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Oak Hill Herndon CONNECTION



Flow artist David Nghiem of Revolutionary Motion Fire Conclave spins and juggles a ring of fire at the 2018 Light Festival produced by Arts Herndon Saturday evening June 16.

Light Festival Illuminates a Summer Night

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Demolition Approved

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Diners and Employees Escape Fire

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NEWS

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PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

“Sprinklers helped to keep the fire in check until firefighters could aggressively put the fire out,” said Captain Randy Bittinger.

Diners and Employees Escape Fire at Pollo Inka Restaurant

Firefighters aggressively put out the flames.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A late Saturday-afternoon fire on June 23 chased diners and employees out of Pollo Inka, a Latin American Restaurant located at 656 Elden Street a block from the heart of Herndon’s downtown. Nearly a dozen stations from across the region responded to a call for a possible fire at the restaurant situated in a one-story commercial shopping center.

Engines, trucks and rescues from Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Stations 401 McLean, 402 Vienna, 403 City of Fairfax, 404 Herndon, 423 West Annandale, 425 Reston, 436 Frying Pan, 439 North Point as well as Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Tower 611 and Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire and Rescue 303 responded.

The first firefighters at the scene reported fire and smoke in the restaurant and smoke emitting from one of the exposures. Bystanders crowding the sidewalks reported seeing flames coming from the roof.

“Sprinklers helped to keep the fire in check until firefighters could aggressively put the fire out,” reported Captain Randy Bittinger in a video filmed on site and later posted on the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Facebook page. Bittinger added that fire investigators remained on the scene to investigate the origin of the fire.

No civilian or firefighter injuries were reported. Pollo Inka, which opened in the shopping center location in 1992, is closed due to the damage.

According to state records, the shopping center is owned by Maryland-based and privately held Richmond Corporation. There are numerous vacant storefronts in the aging shopping center, some of which have been empty for multiple years such as space formerly occupied by the Tortilla Factory, a popular dining spot that closed in 2012.

In July of 2015, the Pines Shopping Center obtained a new leasing manager, Vienna-based Renaud



Crews from three fire departments responded to a fire Saturday at Pollo Inka Restaurant on Elden Street in the Town of Herndon. Diners and employees escaped the fire and smoke unharmed.

Consulting. On their website, a recent map of the shopping center shows Dominos Cafe marked to go into the free-standing building located in the shopping center.

The day after the fire, individuals were seen entering the rear door of Pollo Inka Restaurant. They carried equipment out of the building and loaded the items into a vehicle labeled Pollo Inka.

A man who identified himself as being part of Pollo Inka said they were taking some of the undamaged items to a Sterling restaurant owned by a relative. Asked when the restaurant might reopen, he responded it would remain closed until the damage can be repaired and hoped it would be completed soon.

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Flow artists David Nghiem and Rikke Kalfani of Revolutionary Motion Fire Conclave mesmerize the audience during Arts Herndon's 2018 Light Festival held Saturday, June 16.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

Light Festival Illuminates a Summer Night in Herndon

Event draws 300 people from around the District, Maryland and Virginia.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

A lazy summer evening offered the perfect opportunity for Arts Herndon to launch its 2018 Light Festival. The free family friendly event held outdoors and indoors at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center Street on Saturday, June 16, 7 - 10 p.m. featured work by light artists Stephanie Wright, Stephen Vides-Sanchez and Kendall Hobson of Eye of the Heart @ eotherize.com. One such work was entitled, "Jellyfish in the Ecosystem." The trio installed it specifically for the 2018 Light Festival.

Hobson also created a sound-light booth that dazzled spectators at the festival as strings of lights synchronized perfectly to the beat of a favorite children's song and retro video game show tracks.

As the sun dipped beneath the horizon, areas in and around ArtSpace Herndon glowed with performances by renowned flame spinners and jugglers David Nghiem and Rikke Kalfani, flow artists and members of the Revolutionary Motion Fire Conclave based in the District of Columbia.

If that was not enough, guests could make S'Mores over a fire pit, play glow-in-the-dark games, purchase icy treats or settle in at the pop-up beer garden roped off in the parking lot.

As Elysa Birman of Greater Herndon stood and watched the flow artists toss their fiery batons in the air, she said, "I'm so impressed with the performances of the people who are here tonight."

