

CONNECTION

Reston ♦ Herndon ♦ ^{Oak Hill} Chantilly ♦ CENTRE VIEW

She Kills Monsters

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From left, Becca Marsh and Micaela O'Rourke portray sisters Tilly and Agnes in Chantilly High's production of "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurer's Edition," a dark comedy about the world of fantasy role-playing games.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF LILY MALATINSKY

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NEWS

Centreville Day is Saturday, Oct. 16

The Friends of Historic Centreville invite the community to the 29th annual Centreville Day on Saturday, Oct. 16. It runs from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Historic Centreville Park, 5714 Mount Gilead Road (off Braddock Road, across Route 29 from the IHOP).

Opening ceremonies are at 10 a.m., when Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) will present Centreville Day's Citizens of the Year Awards. Next will come the parade at 11 a.m., followed by the Cavalcade of Pets at 2 p.m. And attendees may dance and sing along with performers who'll entertain on the main stage throughout the day.

The free festival also includes a marketplace where children may wear their Halloween costumes and trick

or treat while their parents shop. The children's area will feature a climbing wall and double slides, and in the expanded Safety Expo will be first responders with their police and fire vehicles and equipment. And the history train within the park will visit historic Mount Gilead, the Old Stone Church and St. John's Church.

Some changes for this year: Masks are encouraged; free, remote parking and shuttle service (provided by Neighborhood and Community Services) will be at Carabba's Italian Grill, 5805 Trinity Parkway; and the food court and children's rides have been relocated. Vendor spaces are still available. For more event information and vendor forms, go to www.CentrevilleDay.org.

— BONNIE HOBBS

'Musical of Musicals' at CenterStage

BY DAVID SIEGEL
 THE CONNECTION

Reston Community Players bring the bold, breezy "The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)" to CenterStage introducing its new apprenticeship program.

Reston Community Players (RCP) has a four decade history committed to theater excellence and providing creative experiences for educational and cultural enrichment.

Adding to its luster and many awards, the RCP have launched a new apprenticeship program to train and educate local youth in all aspects of the performing arts. The program, open to students ages 12 to 18, provides participants with exposure to the process of building a theatrical production.

"RCP is very excited to be launching our new Apprentice Program. We wanted to engage young artists not just on the stage, but behind the curtain as well," said Kate Keifer, President, RCP.

Drawing on the experience of veteran theatre makers, RCP's Apprenticeship program "allows us to give young performers and technical artists an opportunity to get a 360 degree view of everything that goes into mounting a theatrical production and to learn more about theatrical design and production elements," said Keifer.

The apprenticeship program's inaugural production is "The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)." The production is a satire of musical theatre featuring five different styles reminiscent of the work of artists such as Andrew Lloyd Webber, Rodgers and Hammerstein, and Stephen Sondheim.

"I've been learning about what takes place behind the scenes of this production like costuming, set designing and directing and it is something I am very interested in further exploring," said Cassidy Loria, of Oakton High School.



COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Reston Community Players Apprentice Program members



COURTESY RESTON COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Pyramid: Reston Community Players Apprentice Program members

Where and When

Reston Community Players "The Musical of Musicals (The Musical!)" will perform at Reston Community Center CenterStage, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston, VA. Performances October 15-16, October 22-24, October 29-31, and November 5-6, 2021. Performances at 8 p.m., except for October 24, 30 and 31, which are matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (adult), \$15 (students and seniors). For tickets, contact the box office at (703) 476-4500 or online at www.restonplayers.org. CenterStage is accessible and offers listening devices. Note: Health and safety guidelines for the Reston Community Center are at: www.restoncommunitycenter.com

For Elliott Baird, Lake Braddock Secondary School, "I never knew that much about vocal performance, so I've been able to really develop a new skill. I'm able to listen to vocal music much more critically, identify what needs work, and work on it in a way that is kind and helpful."

"I've learned from professionals about all the different parts that go into creating a show from producers and directors to set design and lighting," said Jahlil Green, Langston Hughes Middle School.

From Madelyn Regan, Rocky Run Middle School: "I love the tech presentations that members put on. There's so much work that goes into a production backstage

SEE CENTERSTAGE, PAGE 7

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PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING

This meeting will be held virtually. Please use the information below to join via Zoom.

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://bit.ly/3kDtch1>

Meeting ID: 820 4699 7634
Passcode: 556636

Wednesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://bit.ly/3i6isGd>

Meeting ID: 834 1684 2752
Passcode: 316167

Members are encouraged to provide comments on Reston Association's 2022 and 2023 Capital and Operating budgets at this public hearing.

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
 NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
 are available at

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF>

Herndon Town Council Narrowly Passes Gun Ban

Majority of residents commenting question the rationale and expense.

MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Gun owners entering the Town of Herndon, whether visiting or transacting business, need to be aware that new gun control laws take effect on Jan. 1, 2022. On a 4-3 vote, held during the Sept. 28 Town Council Meeting, the Council approved the new restrictions. Council members Alam, del Aguila, Dhakal, and Singh, voted yes. Councilmembers Friedrichs, Regan, and Mayor Olem voted no. Before the vote, Singh explained that metal detectors would only be used at the Herndon Council Chambers in 'Option B,' thus lowering expenses.

Under the new ordinance, no guns would be permitted inside these buildings: Herndon Council Chambers - 765 Lynn St.; Herndon Municipal Center - 777 Lynn St.; Old Town Hall - 730 Elden St.; Herndon Community Center - 814 Ferndale Ave.; Herndon Golf Course Club House - 909 Ferndale Avenue; Herndon Golf Course Maintenance Facility - 909 Ferndale Ave.; Public Works Town Shop - 1479 Sterling Rd.;

Public Works Operations/Water and Sewer - 1481 Sterling Rd.; Herndon Police Department - 397 Herndon Parkway; Cemetery Offices and Maintenance Shop - 831 Dranesville Rd..

