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WELLBEING
PAGE 8

From left, David Ranowsky, Mary Fettes and Joe Russell are among the stars of Shoe-string Theatre Co.'s upcoming play, "Haint So."

Fairfax CONNECTION

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Hope in Bloom

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

If you have ever wondered what impact local nonprofits really have on social issues in our area or what long-term benefits they provide to the area's most vulnerable, attendance at the 8th annual FACETS Breakfast, themed "Hope in Bloom" and held on April 25, would have answered your curiosity in an eloquent and heart-warming way.

Yes, there was a celebrity emcee to guide the event, in the person of NBC News4 Northern Virginia Bureau Chief Julie Carey. Yes, there was a prominent and influential featured speaker in Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11), with additional remarks by FACETS Executive Director Joe Fay and Board Chair Don Harris. There was even a video presentation showing some of the work being done by the Fairfax-based nonprofit whose mission is to aid those facing or experiencing homelessness, providing emergency shelter and needs, helping them gain safe and permanent housing and "working with them to end the cycle of poverty through education, life skills and career counseling."

But what really hit home and highlighted the lasting good that can be accomplished when community works together, were the "courageous client speakers" who took to the podium to tell their personal stories.

Richard was first up. With his vision lost to glaucoma, Richard was escorted to the stage by caseworkers Ruben Aquino and Candice Stancil of FACETS' Supportive Housing services.

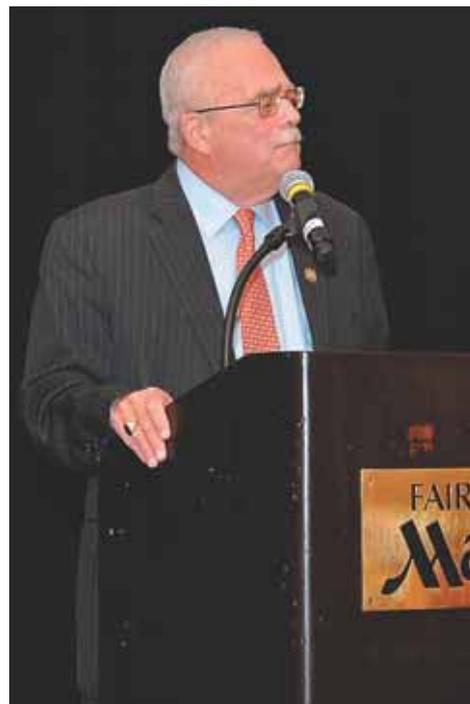
Richard has experienced homelessness more than once, with substance abuse a contributing factor the first time around.

"I came to this area and found help. My sobriety days began on August the 8, 1997," Richard told the audience with quiet pride.

AFTER FINDING ASSISTANCE the first time, Richard actually began working with other homeless, initially as a volunteer at the Bailey's Crossroad Community Shelter, and then as an employee of the facility. But as those who work with our neighbors in need well know, stability can be a precarious perch in our expensive hometown. As his sight began to fail, in 2011 Richard had an accident. Hesitant to reach out again for fear of losing what he finally had achieved – employment and his dignity - Richard fell into homelessness once more, seeking shelter in abandoned homes in Annandale.

When his "home" was discovered, Richard had to move out into the unsheltered world again, but found a new path when he visited the Safe Haven drop-in day shelter run by the First Christian Church in Falls Church.

"That's when I engaged with FACETS," he said. With their support and the caring assistance of Aquino and Stancil who worked



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) was the featured speaker at the FACETS Benefit Breakfast.



From left: Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook join event emcee Julie Carey, Northern Virginia Bureau Chief for NBC News4 before the annual FACETS Benefit Breakfast program got underway.



Maria Avila, Program Director of Single Adult Housing Stabilization for FACETS was honored at the event for her work as the coordinator of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

with him to secure the resources he needed, Richard has now been living for years in independent housing.

"I thank FACETS for working with me to maintain my independence. I have two of the best case managers standing here beside me today. I thank them and you."



Norca Calderin was honored for her efforts as FACETS Hypothermia Prevention Site Coordinator and Case Manager. FACETS has been running the annual program during the winter months for 18 years.

Yvette and case manager Tanner Sigmon were up next.

Yvette, who hails from southern Springfield, described a childhood in a good home in a good neighborhood. She worked full time in law firms and saved enough money to buy her own townhouse when she was

just 23.

She sold that home and moved to Roanoke, "but bad things happened there, and I came back."

With no money, no job, and a different

SEE FACETS, PAGE 11



GMU's Dirty Gold Brass Band kicks off the Spotlight on the Arts Opening Gala.

Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Kicks Off

Billed as “An Aquarian Explosion: Three Weeks of Peace & Arts,” Fairfax’s 34th annual Spotlight on the Arts festival kicked off Friday night, April 26, with a music-filled gala at Old Town Hall. The fun even included a surprise rendition of the Blood, Sweat & Tears song, “Spinning Wheel,” sung by Councilman Michael DeMarco, accompanied by GMU’s Dirty Gold Brass Band. Dignitaries attending included Del. David Bulova (D-37), Fairfax Mayor David Meyer and City Council members Jennifer Passey, Sang Yi, Janice Miller and DeMarco. Several performers entertained, and GMU music professor Anthony Maiello was recognized as the festival’s honorary chairman.

Spotlight’s mission is to enhance awareness of the cultural opportunities in the Fairfax/GMU community, encourage new and emerging arts groups in this area and provide scholarships to students taking arts-related courses at Mason. And this year’s festival also honors the 50th anniversary of Woodstock with three weeks of music, dance, theater and visual art by bringing the “Age of Aquarius” vibe into the local community.

Events will be held, from now through May 12, at various venues throughout the City. For a list of each one, plus their dates, times and locations, go to www.FairfaxSpotlight.org.

—BONNIE HOBBS



From left, are Fairfax City Council members Jennifer Passey, Sang Yi and Janice Miller, Mayor David Meyer and Councilman Michael DeMarco.



From left, Abby Covington, Tatiane Jones and Jordan Prather, of the Fairfax Academy’s Musical Theater Actor Studio, sing “Aquarius.”



Councilman Michael DeMarco rocks the house, singing the Blood, Sweat & Tears song, “Spinning Wheel.”



Saxophonist Ricky Parrell



Bass guitarist Victor Holmes



From left, Adam Ressa and Kevin Dykstra perform a scene from City of Fairfax Theatre Co.’s upcoming play.



GMU student Luke Ratcliffe performs a Brahms composition.



As honorary festival chairman, GMU music professor Anthony Maiello (on left) receives the event’s poster from gala emcee Michael DeMarco.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Transportation Alternatives During Metro Shutdown

Free parking at Franconia-Springfield, Huntington Metro stations to join a slug line, catch a Fairfax Connector bus, or catch a WMATA express shuttle.

