Ciovacco**

**Minors:**

- Abby Beddis
- Jeb Blanton
- Aiden Bratten
- Bejamin Briede
- Jackson Bringger
- Tristan Bush
- Trevion Campbell
- John Clippinger
- Noah Clippinger
- Fletcher Condon
- Alexander Diffenbach
- Brandon Dwyer
- Michael Erlandson
- Thomas Foley
- Brendan Forti
- William Hampton
- Witt Hardin



**Minors All League Walker McElwain**

**Majors:**

- Jackson Arthaud
- Jack Bacon
- Barrett Baker
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# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

## SATURDAY/JUNE 23

**Boater Safety Classes.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Boater Safety Classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Students who pass the test receive a boater education certificate recognized by the Coast Guard, Virginia and all other states that require boater education. Contact Moses Pettigrew at msgtop@verizon.net or 202-616-8987.

## MONDAY/JUNE 25

**Information Meeting.** 7 p.m. in Clubroom 2 of the Mount Vernon Recreation Center, 2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public information meeting to discuss the Sustainable Trail Plan for Mount Vernon District Park. The purpose is to provide a sustainable trail system for the park that includes existing and planned trails and stream crossings within the park. Staff will provide a presentation on the Sustainable Trail Plan, followed by an opportunity for questions and answers. Call 703-324-8629.

## MONDAY-TUESDAY/JUNE 25-26

**Girls Basketball Clinic.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac Girls Basketball Program offers a two-day Girls Basketball Clinic for rising 6th-9th graders. \$40.

Proceeds will go the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club and will help fund the "Wolverdome Project" which will provide a much needed renovation to our gymnasium and gymnasium lobby ([www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html)) Registration required at [www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html).

## TUESDAY/JUNE 26

**Workplace Violence Workshop.** 9 a.m.-noon at Mount Vernon District Police Station, 2511 Parkers Lane. Fairfax County Police Department is offering "Business Watch and Workplace Violence Workshop" in collaboration with Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce. All businesses and employees are welcome. Reservations required. Email MPO Robert Urps at [Robert.Urps@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Urps@FairfaxCounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcountyeeda.org/event/business-watch-and-workplace-violence-workshop](http://www.fairfaxcountyeeda.org/event/business-watch-and-workplace-violence-workshop) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY/JUNE 27-28

**Girls Basketball Clinic.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road. The West Potomac Girls Basketball Program offers a two-day Girls Basketball Clinic for rising 1st-5th graders. \$40. Proceeds will go the Wolverine Athletic Booster Club and will help fund the "Wolverdome Project" which will provide a much needed renovation to our gymnasium and gymnasium lobby ([www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wolverdome.html))

Registration required at [www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html](http://www.supportwestpotomac.com/wp-summer-camps.html).

## TUESDAY/JULY 10

**Story Time: Focus and Self-Control.** 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support focus and self-control in young children. Focus and self-control is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that involves paying attention, following the rules, thinking flexibly, and exercising self control. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more.

## THURSDAY/JULY 12

**Story Time: Perspective Taking.** 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support perspective taking in young children. Perspective taking is an evidence-based executive functioning skill that forms the basis for children's understanding of their parents', teachers', and friends' intentions. Registration is limited and required for children ages 4-6 and their parents. Visit [www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center](http://www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center) for more.

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### Legals

### Legals

VIRGINIA:  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS  
Case No.: CA1 700036M-03

**IN RE: The Adoption of Eva Nicole Gilbertson  
A minor, by Mary Ann Orzechowski**

### ORDER OF PUBLICATION

After review of the Affidavit and Petition for Order of Publication filed by counsel for Petitioner, Mary Ann Orzechowski, which object of such Affidavit and Petition is to effectuate an adoption and terminate the birth mother's parental rights, and pursuant to Virginia Code § 8.01-316, the Court finds that there exists sufficient grounds for causing service of process by publication.

Therefore, it is ORDERED that the birth mother, Brittany Nichole Davis also known as Brittany Nichole Davis, also known as Brittany Nichole Fields, also known as Brittany Nichole Hamel, appear at the above-named Court to protect her interests at 9:00am on July 12, 2018. Should the birth mother not appear or otherwise make known her position, then she is hereby notified that any and all of her parental rights will be terminated.

It is further ORDERED that this Order of Publication be published once a week for four successive weeks in the Alexandria Gazette in Alexandria, Virginia, and in the Mt. Vernon Gazette in Fairfax, Virginia, and a copy be posted at the front door of the Courthouse.

