

Lost in McLean

PAGE 3

Ali Cook, classical bass player, flew into town this week for concerts with her music group, QuinTango, including in McLean. Read on to find out what is missing. Hint, it is not the Bass.

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Body Found in McLean Identified After 21 Years

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OPINION

'Is This the Fast I Desire?'

Reflections on Yom Kippur and the Fight for Workers Rights.

BY DAVID BRODER



Next week, my family will join Jews around the world in observing Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the Jewish year. Known as the Day of Atonement, Yom Kippur is a time for prayer, reflection, repentance and fasting.

Every year, we read from the Book of Isaiah, in which God sends the prophet Isaiah to admonish those whose wicked acts undermine their fasting and prayers.

The people ask, "Why, when we fasted, did you not see? When we starved our bodies, did you pay no heed?"

Through Isaiah, God answers:

"Because on your fast day, you see to your business and oppress all your laborers! Because you fast in strife and contention, and you strike with a wicked fist! Your fasting today is not such as to make your voice heard on high.

"Is such the fast I desire, a day for men to starve their bodies? Is it bowing the head like a bullrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day when the Lord is favorable? No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock the fetters of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke. To let the oppressed go free, to break off every yoke."

In selecting this text for Yom Kippur, the rabbis were clearly making two points: our prayers are meaningless if our actions undermine them, and how we treat workers is central to our faith.

These lessons are as critical today as they were in Isaiah's time of the 8th century BCE.

In recent years, the pandemic has shone a spotlight on the inequities that have always existed in our economy. Frontline workers – disproportionately Black, Brown, API and immigrant – are called essential but not treated as essential.

However, in response, essential workers are rising up and demanding better. From Starbucks baristas to Amazon workers to Fairfax County employees, working people are now forming and joining unions in record numbers.

According to data from the National Labor Relations Board, workers across the country have won 80% more union elections in 2022 than the year before, with twice as many workers represented. Meanwhile, here in Virginia, tens of thousands of county and city work-

ers – mental health workers, educators, sanitation workers, and first responders – have won collective bargaining rights for the first time in Fairfax, Arlington, Alexandria, Loudoun and Richmond.

The benefits of unionization are clear. Joining together with your co-workers to bargain a contract is the best way to improve your pay, benefits, and working conditions. While raising standards for all workers, collective bargaining also closes racial and gender pay gaps, ensuring a more equitable, resilient economy for all. By improving recruitment and retention, collective bargaining enhances the quality of public services. So, it's no wonder that 71% of Americans support labor unions, according to the latest Gallup poll.

Unfortunately, just as in the Book of Isaiah, we see those who "strike with a wicked fist" against working people. Rather than recognize their workers' unions and sit down at the bargaining table, massive corporations like Starbucks and Amazon are attacking working people. Here in Virginia, many jurisdictions still refuse to pass union rights for their frontline employees.

Earlier this year, the NLRB accused Starbucks of 29 unfair labor practice charges, including over 200 violations of the National Labor Relations Act. The complaint accuses Starbucks of threatening and intimidating workers, firing workers, closing stores that voted to have a union, reducing workers' pay, and more.

The lesson of Isaiah, central to the Yom Kippur holiday, is that for our prayers to be heard above, we must take action and live our values here on earth. It's time for Starbucks, Amazon and all employers to live their supposed values and come to the bargaining table with their workers.

Doing so will mean a more just, more prosperous, and brighter future for us all. As the Book of Isaiah says: "If you banish the yoke from your midst, the menacing hand, and evil speech ... then shall your light shine in the darkness."

David Broder is the President of SEIU Virginia 512, whose union members are county and city employees, and home care workers, dedicated to building an economy that works for everyone. He lives with his family in Oakton.

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NEWS

Teen Missing Since 1975 Is Identified

Modern DNA technology aids police in unraveling a mystery.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's been 21 years since Fairfax County police discovered the remains of a female near a drainage ditch in McLean. But actually, nearly a half-century has passed since former Fairfax City resident Patricia Agnes Gildawie vanished at age 17.