BY SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

In response to Metro's shutdown of six Blue and Yellow Line stations south of Ronald Reagan International Airport this summer, Fairfax County is dedicated to ensuring commuters have access to alternative transportation options and the latest up-to-date information about the shutdown. In the Letter to the Editor How to Handle Metro Nightmare, (Connection, April 22) resident Nicole Miller asked "What will happen to those currently parking [for slugging]? Will we be shut out of parking due to the increased need for rides to the city?"

The good news is, in Fairfax County, the Franconia-Springfield Metro Station and the Huntington Metro Station will offer free parking during the Metro summer shutdown of the Blue and Yellow Lines. Commuters can park in these parking lots (which have a combined total of 8,686 spaces) and from there, join a slug line, catch a Fairfax Connector bus, or catch a WMATA express shuttle to help them get to work. Since

parking at these stations is currently under capacity by about 50 percent, we believe there will be more than enough spaces available for commuters participating in ridesharing, bus riding and shuttle riding. Free parking will also be available at the surface parking lot at the Van Dorn Street Metro Station.

To respond to increased demand for alternative transportation options during the Metro shutdown, Fairfax Connector will add increased bus service on Route 393 and 394 and reduce intervals to ten minutes during commuting hours. WMATA will run express shuttles to the Pentagon stations, where Metro will be operating and can take commuters into downtown D.C.

The Fairfax County Department of Transportation has been involved in outreach efforts to commuters through letters to employers, social media posts, email/text alerts through Fairfax Alerts, and the creation of a new webpage outlining transportation alternatives during Metro's shutdown: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/travel-alerts/metro-platforms.

Area Students Awarded in Virginia History Day Contest

Students from six Fairfax County public schools won awards at the 2019 Virginia History Day competition, based on the theme Triumph and Tragedy in History. Two student teams and two individual students captured first place awards in their categories.

First place winners were:

❖ Group Documentary, Junior Division: Sahitya Balguri, Havana Medina, and Anya Raval of Rocky Run Middle School, "World War II's Unknown Warriors: The Navajo Code Talkers."

❖ Group Documentary, Senior Division: Hannah Che, Heather Che, and Yuni Choi of West Springfield High School, "Comfort Women: The Unspoken Apology."

❖ Individual Website, Junior Division: Nikhil Manandhar of Lorton Station Elementary School, "Was the Triumph Worth the Tragedy? The Battle of Saipan."

❖ Paper, Senior Division: Carson Shin of Oakton High School, "War and Medicine: The Great War and Medical Innovation."

❖ Westfield High School students Shreya Aravindan, Qukua Neves, Sathvika Sangoju, and Eva Smart finished second in the Senior Division Group Exhibit category for their project, "The Effect of Christopher Columbus in Indigenous People."

❖ Erica Varner of Westfield High finished third in the Senior Division Individual Website category for her project, "Tragedy and Triumph: Stock Market Crash of 1929."

Special Awards were presented as follows:

❖ National Maritime Historical Society Award: Deven Hagen of Haycock Elementary for "When Allies Attack: The Triumph and Tragedy of Mers-El-Kebir."

❖ MacArthur Memorial Award: Nikhil Manandhar of Lorton Station Elementary, "Was the Triumph Worth the Tragedy? The Battle of Saipan."

First and second place winners now advance to the National History Day contest, scheduled to be held at the University of Maryland June 9-13.

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OPINION

Black or Blue: Lessons Learned from How Virginia Democrats Handled the Ralph Northam Debacle

Let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy.

BY KOFI ANNAN
PRESIDENT, FAIRFAX COUNTY NAACP

During a 1960 speech to a mixed audience in New York City, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "There is a pressing need for a liberalism in the North which is truly liberal." While Virginia is a southern state, it gets bluer with each election, therefore we should take heed to MLK's words, which essentially challenges liberals to fight the gravitational pull to the right on issues of civil rights and equity. It is difficult to see both the election of Ralph Northam, his subsequent actions, and the actions of the party to protect him as anything but the party signaling to the center-right that they have their back and are willing to sacrifice a few black voters if need be.

Liberals have long sought to convince African Americans that they alone can shield us from conservative's intent on rolling back the hands of time. And African Americans normally respond to that message, having never wavered in our loyalty for the last half century. Every election cycle we make or break elections in favor of the Democratic Party, even though for the most part we get marginal improvement in our quality of life overall, and in many measurable ways we actually regress. Our average collective net worth remains a fraction of whites, our employment rate remains half that of whites, our neighborhoods are still gentrified in the name of progress, predominantly black public schools are still underfunded, we still make up 40 percent of the nation's incarcerated, and school administrators still consistently dole out harsher punishments to our kids compared to their white counterparts, even in districts dominated by Democratic Party leadership. A report from the Institute for Policy Studies, released to coincide with what would have been MLK's 90th birthday, demonstrated that over the past few decades, black wealth actually fell by 50%.

On the other hand, Republicans haven't presented a particularly appealing message to African Americans voters at any point during this time period either, and even less so during the Trump Administration, which uses racism and xenophobia to collect votes as effectively as any administration in recent history. However, what's more intriguing is the possibility that Democrats like Northam view Trump's success as a reason to shift focus on securing the white middle-class vote even if that means sacrificing some of the African American vote, or at least taking the black vote for granted. After all, the politics of "fear the racist Republican" is a lot easier to sell today than it was just a few years ago. This might explain why presidential favorite Pete Buttigieg felt comfortable proposing that he would undo decades of work to expand voting rights to those convicted of crimes, who are disproportionately represented

by minorities.

This certainly appears to be the case in Virginia. Most of us are familiar with the controversy surrounding Governor Northam and his possible Ku Klux Klan (KKK) affiliation by now, right? Perhaps I shouldn't assume. Maybe you were one of those that ignored the Klan member in the photograph, and instead saw this incident as a [less harmful] 'blackface' controversy that could be explained by innocent cultural insensitivity. But let's get something straight, this is not a blackface controversy, this is a KKK controversy. A lot of people - including the governor - would rather focus on the person in blackface because it's a slightly more tolerant form of white supremacy, and conveniently ignore the terrorist next to the individual in blackface. But the governor should not be let off the hook that easily. The KKK is America's original domestic terrorist group (despite what the laws say), having killed well over 4,000 Americans that we know of, and our governor either is or was associated with them. Let that sink in, particularly as we still mourn the loss of another group of innocent lives at the hands of other terrorist groups in New Zealand a few weeks ago, Pittsburgh, Charlottesville, and most recently Sri Lanka. The leader of the Democratic Party in Virginia has yet to offer a sensible explanation for why a terrorist was in his yearbook, and the Democratic Party is okay enough with this that they're now openly not only defending him but trotting him out at political fundraisers.

To most the case against Northam seemed open and shut, and his resignation seemed inevitable. One would imagine that an elected official who represents the party which prides itself on its diversity, that routinely secures over 90% of the African American vote, and counts on that constituency to win key battleground territories in a purple state that was red just a few elections ago, would certainly recognize that defending the governor is not a hill worth dying on and step aside as quickly and as gracefully as possible.

