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McLean Connection

Members of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce join their Virginia General Assembly representatives J. Gilbert's steakhouse restaurant on March 14. From left: Del. Mark Keam, Chamber president Paul Kohlenberger, MCC board member Jim Nelson, Del. Marcus Simon, Del. Kathleen Murphy, Sen. Barbara Favola, Del. Rip Sullivan, MCC chair Brian Potter.

Photo by Andrea Worker/The Connection

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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.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

Education Recruitment Day. 9-11:30 a.m. at George Mason University, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This education-focused career fair is an opportunity for graduating students (Mason or non-Mason) or any community member interested in education, to network and discuss opportunities with education recruiters from the DC Metro area and surrounding regions. Recruiters may invite participants back for a 30-minute interviews in the afternoon. Interviews are invitation only, and attendance in the morning session is required to receive an invitation. Open to all Mason students, alumni and community members. No registration required. Free. See who's going to be there gmu.joinhandshake.com/career_fairs/7919/student_preview.

Lenten Brownbag Lunch & Book Discussion. 12:30-2 p.m. in the Library at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Bring a bag lunch and join a study of Rowan Williams' book Resurrection following the 12:10 p.m. Lenten Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays. Join for worship in the Chapel beforehand or just come for the book discussion. Visit www.holycomforter.com for more.

IEP Parent Workshops. 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Collaborative IEP Meetings: Parents as Partners. Workshop for parents of children receiving special education services. Parents are essential partners in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) process. Strategies to support a parent's role in a child's IEP meetings will be shared.

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Reporting on the Highs and the Lows

Members of Fairfax delegation deliver post-session wrap-up to McLean Chamber of Commerce.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

At the March monthly meeting of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, local Virginia General Assembly representatives presented what they saw as the highlights, and lowlights, of the recently completed session.

With the Republican majority considerably reduced in the House after the 2017 elections, Democrats Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), and Delegates Mark Keam (D-35), Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Marcus Simon (D-53), and Rip Sullivan (D-48) say there was "real progress made."

"Passing a 5 percent pay raise for teachers was a real win," said Favola, who also declared legislation that allows hiring of support personnel to address behavioral issues in schools and for training to spot and prevent human trafficking "critical to breaking the school-to-prison pipeline" and protecting our vulnerable youth.

Photos by Andrea Worker/The Connection

From left: State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) is first up to report on the just-completed 2019 General Assembly session to members of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce. Joining her were Delegates Marcus Simon (D-53), Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Mark Keam (D-31) and Rip Sullivan (D-48).

"Passing a 5 percent pay raise for teachers was a real win."
—State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31)

THE SENATOR placed her bills to exempt contraceptives from insurance co-pays, support for solar power and stricter firearm safety measures in the loss column of the 2019 session.

Del. Simon, the House Parliamentarian, was pleased that Virginians would benefit from the State's $1.2 billion windfall resulting from changes in the tax laws.

"All Virginians will see some money back," said Simon, and after much work on the budget and measures to align the Commonwealth's tax codes with those federal changes, standard deductions for Virginians have also been increased.

Simon also celebrated the passage of several other of his bills, including one that expands the previously passed "revenge porn" legislation. The new bill goes after persons who create or alter and publicize images to intimidate or harass.

"We also had success on a bill to protect juvenile immigrants who have been abused, neglected or abandoned," said Simon, although he noted the avoidable "back and forth" required to finally secure passage. "The word 'immigrant' was a real sticking-point … a sensitive topic, but we got it through." Youth so effected can now seek special status while applying for asylum.

Among Simon's 2019 session regrets? "Virginia could have been the 38th state to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment. We could have been the ones to push it over the edge for the whole country."

Although the ERA bill passed the Senate and related bills garnered 52 co-patrons in the House of Delegates, "they never even made it to the floor for a vote. They were killed in committee."

Members of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce join their Virginia General Assembly representatives for a photo after the "Legislative Wrap-Up" at J. Gilbert's steakhouse restaurant on March 14. From left: Chamber president Paul Kohlenberger, Del. Mark Keam, MCC board member Jim Nelson, Del. Marcus Simon, Del. Kathleen Murphy, Sen. Barbara Favola, Del. Rip Sullivan, MCC chair Brian Potter.

Del. Murphy was equally disappointed over the failure of the ERA, as well as the lack of progress on "common-sense measures to address gun violence," but applauds passage of a bill, despite significant push-back from opponents, that requires a mandatory jail sentence for those convicted of a second violent domestic abuse offense.

Murphy did have wins to report that directly affect her local constituents, including reform on stormwater management treatment in Great Falls, and provision for "residency stickers" that would allow exemptions for locals to pass through or enter areas that may be cut-off to through traffic as the result of transportation fixes under discussion in the area. Del. Mark Keam categorized the session as one of the most productive in his 10 years as a member of the House, if for no other reason than the increase in Democratic delegates "helped protect us from some of the more conservative bills that were introduced."

AMONG THE SUCCESSES Keam highlighted – work on the Budget, taxes, redistricting, the Amazon deal, the raising of the age from 18 to 21 for the purchase of tobacco products, and reversing the "default" position on Blue Laws in the Commonwealth. Instead of having to "opt-in" to allow the sale of alcohol, with the passage of HB 2634, counties would have to pass local legislation via referendum to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages.

Keam praised freshman delegate Chris Hurst, who introduced the bill, calling him "a rising star" of the Party. Hurst, formerly the anchor for Roanoke's WDBJ, only entered politics in 2017, motivated to action by the on-air murder of his girlfriend, journalist Alison Parker in 2015.

Another success, noted Keam, was the loosening of restrictions on absentee voting rights to become effective for the 2020 elections.

Basically, the bill would remove restrictive "reasons for the need to vote absentee-in-person."

"There's still some work to do on what periods of time will be allowed for absentee voting, but this will really help get more voters' voices heard."

