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# Potomac

## ALMANAC

HomeLifeStyle

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# Holiday Rituals Around Potomac

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6

## What Houses Sold For How Much?

REAL ESTATE, PAGE 2

## Local Authors on Local History and More

LITERATURE, PAGE 3

Joshua Kim, Avery Courarow, Chandler Kuhn, Will Zhu and Abigail Howard are volunteers for the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Dept, selling Christmas trees on River Road by Station 10.

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HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

# Potomac REAL ESTATE

## October, 2019 Top Sales

IN SEPTEMBER 2019,  
41 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD  
BETWEEN \$2,500,000-  
\$768,000.

**6** 10706 Burbank Drive  
— \$1,750,000



**5** 10010 Gary Road — \$2,000,000

**4** 8410 Rapley Ridge Lane — \$2,000,000



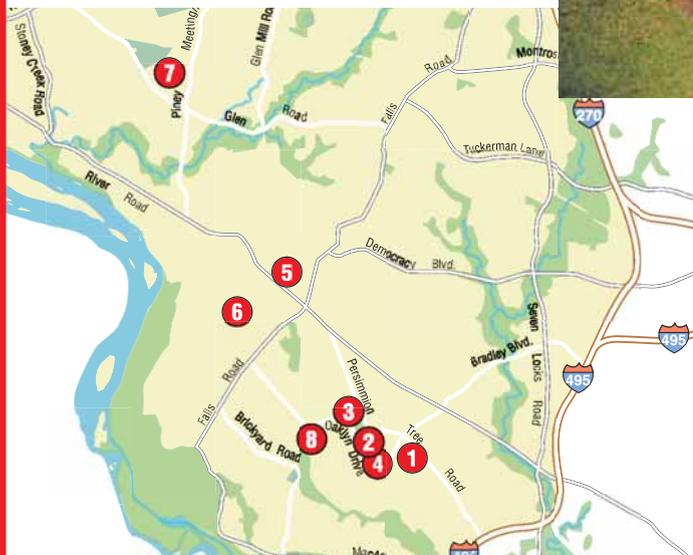
**2** 8511 Rapley Preserve Circle  
— \$2,370,000



**8** 10032 Chartwell Manor Court  
— \$1,565,000



**1** 8605 Potomac School Terrace  
— \$2,450,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 8605 POTOMAC SCHOOL TER	6	6	1	POTOMAC	...	\$2,450,000	Detached	2.07	20854	AVENEL	10/02/19
2 8511 RAPLEY PRESERVE CIR	6	5	3	POTOMAC	...	\$2,370,000	Detached	0.50	20854	AVENEL	10/11/19
3 9719 AVENEL FARM DR	6	7	2	POTOMAC	...	\$2,275,000	Detached	2.00	20854	AVENEL	10/15/19
4 8410 RAPLEY RIDGE LN	6	6	3	POTOMAC	...	\$2,000,000	Detached	0.43	20854	AVENEL	10/10/19
5 10010 GARY RD	7	8	3	POTOMAC	...	\$2,000,000	Detached	1.05	20854	POTOMACHILLS	10/14/19
6 10706 BURBANK DR	6	4	3	POTOMAC	...	\$1,750,000	Detached	2.12	20854	POTOMAC MANOR	10/04/19
7 11716 WOOD THRUSH LN	7	6	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,725,000	Detached	0.74	20854	GREENBRIAR PRESERVE	10/18/19
8 10032 CHARTWELL MANOR CT	4	4	1	POTOMAC	...	\$1,565,000	Detached	0.76	20854	AVENEL	10/10/19

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# Local Authors Share History, Inspiration

You are not too old (or too young) to become an activist, Ottesen said.

BY PEGGY MCEWAN  
POTOMAC ALMANAC

Potomac residents had the opportunity to learn about local history last week when local author Judith Welles introduced her latest book, *Potomac*, at two meetings.

“First, an opening celebration was held Wednesday evening at Hunter’s Inn on River Road, which drew many long time Potomac residents to share memories of their own Potomac history.

“A book about local history will bring a community together,” Welles said.

Welles also visited with residents and sold books at Strosniders Hardware on Saturday and will be a featured speaker with the Potomac Library, the Friends of the Library Winter Author Series on Saturday, Jan. 25.