Earlier, Councilmember Signe Friedrichs had moved to table indefinitely Ordinance 21-O-10 with the motion seconded by Mayor Sheila Olem. The motion failed 2-5.

According to Lesa Yeatts, town attorney, at the Sept. 21 work session, Council had directed her to bring forward on Sept 28 an 'Option B,' focusing on firearm prohibition in just town buildings making it less restrictive.

Yeatts said in her staff presentation to Council before their vote, exemptions remained the same and included Senior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program, sworn law enforcement personnel, security personnel hired as employees or contracted by the town and who were authorized to carry firearms and Town buildings operating as a courthouse. A violation would be a Class 1 Misdemeanor.

Yeatts added that budgetary impacts for enforcement of the ordinance would be \$6,000 for signage and, based on facilities included and level of security desired, \$0-744,600 for other items necessary for enforcement and protec-



Mayor Sheila Olem



— Kevin LaBlanc, Town of Herndon resident



Vice Mayor Cesar del Aguila



William "Bill" Ashton, town manager, Town of Herndon

"The state code is very clear that in order to enforce this ordinance we must place signage in all locations where the ordinance applies. The cost of the signage is the de minimis and staff will pursue the installation of the signs prior to the effective date. As for other security measures related to this ordinance, Council was very clear that they want staff to enhance security posture of the Council Chambers ...

"As for hardening of other town facilities, I feel a deep moral responsibility to protect staff and I will immediately begin to work with Council and pursue these efforts within any and all legally available means at my disposal." [Ashton, clarified that he can transfer money from other town projects and/or operational efforts up to \$100,000.]



— Bryce Cumble Town of Herndon resident, opposes the gun ban-[Public Hearing Sept.14]



Town of Herndon resident Susan Murray, opposing the firearm ban, says she had never seen anyone open carry in the Town of Herndon.



— Sherry Blanton, Town of Herndon resident



— Linda Mohr-Paraskevopoulos, Town of Herndon Resident

tion of staff and visitors such as metal detectors and staff to operate them.

With the approval, the Town of Herndon joins other, mostly larger Virginia jurisdictions that enacted similar ordinances after Virginia General Assembly, effective July 2020, voted to allow local jurisdictions the power to adopt their ordinances prohibiting firearms in some public places. Arlington, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Charlottesville, Falls Church, Newport News, Richmond, Roanoke, Winchester, and the Town of Blacksburg approved firearms restrictions.

The topic of adopting an ordinance prohibiting firearms had come before the Herndon Town Council at least eight times between April 6 and Sept. 21. On May 6, Council marked Gun Safety "High Priority" on its Strategic Initiatives. On June 1, Council reached a consensus to move forward in September with two public hearings.

According to Mayor Olem, Town of Herndon residents overwhelmingly opposed the new ordinance, as evidenced by comments from the audience at the two public hearings. By Olem's count, at the Sept. 14 public hearing, 17 Town of Herndon residents spoke;11 objected to the new ordinance, four appeared undecided, and two said yes. At the Sept. 28 public hearing, 23 people spoke, but only 14 were town residents. Of the 14 residents, 13 objected to the gun ban, and one said yes.

In addition, Olem said in an interview that the tally of written emails and correspondences received by Town Council by Sept. 28, according to her count was 361 written comments. However, only 39 were town residents; 36 of whom opposed the gun ban, and three supported it.

Mayor Olem said that her concern with the ordinance is that it addressed a problem the Town of Herndon didn't have. "According to our professional law enforcement staff, we do not have a problem with guns in our public town buildings or parks. Simply placing signs on town public buildings and at parks will not deter crime from happening at that location and could encourage individuals to open carry to test our ability to remove them from the location."

Vice Mayor Cesar del Aguila said by Council voting approval for the new gun restrictions, the town "joined other county municipalities across the state, taking steps toward addressing a trend of growing gun violence." "We set forth for future Councils that there won't be any type of issue with people bringing and displaying arms in council chambers. ...The Democratic Party has always endorsed gun safety, gun control...Over the next couple of weeks, we will start dialing into what we want to fund."

'Action-Packed, Funny and a Heartwarming Story'

Chantilly High presents dark comedy, 'She Kills Monsters.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 65, Chantilly High presents "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurer's Edition," a dark comedy about the world of fantasy role-playing games. Show times are Wednesday-Saturday, Oct. 13-16, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12, adults; \$10, students, at www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

High-school senior Agnes Evans is coming to terms with her younger sister Tilly's death in an accident. And when she finds Tilly's Dungeons & Dragons notebook, she embarks on an adventure in the imaginary world that was Tilly's refuge.

"The play contains mature themes, along with lighthearted and hilarious moments," said Director Shannon Spicer. "As the D&D game comes to life, we have incredible fight scenes with swords, battle axes, demons, monsters and dragons. It's a literal and figurative way to portray Agnes's journey as she learns more and more about her sister."

"It's also perfect for high-school audiences and to open our show season, and we're thrilled to bring live theater back to the Chantilly stage," continued Spicer. "It explores the idea that each of us has a fantasy version of ourselves and mull that one thing we would change. These characters can do that by playing D&D."

Senior Tyler Hicks portrays Chuck, the dungeon master, who tells the story to Agnes and rolls the dice. "The more Agnes plays, the more the real and the D&D worlds collide," he said. "Chuck and Tilly have played together before, and Agnes learns how insanely popular her sister was in this world."

Hicks said Chuck puts on a "bad-boy persona, when he's actually geeky and nerdy. He acts with the confidence and charisma of a jock, but he's not. I like playing this role because it has fun, comedic elements. The lines crack me up when I say them, so I try not to laugh on the outside. I get to do big movements, as well as more subtle acting choices, that ground my character."

"The audience will enjoy learning about the relationship between Tilly and Agnes," he said. "They'll also like the show's technical side and the effort the techs have put into the costumes. And seeing the monsters come to life will blow people away, as will a character named Steve."



