

Fairfax CONNECTION

The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps participating in City of Fairfax Independence Day parade.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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FAILURE to develop a complete care plan that meets all of a resident's needs, with timetables and actions that can be measured. [Cited on 08/30/2017]

FAILURE to provide care for each resident in a way that keeps or builds the resident's quality of life. [Cited on 08/30/2017]

FAILURE to train all employees on what to do in an emergency, and carry out announced staff drills. [Cited on 08/30/2017]

FAILURE to protect each resident from all abuse, physical punishment, and being separated from others. [Cited on 07/14/2016]

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Fairfax Wrestling Team members on a float.



Slapshot, mascot of the Stanley Cup-winning Washington Capitals hockey team.

Fairfax's Fabulous and Festive Fourth

The Kiwanis Club of Fairfax brings the sunshine.

PHOTOS
By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



First-place float: VFW Post 8469 of Fairfax.



The Flying Circus Air Show and the crowds lining Main Street.



GMU President Angel Cabrera and wife Beth.



Students from Laurel Ridge Elementary.



Motorcycles on Main Street: The Harley Owners Group.

OPINION

Safe Virginia Initiative Looks 'Beyond Thoughts and Prayers'

The ADAMS Center event focuses on communities of faith's response to violence.

On July 5, the Safe Virginia Initiative (SVI) hosted its first Northern Virginia event, "Beyond Thoughts and Prayers," at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center in Sterling.

In keeping with the title, the event focused on communities of faith's response to gun violence, as well as violence in general. Representatives from Muslim, Jewish, Sikh, Catholic and Quaker communities addressed the assembled crowd, while a number of members of the House of Delegates listened to the varied concerns of those assembled. Attendees came from all sides of the firearms debate, from members of Moms Demand Action to members of the Virginia Citizen Defense League.

The program began with a number of faith leaders discussing how their faith dictates how to respond to violence and gun violence in



From right: Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (speaking) and Delegates Kathleen Murphy, Rip Sullivan, Wendy Gooditis, Danica Roem, Mark Levine, Jennifer Boysko, Kathy Tran, David Reid, Vivian Watts, Ken Plum and Karrie Delaney.

particular. Next, various questions were posed to the audience about how they would like to see officials respond to gun violence, what laws were sufficient and what should be changed.

Members of the crowd discussed "gun free zones," firearm carry in places of worship, and whether or not faith leaders should speak about methods to prevent gun violence from the pulpit. The event ended with an "open mic" for audience members to speak about what the General Assembly can do to reduce gun violence moving forward.

Just a few weeks following the Parkland tragedy in Florida, the

Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates announced the formation of a bipartisan Select Committee on School Safety. While the committee's formation was considered historic, it was announced that the select committee would not address gun violence nor discuss potential legislative solutions with regard to guns. Following this announcement, the House Democratic Caucus formed the Safe Virginia Initiative (SVI). The SVI is organizing events between May and October of this year related to gun safety. These events will continue to occur throughout Virginia and will include public input. Prior events have included a

town hall focusing on inner city violence in Richmond and a panel on the nexus of mental health and gun violence in Lexington.

The Safe Virginia Initiative is co-chaired by Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) and Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) and includes the following regional co-chairs: Del. John Bell (Northern Virginia), Del. Chris Hurst (Southwest), Del. Delores McQuinn (Metro Richmond) and Del. Marcia Price (Hampton Roads). The group will work with experts from the Office of the Governor, the Office of the Attorney General, local leaders from both parties and law enforcement to draft policy proposals for the next legislative session.

"I appreciated the opportunity to hear from a diverse group of people on how to best curb and combat gun violence," said Filler-Corn. "This is the whole point of the Safe Virginia Initiative, we want to hear from everyone, because only by finding common ground can we move forward in a substantive manner on these issues. I look forward to continuing this conversation across the Commonwealth over the next few months," she added.

Those interested in following the activities of this working group can like the "Safe Virginia Initiative" page on Facebook or follow @svi_va on Twitter.

Teenagers Organize 'Rally to Reunite'

To the Editor:

In light of the humanitarian crisis on the border, high school students were not able to sit back and watch people struggle and suffer. Virginia teenagers, Tarina Ahuja, Perrin McHugh, and Bee Hyland, organized a rally titled "Rally to Reunite" that took place in front of the ICE building in Fairfax.