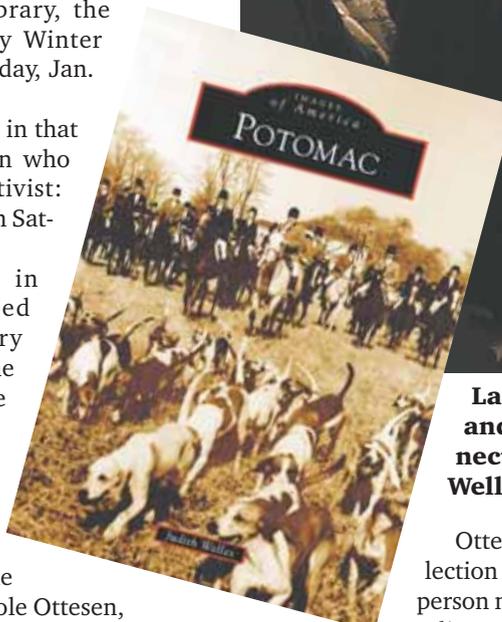
This month’s speaker in that series was K.K. Ottesen who shared her book, “Activist: Portraits of Courage,” on Saturday.

Ottesen grew up in Potomac and attended Potomac Elementary School from grades one to four. The library, she said, was a special place for her, recalling that when she was young it was located on the ground floor of the bank building across the street. Her mother, Carole Ottesen, still lives in Potomac and is also a writer and author.

“I think she wrote for the Potomac Almanac,” K.K. Ottesen said. (She did.)



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Larry and Margaret McBryde, Leonard Proctor, Mike Mitchell, Janelle Straszheim, Vicki and Skip Crawford and many more came to celebrate the new Potomac book and reconnect with friends from the past. Montgomery History hosted the event and author Judith Welles gave a short talk about Potomac highlights with vintage photos from the book.

Ottesen’s book is a collection of photos and first-person narratives of mostly ordinary people who stood right a wrong and became leaders — activists.

She is both the photographer and inter-

viewer for the book and traveled across the country to get her stories.

“I was frustrated by the division [in the country] and wondered what I could do to help bring people together,” Ottesen said. “I wondered what compels someone to become an activist.”

So, she set off to talk to people who are activists, some famous, others local, almost unknown, who are making a difference. She included 41 people in her book.

“Once we get to know someone it helps [smooth over] division,” she said.

Starting with a photo of Congressman John Lewis, Democrat from Georgia, Ottesen shared the stories and photos of about a dozen subjects from the book.

Lewis is known for his work in the Civil Rights Movement and for voting rights, including being beaten by police and serving time in jail for protesting. Now, as a congressman serving his 17<sup>th</sup> term in the House of Representatives, he still uses his voice in activism.

Ottesen introduced the audience to less well-known activists too, including actress Nicole Maines who plays the first transgender superhero on TV.

“She grew up transgender in a small town



Welles

in Maine,” Ottesen said.

Sister Megan Rice, a Catholic nun and nuclear disarmament activist was arrested at age 82 when she broke into the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

You are not too old (or too young) to become an activist, Ottesen said, introducing the audience to Jasilyn Charger a 23-year-old member of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe in

South Dakota.

Charger has been active in protests to protect her people’s lands and environment since a teenager.

Ottesen’s book, billed as a civil right book, a social justice book and an inspirational gift, is available on Amazon; as is *Potomac* by Judith Welles.

Welles book, a pictorial history of Potomac from its early days to current times, was written using many photographs from Montgomery History, formerly the Montgomery County Historical Association. Part of the proceeds from the book will go to that organization.

Welles will be speaking and selling books Saturday, Dec. 14 at Bethesda Co-Op, 6500 Seven Locks Road, Bethesda and at The Surrey Saddlery, 14120 Darnestown Road, Darnestown.



PHOTO BY PEGGY MCEWAN

Author K.K. Ottesen spoke about her latest book *Activist: Portraits of Courage* on Saturday as part of the Potomac Friends of the Library Winter Author Series.



### Something to bark about!

Our Doggy Daycare is now open in Potomac, MD! A camper day includes playtime with friends, treadmill, swimming, one on one walk, and lots of TLC! Add fun and friends in your dog's life! Senior dogs are welcome! Puppy training classes also available if needed.

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# HOME LIFE STYLE

Erica Burns of Erica Burns Interiors designed a holiday tree that features bright colors, sparkling materials, and soft and textured finishes to engage the senses.