Keam was also the first to speak to the "elephants in the room," referring to the scandals that have plagued Virginia's Democratic Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, starting in February.

"In some ways, those events helped us focus on getting the work done," he said, but also acknowledged that the situation meant that the Governor was not available or able "to exert his influence and help us negotiate or push when things were close."

Keam's remarks were accompanied by head nods of agreement from his colleagues.

"It would be dishonest to say that the situation didn't have a policy impact," said Del. Simon.

Del. Rip Sullivan rounded off the legislative presentation, pleased that the General Assembly "did its part to secure the Amazon deal for the benefit of all Virginians."

Sullivan described another addition to the win column.

"We've been watching tuition costs in Virginia rise, year after year. Those institutes of higher education continue to ask for our financial support." The General Assembly was willing to comply with their requests – but only for schools that *don't* raise tuition costs.

All said and done, the elected officials were generally pleased by the forward movement on many policies and initiatives this year, but agree that the Nov. 5 elections could accelerate progress if there is a better balance of power in the Legislature, perhaps encouraging more bipartisan efforts.

Opinion

Fairfax County's Bold Housing Agenda

By Michelle Krocker
Executive Director
Northern Virginia
Affordable Housing Alliance

Last month, a panel appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors representing a cross-section of community stakeholders and housing advocates finalized their recommendations for Phase II of the county's Community-wide Housing Strategic Plan. Not since 2005, when then Chairman Gerry Connolly convened the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee, has there been such a comprehensive analysis of the state of affordable housing in Fairfax County.

Over the last two years, advisory groups and ad-hoc committees have been engaged in a top-to-bottom review of administrative, land use and regulatory policies and programs that impact affordable housing preservation and production. The scope of the plan encompasses the entire continuum of housing needs from persons with disabilities, seniors on fixed incomes and formerly homeless households to affordable homeownership.

Commentary

The Housing Strategic Plan process began in June 2017, when the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) conducted an online county-wide housing survey and four community outreach sessions. Phase I of the Plan, which was adopted by the board in June 2018, identified 25 strategies related to land-use and zoning policies, allocation of existing financial resources, and administrative processes that are outdated or in need of revision to expedite affordable housing approvals. A timeline for the work on these strategies shows a completion date of 2020.

In Phase II, the ad-hoc Affordable Housing Resources Panel focused on two board-defined objectives: identify an annual goal for the production of new affordable units; and recommend a source of funds for the financial resources needed to achieve that goal. When completed, the housing plan will be incorporated into one comprehensive county strategic plan that integrates multiple existing agency plans to chart a blueprint for the future of the county.

RECOMMENDATIONS include housing strategies that have been promoted for some time by advocates. They include:

- ❖ A goal to produce a minimum of 5,000 new homes, affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of the area median income over the next 15 years. (It should be noted that the analysis identified the need for 15,000 units over the next 15 years);
- ❖ Dedicate the equivalent of an additional penny of the real estate tax (approximately $24 million) to support public investment in these units beginning in FY2021, as well as retain the current funding of a half penny to support preservation strategies;
- ❖ Consider a countywide policy on commercial contributions to affordable housing production. Currently, this policy exists only for the Tysons redevelopment area;
- ❖ A commitment of "no net loss" of existing market affordable units (those serving households up to 60 percent of area median income);
- ❖ Promote opportunities to co-locate affordable housing with county capital facilities.

We especially applaud the recognition of the need for more robust preservation strategies.

FORTHCOMING recommendations from the EMBARK Housing Advisory Group provide additional strategies for preservation incentives in both redevelopment and new construction proposals which could be a template for preservation efforts countywide. The arrival of Amazon HQ2 should heighten concern among county leadership for vulnerable communities in Fairfax County that are located in close proximity to Pentagon City. Areas like Seven Corners and Baileys Crossroad, as well as the Richmond Highway corridor have all been approved in recent years for transit enhancements, mixed-use development and increased density. Amazon's announcement could be the catalyst that triggers investment in these areas that are home to thousands of low-income, minority households who live in the older, market-affordable housing located in these corridors. Recent Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RHA) investments in Parkwood and Murraygate that preserved over 400 units in the Lee and Mason Districts are steps in the right direction, but much more is needed.

LOOKING AHEAD: Currently, the county has over 650 affordable units in the pipeline with a development in the Dranesville District in Herndon, a senior housing project in the Lee District, and a development at the Huntington Metro Station in the Mt. Vernon District. Two sizeable parcels of county-owned land located in Lee District and Springfield District are being processed for transfer to the RHA as sites for housing development. And plans to refinance the Crescent and Wedgewood apartments will result in additional funds for housing development, or expansion of Bridging Affordability, the County's local rental subsidy program.

All this bodes well for housing affordability in Fairfax County. For too long, the county's budget has shortchanged investments in new construction and preservation. An inventory developed by Virginia Tech's Center for Housing Research shows that only 9,000 market-affordable units, affordable to a family of four earning approximately $66,000 annually, remain in the county. However, more than 68,000 households in the county earn no more than $50,000 annually. Rents are rising faster than incomes, and families are experiencing rent burdens, overcrowding or are being priced out of the county.

NEXT STEPS: In March, recommendations from the Phase II Panel will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration and approval. Afterwards, the final package of housing recommendations will be given to the County Executive to be incorporated into the board's budget guidance for FY2021. This will occur when the Board adopts the FY2020 budget on May 7. Nothing is certain until board adoption. But advocates throughout the county feel that in this very consequential election year, when so many candidates for the Board of Supervisors have identified housing affordability as a priority issue, this is the year for significant housing wins. To be successful, housing advocates must build a coalition of support that encompasses the business community and anchor institutions like healthcare facilities, education advocates, supporters of coordinated multi-modal transit and land use planning, organizations promoting compact, mixed-use development and entities working for social justice and racial equity. This plan is bold and forward-thinking, and in this election year a community-wide campaign will be critical for adoption.

