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Focus on Social Justice

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Focus on Social Justice

The First Baptist Church of Vienna hosts its fourth annual Justice and Legislative Sunday.

By Mercia Hobson
The Connection

The First Baptist Church of Vienna hosted its 4th annual Justice and Legislative Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020. The congregation opened its doors and invited legislators and members of grassroots organizations to join them to worship services. Afterward, everyone convened in the church’s fellowship hall for the “Justice & Legislative Fair,” one of the church’s signature social justice events. The forum provided the opportunity for the congregation and guests to engage in one-on-one dialogues.

Before the 10 a.m. service started, Frank Bowers of Chantilly and Jim Biggs of Manassas helped set up the fellowship hall and considered what they wanted to ask the legislators. Bower said he planned to ask, “What are you going to do differently in 2020, compared to last year?”

Biggs considered his question. “My beef is I want to know what they are going to do to curb the incarceration rate for minorities. The district attorneys are more interested in closing cases rather than giving individuals fair trials,” he said.

Upstairs In the sanctuary, two deacons waited for the legislators to arrive. They, too, considered what they would ask. Deacon Thomas E. Tye, Sr. said, “Health care is the number one issue. And affordable housing.”

“I’d like the political atmosphere to turn back as it was when we had Obama, when people tried to work together to solve problems. Now it seems the new president brings out the worst in some. We need to keep our democracy. That means everybody gives in to the president brings out the worst in some. We need to... to agree, with respect. I hope and pray that sometimes there would be a day in America when his children and grandchildren would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin.”

Sen. Warner added that Dr. King said he hoped there would be a day in America when his children and grandchildren would be judged by the content of their character. “And, if there is ever a time when in our nation, we need to be judging our leaders by the content of their character, it is now. The church teaches us to respect each other, to be truthful, to treat people, even if we disagree, with respect. I hope and pray that sometimes the individual who currently lives at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue might take those words to heart as well. These are challenging times in our nation. I want to thank our Lieutenant Governor and legislators. Even though we may be struggling in Washington, we are moving many things forward in Richmond,” said Sen. Warner.

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‘The Royale’ Mesmerizes at 1st Stage

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Adding to its luster, 1st Stage has produced a stunningly forceful drama, “The Royale.” It is a heart-tugging production with a social justice theme: the journey of a trail-blazing black man who takes on society’s hostility to do something unheard of in the segregated early 20th century America; fighting a white man for the heavy-weight boxing championship.

With a penetrating script by Marco Ramirez, stylishly directed and choreographed by Paige Hernandez, “The Royale” provides a fictionalized portrayal of real life black boxer, Jack Johnson (1878-1946) with an emotionally burning, persuasive performance by Jaysen Wright. Surrounding Jay “The Sport” Jackson are his white promoter Max (played by Chris Genebach, as a hustler walking on a razor’s edge) grudgingly taking on the powerful; Wynton often as a narrator as “The Sport’s” full-of-wisdom, older mentor-trainer who as a black man has a horrific backstory (James J. Johnson who delivers a superlative verbally rich scene about his survival as a young black man fighting blind-folded for loose change).

The small ensemble also includes a compelling Clayton Pelhman, Jr. as Fish, an impatient novice black boxer who becomes “The Sport’s” sparring partner.

In the central character of Nina, “The Sport’s” sister, Lolita Marie delivers sharp, intense questions with her deep worries about what winning a boxing championship can mean. Marie delivers potent dialogue that comes across as verbal body blows. The verbal assaults readily connecting to her brother as she demands a response to what likely will happen if he beats the white champion. Who will bear the expected destructive consequences of his winning?

Debra Kim Sivigny has a keen eye with her striking wooden boxing ring scenic design and period costumes. Kenny Neal’s aural soundscape is full of sounds of boxing including body strikes. Projections by Kelly Colburn add visual layers along with the shadowy lighting by Sarah Tundermann.

Cliff Williams III’s fight choreography is critical to “The Royale’s” strength. The boxing is in abstraction with a percussive rhythm. No physical strikes are landed. Yet, powerful forces are heard as the boxers face the audience, reacting to one another jabs. “The Royale” is concentrated fury. It will stick to an audience. It is a vigorous moving production that does not shy away from raw themes and real demons. Take in 1st Stage’s “The Royale;” see for yourself.

