

Holocaust survivor Sam Ponczak, with daughter Raquel Hecker, talks about his family history at his home in Arlington on April 2.

The Arlington Connection



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NEWS

Stop Waiting — Start Donating

Blood donors suffering from COVID fatigue; visit www.inovablood.org/donate-blood/

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Just a few minutes of your time can save a life. Heather Wade, Donor Recruitment Manager for Inova Blood Donor Services says, “We need 230 donors a day in Northern Virginia to get 200 successful donations which yields 30 platelets, 20 double red cells and 150 whole blood (the old fashioned kind). So the power of one can save three lives.”

Wade says they hold two blood drives five days a week in Northern Virginia. Due to COVID most blood drives are held at their three brick and mortar locations in Sterling, Annandale and Centreville. However, there are other local locations scheduled such as the Alexandria Town Square Monday, April 19 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Virginia Hospital Center in Arlington Tuesday, April 20 from 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Anytime Fitness Center in the Kingstowne in Fairfax County on Tuesday, April 20 from 12 p.m.-



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

The Inova Bloodmobile is stationed across from Alexandria Town Square on Monday, April 19 to collect blood donations greatly needed in N. Virginia.

6 p.m. and 5010 Little Falls Road in Arlington on April 25.

Any blood donated locally is used within a radius of 40 miles so you know your blood will be used to help members of your community, Wade says. There are 32-38 appointments available at

each location. When the pandemic first hit, they had a lot of support. But as schools are starting to open and more vaccinations are taking place, the response has been much lower.

SEE STOP WAITING, PAGE 6

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Journey to Freedom Holocaust survivor recalls flight from 'Warsaw Ghetto' and occupied Poland.

By JEANNE THEISMANN
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Sam Ponczak was just shy of two years old when Nazi Germany invaded Poland on Sept. 1, 1939. At the time, Ponczak was living with his parents in Warsaw in an area that would become known as the Warsaw Ghetto, a section of the city walled off by Germans in 1940 for the forced placement of Jews.

Four years later, on April 19, 1943, it was the site of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, the largest single revolt by Jews during World War II. By then, Ponczak's father Jacob had fled to Soviet-occupied Poland in search of safety for his family, leaving his wife and son behind.

"I had no idea what was going on at the time," Ponczak recalled from his home in Arlington. "We lived with my mother's brother and his family - eight people in a small place - in the Jewish ghetto. When the war broke out my father wisely expected that when the Germans arrived, it would not be fun."

Ponczak's mother, Sara, was reluctant to leave her own parents and siblings. But in November of 1940, she and Ponczak fled the Ghetto with the aid of a priest, who saw the two at the train station and shielded them from authorities.

"My mother was carrying me and wearing the Star of David on her armband," Ponczak said. "The priest told her to take the band off and get behind him. When asked, the priest said that we were from his parish. Did we know him? No. Did we pay him? No. But this is the man that saved my life."

Part of the escape necessitated walking across the frozen Bug River alone at night. Ponczak's mother kept falling on the ice while holding him in her arms, which Ponczak found amusing. Fearing that his laughter would get them caught, she gave him family photographs to play with.

"Sadly, I do not have any photos of my family from before the war," Ponczak said with regret. "Mother gave them to me to keep me from laughing. I was a kid and thought it was a game and tore them up."

Once inside Soviet-occupied territory, Soviet border guards arrested Ponczak and his mother. They were reunited with Ponczak's father and deported to Kotlas, a labor camp in Siberia.

"Kotlas was not like the German labor camps, but you could not escape from there," Ponczak recalled. "My father worked as a lumberjack and we lived in a Mongolian yurt - my family and a native woman who was assigned to stay with us. My father got rations so we could eat and my mother and I could walk around the camp. But the labor was hard and it was a grim existence."

Eventually the family was moved to Syktyvkar, the capital of the Komi Autonomous Republic in northern Russia. While there, Ponczak's father and mother, an expert tailor and seamstress, were assigned to make military clothing. In 1944, they were sent to the town of Kherson in Ukraine, where



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Holocaust survivor Sam Ponczak, with daughter Raquel Hecker, talks about his family history at his home in Arlington on April 2.



By JANET BARNETT/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Ponczak's sister Gisele was born in 1945 and where the family remained until the end of the war.