From left are Ella Ostlaund, Becca Marsh, Alyssa Dausch and Micaela O'Rourke in Chantilly High's production of "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurer's Edition," a dark comedy about the world of fantasy role-playing games.

Suggested for ages 13 and older, this show takes place in 1995 and has tough moments where transgender and gay youth are bullied and harassed. "The actors had a hard time digesting those lines, but they knew they had an important story to tell," said Spicer. "I'm so grateful for such a dedicated group of actors and technicians bringing it to the stage."

"It's also important to ensure that we're all understanding of the paths that individuals walk," she added. "This play provides a voice to all our students, and I really appreciate that."

Playing Tilly, 15, is senior Becca Marsh. "In life, she was reserved, nerdy and uncertain of herself," said Marsh. "But in the game, she's confident and comfortable. She loves playing it with her D&D friends, so she puts her whole effort into it and shines. Agnes sees Tilly in ghost form as she goes through the game blueprint Tilly left behind."

Calling Tilly a colorful, out-of-the-ordinary character, Marsh said, "She's pretty different from me, so it's fun to explore her story. In the game, she gets to be her truest self and not worry about what others think – and that's part of why she's so cool."

"This play is exciting and action-heavy," continued Marsh. "We've been doing a lot of stage



combat, learning to use maces, swords and daggers. And that, in combination with everybody in the cast – including our strong ensemble who are the monsters we fight in the D&D adventure – make for a really entertaining show. There's always something to look at."

Junior Micaela O'Rourke portrays Agnes, 17. "On the surface, she's the basic girl next door – a popular cheerleader with lots of friends," said O'Rourke. "But deep down, she's grieving the loss of her sister and has come to the realization that she never really knew her – and now, never will. So she finds Tilly's D&D adventure module and eventually learns it was Tilly's actual diary, written in D&D terms. And while going on her sister's adventure, Agnes learns about her sister and herself."

O'Rourke likes her role because "I do lots of stage combat, fighting with the D&D monsters Agnes encounters. Emotionally, she's also cool to play because she has so many layers, including the sadness and emptiness hidden under her layers of makeup and popularity. And seeing Agnes's journey, once she finds herself, is beautiful."

She said the audience will love how this play differs from traditional tragedy. "It also brings wonderful comedy to the table," said O'Rourke. "It's a great show, and the family we've all become is incredible."

The two stage managers are Molly Shear and Stephanie Shraga, and both are excited about the production's technical aspects. "Some of the highlights are projections of the scene locations and the gigantic, 10-foot poles for our five-headed dragon," said Shear. "The abstract set has lots of levels, and we created a 5-foot, papier-mâché eyeball as our D&D Eye of the Beholder. We also have a 6-foot, gelatinous cube that morphs into a human being."

"Another huge thing is the incredible amount and variety of weapons we use in the D&D fight scenes," she continued. "Our set even shows the contrast between the D&D world and the real world by their different locations on-stage. The show is action-packed and really funny; and ultimately, it's a heartwarming story."

From left, Becca Marsh and Micaela O'Rourke portray sisters Tilly and Agnes in Chantilly High's production of "She Kills Monsters: Young Adventurer's Edition," a dark comedy about the world of fantasy role-playing games.

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Invest in Early Childhood Education

BY DEL. KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM



government programs showing that early education/preschool programs pay for themselves over the long run in avoided costs that are necessary when preschool education is not available. A

Although it may seem that we just ended deliberations on the state budget, we will nonetheless in another month or so begin serious discussions on the biennial budget for Virginia for 2022-2024. State agency heads and the Governor's staff are already hard at work to prepare an executive budget that will be presented to the House of Delegates and the State Senate in December. With the federal funds that have been coming into the state along with an amazingly strong state economy there should be funding available to meet some state needs that have not been met in the past.

Virginia's rainy-day fund is at capacity and available for downturns in the economy. Governor Northam wisely recommended to the General Assembly to not spend all the federal monies available for COVID relief but rather hold some monies in reserve should the economy slow down. Virginia budget revenue projections are not set politically but rather are the work of recognized economists and persons who are knowledgeable of economic matters using available data even though they likely do not live in Virginia.

If revenue can be predicted with good data and economic models, the expenditure side of the budget is often decided in a pull-tug match among established programs, political favorites, special interests and advocacy groups in a political setting. Too often established programs continue their funding with a small inflation bounce but without the scrutiny needed to determine their effectiveness. Much of the budget is taken up with the continuation of existing programs. New programs with a price tag find it difficult to break into the regular budget cycle. Sometimes new programs or initiatives are funded as pilot programs to see how they will perform before being added to the baseline budget.

One program for which there is an abundance of evidence of its cost effectiveness that only recently is starting to break into consideration for serious long-term funding is preschool or early education. The evidence has become overwhelming that spending on preschool education should be considered an investment because of its high rate of return.

There are numerous studies conducted by business groups that might otherwise be skeptical of new

decades-long longitudinal study, the Perry Preschool Program Study, found that preschool programs provide a \$7 to \$12 return for every dollar spent on preschool programs.

The returns come from the savings realized when remediation programs are not needed as children come to school prepared and ready to learn. There are longer term gains as children who attend quality preschool programs are likely to be successful in life generally, in employment, and in personal satisfaction.

Over the last few years Virginia has been ramping up its funding for preschool programs based on the research and on the observable difference by students who get an early start at learning.

Preschool funding gets a great rate of return monetarily, but it saves money in other areas of the budget and in the personal lifetime satisfaction of students who are enriched by their experience of getting a head start!