Eye of the Heart @ eotherize.com powered the 2018 Light Festival for Arts Herndon. They are listed on their website as a charity organization created to bring businesses, community, and non-profits together. A portion of their proceeds goes to charity.

Jason DiMambro, Co-Executive Director of Arts Herndon, said, "We are amazed at how our inaugu-



Flow artist Rikki Kalfani of Revolutionary Motion Fire Conclave dances with grace and purpose as he spins and manipulates fiery batons at Arts Herndon's 2018 Light Festival held Saturday, June 16.



Light artists Stephanie Wright, Stephen Vides-Sanchez and Kendall Hobson of Eye of the Heart @ eotherize.com stand in front of their temporary public light art installation, "Jellyfish in the Ecosystem," created out of recycled materials for the 2018 Light Festival. Hobson created a sound light booth that dazzled spectators as his strings of lights synced perfectly to the beat of the music.

ral Light Festival kicked off with over 300 people from around the DMV. We have to thank our partner Eye of the Heart for their efforts powering this event and the Virginia Commission for the Arts for its funding."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Delegates Kathleen J. Murphy (D-34) and Jennifer B. Boysko (D-86) attend Arts Herndon Third Thursdays Arts Crawl on June 21 and stop by the table of Great Falls Photographer James Diedrich.

Arts Crawl Series Opens in Herndon

Free evening event features a family friendly activities.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Arts Herndon Third Thursdays Arts Crawl series opened for its second annual summer season on the evening of Thursday, June 21, after being rained out in late May. The free family friendly event featured a casual, small-town outdoor shopping experience and an eclectic selection of works by local artists, artisans, makers and creative entrepreneurs, all of whom were on hand to chat with the public.

Free face painting, children's hands-on-art, lawn games, music, chalk festival and samplings from Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, an iconic local eatery, added to the fun. Visitors could also explore the adjacent Herndon Depot Museum operated by the Herndon Historical Society that houses railroad and maritime memorabilia.

The Third Thursdays Arts Crawl series is held once a month May through September, 6 to 9 p.m., with an "encore" crawl scheduled in October. The series is currently held on

the Town Square and lawn in front of Herndon's Old Town Hall located at the corner of Elden and Station Streets in the Historic Downtown District directly off the W & OD Trail. The Town Square is wheelchair and stroller accessible.

Plenty of free parking is steps away.

The next crawl is Thursday, July 19, the third Thursday in the month, followed by the two subsequent crawls scheduled on Aug. 16 and Sept. 20. The series wraps up with a "blow-out" crawl on Thursday, Oct. 11 during Herndon Arts Week Oct. 8-14, an entire week of area arts events.

The Arts Herndon Third Thursdays Arts Crawl series is supported in part by Northwest Federal Credit Union, Doll Homes, Jimmy's Old Town Tavern and many other supporters of Arts Herndon.

For more information on sponsorship/vendor opportunities and how to become involved with Arts Herndon contact Jason Dimambro or Anna Schoenfeld at www.artsherndon.com or call 703-956-6590.

OPINION

When the Dangerous Unknown Is Preferable

We must recommit ourselves to being steadfast in our compassion for and dedication to assisting those fleeing violence, terror, and oppression.

BY KATHY TRAN
STATE DELEGATE (D-42)



COMMENTARY

Many reports in the last several weeks have brought to light instances of inhumane treatment of immigrants and asylum seekers in our country. National outcry about families being torn apart and children kept in jails, tents, and cages at our southern border led to the end of Trump's "Zero Tolerance" policy. A report from the Associated Press highlighted allegations of abuse at a facility in Staunton, Va.

In 1979, my parents and I were refugees, escaping from Vietnam on a rickety boat for several days. My mother remembers that on the night we left our homeland, there were no stars in the sky; it was so dark that she could not tell where the ocean ended and the sky began. As we left the shores into this watery abyss, she wondered how we would survive.

My parents' decision to leave their family and country was heart wrenching for them. Yet, the unknown of the dangerous, open sea was a

preferable alternative to the oppressive regime at home. My family's journey in search of hope, opportunity, and freedom is similar to ones taken by others before and after us.