Ponczak and his family returned to Poland in 1946. With Warsaw destroyed, they settled first in Reichenbach (now Dzierżoniów) then Wroclaw, where Ponczak finished high school. But antisemitism persisted so the family left Poland for France in 1957.

In 1959, they immigrated to Argentina and in 1964 to the United States. They settled in Baltimore, where the owners of Hamburger's Department Store offered Ponczak's father work tailoring clothing.

"In Argentina I realized that my best opportunities would be in the United States," Ponczak said. "My father had employment and I came on a student visa."

Ponczak, who obtained an engineering degree from the University of Maryland, met Frieda Greenblatt during his freshman year. The two married in 1965 and together raised three children.

"Dad didn't talk much about the Holocaust when we were younger," said Ponczak's daughter Raquel Hecker. "We learned more



COURTESY PHOTOS

Holocaust survivor Sam Ponczak, left, with father Jacob, mother Sara and sister Giselle circa 1946 in Poland.



Sam Ponczak in his 1955 high school graduation photo in Wroclaw, Poland.



Sam Ponczak and his sister Giselle circa 1946.

Sam Ponczak points to a mezuzah that survived the Holocaust amid his family's flight from occupied Poland.

after he retired and began volunteering at the Holocaust Museum about 13 years ago. That's when he started opening up."

Now 83 years old, Ponczak, is still sometimes reluctant to share his experiences, which included the loss of his uncle and family left behind in Poland.

"I believe survivors haven't talked about the Holocaust because they suffered so

much," Ponczak said. "I was accused that I was not a Holocaust survivor by another survivor because he survived a concentration camp and I did not. And I understand that. I was in occupied Warsaw but I feel that the real Holocaust survivors were my parents, who did not have a lot of choices but still did everything they could to survive. They are my heroes."

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Causes and consequences of Global Warming, Thursday, April 22, 2 p.m. Presented by David Herring of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Registration #913400-01.

Genealogy discussion focuses on accessing birth and death certificates and other vital statistics, Thursday, April 22, 3 p.m. Registration # 913400-17.

Chat with an artist about composition, materials, technique, Thursday, April 22, 4 p.m. Registration # 913301-21.

Style and substance, paint a favorite object, demonstration by community arts programmer, Jim Halloran, Thursday, Apr. 22, 10 a.m. Registration # 913301-26.

Travel discussion to feature historical sites, Friday, Apr. 23, 3 p.m. Registration # 913402-27.

Running for Second in Command

Thirteen candidates are running for lieutenant governor in Virginia.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

The job of lieutenant governor is often overlooked, but it plays an important role in Virginia politics. Although many people view it as a stepping stone to running for governor, the lieutenant governor has a critical role in the day-to-day proceedings of the General Assembly.

He or she presides over the Senate, which often means making procedural rulings about whether motions can proceed or not. Perhaps more importantly, though, the lieutenant governor gets to break tie votes in a chamber where Democrats hold a two-vote majority. Because the chamber is home to some conservative-leaning Democrats, the lieutenant governor has many opportunities to step in and break a tie vote.

Earlier this month, Lieutenant Governor Justin Fairfax broke a tie vote on legalizing marijuana after two Senate Democrats voted with Republicans. The next election for senators isn't until 2023, so the next lieutenant governor will walk into a Senate chamber where he or she could end up being a tie-breaking vote on almost any issue.

Democratic Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Democrats will choose their nominee for lieutenant governor in a June 8 statewide primary. (Absentee voting begins April 23.) Seven candidates will be on the ballot. The seat will be open because incumbent Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax is running for governor.

Del. Sam Rasoul (D-11) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013 to fill the seat vacated by Onzlee Ware. He's raised more money than any of the other Democrats in the race, and his campaign contributors include donations from the health-care sector, physicians, pharmacists and dentists. On the campaign trail, he talks about how his experience as a Muslim has informed his view of politics.



Sam Rasoul

"Look, we've all had some vulnerable moments over the past several years," said Rasoul in a candidate forum. "And a big vulnerable moment for me was in December of 2015 when a then-candidate for president said people who worship like me are not wel-

come in this country."