Where and When

1st stage presents “The Royale” at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances to Feb 23, 2020. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: $42 (adults), $39 (senior) and $15 (students and military). Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1stStageTysons.org Note: Regional Premiere copleroduction with Olney Theatre Center. Mature language.

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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From left — Jaysen Wright and Clayton Pelham, Jr. in ‘The Royale’ by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez at 1st Stage in Tysons.

From left — Jaysen Wright and Chris Genebach in ‘The Royale’ by Marco Ramirez, Directed by Paige Hernandez at 1st Stage in Tysons.
Dazzling Pace of Change in Richmond

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Dazzling is the only word I could think of to describe the amazing work that is going on in the Virginia General Assembly this legislative session. The annual meeting of the legislature is just approaching half-time of its annual session, but already significant policy changes are being debated and adopted. There is little new to the policies that are being adopted; many are in place in other states already. But in Richmond they seem revolutionary!

I have already written about the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the early days of the session. The movement to ratify the ERA began in the early 1970s but was not successful in Virginia until nearly 50 years later. Since two ratification deadlines have already passed, the fate of the amendment with Virginia being the needed 38th state to ratify is still uncertain. Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring is among the leaders seeking a judicial decision to validate the amendment’s ratification. Although the Nineteenth Amendment granting women the right to vote was ratified in 1920 and added to the Constitution, Virginia did not add its support to ratification until 1952!

While legislation must be passed by both houses of the legislature and signed by the governor to become law, here is a run-down on what has been approved so far by at least one house. By the time the legislature adjourns in early March this legislation is expected to be approved by both houses and sent to the governor. Numerous bills have been passed to ban discrimination against persons because of their sex; bills to protect LGBTQ+ persons would not have made it out of committee last year. Bills to ban discrimination in housing, public accommodations, employment and credit applications have passed as has a bill to ban conversion therapy.

Likewise, bills to protect public safety from the misuse of guns that would never have made it out of committee previously have passed in both houses of the Assembly. My bill to require universal background checks has passed as well as bills granting localities the right to ban guns in public spaces, increasing the penalties for leaving guns unsecured around children, and requiring people to report lost or stolen guns within 24 hours. A “red flag” law that allows authorities to remove guns from individuals who have shown themselves to be a danger to themselves and to others has passed.

This week action is expected on bills that will open up the state to more solar and wind power and that will establish standards for the increased use of renewables in generating electricity. Plastic bags may be eliminated or taxed to reduce plastic pollution. I am sponsoring the Governor’s bill to advance the clean-up of the Chesapeake Bay that is getting some push-back from the farming community that would be affected by regulations to clean up stream runoff. Numerous bills have already passed to make it easier to register to vote and to vote on election day, including no-excuse absentee voting.

There is more to come. Tune in next week or follow the sessions on live-streaming at https://virginialegislature.gov/house/chamber/stream.php for more dazzling action!
Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

Celtic Music Featuring Lilt. 5 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. At The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 31st season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance; $20 general admission; $15 children under 12. Season ticket: $108. Visit www.oldbrogue.com or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

Lilt in Concert

Lilt is Tina Eck on wooden flute and whistle and Keith Carr on 10 string bouzouki, mandolin, tenor banjo and vocals.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Fiery Flamenco Dance. 7 p.m. At The Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is presenting New York City-based dance company Flamenco Vivo Carlota Santana for a single performance. The acclaimed company, hailed as “America’s premier Spanish dance company,” promotes the art form by producing quality dance works that foster cultural connections. Tickets are $40 for the general public, $35 for seniors and $30 for residents of Dranesville Small District 1A. Visit www.aldentheatre.org or call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711.

Out what birds stick around through the winter and make and take home a pinecone bird feeder to help them get through the cold. Learn about the common birds that may visit your feeder. Cost is $10 per person. Sessions are designed for participants age 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Bilingual Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bilingual Storytime in English and Hindi. Enjoy stories, songs and activities. Birth-5 with adult.

Catholic Charities Ball. 7 p.m. At the Ritz Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. The event is the largest annual fundraiser for Catholic Charities, providing a significant portion of the resources needed to support 21 programs serving those in need throughout the 21 counties and seven cities of the Diocese. This year’s theme is “With Love and Charity.” Tickets for both events can be purchased at www.ceda.net.

