

Alexandria Gazette Packet



25 CENTS

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MARCH 9, 2023

Slainte!

St. Patrick's Day Parade returns to Old Town.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

The luck of the Irish shone down on Alexandria as bagpipers and Irish dancers once again filled the streets of Old Town March 4 to celebrate the return of the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Sunny skies and temperatures at 60 degrees welcomed parade goers from throughout the region as the parade



The City of Alexandria Pipes and Drums performs in the March 4 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

made its return following a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic.

"I think my dad would be very happy to-

day," said Pat Troy Jr., whose father Pat Troy founded the parade in 1981. "The

SEE ST. PATRICK'S DAYS, PAGE 6



Carol Shelton and Georg, an Apricot Standard Poodle, as winners of the Best Human/Canine combo.



Charlotte Hall, longtime Alexandria business leader, waves to the crowd as the Grand Marshal of the St. Patrick's Day Parade March 4 in Old Town.



Irish dancers in the St. Patrick's Day parade.



Pat Troy Jr., right, with Ballyshaners volunteer Pat Garrity and daughter Reyha at the March 4 St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Murphy's Grand Irish Pub.

Living Legends Of Alexandria

LLA announces 2023 Legends.

Living Legends of Alexandria has announced the selection of Living Legends for 2023. The 2023 Living Legends were vetted from an array of nominations submitted by the public and received through the fall of last year. Due to the pandemic, this is the first new set of Legends since 2020.

Living Legends are chosen because they have improved the quality of life in the City of Alexandria by having led the creation or redevelopment of something that wouldn't have existed without their involvement or demonstrated substantial and sustained contributions over a significant period. These community leaders have met one or both of these criteria.

2023 Living Legends of Alexandria

❖ David Baker – In addition to an accomplished police career, including serving Alexandria as its Executive Deputy Police Chief for 16 years and Chief of Police for three years, David Baker is passionate about improving the lives of Alexandria's seniors, working as a volunteer and board member at both Goodwin House and Senior Services of Alexandria.

❖ Nelson Greene Jr. – Operating frequently behind the scenes, Nelson Greene Jr. ensured that Alexandria's underserved were represented through his advocacy, active memberships in many committee organizations, and as a school board member. Nelson Greene Jr. died in March 2022 and will be honored posthumously.*

❖ Dana Lawhorne – A native Alexandrian, Sheriff Dana Lawhorne retired after 43 years of local law enforcement service. Lawhorne became Sheriff in 2006 after serving for 27 years as an Alexandria police officer and detective. His specific accomplishments and advocacy for those in need have made indelible changes in the community before and after retirement.

❖ Carolyn B. Lewis – An educator and influencer in Alexandria since the early 60s, Carolyn B. Lewis has been instrumental in encouraging the younger generations to step up to succeed and pay it forward. She is one of the original founders of Project Discovery Alexandria, an organization with 20 chapters in seven states providing guidance to students pursuing higher education.

❖ Patty and Kate Moran – Mother and

SEE LIVING LEGENDS, PAGE 7



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This four level contemporary corner unit townhome sits only steps away from the waterfront in Old Town, Alexandria. Found at the edge of Robinson Landing with a stunning panoramic view of the Potomac River and the Old Dominion Boat Club, it's surrounded by shops, parks, and restaurants, and enjoys access to the development's long list of amenities.

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Retirements Reshuffle Assembly

Historic upheaval will see new faces in a third of the House and a fourth of the Senate.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

A massive wave of retirements is sweeping over the Virginia General Assembly, a move prompted by radical new court-drawn district maps that are reshuffling Virginia politics. The retirements are coming after the Redistricting Commission failed to agree on new maps, leading a court-appointed special master to draw new districts without considering the home addresses of incumbents. As a result, dozens of incumbent members faced a difficult choice — find another district to call home, run against a colleague or call it quits.

“It’s not really appealing to try and move to a new district or try and run against a fellow incumbent,” said Chaz Nuttycombe, director of the nonpartisan election analysis group CNAlysis. “You can’t really blame a politician for not wanting to run headfirst into what is likely to be a loss.”

Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw says he will not be seeking reelection, a move that will allow him to sidestep facing incumbent Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37). Senate Minority Leader Tommy Norment will also be stepping down, allowing him to avoid a messy primary fight with Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-4). They are two of the eight senators who are not seeking reelection, and more are expected to make a decision in the next few weeks. That means the next Senate will have new leadership on both sides of the aisle as well as new committee chairmen.

“The more senior members have gotten used to not having contested campaigns and not being challenged within their parties,” said former Republican Del. David Ramadan, now with the Schar School at George Mason University. “They’re gotten used to having safe districts in the general elections, and now they’re saying, ‘You know what? I’m done.’”

The House of Delegates will see an even greater upheaval, with at least a third of its members leaving this year. So far, 13 incum-



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE/GAZETTE PACKET

Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, standing, will not be seeking reelection. He would have had to face incumbent Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37). To the right, Senate Minority Leader Tommy Norment will not be seeking reelection. He would have had to face incumbent Sen. Ryan McDougle (R-4). To the left, Sen. Janet Howell (D-32) will not be seeking reelection. She would have had to have faced incumbent Sen. Jennifer Boysko (D-33). In the back, Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) had to move from Bath County to Charlottesville to avoid a primary fight against Sen. Mark Obenshain (R-26) and Sen. Emmett Hanger (R-24).

bent House members say they will be stepping down instead of seeking reelection. And then another 13 say they won’t be seeking reelection in their House seats so they can run in a Senate primary. More are expected before the veto session in April, creating an unprecedented election cycle.

“Someone who has been there a long time might say, ‘I’m not interested in knocking on 10,000 doors this cycle. I’d rather retire and travel the world with my spouse.’ I understand that,” said Democratic strategist Ben Tribbett. “But these younger incumbents who quit because they are drawn into tough areas — politics shouldn’t be about picking a district and running for it because you think you are favored to win.”

THE COLD HARD politics of this redistricting cycle is unlike any previous decade, when maps were drawn by elected officials

“It shows you how messed up the maps were to start with that the new maps are so different from the old ones.”

— Stephen Farnsworth, Center for Leadership and Media Studies, University of Mary Washington

with partisan interests. They also drew maps to benefit incumbents, even incumbents in the oppose party most of the time. That meant they rarely drew more than one incumbent into the same district. But now the court-appointed special master who drew the new maps specifically avoided considering home addresses of incumbents, leading to a set of maps that had many members looking into the mirror and making a difficult calculation.

“If you draw compact districts that respect

existing boundaries and keep communities of interest together, they are going to tend to draw non-competitive seats,” said Nick Goedert, assistant professor of political science at Virginia Tech. “The fact that the state Supreme Court actually drew three of Virginia’s 11 districts to be competitive is relatively speaking a high number.”

The retirements include a number of the most prominent people in the General Assembly. Former Speaker Eileen Filler Corn chose retirement rather than facing a tough primary fight against incumbent Del. Kathy Tran (D-42), which could have been an uphill fight for the former speaker. Longtime Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) is leaving office rather than face incumbent Del. Rip Sullivan (D-48).

“It shows you how messed up the maps were to start with that the new maps are so different from the old ones,” said Stephen Farnsworth, director of the Center for Leadership and Media Studies at the University of Mary Washington. “This current line-drawing system is sort of undoing the damage of the incumbent protection acts that have been passed by Democratic and Republican majorities.”

One of the more notable retirements is the most senior member of the House of Delegates, Del. Ken Plum (D-36). First elected in 1977, a young Ken Plum had to campaign in a five-member district that covered a huge swath of Northern Virginia. The multi-member district system was later determined to be unconstitutional and discontinued, a vestige of a time when redistricting of a Byrd Machine fixation with controlling the outcome of elections. Plum says his early career was spent dismantling the machine in its final days by demanding merit selection of judges.

“Circuit court judges were key to the way the machine operated, I knew the way to dismantle the machine was to dismantle that piece of it,” said Plum in his office as budget negotiators huddled in secret last month. “But the problem was I went to the people who were in the machine running this thing to ask them to change it.”

BULLETIN BOARD

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

FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED

Interested in becoming a foster parent? There is always a need for caring foster parents looking to open their homes to foster youth. Get in touch to

learn more. Visit fcsvanow@gmail.com or www.FCSVA.org. Or call 703-817-9890.

