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Artist Lauri Getlan-Watson  
turns records into clocks. The  
Clara Barton Holiday Craft  
Show returns Sunday, Dec. 2.

# Potomac ALMANAC

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED REAL ESTATE, PAGE 2 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 7

NOVEMBER 28-DECEMBER 4, 2018

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# Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

**6** 8 Cold Spring Court  
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## September, 2018 Sales, \$810,000~\$900,000

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**3** 11910 Reynolds Avenue — \$868,000



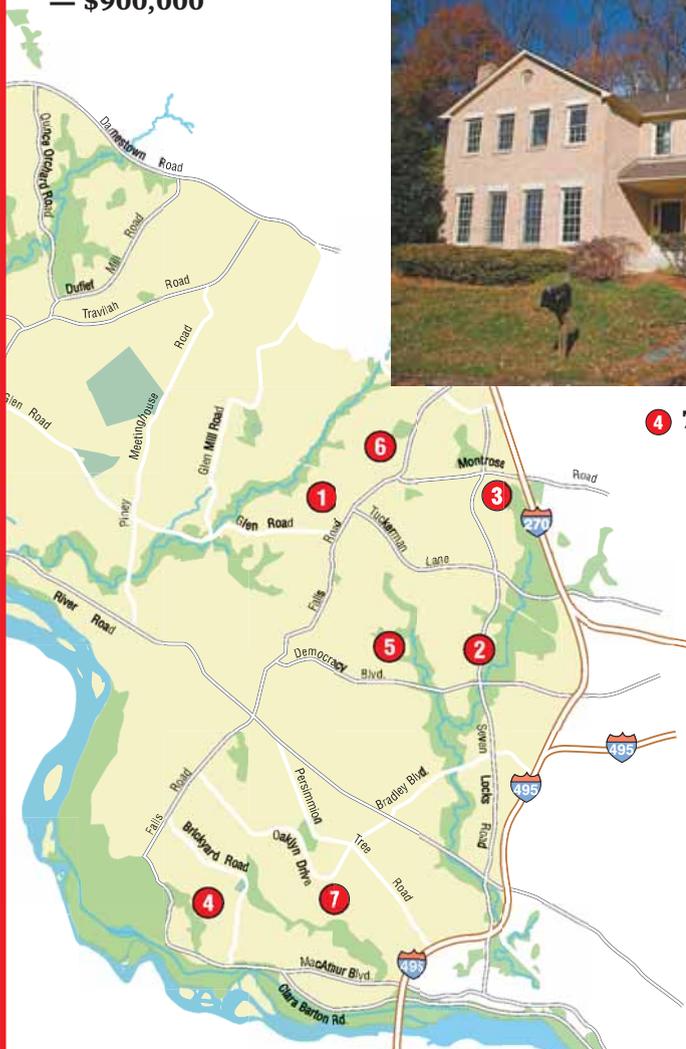
**1** 12037  
Trailridge Drive  
— \$900,000



**2** 8001 Grand Teton Drive — \$900,000



**7** 9428  
Turnberry Drive  
— \$810,000



**4** 7721 Laurel Leaf Drive  
— \$862,500

Address ..... BR FB HB . Postal City . Sold Price ... Type ..... Lot AC .. PostalCode ..... Subdivision ..... Date Sold

<b>1</b>	12037 TRAILRIDGE DR.....	5 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$900,000	Detached	0.23	20854	FALLSREACH	09/18/18
<b>2</b>	8001 GRAND TETON DR .....	3 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$900,000	Semi-Detached	0.37	20854	INVERNESS FOREST	09/17/18
<b>3</b>	11910 REYNOLDS AVE .....	4 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$868,000	Detached	0.25	20854	WILLERBURN ACRES	09/14/18
<b>4</b>	7721 LAUREL LEAF DR .....	4 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$862,500	Detached	0.39	20854	WOODROCK	09/28/18
<b>5</b>	10513 CROSSING CREEK RD .	4 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$860,000	Detached	0.30	20854	EAST GATE OF POTOMAC	09/12/18
<b>6</b>	8 COLD SPRING CT .....	4 . 3 . 1	POTOMAC	\$825,000	Detached	0.58	20854	COPENHAVER	09/07/18
<b>7</b>	9428 TURNBERRY DR .....	3 . 3 . 1	ROCKVILLE	\$810,000	Townhouse	0.08	20854	AVENEL	09/28/18