CONNECTION

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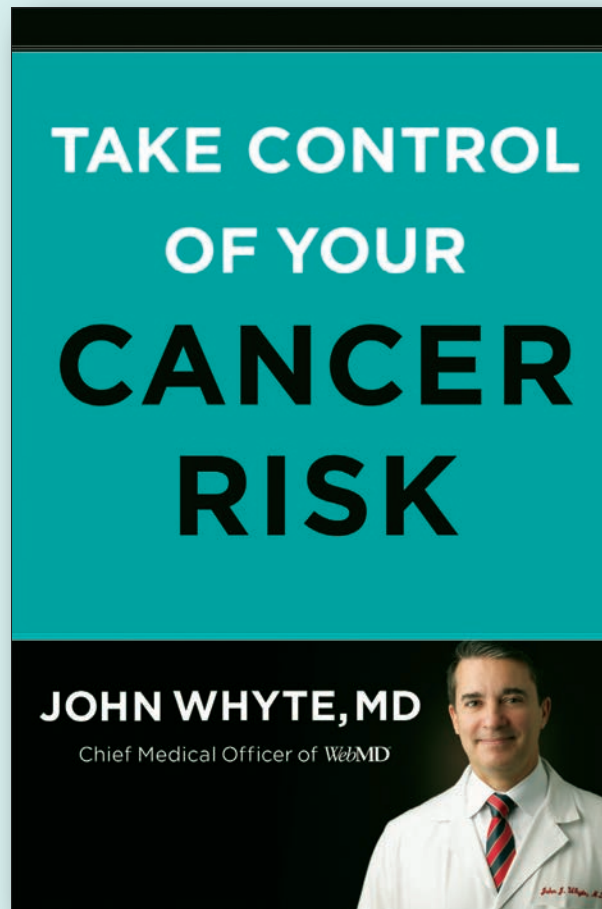
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Dr. Whyte's New Book Released October 5, 2021



This book shares straightforward information and equips you with strategies to help you on a journey to better health, including:

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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The cast of Westfield High's upcoming production of "Anon(ymous)."



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

As the mother, Dewa Alam (at top) looks lovingly at her daughter Anon (Gisselle Vallejos) in Westfield's play, "Anon(ymous)."

'It's about Getting Seen and Knowing that You Matter'

Westfield High presents timely play, 'Anon(ymous)'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Westfield High's play, "Anon(ymous)," brings the immigrant experience home by focusing on what happens after a mother and daughter coming to the U.S. are separated when their boat capsizes at sea. Neither knows if the other survived, but they never lose hope.

Traumatized, the daughter, Anon, 14, is taken in by an Indian family, but has forgotten her identity. Meanwhile, her distraught mother ends up working in a sweatshop.

"It's loosely based on 'The Odyssey,' a hero's journey to learn his identity and find his family," explained director Enza Giannone-Hosig. "And with what's happening right now in our world and in Virginia – as we accept new immigrants every day – it's relevant. Many of the students are immigrants themselves, and I'm the first of my family born in America."

Furthermore, she said, "They're teens already figuring out who they are and where they belong, so there's a lot in this play we can relate to. They also feel like the story makes them visible, while making immigrants human and not anonymous."

The curtain rises, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 8-9 and Oct. 15-16, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10, adults, and \$5 with a student I.D., cash or check only at the door, or via www.westfieldtheatre.com.

Senior Dewa Alam portrays Anon's mother, Nemasani, who's sewing clothes in a

factory after being rescued. "She's a quiet, attractive lady who thinks her daughter is drowned and lost forever, so she's sewing a shroud for her," said Alam. "She's a sad, depressed soul. But at the same time, she isn't fully sure of her child's fate. She's a mother and doesn't want to give up hope that she's alive."

"I wanted this role because I'm a refugee," continued Alam. "I came here two years ago from Afghanistan, but I was separated from my mother for six years. And then it took a while for us to act normal again with each other, so I can really identify with my character."

She said the audience will like learning about what immigrants have to endure – "and especially now, with all the Afghani immigrants. And they'll all like the mystery of wondering whether Nemasani and her daughter will be reunited."

Playing Anon is sophomore Gisselle Vallejos. "Anon doesn't really know herself, yet," said Vallejos. "She's shy and doesn't know how to communicate well with people. She also doesn't remember anything after the boat capsized. But the goddess Naja tells her some of the memories she's forgotten. And although Anon knows she's lost her mother, she still has hope that she's alive and she can find her."

Vallejos said Anon is an interesting character to play because "Although she's lost her memory, her personality shines through the whole play. So the audience gets to see her finding herself and hoping she'll be reunited with her mother. I never expected to get a big role like this, but I'm excited about it. And this play allows us to learn about the tragic experiences immigrants have gone through."

As for the audience members, Vallejos believes the show's overall message will resonate with them. "It's about finding who you are – even if you're just labeled as an anonymous alien from another country," she explained. "It's about getting seen and knowing that you matter."

Junior Matthew Florian portrays Yuri Mackus, the abusive owner of the sweatshop where Nemasani works. "He's a domineering, creepy womanizer who wants to keep running his business," said Florian. "But most of all, he wants to marry Nemasani – whose coworkers consider her a mail-order bride for Yuri. They don't know her real story, but he's ordered multiple, mail-order brides in the past."

"I came here two years ago from Afghanistan, but I was separated from my mother for six years. And then it took a while for us to act normal again with each other, so I can really identify with my character."

— Dewa Alam playing Nemasani

Florian called his part "one of the most aggressive and terrible people I've ever played. But it gives me the acting freedom to be over the top and be a villain. I've learned it's nothing to be afraid of and is actually quite fun. And Yuri's a memorable, well-developed character with many layers."

He said attendees will enjoy seeing Anon triumph. "She's different from other heroes

because she's a clueless kid who often acts in her own best interests," said Florian. "But that's until she's compelled to fight to save Nemasani."

Freshman Preet Manukonda plays Nasreen, Anon's friend at the Indian restaurant she's gone to in search of food because she's starving. Nasreen's parents own the restaurant, and she finds Anon there, going through the trash.

"Nasreen is a little childish, but has good intentions and is friendly and outgoing," said Manukonda. "I like playing her because I can really relate to her. Culturally, we're both Indian, and she and I are both willing to make new friends. I wear a traditional, Indian dress with jeans at the restaurant.