Today, there are 65 million displaced people worldwide. Whether on the Mediterranean Sea or at our southern border, people, desperate for a better life for themselves and their children, are risking their lives.

I am outraged by the Trump Administration's "zero tolerance" immigration policy. This inhumane approach is tearing apart families seeking refuge at our southern border, leaving parents frantically searching for their children and children alone and terrified. We must not separate families, and we must not rest until separated families are reunited.

We must not indefinitely detain people seeking refuge in jails, tents, or cages. In 1998, I taught ESL to adult asylum seekers at Elizabeth Detention Center in N.J. These jails are

no place for adults fleeing terror or persecution let alone children or families.

This week, Virginia demonstrated its commitment to compassion and justice. Governor Northam's decisive decision to recall Virginia National Guard members who had been deployed to the southwest border sent a clear message: Virginia will not participate in activities that enable family separation.

I also applaud the Governor's swift leadership to investigate reports of abuse of immigrant children held by the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement at a juvenile detention facility in Staunton, Va. We need to ensure the safety of every person — adult or child, native-born or immigrant — held in custody in Virginia.

Poignantly, on World Refugee Day, the rising tide of public demand for the humane treatment of families seeking refuge from persecution brought an end to the "Zero Tolerance" policy. We must recommit ourselves to being steadfast in our compassion for and dedication to assisting those fleeing violence, terror, and oppression. For generations, the United States has been a beacon of hope for many, and immigrants and refugees have strengthened the social, economic, and cultural fabric of our country since its founding. Now more than ever, we must continue to demand moral clarity and leadership from our political leaders.

Kathy KL Tran represents the 42nd District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Clock Is Ticking; Calls for New Approach

To the Editor:

Having lived in Iran from 1977 to 1979 I followed Obama's and Secretary of State Kerry's negotiations to the Iran Nuclear agreement very closely. I am now watching/following Trump's and Secretary of State Pompeo dealing with North Korea regarding a nuclear (hopefully) treaty on the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula with great interest. I read U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly's (D-11) partisan letter ("The Art of a Deal with the Devil," Connection, June 20-26, 2018) with interest and could not disagree with him more.

The little concrete concessions that have been given up to date can easily be reversed by restarting the joint South Korean/U.S. military exercises should North Korea not continue on a path to denuclearization. Regarding the Trump meeting in Singapore with Kim Jong-un and giving him international legitimacy, I am guessing the meeting between former Presi-

dent Bill Clinton and Kim Jong II in August 2009 in Pyongyang, or the meeting between former President Jimmy Carter with the leader of North Korea did not convey any legitimacy to the regime. Additionally, one should remember prior to Trump meeting Kim Jong-un in Singapore the U.S. hostages that were being held in NK were released (good will gesture) without flying a plane load of money to North Korea to ensure their release. Finally, early in the denuclearization negotiation process, the U.S. is working with North Korea for the return of the remains of more than 250 missing U.S. military service members. This announcement was made public in a joint statement by President Trump and Kim Jong Un. This may not mean anything to Connolly, but it will mean a great deal to the family members of the missing soldiers from the 1950's conflict/war. The American people can only hope that a valid treaty (not a useless agreement) comes from these discussions and partisans such as Connolly will actually vote for a treaty if it is good for the American people and the security of the homeland regardless of how Connolly's party leadership tells him to vote.

These negotiations are our last hope to avoid war as NK has a nuclear weapon and the missile delivery system and now only needs to finish developing the re-entry deployment system. The clock is ticking and it is time for a new approach. Obama's North Korea policy of "Strategic Patience" (whatever that meant) along with other methods by both Republicans and Democrats over the years did not stop the North's march to nuclear weapons, and maybe it is time to try something new besides appeasement.

Finally, this rebuttal of Gerry Connolly's letter cannot be closed without addressing some of his errors regarding Obama's nuclear agreement with Iran (JCPOA). That agreement did not stop Iran on their march to a nuclear weapon, it only paused/slowed the development of the bomb while they (Iran) continued their missile development program (delivery system). Once the delivery system was/is fully developed and could reach the U.S, they could then break out of the JCPOA and rush to the development of a nuclear bomb. If the agreement between Obama and Iran was such a solid agreement at stopping Iran's nuclear program it would

have been presented to Congress as a treaty and not an agreement. A treaty would have required addressing missile development, true inspections (to include military) sites, but Obama and Kerry were more interested in their legacy and kicking the can down the road to a future administration. Even as an agreement, 25 House Democrats in Congress voted against a bad Obama/Kerry agreement with Iran. Let us all hope that the Korean talks produce a solid treaty that denuclearization of the Korean peninsula as any other option is not pretty. Give the administration time, stop the partisan politics, and work for the good of all the American people and not just one's party.