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# Insider's Perspective on Glenstone Museum

## Potomac Library to feature presentation on Saturday.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

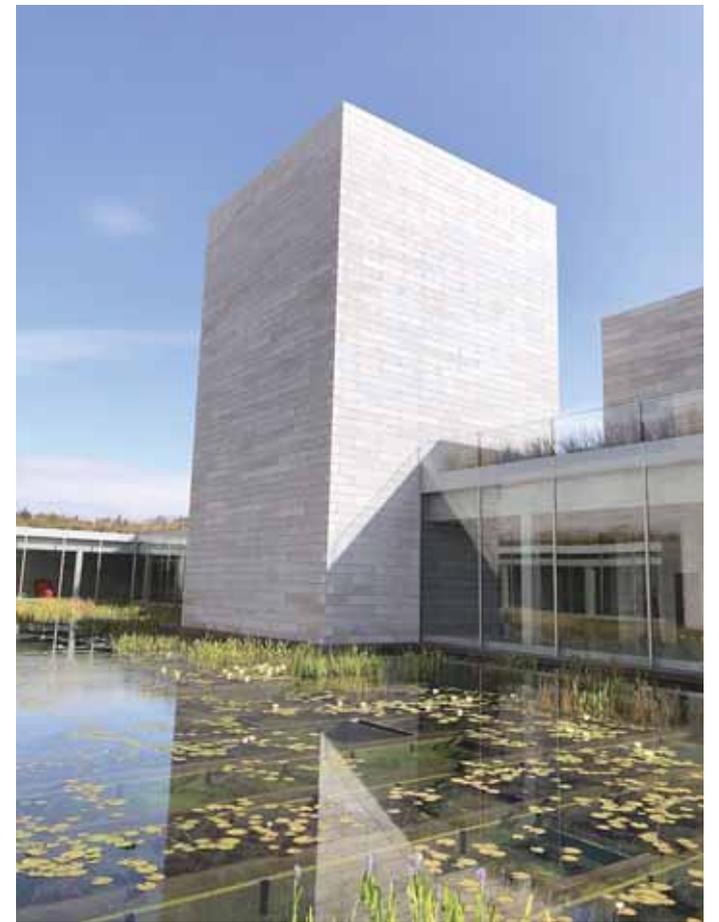
Potomac's Glenstone Museum, one of the nation's premier contemporary art museums, provides an opportunity for a relaxing day viewing world-renown art, spectacular architecture and 230 acres of beautiful landscape. Located on Glen Road just a few miles from Potomac Village, the museum was the dream of Emily and Mitch Rales who envisioned Glenstone "not only as a place, but a state of mind created by the energy of architecture, the power of art, and the restorative qualities of nature."

On Saturday, Dec. 1 at 2 p.m., Glenstone's Community Outreach Coordinator Peter Ibenana will discuss the history of the museum, the collection of art, Glenstone's longstanding relationship with Montgomery County Public Schools and its commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Additionally, four highly sought-after tickets to the museum will be raffled off at the presentation. The discussion is sponsored by the Friends of the Library – Potomac Chapter.

Rales purchased the former fox hunting club on Glen Road in 1986 to build a home. Soon thereafter, Rales began collecting art for that home. He first conceived of the idea of establishing a museum following a near-death accident on a helicopter trip, which inclined him to take on a philanthropic project. Glenstone is named for the nearby Glen Road, and because of stone quarries located in the vicinity. The museum's initial gallery opened in 2006. A major expansion was completed in 2018, opening to the public on Oct. 4, 2018. Glenstone is now a cluster of distinctively designed museum



Outdoor sculptures grace the museum's grounds.



Glenstone Museum contains 1,300 post-World War II works consisting of paintings, indoor and outdoor sculptures, single artist installations and sound installations.