Otherwise, when I play a refugee, I wear all black like the other refugees in the ensemble."

She said the ensemble scenes will really stand out because "they can get heavy and emotional. We're all onstage together as refugees – and that's really powerful because we all talk together and share our experiences."

The show also has funny parts, and even a "Greek chorus" commenting on the immigrants' stories. Giannone-Hosig says it'll appeal to all ages, and the audience will appreciate "the creativity the actors put into playing multiple characters and the unique way they take us from one setting to the next."

The cast and crew of 55 had a short rehearsal period. But, said Giannone-Hosig, "They're stepping up and working hard. Almost 80 kids attended our theater-interest meeting, and it proved how much they love the arts and what they can do for them. They were also hungry for interactions with others and being back onstage in person."

Cops, Cars, Community Cruise-In

Local residents are invited to see cool cars, police vehicles and more at the Fairfax County police Fall Cops & Cars Community Cruise-In. The event will be held Friday, Oct. 8, from 6-8 p.m., at the Chantilly Walmart, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center.

To attend, register at <https://bit.ly/copsncars2>. Cars are still needed for display; register them at <https://bit.ly/copsncars2a>. For more information, email Megan.Hawkins@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Trunk-Or-Treat Set for Oct. 18

Fairfax County police, local businesses and organizations will hold a safe and socially distanced Trunk-Or-Treat. It's set for Monday, Oct. 18, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at Bull Run Regional Park (Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville). However, if it rains, it'll be canceled.

The event is free, but everyone must register to participate at

<https://bit.ly/fcpdtreat21>. Please include the number of children in each car to ensure there's enough treats for all of them.

Participants must remain in their cars at all times. They'll drive thru slowly to see the decorated Halloween trunks/displays. And at the end, an officer wearing personal protective equipment will offer goody bags.

Businesses and organizations are still needed to host. To do so, register at <https://bit.ly/trunk1018>. For further information, email Megan.Hawkins@fairfaxcounty.gov.

'Musical of Musicals' at CenterStage

FROM PAGE 2

and seeing them talk about what they do makes you appreciate it so much more."

"I've been learning about what takes place behind the scenes of this production like costuming, set designing and directing and it is something I am very interested in further exploring," added Cassidy Loria, Oakton High School.

RCP's "Musical of Musicals (The Musical)," an over-the-top, hilarious show.

Tired of paying so much more at the pump?

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That's why Republicans want to **suspend** Virginia's recent gas tax hike.

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SCAN ME

PAID FOR BY FAIRFAX COUNTY REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE | FAIRFAXGOP.ORG

NEW DATA REVEALS **MASSIVE LEARNING LOSSES** IN FCPS (SCHOOLQUALITY.VIRGINIA.GOV)

READING

↓ 8 POINTS

SCIENCE

↓ 19 POINTS

MATH

↓ 25 POINTS

Meanwhile, Democrats are focused on pushing their divisive "woke" ideology on kids.

Had enough? Vote Republican.

SOL SCORES EXPOSE THE TRAGEDY OF A LOST YEAR
(SUN GAZETTE, 09/02/21)

Fairfax Students Back to School Amid COVID-19 Chaos, CRT Protests
(Washington Examiner, 08/23/21)

Fairfax Schools Pay New York Consultants for Critical Race Theory Curricula
(The Federalist, 05/07/21)



SCAN ME

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ENTERTAINMENT

NOW THRU NOV. 6

Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m. At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

NOW THRU NOV. 1

Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival. 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Cost is \$28 per child and \$6 per parent, children 2 and under free. The event will feature a range of activities, including several moon bounces, a petting zoo, the Express Train for both adults and children to ride. Visit www.restonfarm.com. Call 703-759-0000 or email info@RestonFarm.com.

OCT. 1-17

A Familiar Melody (An Evening of Music). At NextStop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Directed by Ashleigh King; Music Directed by Elisa Rosman. Nothing can soothe the soul like live music! Four past NextStop musical theatre stars (Katie McManus, Alex De Bard, Ricky Drummond, Marquise White) come together for an evening of Broadway and movie musical hits, including songs from Cinderella, Ain't Misbehavin', Waitress, Ragtime, Company, Little Shop of Horrors, A Star is Born, and so many more beloved classics.

OCT. 2-30

Art Show. At Reston Art Gallery-Lake Anne Plaza. 11400 Washington Plaza WB -Lake Anne Plaza, Reston. Julia Malakoff's solo show, "Good Juju" is a collection of mixed-media collages, displaying bright colors, nature inspired shapes, textures and organic papers fused with hand painted acrylic paints. "Colorful comfort and visual stories that inspire and bring a sense of renewal, joy and magic." this is the goal of my current collection of work, says Malakoff. As a long hauler, Covid left Ms. Malakoff without two of her senses, smell and taste. Malakoff has painted her visual "palate" sharing her experiences and observations with having parosmia. "Good Juju" is on display from October 2-30th. The gallery is open on Saturdays, 10-5 and Sundays, 12-5 and by appointment. Visit the website: www.juliamalakoff.com

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 6

"From the Heart: A Transgender Virginian's Story." 6:30 p.m. At McLean Community Center, McLean. Join Ann Murdoch, a member of Equality Virginia's Transgender Advocacy Speakers Bureau, for an evening of connection and learning as she shares her story as a transgender woman. Her talk will be followed by plenty of time for



Clifton Day will take place Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021 in the Town of Clifton.



Participants at Centreville Day enjoy vendors as they head down Mt. Gilead Road to learn more about the history of St. John's Episcopal Church.

dialogue and questions. Moderated by the McLean High School Gay-Straight Alliance.

