

# Great Falls CONNECTION

## 40 Years of Transforming Lives

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Katie Kuga Wenner announces the 2021 recipient of her mother's scholarship, the Holly Ann Kuga Endowment, to Mariama Swarray-Deen, majoring in nursing.



## Defining Community with Art

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## Steeped in History at the Mill

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OCTOBER 26 - NOVEMBER 1, 2022

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# NEWS



(Right) Steve Golobic, miller at Colvin Run, and volunteer Bob Coblerz of Springfield set the millstones in place during Harvest Time at Colvin Run Mill.



Steve Golobic pours corn kernels into the hopper.



Leena Geloo, 13, and Uzma Geloo look down at the rock line race that pulls water from Colvin Run.

## Harvest Time at Colvin Run Mill 2022

Visitors explore life and technological advances of 200 years ago.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**icket-holders for Harvest Time at Colvin Run Mill were whisked back to the Industrial Revolution era of the 1800s on Sunday, Oct. 23. The four-story brick grist mill, circa 1810, is situated on a triangle of land formed by Leesburg Pike and Colvin Run Road.

In 1965, the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired the disused grist mill and restored it as a representative working example of Oliver Evans' (1791–1821) pioneering automated technology. Its design required many mechanical motions and original devices that reduced the manual labor needed to operate a grist mill, allowing for a continuous grinding process. The millstones and all other moving components are powered by an overshot waterwheel on the first floor. The restored mill features an impressive grinding station on the first floor, directly above the cog pit, which was visible to visitors.

Steve Golobic, the salaried miller at Colvin Run, and Bob Coblerz, a Springfield volunteer, positioned the millstones. "We are lowering the runner stone onto the drive. The drive turns the runner stone to grind the grain," Golobic said.

Nearby, Kayvon Sari and Buket Ozbek of Alexandria, the mill's new historian and educator, observed and listened. Golobic continued to set the stones with Coblerz and, conscious of where he positioned his feet, said that the stone weighed 2,500 pounds. A misguided drop, "no more toes."

The location of the 200-year-old operating grist mill was initially determined by its proximity to a reliable source of strong falling water, Colvin Run, and the turnpike. George Washington purchased the land in 1763, recognizing the present mill's potential, and established a mill seat there. In late 18th century and early 19th century Virginia, flour milling was one of the essential services to the state's economy. Most farmers relied on water-powered grist mills to convert their grain into flour and meal, which were less expensive to transport to coastal markets than grain.



Local teens (from left) Elizabeth Hanes, 17, of Herndon, Reese Higgins, 14, of Great Falls, and Elizabeth Crawford, 12, of McLean, watch the water having dropped into the flume and through the sluice gate, begin filling the buckets on the 20-foot waterwheel. The wooden power shaft is attached to the waterwheel and powers the mill.

In addition to the extensive work performed by the Park Authority on the mill building, the millrace from the Colvin Run had to be re-dug, lined with concrete, topped with stone, and run through a 100-foot-long



From left, Kayvon Sari looks out the window at the waterwheel as Buket Ozbek of Alexandria, the mill's new historian and educator, looks back into the historic mill.

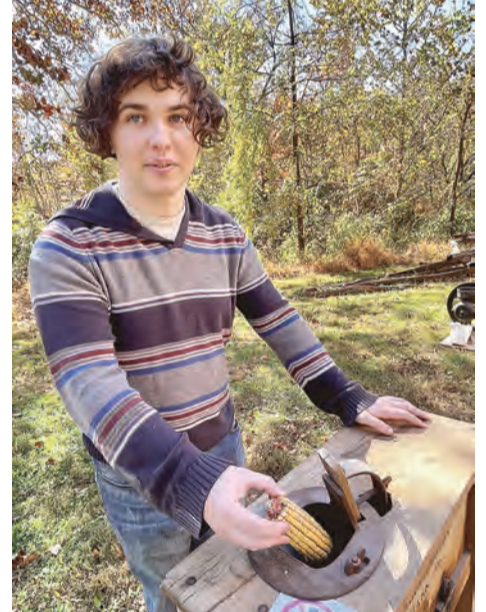
culvert constructed beneath Leesburg Turnpike, Route 7.