During all that time, no one was able to identify the bones found in the ditch – or connect them to the missing teen. But now, thanks to modern DNA technology, county Cold Case detectives have identified the remains as those of Gildawie, who was also known as “Choubi.”

“Identifying this young woman solves a mystery that has been more than 47 years in the making,” said police Major Ed O’Carroll, bureau commander of Major Crimes and Cyber and Forensics. “Our community should take comfort in knowing that our detectives never stop working these cases.”

According to police, Gildawie’s skeleton was found Sept. 27, 2001, in the 5100 block of Lincoln Circle. They were alerted after a construction crew discovered it, plus some clothing, behind an apartment complex there.

Both the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and an anthropologist examined the skeletal remains. Police say their initial findings determined the young woman died from a gunshot wound to the head, and they’ve ruled her death a homicide.

That autopsy report also indicated that the remains were like those of an African American female in her late teens to early 20s. But earlier this year, Cold Case detectives connected with Othram Inc. – which does advanced DNA testing and forensic-grade, genome sequencing – and learned otherwise.

With Othram’s help, detectives were able to track down a possible relative of the mystery woman. The resulting DNA testing then identified the relative as a half-sister, which led to the ultimate identification of Gildawie. The half-sister also shared Gildawie’s story with the police.

Detectives learned Gildawie was born in France in February 1958, coming to the United States when she was 8 months old. In the early 1970s, she moved to the City of Fairfax and would often drive a white, Cadillac Eldorado with red interior. Gildawie was last seen Feb. 8, 1975. Prior to her disappearance at age 17, she was dating an older man in his 30s who owned that vehicle. Police say he worked at an upholstery store near the intersection of Church Street and Lawyers Road in Vienna.

Now that Gildawie’s identity has come to light, detectives are continuing to investigate her case with new information provided by the family. They’d like to know more about the man she was dating, as well as the circumstances of her death.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to submit tips via Fairfax County Crime Solvers. Tips may be submitted anonymously by calling 1-866-411-TIPS..

Funding for the DNA testing and identification process of Gildawie was provided entirely by anonymous donors through the database DNASolves. Said O’Carroll: “Advancements in technology have given my Cold Case detectives an opportunity to pursue fresh leads and bring some relief to families that have been long suffering with the unknown.”



Patricia Agnes Gildawie



Bassist Ali Cook

Lost in McLean: Best Friend and Bass Bow

Bassist Ali Cook has lost her best friend. Ali, a classical bass player from Austin TX, flew into town this week for concerts with her music group, QuinTango. Because basses cannot travel on airplanes, Ali can fly with only her bow, which is okay because with that bow she can make any bass sound great. Mysteriously that bow went missing after Sunday night’s performance for

the Emerson Avenue Salon series in McLean. (Possibly left on the roof of a car?) Somewhere her bass bow in its vintage canvas-covered bow case is waiting for Ali to find it so they can make beautiful music again.

Ali’s phone – 248-990-4127
Local contact: Joan Singer, Director of QuinTango, 571-241-7683; joan@quintango.com



Jeff Brockett, a physics teacher at McLean High School, was on Wheel of Fortune Monday evening as part of Teacher’s Week.

Art, Music, Food, Fun

16th Annual MPAartfest Returns to McLean Central Park on October 2

MPAartfest returns with a full day of art, music, food, and fun to McLean Central Park on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Now in its 16th year, MPAartfest 2022 is recognized by Sunshine Artist Magazine as one of the Top 100 Fine Art and Design Shows in the country. This year’s festival features the work of more than 35 visual artists, talented music performers, local food vendors, and a variety of children’s activities to engage creative minds and captivate art-lovers of all ages.