For more, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/communitywideplan.

Letter to the Editor

Is a Tax and Spend Mindset Driving People Out of the Area?

To the Editor:

Why is the Fairfax County government competing with private business? Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust failed to answer this question and twisted the issue into one of customer satisfaction at the Great Falls budget meeting held March 14. For example, Fairfax County owns and maintains 8 golf courses with 80 people (FTEs) supporting them eligible for full pension benefits and other rich County employee benefits. Other examples include owning multiple water theme parks and wedding venue facilities. However, the County points out that the taxes collected are not sufficient to fund all the programs to the level they desire. Fairfax County is plagued by a 40 percent shortfall in pension expense funding for Fairfax County employees. Therefore, an ongoing increase in property taxes is inevitable with another 33 FTEs in the planning and development budget stating they have an "ambitious agenda" ahead. This tax and spend mindset is driving people out of the area. Fairfax County is also proud to report they fund more park and rec activities than the rest of the entire Country. Why, when we cannot afford to fix the roads are we hiring 109 new employees the County can't afford. Mr. Foust doesn't consider: 1) the continual burden of increasing property taxes, 2) unfunded pensions, 3) and the lost opportunity for private business to participate and pay those property taxes. Mr. Foust wants to continue with the status quo and ride out the three-year State imposed moratorium so he can again push for the Meals Tax and other tax increases. Satisfaction surveys should ask: Are you willing to increase your Fairfax County property taxes to fund activities that could be transferred and delivered by a private business? I suggest we prioritize what taxpayers want after we fully fund the basics (what we need).

Ethel Pascal
Great Falls

McLean Connection

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2017 Virginia Press Association Award Winning Newspaper

Bulletin Board

From Page 2

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Coal Ash Success. 6:30 p.m. at Oakton LIbrary, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join the Potomac Riverkeepers as they discuss recently passed legislation requiring Dominion to clean up 28 million tons of toxic coal ash, a crucial victory for keeping Virginia waterways clean with a screening of the film Coal Ash: "An Unacceptable Gamble." After, the Sierra Club will update the status of the pipeline battle in Virginia. Free. RSVP recommended. Email norbertsierra@aol.com or visit act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z0000027SDlQAM.

Spring Equinox Celebration. 7-9 p.m. At Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Join in a celebration of the first day of Spring, with an indoor medicine wheel and prayer tie crafting. Visit uof-2019-spring-equinox.eventbrite.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

Technology Fridays in March. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Join the Parent Resource Center for this series of technology workshops presented by FCPS Assistive Technology Services. Register for one or all of the workshops. Explore a variety of technology tools to support student success and independence with reading and writing in the digital classroom and at home. Register at www.fcps.edu/index.php/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center. Call 703-204-3941 or email prc@fcps.edu for more. March 22 - Assistive Technology to Support Communication

Film: "From Paris to Pittsburgh." 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. View the film "From Paris to Pittsburgh." From coastal cities to America's heartland, "Paris to Pittsburgh" celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. Email lgrowe@verizon.net for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Lenten Quiet Study. 9-11:30 a.m. in the Lillian Croy Room at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. A blend of traditional and modern interaction, this study will begin with the history of the Stations of the Cross and end with an experiential meditation on Jesus' path from Pontius Pilate to the cave with contemporary prayers and reflections. Visit www.holycomforter.com for more.

SUNDAY-TUESDAY/MARCH 24-26

Lenten Study Series. Sunday 9:45-10:45 a.m. and again at 6:30-8:15 p.m.; Monday, 7:30-9:15 p.m.; and Tuesday 7:30-9:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Christine Roy Yoder, Professor of Old Testament Language, Literature & Exegesis at Columbia Theological Seminary will be the speaker with a focus on "Seeking Wisdom: A Study of Proverbs." A 30-minute reception will precede the evening events. Visit www.lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

TUESDAY/MARCH 26

Lenten Services: Centering Prayer. 7-7:45 p.m. in St. Mary's Chapel, Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join a brief teaching on centering prayer and 20 minutes of silence. Visit www.holycomforter.com for more.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Lenten Brownbag Lunch & Book Discussion. 12:30-2 p.m. in the Library at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Bring a bag lunch and join a study of Rowan Williams' book Resurrection following the 12:10 p.m. Lenten Midweek Eucharist on Wednesdays. Join for worship in the Chapel beforehand or

See Bulletin, Page 11

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McLean Community Center

Explaining Death to Children

Breaking down a difficult topic and helping children grieve.

By Marilyn Campbell

Rosalie Ward, recalls a hot and sticky summer evening in 1975. She was watching reruns of the television show "Bewitched" with her twin sister in the living room while her mother cooked dinner in the kitchen. Ward remembers hearing the ring of the family's rotary telephone. The next sound she heard was a shriek and then violent sobs from her mother.

"My mom had gotten a call that her brother, my uncle, had been killed in a car crash," remembers Ward. "I was six at the time, but most of my memories of that evening are of my mother crying uncontrollably for the hour or so until my dad came home from work. The two of them disappeared behind closed doors. I just remember being terrified and feeling alone."

Whether prolonged or sudden, unforeseen or expected, experiencing the death of a loved one is never easy. While grief can weigh heavy on adults, it can overwhelm and confuse young children. And although death is an inevitable part of life, finding the words to discuss or explain it to young children can challenge many parents.

"Whether you're talking about a family pet or a grandparent, it's important that parents or caregivers understand that children grieve too and that death has to be discussed," said Ward, who is a family therapist in Reston.

One of the most significant mistakes a parent or caregiver can make is not being honest with a child about death, said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "My biggest worry is when people hide the fact that a loved one died by saying that they went on a trip, and then the child sees the adult crying or being sad," she said. "That doesn't give the child a chance to process it, but by including them in a developmentally appropriate way, we are teaching that we can feel big feelings, and with the support of friends and family, we can still thrive."