SATURDAY/FEB. 8

Make Piconee Birdfeeders. 10-11 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 6700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Help feed your feathered friends this winter with the “Make Your Own Piconee Birdfeeders” program at Riverbend Park. Find out what birds stick around through the winter and make and take home a pinecone bird feeder to help them get through the cold. Learn about the common birds that may visit your feeder. Cost is $10 per person. Sessions are designed for participants age 4 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Star Trek to Astronomy Festival. 5:30-7:30 p.m. At Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. There will be guided stargazing and opportunities to get a close-up look at the stars through a telescope at the roll-top observatory. Join in games and warm yourself by the campfire as you listen to ancient stories about the constellations. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. This event is designed for stargazers age 3 to adult. Cost is $30 per person. The festival will be canceled if it is raining or snowing. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

SUNDAY/FEB. 9

New Dominion Women’s Club Fundraiser. 3-5 p.m. At Chain Bridge Cellars, 1351 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. This is a great opportunity to stock up on wines and bubbly.
Sunday/Feb. 9 and 23, March 1
Maple Syrup Boil-Down. Noon to 2 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. How does maple syrup get from the tree to your breakfast table? See the old-fashioned process from beginning to end at the “Maple Syrup Boil-Down at Colvin Run Mill.” When the sap starts to rise, the maple trees are tapped at Colvin Run and the drip, drip begins. Now, it’s sugaring time! Bundle up, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an outdoor, open fire. Sample the delicious maple syrup served over cornbread that’s made from Colvin Run Mill’s sorghum. For more information, visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Monday/Feb. 10
AARP Luncheon Event. 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Mylo’s Grill, 6228 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Join AARP at Mylo’s Grill to enjoy lunch together with other AARP and McLeanAva members and their guests. Enjoy a 15% discount on the entire check. There will be no seminar, and all of the products will be promoted or sold—just casual fun and socializing with other members like you in McLean. Learn how AARP and McLeanAva are making a difference in Northern Virginia. Visit the website: https://aarp.event.com/McLeanLunchFeb2020.

Monday/Feb. 24
Baby Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with baby while building early literacy foundations for reading success. Birth–18 months with adults.

Tuesday/Feb. 11
McLean Historical Society. 7:30-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1224 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature three McLeanians: Anna, Whole tucked (Anna, Blue Porter, and Palmer Roberson) who will discuss “Growing up in Rural McLean.” This program is free and open to all. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

Saturday/Feb. 15
Wilderness Fun. Noon to 1 p.m. At Riverbend Park, 8720 Riverbend Hills.

KAPO Concert
KAPO: Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts will perform at the Old Brogue Irish Pub in Great Falls.

Sunday/Feb. 16
KAPO Concert. 5 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. At the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Featuring KAPO: the music of Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls, and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 31st season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. Featuring internationally recognized Celtic musicians, the concerts are performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com. $20 general admission/$15 children under 12.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15
11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. How does maple syrup get from the tree to your breakfast table? See the old-fashioned process from beginning to end at the “Maple Syrup Boil-Down at Colvin Run Mill.” When the sap starts to rise, the maple trees are tapped at Colvin Run and the drip, drip begins. Now, it’s sugaring time! Bundle up, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an outdoor, open fire. Sample the delicious maple syrup served over cornbread that’s made from Colvin Run Mill’s sorghum. For more information, visit https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

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TUESDAY/FEB. 18
History Comes Alive. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. At River Bend, 375 Walker Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Senior Center (GFSC) is welcoming back Mary Ann Jung’s interactive shows. This award-winning actress and Smithsonian scholar has been recreating history’s most fascinating women for more than 35 years with a style like no other. Jung researches and writes her own scripts and performs in authentic costumes, accents and attitudes for her character’s eras. This year, learn the story of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was an abolitionist, human rights activist and one of the first leaders of the woman’s rights movement. Reservations are required; email Polly Fitzgerald at pollyfitz2@verizon.net or call 703-759-4345. Membership dues ($25 per person) and applications for 2020 will be available at the Hospitality Table or visit gfscseniors.org and pay online.