A one-day juried fine art show and sale, MPAartfest transforms McLean Central Park into a lively landscape of mini art galleries showcasing and offering for sale the work of acclaimed artists from the Mid-Atlantic region and beyond. For a complete list of this year’s featured artists, visit the MPA website: <https://mpaart.org/mpaartfest2022/feature-artists/>

“Each fall MPAartfest celebrates our community and the arts in the beautiful setting of McLean Central Park,” said MPA Executive Director Lori Carbonneau. “We are so appreciative of our lead com-

munity sponsor, the McLean Community Center, and of all the generous community sponsors who help to make this event possible. We invite all the community to join us for a relaxing and inspiring day of art in the park.”

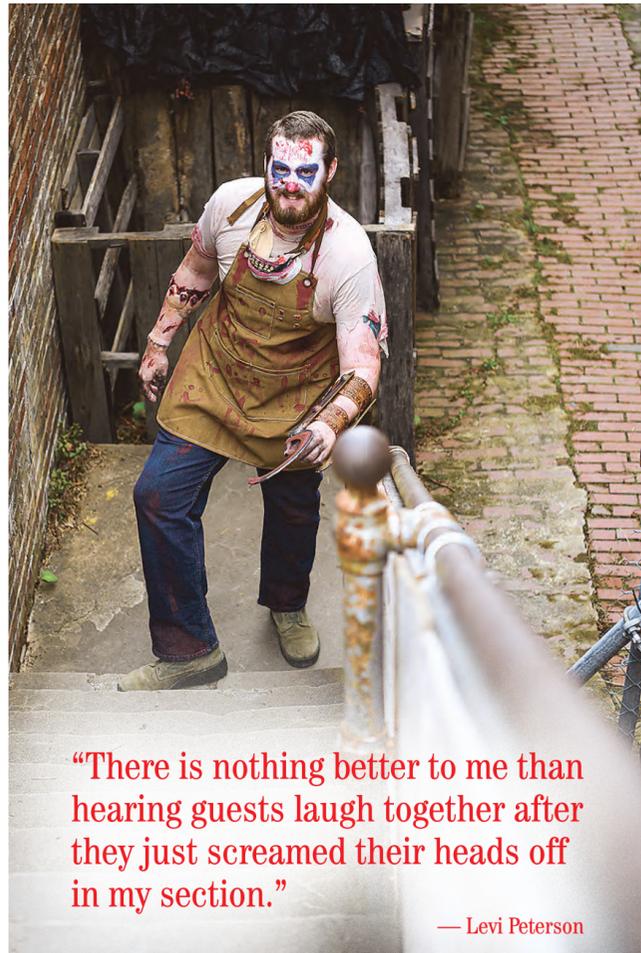
Sponsored by BOWA and Sherif & Ali Group – COMPASS, the MPAartfest Children’s Activity Tents will feature a variety of art-based activities and learning stations.

On the food front, MPAartfest will once again feature the much-loved Café Beret (sponsored by The Mather) where guests can enjoy wine and beer provided by The Wine Outlet. The event will also offer food from a variety of food trucks and eateries, including Café Kindred, Kona Ice, and Rocklands BBQ.

MPAartfest 2022 is presented by the McLean Project for the Arts, with the help of lead community sponsor, McLean Community Center, and through partnership with Fairfax County Park Authority.

MPAartfest admission is free, and all are welcome and encouraged to join. Parking will be available at the McLean Community Center, at 1234 Inglewood Ave. Visit www.mpaart.org or email info@mpaart.org

HAUNTED HOUSE



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

“There is nothing better to me than hearing guests laugh together after they just screamed their heads off in my section.”

— Levi Peterson

Levi Peterson coming out of the depths to scare at The Haunt at Workhouse Arts Center.

Working Up the Scares at The Haunt

Workhouse Arts Center’s Haunted House in Lorton is a work of theatrical proportions.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION



As far as haunted houses are considered, the haunted house at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton is one of the best, and this is due to the seasoned scare veterans that use their horror skills in a productive way.