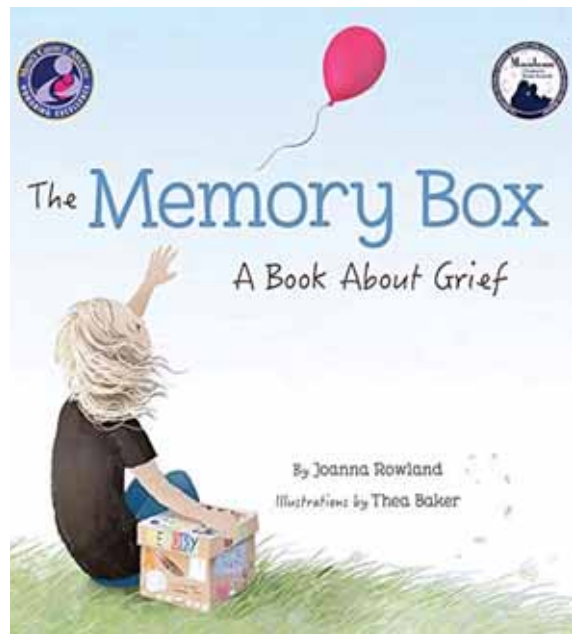
Helping a child to understand they didn't cause the death could be an important part of the conversation, suggests Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, a therapist in Bethesda. "Children often see the world as revolving around them," she said. "Reassure them that their loved one dying was not their fault and that the death didn't happen because they had a mean thought, misbehaved, or didn't visit enough."

"Death often brings anxiety in children and they wonder if they will die too," added Barnaby. "Explaining that although the loved one has just died, death is not contagious and that the child will likely live a very long life."

Clear, concise word usage is also important because young children might not have the language skills to discuss their feelings and emotions, adds Lorente. "Let the child engage in talking about fond memories of the deceased using pictures, making favorite recipes, or visiting a favorite place," she said.

Photos contributed

"The Invisible String" by Patrice Karst is a book that could help parents explain death to their children.



Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C suggests "The Memory Box" by Joanna Rowland as a tool to help children understand the concept of dying.

Use concrete and authentic terms when discussing it, continued Barnaby. "Avoid euphemisms like 'Grandma is resting' or 'has gone away'," she said. "These sayings confuse children and may cause them anxiety over [the notion] that they could die if they fall asleep; or that other loved ones may not come back." Use clear language like 'Grandma has died.'"

> "Death often brings anxiety in children and they wonder if they will die too."
> — Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C

Young children often believe death is reversible, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University. "You could describe how a body stops working and the person who died isn't coming back."

Be open to having an honest conversation about it, continued Short.

"Encourage children to ask questions and tell them you will help them handle any bad feelings or problems that happen," he said.

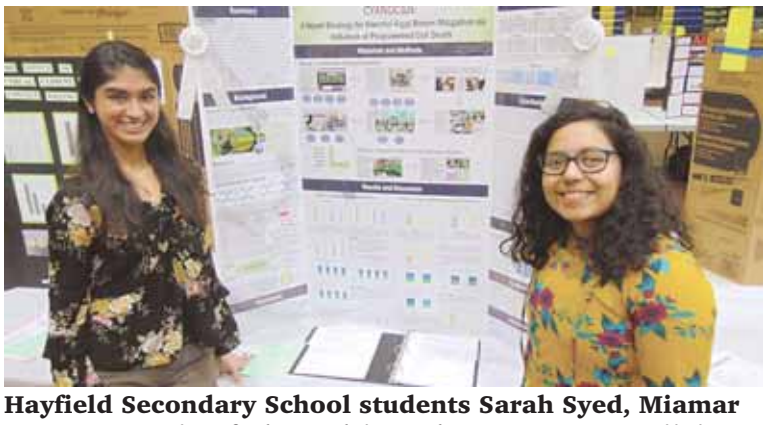
Photos by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

Visitors flock to the 64th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair, which was held Sunday, March 17, 2019, at Robinson Secondary School.

Talent on Display at Regional Science Fair

670 students from 27 high schools compete for nine grand prizes to go to International Fair in Phoenix.

AnnaBelle Leung of Lee High School, left, won first place in the Biomedical and Health Sciences category and was a grand prize nominee. Her project was "Comparing Hand Grip Strength Between Students with Low Incidence Disabilities and Neurotypical Students."



Hayfield Secondary School students Sarah Syed, Miamar Burgos-Rosario of Alexandria and (not present) Saijai Supanklang won first place in Microbiology and are grand prize nominees. Their project was "Cyanocide: A Novel Strategy for Harmful Algal Bloom Mitigation via Initiation of Programmed Cell Death."

By Steve Hibbard
The Connection

The gym at Robinson Secondary School resembled a mini version of the United Nations. At the 64th Annual Fairfax County Regional Science and Engineering Fair held Sunday, March 17, 2019, some 670 students from 27 high schools competed for nine Grand Prize slots and the chance to go to the International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Intel in Phoenix, Ariz. later this year.

The categories ranged from chemistry to robotics, intelligent systems to mathematics, earth and environmental sciences, biomedical and health sciences, to STEM disciplines and engineering.

After a public viewing from 1-3 p.m., they held an awards program with members of the Fairfax County School Board and Region Superintendents where prizes were awarded to the Grand Prize winners and Corporate and Professional Organization award winners.

The students' 428 projects were judged three times Saturday by 200 category judges. About 250 students won awards from 50 corporate and professional organizations that were sponsored by gov

See Science Fair, Page 9

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WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. at Nostos Restaurant, 8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna. Prospective members are invited. No reservations will be accepted after Friday, March 15. $40 per person. To attend, pay at squareup.com/market/mclean-newcomers-club. Visit www.McLeanNewcomers.org.