Dudley Losselyong
Great Falls

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

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SCREENSHOT FROM THE TOWN OF HERNDON WEBSITE

The Town of Herndon Downtown Redevelopment site shows the Subaru building, which was approved for demolition by HPRB as the large building located at the center bottom of the photo. A grassroots effort to save the 1929 building failed.

Demolition Approved Herndon's Heritage Preservation Review Board approves demolition of old and construction of new buildings.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

At the Herndon Heritage Preservation Review Board public hearing held in the Herndon Council Chambers Building on June 18, 2018, board members approved in a vote of 6 to 1, three Certificates of Appropriateness. The action is related to the Herndon Downtown Redevelopment Project, a partnership between the Town of Herndon and Comstock Herndon Venture LLC. The project includes 281 residential apartments, approximately 17,600 square feet of retail space, an 18,000-square-foot Arts Center and a 761-space parking garage.

During the Public Hearing, Preservation Review Board members, town staff and representatives from Comstock, as well as residents, commented for hours for and against certificate approval. Town staff recommended demolition approval of ArtSpace Herndon and the Subaru or Horn Building and recommended approval of construction of new structures and site features in connection with redevelopment in Downtown Herndon.

As comments from the citizens began, confusion erupted when Barbara Glakas attempted to give her prepared testimony. Chairman Walker announced the public would be allowed to speak for a total of one minute on each certificate or three minutes on all

three certificates, rather than the standard three minutes for each certificate. Glakas replied, "You are basically depriving the public of testifying on separate certificates." Glakas reminded Walker that certificates were on the agenda as three separate items, advertised separately and had been discussed by the review board separately earlier in the meeting. Therefore, she reasoned the public should be able to comment on each certificate for the standard time of three minutes. It was only after the Town Attorney spoke to Walker and the board members, and another board member agreed with Glakas, that Walker stated Glakas and other citizens would be given nine minutes to testify on the three certificates.

IN HER TESTIMONY, Glakas said the ArtSpace building was not a contributing structure and held no historical significance. She agreed with the staff recommendation for its demolition. In regards to the Subaru or Horn building as it was called, Glakas reported it was built in 1929, used as a car dealership and for milk trucks collecting milk for local farmer. Glakas noted the architecture of the building had a "stepped down roofline" that had been seen in other buildings that were now gone from the town, and the building was constructed with rusti

SEE EFFORTS, PAGE 6

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NEWS

Efforts to Save the Old Building Fail

FROM PAGE 5

cated blocks. She pointed out that there are only a few examples of the block left in Herndon. Glakas stated she was not sure the Comstock staff fully appreciated the emotional relationship some community members had to this admittedly "unattractive building."

Reviewing Comstock's Certificate of Appropriateness for New Construction, Glakas stated the stepped down roof design currently offered in a Comstock building elsewhere in the project, although meant to replicate the period of significance, was not bold enough to reflect that of the Subaru building. Glakas inquired if one of Comstock's new buildings on Elden Street could be altered to incorporate the stepped down roofline or possibly the rusticated block.

Connie Hutchinson, former Councilmember opposed demolition of the Subaru building because of its historical status. The Heritage Preservation goals for Herndon, Hutchison said, were to avoid demolishing buildings that contributed to the historic character of the district whenever possible. The National Register of Historic Places, Hutchinson said, uses "significance of integrity" as a category for preservation, noting a building has integrity when it has retained the features that identify it as a historic property. She noted its age as built between 1920-1930 during a period of significance in the Herndon Historic District. Distinct architectural features of the period include the stepped down parapet, large picture windows, interior tin ceiling panels and a standing seam tin roof. Hutchinson pointed out the building could be renovated and repurposed, possibly as a year-round farmers market, dinner theatre, arts facility, or museum for antique cars and trucks.