An 18,000-square-foot water court filled with plant life can be viewed from above and below.

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED

galleries and other buildings set in a large wooded campus. The museum contains 1,300 post-World War II works consisting of paintings, indoor and outdoor sculptures, single artist installations and sound installations. It is staffed by recent college graduates through its "Emerging Professionals Program," a two-year program for aspiring curators.

Ibenana has been employed by Glenstone since 2015, primarily in community outreach with schools and local organizations. He has taught art and worked in museum education at several nationally and internationally renowned museums in Washington D.C. and in Maryland.

"Major efforts have been made to create a sustainable long-lasting property," he said.

"Eight thousand trees were planted, we restored the stream-bed to reduce large amounts of sediment running into the Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic Ocean, and thousands of wild flowers, shrubs and grasses enhance the landscape. Our central building, The Pavilions, features a spectacular organically maintained 18,000-square-foot water court." SEE GLENSTONE, PAGE 8

## In Search of Holiday Gifts?

### Annual Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show returns.

BY SUSAN BELFORD  
THE ALMANAC

Thanksgiving 2018 is in the rearview mirror so it's time to focus on the holidays that are just around the corner. Now it's time to come up with unique gifts for family and friends. Say goodbye to the huge mall crowds and the chilliness of the outdoor outlets. Come to the Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show and find everything for loved ones, friends and acquaintances.

The 12th annual show at 7425 MacArthur Blvd, Cabin John, is set for Sunday, Dec. 2,

from 1-5 p.m. "Although conveniently timed for holiday gift giving, the show offers a lot more than a chance to shop," said Leslie Barden, show coordinator. "More than 50 local artists, artisans, and authors will be offering their creations, and it's an opportunity to meet them and learn what inspired their careers as well as the works you are tempted to buy. The show is organized by an all volunteer non-profit, Friends of Clara Barton Community Center and all proceeds from the show go to support the center and its programs."

The show brings together local artisans who love to share their artwork as well as the stories behind their creations. The show features books by local authors, baskets, fabric arts, jewelry, doll clothes and accessories and crocheted and knitted items. Also included in the show are original pastels,

SEE IN SEARCH, PAGE 7



Cherry Blossoms Just after Peak by Geoff Watson.

PHOTO  
CONTRIBUTED

# OPINION

## Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

### 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.

#### HOLIDAY DONATIONS

**Toy Drive.** Through Friday, Dec. 14 at local Weichert, Realtors offices. Members of the community are invited to drop off new, unwrapped toys at the company's sales offices. The toys will be delivered throughout the holidays in conjunction with local charities that assist financially and physically disadvantaged children. To find a local office, go to [www.weichert.com/offices/](http://www.weichert.com/offices/).

#### TUESDAY/DEC. 11

**Business Plan Pitch.** 6:30 p.m. at Silver Spring Civic Building, 1 Veterans Place, Silver Spring. Witness the Rockville Entrepreneur Training for Success Business Plan Pitch where Empowered Women International's entrepreneurs unveil their business plan pitches. The event will featuring women at all stages of their business growth. Visit [ewint.org](http://ewint.org) to register.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events. To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and

town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com).

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to [Steven.Mauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:Steven.Mauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

#### CRISIS PREVENTION SERVICES

**EveryMind Crisis Prevention and Intervention** specialists are available by phone, text and chat every hour of every day. The community can also look to EveryMind for mental health professionals who are prepared to talk about warning signs and ways anyone can help to prevent suicide from ending lives far too soon. EveryMind is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Visit [Every-Mind.org](http://Every-Mind.org). More resources include:

- ❖ Call or Text Montgomery County Hotline: 301-738-2255
- ❖ Chat: Crisis Prevention Chat: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/>
- ❖ Call: National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
- ❖ [www.every-mind.org/services/crisis/](http://www.every-mind.org/services/crisis/)
- ❖ [www.every-mind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Talking-to-Kids-about-Suicide.pdf](http://www.every-mind.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Talking-to-Kids-about-Suicide.pdf)
- ❖ [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://suicidepreventionlifeline.org)
- ❖ [www.suicidology.org](http://www.suicidology.org)

#### SUPPORT GROUPS

**Cancer Support Groups.** Held at Hope Connections for Cancer Support, Beaumont House at FASEB, 9650 Rockville Pike, Bethesda. Free. Weekly support groups for people with all types of cancer, caregivers, people with advanced cancer and a bereavement group. An ovarian/gyn support group and group for young adults with cancer are offered twice a month, as are monthly groups for people with breast cancer, bladder cancer, blood cancers, and gastrointestinal cancers. Orientation sessions are held every Monday at 11 a.m. and the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. in Bethesda.