OCT. 7-17

"The Book of Mamaw." At Boro Park at The Boro Tysons, 8350 Broad Street, Tysons Corner. October 7 at 7:30 PM, October 8 at 7:30 PM, October 9 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, October 10 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, October 14 at 7:30 PM, October 15 at 7:30 PM, October 16 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM, and October 17 at 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM. Visit www.1ststage.org

OCT. 7-NOV. 7

A Disco Musical Comedy - Disaster. At Next Stop Theatre, 269 Sunset Park Drive, Herndon. Visit www.nextstoptheatre.org.

OCT. 14-31, 2021

FALL FOR THE BOOK: Oct. 14-31,

2021 Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA. Fall for the Book events and session are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For complete up-to-date schedule with details visit www.fallforthebook.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 7

Beau Soir. 2:15 p.m. At Reston Community Center, 2310 Colts Neck Road, Reston. Beau Soir will perform an exciting concert of music from all living composers,

including the music of Graham Lynch, David Evan Thomas, Adrienne Albert and Bruce Babcock. This concert is free and open to the public, however to attend in person, pre-registration is needed. It can also be viewed virtually through the Reston Community Center Facebook page.

THURSDAY/OCT. 7

Middy Movies: Foreign Language Films. 1 p.m. At The Alden, McLean. Come enjoy a foreign film as part of our Ally Week and Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations. The film screening features the 2018 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Language Film, about and starring a transgender woman living in Santiago. All movies are shown in the original language with English subtitles. These movies are chosen for adult audiences and may contain mature content, language and themes. Register for The Alden's

email list at www.aldentheatre.org to see the name of the film being shown.

FRIDAY/OCT. 8

Family Trivia Night (Virtual). 7-9 p.m. The Old Firehouse, McLean. Gather the whole family around the computer or tablet and get ready for some socially distant trivia. Prizes for winning teams! Register online or by calling OFC at 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m. Presents Bernstein, Saint-Saëns, & Beethoven. At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Join the FSO in its season opening concert on October 9 at the newly constructed Capital One Hall in Tysons. Israeli cellist, Amit Peled returns to perform Camille Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1, with an explosion of emotion from the first note! Regarded as the first, "well-known" romantic concerto written in 1872 for the cello, the composition places this beautiful instrument front and center right from the start. Many composers, including Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff, considered this concerto to be the greatest of all cello concertos.

Peled is a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence. He is acclaimed worldwide as one of the most exciting and virtuosic instrumentalists on the concert stage. Peled strives to break down barriers of the concert hall with his amiable and inviting personality.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Saturday Night Trip: Haunted Trip. 4:30-10 p.m. At The Old Firehouse, McLean. The Old Firehouse staff invites the brave-hearted to join them on a haunted journey. We will search for ghosts, zombies and whatever creepy creatures might appear in the night. Admission to all attractions and dinner is included in the fee. Register online or by calling OFC at 703-448-8336, TTY: 711

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Bernstein: 3 Dance Episodes from "On the Town." 8 p.m. At Capital One Hall, Tysons. Israeli cellist, Amit Peled returns to perform Camille Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1, with an explosion of emotion from the first note! Unique as the first, "well-known" romantic concerto written in 1872 for the cello, the composition places this beautiful instrument front and center right from the start. Many composers, including Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff, considered this concerto to be the greatest of all cello concertos.

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

Health Explosion. 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. At Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, 2516 Squirrel Hill Road, Herndon. Fun workout sessions, chair yoga, ending with a virtual healthy dinner and a movie. <https://www.mtpleasantbaptist.org/events.html>

SATURDAY/OCT. 9

ParktoberFest. Noon to 5 pm. At Middlegate House, 5235 Walney Road, Centreville. Take in the performances by The Walkaways and Jay Byrd. Sample local brews. Shop arts, crafts and specialty ven-

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 8

dors from community businesses. Activities and information booths will have something for everyone to enjoy. Call 703-631-0013.

OCT. 9-31

"Good Juju. 10- 5 p.m. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Julia Malakoff's vibrant, joyous mixed media collages bring a sense of renewal with her positive focus and new creative interpretations resulting from her loss of taste and smell senses from covid. Open on weekends through October 31: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Saturdays, 12. p.m. - 5 p.m. on Sundays. Visit the website: RestonArtGallery.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 10

Clifton Day Festival. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. At 7144 Main Street, Clifton. Clifton Day Returns for 53rd Year. Under the theme "Together Again," the 2021 festival will feature a marketplace with around 150 artisans, antique dealers, vintage sellers and other vendors. Live music, children's activities, pony rides, a beer & wine garden and other delicious food and beverage choices will add to the fun. Website: <https://www.clifftoday.com>.

Performance schedule:

Ayre Square Acoustic Stage

10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Sarah Swanner -- A local favorite

Main Stage

11:00 a.m. Furnace Mountain

Trio - Roots music

12:30 p.m. Gineda Piñata -

Funk, fusion and acid-jazz

2:00 p.m. Jumpin' Jupiter -

Rockabilly legends

3:30 p.m. Blueheart Revival

- Blues, funk, soul, roots rock

Visit www.clifftoday.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 10

McLean Pet Fest. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. At McLean Central Park, 1234 Ingle-side Ave., McLean. Local businesses who are involved in all aspects of pet care, including health care, nutrition, grooming, dog walking, obedience training and pet photography are encouraged to apply to participate in the one-day event. All exhibitor applications will be reviewed by MCC staff members prior to acceptance into the event and the reservation of booth space. MCC reserves the right to refuse any exhibitor that it deems unsuitable for this event. Email exhibitor@mcleancenter.org with questions. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit www.mcleancenter.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-

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MONDAY/OCT. 11

National Coming Out Day Film Festival. Showtimes at: 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Free; registration is required. Patron IDs will be checked for films with age restrictions. In culmination of Ally Week and to mark National Coming Out Day, The Alden will host a movie marathon featuring LGBTQ+ affirming films. Register for The Alden's email list at www.aldentheatre.org to see the list of films being shown. Call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the website, www.mcleancenter.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 12

A Tribute to the Beatles. At Capital One, Tysons. 8 p.m. The Best of Abbey Road Live! In celebration of the anniversary of the release of Abbey Road, RAIN will bring the greatest hits to life in addition to all your early favorites. This mind-blowing performance takes you back in time with the legendary foursome delivering a note-for-note theatrical event that is the next best thing to seeing the Beatles. Experience the worlds' most iconic band and come celebrate the best of Abbey Road Live with A tribute to the Beatles.