Del. Hala Ayala (D-51) was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2017, defeating incumbent Republican Rich Anderson. Campaign-finance records show she's received \$25,000 from the environmental group Clean Virginia, and she also was able to transfer \$60,000 from her House campaign. On the campaign trail, she talks about how being an Afro-Latina-Lebanese-Irish has informed her view of politics.



Hala Ayala

"For a long time, I did not feel like politicians looked like me or had a lived experience like mine," said Ayala in a candidate forum. "My family struggled growing up, and I lost my father to gun violence.

Norfolk City Councilwoman Andria McClellan was first elected in 2016, and as an at-large member of the council represents more people than anybody else in the race. Her biggest contributor is the Norfolk-based PAC Access for Virginia. On the campaign trail, she talks about how her experience in local government would inform her performance as lieutenant governor.



Andria McClellan

"We need a statewide database of affordable housing, where people can search and find opportunities," said McClellan in a candidate forum. "It needs to be searchable and available for all throughout the commonwealth."

Sean Perryman is the former president of the Fairfax NAACP, a role that's put him at the center of the debate on ending qualified immunity and defelonizing drugs. A significant portion of his campaign contributions come from lawyers and lobbyists, and he's taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he's called for allowing incarcerated people to vote, abolishing qualified immunity for police and limiting campaign contributions.



Sean Perryman

"I don't think corporate donations are a problem. I think the problem is contribution limits," said Perryman in a candidate forum. "Whether you're getting \$100,000 from an LLC or from Joe Smith down the block, they are still having influence over you. And so we absolutely need to have limits on our contributions."

Del. Mark Levine (D-45) was first elected in 2015, filling a seat vacated by Democrat Rob Krupicka. Campaign-finance records show his largest donation is \$40,000 from

his House of Delegates campaign, and he also received \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, he advocates for banning assault weapons, joining the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact and abolishing mandatory minimum sentences for non-violent crimes.



Mark Levine

"I support no prison sentences for people who are addicted to drugs, period," said Levine in a candidate forum. "Because if you're an addict, you need help. You need health care. You don't need to go to prison."

Del. Elizabeth Guzman (D-31) was first elected in 2017, defeating Republican incumbent Scott Lingamfelter. Campaign-finance records show she's taken large campaign contributions from several unions, and she's also taken \$25,000 from Clean Virginia. On the campaign trail, she's styled herself as the Bernie Sanders candidate in the race who will abolish Virginia's so-called right-to-work law.



Elizabeth Guzman

"I'm ready to go to the Senate and to be the voice to educate the senators on how it's important to repeal the right to work," said Guzman in a candidate forum. "Repealing the right to work is providing workers a voice at the table, to fight for better equipment, to better their salary and for training purposes as well."

Xavier Warren is an NFL player agent and lobbyist for nonprofits. Campaign-finance records show he's taken money from people who work in sports management, and he received a \$10,000 in-kind contribution from communications firm Capture Create Media. On the campaign trail, he advocates for ending the cash-bail system and investing in solar farms.



Xavier Warren

"Virginia is in a covid crisis, a climate crisis and an economic crisis," said Warren in a candidate forum.

"I want to be the leader in technology, healthcare innovation and also clean energy and helping families to build generational wealth."

Republican Candidates for Lieutenant Governor

Republicans will choose their nominee in an unassembled convention on May 8, which will be at 37 locations throughout Virginia. To vote

in the convention, voters must register as delegates to the convention. Voters will be asked to rank the candidates from first to sixth, and if no one wins a majority on the first round the last-place candidate will be dropped.

Former Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) was first elected in a 2002 special election to fill the seat vacated by Jay O'Brien when he was elected to the state Senate. As a longtime member of the House, he served as chairman of the House Republican Caucus and was able to raise large amounts of money to help candidates across Virginia. On the campaign trail, his pitch to Republican delegates is that he's a Republican who has a history of winning in Northern Virginia, where he was re-elected eight times before being unseated by Dan Helmer in 2019.



Tim Hugo

"You never thought a decade ago or 15 years ago that you would have Democrats talking casually about infanticide," said Hugo in a candidate forum. "You never thought you'd have Beto O'Rourke going door to door against us to talk about taking our guns, and you never thought you'd be talking about defunding the police. But that's what Democrats are doing now."