PHOTO BY  
RICHIE DOWNS/  
ASICO PHOTO



## Lighting Up the Season

Holiday designs to benefit Children's National Hospital.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE ALMANAC

**H**oliday trees donned with a wide array of décor that ranges from musical instruments and fairies to dollhouses and mice will be on display to raise money for charity later this month. "Light Up the Season," the annual event that highlights creative collaborations between Children's National Hospital patients and notable area artists will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C.

As part of the project, patient-designer teams created custom holiday trees, mantelpieces, menorahs and dollhouses — all available for purchase — with proceeds going to Children's National to support programs that improve the health and well-being of children across the Washington, D.C. region.

Inspired by the children's Christmas book, "If You Take a Mouse to the Movies," the tree created by Quintece Hill-Mattauszek of Studio Q Designs in Alexandria features mice decorating the holiday tree while under a whimsical snowfall.

"Through a child's eyes mice are symbols of youth and innocence with their resourceful courage, adorable curiosity, and their perspective of seeing the world from a different point of view, just like children," she said. "We have embraced them in children's literature for decades because of the lessons they teach, the values they instill, and playfulness they leave in our hearts."

Using a recording of "O Tannenbaum" and musical-themed ornaments, Potomac, Md. designer Sharon Kleinman of Transitions by Sharon Kleinman, assembled a melodious creation. "During our get-to-know-you session, I discovered that my partner is quite the musician," she said. "He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided

to make our tree a musical tree."

Taking inspiration from their patient-partner's love of animals, the design team at Pamela Harvey Interiors in Oak Hill, created a display that includes a dollhouse and a fully decorated 7.5 foot tree with a modern farmhouse vibe.

"Our team had a lot of fun decorating ... we added lighting, wallpaper, area carpets, wood furniture and soft furnishings," said Harvey. "We even decorated it with tiny wreaths and Christmas trees complete with tiny presents. Our tree includes a selection of handmade clay ornaments. Each ornament is stamped with a different animal and attached with a simple satin ribbon."

Keeping the modern farmhouse theme continuous, the Harvey team combined green, plaid, white, silver and natural wood tones to complement the animal ornaments. "We are presenting our patient with a barnyard animal farm, which is decorated with the same theme, as our gift for inspiring us to create holiday decor that can be enjoyed for many years," said Harvey.

Fairies and folklore were the basis for the Christmas tree created Sandra Meyer of Ella Scott Design in Bethesda. The patient's predilection for all things mythical was brought to life in a tree filled with flowers, fantasy and mythical fairies in nature-themed setting. "Fairies have a long history [of] symbolizing kindness and a desire to help humans," said Meyer. "Light Up the Season" is a fairy-like event that exists to help others."

Light Up the Season will be held on Sunday, Dec. 15, 2019 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, D.C. Tickets for the event are \$50 per child (ages 16 and under), \$85 per adult and \$250 for a family of four (package includes two adults and two children 16 and under). For more information, visit [www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason](http://www.childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason) or email [lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com](mailto:lightuptheseasondc@gmail.com).

**"My partner is quite the musician. He plays several instruments and is passionate about music. We decided to make our tree a musical tree."**

— Sharon Kleinman,  
Transitions by Sharon Kleinman

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# FRIEDSON FIGURES

## Reflecting On All We Have To Be Thankful For

Thanksgiving and holidays are a special time of year, when we reflect on all our blessings: our family, our friends, and this extraordinary community we share. But Thanksgiving isn't just about giving thanks, it's about giving back – to the least, the littlest, and the last among us.



art venue and natural and architectural marvel. Few if any places on earth have a gem like Glenstone in the heart of their community, and fewer still can appreciate it for free, including a partnership with the county for direct bus access.

The trails along the Canal are my personal happy place.

So it's been a particular pleasure this year to support the C&O Canal Trust in its work preserving and upgrading our irreplaceable recreational and historic asset. We were happy to support the successful effort for a \$1.02 million state grant to continue repairs of the towpath.

I grew up right across the street from Potomac Community Center, and was there often to play basketball and baseball and attend Club Friday.

It's the place where I joined my mom to vote every election as a child, where we kicked off my campaign for County Council, and where my parents and I cast our ballots together with my name on it last year.

That's why it was such a personal thrill to join community leaders and some of my childhood coaches and mentors to celebrate the PCC's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last month.