Golobic walked to the window overlooking the 1970 oak-constructed, 20-foot overshot water wheel that drives the machinery. He was preparing to open the waterway. The water would fall into the flume and through the sluice gate, striking the waterwheel.

Elizabeth Hanes, 17, of Herndon, Reese Higgins, 14, of Great Falls, and Elizabeth Crawford, 12, of McLean, hurried outside to observe the water pouring into the sixty buckets that extended around the circumference of the wheel. The weight of the buckets would cause the wheel to rotate counterclockwise. The generated power is transmitted through the nine-foot cog pit and gears to the rest of the mill.

Up the path, the Reed and Albino families of Bethesda climbed the flagstone steps to the shade of the miller's residence, once owned by the Millard family. They operated the mill during its most prosperous period, from 1883 to 1934. An estimated one million bushels of grain had passed through the Colvin Run Mill by 1930. Shortly after, the state highway department began building a

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION



Volunteer Evelyn Bova of Arlington demonstrates how corn is removed from the cob.

new road through the mill race, cutting off the mill from its power source.

Visitors learned from volunteer Tom Bova of Arlington how corn could be made into whiskey as well as flour. "The still uses evaporation and condensation to concentrate the alcohol," he said. Visitors also took part in apple cider production, learned how to create corn husk dolls, and visited the General Store.

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is located at 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, Virginia. They offer White and Yellow Grits, White and Yellow Cornmeal, Soft and Hard Wheat Flour, and Buckwheat. All grains are ground on-site at the Historic Mill and come in 2-pound bags for \$7.97. They also offer local tea blends from the Great Falls Tea Garden for \$10 a bag. For more information, visit Colvin Run Mill <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill> or call 703-759-2771.

# Celebrating 40 Years

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

On Sunday, Oct. 23, the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund board of directors gathered with partners, supporters, and friends at the River Bend Club in Great Falls for the 40th Anniversary Celebration and Annual Fall Tea 2022. Among the special guests present were students who had received scholarships from the fund and endowments, Khaseem Davis, director of the Early Identification Program at George Mason University, Kaitlin Cicchetti, Ph.D., director of Advancement University Life at George Mason University, along with the past presidents and board officers.

Directors serving on the fund and others help raise monies to support annual scholarships for deserving higher education students with need in Northern Virginia to help them graduate on time and debt-free. This academic year, the scholarship has made a difference for Iqra Mian, reducing the financial burden associated with obtaining a master's degree. Mian is a first-year student in the nurse practitioner program. "It mentally and physically allowed me to focus more of my time in my classes," she said.

Jabed Hossen is another scholarship recipient. "I appreciate this opportunity given to me by the Women's Club of Great Falls." Hossen said the award allowed him to concentrate more on his studies than on earning money. "It has tremendously helped me pay off my student loans," he said.

Sally Andrew-Pyne emphasized the recent growth achievements of the fund, including scholarships, endowments, the Early Identification Program, and fundraising efforts. The Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund's explosive growth could be attributed to its new mission, vision and strategic plan, she said.

"Our new spring event raised over \$53,000 through corporate and individual sponsorships, thus allowing us to increase our individual scholarship giving to \$2,500 from \$1,500 and provide 14 scholarships, 11 directly from our fund and three from our endowments," Andrew-Pyne said.

She added that the George Mason University Early Identification Program is a new program to the fund's giving portfolio. It offers educational resources to middle and high school students who will be the first members of their families



Co-chairs of the 40th Anniversary Fall Tea Fund-raiser Committee, (right) Sally Andrew-Pyne, president of the board of directors, Women's Club Great Falls Scholarship Fund, and Lindsay Harper, vice president of the board of directors, Women's Club Great Falls Scholarship Fund, welcome guests to the celebration at River Bend Club.