Levi Peterson is one of those scare professionals. He was into the haunts of Halloween when he was a child, and now he dons a butcher’s outfit at the Workhouse, scaring everyone with his razor gloves similar to Ed-

ward Scissorhands.

“There is nothing better to me than hearing guests laugh together after they just screamed their heads off in my section,” Peterson said.

His horror skills came in handy years ago when he was in the Air Force, volunteering



The make-up has to be just right.



This time, it’s a meat tenderizer from the kitchen.

PHOTOS BY BRAD BEHLES PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAY’S FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTO BY BRAD BEHLES PHOTOGRAPHY AND JAY’S FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY
Rachael Norberg runs over 25 miles each night in the haunted house, scaring all those who dare.

for the haunted hallway with his squadron. He learned to use power tools and sew when he was young, so these skills come in handy at the Workhouse’s haunted house, where he enjoys the screams.

Last year, a couple was so scared, the boyfriend started running and tripped up his girlfriend. Peterson made sure the woman was okay, and then chased the boyfriend through several rooms. “All in all, I think myself and my fellow actors chased him the equivalent of half a city block, and he was screaming the whole time,” he said.

Scare actress Rachael Norberg was in on that chase too. Armed with knives, hammers and power tools, she also remembers the guy shoving his girlfriend out of the way. “I see this guy sprinting out with my buddy chasing him screaming, so I grab one of my power tools and start chasing him with it, and we ended up with like four actors chasing this guy into the next section of the haunt,” she said.

Norberg is in her third year at the Workhouse Haunt and has a life-long obsession with Halloween and the horror genre. Like Peterson, she also works on both the creative



The leaf blower is a favorite accessory for Rachael Norberg.

If You Go ...

**Workhouse Haunt 2022
Nightmare Harvest
Weekends from October 1st -
November 5th
Fridays and Saturdays, 7-11 p.m. and
Sundays, 7-10 p.m.
Rizer Pavilion, 9518 Workhouse Way,
Lorton, VA, 22079**

team and as a scare actor. Norberg worked in theater for many years and now has a “regular” job in Washington, D.C. but still manages to put in the hours at the Workhouse in October. “I was able to dabble in this as a teenager and during college, but I hadn’t really had the chance as an adult until the Workhouse,” she said.

It’s a lot of fun each night, but it’s a workout too. One time, Norberg tracked how much running with a pedometer, the meter recorded between 26-29 miles each night, which is marathon length, plus. “I used to be an avid runner and after the first few nights it felt similar to when I ran marathons,” she said.



Two knives for the big chop-chop in Lorton.

Volunteering Is Easy

At the Workhouse well before Halloween, everyone is welcome to apply for a role. “It’s a very welcoming group,” said Joseph Wallen, Director of Performing Arts at the Workhouse Arts Foundation. He’s seen new castmates who didn’t know a soul at the beginning but quickly made friends when they bonded as a team. “Everyone is welcome to apply and learn more,” he added.

The hiring process is done over a period of a couple of weeks, starting in late summer. There’s a detailed application and an orientation process where they get to know one another. Some end up working for the season and get the option of choosing between paid roles or receiving documented credit for volunteer service hours. Some schools in Fairfax County require service hours. “Others just join because they enjoy being involved with the team experience,” Wallen said. It’s an ongoing process. Safety protocols are the first part of training, followed by character and story elements.

Roll Call

“The Haunt” is intended to be experienced as a storyline that’s presented in media res, a technical term out of Theater 101 for the actors to begin in the middle of things, rather than at the very start of the story. It is important that the performers know each part of the story arc as it unfolds, Wallen said. This fits the Workhouse, which started as a prison, where suffragists were jailed and tortured, and now is home for the arts. As with all Halloween attractions, people are ready to get scared and each night is full of screaming and laughter. “Many on our team are returning performers and bring their friends and family that want to join the fun, so they have a good idea of what to expect,” Wallen said.