Wednesday/Feb. 19
Holy Happy Hour. 6:15 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1734 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Music of African American composers with Artist Amy Yurkewich, clarinet, accompanied by John Notthaft, organ/piano. Each concert begins at 6:15 p.m. and concludes half an hour later with a brief period to enjoy wine and cheese and meet the artists. There is no charge to attend.

See Calendar, Page 8
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Restaurant Review: Nostos Restaurant

Although the Nostos Greek restaurant has operated in the Tysons Corner area for a while, it remains a steady go-to destination for every sort of patron, from ladies chatting over lunch to businessmen and couples. Patrons have learned that for outstanding Greek cooking served in a classy contemporary setting, Nostos is an ideal restaurant.

Because the menu offers a number of tempting dishes, your best bet is to enjoy a meal with several friends—that way you can sample several dishes so that you get a real idea of what the kitchen puts out. And with friends along, you can choose at least two appetizers: the tzatziki, Greek yogurt with garlic and cucumbers, and the melitzanosalata, roasted eggplant whipped with olive oil and garlic, both of which come with heated wedges of pita bread. Add to that an order of the tyrokafteri, a peppery hot spread of feta cheese and hot peppers…this is an ideal dipping treat for the wedges of pita bread, especially for those who like a spicy kick. For an extra treat as an appetizer, add on the entrée Taverna salad with a toss-up of romaine lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, feta cheese, and kalamata olives.

Do check the specials menu before you order the rest of the lunch (or dinner) items—recently the yummy lamb chops were on offer that day, a pared-down version of the standard menu offering that includes grilled asparagus and roasted potatoes. Regardless, the lamb is sensational, and although rather pricey on the regular menu, lamb lovers would likely head to that as their entrée selection.

Other lunch entrées include swordfish kabobs, which a fellow patron loved, plus other seafood kabobs (including grilled octopus); and meat kabobs, including chicken, meatballs, or a meat sampler with skewered chicken, beefsteak, and lamb. Vegetarian entrées of beans, or zucchini, or beets; of cheese choices that include grilled Cypriot sheep and goat cheese, or feta cheese with kalamata olives, plus more.

Scanning down the menu, patrons come across the section with fish entrées, including a whole Mediterranean bass or the kakavia, a seafood stew with tomatoes, potatoes, shrimp, and kalamaria with crusty bread. And traditional entrées include the renowned spanakopita, a favorite choice for Greek food lovers who relish the layered phyllo dough stuffed with spinach, feta, and scallion; and the equally renowned moussaka, layered eggplant slices that enclose potatoes and ground beef.

When it is time for dessert, scan through the dessert wines, brandies and cognac, and liqueurs choices—or just order a cup of coffee to pair with a selection of the famed baklava (three different options); the rice pudding; the airy galaktoboureko; or...
Justice and Legislative Sunday

FROM PAGE 3

no food...(through) weekend because school is closed... It’s hard to believe that we live amid such great wealth and in a county with such great housing stock, that there would be individuals who literally cannot afford to live among us, even after working 40 plus hours a week... It’s hard to believe that we live in a nation where elementary and high school education is free and available to all, but the quality of that education and the quality of the physical building will largely be determined by the zip code of those facilities,” Pastor Walton said.

He spoke about school-aged children and those who gather in places of worship but must consider the serious risk and potential of some disturbed individuals who do not respect the laws nor the lives of others. “They cause significant damage to families and even significant damage to entire communities.” Before the Justice and Legislative Service began, security guards stood inside the entrance of his church.

PASTOR WALTON added that many individuals were only moved to action when it impacted their lives. However, doing so, they miss the meaning of justice; justice is for all, not for the individual. He said that some individuals were so blessed; so “comfortable” they lost their sensitivity to the persons and individuals who found themselves in the margins.

“If we are not careful enough, …we can forget we are so blessed. We lose our sensitivity to the individuals that need us the most…. Today it is them. But there is the possibility it could be our day and our time tomorrow. Tomorrow, I would want someone to reach down and help pick me up… It’s the poor, the marginalized, those that are struggling without health care, those that have no voice to speak for themselves.

After service, all gathered in the fellowship hall where members of the congregation and legislators mingled, asked questions and shared thoughts. As the event wound down, each legislator and school board member stepped to the microphone and gave a snapshot of proposed laws and actions in their purview.