Hutchison said that since the Subaru building was a historic structure, it must be listed for sale at a fair market price for one-year period before demolition, and such had not been done. "As a member of many [Herndon] town councils, I can say with certainty that all through this downtown redevelopment process, one reassuring fact persisted, that any and all redevelopment would have to be approved by the Heritage Preservation Review Board to make sure that it fit with the downtown's existing character and charm ... The purpose of the HPRB is to protect and preserve what makes our historic downtown unique. And, as members of the HPRB, you have been entrusted with that responsibility. Our history is literally in your hands." Hutchison told the HPRB that they have the power to insist on roof lines that reflect the neighboring historic homes, architectural details that bring character to the buildings and features that break up the mass, like varying building heights and facade setbacks.

Steve Mundt and Stephen McWilliams echoed

many points made by Glakas and Hutchinson. Mundt said that HPRB needed to be held to the standard that would make the downtown look like an old area and for HPRB to look at the Subaru building as a contributing structure. He reiterated the need for uniform treatment and review by HPRB regardless if an applicant is a citizen or a corporation.

McWilliams provided additional information showing the National Historic Registry identified the Subaru building a contributing structure. Regarding a staff memo about the project, McWilliams pointed out some concerns regarding a statement that the redevelopment project was not viable without tearing down the two buildings. McWilliams said project viability was non-secular in terms of an HPRB vote. McWilliams addressed a memo stating that the building was in the "C3" category, the lowest preservation category. McWilliams told this category was created by Town of Herndon Planning and sent to Council in 2013 without input or approval of HPRB. He named three buildings with similar descriptions in Herndon as the Subaru building, "commercial and vernacular," a local church and two high-end restaurants in Herndon still in use. McWilliams concluded by stating the town's Master Plan and Pattern Book both show this building being preserved.

CITIZENS who commented against the demolition of the Subaru building and against the approval of the Certificate for Appropriateness for new construction by Comstock took up the majority of the citizen comment time during the HPRB public hearing.

John Boylan who has a business on Elden Street spoke for the demolition of the buildings and the construction of the new structures and site features in connection with the downtown redevelopment. "I love the different opinions, and that's why it makes this such a great place to live. It was teamwork that brought this effort together. I've been very impressed with what I've seen here today. I think it will work very well."

Charles Williams shared that when he first heard about the project, he was excited. "This is the kind of community I want for my family and the Town of Herndon. ... It's a community where you can live, play and have fun."

Jeff Smith reiterated previous comments for the redevelopment. "It looks amazing... If we were to redevelop [where the Subaru building is located], it would make it a place people want to come, not just from the Town of Herndon but from neighboring cities. ... We can have that economic engine within our town... Why not here?"

A video of the June 18, 2018 HPRB meeting can be viewed at www.herndon-va.gov/online-services/agendas-minutes-webcasts.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple

questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for

kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

Business Education Series.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 6

8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 1886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston. Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce presents "Strategic Selling - How to Land Enterprise Clients." Even if your clients are not all fortune 500, Nema Semnani of Precision Sales Consulting, will show you selling techniques to help optimize your sales initiatives. Free, members; \$15, non-members/guests. Visit www.restonchamber.org.

Networking Night. 5:30-7 p.m. at Tavern64 at the Reston Hyatt, 1800 Presidents St., Reston. Join the Rotary Club of Reston for Networking Night. Learn about Rotary and the good things they are doing in the community. \$20. Call 703-863-7629 or visit www.RestonRotary.org for more.

Airport Aircraft Noise Contour Map Update. 6-8 p.m. at Washington Dulles International Airport Office Building, 45045 Aviation Drive, 2nd Floor Conference Room, Sterling. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority will hold a public workshop regarding the Washington Dulles International Airport Aircraft noise contour map update. Workshop will provide an overview of the study, including airfield plans, existing airport operations and basic information regarding aircraft noise and noise modeling standards. Free parking available in front of the building. Visit www.FlyDulles.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

Annual Meeting and ACE Luncheon. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Join Reston Chamber friends, members and guests at the Annual Meeting and Awards for Chamber Excellence Luncheon. Visit www.restonchamber.org for more.