The event was full of inspirational speakers and performers, loud chants, colorful signs, and a pervading message that the people are watching and refuse to stay silent. The speakers included Rajwant Singh, president of EcoSikh; Mansimran Kahlon, the vice chair of the 10th District Democratic Committee in Prince Williams County; and a musical performance by Gurl Music.

The enthusiasm was contagious. Cars, pedestrians, and cyclists would stop to cheer and show their support for the cause creat-

ing a larger sense of unity and solidarity with the separated families. Throughout the day, speakers and organizers emphasized the need for both adults and young people to vote.

According to these young people, civic engagement, no matter your age, is the key to creating a government that we can be proud of. The students emphasized that having young people involved is what will bring our country forward. They emphasized that youths have new ideas, new perspectives and also will be the ones with solutions in the future. Many people have told these students that young people do not belong in politics, but they hold strong in their belief that the voice of their generation is valuable and something that is necessary considering our current political climate.

Tarina Ahuja
Ashburn



Rally organizers, from left: Bee Hyland, 17, Leesburg; Tarina Ahuja, 16, Ashburn; and Perrin McHugh, 17, McLean.

Fairfax
CONNECTION

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Farrish Chrysler Jeep Dodge partnered with Bonnie Brae Elementary to raise \$550 during the Chrysler Cars 4 Classrooms fundraising initiative.

Chrysler Test Drives Raise Funding for Bonnie Brae Elementary

On May 19, Farrish Chrysler Jeep Dodge partnered with Bonnie Brae Elementary to raise \$550 during the Chrysler Cars 4 Classrooms fundraising initiative. Through Chrysler's Cars for Classrooms fundraiser, the Chrysler brand makes a \$10 contribution, up to \$2,000, toward the school on behalf of every test drive participant.

"The Farrish Chrysler Jeep Dodge enjoyed raising funds for a great cause with families and the local community. We always look forward to giving back to the community and the Chrysler Cars 4 Classrooms

initiative is a great way to do it," said James Kinsey, Mid-Atlantic Business Center Regional Director. "On behalf of the Chrysler brand and the dealership, I would like to personally thank everyone who took the time to participate in this test drive to help us raise money for such a deserving group of students."

In 2017, the Chrysler brand celebrated 25 years of supporting schools and families. Since 1993, the brand had helped to raise more than \$7 million through fundraising test drives. For more information, visit www.cars4classrooms.com.

HOT SUMMER FEATURES

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Home LifeStyle



Low flower arrangements, like these from Patina Polished Living, add elegance to a tablespace.



Top desserts with summer floral designs or fresh flowers.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING

Designing a Midsummer Table

Using flowers and color to create a summer wonderland.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Along with sunshine and longer days, summer offers an array of design opportunities. From backyard barbecues to brunch in the garden, the right decor can add a touch of flair to a midsummer gathering.

Designing a table with the vibrant colors of summer fruit creates an air of liveliness, says interior Bridget Francis of Colors by Bridget. "Watermelon, blueberries and strawberries are plentiful now, so if you're serving them you can use those colors as a base for your tablespace," she said. "Think zinnias and red roses with white serveware."

Limiting a tablespace to two or three colors lends simplicity to a design, advises Francis. "For example, I use light blue and white dishes with white table linens," she said. "I add floral arrangements with white and pale pink roses and blue hydrangeas, some white votives, and voila, a crisp, clean summer table."

When creating those dinner party arrangements, make sure the height of the flowers is low so that guests can see and talk to each other, advises Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living. "Flower arrangements are supposed to be a lovely addition to the table, not an irritant because they're blocking your view," she said. "I just love a beautiful arrangement that you can look down and see, and that everyone at the table can enjoy. Right now hydrangeas and roses are big. When we make arrangements we're adding rosemary and lavender for a touch of green."

"Etched glass hurricanes are a beautiful addition to a table setting," said Todd Martz, owner of Home on Cameron. "They create a lovely ambiance for an outdoor setting and let you stay outside longer to enjoy the stars and fireflies."

Be it a frosty margarita or a glass of tart lemonade, infusing summer drinks with summer foliage adds warm weather appeal to a gathering. "Think of a few rose petals floating in a pitcher of sangria or sprigs of lavender in a pitcher of lemonade," said Francis. "It not only looks and smells great, but the flowers can infuse the drink with a subtle hint of flavor."