From left, Kitty Cox, founder of Newcomer's of Great Falls 1982, and Jan Lucca, founder of Woman's Club of Great Falls 1980.



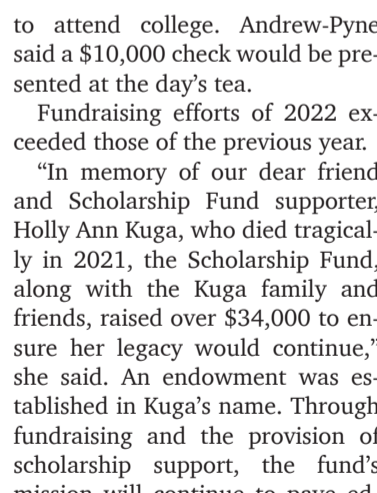
2022 scholarship recipient Jabed Hossen, Computer Science



2022 scholarship recipient Nadia S. Rizvi, Autism Spectrum Disorder



2022 scholarship recipient Iqra Mian, Nursing



From left, Sally Andrew-Pyne, president of the board of the Women's Club of Great Falls Scholarship Fund, and Karen McPhail, president of the Women's Club of Great Falls, admire the Legacy Table, seeing the seeds of success flourish and celebrating 40 years.

The vice president of the board Lindsay G. Harper discussed the organization's strategic and success



It is prosecco on the patio for, from left, Megan Damron, Jamie Bennett, and Melissa Whitson.

sion plans with the grant-writing committee. "Part of our new strategic plan is to expand our giving, and while our fundraisers are an important component, we also recognize that grants can further assist us in our growth," said Harper. This is a decision that will not only allow the fund to assist more de-

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The raffle table



Students who received scholarships from the fund and endowments of the Scholarship Fund of Great Falls, Women's Club join the organization's board of directors and Women's Club members to celebrate 40 years on Sun. Oct. 23, 2022.

Bottom row from left, Christie Lavin, Lindy Donalty, Sally Andrew-Pyne, Kitty Cox, Lindsay Harper, Barbara Slaybaugh, Barbara Chen; top row from left, Missy Perkins, Jenny Stephens, Iqra Mian, Monica Castillo Rodas, Nadia Rizvi, Sara Idelbi, Bitu Khoshhal, Diem Vo, Sumita Chopra, Samantha Dawkins, Jabed Hossen, Sara Michels, and Jackie Hughes

serving students but will also help the board achieve its operational goals.

According to Harper, the fund formed a grant-writing committee and hired a consultant to carry out this task. Grant and events positions are slated for addition to the board. The fund has a succession plan for 2023, and the volunteer committee continues adding "talented women with new perspectives."

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Artist Parinaz Ziai Bahadori displays her acrylic on canvas work "Too Darn Hot" in her home studio, a renovated barn. Paranzah donates ten percent of the purchase price to refugees. She is joined by Guiti Shahabadi of McLean and Mae Villacortes of Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION  
On Sat. Oct. 22 and during the 19th Annual Great Falls Studio Art Tour, the Great Falls Artists' Atelier members stand outside their space at 756 Walker Road. <https://www.greatfallsatelier.com/>

## Studio Art Tour Breaks Records

A three-day adventure wound through the countryside.

The Great Falls Art Studio held its nineteenth annual studio tour over three days, from Oct. 21-23. Free and open to the public, guests could visit the studios of 35 independent Great Falls artists, some located in commercial spaces and others in private residences. A user-friendly map helped visitors plan their weekend excursions down to local restaurants of choice.

Meralee Fredenburgh, the new executive director of The Arts of Great Falls, reported the studio broke records left and right during the Great Falls Studio, among them single-day attendance.

"On Saturday, day two of the tour, we had 318 visitors, a record 20 percent increase," she said.