JULY 2-AUG. 3

Public Comment Period. The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is hosting three public hearings to inform and solicit comments from the community about proposed toll rate increases along the Dulles Toll Road. An "online open house" will be available at www.dullestollroad.com/toll/toll-setting-process throughout the comment period. It will contain an explanation of the informational exhibits and a comment form. Comments may also be submitted at the public hearings, via email to dtrcomments@hntb.com or mailed during the comment period to: MWA Public Comment Period, c/o HNTB, 2900 South Quincy St., Suite 600, Arlington, VA 22206.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

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

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 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 11

Staying Focused and Finishing 2018 Strong. 8:30-10 a.m. at Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce, 886 Metro Center Drive, Suite 230, Reston.

Gretchen Richards of Dynamic Business Capabilities will show participants how to improve productivity and stay focused on what's important to close out 2018 strong. Visit www.restonchamber.org for more.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

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<p>Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com</p>	<p>An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg</p>

What Are Friends For (Not a Question)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Other than my wife, Dina, and my brother, Richard, there are few people with whom I regularly discuss – in more excruciating detail than weekly I do so with you, the world in which yours truly, a non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV "diagnossee" inhabits.

It just so happens that in this past week, I interacted with three of the other most main confidants, a rarity: my oldest, best friend from high school, Cary, with whom I spoke on the phone for nearly an hour (he lives in Massachusetts), a bi-weekly occurrence generally; my oldest, best friend from college, Rita, who I finally met for lunch (even though she lives in Alexandria and has been local ever since college), a much rarer occurrence (though we email regularly), a lunch that lasted four hours; and Veronica, my hair stylist, who I see every eight to 12 weeks – as I have for almost 20 years, whether I need to or not. (That's a joke. I have a full head of hair so needing a haircut is never the question, needing it is the answer.)

Over these many years, these three have heard everything I have to say; good, bad or indifferent, and yet despite having heard it all, still remain interested in hearing more and judging less. Together, we share stories and confidences, laughter and sorrow. Their support and encouragement has been above and beyond the call of duty.

Interacting with all three in the course of one night and two days reminded me of the actor George Peppard because this is my "A" Team." When I want to, they're who I go to, whenever the need arises or when the opportunity presents itself. And though they may not solve every problem, listening to as many of them as they have certainly has provided the kind of comfort and joy that has helped sustain me through thick and thin (not talking about my weight) and most importantly, during the past nine-plus years as a cancer survivor. There's not a "B.A." (bad attitude) among them, though they all wear jewelry. I hope I'm not speaking out of turn here but, there are some subjects which are best left for friends – and the professionals, more so than family. Some topics which might betray a confidence or touch a nerve that when spoken of aloud might exacerbate a familial situation rarely discussed.

Sometimes, sorting through these pros and cons with friends, who likely suffer no consequences in the outcome, might present options that otherwise might not be heard. From the mouths of babes, so to speak. A fresh, unbiased perspective can be a welcome addition to any discussion of facts, especially when feelings are involved; and as often concerns family-oriented subjects, feelings are most definitely involved.

Not that there aren't feelings involved with friends; of course there are, it's more that old friends knew you when and know you now, and the passage of that much time, separate and apart from family, can often enlighten and inspire. Who wouldn't benefit from friends who've been there and seen you do that?

It's particularly important to have independent forces in your corner because like so many cancer patients, myself included, occasionally you exhibit signs of "chemotherapy-related cognitive impairment," otherwise known as "chemo brain," a side effect/condition of treatment which can blur a memory or two – or more. You may not even realize it when it disappears, and you may need someone to remind you of it. Hopefully it's not a memory gone forever, but just one gone until a friend helps retrieve it for you. And who better to retrieve these foggy memories than friends you've known for 49, 45 and 20 years, respectively?

And I do respect them, and appreciate them, and cherish them, as they are three of my pillars. Without them, the foundation of who I am and what I know, would likely crumble.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Twitterpat: Animated Adoration at ArtInsights. Through June 30 at ArtInsights, 11921 Freedom Drive, Reston. ArtInsights celebrates Devoted Couples of Disney, with images of Lady and Tramp, Pongo and Perdita, Mickey and Minnie, Thumper and Miss Bunny, Belle and The Beast, and more, including new releases by official Disney concept and production artists. Call 703-478-0778 or visit artinsights.com.