Dining with Dorothy. 12:30 p.m. At P.J. Skidoos, 9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Join with your friends or make new ones. Newcomers are always welcome. To reserve your space, contact event chair Dorothy Flood at dflood1706@gmail.com

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Seán Heely, a U.S National Scottish Fiddle Champion, the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hor d'oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

TEDxTysons OpenMic Night. 7-9:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center's Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. In an "American Idol" meets StorySLAM-style evening, aspiring TEDx Talkers will present their 2-3 minute pitch to a full house... and at the end of the evening one speaker will be selected to develop and present a full TEDxTysons talk. This is an all-ages event. A reception follows featuring McLean Project for the Arts artists. Tickets $16/$12 MCC tax district residents. Visit the website mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

McLean Art Sociey Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon at The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Dhamin Jassim, a graduate of the Institute and Academy of Fine Art in Baghdad will be the featured presenter. The artist will be doing a painting demonstration. Guests are welcome. Call 703-790-0123.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the Flame Room at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. The Auxiliary to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department will hold their Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. Offered for sale will be crafts, holiday decorations, items for your home, clothing and gifts for that special someone. A lunch menu is planned, as well as a homemade baked goods table. Admission is free. For information, or to reserve a space, call Carol at 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com.

The Joshua Show (Family Friendly). 1 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. This award-winning family production features a modern-day Mr. Rogers with hipster appeal, live music, tap dancing, physical comedy and multiple styles of puppetry to take the audience on a journey to find the joy in being yourself. Cost is $15/$10 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

Coffee and Culture. 4-6 p.m. at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church St. NE, Vienna. Travel the word through this demonstration and taste experience. Learn about the important part coffee plays in these varied cultures as you taste your way to Global Coffee Understanding. $45. Call 703-938-1623 or visit www.caffeamouri.com/store/p47/coffeeandculture/3-24-2019.html.

Heralds of Spring

Mary Ellen Mogee's exhibit of abstract floral paintings is full of blooms exploding with color and light and brings spring to Great Falls a little early. Through March 29, library hours in the Great Falls Library large meeting room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Free. Visit www.maryellenmogee.com or call 703-785-5784.

"Heralds of Spring" by Mary Ellen Mogee, 14"x11" poured acrylic on panel.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 27

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Seán Heely, a U.S National Scottish Fiddle Champion, the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hor d'oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Langley Lacrosse Youth Night. 6 p.m. at Langley High School Stadium field, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Warm up with varsity players at 5:45 p.m. JV game starts at 6 and varsity at 7:30. Langley High School Girls Lacrosse is hosting Youth Night. Raffles, door prizes, and free youth t-shirts for the first 60 fans. Free admission for youth lacrosse players wearing their jerseys; $5 for others. Email jmuwaits98@yahoo.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

NoVaTEEN Book Festival. 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to to the public; tickets and a full schedule are available at novateenbookfestival.com.

Craft Beer and Wine Festival Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at L'Auberge Chez François, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Chef Jacques Haeringer, of L'Auberge Chez Francois and Jacques' Brasserie, hosts a fun and delectable craft beer and wine festival fundraiser to support a group of firefighters, police officers, and first responders representing the United States of America in the top division of volleyball at the World Police and Fire Games in China in 2019. $75. Call 703-759-3800 or visit www.laubergechezfrancois.com.

Sophocles' "Antigone." 2 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Sophocles's drama from 441 B.C. holds startling relevance today, examining divinity, obedience, and law—and how love overcomes them all. Cost is $40/$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

Black History Concert. 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove Church, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. The Washington Revels Jubilee Voices ensemble will perform at Historic Pleasant Grove Church's free annual Black History Celebration. The Jubilee Voices will present traditional African-American song, poetry, and dance tailored to the unique story of Pleasant Grove. Free. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors". 7:30 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Two long-separated twins, their two tricky servants (also twins), a jealous wife, and her lovelorn sister romp through this fast-paced comedy. Cost is $40/$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

VOCE Chamber Singers. 8 p.m. at Church of the Holy Cross, 2455 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. VOCE Chamber Singers presents Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil (Vespers). Rachmaninoff's All-Night Vigil (Vespers) is widely regarded as the "Mt. Everest" of the a cappella choral repertoire. Tickets $10-$25; under 18, free. Visit www.voce.org or call 703-277-7772.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Langley/Cooper 5K. 8 a.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join the "Bands on the Run" 5k run/walk, benefitting Langley High School and Cooper Middle School Band programs. $30 through March 15; 3/15; $35 through Race Day. Visit www.langleyband.org/bands-on-the-run to register or sponsor. Sponsorships are tax-deductible.

Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale." 2 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Shakespeare's magnificent late play is a roller-coaster ride from romance to tragedy to comedy and, finally, to a place of transcendent beauty that few other works of art have ever gone. Cost is $40/$30 MCC tax district residents. Visit www.aldentheatre.org.

VOCE Chamber Singers. 4 p.m. at Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna.. VOCE Chamber Singers presents Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil (Vespers). Tickets $10-$25; under 18, free. Visit www.voce.org or call 703-277-7772.

Photo by Lauren Rogers Parker
Courtesy American Shakespeare Center

Constance Swain appearing in American Shakespeare Center's "Antigone" at McLean's Alden Theatre

Shakespeare at Alden

American Shakespeare Center returns to McLean's Alden Theatre.

By David Siegel
The Connection

American Shakespeare Center has a loyal following of devoted fans who can't always make it to the Center's home in Staunton, Virginia, said Sarah N. Schallern, Director, Performing Arts, McLean Community Center. "Bringing ASC to The Alden affords this Shakespeare-loving town the opportunity to see authentic performances close to home.

"I love how visceral their productions are," said Schallern. "ASC makes Shakespeare accessible in a way that even the best producers of the Bard cannot. I see presenting such vital productions as a huge benefit to the community — our patrons get a deeper understanding of Shakespeare and other classics."