Del. Glenn Davis (R-84) is a former member of the Virginia Beach City Council who was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2013. Campaign-finance records show he was able to transfer about \$350,000 from his House campaign account, giving him an early edge over other candidates. As a member of the House, he has a voting record that's a bit more moderate on issues involving gay rights and labor issues. On the campaign trail, he's positioning himself as a moderate alternative to the other candidates who are more closely aligned with former President Donald Trump.



Glenn Davis

"I want to go to the middle because the middle is where you win elections," said Davis in a candidate forum. "The middle is where a lot of Republicans have gotten way too uncomfortable being, and what's why we lose."

Former Del. Winsome Sears (R-90) served one term in the House of Delegates 20 years ago. Since that time, she waged an unsuccessful campaign in 2004 against Congressman Bobby Scott and an unsuccessful write-in candidacy in 2018 as an alternative to Corey Stewart, whom she called a "charlatan." Sears has the endorsement of state Sen. Amanda Chase (R-11), and on the campaign



Winsome Sears

trail she accuses Democrats of race baiting. "They're pitting the races against each other," said Sears in a candidate forum. "You're heard the constant Black, white, now it's Asian. They're speaking against Thomas Jefferson kids and their successes, and they want quotas."

Lance Allen is a first-time candidate who is trying to use his lack of political experience as an asset, framing his campaign as an attempt to do something about his frustration with politics. He doesn't have any big name endorsements, and he hasn't raised much money. But on the campaign trail, he's trying to connect with voters by tapping into their frustration with Republican leadership in the General Assembly.



Lance Allen

"We caved on issue after issue, and I'm tired of compromising my values just so we can have a little bit of power," said Allen in a candidate forum. "It's time to stand up and say the things we know as Republicans that we need to say."

Puneet Ahluwalia is an activist who has been involved in Northern Virginia politics for years trying to build an immigrant base for the Republican Party. As a first-generation immigrant, he's hoping his personal story might resonate with voters who want to expand the range of the party. On the campaign trail, he talks about how critical race theory is a threat to Virginia schools.



Puneet Ahluwalia

"All it does is teach children to divide, to hate, to see themselves as victims of oppressors," said Ahluwalia in a video posted to YouTube. "It leads to lower achievement and more quotas. America can't lead when we don't even believe in our own values."

Maeve Rigler is a lawyer who wanted to run as a Republican candidate against U.S. Rep. Jim Moran (D-8) but she was unsuccessful in securing the nomination in the convention. She's now positioning herself as the candidate who will fight for election security, arguing that she'll fight against voter fraud. "We need a candidate who will stand up against voter fraud," said Rigler in a YouTube video.



Maeve Rigler

"The Democrats stole the election from the Republicans. I've been expecting Virginia Republicans to stand up and speak out while the Democrats keep spewing their socialist agenda, I've heard nothing but silence from Republicans."

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Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9. This year we will continue to publish submissions through the May 5th and 6th editions. Photo submissions are due by Sunday, May 2, 2021.

Please complete a submission form at www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday and send us your photo(s). You may also email the requested information and photo(s) directly to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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Legals	Legals
Notice of Availability: Draft Environmental Assessment, Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility Roof Structural Strengthening Project	
Agency: Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services	
Public Comment Period: April 15 – May 4, 2021	
Summary: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (Code of Federal Regulations, Title 40, Parts 1500-1508), the Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) has prepared and issued a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of the Pentagon Remote Delivery Facility (RDF) Roof Structural Strengthening Project.	
The Pentagon RDF Roof Structural Strengthening Project's purpose is to retrofit and convert the existing Pentagon Helipad, located on the roof of the RDF just north of the Pentagon Building, into a permanent facility that sustains the safe operations (e.g., landing, takeoff, and parking) of aircraft that land at the Pentagon and of applicable emergency support vehicles. Furthermore, the project is intended to enhance the structural integrity of the RDF Roof. To meet the needs of the Department of the Army and other military branches that operate flights at the Pentagon, the strengthening of the RDF Roof must also meet parameters to support certain helicopter vehicle weights under both landing and operation conditions.	
Structural strengthening is necessary because the RDF structure was not initially designed with the intent of supporting a helipad. System adjustments to the exterior site, as well as to environmental, air traffic control, electrical, drainage, backfill, waterproofing, and irrigation elements, are also necessary to sustain safe helipad operation. In addition, the helipad requires several upgrades to convert it to a permanent facility that meets air traffic control requirements.	
The No-Action Alternative would not implement strengthening and retrofit of the RDF Roof. Rather, the No-Action Alternative would retain the existing temporary helipad without any air traffic related improvements. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need defined by WHS and therefore, the No-Action Alternative is not the preferred alternative.	
As described in the Draft EA, the proposed project is not expected to result in any significant adverse effects or impacts on the natural or human environment. It is anticipated that this EA will result in a Finding of No Significant Impact.	
To request a copy of the Draft EA: Please contact Joe Eichenlaub, Environmental Branch Manager, WHS/Facilities Services Directorate (FSD)/Standards and Compliance Division (SCD)/Environmental, Sustainability, and Energy Branch (ESEB); telephone: 703-614-9583; email: joseph.d.eichenlaub.civ@mail.mil.	
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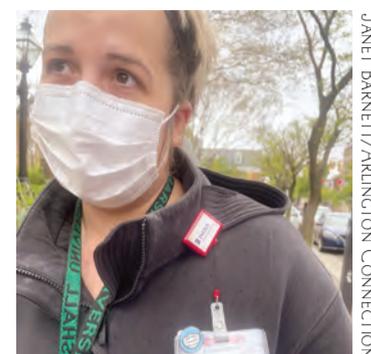
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-Werner Heisenberg