Art Exhibit – Mike Cloud: Figure Studies. Through July 7, Tuesday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at GRACE, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Mike Cloud: Figure Studies presents a selection of works by Brooklyn-based artist Mike Cloud (b. 1974, Chicago) that consider language, symbolism, metaphor, history, and identity through the examination of the figure. Based around a single monumental painting, *Cycle and Stable* (2015), the exhibition includes the artist's series of collages based on the work of photographer Annie Leibovitz and new paintings. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org.

Art Exhibit: Paris Parks. Through July 14 at ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St., Herndon. In his exhibit, Michael Kolster, is partly inspired by the work of Eugene Atget, he photographed in four Parisian Parks: St. Cloud, Parc de Sceaux, Montsouris, and Bois de Boulogne. Visit www.artspaceherndon.org or call 703-956-6590.

SUMMER CAMP

Reston Community Center is gearing up for an exciting 2018 summer camp season, with selections that offer something for everyone. Want to play chess, kick a soccer ball or practice tae kwon do? Want to make jewelry, play paintball or design a video game? Find all that and more through RCC. Registration is ongoing, but camps are filling quickly. Call 703-476-4500 or visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 27

Jacks Are Wild. 10:30 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Jack Russell Terriers, Mario and Bella, perform tricks. Cosponsored by the Friends of the George Mason Regional Library. Age 6-12. No registration required. Call 703-689-2700 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Drawing with Pastels. 1-4 p.m. at the Art studio of Carol Berman, 1721 Wainwright Drive, Reston. Learn to master the art of drawing with pastels with award winning artist, Carol Berman, while also improving drawing skills. \$20 per three hour class. Ongoing classes held Tuesdays and Wednesdays. No need to sign up for classes in advance, just come when you can. Call 703-437-9068.

Busia Bear's 12th Annual Film Festival. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Enjoy an hour of Busia Bear's favorite 16mm classic children's films. All ages. Register at librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Author Event: LM Elliott. 7 p.m. at Scrawl Books, 11911 Freedom Drive, Reston Town Center. Just days after the Kennedy Center premiere of *Hamilton the Musical*, historical novelist and author of "Peggy and Hamilton!" LM Elliott, offers an in-depth look at several of the characters who make up the play's



FILE PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON

Patrons arrived early in the evening, well before dark and the start of the annual fireworks display to enjoy the live music and festivities offered free by the Town of Herndon as part of the 2017 4th of July Celebration.

Celebrate Independence Day

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Celebrate Independence Day. 7 a.m.-fireworks finale at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Gates open at 7 a.m. Beginning at 10 a.m., splash and slide at the Water Mine water park. From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rent a boat on Lake Fairfax. Look for food vendors near the park's main office. Fireworks begin when the sun goes down. Fireworks rain date: Sunday, July 1. Parking: \$10 per car. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

Town of Herndon 4th of July Celebration. 6:30-10 p.m. around the Herndon Community Center and Bready Park Softball Field, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Arts and crafts, bingo, games, and additional activities. At 7:15 p.m., live entertainment featuring E3 begins. Starting at 9:30 p.m., there will be a fireworks display choreographed to music. There will be a variety of food for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Alcohol, glass containers, grills, and personal fireworks are prohibited. Leave pets at home. Food will not be allowed on the turf field. Please note traffic will be rerouted. Rain date: July 5th for fireworks display only. Visit herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300.

"supporting cast." Free. Visit www.scrawlbooks.com or call 703-966-2111.

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

Stem Challenge: Bristle Bots. 4 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Make a "bristle bot." Recycling, crafting and robotics all rolled into one. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age 6-10. Register at librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Summer Kick-off. 6-8 p.m. at Franklin Farm Village, 13348 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. The whole family is invited to enjoy an interactive photo booth, a blender bike that will allow participants to create a piece of custom artwork and a chance to be chosen by the Prize Patrol, who will randomly select shoppers and provide merchant give-a-ways. Visit www.facebook.com/FranklinFarmVillage.