LOOKING FOR SOFTBALL PLAYERS

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women’s softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. They play most Wednesday

evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna from May-July and September-October. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Alexandria Families for Safer Streets - Executive Assistant to AFSS Board of Directors. The agency is seeking an executive assistant to help coordinate a diverse group of tasks

necessary to keep us on track and moving forward. Someone with office manager skills would be the ideal candidate. www.volunteeral-alexandria.org

ALIVE! Volunteers are needed to assist with multiple programs relating to their Food Program, ALIVE! House, and Alexandria Eviction Prevention Partnership Program will distribute food at Mobile Pop-ups and Truck to Trunk events, etc. <https://www.volunteeral-alexandria.org>

volunteeralalexandria.org/ALIVE Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League’s programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

OBSERVANCE



Dressed in costumes at the March 5 Purim Carnival are Esta Miller, Yarden Shiri, Jen Halpern, Rebecca Drobnis and Ari Rein.

Celebrating Purim

Observance marks the saving of Jews from execution in Persia.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Members of Agudas Achim Congregation donned their best costumes March 5 to celebrate Purim, the holiday marking the saving of the execution of Jews in 5th century BC in Persia.

The Congregation held a Purim Carnival, with fam-

ilies enjoying the festivities and learning about the significance of the observance.

The story of Purim is related in the biblical book of Esther. The ritual observance of Purim begins with a day of fasting the day preceding the actual holiday, which began March 6 in 2023. On Purim, many Jews exchange gifts and make donations to the poor.

Purim tells of the near-destruction of the Jewish people as decreed by Haman, an adviser to the Persian King Ahasuerus. However, Ahasuerus' newly crowned queen, Esther — who replaced Vashti when she was thrown out of the kingdom — is secretly a Jew.

Due to her courage and her eventual role in saving the Jews, the story of Purim is known as “Megillat Esther,” or the Scroll of Esther.

www.agudasachim-va.org



A participant at the March 5 Agudas Achim Congregation Purim Carnival tries to feed Mordecai, the uncle of Queen Esther. The holiday commemorates the saving of the Persian Jewish people by Haman, an official of the Achaemenid empire.



Hoping for peace are participants at the Purim Carnival.



Susan Auerhan holds hamantaschen, a sweet cookie shaped like Haman ears.



Josh Romanov, dressed as Mario, with daughter Lila, dressed as an '80s aerobics instructor.



Dressed in costume to play Plinko are congregant Susan Muns and Rabbi Steven Rein.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bud Mayo, the “godfather of Virginia lacrosse,” will be the featured speaker at the March 15 meeting of the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club. www.alexandriavasports.org

ASC to Host Bud Mayo

Lacrosse pioneer to speak March 15.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Bud Mayo, considered by many to be the godfather of Virginia Lacrosse, will be the featured speaker at the Alexandria Sportsman’s Club meeting March 15 at the Old Dominion Boat Club.

Mayo was one of the early pioneers and founders of youth lacrosse in Fairfax County and the City of Alexandria. Primarily limited to prep schools and a few specific areas of the country, including Baltimore and Long Island, lacrosse officially came to Northern Virginia in 1975 when Mayo as Lacrosse Day director started a club at Lake Braddock High School. He later helped start the varsity boys program at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School.

Over the last 50 years Mayo, a past president of the Potomac Chapter of U.S. Lacrosse, has nurtured the game from inception to its current varsity status at high schools and seen the massive growth of feeder programs throughout the area.

Mayo will help present the Alexandria High School and Alexandria Recreation athletes of the month awards.

The meeting will be held March 15 at the Old Dominion Boat Club, 200 Strand Street, with complimentary dinner and drinks beginning at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.alexandriavasports.org.

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Let us know about an upcoming event

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LETTICE AND LOVAGE

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Visitors from Pennsylvania and Delaware attend the March 4 St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Members of The Twig.

PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/CAZETTE PACKET

St. Patrick's Day Parade Returns to Old Town

FROM PAGE 1

parade brings out the best of Alexandria, with all these friends and families coming together to celebrate and have a good time.”

Sponsored by the nonprofit Ballyshanners organization, the parade is an effort to promote and preserve the Irish culture and history of the city. Charlotte Hall, a prominent business leader in the community,

“The parade brings out the best of Alexandria.”