NEWS



JANET BARNETT/ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Jessica Willis-Schnitz, Blood Donor Services Account Manager, says the goal is to collect roughly 30 units of blood in Alexandria and they have 33 donors signed up so she is looking forward to a great day for patients.

Stop Waiting

FROM PAGE 2

“Now we are struggling. The need has grown exponentially but the effort is down. Truly there are people waiting on a blood donation.” Wade says she thinks people are struggling with COVID fatigue. “It is difficult to let the community know how much this is needed.” She says they have a number of appointment cancellations “but we don’t know why.”

The whole process takes an hour or less start to finish. “We think about it in 15 minute increments: 15 for filling out the questionnaire, 15 for a screening mini-physical with blood pressure, temperature and finger prick to test for iron, 15 for donation “needle in arm” and 15 for snack and drink to replenish the body,” Wade said.

Laura Watchman, who is organizing a Blood Drive on Little Falls Road in Arlington on Sunday, April 25 in conjunction with Inova Blood Donor Services, says most people who donate blood say they do it because it is something you can do that directly saves lives. Watchman has recently organized a number of blood drives through her church and says they have one man who has donated 60 times.

The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be located at 5010 Little Falls Road on April 25. Watchman says you must register and make an appointment ahead of time.

“We have 32 slots available and usually fill up but currently have nine left to fill.” She says giving blood is easy with many of the prescreening questions now done online at home in order to cut down the time a person spends at the site. “And a bonus to your good deed is you get to take home a T-shirt.”

The blood drive will be held from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Rock Spring UCC sponsors it with support from Arlington Rotary Club.

Wade adds, “Stop waiting-start donating.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Looking from the air, the new terminal is at the northern end of the airport.

New Terminal Opens at Reagan National Airport

The new concourse is another step towards modernization for this urban airport.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

The north end of Reagan National Airport stretched a little closer to Roslyn with the recent partial completion of “Project Journey,” a modernization project consisting of a new terminal to take the place of Gate 35X, 14 new gates that provide a spot for airlines like American Eagle to call home, and expanded security checkpoints which will open in the summer-fall timeframe.



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Currently the American Eagle airplanes are using the existing gates.

Where once the terminals 1-45 ended at Terminal C, it now goes on to terminals 46-59, allowing American Eagle to use bigger regional aircraft with 70 or 90 seats and a first-class section.

Before the new concourse was built, passengers had to get on a shuttle or go outside to get on airplanes at 35X, exposing them to the elements. During rain or cold weather, this was a challenge for passengers. Now they’ll be able to board the airplane directly from the terminal like they do at other gates.

Another big element of Project Journey is the introduction of upgraded security gates that will allow more freedom for passengers who were already through security but would like to do more shopping or dining.

“This is all to improve customer service,” said the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Vice President Paul Malandrino.

American Airlines is the dominant carrier at Reagan National Airport, and since they were merged with USAir a few years ago, they’re even more so. Officials stopped short of calling it an “American hub,” though.