These are just a few examples of why I am so grateful for our amazing community

This holiday season, I'm deeply grateful for this opportunity of a lifetime, to represent the only community I've ever called home, and to attempt to be worthy of a place with such enormous human talent and natural treasures.

This first year on the County Council has allowed me to truly appreciate all our community has to offer: the creativity, the ingenuity, the empathy in service to one another.

Just recently, I attended the dedication of Potomac Community Resources' James M. Sullivan Memorial House, a beautiful group home adjacent to Our Lady of Mercy providing inclusivity, dignity, and respect in a gorgeous new home where any of us would love to live.

I've made multiple visits this year to Glenstone Museum, a world-class modern



Joshua Kim, Avery Courarow, Chandler Kuhn, Will Zhu and Abigail Howard are volunteers for the Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, selling Christmas trees on River Road by Station 10.



Anil and John Seguin, buying their Christmas tree at Cabin John Park Volunteer Fire Department, Station 10, 8001 River Rd.

PHOTOS BY DEBBIE STEVENS/POTOMAC ALMANAC

and the humbling honor to represent you on the County Council. I'm working hard to fulfill the faith you've placed in me, and continue to feel blessed for every moment.

Thank you for the privilege and honor to serve, and best wishes to you and yours for a reflective, relaxing, fulfilling holiday season.

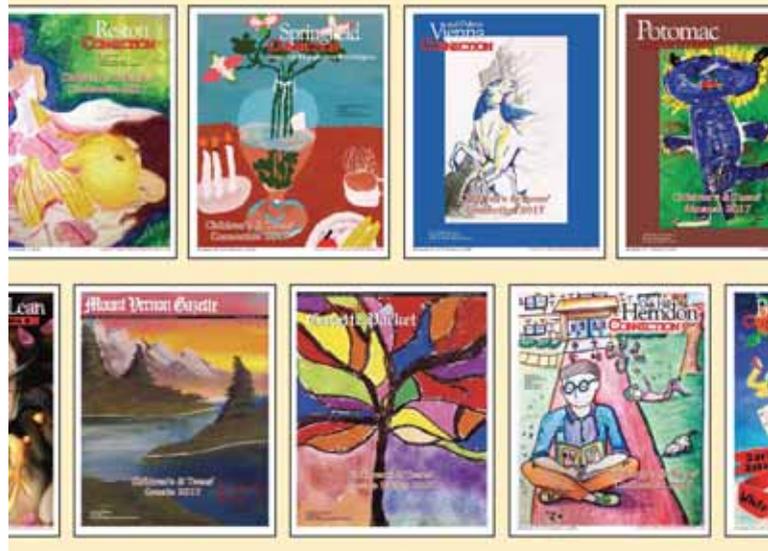
**The Children's & Teens' CONNECTION 2019**

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

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

## Holidays

### NOW THRU DEC. 31

**Garden of Lights.** At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Sunday - Thursday: 5:30-9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday: 5:30 - 10 p.m.; Closed December 24-25. Step into a magical winter wonderland illuminated with more than one million dazzling colorful lights shaped into hand-crafted, original art forms of flowers, animals and other natural elements. Stroll from garden to garden enjoying twinkling tree forms, sparkling fountains, and whimsical winter scenes. To avoid long lines, consider visiting on a weeknight, when Garden of Lights is less crowded. Admission: \$25-\$30 per car/van.

### THURSDAY/DEC. 12

**Garden After Dark: Holly Daze.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. The Garden of Lights is back, make a night of it! Step into a magical winter wonderland illuminated with more than one million dazzling colorful lights shaped into hand-crafted, original art forms of flowers, animals and other natural elements. Take a leisurely stroll through the beautiful garden lights, then come inside for paired wine and cheeses with dessert. We'll also create festive holiday ornaments to make your holiday season a little more unique - give your creation as a gift or use it to enhance your holiday décor. Fee includes all refreshments, ornament to take home, and admission to Garden of Lights. Cost: \$40 / FOBG: \$36; registration required.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Gnomes & Fairies Tea Parties.** 2-4 p.m. At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Looking for an interactive and fun activity with your child over the weekend? Both parent and child enjoy a sit-down tea, a brief history of tea, delectable treats, and afterwards a fun hands-on craft planting a mini Gnome or Fairy garden in your teacup. Cost is \$22; registration required. Register and pay for each participant (adult and child separately).