Well we're now approaching May and not only has Northam refused to step aside, but even more unfortunate the Democratic Party has begun to rally around him in a show of solidarity. First came the slow drip of messages of appreciation from members of the General Assembly for one bill after the other on social media. Then the ridiculous Michael Jackson impersonation story that once seemed straight out of a bad SNL skit became the official party line. As for the "Coonman" nickname in his VMI yearbook that never received a formal explanation from the governor? Well one explanation floated to me by a Democratic member of in the Virginia House of Delegates - who happened to be African American - was an even greater insult to our intelligence, and full of even more racist stereotypes. According to the delegate the governor's nickname stemmed

from the fact that he had a lot of black friends due to his love of basketball.

As if insulting our intelligence wasn't bad enough, many within the Democratic Party felt it necessary to go after those amplifying the call for the governor's resignation. Following a protest led the Fairfax County National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) at a Democratic fundraiser where the governor was scheduled to attend, Democratic Party loyalists and leaders alike attacked the NAACP for doing the very thing the organization was founded for - standing up against racism. Its members were described as "troublemakers" and "bullies"; and the nation's oldest and most successful civil rights organization is described as a "fringe element" by one party leader.

One of the talking points coming from Virginia's Democrats is that "the governor isn't going anywhere, so we might as well work with him." This intentionally alleviates the burden of responsibility from the rest of the party leadership, because it makes them seem powerless, when in reality they really don't want to challenge him anyway. As the reaction to the protests demonstrated, real challenges to the governor will not be looked upon favorably by the Democratic Party. If they'll publicly assassinate the NAACP, one could only imagine what private pressure is being placed on African American legislators who dare break ranks. This likely explains the deafening silence and acquiescence from most black elected officials on this issue.

Not enough black leaders (elected and community leaders alike) stand with the black community on principle when it matters most; and if they can't stand on principle when it comes to the KKK, when will they? If they can't break ranks with the party now, when will they? Black leaders stood next to Hillary Clinton when she called our youth "super predators", and they stood next to Bill when he doubled down on Reagan's mass incarceration policies. We're often told that the solution is electing more African American to office; but if this is the best they can do when faced with a such a clear-cut choice in a time of crisis, then their true value to the African American community is questionable.

If these officials don't have what it takes to tackle overt headline-grabbing racism within their own ranks, how can they be trusted to tackle systemic racism that doesn't make headlines. The numbers highlighting African American wealth decline speak for themselves. They can't.

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Some 60 volunteers assembled 1,500 food boxes.

Volunteers Pack Ramadan Food Boxes To Help People In Need

As the Islamic holy month of Ramadan approaches, Islamic Relief USA, a nonprofit humanitarian and advocacy organization based in Alexandria, helped prepare for the month of fasting by packing boxes with nonperishable foods.

Some 60 volunteers participated in the Saturday, April 27 event, which was split in two shifts. The volunteers helped fold boxes, pack them with food, tape them for shipping, and flatten unpacked boxes. In

total, the volunteers assembled 1,500 food boxes.

The food boxes, whose items are intended to last for several days, are all non-perishable. They include cooking oil, a 10 pound bag of basmati rice, canned tuna, beans, sugar, flour, vegetable bouillon, pasta, Ragu sauce, cereal, peanut butter, and, of course, dates.

The boxes will be given to local residents in need, regardless of their race, gender, creed, or religion.



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WELLBEING



COURTESY PHOTO

Schar Cancer Institute rendering.

Schar Cancer Institute Opens to Patients May 13

Institute becomes a landmark for health care and research in Fairfax County

The Inova Health System will usher in a new level of medical treatment and patient care when the Inova Schar Cancer Institute opens to patients May 13 on its Merrifield campus. “The Schar Cancer Center raises the already-high level of health-care facilities in Fairfax County,” said Catherine W. Riley, interim president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority. “As part of the Inova Center for Personalized Health it can make Fairfax County a destination for world-class research and clinical work.”

Dedication ceremonies took place Wednesday, April 24, for the \$150 million center for care and research that is anchoring the 117-acre Inova campus, fulfilling a vision that began with the acquisition of the former Exxon Mobil site. The institute was made possible, in part, by a \$50 million contribution from Dwight Schar and wife Martha, whose legacy will extend beyond Fairfax County-based NVR home builders.

MEMBERS OF THE SCHAR FAMILY were joined by others, including U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy and wife Marcelle, political commentator Cokie Roberts, and Lara Hopewell, a local hockey mom-turned-crusader for cancer research — all cancer survivors. Also participating in the ceremonies were U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Inova CEO Dr. Stephen Jones. The ceremonies featured more than 100 cancer patients and their family members, who became the first to walk through the front door of the newly-dedicated facility.

“We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment,” said Bulova, who presented a proclamation from the Board of Supervisors congratulating Inova. “We have amazing facilities, doctors and cutting-edge technologies that are right here, literally in our own backyard, and that is so incredibly valuable.”

Riley echoed the importance of having a first-class cancer facility in the county, offering residents the highest quality care without requiring them to travel, often hundreds of miles for treatment. She also emphasized the importance of the research that will take place at the facility, creating a new horizon in the

diversification of Fairfax County’s workforce.

“We’re very excited about the research and development aspect of the Schar Institute and the ways in which it will help diversify our local economy,” Riley said. “It will attract new doctors and scientists. In partnership with facilities like the University of Virginia Medical School, those researchers will be applying for new grants and developing the kinds of programs that will make Fairfax County known as a medical research and development center.”

“We are so fortunate in Fairfax County to have access to such world class medical care and treatment.”

Sharon Bulova, Chairman, County Board of Supervisors

DURING THE DEDICATION, Jones announced that Dr. John Deeken, who had been serving as acting president of the Inova Schar Cancer Institute, is named permanently to the president’s role. Deeken said the institute would continue stress its “patient-first” philosophy, building on its ability to provide one-stop care through teams of doctors, nurses, therapists, researchers and specialized counselors.

“The vision and the spirit is that the patient is at the center of everything we do,” said Deeken, who previously served as COO of the Inova Translational Medicine Institute. “Fundamentally, that’s the difference in the model of care at Inova.

“This is the culmination of years of effort in planning and design and recruiting – to make real what we’d hoped to have for all the patients in Northern Virginia, which is expert care close to home. Nobody in Northern Virginia should think they need to go to Houston, New York or Baltimore to get world-class cancer care. We have it right here.”

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Long & Foster to Hold Real Estate Pre-Licensing Class with Military Scholarships available starting in May

The Burke/Fairfax Station/Clifton office of Long & Foster Real Estate located at 6045 Burke Centre Parkway in Burke, Virginia, will host a real estate pre-licensing class in its new state-of-the-art training center, starting May 14. The 60-hour course is designed for individuals interested in pursuing a career in real estate. Classes will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm.

“At Long & Foster, we’re dedicated to having the best trained and best equipped agents in the business, and our new training center helps us to accomplish those goals” said Paul DiCicco, manager of the Burke/Fairfax/Clifton office.