Legislators Reflect on Social Justice Initiatives — Mercia Hobson

Del. Marcus Simon (D-53): We are looking at words in our codes; code still matters a lot. We, just this year in 2020 on Friday, took the language out of a code that allowed buses to be segregated….Something I’ve been working on personally, what can we do about these racial covenants that still exist in our land records.

Del. Ibraheem Samirah (D-86), right: I had a couple of bills I’ve been working on, (and others) we will be working on throughout this year… One is to allow accessory dwelling units in your home. What that means is, if you have a cottage, a basement or an attic, you should be able to utilize that to house a family or an individual for anywhere between $400 to $800 a month… Another way is to allow you to use your home for two families as it is; what we call up-zoning for two family units... These are easy solutions for the affordable housing crisis. They cost $0 on the state; gives you more money for your pocket; allows your grandchildren, your children and anyone you want to live around you (to do so).

Vienna Town Council Member Pasha Majdi: I’m on the council in Vienna, which I don’t talk a lot about here on Sundays. It’s relevant this year because… I’m running for mayor. The election is May 5. It’s a local, independent election. No Republicans; no Democrats. It’s just your neighbors running for office.

Del. Mark Keam (D-35): In a different time in Virginia, meaning before last November, the words “justice and legislative” didn’t go together very often…. Many times, your legislative agenda at the state level and sometimes at the county level, did not necessarily reflect the justice aspirations of that term…. Thanks to the many of you who have worked so hard to bring us a few friends to put Delegates Simon and Samirah, Senator Jennifer Boysko and myself in the majority party in the Commonwealth of Virginia. What that means, is whether you’re talking about Racial Justice, Gender Justice, Workplace Justice, Workers Rights, Environmental Justice, Social Justice, Medical Healthcare, and even Justice at the federal level, Impeachment Justice, we can now finally do the legislation because that’s the way your views are expressed in the democratic process.
FRIDAY/FEB. 7

Preschool Transition to Kindergarten for Students with Disabilities. 10 a.m. to noon. At Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services. 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring. The transition to kindergarten is a big one for kids and can be even more so for children with disabilities. Learn how parents can collaborate with FCPS to ensure their students have a smooth transition to kindergarten.

TUESDAY/FEB. 11

Valentine’s Day Luncheon. 12 to 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. Cost is $18/person. Hosted by SOCV and The Vienna Community Center. Registration required by Feb. 3. Call 703-281-0538. You must be registered to attend. No walk-ins please.

NARFE Chapter Meeting. 2 p.m. At Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. NARFE (National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association) Chapter Meeting. Guest speaker – Marge Van Lierde - “The Road Ahead” - Transitioning into a retirement community. Refreshments will be served. Free. Members and guests. Call 703-205-0941.

Mayor at Your Service. 7:30 p.m. At Town Hall, 127 Center Street, S, Vienna. Town of Vienna Mayor Laurie Orttollo will host three health professionals at the next Mayor @ Your Service event — Shirley Clark, former executive director of the Women’s Center; Susan Garvey, executive director of Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna; and Barbara Blizzard, founder and executive director of Stroke Comeback Center. This event is free and open to the public.

THURSDAY/FEB. 13

Fostering Protective Factors in Children. 10 a.m. to noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services. 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Room 100, Dunn Loring. Every adult can foster protective factors and build resiliency in children and adolescents. Presented by Ryan Dickerson, FCPS School Psychologist and Jenn Spears, FCPS Mental Wellness Specialist. Topics include: What does the Fairfax County Youth Survey data show us? Identifying Protective Factors and Assets; Understanding resilience and how to increase your child’s ability to respond to challenges.

MONDAY/FEB. 24

Possible Arts Center at Clemmyjontri Park. 7 p.m. The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the McLean Project for the Arts (MPA) will host a public open house to discuss the potential for development of an arts and education center at Clemmyjontri Park. The meeting will take place in MPA’s Emerson Gallery at the McLean Community Center, located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue in McLean.