ASC will perform three different classics at the Alden. The productions include:

Sophocles' "Antigone," an ancient tale about the aftermath of war. Antigone is torn. Her brother Eteocles will be honored, but her brother Polyneices will be shamed and denied funeral rites. What will Antigone do?

Shakespeare's "The Comedy of Errors" is a boisterous comedy of twins, mistaken identity, a jealous wife, and more. Slapstick humor and happy confusion abound.

Shakespeare's "The Winter's Tale" is a ride from romance to tragedy to comedy to a place of transcendent beauty. A sad tale "best for winter," that Shakespeare conjures into spring's miraculous rebirth.º

Artistic Director Ethan McSweeny said that ASC is a "true believer in the power of Shakespeare and the classics to improve lives. The productions have the ASC unique outlook that includes 30 minutes of live pre show music as a bridge into the shows. There is also live music performed by the actors during intermissions.

American Shakespeare Center is nationally known for its quality repertory style as actors show their versatility performing many different roles, noted McSweeney. ASC also is known for its authentic "lights-on, no set" approach to a classic theater production. "With lights on, the audience can be more engaged in the production," added McSweeny.

"ASC residency at The Alden will be seen nowhere else. Due to some repairs in the theatre, much of the stage is inaccessible. ASC loves performing for McLean audiences so much that they offered to restage all three productions so that they would fit on the space we have available.

This makes the Shakespeare weekend even more special," said Schallern.

More than one Alden patron has provided feedback such as "the interactions between the cast and the audience made the play come alive; I was captivated."

McLean Community Center presents American Shakespeare Center on Tour, at The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center. "Antigone," March 30, "The Comedy of Errors," March 31, and "The Winter's Tale", March 31.

Elite Science Fair at Robinson

From Page 7

ernment agencies, nonprofits and think tanks. Prizes ranged from $1,000 cash awards to scholarships and internships, gift cards and even a Raspberry Pi Zero Starter Kit. One project on Cystic Fibrosis Wearable Technology from Madison High students Thaissa Peixoto and Alex Gurski won a patent preparation and filing from the law firm Hunton and Williams LLP in the District.

FOR THE GRAND PRIZES, nine projects were allotted slots in the International Science and Engineering Fair sponsored by Intel Corporation in Phoenix, Ariz. Because of the size and reputation of Fairfax County, those projects can go straight to the International Fair without having to go through state competition. This includes an all-expense paid trip for students to compete for up to $4 million in prize money.

According to Dr. Jenay Sharp Leach, fair director and Pre-K-12 Science Coordinator: "In Fairfax County Public Schools, we pride ourselves on providing students with a rich, inquiry-based science experience in the classroom so all of our students have the opportunity to experience science as real scientists where they are asking questions, they are collecting data and analyzing that data and forming their own conclusions. And Science Fair is a really beautiful manifestation of this inquiry process in that the students truly have access to open inquiry and can explore what they want to explore."

She added: "So, the students who come to the fair represent the best of the best from all of our high schools as well as our private schools in Fairfax County. And they are the elite level of scientific investigation."

DR. SHARP LEACH said one of their traditions is to choose a quote from a famous scientist or engineer to inspire the work of the fair. This year's quote comes from Stephen Hawking who said, "Scientists have become the bearers of the torch of discovery in our quest for knowledge."

She continued: "There are cancer cures in this room right now, there are climate change advocates who are going to stop climate change in this room right now and it's very inspirational."

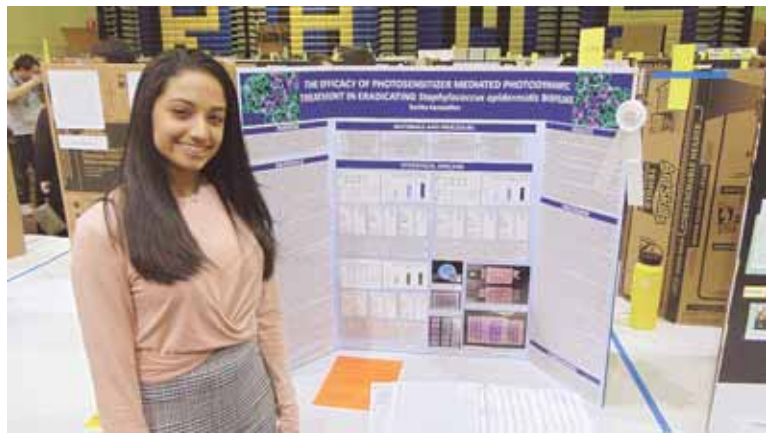
Added Tim Harazin, Elementary Science Specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools who helped coordinate the fair: "At our Regional Science Fair we are proud to have so many professional organizations and companies provide judges and awards.

The benefit is, first, there is an award for the students, many times monetary, but other options, but I think the bigger issues is these organization judges are role models for the students. They show the students that a science fair is not just a one-shot deal, but it could lead to a career in science, engineering or related fields, and I think it's really great that the students get to see the people who are living those careers and get advice from those people. So, that's what I see is the really big advantage.

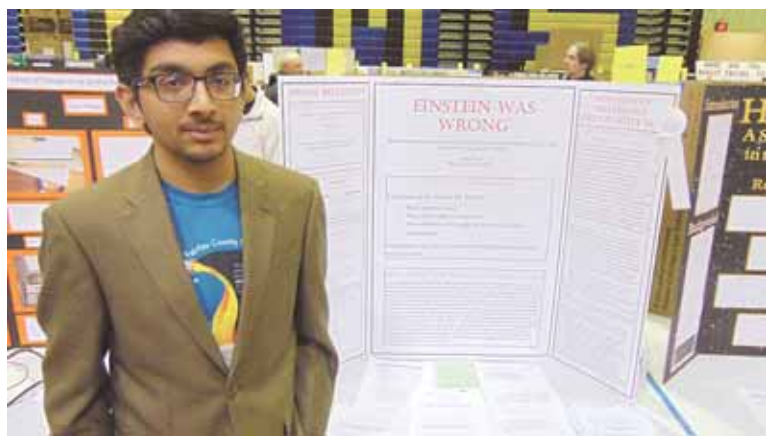
That's why I'm not as concerned that every organization gives us money because I know they're giving us time and they're giving us role models."