Activity choices during the tour proved abundant. They ranged from wood carving, metalsmithing, painting, and quilting demonstrations to participatory activities such as wheel-throwing pottery and painting with wine on paper. Visitors chatted with the diverse group of painters, potters, photographers, jewelry makers, fiber artists, sculptors, and others representing a variety of media. They participated in raffles for original works and made purchases of art.

Longtime photographer Walt Lawrence broke the record for the number of pieces sold, selling 18 works. Lawrence is retiring this year after choosing for years to concentrate his photographic works on Great Falls and the Potomac River areas.

<https://www.greatfallsstudios.com/>



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREAT FALLS STUDIOS  
Photographer Walt Lawrence is retiring this year and topped sales at the Great Falls Studios, Art Tour 2022, selling 18 works. Lawrence has some pieces remaining. The Artists' Atelier, <https://www.greatfallsatelier.com/> Working Artists' Studios and Art Galleries

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**OCT. 21 - NOV. 13**  
"Frankenstein." At NextStop Theatre Company, 269 Sunset Park Dr., Herndon. By Nick Dear, adapted from the novel by Mary Shelley. Celebrate Halloween season with this thrilling stage adaptation of Mary Shelley's science fiction masterpiece. Enter the dark world of Victor Frankenstein, as he attempts to decipher the secret of life by creating a childlike, but grotesque shadow of a human. Recommended for mature audiences. Visit [www.nextstoptheatre.org](http://www.nextstoptheatre.org)

**OCT. 21-NOV. 5**  
"Doubt: A Parable." 8 p.m. on Oct. 21, 22, 28, 29; Nov 4, 5; and 2 p.m.: Sundays: Oct 30, Nov 6. At Vienna Community Center: 120 Cherry S. SE, Vienna. "Doubt: A Parable," a play by John Patrick Shanley, analyzes an instance of doubt and suspicion in a Catholic school in the Bronx in the 1960s. The play tells the story of principal Sister Aloysius's suspicions about an inappropriate relationship between a priest and a young male student. Visit the website: [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org)

**SATURDAY/OCT. 29**  
DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Clifton Presbyterian Church Parking Lot, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day reflects Clifton Lions/DEA's commitment to Americans' safety and health, encouraging the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse and opioid addiction from ever starting. Please remove personal labeling from all pill containers and bottles before turning in your medications.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 29**  
DEA Prescription Drug Take Back Day. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Vienna Police Department, 301 Center Street, South, Vienna (The former Faith Baptist Church). In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over-the-counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department.

**SATURDAY/OCT. 29**  
Festival of Frights and Trunk or Treat. 5-10 p.m. At the Old Firehouse, McLean. Come join the Old Firehouse (in your best Halloween costumes) for a night of live music, games, food, contests and tons of candy.

**SATURDAY/NOV. 5**  
Reston Homes Tour. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Tickets are now on sale for the 20th Reston Home Tour of various homes in Reston. Ticket-holders can visit up to eight homes throughout Reston. Self-guided tour stops: Hook Road, Triple Crown Road, Dorrance Court, Auburn Grove Lane, Lake Anne House, Beacon Place, and an EYA model home. Proceeds benefit the Reston Museum. A detailed map with addresses will be emailed closer to the event date. Visit <https://www.restonmuseum.org/hometour>.



The Vienna Theatre Company will present "Doubt: A Parable" Oct. 21-Nov. 5 in Vienna.

#### SATURDAY/NOV. 5

**Appraisal Roadshow.** 10:45 a.m. - Noon at Reston Association Headquarters, Reston. The Appraisal Roadshow delivers a treasure hunt experience in a fun, educational and rewarding forum. Bring an item such as jewelry, coins, a timepiece, porcelain, artwork or other heirlooms, and the appraisal experts will educate you and the other participants with interesting facts and information on what it is, what it's worth and what you can do with your treasure. Questions? Contact Ashleigh@reston.org or 703-435-6577.