Long & Foster also offers the P. Wesley Foster Military Service Scholarship—a full scholarship program for real estate pre-licensing classes to U.S. military veterans, active duty personnel and their spouses and children. Scholarships cover the cost of tuition and textbooks for classroom courses offered by the Long & Foster.

For more information or to register for the upcoming course, contact Paul DiCicco at (703)503-1899 or email pauld@lnf.com.



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WEEK IN FAIRFAX

High Tea and History at Blenheim

The public is invited to a "High Tea and History" at Historic Blenheim's Visitors Center. Put on by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute's (OLLI) development committee, it's set for Friday, May 10, from 2-4 p.m., at 3610 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax.

This event will include a wide array of traditional, British pastries and teas, docent-led tours of Blenheim, actors in historic costumes and door prizes. Register at OLLI's office at 4210 Roberts Road in Fairfax. The cost is \$65, with \$50 of this fee benefiting the Friends of Olli. Go to olli.gmu.edu or call 703-503-3384 for more information.

Built around 1859, Historic Blenheim is a brick farmhouse designed in the Greek revival style. During the Civil War, Union soldiers were often encamped on the grounds surrounding the home and used it as part of a reserve hospital system. As a result, more than 115 of these soldiers inscribed words and pictures on the walls of the first and second floors and in the attic. Blenheim is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

Fairfax Academy Spring Dance Concert

The Fairfax Academy Dancers are premiering new work at their Spring Dance Concert, showcasing dances with a fairytale theme. "Once Upon a Twisted Tale" is a fusion of storytelling and dance, with each piece inspired by the Brothers Grimm's work. It will be presented Friday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 11, at 2 p.m., in the Fairfax High auditorium. For tickets, go to <https://fxdance.ticketleap.com/once-upon-a-twisted-tale/>.

"It's a unique dance performance unlike the typical, high-school showcase," said Director Meredith Barnes. "When you think of fairy tales, the Brothers Grimm are the masters."

The dances tell some tales you might be familiar with, and a few that are new. The dancers and I worked together to incorporate the original story into the dances."

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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.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group. 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dcpnsupport.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

Ramadan Pack-Out Session. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2-6 p.m. at 6820

Commercial Drive, Suite F, Springfield. Islamic Relief USA will hold its annual Ramadan Food Box Pack-Out sessions where volunteers pack boxes with many nonperishable foods. The packages will be given to people in need in their local communities through food pantries and houses of worship, among other locations in the United States. Call 703-370-7202 or visit irusa.org for more.

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. Noon-2 p.m. at Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies

vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 8

Belvoir Toastmasters Meeting. 4:45-5:45 p.m. at Andrew T. McNamara Building Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Room: 3501 (Third Floor), 8725 John J. Kingman Road, Fort Belvoir. All are welcome. Free refreshments will be provided. An escort may be required to enter

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 15

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FACETS Hosts Benefit Breakfast

FROM PAGE 3

family relationship than before, Yvette called a tent in the woods her home. Eventually she met Tanner at the Lamb Center, a day shelter in Fairfax offering meals, laundry service, access to general healthcare, counselling, job search help, and more.

Yvette advises that others like her have to be prepared to “self help” and do the work, actively participating in improving their lives, but you “should ask for help, and offer it when you can.”

After 12 years of homelessness, Yvette now has a safe place of her own to call home and feels that with Tanner and FACETS’ help, her life is “moving forward.”

Printice, who also came to FACETS through the Lamb Center was the final “Courageous Client Speaker,” accompanied by his case manager Robert Tindall.

“A very bad divorce” and health issues contributed to his homeless state, during which time he suffered several heart attacks. At the benefit breakfast, Printice did not so much tell his own story in detail, as take the opportunity to thank the many people who have helped him into safe housing and better health.

FACETS was founded in 1988 by Linda Wimpey, starting as a three-nights-a-week outreach program in partnership with a few area churches to tend to the needs of homeless families.

“When I was the Providence District Supervisor, I delivered hot meals with Linda,” recalled Connolly.

“I will never forget seeing people come out of the woods wearing suits on their way to work.”

Connolly credits Wimpey and FACETS with being instrumental in developing the county’s Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, adopted when he was Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and with playing “a big role” in the “penny on the tax rate” budget item that puts money toward affordable housing in the county.

What FACETS is and what they do has grown significantly over the years. Dozens of area faith communities and businesses now partner with FACETS and a network of nonprofit and county service agencies to continue the battle against homelessness and poverty.

AT THE BREAKFAST, FACETS also celebrated 15 years of operating the annual Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program for the county’s Human Services Region 4 - Western County/Fairfax and Centreville areas. During the cold months from November through March, the homeless are offered shelter, meals and services at partnering area churches, with each faith community taking on a seven-day stretch of overnight hospitality.

This winter season FACETS and partners took 302 people out of the cold each night. Thirty-eight of those experiencing homeless then now have places of their own to call home with the help of FACETS case managers and resources that the FACETS folks have worked to find for their clients. The breakfast gathering was the perfect time and place to honor Maria Avila and Norca Calderin who direct the Hy-



Richard tells his story as a client of FACETS, accompanied by his case managers, Ruben Aquino (left) and Candice Stancil (right). With the help of FACETS, Richard, who lost his sight to glaucoma, has now enjoyed stable, independent living for many years.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



Yvette experienced 12 years of homelessness. One of three “courageous client speakers” at the FACETS Benefit Breakfast, Yvette spoke matter-of-factly of her situation, grateful for the assistance and guidance of FACETS staff, but advising that “self help and honesty” are needed to move forward and improve your life.

pothemia Prevention program.

Before sending the attendees on their way, FACETS Board Chair Don Harris challenged them to “sign the pledge of financial support” available at each table, so that “we can continue to do this work together.”

In Fairfax County, organizations like FACETS have helped reduce the number of homeless by 47 percent between 2008 and 2018, but the goal to end that state is still in the distance. Estimates are that an additional 15,000 affordable housing units will be needed as the county continues to grow, and that’s on top of the current shortage of more than 31,000 units, as reported by Joe Fay.



PHOTOS BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Violinist William Hilbrink plays “The Lord’s Prayer” April 25 in the sanctuary of the Fairfax United Methodist Church while associate pastor Amy Grant kneels at the altar to pray for victims and survivors of the terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka Easter Sunday.

Local Church Holds Prayer for Sri Lanka

BY MARTI MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Scripture readings, call-and-response, and quiet reflection.

A church in the City of Fairfax opened its sanctuary doors Thursday evening to locals who wanted to pay their respects to more than 250 people killed and at least 500 survivors injured Easter Sunday from the terrorist bombings in Sri Lanka.

“We had the luxury of worshipping in peace,” said lead pastor Rev. David J. Bonney, who also led an Easter service at sunrise April 21 in the Old Town Square at North Street and University Drive.

“Our sisters and brothers in Sri Lanka did not.”

More than 25 people participated in the April 25 prayer vigil in the Fairfax United Methodist Church at 10300 Stratford Ave.

The simple half-hour service featured music to undergird the prayers of a congregation reluctantly growing accustomed to attending a vigil there at least once a year following a mass violence event that shatters the complacency of Americans and their neighbors around world.