FRIDAY/OCT. 15

After 7 Dance Party. 7-10 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd. McLean. The Old Firehouse presents After 7, a themed party that includes raffles, contests, catered food and drinks. One of the hottest DJs in the DMV will be playing the hottest hip-hop, top 40 and dance hall tracks, plus requests.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Centreville Day 2021. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Centreville Park, Braddock and Mt. Gilead Roads, Centreville. Entertainment, food, crafts, vendors, historic locations, parade, children's rides and games, Cavalcade of Pets, Safety Expo. Great day for families. Spaces still available for vendors and sponsorships. Satellite parking will be available in the Carrabba's (Rt. 29) parking lot beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with last pickup at the Braddock stop at 5 p.m. Overflow available if needed in Trinity Centre. Shuttle buses provided by Fairfax County Community and Neighborhoods. Visit the website: www.centrevilleday.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 16

Gin Dance Company performs "Perfect 10+" at Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower RD, Tysons, VA 22102 on Oct. 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$45. For information and tickets go to www.gindance.org

mindsfairfax.org or www.nami-north-ernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Support Groups. Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is having its "Living Free" support groups for the spring on Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts),

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 12

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cdc.gov/coronavirus

Is It Safe To Trick-or-Treat This Year?

Some COVID-19 mandates have been lifted, some precautions are still urged.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

After Angela Morgan's father died from COVID-19 earlier this year, she was devastated, and she was moved to change her mind about safety precautions. Before her father died, she was annoyed by mask mandates and refused to get a COVID-19 vaccine. As Halloween approaches, Morgan says she has concerns about taking her daughters, ages three and seven, trick-or-treating.

"Halloween is very popular in my neighborhood," said the Bethesda mother. There are hundreds of kids and their parents out and about, almost every house is decorated and the owners give out loads of candy. It will be impossible to avoid crowds and I probably won't be able to stop my seven-year-old from running up with her friends to every house that's giving out candy. My three-year-old is frightened by Halloween costume masks, so I don't know how I'm going to handle that."

Marked by costumes, trick-or-treating and visiting with friends and neighbors, Halloween is one of the sweetest and most popular holidays of the year. With COVID-19 cases and the Delta variant spreading, navigating this time-honored holiday tradition will be complicated for some parents, especially those with children who are under 12, too young for a COVID-19 vaccination.

"Although trick-or-treating occurs outside where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is less, if kids go in groups, there is likely not to be social distancing and there will be contact with people in a lot of different households handing out candy," said Lucy H. Caldwell, director, communications, Fairfax County Health Department. "While some COVID-19 measures are no longer mandato-

ry, it's still important to take precautions to prevent COVID-19 as disease transmission is still happening in our community at a high level. Wearing a mask would be a good thing to do. The CDC has the Halloween Activity Checklist for Parents." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/daily-life-coping/Trick-or-treating.pdf>.

Like Morgan's daughter, there are young children who are frightened by Halloween masks that can offer a layer of protection, says Glenda Hernandez Tittle, PhD, education professor at Montgomery College. "If children are afraid of Halloween, it is important to acknowledge those feelings," she said. "Consider selecting fun and interesting costumes for children. Make the connections that Halloween is about pretending and costumes allow us to do that on this day."

Of all the Halloween traditions, trick-or-treating is one of the riskiest because it often means large groups of children crowded around a neighbor's front door grabbing for candy.

"Even though we all love candy, it's not worth putting yourself or others at risk," said Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services. "Masks, distancing, handwashing, testing, and vaccinations are all important layers of protection when it comes to COVID safety."

Though COVID might be at the forefront of conversations about Halloween safety, Larrick advises the public not to forget other safety measures. "Drive and bike slowly and take precautions at intersections," he said. "There will be many more people of all ages walking around on Halloween than your typical weekday evening, so be sure to take extra care."

"Wear reflective clothing, have a flashlight ... don't pet dogs you don't know [and] don't eat foods that are not wrapped," added Caldwell.

"Even though we all love candy, it's not worth putting yourself or others at risk."

— Kurt Larrick, Arlington County Department of Human Services

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News I Don't Want to Use



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But I doubt very much I'll be able to bury the lead. The lead being the start date for the lenvima, the thyroid cancer medication I've been "pilling" once a day since Sept. 3rd, 2020, and more/most importantly, the end date. The end date being the presumptive time frame, two to three years from start to perhaps my finish. The finish being the date in the future when the medication I've been taking for a little over one year eventually stops working, according to medical opinions. And why is this medication's effective life so relevant? Because at this time, it's the best/only alternative to treat my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. What happens after I can only guess because my oncologist rarely discusses scenarios. It's likely somewhere between a wait and see and why worry - about a set of circumstances years off and a definite maybe at that. Plus cancer research continues.

However, as much as I've benefited from lung cancer research that extended my life so long when I was taking tarceva, avastin and alimta - in that order, "miracle drugs" as my oncologist called them; the underlying reality may have been that I didn't have stage IV non small cell lung cancer at all, but rather slow growing papillary thyroid cancer. A cancer that was neither helped nor hindered during the years I was treated for lung cancer. Unfortunately, I was hindered.