— Pat Troy Jr.

served as Grand Marshal of the parade.

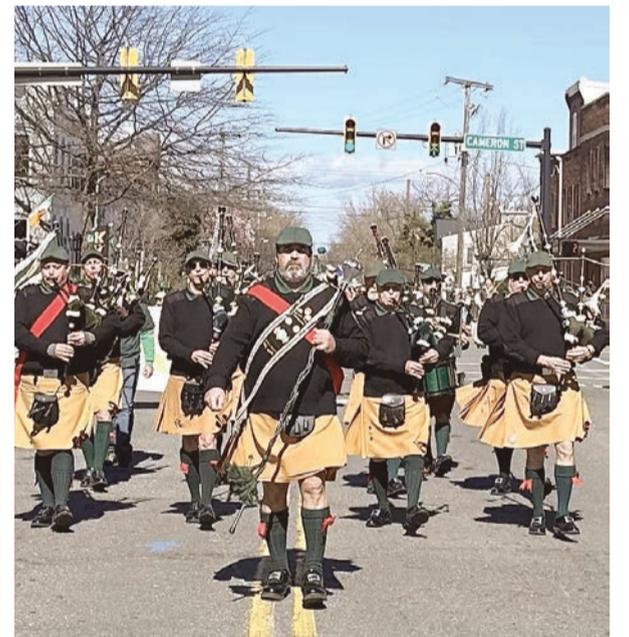
Festivities kicked off with the Fun Dog Show in Market Square as festively dressed canines competed for various awards including Best Irish Spirit and Best Human/Canine Look-Alike. The event is held as a



A leprechaun takes to the streets of Old Town.



Coco, winner of the Best St. Patrick's Day Spirit competition, with Patrick and Louisa Doyle.



Bagpipers in the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

fundraiser for the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria.

Held annually on the first Saturday in March, the Parade featured

more than 2,000 participants including pipe bands, Irish dance schools, community groups and other musicians and performers.

“My father would be very, very happy to see the next generation of leaders step up to continue this tradition,” Troy added. “This is what

he always wanted for Alexandria – for people to enjoy life, be nice to each other and to enjoy each other's company.” www.ballyshanners.org



Swing dancers entertain the crowd.



The City of Alexandria Honor Guard



Knights of Columbus.



PHOTOS BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Alexandria City High School students dress as their favorite storybook characters at the Read Across America event March 2 at Charles Barrett Elementary School.

Read Across America

ACHS students partner with Charles Barrett.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

A group of students from Alexandria City High School donned the attire of their favorite Dr. Seuss characters to read to younger students March 2 at Charles Barrett Elementary School in honor of Read Across America Day.

ACHS Career and Technical Education (CTE) read in Barrett classrooms to stress the importance of reading.

“The Alexandria City High School students came to our school to teach our elementary students about the importance of reading,” said Charles Barrett principal Loren Brody. “The high school student who organized the event is actually a former Charles Barrett student.

She reconnected with one of her teachers here and she had the idea to come to Charles Barrett to help inspire the students here.”

Annually, more than 45 million students, families and educators participate in the initiative to celebrate a nation of diverse readers.

“It’s just so amazing to see the high school students as they take on leadership roles in our community,” Brody added. “They are giving back to the elementary school students and helping them see themselves as future leaders.”

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Big Bad Wolf and Captain Hook give away bookmarks to students at Charles Barrett Elementary school during the March 2nd Read Across America celebration.



Second grade teacher Ian Norden reads Doctor Seuss to his students at Charles Barrett Elementary School during the Read Across America celebration.

Living Legends Of Alexandria

FROM PAGE 1

❖ Charles Wilson – A retired daughter Patty and Kate Moran have dedicated their lives to the education of Alexandria’s children. Both are volunteers and mentors who have contributed in lasting ways to build and promote important events that forever give back to the city.