### DEC. 15-16

**The Great Russian Nutcracker.** Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.; Monday at 8 p.m. At Strathmore Music Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Featuring the best traditional and innovative artists on stage and behind the scenes, an international team presents the Moscow Ballet Gift of Christmas Tour. Fanciful flying puppets created in South Africa include the Dove of Peace, the Firebird and the new Peacock, with a tail opening eight feet across to majestically reveal its vibrant colors. Three companies of 36



The Great Russian Nutcracker will perform Dec. 15 and 16 at Strathmore Music Center in Bethesda.

## Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker

Dec. 15-16m Sunday at 2 and 7 p.m.; Monday at 8 p.m. At Strathmore Music Center, 5301 Tuckerman Lane, North Bethesda. Featuring the best traditional and innovative artists on stage and behind the scenes, an international team presents the Moscow Ballet Gift of Christmas Tour. Fanciful flying puppets created in South Africa include the Dove of Peace, the Firebird and the new Peacock, with a tail opening eight feet across to majestically reveal its vibrant colors. Three companies of 36 award-winning Russian ballerinas and danseurs each, and Ballet Masters hailing from Moscow, Kyoto and Odessa, combine to create unforgettable performances of the *Great Russian Nutcracker*. Get tickets at [www.nutcracker.com/your-city](http://www.nutcracker.com/your-city).

award-winning Russian ballerinas and danseurs each, and Ballet Masters hailing from Moscow, Kyoto and Odessa, combine to create unforgettable performances of the *Great Russian Nutcracker*. Get tickets at [www.nutcracker.com/your-city](http://www.nutcracker.com/your-city).

### DEC. 20-26

**"The Nutcracker."** At the Robert E. Parilla Performing Arts Center, Montgomery College, 51 Mannakee Street, Rockville. Presented by the Maryland Youth Ballet, this year's production will be new staging and choreography by Artistic Director Olivier Muñoz, newly appointed in 2019. Show times are Dec. 20 at 7 p.m. Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 22 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 23 at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Dec. 24 at 11 a.m. Dec. 26 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Advance tickets Online - \$27 Children/Seniors (12 & under or 65+), \$34 Adults, \$27 Groups 10+. [www.marylandyouthballet.org](http://www.marylandyouthballet.org).

## Events in Alexandria

### TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35

December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstnightalexandria.org](http://firstnightalexandria.org).

## Tysons Corner

### NOW THRU DEC. 24

**HGTV's Santa HQ.** At Tysons Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Kids can explore the wonder of Santa in the digital age with HGTV's Santa HQ at Tysons Corner Center! This holiday, check out the interactive Elf Academy at Santa HQ. You can try on the latest elf looks with Santa's Magic Mirror, create your very own Elf-ID Card and scan yourself on the Naughty or Nice O'Meter. Plus, new this year, spend less time in line and more time on holiday fun with a Fast Pass. Prices and times vary. Visit the website: [www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com/SantaHQ)

## Potomac Calendar

### NOW THRU JAN. 5, 2020

**Glen Echo Park Holiday Art Show and Sale.** Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. At Glen Echo Park, Popcorn Gallery and Stone Tower Gallery, 7300 MacArthur Blvd., Glen Echo. Browse and buy fine artworks for everyone on your holiday shopping list, including glass, ceramics, photography, painting, jewelry, holiday ornaments and more. The Shop Arts will be held Saturday Nov. 30 from 12-5 p.m. The Winter's Eve will be held Dec. 14 from 4-7 p.m. Visit the website: [glenechopark.org](http://glenechopark.org).

### NOW THRU DEC. 24

**Photos with Santa.** 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. At Westfield Montgomery Mall, 7101 Democracy Blvd., Bethesda. Bring the kids to meet with jolly old St. Nick at Westfield Montgomery Mall. Santa heads back to the North Pole on Christmas Eve.

### NOW THRU DEC. 24

**Santa Toy Drive.** Every December, the Cabin John VFD Fire Station decorates its Reserve Engine, loads Santa and a few additional volunteers, and heads out into the community to collect unwrapped holiday gifts for children up to the age of 14. Unopened presents can be brought out to Santa as he passes by, or dropped off at either Cabin John Park VFD Fire Station, 9404 Falls Road, Potomac. The toy drive supports the National Center for Children and Families in Bethesda and the Scotland Drive Community Association in conjunction with Montgomery County Police. The week before Christmas, volunteers begin wrapping and labeling all of the gifts and on Christmas Eve they are delivered to children who otherwise may not have a joyous Holiday. The 2019 Cabin John Park VFD Santa Runs are scheduled by neighborhood.