Photos by Steve Hibbard/The Connection

South Lakes High School students Ryan Ferzoco and Spencer Harris won first place in Material Science and were grand prize nominees. Their project was "The Effect of Microgravity on Self-Healing Concrete."



Sanika Karandikar, a student at Thomas Jefferson High School, won first place in Microbiology and was a grand prize nominee. Her project was "Using Photodynamic Treatment in Eradicating S-Epidermidis Biofilms."



McLean High School student Abrar Syed of McLean won first place in Physics and Astronomy and was a finalist for the grand prize. His project was "Einstein Was Wrong."

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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

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Potomac School Senior Takes Fifth Place in National Science Competition

Carolyn Beaumont, a senior at The Potomac School in McLean, ranked fifth in the 78th Regeneron Science Talent Search, the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors. Her achievement, which comes with a $90,000 award, was announced on March 12 at a black-tie gala at the National Building Museum in Washington, DC.

Carolyn was named a Top 40 Finalist in January. She and her fellow finalists spent Sunday, March 10, presenting their research projects to the public, as well as to a number of leading scientists. The following day, the finalists divided into groups by state of residence and met with government officials and staffers. Carolyn and the other Virginians spoke with a member of Sen. Mark Warner's staff about their work and the importance of government support for STEM education.

As a student in Potomac's Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program, Carolyn spent two years working on her geochemistry research project. She examined the way water reacts with magma, with the goal of testing the theory favored by geologists about the composition of water during a volcanic eruption. In addition to her Potomac research advisor, Dr. Isabelle Cohen, Carolyn worked with an outside mentor, Dr. George Cody at the Carnegie Institute of Science's Geophysical Laboratory. There, she used technology that allowed her to create models of magma and observe its reaction with water. Ultimately, Carolyn's discoveries turned out to be remarkable: She showed that volcanoes react differently depending on the amount of water present in the magma. This runs counter to the thinking of professional geologists, making Carolyn's project a source of new and important information.

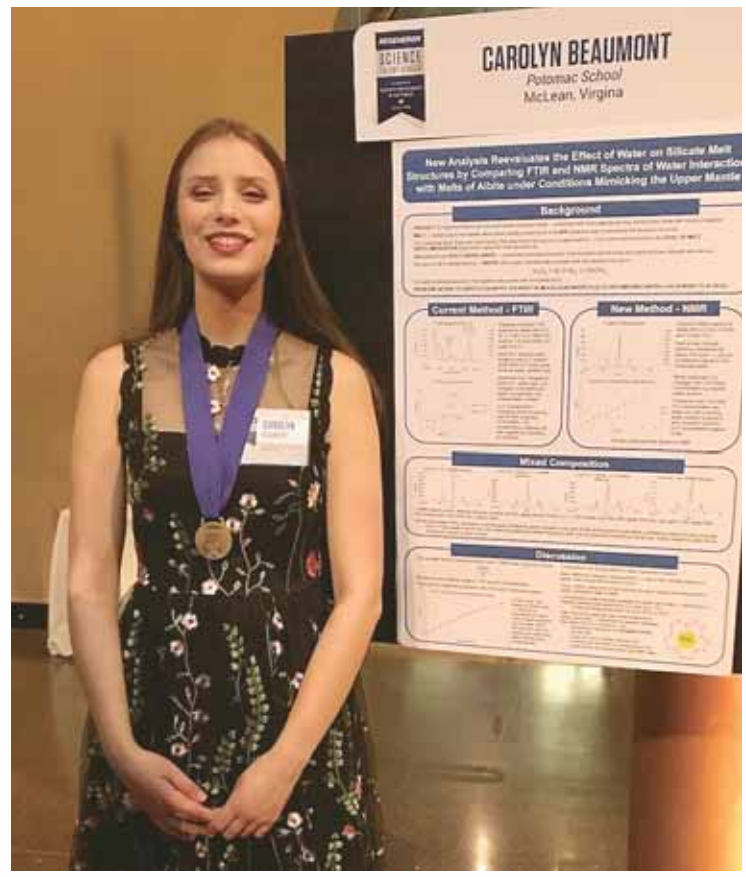

Photo contributed

Carolyn Beaumont, fifth place winner in the 2019 Regeneron Science Talent Search.

Dr. Cohen observes, "Not many high school students can say that they have disproved a scientific theory. That accomplishment indicates the magnitude of Carolyn's potential as a scientist."

Reflecting on the competition's final days, Carolyn notes, "All of the questions that the judges asked were really interesting. I got to meet some professional geologists – one of them actually works in the same field that I've been studying, and I loved hearing her perspective on my research. It was amazing to have my work recognized in a way that allowed me to have an impact on the scientific community!" She adds, "This was one of the best weeks of my life. I didn't feel pressured to make the top 10. All I was hoping to get out of the experience, I had already gotten.

"It was great to be able to share my research, and I loved talking with so many people who are passionate about science. I was really happy about the entire process; winning fifth place was just the icing on the cake."

Carolyn will attend Harvard University in the fall.

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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

Bulletin

From Page 5

just come for the book discussion. Visit www.holycomforter.com for more.