Rumor has it all the volunteers get rewarded just after Halloween with a big party, but each night there’s a mini party too, Wallen said. After a night of running and screaming, the crew is all fired up so they find ways to blow off the steam. “When the season is over, we do have a cast party where we share laughs and memories of experiences during this season and share informal ideas about next season’s ideas and theme,” said Wallen.

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CALENDAR

UNTIL SEPT. 30
Summerfest. 7 – 9 p.m. At Tysons Corner Center, McLean. The Summerfest continues through September with Earl's Happy Hour, Kids Concert Series, Tysons Fit Club, Outdoor Family Movie Nights, Summer Concert Series, and live music on the plaza.

SEPT. 15-OCT. 9
Mlima's Tale by Lynn Nottage. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. At 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Tickets: Tickets: \$50 general admission, \$47 seniors (65+), \$15 students, educators, and military. Purchase online at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

SEPT. 24-OCT. 30
Fall Festival. At Reston Farm Garden Market, 10800 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. The festival will run Friday, Saturday and Sundays September 24 to October 30 with five 90 minute online ticketed sessions. Fall Festival hours are Friday through Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. \$28 per child and \$7 per parent, children 2 and under free. For times and tickets visit https://www.restonfarm.com/fall-fest.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 28
The Caboose Comes to Town. 7 p.m. At the Herndon Historical Society Depot Museum, 717 Lynn Street, Herndon. Email HerndonHistoricalSociety@gmail.com for Zoom information.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1
Oktoberfest Vienna. 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. At Church Street in Vienna.

3 Stages of Entertainment, Two Beer and Wine Gardens, Great International Food, Free Kids Activities and Games, Car Show, Business Expo, Vendor Market, Handcrafters. Visit the website: ViennaOktoberfest.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1
Reston 75-family Yard Sale. Halley Rise Complex, 12010 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Register at RA's Community Yard Sale. Bargains on children's clothes, toys, furniture, and more. Sign up for a booth covering two parking spaces.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1
Mykle Lyons Commemorative Concert. 12 p.m. At Lake Anne Plaza, Kalypso's Sports Tavern, Reston.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1
LEGO Bricks by the Lake. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can either build a LEGO creation in advance to compete in a themed contest or compete the day of the event in a timed competition building creations separated by age group. Those who don't want to compete can enjoy the day viewing the LEGO competition, a Master Build creation, and kids can engage in the free play area and craft activity. Activities will take place across Reston Museum, Reston Community Center, Reston Art Gallery and Studios, and Lake Anne Brew House. A Reston-themed custom limited edition kit will be available.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

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CALENDAR



The Reston Farm Garden Market Fall Festival will take place Sept. 24-Oct. 30 in Reston.

FROM PAGE 6

Register to compete, become a sponsor, or pre-order the kit at <https://www.restonmuseum.org/bricks-by-the-lake>.

SATURDAY/OCT. 1

The McLean 5K Race. 8 a.m. At McLean Square Shopping Center, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean. Hosted by the McLean Community Center with the support of sponsors, Century 21 New Millennium and the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, the race features a USATF-certified course through the heart of McLean and is designed to appeal to runners of all abilities.

OCT. 1-30

“Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power” by Rosemarie Forsythe. Presented at Reston Art Gallery and Studios. Rosemarie Forsythe’s intricately detailed paintings depicting symbols of knowledge, strength, hope and resilience will be presented in a featured exhibit, “Modern Illuminations – Knowledge and Power,” at Reston Art Gallery and Studios (RAGS) from October 1 until October 30. Everyone is invited to meet Forsythe when she is at the gallery for the show’s opening weekend, October 1 and 2.

SUNDAY/OCT. 2

Vienna CROP Walk. 2 p.m. The Vienna CROP Hunger Walk supports local and international hunger relief efforts. The walk is approximately 2 miles and takes about an hour. Registration/check-in starts at 1:30 p.m. at CHO, Vienna Court Condos, 133 Park St. NE, Vienna. Water and light snacks will be provided along the route. To register, donate, or for more information, go to Vienna CROP Hunger Walk.