Prayers Thursday included

Bonney embarks on two or three missionary trips a year to Honduras — where thousands of residents frightened by crime, political corruption and bad economic conditions embark on the journey through Guatemala and Mexico to the United States.

Bonney says his driver has a contingency plan to stuff the minister in the trunk of the car and drive him to the nearest U.S. Air Force base if desperate times ever call for desperate measures.

In the nine years he has visited Central America, Bonney has not ridden in that trunk.

“It’s always good to have a Plan B,” he points out.

Long-time FUMC member John Smith attended the April 25 prayer service with his wife and was struck by the horrific nature of so many people in Sri Lanka killed and wounded by the coordinated attacks.

“It’s not just one family,” Smith notes, “it’s a vast multitude of people.” His main concern is the welfare of the children who witnessed the atrocities and lost their parents.



Active members of the Fairfax United Methodist Church at 10300 Stratford Ave. gather Thursday evening at a vigil to pray for victims and survivors of another mass violence event across the world — in Sri Lanka, where more than 250 people were killed and at least 500 injured in a coordinated set of bombing attacks by terrorists on Easter Sunday.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Spotlight on the Arts. Through May 12, The 2019 Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival will honor the 50th Anniversary of Woodstock with three weeks of theatre, dance, music and visual art, rekindling that "Age of Aquarius" vibe in Fairfax. Put some flowers in your hair, dust off your bell bottoms and join in for some or all of this local "Aquarian Exposition." Learn about associated events at FairfaxSpotlight.org.

Art Exhibit: [Land]scape. Through May 19, in the Art Lab Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Curated by GMU MFA Candidate, Emily Fussner. The exhibition itself becomes a landscape revealing a strata of emerging art practices. Visit www.workhousearts.org

Group Exhibition: Degrees of Honor. Through May 19 in the Warrior Way Gallery, 1st Floor, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. Group exhibition surveying the works of artists addressing the concept of honor in different perspectives—separation, pain, loneliness, turmoil, stories and memories. The Warrior Way is an exhibition space designated for artwork by active duty, retired and veteran service members. Visit www.workhousearts.org

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 2-4

Newsies. Thursday-Saturday, 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Hayfield Secondary School's Theatre Department is performing Disney's Newsies the Musical. This show is appropriate for all ages. \$10 online; \$12 at the door. Call 703-599-9143 or visit hayfielddrama.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Healthy Strides 5k/10k. 7 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Burke. Head out to Burke Lake Park and join the Fairfax County Park Authority for the 8th annual Healthy Strides 5k/10k. The 10k runs along a wooded path, taking runners around the lake. The 5k follows a tree-lined road through the park, is wheelchair accessible and stroller-friendly. Both courses are USATF certified. \$35. potomac.enmotive.com/events/register/2019-healthy-strides-community-5k-10k or call 703-814-7795.

Both Sides Tour XXII. 8:15 a.m. departure from Franconia Museum at the Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Road. Join Don Hakenson, Ben Trittipoe and Carl Sell for an in-depth look at legendary "Stonewall" Jackson's exploits that caused the Union command to change tactics. This tour will cover a lot of ground and will arrive back in Franconia at 7 p.m. \$100, includes bus, lunch, and a fast-food value card. Bottled water will be provided on the bus. Contact Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984 or dhakenson@verizon.net.

Celebrate Pilates Day. 9 a.m.-noon at Studio BE Pilates, 4211 Fairfax Corner E. Ave., #200, Fairfax. In honor of World Pilates Day, Studio BE Pilates will be hosting events to celebrate. The morning will begin with a free Mat class held in the plaza of Fairfax Corner. Open House at Studio BE Pilates where people may enter a raffle, have a treat, and enjoy demos and games. Visit studiobepilates.com or call 703-222-0122.

Ekoji Arts Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane Fairfax Station. Featuring: handmade jewelry, hand knit baby items, locally sourced mohair yarn, kumihimo keychains, Japanese dolls, journals, paintings, Asian amulets and decor, collages, pencil portraits, Japanese character art, hand dyed hemp textiles, scarves and wraps. Visit www.ekoji.org or call 703-239-0500.

Chamber Ensemble Recital. 3 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The AYPO Chamber Program is completing a year of music with some of the most beautiful chamber music. Call 703-642-8051 or visit www.aypo.org.

Fun Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Canterbury Woods Elementary, 4910 Willet Drive, Annandale. This year's Fun Fair features laser tag, carnival



Chamber Ensemble Recital

The AYPO Chamber Program is completing a year of music making with some of the most beautiful chamber music written. Students work very hard planning rehearsals and coaching beyond that required of most AYPO students. It shows great commitment and dedication. Saturday, May 4, 3 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Call 703-642-8051 or visit www.aypo.org.

games, a LEGO room, food (shaved ice, Chik-fil-a, pizza, and fresh baked goods), face painting, special activities for children 4 years and younger and more. The community is welcome. Email ada_todd@yahoo.com for more.

"From Classical to Tango." 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary of Kirkwood Presbyterian Church, 8336 Carrleigh Parkway, Springfield. Concerts from Kirkwood presents the final concert of its 2018 - 2019 season as Trio Omnia comes to the Kirkwood stage with "From Classical to Tango," a program of the works of Haydn, Rachmaninoff, and Piazzola. Visit www.kirkwoodpres.com, or 703-451-5320.

National Salamander Day Celebration. 4-4:45 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Mark this special day with a salamander search both on land and in the stream. Learn about salamanders and how they compare with other amphibians. Designed for participants age 5-adult. \$6 per person. Children under 10 years of age must be accompanied by registered adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

Singles Dinner and Movie Night. 5 p.m. at PF Chang's in Fairfax Corner, 4250 Fairfax Corner Ave. Fixed price dinner, followed by movie of participant's choice at Cinemark Fairfax Corner 14. Cost of \$35 at door includes dinner, soda, tip and movie ticket. Advance RSVP required for reserved seats at movies: NewBCarol@verizon.net Sponsored by New Beginnings, a support group for separated/divorced men and women www.newbeginningsusa.org

Musical Feast Gala Celebration. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Begin in the deLaski Performing Arts Building with food, wine, student performance showcases including opera, steel pan, classical guitar, percussion, brass, piano, woodwinds, and an interactive music technology demonstration. Followed by a final concert featuring the Mason Symphony Orchestra, the Green Machine, Mason All-Star Jazz, Wind Symphony, Mason Chorale and more at 8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Proceeds support scholarship funds for music students. Tickets are \$95, \$75 for Mason faculty, staff, alumni and parents. cvpa.gmu.edu/musical-feast.