Dollars and Sense. 7 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Monthly group discussion focuses on business leaders and markets. We will be discussing "The Millionaire Next Door" by Thomas Stanley. Free and

open to the public. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Creative Response: Tim Doud. 7 p.m. at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. Join the Greater Reston Arts Center one Thursday of each month to hear creative professionals respond to the work on view in the gallery. The short presentation will be followed by open conversation. Free and open to the public. Call 703-471-9242 or visit restonarts.org.

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

DIY Electric Sound Machine. 2 p.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Create one-button sound machines, using programmable microchips that record and play back your voice. All projects go home. Cosponsored by FRRL. Age 6-12. Register at librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Don't just watch, get up and learn dance steps from a pro at Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Elikeh with African dancers

(dancing and instruction). Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

Art Exhibit: Entry Deadline. The League of Reston Artists invites artists to enter work in the upcoming show at the US Geological Survey, National Gallery. Eligible works are paintings, mixed media, and two-dimensional works suitable for wall hanging (no photography). The exhibit will be on display from July 2-30, 2018. Artwork that reflects USGS's environmental mission is encouraged. Enter at www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Celebrate Independence Day. 7 a.m.-fireworks finale at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Gates open at 7 a.m. Beginning at 10 a.m., splash and slide at the Water Mine water park. From 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rent a boat on Lake Fairfax. Look for food vendors near the park's main office. Fireworks begin when the sun goes down. Fireworks rain date: Sunday, July 1. Parking: \$10 per car. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Train Your Brain. 11 a.m. at Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston. Play chess, Sudoku, puzzles and other games to sharpen your brain. Bring your chess set and challenge another player. Earn a door prize. Refreshments provided. Co-sponsored by FRRL. Age 10-18. No registration required. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-689-2700.

Polo in the Park. 5:30-10:30 p.m. Let RA do the driving and head out to the Morven Park International Equestrian Center in Leesburg to enjoy an evening of arena polo. Bring a picnic basket, to include dinner and beverages, a blanket, and chairs. Music in the pavilion tent will immediately follow the final polo match. Food trucks and dessert vendors will also be onsite. Bus pick-up at RA headquarters. Ages: 21+. RA Members, \$30; non-members, \$40. Visit www.reston.org.

Concerts on the Town: Beleza. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

Town of Herndon 4th of July Celebration. 6:30-10 p.m. around the Herndon Community Center and Bready Park Softball Field, 814 Ferndale Ave., Herndon. Arts and crafts, bingo, games, and additional activities. At 7:15 p.m., live entertainment featuring E3 begins. Starting at 9:30 p.m., there will be a fireworks display choreographed to music. There will be a variety of food for purchase. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Alcohol, glass containers, grills, and personal fireworks are prohibited. Leave pets at home. Food will not be allowed on the turf field. Please note traffic will be rerouted. Rain date: July 5th for fireworks display only. Visit herndon-va.gov or call 703-787-7300.

FRIDAY/JULY 6

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Don't just watch, get up and learn dance steps from a pro at Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Four Star Combo with sock

hop dancers (dancing and instruction). Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

SATURDAY/JULY 7

Music at Arrowbrook Park. 7:30 p.m. at 2351 Field Point Road, Herndon. Roomful of Blues, the jumping, swinging, rocking band, will perform. Free admission. Call 703-324-7469 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Concerts on the Town: Good Shot Judy. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Oasis Island Sounds. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

Summerbration Concerts. 7-9 p.m. at Reston Station, in the open-air plaza atop Wiehle-Reston East Metro. Reston Community Center's Summerbration featuring Jason Masi Band. Parking is free in the ParkX parking garage from 6:30-9:30 p.m. during the concerts. Visit www.restoncommunitycenter.com or call 703-390-6166.

Art Exhibit: Entry Deadline. The League of Reston Artists and the Reston Photographic Society invite artists and photographers to enter work in the upcoming show at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Reston. Paintings and photos will be on display from July 23-Aug. 26, 2018. Enter at www.leagueofrestonartists.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Concerts on the Town: Scythian. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

Concerts on the Town: Entrain. 7:30-10 p.m. (rain or shine) at Reston Town Center. These family-friendly concerts include a wide range of musical styles including Motown, swing, blues, jazz, Latin fusion, Celtic, bluegrass and zydeco and take place every Saturday night through Aug. 25. Free. Visit www.restontowncenter.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Baron Cameron Park, 11300 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Focus will be on planning a fall vegetable garden. Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.