## Schedule

**Wednesday, Dec. 11:** Seven Locks Hills, Burning Tree Estates, Rose Hill Estates, Stonehurst Center, Smithfield and Riverhill

**Thursday, Dec. 12:** Congressional Manor, Carderock Springs, Clewerwall, Glengarry, Carderock and The Palisades

**Friday, Dec. 13:** Avenel, River Road Estates, Williamsburg Estates, The Village, Williamsburg Gardens and Concord

**Saturday, Dec. 14:** Congressional Country Club Estates, West Bethesda Park, Cohasset, Bradley Park, Burning Tree Valley and Frenchmen's Creek

**Sunday, Dec. 15:** (makeup night) Locust Ridge, Oakwood Knolls

**Monday, Dec. 16:** Alvermar Woods, Potomac Hunt Acres, Merry-Go-Round Farms, Beallmount, Lake Potomac, Stoney Creek Farms and Saddle Ridge

**Tuesday, Dec. 17:** Potomac Village, Camotop, Falconhurst, Bradley Farms, McAuley Park, Kentdale Estates, Bradley Blvd. Estates, Congressional Forest Estates

**Wednesday, Dec. 18:** Bannockburn, Bannockburn Estates, Al Marah and Wilson Knolls (first due only)

**Makeup nights: Dec. 19-24.**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24:** Toy delivery

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Enjoy the Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens in Wheaton from Nov. 22 to Dec. 31.

## Garden of Lights at Brookside Gardens

Now thru Dec. 31, At Brookside Gardens, 1800 Glenallan Ave., Wheaton. Sunday - Thursday: 5:30- 9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday: 5:30 - 10 p.m.; Closed December 24-25. Step into a magical winter wonderland illuminated with more than one million dazzling colorful lights shaped into hand-crafted, original art forms of flowers, animals and other natural elements. Stroll from garden to garden enjoying twinkling tree forms, sparkling fountains, and whimsical winter scenes. To avoid long lines, consider visiting on a weeknight, when Garden of Lights is less crowded. Admission: \$25-\$30 per car/van.

FROM PAGE 6  
Saddle Ridge

**Tuesday, Dec. 17:** Potomac Village, Camotop, Falconhurst, Bradley Farms, McAuley Park, Kentdale Estates, Bradley Blvd. Estates, Congressional Forest Estates

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**Makeup nights: Dec. 19-24.**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 24:** Toy delivery

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 11

**Census 2020 Jobs Info Session.** 6 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. The U.S. Census Bureau is seeking qualified workers for 2020 Census operations in Montgomery County! Join us for an information session to learn more about available Census 2020 jobs – which offer competitive wages and flexible hours. There are opportunities for everyone – whether you're seeking full-time work or just looking to earn extra money on the side. Census Bureau Recruiting Assistants will be on hand to assist with filling out Census 2020 online job applications. Registration is

Glenolden Drive, Potomac. This is a drop-in social playtime for toddlers/preschoolers/Kindergarten and their caregivers. Come meet new friends and enjoy blocks and educational toys. No registration required.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Book Sale.** 10 a.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Join the monthly Potomac Friends of the Library Book Sale! Books, DVDs, and more available for children, teens, and adults. All are welcome.

**Wreath-Making Class.** 3:30 p.m. At Potomac Library, 10101 Glenolden Drive, Potomac. Come make a beautiful wreath for your door or home for the holidays. Each student will be able to take home something to hang up and show off to your family and friends. You will learn how to organize colors and decorations on a wreath ring. All supplies are included in the class. You will be able to choose from the decorations pile and make your own design. Presented by Meredith Seed of Art Box.

Generously sponsored by Friends of the Library, Potomac Chapter.

### SUNDAY/DEC. 15

**JGSGW December Meeting.** 1-3:30 p.m. At Bender JCC, 6125 Montrose Road, Rockville. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will host the program, Finding Relatives in Russian Empire Records for Non-Russian Speakers presented by Lara Diamond. More and more Russian Empire records are becoming accessible online, but few are indexed. But for those who don't speak Russian, browsing through the records in old-style Russian handwriting can be daunting. This talk will focus on how to identify, within various types of Russian Empire records, records relating to a researcher's family, in spite of not having any Russian language background.