❖ Gary Oelze – Alexandria is a mecca in the entertainment circle thanks to Gary Oelze’s leadership and ownership of The Birchmere, the music venue he took over in 1966. Over the decades, thousands of notable musicians and other acts performed on his stage. It is estimated that 3 million people have enjoyed diverse entertainment at his famous hall. Gary Oelze passed away in January of this year. He and he will be honored posthumously.*

❖ James Paige – Colonel James Paige co-founded the Concerned Citizens of Alexandria (CCNA) in 2009 and now serves as its Executive Director. CCNA is a nonprofit that has helped increase the high school graduation rate by focusing on educational improvement for underserved and at-risk students.

❖ Redella S. “Del” Pepper – When she announced retirement in 2020, Del Pepper was the longest-serving member of the Alexandria City Council, serving 36 years from 1985 until the beginning of 2022. She was vice mayor (most votes among council members) from 1996 to 1997 and 2003 to 2009.

❖ John “Jack” Sullivan – Jack has given more than 40 years to advocacy, involvement, and education about historic preservation, sewer outfalls, civic activism, and the environment, proving that one voice can make a difference. Increased parkland and a much cleaner river are two of his enduring legacies.

❖ Charles Wilson – A retired U.S. Air Force officer, Charles Wilson dedicated his time to Alexandria’s youth by serving in numerous advocacy positions and making a difference in countless situations, including serving as vice chairman of the school board.

William Vosbeck – Through his work as a renowned architect, William Vosbeck helped redesign Alexandria through its urban renewal program, helping create one of the most historic cities in the country. William Vosbeck passed away in 2021 and will be honored posthumously.*

All of the honorees have too many accomplishments to list here. Each will be interviewed for more extensive biographies, which will be shared via publication in The Zebra Press and the Alexandria Gazette Packet. Each honoree will also sit for an official portrait to be displayed at City Hall. The portraits and bios will be digitally archived in the Office of Historic Alexandria.

The 2023 Legends will be formally recognized and introduced to the public at the 14th Annual Meet the Legends reception in the fall at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial.

The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, is to identify, honor, and chronicle the lives of individuals who have made significant contributions to improve the quality of life in Alexandria.

For information, to volunteer, become a sponsor or nominate a future Legend, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.org or contact LivingLegendsALX@gmail.com

❖ The honorees posthumously inducted into the 2023 Legends of Alexandria were nominated before their deaths.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 3

Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org. ALIVE! offers numerous programs that aid low-income families in Alexandria that rely on volunteers: monthly

food distributions, furniture, houseware and emergency food deliveries, and community food drives. Individuals, families and groups are encouraged to participate. Students can earn community service hours by participating. Visit www.alive-inc.org/volunteer.htm or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at volunteers@alive-inc.org.

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NEWS

SSA's March Workshop: Volunteer Opportunities for Older Adults

By MARGARET SHETLER
MANAGER OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Volunteering is a great way to get involved in the community and support an organization or cause that you care about. Research has shown that giving back to the community offers health benefits too, improving physical and mental health, especially for people 65 and older (Mayo Clinic). Volunteering gives one a sense of purpose, creates the possibility for new friendships and relationships, and the opportunity to use valuable skills for good.

There are many volunteer opportunities for older adults right here in Alexandria! Come hear from different nonprofit organizations during Senior Services of Alexandria's in-person Volunteer Workshop on March 16th. To kick off the event, four organizations—Office of Historic Alexandria, National Center of Women's Innovation, Casa Chirilagua, and Alexandria Tutoring Consortium—will highlight their important work

and how to get involved. Additional organizations will have tables where attendees can get further details on a variety of volunteer opportunities. Join us to learn about the many ways to make an impact as a volunteer, like being involved in a child's life and growth as a mentor, sharing about the City of Alexandria's rich history, helping to combat food insecurity in Alexandria, delivering meals to homebound seniors, and more!

The Volunteer Workshop will take place on Thursday, March 16 at 10 a.m. at the Beth El Hebrew Congregation located at 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, Va. Please RSVP online at senior-servicesalex.org or call 703-836-4414 ext. 110. The event is free and light refreshments will be provided.

Senior Services of Alexandria organizes an event every month on relevant topics for seniors as part of the "Senior Living in Alexandria" speaker series. More information about upcoming workshops can be found on our website.