In fact, Francis says that summer blooms can be

incorporated into meal prep. "I think that a cake with simple white icing, decorated with pink roses and blue hydrangeas is the epitome of summer elegance," she said. "I also use a pastry squeeze pen to make flower designs for cupcakes. You can use the pen to squeeze whipped cream to make flower toppings for ice cream. It's especially pretty when they are the same flowers that are in your centerpiece."

"For additional table accents, add a decorative shell or accessory to hold down napkins," said Martz. "Try placing a tray in the center of the table to keep all the dining essentials in one place, making it easier to bring them out and take them in."



A few scented candles, grouped in the center of the table, creates a festive look, says Todd Martz of Home on Cameron.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Limiting a table design to one or two colors of summer can create an elegant tablespace.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

THE CONNECTION
 Newspapers & Online

SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB
Newcomers & Community Guide
August 22, 2018

The annual Newcomers and Community Guides for each of our 15 communities with inside facts on what makes each community special, their secret places, the real power players, how to get involved and more.

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PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The official grand opening of the Baskin Robbins on Saturday, July 7, 2018, included members of the City of Fairfax City Council and Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce.

New Baskin Robbins Opens in Fairfax

Owner Syed Ahmed re-opens after former shop closed due to eminent domain.

A new Baskin Robbins held its official grand-opening ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, July 7, 2018, at 10655 Fairfax Blvd. in the City of Fairfax. Members of the Fairfax City Council and Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce came out to celebrate as well as the Adrenaline Dance Studio of Tysons Corner. There was also a DJ, prize wheel and discounted \$.99 ice cream for the kids.

The store is owned by Syed Ahmed, who also owned the original Baskin Robbins at 10400 Lee Highway from 2001 to 2016 but was forced to close due to eminent

domain. That store at the Fairfax Shopping Center had been a summer-night destination for the City of Fairfax for 54 years. It took Ahmed two-and-a-half years to reopen next door to Corner Coffee House, which he also owns; it offers coffee, sandwiches and muffins. He also had two restaurants: Vienna Tandor in Vienna and Gandi Restaurant in Stamford, Conn.

"Baskin Robbins has a reputation as a very established long-time business. It's one of the most favored ice cream places for young kids," said Ahmed. "I like working SEE BASKIN ROBBINS. PAGE 10



(From left): Syeda Akther; Syed Ahmed, owner of Baskin Robbins; and Lindsey Sikand at the grand opening of the Baskin Robbins.

CALENDAR

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10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31		

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To Advertise Your Community of Worship,
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Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday.

CAMP

Youth Arts Summer Camps. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Multiple sessions available for ages 3-17. Themes include Doodle Tots (ages 3-5), Visual Arts Explorers (ages 6-10), Fine Arts Innovators (ages 11-13), Summer Arts Intensive for Young Adults (ages 14-17), Short Film, and Game Design. New Music and Theatre Camps include Let's Play Guitar Camp, Vocal Arts Camp, Performing Arts Summer Camp Challenge, and Experimental Theatre Project Camp. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

ONGOING

The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs). Through July 20, at The Hub Theatre, 9431 Silver King Court, Fairfax. The Hub Theatre and Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia join forces for the World Premiere of "The Secrets of the Universe (and other songs)," playwright Marc Acito's story of Albert Einstein and Marian Anderson in director Helen R. Murray's final show as a DC-area resident. Visit www.jccnvarts.org.

Fiber National. Through July 29, gallery hours at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. Fiber National is a juried exhibition showcasing the best in contemporary fiber art from around the country. The 2nd biennial of the exhibition will highlight work using both traditional and non-traditional techniques.

FRIDAY/JULY 13

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

Movies Under the Moon: ET – the Extra Terrestrial. 8 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a night under the stars in Van Dyck Park with family and friends with a movie for all ages to enjoy. Free admission, bring chairs and blankets.

SATURDAY/JULY 14

United States Army Chorus. 3 p.m. at Westwood Baptist Church on Saturday, 8200 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. The United States Army Chorus performs a free alumni concert. This concert brings together 60 years of alumni from "Pershing's Own" to perform giants of the choral literature. Free and open to the general public. Visit www.usarmyband.com/chorus/the-us-army-chorus.html.