RSVP at 301-634-7500 or [info@hopeconnectionsforcancer.org](mailto:info@hopeconnectionsforcancer.org).

**The Alzheimer's Association's Memory Cafes** offer a fun and relaxed way for people living with early-stage memory loss to get connected with one another through social events that promote interaction and companionship. The memory cafe in Rockville (4860 Boiling Brook Parkway) operates the third Wednesday of each month from

2:30-4 p.m. Pre-registration is required. Contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 240-428-1342 or [lvajpeyi@alz.org](mailto:lvajpeyi@alz.org).

**Suicide Grief Support Group.** At JSSA, 6123 Montrose Road, Rockville. This ongoing bereavement support group is for those who have lost a loved one to suicide. This group meets every first and third Monday. No charge. Pre-registration is required to attend. Call 301-816-2708.

**Because I Love You** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting parents of troubled children of any age. The group helps parents deal with drugs, runaways, truancy, verbal abuse, physical abuse, curfew violations and other misbehavior, as well as help parents deal with themselves, to manage and live their own lives without obsessing over their child's behavior. The group meets 7:30-9:30 every Thursday at Bethesda United Methodist Church Room 209, 8300 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda. Visit [www.becauseiloveyou.org](http://www.becauseiloveyou.org), email [hbrite1@netzero.com](mailto:hbrite1@netzero.com) or call 301-530-3597.



## Remembering Those Who Serve

On Nov 7, Carderock Springs Elementary School Cubs shipped 461 pounds of donated Halloween candy — 24 pounds more than last year — along with 103 letters to America's troops stationed overseas.

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

[www.PotomacAlmanac.com](http://www.PotomacAlmanac.com)

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# Independent School Applications: The Essay

**Admissions directors offer insight into what makes certain essays stand-out.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

**G**retchen Gallagher has two children applying to local private schools this winter, her 13-year-old twins Frances and Hugh. While the process has added an extra layer of stress to her already high-anxiety household, there is one part of the application that she and her children have found most daunting: the essay.

“It’s hard to know what these schools looking for besides an essay that’s free from obvious punctuation and grammar mistakes,” she said. “Both my husband and I went to public school, so we don’t really know what they mean when they say, ‘Just be yourself.’ With all the competition to get into schools here, I have a hard time believing that parents are letting their kids lay out the raw truth. They’ve probably hired two essay tutors for each application.”

While competition to earn a prized slot at one of the area’s independent school is

fierce, admissions directors say they want to read personal narratives that are genuine. When pouring over the sometimes thousands of essays they receive during each application season, one type of essay that won’t stand out is one filled with things the applicant thinks they want to hear.

“Give me insight into who you are, how you think, what makes you different,” said Elizabeth Crowder, associate director of Admissions, The Madeira School. “Do you spend your time thinking about quantum physics or the ingredients in your grandmother’s pecan pie? Why? What excites you? Disgusts you? Frustrates you? Scares you? Don’t blend in. Show me your personality. There is no one else like you, and you’re the one I want to know.”

The essay portion of the application process is an opportunity for students to share a part of themselves that the application committee might not otherwise learn, says Cynthia Bertolini, director of Middle and Upper School Admissions at Oakcrest School in Vienna. “This might be something interesting you have done, or something you are especially looking for in your new school setting,” she said. “You might be nervous during your interview [but] the student statement allows you to reflect on what you want schools to know, and to polish how you express yourself.”