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Off the Menu: Restaurant News and Notes

BY HOPE NELSON
GAZETTE PACKET

Springtime is synonymous with new beginnings, and Alexandria's food scene is fitting right in. From new Italian flair in the middle of Old Town to a beloved milkshake bar's arrival on King Street to a new restaurant history tour in the warmth of springtime, there are plenty of new and novel experiences to be enjoyed around town as the days get longer and the temperatures milder (we hope!).

Thompson Italian Opens at 1024 King Street

The popular Falls Church-based Thompson Italian recently opened its doors at a new Old Town Alexandria outpost, bringing a host of Italian favorites along for the ride. With a menu just begging for family-style sharing, Thompson boasts such favorites as lamb meatballs, tagliatelle with hen of the woods mushrooms and chestnuts, squid ink bucatini and gnocchi with braised chicken ragu. And don't forget the desserts: Olive oil cake, lemon tiramisu, coconut rice pudding and a half-dozen more selections are waiting to sweeten the evening.

The Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar Plans Expansion Into Old Town

Already a staple in Ellicott City, Md., and beyond, the Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar has announced plans to open a storefront at 716 King St. This location will

mark the franchise's tenth in total and the second in Virginia. The Crazy Mason is known for its over-the-top sundaes and milkshakes, many of which teem well above the top of their signature Mason jars.

"We fell in love with the Crazy Mason brand while on a family vacation in Myrtle Beach in 2021, and we opened our first location in 2022 in Ellicott City, Maryland. We wanted to bring our crazy treats to the DC metro area, and Old Town Alexandria is one of our favorite places," the franchise owners, Erin and Robert Struder, said in a statement. "With the waterfront, the cosmopolitan feel and the walkable nature of the town, we are so excited to announce our next location on King Street."

Alexandria Food Tours Gears Up for Springtime

Looking for something a bit different to do with family and friends? Learn about the history of some of Old Town's classic restaurants while taking this hour-long walking tour hosted by Alexandria Food Tours. Hear tales about long-ago eateries, share memories about more recent establishments – and try to decide whether one landmark location is cursed, or just unlucky. From Chadwicks to Gadsby's to many stops in between, you're sure to learn something new – and whet your appetite for more. Visit alxfoodtours.com to reserve a spot.

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

MARCH 1-31

60th Anniversary Woodlawn Needlework Show. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day, expect Tuesdays. At Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Hwy, Alexandria. In 2023, Woodlawn celebrates 60 years of the Annual Needlework Show with the timeless theme of comfort and joy. Sixty years ago, Adelaide Bolte and Emma "Pinky" Matheson, co-founders of the Nelly's Needlers, started the needlework show exhibiting work of their own. Since that time, the show has grown exponentially to become the largest judged show of needle arts in the nation, displaying thousands of embroidery pieces by artists from all over the world. Returning this year will be in-house seating in Nelly's Café and needlework demonstrations. Special exhibits and online events are returning with new embroidery subjects and needlework displays.

NOW THRU MARCH 15

"Mount Vernon" At Nepenthe Gallery. Hollin Hall Shopping Center, 7918 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. Nepenthe Gallery, in partnership with Mount Vernon estate and Woodlawn mansion, presents a special "Mount Vernon" exhibit from Feb. 1 through March 15. This exhibit has been organized in conjunction with Mount Vernon's national birthday celebration of George Washington and Woodlawn's 60th Annual Needlepoint Show. Woodlawn was once part of George



NOVA Plein Air Art Exhibit. At River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. Nova Plein Air Artists (NPPA) will be presenting "Celebrations of the Land, Inspired by River Farm," an art exhibit of over 50 paintings inspired by nature. Reception will be held from 1 – 3 p.m. on March 12. Many of the paintings were created onsite at River Farm, and all are available to purchase. Reception free and open to the public.