#### 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 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](http://www.restonartgallery.com)

### HALLOWEEN CALENDAR

#### NOW THRU NOV. 5

**Workhouse Haunt: Nightmare Harvest.** At Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton. This year's Haunt, titled "Nightmare Harvest," will run on weekends from Saturday, Oct. 1 through Saturday, Nov. 5. Friday and Saturday hours are 7-11 p.m. and Sunday hours are 7-10 p.m. The Haunt will also perform on Halloween night, Monday, Oct. 31, from 7-9 p.m. Each Friday and Saturday night from Oct. 7 through Oct. 29, live bands will perform in the Rizer Pavilion near the Haunt Bar, where guests can purchase snacks and beverages. Tickets are now available for purchase and prices start at \$30 per person. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org) for schedule and event details.

#### OCT. 26-27

**Walker Nature Center Halloween House and Trick-or-Treat Trail.** Advance online sales only for this sell out spectacular. Go to <https://bit.ly/2Oj116j>. Event Times: Fri. Oct. 26, 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., Sat. Oct. 27, 6 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.. For ages 3 - Adult. Reston Association

#### FRIDAY/OCT. 28

**Synetic Theater's Vampire Ball 2022.** At 1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington. Synetic Theater's Vampire Ball is DC's hottest Halloween party with everything you need for a spooktacular night. There will be Dracula themed cocktails, dancing, physical theater, spooky Georgian remixes, fun-sized candy bars, and more. The festivities start with a performance of Dracula followed by an indoor/outdoor dance party with all the food and drinks that a ghoul could ask for. Gather all your Basic Witches for a party to wake the dead! Costumes encouraged!

#### 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 Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. For vendors and weekly highlights see <https://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org/>

#### SATURDAY/OCT 29

**Haunted Mini Golf.** 5-7 p.m. At Oak Marr Rec Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Come in your favorite costume to Oak Marr Rec Center and play some Haunted Mini Golf. There will be spooky treats, face painting, Halloween games and food trucks with delicious offerings. Call 703-281-6501.

#### SATURDAY/OCT. 29

**Halloweekend at The Perch.** 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. At Capital One Center in Tysons. Capital One Center is hosting a big Halloween costume party at The Perch – a 2.5 acre sky high gathering place adjacent to Capital One's headquarters in Tysons. Guests are encouraged to bring their furry besties and participate in dog and human costume contests at Starr Hill Biergarten and meet Lucky Dog Animal Rescue's adoptable pups in costumes. Family activities will be held from 12 p.m.-6 p.m. (everything from spooky golf at Perch Putt to face painting, pumpkin painting, inflatable bounce houses, live music, Wegmans-sponsored pumpkin pie eating contests, Halloween arts and crafts and more!). Once the sun sets the ghostly vibes and spooky characters come out! College gameday watch parties and Hocus Pocus will be featured on the big screen, along with a bocce tournament hosted by DC Bocce and a pop-up box office hosted by Capital One Hall. Visit <https://www.capitalonecenter.com/events/halloweekend-at-the-perch>

#### HALLOWEEN OCT. 31

**Great Falls Halloween Spooktacular** 4 p.m. - 4:45 p.m., Pet Parade; 5:00 p.m. - 7 p.m. Trick-or-Treating, At Great Falls Village Centre, Great Falls.

# BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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We are sincerely grateful and thankful to you for helping in 2021 to save one of America's oldest newspapers, the Alexandria Gazette Packet, publishing continuously since 1784



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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.

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 our onerous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.

Please, help save these historical papers. 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. 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.

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.

Visit [connectionnewspapers.com](http://connectionnewspapers.com) or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-keep-your-newspaper-printing>

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## Burton Lourie. A Golden Moment



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a complete surprise, too, from my wife, Dina, who got up at 6 am on a Saturday morning no less to initiate the ruse. She said she was getting up so early to help a neighbor (Kathy) on a pickup she was making for her business four hours away in Lexington, Virginia. This neighbor is in the buying and selling business – from home, and as a former truckdriver, driving distances to conduct her business was hardly off putting, so the storyline seemed plausible – to me. And I knew nothing more than that as I was led down the garden path, totally clueless.