**“... essays that cause a reader to sit back in his or her chair and chuckle, think, admire, or sympathize. These are the good essays.” — Rich Moss, The Heights in Potomac**

In an effort to offer applicants an even playing field and reduce anxiety in an environment where the competition is fierce for a few prized slots at the area’s independent schools, Rich Moss, director of Admission and Outreach, The Heights in Potomac, says he streamlines the process.

“Given that all of these applicants receive wildly varying degrees of assistance on their essays [and] the incredible stress that the high school application process imposes on [area] students, The Heights does not require the submission of a formal essay,” he said. “Applicants provide a short in-office writing sample during their family interview. This decreases the emotional and time burden on our applicants, and allows us to level the playing field by isolating the variable. [That is] we encounter the applicant, on his own, showing us what he can do with a prompt, a sheet of paper, and a pen.”

Still, there are basic recommendations that are common to most students who are working their way through the independent school application process.

“... My guidance to applicants is to know

themselves, know their audience, and know the rules of punctuation and grammar,” said Moss. “There are no right answers, but there are wrong ones. More importantly, there are certain essays that cause a reader to sit back in his or her chair and chuckle, think, admire, or sympathize. These are the good essays.”

At Norwood School in Bethesda, which accepts students from pre-kindergarten through eighth grade, the essay is provided by each applicant’s parents. “We ask parents to write an essay about their child, and what we look for and what we truly value are stories about a child,” said Mimi Mulligan, Assistant Head of School and Director of Admission and Enrollment Management at Norwood. “It’s the stories that have the power to reveal the uniqueness of a child, his or her personality, interests, and even quirks. We encourage our applicant families to relax when thinking about the essay and just tell us a favorite story about their child. Stories are fun to read and truly serve to bring an application alive and distinguish it from others.”

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## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Abstract Artist Werner Drewes.** Through Dec. 2, gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. The show, 100th Year Anniversary of the Bauhaus; Werner Drewes (1899-1985) will feature works on paper including gouaches, woodcuts, etchings and collages. The show includes pieces that have not yet been seen and that were created by Drewes's in 1935-1955 and in the 1980s. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Photoslam: The Exhibit.** Through Dec. 9, Saturdays, 1-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-8 p.m. at Photoworks Gallery, at Glen Echo Park. Photoworks Gallery presents their annual Photoslam Exhibit which showcases the work of the winners of Photoworks eighth Photo Slam at Bus Boys and Poets, Washington, D.C. Photoworks offers photography classes for all ages. Visit [www.glenechophotoworks.org](http://www.glenechophotoworks.org).

**A Christmas Story.** Through Dec. 9, at Arts Barn, 311 Kent Square Road, Gaithersburg. Wanting only a BB gun, young Ralph's Christmas happiness is thwarted at every turn by adults concerned that "he'll shoot his eye out." Based on the Jean Shepherd movie of the same name. In Partnership with Rockville Little Theater. Ages 7 and older. \$20, \$18 (students 15-21) and \$12 (youth). Visit [www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/arts-on-the-green](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/recreation/arts-on-the-green) or call 301-258-6394.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Winter Wonderland.** 1-4 p.m. at in Veterans Park, located at the corner of Norfolk and Woodmont avenues, Bethesda. Blocks of ice will be transformed into wintry works of art during the live ice sculpting presentation followed by choral performances from local school groups. Santa Claus will make a visit to the park and holiday treats and crafts will be provided to children. Free admission. Call 301-215-6660 or visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

**Washington Conservatory of Music Concert.** 8 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. The Pressenda Chamber Players, a multi-member ensemble of strings, piano, and guests, will perform as part of the Washington Conservatory Concert Series. Audience members are invited to a post-concert Wine & Words in the church social hall – a fun and informal question and answer session

with the musicians, with complimentary beverages. Free (donations welcome). Call 301-320-2770 or visit [www.westmorelanducc.org/](http://www.westmorelanducc.org/).

### SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**Breakfast with Santa.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at North Potomac Community Recreation Center, 13860 Travilah Road, Rockville. Enjoy breakfast and a photo with Santa. Each participant will also receive a craft and small gift. Registration is required. Register online at [ActiveMONTGOMERY.org](http://ActiveMONTGOMERY.org) under activity 59435. \$5. Call 240-773-4800.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 4

**Public Piano Master Class.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Westmoreland Congregational UCC Church, 1 Westmoreland Circle, Bethesda. The Washington Conservatory of Music and the Washington Performing Arts present a Piano Master Class with pianist, Simone Dinnerstein. This class is free and open to the public. Visit [washingtonconservatory.org](http://washingtonconservatory.org).

### DEC. 5-29

**Art Exhibit: A Burning Winter Dance.** Gallery hours at Gallery B, 7700 Wisconsin Ave., Suite E, Bethesda. Gallery B presents its December exhibition, A Burning Winter Dance, featuring nine Be Dot Gallery artists from the greater Frederick area. Visit [www.bethesda.org](http://www.bethesda.org).

### FRIDAY/DEC. 7

**Opening Reception & Holiday Market.** 6-9 p.m. at Artists & Makers Studios 1, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210, Rockville and Artists & Makers Studios 2, 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. A&M1 Parklawn is hosting a solo for artist Liz Lescault – Chimerical; selected works of Robert Yi; and Inspired by Frida curated by David Amorosa featuring juried artists along with David's Fridas at both Rockville locations. At Wilkins enjoy a dual exhibit Places to Wander: Paintings by Ken Bachman and Tom Semmes – graduates of the Compass Atelier in the main gallery, and an additional merge gallery filled with more Inspired by Frida. Visit [www.artistsandmakersstudios.com](http://www.artistsandmakersstudios.com).

**National Philharmonic Presents Holiday Pops.** 7:30 p.m. at the Music Center at Strathmore. The National Philharmonic presents a holiday pops concert, a new family holiday tradition, on Friday, Dec. 7 at 7:30 pm at the Music Center at Strathmore. The Philharmonic is performing this concert in

partnership with the USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore (USO-Metro). Philharmonic Associate Conductor Victoria Gau conducts actress/soprano Iyona Black and members of the National Philharmonic Chorale. Tickets start from \$18. Visit [nationalphilharmonic.org](http://nationalphilharmonic.org) or call the box office at 301-581-5100.

### DEC. 7-22

**Four Exhibits in Five Galleries at Two Locations.** Gallery hours at Artists & Makers Studios 1, 11810 Parklawn Drive, Suite 210, Rockville and Artists & Makers Studios 2, 12276 Wilkins Ave., Rockville. A&M1 Parklawn is hosting a solo for artist Liz Lescault – Chimerical; selected works of Robert Yi; and Inspired by Frida curated by David Amorosa featuring juried artists along with David's Fridas at both Rockville locations. At Wilkins enjoy a dual exhibit Places to Wander: Paintings by Ken Bachman and Tom Semmes – graduates of the Compass Atelier in the main gallery, and an additional merge gallery filled with more Inspired by Frida. Visit [www.artistsandmakersstudios.com](http://www.artistsandmakersstudios.com).

### SATURDAY/DEC. 8

**Jingle Bell Run.** Race begins 8 a.m. at Seneca Creek State Park, Gaithersburg. Taking place in more than 100 cities nationwide, the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run benefits the more than 54 million Americans. This annual, holiday-themed 5K run encourages participants to dress in festive costumes and get moving. To learn more and register for the Gaithersburg Jingle Bell Run, visit [www.jbr.org/rockville](http://www.jbr.org/rockville), or contact the Arthritis Foundation at (202) 792-2979.

**Holiday Comedy.** 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. at Cissel-Saxon American Legion Post 41, 8110 Fenton St., Silver Spring. Is it Thanksgiving-Xmas-Chanukah-Diwali-Kwanzaa-NewYear's yet? Either way, it's laughs all night since there's still time for one more kickin' comedy night during the zany holiday season. 7:30 show: \$15 advance, \$20 door; 9:30 show: \$10 advance, \$15 door. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/o/improbable-comedy-10899180919](http://www.eventbrite.com/o/improbable-comedy-10899180919).