Japanese Obon Festival. 3-9 p.m. at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station. Celebrate with Japanese drumming, a Hawaiian band, participate in traditional Japanese dancing all while enjoying traditional Japanese food and desserts such as chirashi, yakisoba, huli huli, daifuku. There will also be children's games, a challenge course, and vendors selling authentic Japanese items. End the evening by lighting a candle in the Japanese garden to remember a loved one who has passed away. Free admission. Visit ekojibonfestival.weebly.com or call 703-239-0500.

Mount Vernon Nights. 7 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Road, Lorton. This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances

Mason Cabaret to Perform 'Evening with Sondheim'

Local music theater talent at Signature Theatre.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

At a singular cabaret at Arlington's Signature Theatre, George Mason University musical theater students will celebrate iconic composer Stephen Sondheim with a full line-up of his songs. The cabaret will explore friendship, marriage, and all things in-between through music.

The cabaret will provide an opportunity for emerging musical theater artists from the Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts to perform, co-directed by James Gardiner and Erin Driscoll. Both Gardiner and Driscoll are from Springfield and members of the George Mason University theater faculty.

"Mason Cabaret is one of the flagship pieces of our musical theatre program at George Mason University (GMU). We're always looking for ways to give new and exciting opportunities to our students," said Gardiner.

Gardiner and Driscoll worked with Arlington's Tony Award recipient Signature Theatre to mount the cabaret. Signature is the leading interpreter of Sondheim's work in the United States and internationally. "The students totally understand what Signature Theatre means to the work of Stephen Sondheim and they're thrilled to have this opportunity," said Gardiner.

"Most of these George Mason University students are aspiring musical theater performers. In addition to all the performance opportunities provided by the University, this gives them a chance to work at one of the top theaters in the Washington D.C. area," said Driscoll. "This opportu-



Max Snyder James Gardiner Erin Driscoll

nity will give the students real world experience in the profession they are preparing to join."

The Mason Cabaret at Signature will include a broad array of Stephen Sondheim's musical numbers. From Sondheim's magical "Children Will Listen," to the hilarious "Comedy Tonight," to the poignant "Another Hundred People" and his lesser known material. More than a dozen students will perform group numbers, duets and solos. Music accompaniment will be by GMU faculty member Joseph Walsh.

One of the George Mason University students performing is Max Snyder. A Northern Virginia native, he graduated from Fairfax's Paul VI High School. "Musical theater is my favorite type of storytelling because the audience feels everything along with you. You're telling a story and the music guides," said Snyder. "You're there to entertain.

You can make them laugh or cry, but you're there for them."

Signature Theatre Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer said: "From performers to designers to technicians, I've always felt it's important

to give tomorrow's talents opportunities at Signature. It will be great to have these students on our cabaret stage and introduce our audiences to these new talents."

Where and When

"Sizzling Summer Nights: Mason Cabaret Evening with Stephen Sondheim" at Signature Theatre, 4200 Campbell Ave. Arlington. Performance: July 20, 2018 at 9 p.m. Tickets: \$35. Call 703-820-9771 or visit www.sigtheatre.org.

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.

Stories of the Stars. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Stroll with a naturalist along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will telescopes for use. The evening concludes with a campfire and s'mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Virginia's Indian Heritage. 3-4 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road. Dr. Karenne Wood of the Virginia Indian Program (Virginia Foundation for the Humanities) will present her research on the history and culture of

Virginia's Native American people and communities. Free. Visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

Hooray For Hollywood. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Enjoy an evening of popular movie themes presented by the Reunion Music Society, Inc. and the NVCC-Annandale Campus. Adults, \$15; students w/ID, \$10; NOVA students w/ID free; children 12 and under, free. Free parking. Call 703-569-0973 or visit www.eventbrite.com and search "Hooray for Hollywood."

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Farm to Fairfax Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

Erin's Epic Stories. 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St.,

Fairfax. A variety of children's activities and entertainment in Old Town Square at the pergola, Tuesdays June-August. Weather permitting. Free. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/old-town-square.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 18

Springfield Nights. 7 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring: The David Kitchen Band (Pop/Rock). Bring a picnic dinner, blankets, your dog, and lawn chairs and relax with friends and family. Beer and food will be available for purchase. Call 703-451-8873.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

Evenings on the Ellipse with Memphis Gold. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site

selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Burke Historical Society. 7 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Burke Historical Society member Mary Lipsey will speak about the story of Mount Vernon and how it was saved by the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Lipsey has a new book. Visit www.mlhbooks.com.