THURSDAYS/OCT. 4-25

Big & Messy Art classes for kids, a four-session class. Browns Chapel Recreation Area, 1598 Browns Chapel Road, Reston. Click this link to register or for further details: Big & Messy Art class details. Kidcreate Studio partners with Reston Association.

SATURDAY MORNINGS

Summer Programming for Kids. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. At Reston Museum, 1639 Washington Plaza, Reston. Reston Museum is launching new summer programming for kids! Visit the Reston Museum to participate in fun and

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Mlima’s Tale has been extended thru Oct. 9, 2022 at 1st Stage in Tysons.

creative activities inspired by Reston’s history. Program is free and everyone will receive an Explore Reston packet.

NOW THRU DEC. 31

Crafts for Kids. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. At Reston Art Gallery and Studios, 11400 Washington Plaza W at Lake Anne, Reston. Free, themed art projects for children (with guardian) are offered at Reston Art Gallery and Studios every Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. Visit the website: www.restonartgallery.com

SATURDAYS UNTIL DECEMBER

The Reston Farmers Market (sponsored by the Fairfax Co. Park Authority) will take place at Lake Anne Village in Reston from 8 a.m.-noon. SNAP beneficiaries receive up to \$20 match. Visit <http://restonfarmersmarket.com/>

MCLEAN FARMERS MARKET

The McLean Farmers Market opened for the 2022 season on May 6th, at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The market will run every Friday from 8 a.m. to noon through Nov. 11. Local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; breads and pastries; prepared foods; meats; herbs; flowers; and more. All products are grown or produced by the vendors and come from within 125 miles of Fairfax County. For more information, see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/>

HERNDON FARMERS MARKET

Thursdays through Nov. 3, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 765 Lynn St., Herndon, VA, 20170 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/herndon>

GREAT FALLS FARMERS MARKET

The Great Falls Farmers Market Outdoor Market is open every Saturday, Spring and Summer, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

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Thank you to the hundreds of supporters who helped to keep all your Connection Newspapers alive throughout Alexandria, Fairfax County, Arlington County and Potomac, Md. along with affiliated websites and digital media. Now we need help again in 2022.

Each local newspaper's mission aspires to provide greater community service, and we do know that our communities are better off if we continue to publish. Last year's financial support from readers and supporters like you bridged the shortfall before Federal PPP funding arrived, and both made our survival possible. We now await a decision for a grant from Rebuild Virginia in early February that we hope will help us in 2022 and beyond. But we need help to survive the first quarter, always a brutal time for cash flow in weekly newspapers. Thank you.

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All gifts will be used to fund our printed newspapers and websites and to meet obligations to our loyal and patient employees, writers, contractors and suppliers.

The ongoing pandemic continues to crush many newspapers across the country, and our newspapers continue to be at risk. The Northern Virginia area's best read and most trusted source for community news includes the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region.

The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has reduced advertising revenue that keeps these local newspapers alive to provide hyper-local news to residents. It feels like no small miracle to be looking forward into 2022.

The pandemic has been a bear, financially and otherwise. Revenue plummeted at the beginning in 2020. Some beloved advertisers have stayed the course supporting us throughout, and many more have done what they can. In the fall of 2021 we saw the return of some advertising for events and Grand Openings, but now omicron clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Connection Newspapers has been offering these local newspapers to residents for over 200 years. Countless residents have grown up with these papers covering significant moments in the lives of family and children, news, community events, school activities, and even pictures of your dogs and cats. Internet news and large national newspapers cannot provide the local connection or historical connection that local papers like Connection Newspapers and the Alexandria Gazette Packet provide. If your child, dog, mother, father, neighborhood, school has been featured, you understand the value of local community newspapers.