Washington's original extensive Mount Vernon estate. This "Mount Vernon" exhibit will showcase an important work by Thomas Sully – his 19th century "Athenaeum Portrait of George Washington." Other original works by Pamela Patrick White, Bryant White, Gwen Bragg, Debbie

Dartez and Renée C. Gage will be included and for sale, as well as several original works by Pamela and Bryant White that will be on loan by local collectors for display in the exhibit. There will also be giclée prints available for sale of important works from the Mount

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

Obituary

Obituary

Catherine Baker Rollins

September 7, 1928 to February 24, 2023

Catherine Baker Rollins, long-time resident of Alexandria, VA, passed peacefully of natural causes on Friday, February 24, 2023, in Columbia, SC, surrounded by family. Catherine was predeceased by her husband, Samuel H Rollins of Alexandria VA, and survived by her two children, J Rollins and wife Candace of Palm Desert CA, and Joycellen Rollins of Fort Myers FL, as well as her three grandchildren, Jessica Rollins Jackson and husband Neil Jackson of Columbia, SC, Hope Leigh Rollins of Palm Springs CA, and Mariah Jae Rollins of Brooklyn, NY, and her 4 great-grandchildren Greyson Green of North Miami Beach, FL, and Henry Liam Jackson, Samuel O'Neill Jackson and Emmy Grace Jackson of Columbia SC.

Catherine was born in Covington VA in 1928 and was predeceased by her parents, John and Edna Baker, her brothers and sisters, and many nieces and nephews. She met and married Sam and returned to live in Alexandria in 1954 and they were married for 38 years until his passing in 1992. Catherine remained in Alexandria until 2018 when she relocated to the Lowman Lutheran Home of South Carolina.

Catherine was a 68-year member of the First Baptist Church of Alexandria, VA where she attended faithfully and served in numerous ministries and committees over her years there. She was a founder of the Fellowship of Christian Clowns, and took great joy when she became "Honey Bee" the clown.

A viewing will be at Everley-Wheatley Funeral Home, 1500 W Braddock Rd, Alexandria, VA 22302, from 2 to 4 PM and 5:30 - 7 PM on Friday, March 17, 2023. Her homegoing service will be at First Baptist Church, 2932 King Street, Alexandria VA at 10:30 AM on Saturday, March 18, 2023. There will be a Celebration of Life also at First Baptist in the Faith Activities Center following the service hosted by the family. Catherine touched many lives and those whose lives she touched are asked to join the family and share thoughts and reflections of her impact on their life.

A private interment will be held at Ivy Hill Cemetery in Alexandria VA, on Monday, March 20, where she will be laid to eternal rest next to her husband.

Catherine's life was a life of service to many and in lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to:

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TR Honey Bee Fund
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200 Leisure Lane
Irmo, SC 29210

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FROM PAGE 9

Vernon estate collection. Nepenthe will host the following Thursday night "ART+WINE+CHEESE" events related to this exhibit:
March 9th: Nelly's Needlers Needlework Group. Established in 1975 to help preserve Woodlawn, the group was named after Martha Washington's granddaughter, Eleanor ("Nelly") Parke Custis, who was raised at Mount Vernon, later lived at Woodlawn, and learned her needlework skills from her cherished grandmother. Nelly's Needlers will be at Nepenthe Gallery to display works from their 60th Annual Needlepoint Show and discuss their organization and needlepointing as an art form.

NOW THRU MARCH 19
Nicole Santiago Exhibition. At the Athenaeum, Alexandria. Poetry Workshop on Feb. 25 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Nicole Santiago's work consists of semi-autobiographical narrative paintings and drawings that depict scenes of love, loss, and duty, thinly veiled in the mundane debris of everyday life. While the impetus for Nicole's work is highly personal, she intends to construct something more universal that stretches beyond the limits of her own experiences, expanding into broader familiar theme.

NOW THRU APRIL 3
NOVA Plein Air Art Exhibit. At River Farm, 7931 East Blvd. Drive, Alexandria. Nova Plein Air Artists (NPPA) will be presenting "Celebrations of the Land, Inspired by River Farm," an art exhibit of over 50 paintings inspired by nature. Reception will be held from 1 - 3 p.m. on March 12. Many of the paintings were created onsite at River Farm, and all are available to purchase. Reception free and open to the public.

MARCH 3 TO APRIL 1
The "Fun With One" exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans features monochromatic artwork by members. Come see the variety that can be accomplished using just one color. The artist awards are juried by Robin Croft. View at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria VA. Opening Reception: Friday, March 3 from 7-9pm. Gallery hours: Thursdays 12-6 p.m., Fridays 12-9 p.m., Saturdays & Sundays 12-6 p.m. (closed on April 2). Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits

FRIDAY/MARCH 10
Music by Bach and Handel. 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S. Pitt Street, Alexandria. Members of the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, led by Music Director James Ross, present music by Bach and Handel in the intimate setting of St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Friday night and an additional performance at Westminster Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon, March 12 at 3 p.m. The program also features a world premiere by Alexandria-based composer Jonathan Kolm, commissioned by the ASO.