FRIDAY/JULY 20

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/JULY 21

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet.

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Stories of the Stars. 8:30-9:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Stroll with a naturalist along the lakeshore at Burke Lake Park and learn about the constellations. An astronomical naturalist will identify the stars, and there will telescopes for use. The evening concludes with a campfire and s'mores. For participants age 3-adult. \$6 per person; children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Discover a World of Animals. 1-1:45 p.m. and 2:15-3 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. In the "Animals Underground" program at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, children age 2-5 will investigate who lives in the dark, damp world under the forest floor. Learn about moles, earthworms, termites and other creatures of the soil. \$6 per child; children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

Reading Circle. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host two 45-minute Reading Circle sessions of the Caldecott Medal winning book, "Locomotive." One session will begin at 1:15, the second at 2:30. All craft supplies included with admission fees. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 4-6 p.m. at Franconia Park, 6432 Bowie Drive, Springfield. 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Let's Hear It for the Boy'

CFTC presents the iconic musical, 'Footloose,' July 20-28.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 32, City of Fairfax Theatre Co. (CFTC) and Truro Anglican Church present the musical, "Footloose," July 20-28, at Lanier Middle School. And Producer Kirsten Boyd says the cast is particularly strong.

"Some 120 people auditioned, and we have a lot of cast members pursuing theater professionally, which gives our show a great deal of depth and insight," she said. "And Director Erich DiCenzo really dug into the scene work because we have such talented actors, in addition to wonderful singers and dancers."

In "Footloose," Chicago teen Ren McCormack moves to the small, rural town of Bomont, Okla., where dancing has been banned. Frustrated by this oppressive new environment, he rails against it, breaks every taboo and brings back the joy of dance to a broken community sorely in need of some happiness.

The 1984 movie catapulted actor Kevin Bacon to fame and was followed in 1998 by the hit Broadway play. The show's award-winning soundtrack reached number one on the Billboard charts, and local residents will be able to enjoy these iconic songs again when CFTC brings them to life on the stage.

"We want our audiences to walk away with the word 'electric' on their lips," said DiCenzo. "We're bringing a more modern feel to the show, but still honoring the '80s with authentic concepts in artistic style."

THE SET resembles a jungle gym, which the actors incorporate into their dance routines. And, said DiCenzo, "With its contemporary choreography and industrial multi-use set, the production will generate high energy."

Portraying Ren is 2012 Woodson High grad Peter Moses, a graduate of Ohio's Otterbein University, the number-four theater school in the U.S. And for him, this part is a dream come true. "When I was a freshman at Woodson, I saw 'Footloose' there, and the kid playing



Peter Moses and Jamie Goodson play the leads in City of Fairfax Theatre Co.'s production of "Footloose."

Ren was really good," said Moses. "He looked like he was having fun, and I thought, 'I'd love to play that role someday.'"

Calling Ren a "rebellious sweetheart," Moses said his character's father walked out on his family. "So underneath Ren's confident, joking personality, there's frustration and anger," he said. "At times, he acts out and rubs people the wrong way. And even when he's friendly, he's still an outsider to this town."

Moses said Ren wants to move on from "the hurtful memory of his father that messed with him and broke him. But he finds solace in Beaumont, meeting Willard, his new best friend, and [his love interest], Ariel. He's my first, lead role in a musical, and I feel lucky to be playing him."

Moses especially likes the physical and emotional challenge. "There's room for growth as an actor, and Ren's the spark that lights the fire in Bomont," said Moses. "He's the leader, and I love that he inspires the others to join as one and rise above the rule against dancing. I like Ren's ability to change lives and ideas for the better."

His favorite song is "I'm Free," which he sings. "It's the moment when Ren gets the others to unite," explained Moses. "He's one of them and they're with him, for the first time, and he transcends from a teenager to an adult."

Moses has done community the-

ater throughout this area; but, he said, "I'm impressed with this group's professionalism and work ethic. And our director is challenging me and bringing out the best in me. His students at Fairfax High are lucky to have a director like him."