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 941, Fairfax. The Park Authority Board is a 12-member board appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to set policy and establish strategic policy and direction for the Park Authority. Open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm

Public Hearing on Programs. 7:30 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. McLean Community Center (MCC) is asking residents what kinds of programs and services they would like to see offered at the newly renovated facility. The MCC Governing Board wants to hear from residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville, who pay a real estate surcharge to support the center. Tax district residents who wish to speak at the hearing are asked to call the Center at 703-744-9348, TTY: 711, to have their names placed on the speakers list; however, speakers are not required to sign up in order to speak. Residents also may submit comments by mail, fax (703-556-0547) email (holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov) or in person up to seven days after the hearing. For more information, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit bit.ly/2tGi5IC.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

GFES Kindergarten Orientation. 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Great Falls Elementary School, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls. Children who are five by Sept. 30, 2019 are eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2019-20 school year. Parents and eligible children are invited to attend the Great Falls ES Kindergarten Orientation. Our future students will experience what is will be like to be in a kindergarten classroom, while parents will receive information pertinent to registration, curriculum, and Great Falls Elementary School. Free. Visit www.fcps.edu for registration materials and FCPS general kindergarten information. Call Ellen Rohrer at 703-757-2100

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

State of Children's Health Legislative Update Breakfast. 8:30-10 a.m. at Northern Virginia Community College - Medical Education Campus, Springfield. Join the MCCP Foundation to hear the latest on the state of healthcare for children locally, across Virginia, and at the Federal level. Meet with legislators, health professionals, business leaders, and community advocates to discuss current news and updates from experts in the field. $25-$35. Visit mccpfoundation.org/event/legislative-update-breakfast-march-29-2019/ to register.

Teen Depression: What Parents Need to Know. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Dr. Kathryn DeLonga, PsyD, director of the Mood Brain and Development Unit Psychological Treatment Program at the National Institute for Mental Health, will highlight the prevalence of major depressive disorder and how to identify depression in teenagers, along with elements of recovery and strategies for treatment. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center

Language Immersion Lottery Registration. Immersion lottery registration will close on March 29 for kindergarten. A SIS parent account is required to register. More information about Immersion programs and information meetings can be found at www.fcps.edu.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

Northern Virginia Housing Expo. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford St. Dozens of exhibits and workshops will provide all the information needed to rent an apartment or purchase a first home at the 2019 Northern Virginia Housing Expo, a regional housing fair. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org for more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Passover/Judaica Gift Pop-Up Shop. 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 4212 Technology Court, Chantilly. Assorted gift items, as well as Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Chanukah, Passover and Shabbat items. Contact Faith Abzug at Faith.Abzug@gmail.com or call 319-329-9802

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Eight Daze and Seven Sleepless Nights

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On Monday, I take one of our "Buff Boys" (beige-colored cats), "Chino," to the vet for his bi-weekly glucose-monitoring day. This is his new routine as "Chino" was recently diagnosed with diabetes.

In addition, since his diagnosis, I've been injecting him with insulin twice a day, subcutaneously ("sub-q") going on six weeks now. Though he's eating well, he's lost weight; apparently, it's related.

Without getting too sad, too soon, he looks frail and the stares and meows he gives me seem to be pleas for help which, other than providing food, water and touch, I am clueless as to what else I can do. I'm not anticipating the worst yet, but when I pick him up at the vet later in the day, I'm not expecting the best either.

On Wednesday, I go for my first CT scan in eight weeks. More significantly, it will be my first "CT" since I began immunotherapy. I don't quite know what to expect; although I know what I hope.

The fact is I/we neglected to ask my oncologist what his expectations were: specifically relating to a time frame about the immunotherapy's effectiveness; and as we've moved on, we have a few other questions: Will the infusion have any effect after just eight weeks, generally? Is there a protocol/length of treatment which a patient is supposed to have before success or failure is determined? Are there any indications other than scan results which might contribute to an assessment of the drug's impact on my tumors? Is it possible that the tumors in my lungs might have a different reaction (shrink, stable, grow) than my "Adam's apple" tumor? If so, then what? Are there any side effects from my bi-weekly infusions which could cause my treatment to stop?

Beyond these types of questions, my oncologist prefers not to discuss scenarios. The short summary is: we're looking for some kind of clarity and/or guarantee. Unfortunately, for cancer patients, clarity and guarantees ended on the date of your diagnosis.

On Friday, I have my next scheduled infusion (with pre-infusion lab work on Wednesday). Door to door, depending on how busy the Infusion Center is, and depending how long it takes the pharmacy to mix/prepare my drug, it will be approximately three hours until I'm back home. The experience is not tedious nor is it torture.

Compared to the eight-hour days I had to endure in the early, heavy-duty days of chemotherapy, this time commitment is a breeze. And when one considers the relatively minor side effects – so far, the routine is quite bearable. (I just need the immunotherapy to be effective.)

On the following Monday, we see my oncologist. Typically, we don't see him until later in the week on Friday. In the 10-day interim, my oncologist will email results of the scan – with his assessment – and attach the radiologist's report so that when we see him, we're aware and prepared.

However, in this week's particular instance he had availability on Monday, five days post-scan, and not on Friday. As such, we are seeing him so soon after the scan occurs that he might not have any results to email us before our appointment.

This means that we'll be going into the appointment cold, so to speak. Which means we'll be extremely anxious as we sit in the examining room waiting for his knock asking if it's OKAY for him to come in. And then staring at his face as he enters looking for any kind of hopeful sign that the treatment has worked.

And that's what this week-plus-one-day will be: a struggle; about me, for my wife, about our life together and about one of our cats.

Each of the four days/four events itself would be stressful and thought-provoking enough. Having them occur one right after the other, simultaneously almost, is like adding insult to injury. It's bad enough to begin with and it's potentially even worse how it might end with – really bad news.

Through it all, somehow we must remain positive. There's no future in being negative.

To invoke the late Yogi Berra, who said in 1973 while managing the last-place New York Mets: "It ain't over 'till it's over." (And of course they went on to win the National League pennant.)

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

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I look forward to seeing you on April 6th!

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