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As I Was Saying Last Week



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I was venting about the difficulty I was having locating a specific Entenmann's cake: the "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake" for what seems like my lifetime. Whatever timeline actually applies, it minimizes the impossibility I was experiencing finding this staple of my diet. However, let me state for the record before you read and I write any further: I am not undernourished and, I am, generally speaking, able to satisfy my sweet teeth. Nevertheless, there was something definitely missing from my diet. I wouldn't say I was deprived, more that I was chronically disappointed; especially when I would walk by the Entenmann's display at my local Giant, and occasionally at Safeway or some other less conveniently located supermarkets (Aldi's, Magruder's, Food Lion, et cetera). Now that you're reminded of the context and of my perspective/need, let me set the scene as to how this cake (times two) made its way into my house in Maryland on September 10th, 2022. A date that will be long remembered in Burtonsville, Md. (If I was Klingon, we'd sing songs about it.)

My wife, Dina and I were day-tripping to Phoenixville, Pa., approximately 130 miles north, to visit some close friends, Shelley and Fran. It was late afternoon on that Saturday as we sat in their living room after spending an enjoyable day together preparing to say our good-byes when I asked Fran (the husband) quite casually if there was a supermarket nearby. I then mumbled something in Dina's direction about looking for the cake since we were a few hours from home. I was thinking (hoping) that we were far enough away from Maryland that this cake might be available here somewhere. (After all, I'm a Red Sox fan; I know about hope.) When I mentioned cake/my need, Fran perked up and asked what kind of cake I was looking for. Shelley, his wife chimed in that Fran loves sweets. I didn't need to be asked twice: Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake," I said. To which Fran asked: "Is that a vanilla frosted cake?" Then I perked up. "Yeah," surprised by his familiarity, I again reiterated my desire for this cake. "I saw that cake in my local supermarket last week. It was a 'BOGO,' I almost bought it," Fran recalled. I immediately asked/insisted on directions to that store and/or asked Fran if he would mind driving us/driving ahead with us following him - so there would be zero chance that I'd get lost. (I was too close to take any chances now.) To which Fran responded with the following words which will endear him to me for the rest of my cake-eating life: "Don't bother. I'll just drive down there myself. It's only two miles away and see if they have any left." Incredibly hopeful, and appreciative, I said: "Sure, if you don't mind?" "Don't be silly." He says. "I'll be right back" Fran then happily grabbed his car keys and headed out to his car.

It couldn't have been more than 10 to 15 minutes before Fran came walking back into the living room smiling as he moved closer to where the three of us were still sitting on the living room couch and deposited two Entenmann's "Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cakes" on the coffee table right in front of me, almost like magic. (My over-the-top salivation for this cake had convinced Fran to buy one for himself, he offered.) I wasn't totally dumb founded by the cake's appearance; we're only talking about cake here, but I was nearly speechless nonetheless while gushing my gratitude and excitement over his effort, and his awareness even for noticing this cake in the store in the first place. It's not exactly my white whale but locating it has been the bane of my existence as well as a reoccurring void in my dessert selections.

Now I have a resource/outlet, at least, one place I know where I can, for the moment anyway, buy this cake. Unfortunately, its location is a two hours-plus drive from home and as for mailing it, it's an item that I don't think would travel very well, considering its packaging, if you know what I mean? Still, my future (cake wise) looks brighter than it has in years. I am finally going to have my cake and eat it, too; literally and figuratively; thanks to Fran in Pennsylvania, (my new favorite state).

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



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For Sale!



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SAT 1-3PM**

Offered for...\$1,124,900

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***FABULOUS* 4BR/3.5 BA** all-brick home on 2 lvls in sought-after Rosemont/McLean location! Renovated with an addition in 2014, this beautiful property includes gorgeous hwd & bamboo floors; light-filled main level includes expansive liv rm w/ frpl, dining room space and bay window; break rm off the charming kitchen w/ walkout to the deck & the large, level yard. LL with family room + 4th BR suite w/ kitchenette! **McLean HS pyramid!**

For Sale!



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SUN 2-4PM**

Offered for...\$1,150,000

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