Ariel is played by Jamie Goodson, a rising sophomore at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. "On the surface, Ariel's fun-loving, sassy and energetic, but she hides her darker side - due to her brother's death - from most people," said Goodson. "She has a complicated family life. She has greater ambition than most people in her town, but her father disapproves of it."

Goodson enjoys portraying characters with tons of layers, saying, "I relate to her family situation. I'm close to my family, but our disagreements can feel huge - and I have lots of ambition, as well."

SHE LIKES THE SONG "Girl Gets Around," sung by Ariel's boyfriend, Chuck. "It's catchy and fun to dance to, and it sets up Ariel and Chuck's relationship." Overall, said Goodson, "There's relevance for all ages in this show because it's so fun and entertaining. The message for adults is not to be so self-righteous - you're never done learning. And kids learn the value of patience and perseverance."

Rachel Apostolico, who just

SEE CFTS, PAGE 0

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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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

NEWS



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The Adrenaline Dance Studio of Tysons Corner performed at the grand opening of the Baskin Robbins.

Baskin Robbins

FROM PAGE 7

with the community and creating jobs for young people. Nobody hires people who are 16-to 17-years-old, and Baskin Robbins only hires these kind of young kids and gives them the opportunity to get a job and start learning as beginners." "I got a lot of support from the City of Fairfax and they are great people and that's why I've come back again to the City of Fairfax," he added.

Added Jennifer Rose, Executive Director, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce: "The Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce is always excited to get a business opened up in the community. The Baskin Robbins has been in the community for 54 years and we just want to see them succeed and grow and expand and be here for another 50 years, and the Chamber just wants



Evelyn Yi, 4, and brother Harrison, 2, of Fairfax with their sculpted balloons. They are the children of Sang Yi who is on the Fairfax City Council and his wife Sarah.

to be a part of that journey."

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Baskin-Robbins has more than 1,300 ice creams in its flavor library, and also offers custom ice cream cakes and frozen beverages.

— STEVE HIBBARD

CFTS Presents 'Footloose'

FROM PAGE 9

graduated from Fairfax High, is the show's dance captain. She was also nominated for a Cappie award for choreographing her school's recent production of "The Little Mermaid."

For CFTC's show, she choreographed three numbers: "I'm Free," an upbeat, Broadway-jazz dance; "Still Rockin'," country-style dancing with cowboy boots and hats; and the finale, "Footloose," upbeat, Broadway-type dancing with partners.

"It's really fun; I've been dancing almost my whole life," said Apostolico, heading to JMU, this fall. "Getting the chance to choreograph these numbers has been eye-opening because I think it's something I could do [professionally]. I'd like a career in the arts."

She's also excited that the actors like her choreography. And, she added, "It's really cool to see something I choreographed alone in my house come to life onstage and see the dancers enjoy themselves doing it."

VCU-bound Julie Kovach, also a new Fairfax grad,

plays Ariel's best friend, Rusty. She was nominated for Supporting Actress in a Musical for her portrayal of Ursula in "The Little Mermaid."

"Rusty's bold and animated and doesn't care what people think about her," said Kovach. "She's just loud and out there. She's also a hopeless romantic with a crush on Willard, and it all comes out in her song, 'Let's Hear It for the Boy.' It's fun because I see a lot of myself in Rusty. I'm not afraid to be loud, I joke around and I'm giggly."

Her favorite song is "Holding Out for a Hero," sung by Ariel, Rusty and their friends, Urleen and Wendy Jo. "It's upbeat and energetic and is inspiring for girls who are down and looking for a hero to save them," explained Kovach.

She said audiences will like the show's nostalgic nod to "Footloose's" play and Broadway musical. "The costumes will be vintage, the makeup is bold and flashy, with bright '80s colors, and the hair is big and crimped," said Kovach. "Audiences will leave with a positive attitude about life in general."

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).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Haven of Northern Virginia is committed to offering, support, compassion, information and resources to the bereaved and seriously ill. Volunteers provide individual and group support to those suffering from a loss. Volunteers must participate in a 30 hour training. Training will be offered in October 2018. To volunteer, call Haven at 703-941-7000.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

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 for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 15

Public Input Deadline. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is conducting a study to better understand how people get around the Franconia-Springfield area of Fairfax County on the Fairfax Connector transit network. Complete a survey to help FCDOT better understand transportation-related needs and issues. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/franconia-springfield-optimization to complete the survey.