Hindered in that after years of receiving heavy-duty chemotherapy - perhaps for the wrong cancer, I've suffered kidney damage which is irreparable. Specifically, my kidneys are functioning at approximately 50-percent efficiency. Though this deficiency doesn't seem to manifest itself in everyday activities/life, it does affect what cancer medications I can take and even some non-prescription drugs available. As an example, I can't take nsais (ibuprofen/advil) and when I lie down for my quarterly scans, I cannot be given "contrast," an injection given to sharpen the details of the scan. The reason being that I can't take anything that is filtered through the kidney for risk of making a bad situation worse. A situation that perhaps has occurred unnecessarily because of years of receiving lung cancer chemotherapy when I should have been receiving thyroid cancer medication. And as a result of this infusion of toxic chemotherapy into my body, it has affected the treatment of my thyroid cancer.

When my thyroid cancer first appeared as a growth above my adams apple, subsequent biopsies confirmed that it was in fact thyroid cancer, not a "clone" of my lung cancer. These biopsies lead to a thyroidectomy which surgically removed both my thyroid and parathyroid. But since the uncontained tumor had grown under my collarbone for approximately nine months since it first appeared, the surgeon - after seven hours of trying, was unable to get all the cancer. No real problem. There was another procedure scheduled to eradicate the remaining cancer. It required that I receive an injection of nuclear isotopes and an overnight stay in the hospital.

A procedure, that is generally successful for a cancer that is called "the friendly cancer" because of its curability, was unsuccessful. Why? Because I was only given one third the required dose of the isotope because - the isotopes are filtered through the kidney and my pre-existing kidney damage from the nine-plus years of lung cancer treatment impacted the use of the proper dose. The result? I now have incurable stage IV papillary thyroid cancer and am taking a medication that likely stops working in the next year or two with at present no new options in the medical pipeline. Moreover, the combination of factors that lead to my present situation is not exactly a regular occurrence which would lead to a clinical trial of similarly-affected patients. I'm not entirely on my own, but I'm not on too many others either.

(There's nothing funny in this column because there's nothing funny about my situation.)

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



PHOTOS BY RUTH JUDSON/COURTESY GIN DANCE COMPANY

Gin Dance Company in early rehearsal for "Perfect 10+" Capital One Hall performance on Oct. 16, 2021.

Gin Dance Company in early rehearsal for "Perfect 10+" Capital One Hall performance on Oct. 16, 2021.

Gin Dance Offers 'Perfect 10+'

Opens local dance season at Capital One Hall.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

As a Fairfax County performing arts dance company, you can imagine how excited we are to have such a magnificent venue, Capital One Hall, in the heart of Northern Virginia," said Shu-Chen Cuff, founder/artistic director, Gin Dance Company. "We are so grateful...and beyond excited to be one of the first groups to share our work there."

The Gin Dance dance and music event is entitled "Perfect 10+" to honor the company's 10th anniversary season. The program is not only a celebration of Gin Dance's anniversary, but "more importantly a celebration of how we all are getting through the pandemic as a community," said Cuff. For Gin Dance that meant creating new choreography as well as overcoming the challenges of rehearsing in their own homes through Zoom

"Perfect 10+" is comprised of four premieres including a special collaboration with New York City's renowned Fashion Institute of Technology. The Fashion Institute collab-



Gin Dance Company with Founder/Artistic Director Shu-Chen Cuff (center front) for "Perfect 10+" at Capital One Hall on Oct. 16, 2021.

oration melds two art forms, modern dance and fashion design, in a new work called "Runway." For "Runway" Cuff "delved into

Where and When:

Gin Dance Company performs "Perfect 10+" at Capital One Hall, 7750 Capital One Tower RD, Tysons, VA 22102 on October 16, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$45. For information and tickets go to www.gindance.org

the creative minds of other artists, discovering the meaning behind their creations, exposing the relevance of their works, and bringing them to life through dance."

The second new work is "The Golden Time." It is "an Asian culturally influenced work combining Chinese Opera movements and modern dance," noted Cuff. It will explore "the mixture of influences on culture that existed during the 1920s in Shanghai," including the role women played. For "Golden Time" Gin dancers will wear qipao, a classic, high-necked dress style.

The evening of dance continues with "Aspire," inspired by Sue Wrbcian's 50-foot steel sculpture; "Buoyant Force" installed in the Reston Town Square Park. "I express through movement that when life circumstances overwhelm and submerge us, our

spirit will lift us from our darkest days and aspire us to new heights," said Cuff.

Concluding the evening is "When the Wind Blows." It focuses on "how we often try to plan out our life, trying to calculate everything to make sure things go the way we want them to. However, far too often, that's just not the way life unfolds," said Cuff.

Inviting audiences to Capital One Hall, Cuff wants patrons to "escape their troubles and the stress of their daily lives, even if just for a short time, allowing them to reinvigorate themselves and leave inspired and hopeful for the future."

COVID Note: Event attendees regardless of age prior to attending an event at Capital One Hall must provide proof of full vaccination, the last dose of which was administered at least 14 days prior to entering Capital One Hall, or a COVID-19 negative test approved by the CDC taken no more than 48 hours before entering Capital One Hall. Proof of vaccination can be your physical vaccine card or a photo of your card. The name on the card must match the name on your photo ID. All attendees, regardless of age or vaccination status, must wear protective masks while inside Capital One Hall. <https://www.capitalonehall.com/>

BULLETIN BOARD

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"The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There are also support groups on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email living-free@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults

share experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at www.fairfax-county.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

Fair Oaks Parkinson's Support Group for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit www.fairoaksparkinsons.com for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaledge@aol.com.

Sully Historic Site needs volunteers to help plan and present programs. Volunteers who enjoy gardening, working with children, learning new recipes and cooking methods, or just like to be around interesting people are needed both weekdays

and weekends. Sully is a historic house museum owned and operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Volunteers at Sully can choose an aspect of historic interpretation, event support or any other area to make a difference for visitors. Call 703-437-1794 for an interview. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

Northern Virginia Family Service is seeking volunteers to organize collection drives of toiletries products for clients in need. Requested items include shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Learn

more about Northern Virginia Family Service at www.nvfs.org and contact Colleen Ross cross@nvfs.org if interested.

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.