Enter: 5/31/2018

*[Signature]*  
Judge

We ask for this:

*[Signature]*

Colleen Marca Qinn, Esq. (VSB # 29282)  
Locke & Quinn  
4928 West Broad Street, P.O. Box 11708, Richmond, VA 23230  
Telephone: (804) 285-6253 Fax: (804) 545-9400  
Email: [quinn@lockequinn.com](mailto:quinn@lockequinn.com)  
Counsel for Petitioners

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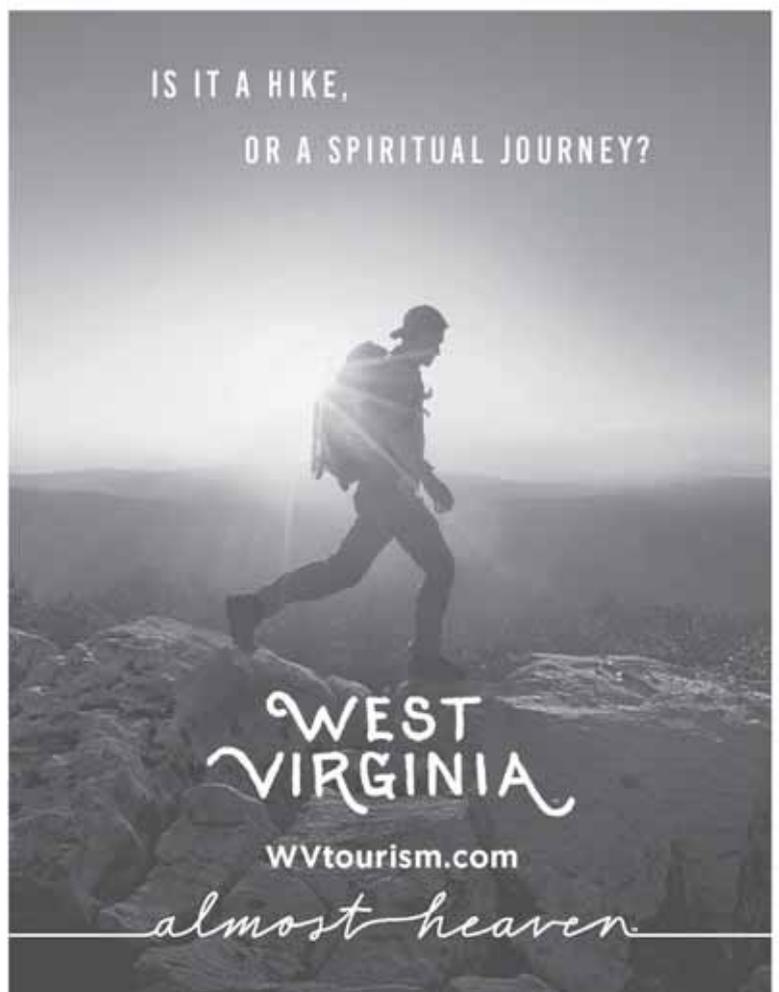
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## Watching Some More and Wondering No Less



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, I bought my wife, Dina, the "Limited Edition, Downton Abbey, The Complete Collector's Set." Twenty-two discs, all the episodes, bonus features, etc. Now we can finally delete the saved content off our DVR; that should open up about half the available storage. Storage that we've happily used and accessed many times.

In its prime though, we did not miss a Downton Abbey episode when it was first broadcast on PBS (starting Jan. 9, 2011 and ending Jan. 3, 2016) and we've been recording, saving and watching ever since. We are two, of millions, who couldn't get enough viewing time of this period drama then and still can't to this day.

Ergo, the purchase. Now we are in control. If anything happens to our cable box – and it needs to be replaced/upgraded, we will not – as previously happened, suffer a potentially tragic loss of content in the exchange. Eliminating that worry alone has made the purchase worth the very reasonable price we paid.

Having the complete set in hand, Dina and I have decided to re-watch the series from start to finish. Heretofore, we had watched episodes in sequence, but not necessarily in chronological order – meaning season one, episode one through the final episode of season six. As a result of this decision, we have gotten reacquainted with story lines which had somewhat faded over time as there are some episodes we hadn't seen in years. We had saved many, but not all (when it was free to do so; now, the there's a cost, \$2.99 per episode to buy, I believe).

So far, we're through season two and we've thoroughly enjoyed the people, places and things – and the many nuances we may have missed or forgotten. However, this passage of time has caused Dina and I to rethink some of our opinions of characters and story lines.

There are two primary reassessments that oddly enough, Dina and I share.

One concerns Dr. Clarkson, the local/family doctor who runs the Downton Cottage Hospital. The other concerns Patrick Crawley (the cousin/original heir who was thought to have died when the Titanic sank in 1912) who reappears in season two as a convalescing Peter Gordon, a.k.a. P Gordon. As much as we like Dr. Clarkson, and are amused by his straddling the line between himself and the aristocracy, we have decided that we don't like some of his medical opinions: his hesitancy to even consider the treatment for dropsy for Mr. Drake that "cousin" Isobel (an experienced nurse) had proposed; his misjudgment of the possible psychological consequences of transferring the patient with gas blindness (with whom Thomas had developed a rapport) who subsequently killed himself – presumably rather than accept being transferred; and finally Matthew who suffered what Dr. Clarkson described as a transection of his spine when he and William were injured in battle which turned out to be a bruise.

An injury that he said would prevent Matthew from ever walking and – as later realized, fathering children either. In all three instances, Dr. Clarkson was proven to be wrong. As a consequence, if Dr. Clarkson was diagnosing my cancer, I'd ask for a second opinion.