The pandemic last year, and early this year has enabled construction crews to speed up

the project timeline, added Malandrino, who called it “the only good thing out of the pandemic.”

The first airplane used one of the new gates on April 20, and the new concourse will only see more action as time goes on. There are still signs the project is not completely finished though, and there is another big hurdle to clear this July, when additional concessions like a new coffee shop, pizza place and gift store will open in the new concourse. All 230,000 square feet of terminal space is enclosed in 82,477 square feet of glass similar to the rest of the airport.

Airport Grows

The facilities at Reagan National Airport were designed to handle 15 million passengers a year, but in 2019, pre-pandemic, the airport saw 23 million passengers, so this was a sign an addition was needed.

Previously the last major upgrade was in 1993 when the construction of terminals B and C started, and an area called National Hall. This terminal opened on July 27, 1997.

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Wanna Take A Chance?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I’m sort of invoking Southwest Airlines here, but not exactly. What I am invoking are the incredible number of television and radio commercials for legal gambling sites and for car insurance. Both offer rewards while requiring payment upfront. In anecdotal fact, if it wasn’t for these two entities advertising on television especially, and on radio to a lesser degree, the airwaves would be a lot less redundant. I’m so used to seeing Flo from Progressive, LiMu Emu and Doug from Liberty Mutual and all sorts of familiar characters from Geico that I am actually contemplating making an insurance inquiry. Together, these insurance companies in particular have combined to nearly beat me into insurance-quote submission. The last time I changed car insurance companies was after seeing a plane at the beach flying a banner for all of us who could see encouraging us to make a call. It was - for me, the last straw. I called the company the following week and was indeed rewarded for that call: hundreds in premium savings.

Likewise, DraftKings, Fanduel and BetMGM have combined to nearly entice me into entering their world of online, sportsbook betting. Unfortunately, I have a much better grasp of the jargon and issues addressed by car insurance advertisers (having been a Certified Financial Planner in my previous profession). With respect to the sportsbooks, even though I’m a long time “sports guy,” and as such understand the nature and risks of anticipating a desired outcome, I’ve rarely ventured outside the lines. Those lines being an NFL most-winners pool held weekly in season at my wife Dina’s former employer, a season-ending Super Bowl point-totals-at-end-of-each-quarter thing, and a yearly participation in the annual NCAA’s “bracketology,” (which I’ve actually won once).

But the modern sportsbook and even the individuals hired by the radio and television networks to discuss/albeit recommend the various “plays,” the over-under, the parlays and all the extra-special, apparent can’t-miss,

opportunities for new/first-time bettors/gamblers hyped as if there really is nothing to lose by playing and only money to win, is all too much for me to process and understand. After listening to all the noise, I really feel a need to take a class to protect myself from simply losing/throwing money away because I think I understand, but likely understand very little of the actual risk/reward dynamic. Certainly, I can appreciate the excitement of winning money at the expense of others, but as most would attest, at the very least; expecting outcomes will satisfy your financial needs is a slippery slope at best and a rabbit hole at worst (why else the “If you become afflicted to gambling” advisories on all the advertisements).

The car insurance companies are certain we all want to save money on such necessary got-to-haves like car insurance. And the sportsbooks are betting (pun intended) that we all want to find free money and are not opposed to taking a chance to get it. A chance which if successful, might actually provide the extra money needed to pay their car insurance premiums. I fear however, that once dipping my wallet into the gambling waters, and win a little, but likely lose more, it might be difficult to extract myself from their figurative clutches. The car insurance companies are sort of the same. They entice us by advertising lower prices then hope to retain customers by offering various other incentives such as “accident forgiveness,” “vanishing deductibles” and the like. In effect, they’re both trying to bait us and hope we don’t switch. Their motivation is quite similar: they want our money and they want us beholden to them. It’s not ideal, but it sure is prevalent. In each instance, you’re “betting” money on an outcome which is totally out of your control: predicting scores and predicting whether you’ll have a car accident or not. Whose to know? Not me. In addition, I’ve grown weary - and skeptical of the never-ending pursuit of my dollars. Besides, I got out of the predicting business as soon as I received my “terminal” cancer diagnosis in late Feb., 2009.

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



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