City of Fairfax Band Performance. 7:30 p.m. at Ernst Cultural Center, Northern Virginia Community College, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. At the City of Fairfax Band's concert, Aliferis will play "Tableaux de Provence" by Paule Maurice, on his alto saxophone. \$15 adult, \$10 senior, students free. Get tickets at the door or at www.fairfaxband.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 4-5

HO Gauge Model Train Show. Noon-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Module Group will have running HO gauge model trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/MAY 5

Kayak Tour at Lake Accotink. 8-10 a.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Paddle Lake Accotink's tranquil waters with a naturalist guide for an early morning view of wildlife. Glide past bald eagle nests as the park comes to life. A single-seat

kayak and life preserver will be provided. No previous kayak experience is required. \$31 per person. Canceled for rain or unfavorable water levels. Call 703-569-3464 visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, through mid-November, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Lorton VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd. Local producer market featuring seasonal fresh fruits, vegetables, plants, naturally raised meats, eggs, pickles, salads, artisanal breads and baked goods. SNAP accepted. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Pilates in Park. 10 a.m.-noon at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Celebrate National Pilates Day with a mat marathon challenge. Bring a mat and see how many classes you can finish and complete in special challenges. Prizes include free reformer (machine) pilates classes at our studio. Free. Call 703.691.5999 or visit www.clubpilates.com/burke.

Goat Yoga. Noon. Liberty Lorton, the former prison turned new development, is hosting a series of events that includes barnyard yoga, outdoor movie nights, and the second annual Turkey Trot. Events are open to residents and non-residents of Liberty. Visit thelibertylife.com

Spring Ballet: Coppelia. 12:30 and 3:30 p.m. at Metropolitan School of the Arts, 5775 Barclay Ave., Alexandria. Coppelia is a charming, humorous ballet of infatuation, deception, and finally a love that prevails. Dance along with Swanhilda and Franz as they find their way to love and "happily ever after." \$12. Visit www.metropolitanarts.org for more.

Climate Rally. 2-3:30 p.m. at Veterans Amphitheater, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. The third annual Mother's Day Climate Rally, featuring a keynote from youth climate leader Alexandria Villaseñor. Rally for kids' right to a healthy, clean-energy future. Features music, speakers and fun kids' activities. Visit NOVAclimate.org for directions, details.

Brass of Peace Concert. 4-5:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 6509 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Brass of Peace is a group of talented high school brass players. It is an auditioned band which offers tuition-free high-level performance opportunities to high schoolers. Come hear our rising stars of tomorrow. Free admission. Childcare provided. Reception to follow. Call 703-455-2500.

Animal Pajama Party. 7-7:45 p.m. at Hidden Oaks Nature Center, 7701 Royce St., Annandale. Wiggle little ones into their PJs and head to the nature center to hear bedtime stories, meet animals and wish goodnight to the center's live animals. Bring favorite stuffed animals to the party, too. Designed for children age 3-7. \$8 per child. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-941-1065 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks.

TUESDAY/MAY 7

"Birding on the Boat." 8-10 a.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Enjoy two hours of "Birding on the Boat," a naturalist-led program aboard a tour boat, and get a closer look at some of the birds and animals that call Burke Lake home. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Designed for participants age 8-adult. \$12 per person. Children age 12 and younger must be accompanied by a registered

adult. Call 703-323-6600 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/burke-lake.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 8

Bike to School Day. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will participate in Bike to School Day to promote physical activity and reduce traffic congestion and pollution near schools. Parents are encouraged to accompany their children to school, and to work with their school and PTA or PTO to assemble bike trains or walking groups for the event. Visit www.walkbiketoschool.org/.

Sip and Swing. 5-8 p.m. at Laurel Hill Golf Club, 8701 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton. Enjoy a round on Virginia's newest golf course. Price includes range balls, golf cart and nine holes of golf and a glass of wine. First 12 people who RSVP. Check in at to pro shop at least 15 minutes early. Member, \$32; |non-members, \$42. RSVP to Roberta Korzen at 703-324-8782 or roberta.korzen@fairfaxcounty.gov

MAY 8-JUNE 2

Featured Artist: Anne Hollis. Gallery hours at Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The whimsical exhibition, titled "Cirque du Plume," is a series of mixed media collage artworks that depict circus acts performed by intrepid birds while dually representing family life. Visit archesgallery.weebly.com for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 9

Reception: "Transcend." 6-9 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery, 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Featured work by juried artists from the Torpedo Factory Art Center represent a variety of media including painting, printmaking, photography and 3-D mediums explore the theme of transcendence. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 9-11

Newsies. Thursday-Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Hayfield Secondary School's Theatre Department is performing Disney's Newsies the Musical. This show is appropriate for all ages. \$10 online; \$12 at the door. Call 703-599-9143 or visit hayfielddrama.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

6th Annual Casino Night. 6-10 p.m. at Volkswagen Group of America Headquarters, 2200 Ferdinand Porsche Drive, Herndon. 6th Annual Casino Night fundraiser supporting the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington/Fairfax County Region. Hosted by LaVar Arrington with special guest "Secretary of Defense" Dexter Manley. Visit one.bidpal.net/casinonight2019 for tickets.

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. See Friday, May 3.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 10-11

Book Sale. Friday, noon-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Kingstowne Public Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre, Alexandria. Kingstowne Library's biggest sale of the year. Visitors will have access to hundreds of biographies, business books, children books, classics, cookbooks, craft books, family and marriage books, fiction, health and fitness books, histories and political tomes, religious themed books, science books, self help books, oldies but goodies and collectibles. Plus audio books on CD, DVDs, comic books, and graphic books. Email FKLbooksale@gmail.com for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Together in Teal 5k. 8 a.m.-noon at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. This family-friendly event is the signature fundraiser for the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition. Run or walk the beautiful shaded course - all to support women with this deadly disease. \$45 adults, \$20 children under 12. Visit runwalk.ovarian.org/dcmetro or call 571-234-5231.

Easy Vegetarian Meals. 2-3:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Chef Cal Kraft will teach easy recipes for vegetarians or anyone interested in eating more plant-based meals. Adults, teens. Free. Call 703-978-5600 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4850528 for more.

Artist's Reception: Anne Hollis. 6 p.m. at Arches Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. The whimsical exhibition, titled "Cirque du Plume," is a series of mixed media collage artworks that depict circus acts performed by intrepid birds while dually representing family life. Visit archesgallery.weebly.com for more.

Family Ties, Relationships and Ghost Stories

Shoestring Theatre presents original play, 'Haint So.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Come sit a spell on the front porch of the Wells family home in Southwest Virginia, as their Sunday-afternoon conversation turns to ghosts and tales of the supernatural. Written and directed by Oakton's Amelia Townsend, "Haint So" is Shoestring Theatre Co.'s new play, premiering at Fairfax City's upcoming Spotlight on the Arts festival.

Except for the ghost scenes, most of the play takes place on that porch. "It's as much an education for the audience in the superstitions and customs of that part of the country as it is entertainment," said Townsend. "The story is real; just the names of the family members have been changed. And people from my hometown of Big Stone Gap contributed real ghost stories for this play."

There's a cast and crew of 10, and the backgrounds will be projected onto three screens. They'll depict the Wells home in Roda, Va.; the church and mountains behind the town; and a Southwest Virginia mountain landscape in the fall.