TUESDAY/JULY 17

Story Time: Making Connections. 10-11 a.m. at The Parent Resource Center Library, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 105, Dunn Loring.

Making Connections is at the heart of learning. This Story Time will highlight books and activities to support this evidence-based executive functioning skill in young children. 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.

RSVP Senior Volunteers. 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. RSVP Northern Virginia will hold a seminar on senior volunteerism. The one-hour event is free and open to anyone 55-years-old or better.

RSVP, the region's largest volunteer group for seniors and retired people, provides individualized support to those seeking service opportunities in and around Fairfax County, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria. Visit www.rsvpnova.org or call 703-403-5360 to register.

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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>

A Relative Unknown



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I knew we had family in Argentina. I knew that one of my maternal grandfather's younger brothers, Simon, had immigrated from Eastern Europe to South America in the early 1900s.

I knew, or thought I knew, that someone from his family – removed or not, I never know, had visited my parents and first cousins a time or two in Florida in the '80s and '90s. But until recently, neither my brother Richard nor myself had ever met any of these distant – double entendre-intended – relations. Well, that ended on Wednesday, June 27, in Union Station at 5:55 p.m.

There outside Gate "G" my wife, Dina and I stood holding a sign with my cousin's name on it: Eduardo Blacher (my middle name is Blacker). He had flown into New York City from Buenos Aires earlier that morning and then boarded a south-bound Amtrak train to visit us in Washington, D.C.

My first cousin, Ronnie (formerly of Florida, now of Massachusetts) with whom Eduardo has corresponded and visited over the years, had emailed us a selfie Eduardo had taken so we had a pretty good idea of his general appearance. Along with our handwritten sign, we were pretty confident the familial connection would be made.

And so it happened a bit after 6 p.m. as he walked through the gate into the station looking around for someone he'd never seen. We cautiously saw one another and then immediately hugged and kissed and said: "Great to meet you!"

Eduardo's English was pretty good so we were able to coordinate our exit from the station where, once outside, we met my brother, Richard, who had been sitting in his car waiting for our appearance. As soon as he saw us, he got out of his car and quickly walked over to Eduardo and likewise gave him a hug and kiss: mishpocheh (Yiddish for family).

When my widowed mother died in 2008, Richard and I felt orphaned, so to speak. Our parents, as in most families, were the keepers of the family faith. Having both been born 10 years before "The Great Depression," they knew the family history dating back to before the turn of the century. When they died (in 2006 and 2008, respectively), their knowledge and memories died with them. It was a palpable loss that Richard and I still feel.

We are lucky though; my cousin Ronnie (my mother's niece) has lots of family information and has become our go-to resource for all things Blacher/Blacker. She facilitated this much-anticipated visit (Eduardo is seeing her next).

To try and put Eduardo's visit in some context; in the 10 years since my mother's passing, given the ages of the surviving family members in the United States with whom we're in touch, we've not really gained any family members, let alone connected with an entire line of cousins going back to before World War I.

Eduardo has three children, four grandchildren, a sister in Israel and parents, both of whom are their mid-80s still alive and well. In familial fact, his father is my grandfather's nephew and knows lots more about my grandfather than I ever did, and has knowledge of the Blacher/Blacker family going back over 125 years as well in and out of our respective countries.

Given the pogroms and the Holocaust, for many Jewish people my age, a treasure trove of family history/knowledge like this was thought to be lost forever. Now, I have found some of it. Talk about filling a void. In facts and feelings, it has – and is about to, fill everything.

For three days, until Eduardo's departure Sunday morning, we rarely left one another's side. In addition to touring Washington, D.C., we shared photos, exchanged email addresses, talked nearly non-stop about everything, downloaded WhatsApp which we'll enable us to message each other in the future, and together on Friday night lit the Shabbos candles and together prayed in Hebrew.

I can't really express how I feel other than to say I've been crying while I've been writing this column. And it's the best cry I've had in years.

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

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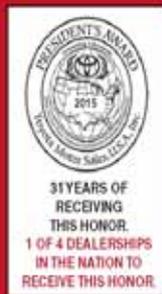
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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES

SPECIAL OFFER

\$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement, 24 month free roadside assistance. Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$64⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear and steering problems. **INCLUDES:** Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **2/18, 3/18, or 4/18?** If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

FREE

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**