**Live Music: Rufus Wainwright.** 8 p.m. at Music Center at Strathmore, 5301 Tucker Lane, North Bethesda. Wainwright commemorates the 20th anniversary of his debut by performing material from Rufus Wainwright and Poses. Opener Rachel Eckroth here evokes the aura of the late David Bowie. Tickets start at \$39. Visit [www.strathmore.org](http://www.strathmore.org).

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Beth Douek jewelry

# In Search of Holiday Gifts

FROM PAGE 3

fused glass, art prints, table linens and placemats, painted silk scarves, pottery, Greek delicacies, Christmas ornaments, homemade jams, wood items and more.

Among the local artists are many showing their artwork for the first time. Geoff Wolfe who lives in Chevy Chase, said, "My artwork is almost entirely 'from life' meaning I paint and draw on location, without the aid of photographs." He likes to paint the gritty side of life — dumpsters, alleys, maybe even a trash can. Although he practiced international law, he is serious about his art — and paints or draws every day without exception. He works mostly in oils, but sometimes uses watercolor, gouache, charcoal, graphite, and casein. His website is: <https://www.geoffwatsonart.com/> and includes a blog that he updates a couple times a week.

Beth Douek explains how she became interested in creating jewelry: "My grandmother brought back a beautiful necklace from Morocco, and when I inherited it af-

ter college, I found it too ornate to wear. Having seen my father repair jump rings on jewelry, I decided I could modify the piece into something that suited me better. I got lots of compliments and tried my hand at reinventing other pieces that had been rejected by friends and family. This is my first show and I am excited to be part of this community."

Another crafter new to the Clara Barton Holiday Craft Show is Lauri Getlan-Watson. The Bethesda artist will bring her children's paintings, custom cards and records that she has turned into clocks. "I have always had a passion for art and crafting," she said. "I took classes at Maryland Institute College of Art when I was in high school and have loved creating ever since I can remember. My inspiration is just letting myself be in the moment and seeing what comes from that." She loves taking something used for one purpose and by the time she is done, it is something completely different. "When someone likes what I create it brings joy for everyone."



At the Dumpster by Geoff Watson

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**Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...**

By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickeys (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall — outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family — which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. — for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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

## NEWS

### Glenstone Museum

FROM PAGE 3

foot water court filled with plant life which can be viewed from above and below.

“We partner with Montgomery County Public Schools to eliminate the barriers that keep schools from coming to art galleries. Admission is free and we provide bus service for the schools to come here. We also offer substitute funds to cover classes. Last year, Glenstone welcomed more than 100 school visits. Prior to students’ arrival, we go into the classroom to discuss the art that students will be seeing. This gives them the opportunity to ask questions before their visit — and again during the visit. We tailor the visits specifically to their interests.

“Glenstone is a place where one can enjoy the fresh air, nature and a quiet and simple environment. The museum inspires excellence — they made certain everything was done well. It is an excellent example of the combination of art, architecture and nature,” he said. Glenstone is located at 12100 Glen Road, about a 10-minute drive from Potomac Village. It can also be reached via the Montgomery County Ride-on Bus 301 Route from the Rockville Metro Station. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Free tickets are available in three-month increments and are released on the first of every month. (For example, December tickets were available on Oct. 1.) To fully experience Glenstone, visitors should be prepared to spend considerable time on foot, and comfortable walking shoes are recommended. The museum is accessible to the handicapped.

For more information and to reserve tickets, go to [www.glenstone.org](http://www.glenstone.org) or call 301-983-5001.



**Julia Lauren Byrne and Joseph Robert Cooper.**

### Byrne, Cooper Engaged

Ms. Diana Haan of Laytonsville, Md., and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Byrne of Potomac, Md., are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Julia Lauren Byrne to Joseph Robert Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Scott Cooper of Reading, Pa. Julia is a graduate of The Academy of the Holy Cross and The University of Maryland. She is employed at Turn5, Inc. in Paoli, Pa. Joseph is a graduate of Reading Central Catholic and Elizabethtown College. He is employed at Synergetic in Bensalem, Pa. The wedding is planned for October 2019 and they intend to reside in the Philadelphia area.

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