"It's set in 1969, when the culture shifted away from the beliefs and traditions of people's grandparents to more scientific, fact-based, attitudes toward life," explained Townsend. "And you see this in the three generations in the play: The grandmother, rooted in her traditions; her daughter, starting to doubt a bit; and her granddaughter, who thinks it's all silly superstitions and not real."

She said the audience will like "the authentic portrayal of a family who loves each other, the stories of Southwest Virginia culture and the music." Pre-show, original music recorded by renowned Scottish musician Jack Beck will be played. The actors will sing three songs during the show and, at the end, there's a singalong with the audience.

"I'm in love with this cast; they're so talented and dedicated," said Townsend. "They've taken on some very challenging roles in a play not typically designed for community theater, because they're onstage most of the time. And they've also learned three, difficult, mountain hymns with Scottish roots because of that area's Scottish influence."

AFTER ITS FAIRFAX SHOWS, this play will tour in Southwest Virginia, returning to Fairfax for a June 1 fundraising performance for the Knights of Columbus, Father Diamond Council. And, said Townsend, "I'd like to thank the City of Fairfax, its Commission on the Arts and the Spotlight on the Arts festival for their support, enabling us to be here."

Portraying the family matriarch, Grandma Ida Wells, is Mary Fettes. "Grandma believes in the power of the mountains – which hold secrets and strong magic," said Fettes. "She's



Rehearsing a scene from "Haint So" are (from left) David Ranowsky (Lonnie Wells), Steve Palkovitz, D.J. Neace, Katherine Metres Akbar, Frank Gorrell (Arthur Carter), Jaclyn Robertson (Hailey Carter), Mary Fettes and Joe Russell (Archie).

fun-loving and loves to tease, especially her husband Archie. She believes that haints, or ghosts, exist and wants to share their stories. She thinks ignoring them would lead to peril. And above and beyond, she loves her family."

Fettes said it's "fabulous" to play Ida because her character gets to tease her husband, dote on her daughter and granddaughter and "actually show what it is to be a true believer." And Fettes, herself, taps into her real-life, rural roots to bring even more depth to her role.

She said audiences will love the show because "There's humor, as well as real ghost stories – and everybody likes a ghost story. They'll like learning about the moun-

"I'm in love with this cast; they're so talented and dedicated."

— Writer and Director Amelia Townsend

tain lore and, hopefully, we'll paint a story of what it was like to be in Roda, Va., in 1969."

D.J. Neace plays Brad Wells, the youngest family member gathered there. "He's a dreamer and a hard worker," said Neace. "He claims to be skeptical of the supernatural, but he's had one or two experiences that make him question what's real and what's not. He's a carbon copy of his grandfather Lonnie, who's a lighthearted prankster/jokester, as well, and they have a strong bond."

Also loving his role, Neace said, "Of all

the characters I've played with Shoestring, Brad's been the easiest to relate to because I'm the youngest of my family. And it's fun interacting with everyone else in the show and depicting the layers of my varying relationships with them. I've acted in all three, Shoestring shows and am proud to still be part of this family; I couldn't ask for better castmates."

If attendees relate to having conversations with their families at get-togethers – good and bad, "They'll appreciate what we're doing here," said Neace. "Plus, there's a hint of the supernatural occurring. But ultimately, the show's about family and the relationships within each one."

Portraying Tony Wells, Brad's father and principal of the local high school, is Steve Palkovitz. He's also Lonnie's son and Archie's nephew. "Tony is well-educated, but respectful to his elders and the old stories and old ways of doing things," said Palkovitz. "He's trying to keep an open mind to the possibility of ghosts, but mostly, he doesn't want to contradict his older relatives. He's quiet and tries to get along with everybody."

ENJOYING HIS PART, Palkovitz likes telling some ghost stories and having humorous banter with the other family members. But it's also challenging because "Tony's in between Brad, the new generation, and Lonnie, the old generation. And he's in line to inherit the family farm, but he isn't a farmer."

Palkovitz said the audience will like the family's chemistry. "We create a believable

To Go

Showtimes are Friday-Saturday, May 3-4, and May 10-11, at 8 p.m.; and Sunday, May 5 and May 12, at 2 p.m. Performances are at the Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Hwy. in Fairfax. Tickets are \$25 at the door and \$20 via www.shoestringtheatrecompany.com/haintso.

portrait of a real family," he explained. "And maybe people will recognize their own family in the things we say and do."

Katherine Metres Akbar plays Ida and Archie's daughter, Melody Wells Carter. "She prides herself on being a modern woman, yet she still believes some of the old superstitions, so she's caught between two worlds," said Metres Akbar. "She respects her mom, who's a total believer. And she's proud of her daughter, who's even more of a modern woman. She's devoted to her family, but is also feisty, and she and her husband alternate between being affectionate and explosive."

"It's a fun role because Melody's lines are simple, but I get to color them," continued Metres Akbar. "And I draw on the relationship I have with my own husband, which is similar."

This play has such a strong sense of family that the characters have become kind of like my own family."

She said audiences will enjoy seeing a show about the 1960s because "It was an iconic time in our country, so there's a sense of nostalgia. And the ghost stories are all true stories, so people will have to ask themselves if they believe in ghosts – and if not, how they can explain what people experienced."

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CAPPIES REVIEW

A Roaring Rendition

W.T. Woodson High School production of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.'

BY KAMERON BROWN
NORTHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

Learn how the other half lives with W.T. Woodson High School in their roaring rendition of "Thoroughly Modern Millie."

"Thoroughly Modern Millie" is depicted in the 20s, the era of jazz, flappers, and modernism. Millie Dillmount (Hannah Black), a wide-eyed Kansas native, stumbles into the bustling walkways of Times Square with nothing but the dream of marrying a well-to-do bachelor and all the rationality of a modern woman. After charging into a hasty Manhattan man, he gives her the address of a lurchy hotel. It is run by an eerie old woman and filled with struggling actresses. Millie struggles to find work until she earns her place as a stenographer, giving her the opportunity to seduce her affluent boss. She later realizes that she not only crashed into the man from the sidewalk, Jimmy, but also into his heart, and then she must decide between maneuvering love with her brain as a modern woman or falling into a green glass love.

W.T. Woodson High School's staging and production of this musical tapped (literally) into the hearts of viewers. The vocalists maintained an upbeat tone that matched every click of their tap shoes. Creativity beamed from every corner of the stage, from the makeshift elevator to the detailed peacock feather walls of the flapper/jazz lounge. The orchestra beautifully encapsulated every transition making for a smooth flowing show.

Hannah Black's (Millie Dillmount) impressive dance numbers and dazzling vocal solos successfully portrayed the wonderful energy of New York City. But as she tried to forget about the boy, Eric Tysarczyk (Jimmy Smith) had other plans. He practically held the audience's heart in his hands with suspense as he flailed off the ledge of a building for his love. His vocal talent also shined in the second half of the production, beautifully leading the couple to discover



PHOTO BY ALEXANDRA JENNINGS/A STUDENT AT W.T. WOODSON HIGH SCHOOL
From left: ViVi Schmidt, Hannah Black and Naomi Scully-Bristol in W.T. Woodson High School production of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie.'

what they each needed with love.