As for Peter Gordon/P Gordon/Patrick Crawley and the story line concerning his reappearance as heir/heir pretender so many years after the family thought he had died – I would love to ask Julian Fellowes (writer and creator of "Downton Abbey") if this element was fact or fiction or simply a mere diversion for affect.

It all seemed so contrived, especially after "P" Gordon (who says he got his "name from a liquor bottle") leaves a note for the heartbroken Edith before there's any resolution. I mean, was he the heir or wasn't he? Did he leave because he felt the jig was up and the ruse was likely to fail? Or did he feel so betrayed and disrespected by his family (the Crawleys) that he felt his present and/or future could never be what he envisioned?

Consequently, there are two questions I'd like answered: was Peter Gordon actually Patrick Crawley and where did Dr. Clarkson get his medical training?

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

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY DIANE AUCLAIR

From Left: Olivia Parker (as Marian Paroo), Director Barbara Schwartz, and Lewis Bliss (as Professor Harold Hill).

## Gearing Up for 'The Music Man, Jr.'

BY NAOMI GERTZ  
CAST MEMBER

"Kick out with all you've got! Give it your best! Make sure you smile at the audience!" Spend any time near the Metropolitan Homeschool Productions (MHP) rehearsal studios and you will hear instructions like these. What is going on here? A diverse group of 40 home-educated students who started this journey in the beginning of January comes together weekly to put the finishing touches on their production of "The Music Man, Jr.," which runs June 21-24.

"The Music Man" features a sneaky con-man, Harold Hill, who intrudes upon the peace and quiet of River City, a calm, country town in the middle of Iowa. Hill succeeds in selling most of the townsfolk with talk of a flashy boys' band, but the piano-playing librarian sees right through his scheme.

At the age of 16, Lewis Bliss of Burke, who stars as Harold Hill in this production, plays the part of the wily man to perfection. Bliss remarks that "playing Harold is like playing two characters: the man he displays on the outside and the person he is deep down inside. His motives and secret passions, and his unused potential to change people's lives for the better are absolutely fascinating to explore."

As the story progresses, Marian the Librarian (played here by 18-year-old Olivia Parker of Alexandria) suspects Harold of fraud, but she can do nothing until his plans to swindle the town are uncovered. While waiting for adequate proof, Marian finds herself warming up to the "Professor" — but not as one of his dupes; instead, she falls in love.

Performances are June 21- 23 at 2 and 7 p.m., as well as June 24 at 2 p.m. at the Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Drive, Suite 4, Alexandria. Admission is \$9.75 for everyone 2 years and older. Purchase tickets online at <https://metropolitanhomeschool.org>. Reserve seats in advance, as this company sold out every performance last season.

The show is directed by Barbara Schwartz, along with her team of Choreographer Diane Spinelli and Musical Director Maia Rodriguez.

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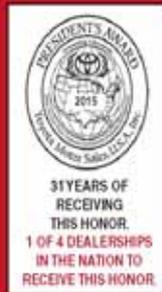
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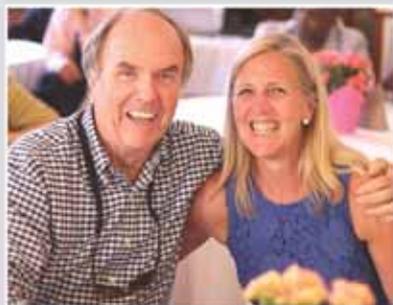
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**CLASSIC COLONIAL!**



**9300 Maybrook Pl**  
**\$749,000**  
**Large Colonial!**

**8708 Sudbury Dr.**  
**\$580,000**  
**Pristine Condition!**



**4603 Fenimore Pl**  
**\$549,500**  
**Many Updates!**  
 Just listed 2 level 5 bed/3 Bath home on huge lot over half an acre or privacy at end of cul-de-sac! Major updates include: new roof, new siding, new HVAC and hot water heater, new windows and front entry doors, granite counter in kitchen, 22ft x 20ft deck, 16ft x 12 ft shed in back yard. A lot of house for the money! Won't last long!

**CONTRACT!**



**9411 Mount Vernon Cir.**  
**\$1,150,000**  
**Mt. Vernon on the Potomac!**  
 Stately brick colonial in area's premier water front community. Over 6,000 sq ft of luxury! Features Include: Estate size rooms, high ceilings, three finished levels, four BR's including 3 room master suite with stunning bath, elegant trim detail, hardwood floors, extensive rear decking, oversize 2 car garage. Located in cul-de-sac with river access.

**COMMUNITY WATER ACCESS**



**9313 Old Mansion Rd**  
**\$865,000**  
**Riverwood Gem!**

**4200 Roverson Blvd**  
**\$610,000**  
**1 level Contemporary!**



**4405 Ferry Landing Rd**  
**\$699,500**  
**Recently Renovated**

**8634 Gateshead Rd**  
**\$699,000**  
**Incredible Pool Scene!**



**4417 Dolphin Ln**  
**\$599,000**  
**Spacious Rambler!**

**4800 Tarpon Ln.**  
**\$555,000**  
**Pristine Condition!**

LONG & FOSTER  
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