The talk will also cover various sources for online Russian Empire documents and discuss how to leverage these for one's own research. Cost is \$5 for non-members. Visit the website: <https://jgsgw.org/>

## POTOMAC ALMANAC

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

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## Still Processing



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off we go — or not — into the wild blue yonder. It seems that my most recent CT scan's results, described as "a little worse" by my oncologist are indeed cause for some reflection and change. (I'm not quite able to say "cause for concern," yet.) As such, to make the most effective change, per my oncologist's orders, I am scheduled for a needle biopsy on the Wednesday this column publishes. This procedure will determine, if there is a match, to the specific type of cancer tumor that I have. (Without boring you with too many details, the short version is that all cancer tumors are not alike. Biomarkers/genetic mutations such as ALK, BRAF, EGFR, NTRK, PD-L1 and ROS1 are the most common, and certain medicines work better against certain tumor types. Variation in the tumor types, such as the ones I've described, is a relatively recent discovery in lung cancer research.)

What this research has led to is another new kind of cancer treatment known as "targeted therapy." This means than rather than "flying blind," to use one of my brother, Richard's, favorite expressions, and employing a one-size-fits-all kind of approach to treatment, oncologists now have specific medicines to infuse when the tumor's genetic mutation is confirmed. Wednesday hopefully, will confirm something. However, researchers have not discovered all the tumor types so it's possible that this biopsy will reveal nothing useful for me and in effect, I'll be back to square one-ish.

As for what 'square-one-ish' means? It means that I'll likely be infusing medicines that previously worked for a time but whose infusions were stopped after they all ran their successful course years ago. As I've been told whenever this change became necessary, cancer cells eventually figure out what's happening to them and then the tumors begin growing. Once this growth is indicated on the CT scan, a new medicine is usually started, and on and on it goes until, apparently now, for me anyhow. "Targeted therapy" offers lots of new medicines. I just need a match. Unfortunately, there's no guarantee the biopsy will provide just such a match. There's only one way to find out. On Wednesday, we will begin to find out. To say I have a lot riding on this determination is the understatement of the year; at least for Team Lourie, it is. If I'm forced to repeat infusions from medicines that stopped working years ago, it'll be "Katie, bar the door," as we say in Boston which means, "Look out!"

I'm trying not to 'look out' though. I'm trying not to look anywhere, except straight ahead. Just because my life may be at stake, is no time to deviate from the norm that has been my modus operandi over the past 11 years. I'm not quite ready to consider that my stage IV lung cancer survival is coming to an end. Maybe it's just staggering and within a week or so, I'll get my bearings again. New medical information getting me new medical treatment is sure to put a bounce back in my step. For the first time in 11 years, to quote George Costanza from Seinfeld: "I'm back, baby." This could be the jolt my body needs to get me through to the next

research level. The Team Lourie strategy has always been for me to try and live long enough to reach the next medical breakthrough. So far, I've benefited from a few: tarceva, avastin and alimta; all miracle drugs according to my oncologist, and here I am, living proof that it has all worked.

Until I hear, post procedure, from my oncologist, in the interim, I am re-experiencing many what-happens-if-and-when emotions that I've not wrestled with for years. Unfortunately, this hospital visit is taking me back to the visit/biopsy I had in Feb. 2009 which confirmed the malignancy in my lungs in the first place. And here I am, hopefully not in the last place, waiting for the results of a biopsy yet again. It didn't work out so good in 2009. I just hope I have better luck in 2019.

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

Come to one of these open-to-all events!

### Pot-Luck Dinner

Thursday, Dec. 19, 6 pm

Please bring food to share for 6, please RSVP  
Potomac Community Ctr, 11315 Falls Rd

### Inter-generational Lunch & Games

for teens to seniors, please RSVP

Monday, Dec. 23, 11:30

Potomac Community Ctr, 11315 Falls Rd

240-221-1370 for details, to RSVP

[www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org](http://www.PotomacCommunityVillage.org)

We didn't inherit the earth from our parents. We're borrowing it from our children.

—Chief Seattle (1788-1866)  
Suquamish/Duwamish chief



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