Sara Willcox delightfully delivered the villainous and slimy perpetrator of "white slavery" Mrs. Meers. Her hunchback of evil and well done faux elderly voice were highlights to this production. Wilcox also stirred the audience with her red lit solo, "They Don't Know," which nicely gave way to her schemes. Entering her friendship with Millie in a very "princess and the pauper" like mannerism was Marlaina Horewitz (Miss Dorothy). She immediately stunned the audience with her soprano in the duet "How the Other Half Lives," setting the tone for the talent showcase in the rest of the show.

Millie (Hannah Black) and Jimmy's (Eric Tysarczyk) green glass love affair was beautifully illuminated under the glowing moon that adorned the entire set.

The flapper dresses and sparkly headpieces added to the glamorous flare of the 20s and the harmonious jazz sax from the orchestra. The Chinese translations for each of Chin Ho (Gin Choi) and Bun Foo's (Dylan Dipasupil) beautiful duets (such as "Muqin," "Not For the Life of Me," and "Ah! Sweet Mystery") were well thought-out, necessary additions to the production on tech's part. Although the vocals of the background ensemble were hard to hear at some points, the show was still strong from the detailed New York skyline silhouette to the sunset mood lighting.

All in all, the stand out dance numbers and impressive orchestra who anchored this production made W.T. Woodson High School's rendition of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" one you won't want to miss.

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-Werner Heisenberg



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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 10

the building, contact the group. Call 703-789-4798 or visit belvoir.toastmastersclubs.org.

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. For information regarding meeting agendas, Park Board members, opportunities for public comment, or to view meeting materials, board minutes and archival materials, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm or call 703-324-8662.

FRIDAY/MAY 10

Digital Citizenship: Tips for Parents. 10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. As parents in the digital age, being aware, alert and involved in a child's use of the internet is crucial. Digital Citizenship can be described as the norms of appropriate, responsible behavior, its positive and negative impact on self and others, with regard to technology use. Free to parents, educators and community members. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

Volunteer Seminar. 10:30 a.m. at Volunteer Fairfax's headquarters, 10700 Page Ave., Suite 101, Fairfax. RSVP-Northern Virginia will hold a seminar on volunteering in retirement. RSVP offers more than 300 meaningful opportunities that include helping seniors age in place, assisting local food pantries, and teaching financial literacy. The one-hour event is free and open to the public. To sign up for the May 10 orientation, email RSVP volunteer specialist Carly Hubicki at chubicki@volunteerfairfax.org or call RSVP at 703-403-5360. To register online or to learn more about RSVP, visit www.rsvpnova.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 11

Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Letter carriers will pick up donated food. Leave donations before your typical mail delivery time. All food stays in the local community. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce or spaghetti sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili and pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken and turkey), beans (canned or dry). Questions regarding the Food Drive should be directed to 202-662-2489.

Office Hours. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov.

❖ 9-10:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

❖ 1:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

Family Caregiver Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center at Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus. Capital Caring in partnership with AARP and Virginia Hospital Center. Free and will feature information highlighting resources and support programs available to family caregivers, including home care services, financial and estate planning, elder law, and information sessions on such topics as Alzheimer's and Dementia, Preservation of Assets, and Caring for the Caregiver. Free health screenings will be offered as well as free massages. Contact Amy Shields at ashields@capitalcaring.org or call 703-531-6095

Fairfax Board of Supervisors Chair Candidate Forum. 3-5 p.m. at Heritage Fellowship Church, 2501 Fox Mill Road, Reston. Join the Fairfax NAACP for an engaging, moderated panel discussion with candidates for Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's Chair. Candidates are Alicia Plerhoples, Tim Chapman, Ryan McElveen and Jeff McKay. Free. RSVP at www.eventbrite.com/o/naacp-fairfax-county-12397167937.

TUESDAY/MAY 14

NARFE Fairfax 737 Luncheon Meeting. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June, and opened to all active and retired Federal employees, spouses and guests. Register for luncheon (\$11) by Friday before meeting. Call 703-280-2356 or email rrharney2@gmail.com.

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As Luck Has Had It



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Aside from the fatigue I experienced a few columns ago, this immunotherapy infusion is, and has been, quite manageable.

My biggest take away so far is that I've had no real quality of life issues, as had been the case with my previous chemotherapy/alimta infusions. With that drug, I had post-infusion eating challenges and for nearly a week after the fact, felt less than mediocre.

Moreover, I wouldn't say I felt like I had cancer, but I certainly was reminded of it — if that makes any sense.

And even though I do have some minor side effects from my current immunotherapy infusion, I am reminded nevertheless, that I have cancer. Not because of how I feel, as was the case previously, but because of how I look — and because of what I feel.

I am referring to my "Adam's apple" tumor. Not only can/do I 'look' it all the time but quite often, depending on how I move my head: forward/downward, I can feel it too.

I have to tell you, feeling it as I do, and looking at it as often as I do: every day, is unsettling.

My whole approach to this living-with-cancer life has been to compartmentalize it a la Jerry Seinfeld and "the vault." Out of sight has helped keep some things out of mind. And when things are out of mind, it's much easier to make believe.

And making believe has been one of my methods of "operandi" since Feb. 20, 2009. That's the date (you bet I remember) when my internal medicine doctor called me at work with the results of my previous week's biopsy: "malignant," he said.

Up until that call, the previous six weeks' diagnostic pursuit had been interesting in a curious kind of way wondering what all the goings on were about and when all these inconveniences would end. And not for a minute during this entire process did I ever think I'd be diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. I figured, to the extent I figured at all, that the process would result in much having been done about nothing.

Boy was I wrong!

I still remember — and laugh when I recall the phone conversation I had with my thoracic surgeon after he had received the results of my PET scan: "You lit that thing up like a Christmas tree," he said.

Presuming that wasn't good news, I replied: "I hear there are false positives all the time which is why these scans aren't used a lot." (A perfect example of a little knowledge in the wrong mouth.)

I can't recall if the doctor snickered before he said the following: "Well, then your scan was a world record false positive." I don't know if I grasped the obvious at that point but soon a surgical biopsy was ordered and the rest is Kenny-with-cancer history, a history with which many of you regular readers are all too familiar.

And that's a familiarity which I hope has not bred contempt. Because even though it's my life — and I'm stuck with it (as the old saying says), it need not be yours. I can well imagine and appreciate how living with and/or seeking out negativity is not likely to improve any one's lot in life. (I try to avoid it every day.)

To that end, I have always tried to tread lightly and write with a soft touch since I've been cancer-centric beginning June 10, 2009, when I published my first column on the subject: "Dying To Tell You, Sort Of." And in so doing, I've tried to see the light amid the darkness and be thankful for any in between.

I can't say it's been fun, but it's funny how things have turned out: alive and reasonably well, 10-plus years later.

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



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