Later that morning I called Dina on her cell phone to check on their progress. She answered normally enough and said that she was on her way back. I asked her if she could talk (about what Kathy had purchased); she said, "Not really." I replied: "Passenger safely, and I'll see you in a few hours." (I later learned that at the very moment I called, the "Light Golden Retriever" puppy she had gone on this excursion to buy from a breeder whom she had heard about three-months ago while "day-tripping" in Harpers Ferry, was in a kennel in the back of the car and beginning to fuss/bark. If he had, it might have ruined the nearly four-months-in-the-planning surprise.)

Since Dina said she couldn't talk (ostensibly about the fake reason for this trip: Kathy's business), I politely hung up to not disturb their girls-type day. Little did I know. A few hours later, I knew all too well.

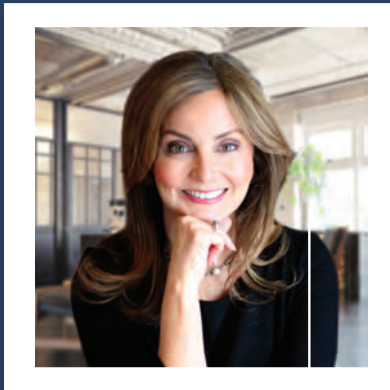
About 2 pm, I see/hear Dina's car coming down our driveway. After she parks, I can't exactly see her getting out of her car, but I'm not the least bit concerned/curious. She's an adult; I don't need to watch her get out of a car. Within a few moments I hear her walking toward our front door. A front door whose top half is glass so I could see if she was carrying anything. She turned her back as she backed in through the door and I could sort of see that she looked as if she was carrying something. As she entered the house and faced-me forward, I saw/asked: "Is that a dog?" What is she doing with a dog, I thought to myself. Maybe she's helping Kathy? Kathy has dogs.

She took a few steps towards to her left where I was sitting on our living room couch and says to me: "Here's your new puppy." I was momentarily stunned and soon started laughing (even though we had previously owned two Golden Retrievers; with five cats in the house, a dog was not necessarily our next step.) Stammering, I ask: "Dina, what did you do?" "I got you a puppy." She says: Then she adds: "That's what this whole trip was about. Kathy did me an amazing favor driving us down there. Are you surprised?" Then she carried him over to where I was sitting and placed him in my arms. I laughed again as I cuddled him and looked into his eyes, speechless as I gently rubbed his coat. "Yes. I'm surprised!" I garbled.

It took us a couple of days to name him. For years, when the subject (never a serious discussion) had come up about a new puppy, I had regularly said I liked the name Shemp. But when I started using it for the new puppy, it didn't sound right so I stopped calling him that and began referring to him as my little buddy (which I definitely needed after Twinkle's unexpected passing). The next day, while Dina was online going through dog names, my father-in-law texts me from New York out of the blue (he knew about the puppy; everybody knew): "How about how naming him Burton?" I looked at my cell phone and saw the text, read it and immediately smiled as I looked up and said to Dina: "Your father has just texted the perfect name for the puppy: Burton." (Our two previous Golden Retrievers were "Brandy" and "Bailey," so we were thinking of a name beginning with the letter "B," which Ernest didn't know and yet, he suggested the perfect name). She immediately agreed. As an underling fact, we happen to live in the historic/registered "Isaac Burton House," a 250-year-old-plus converted log cabin, in Burtonsville. After approximately 14 years, since I was diagnosed with cancer, we're back in the dog business. It couldn't have happened at a better time. We needed something to fill the void left by Twinkle's passing.

"And now you know," as Paul Harvey said for so many years, "the rest of the story. Good day!"

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



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