Dining

From Page 9

the cheesecake. That day the kitchen had spread on the cheesecake top a dazzling fruity layer of bergamot jam. Delish!!! Note that that particular spread may not be the standard top- ping but rejoice if it shows up on your spread may not be the standard top- ping but rejoice if it shows up on your

* Nostos, 8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna, Va. 703-760-0690 Hours: Lunch Tues.-Fri., 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Dinner, Mon.-Sat., 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. https://nostosrestaurant.com

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Off Topic, Way Off

From cancer to toilet paper. Is that ‘off’ enough? My reason for writing this column might be because I need a diversion (see last week’s column), and because it so happened recently, I needed to replenish our toilet paper supply. (It had nothing to do with a winter advisory in the forecast.) As the consumer in the house, I am keen and motivated to spend our money wisely. I look for sales, I use paper coupons, I use digital coupons and of course, I peruse the advertising circulars, in print and online (if necessary) regularly. In addition, I have a number of plastic bonus cards hanging on my keychain. In short, I am prepared and ready for any retail or wholesale opportunity that might present itself.

With respect to toilet paper, I believe us regular users have been victimized by the toilet paper manufacturers. I refer specifically to the increase in the size of the actual roll itself; from single to double to triple to jumbo to mega and now super mega. Since the manufacturers can’t exactly increase demand, they’ve devised a strategy to increase supply — in larger sizes. And though using myself as an example is hardly empirical evidence, I will nonetheless continue to do so to illustrate my point.

If you’re like me, you probably like to have an ample supply of toilet paper in the house, in case it happens once in college; not good. And to that end, the toilet paper manufacturers have offered up multipacks, available as high as 96 rolls, if I’m not mistaken, to address this potential shortage. However, my beef is not with the number of rolls. These multipacks, my beef, as I’ve said, is with the size of the rolls. In these cases, size does matter.

For years, we’ve been buying 4-, 6-, 12-, 24-, 36- and even 48-roll multipacks, some single and some double to stock the bathroom linen closets, so we’re used to having a specific number of rolls on hand in inventory. Now the rolls are double or even triple the size we had grown accustomed to having as back-ups. But we’re still, in spite of the gargantuan size of the newer mega/ super mega rolls, wanting to have the same number of rolls in the closet as we’ve always had (it do, anyway). Sort of a comfort level, you might say. The problem is that having the same number of super mega rolls in inventory as previously one had as single or double rolls gives one way more toilet paper in the house than you ever had. In effect, we have over-purchased. The toilet paper manufacturers have used our predispositions against us in order to take a greater share of our household budget previously allocated for toilet paper.

I don’t need six super mega rolls in our bathroom. But I do want to see at least six rolls in reserve (and comfort you might say). If the six rolls in reserve were single or doubles, their size would be irrelevant. The number of rolls was more important - in my head. And now, because of the toilet paper manufacturers’ insistence that size matters, I am forced to buy these sparrow-sized, donut-sized rolls that I can’t possibly use no matter what “snowmageddon” might hit us. But I can’t stock my shelves with reason- ably-sized rolls because their unit cost is prohibitive compared to the big roll multi- packs. As the consumer in the house, I am loathe to overpay for such household necessities. So I buy in bulk, stuff my shelves with plywood and go about my business. I just wish I had more room on my keychain and in my diaper bag.
2903 Linden Lane, Falls Church
JUST LISTED! *FABULOUS* 5BR/2.5BA brick and cedar colonial home on 2 levels in sought-after Hillwood location! Elegant living room with built-in shelving and gas fireplace; formal separate dining room; kitchen with eat in space; 2 main level bedrooms; wonderful deck off the rear - overlooking lovely manicured yard; brand new generator!

706 Berry St, Falls Church City
*WONDERFUL* 5BR/3 full BA remodeled home with expanded upper level and kitchen; updates include granite counters and stainless steel appliances in kitchen; upgraded back deck in 2017; roof ('13), AC ('14), water heater ('17); living room with fireplace and separate family room; close to shopping, downtown and metro, plus Azalea Park!

1531 Forest Lane, McLean
*STUNNING* 6BR/7.5BA NEW CONSTRUCTION house built in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods! This beautiful home features light & bright gourmet kitchen w/ breakfast bar island that opens to the family room w/ stone hearth fireplace; walk-out lower level rec room w/ wet bar & media room area; screened back porch; 4th level bedroom suite!

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$2,995,000

1469 Waggaman Circle McLean, 22101
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