FRIDAY/MARCH 10
Brandenburg & Blue - Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 7:30 p.m. At St. Paul's Episcopal Church,

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR



Nepenthe Gallery will celebrate its One-Year Anniversary on Thursday, March 16, 2023.

Nepenthe Gallery's One-Year Anniversary

6-7:30 p.m. At Nepenthe Gallery's Thursday ART+WINE+CHEESE event, Nepenthe Gallery is celebrating its one-year Anniversary with happy cheer and love, along with a collection of original works by the world-renowned Brazilian artist, Romero Britto. The exhibit that evening will also feature works from several artists who have partnered with us this inaugural year.

FROM PAGE 10

228 South Pitt Street, Alexandria. Visit www.alexsym.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

"Live Fully." 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. At First Baptist Church of Alexandria. NorthStar Women's Network is hosting speaker Jada Edwards, along with special guest Whitney Capps and worship leader Kimberly Williams for a special women's event celebrating 20 years of connecting women in the Northern Virginia area. The event is called "Live Fully" and is open to all local women. It will focus on encouraging women because "changed women change lives." Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.nswomensnet.org/2023>

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Lena's Meatball Madness Race. 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. At Lenny Harris Memorial Fields at Braddock Park, 1005 Mount Vernon Avenue, Alexandria. Celebrate National Meatball Day at Lena's Second Annual Meatball Madness! Gather your winning team of four to see if you can balance Lena's giant meatball on a spoon without dropping it in record time. As you win, you advance to the next round in this fast-paced tournament. Sixteen teams begin, but only one team will be named the 2022 Meatball Madness Winner! Visit <https://www.lenaswoodfire.com/meatball-madness>

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Garden Talk - Spring Veggies and Herbs. 10:30-11:30 a.m. At Green Springs Garden, Alexandria. (Adults) If you have never grown a vegetable garden before, then this is the year to start! Extension Master Gardener docents show you how to plan a vegetable and herb garden that will conserve water, reduce waste, and reduce grocery bills. \$12 per person. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcountygov/parks/parktakes> or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173. Code HBR.SJC0.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

March 15th Art Party and Exhibition. 7 to 9:30 p.m. At Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St., Alexandria. Torpedo Factory Art Center's annual exhibition and art sale returns for the 13th year featuring more than 100 works of art priced at \$150 by local artists in the Target Gallery. Each piece of artwork is sized at 10" x 10". The ticketed art party allows guests to enjoy discounts, food and drinks and art activations.

SATURDAY/MARCH 11

Write Like a Woman Workshop. 1-3 p.m. At The Athenaeum, Alexandria. Enjoy an afternoon of engaging conversation and writing! Facilitated by poet, author, and Poet Laureate of Alexandria, KaNikki Jakarta, this workshop welcomes amateur to professional women writers ages 18-100. Each workshop centers on uplifting and inspiring through writing and allows participants to enhance their writing styles.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Tea Program: Leading Ladies. 1-3 p.m. At Green Spring Gardens, Alexandria. (Adults) Discover extraordinary women who didn't make it into the history books. Many little-known female innovators, entrepreneurs, inventors, and adventurers achieved historical "firsts" yet often went unacknowledged. Learn why "HERstory" was so often omitted from "HISstory" and celebrate these unsung leading ladies and their inspiring lives. \$38 (lecture + tea); \$15 (lecture only). A traditional British afternoon tea served in the 1784 Historic House follows each program. Full tea includes finger sandwiches, pastries, and scone with cream and jam. Programs are by reservation only. Call (703) 941-7987, TTY (703) 324-3988.

SUNDAY/MARCH 12

Brandenburg & Blue - Alexandria Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m. At Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2701 Cameron Mills Road, Alexandria. Visit www.alexsym.org

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CENTRE VIEW

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.
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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 ominous clouds the horizon in so many ways. Revenue still remains short of expenses despite our greatly curtailed costs.
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Do or Die, and I Did; So Far Anyway



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

On or about Feb. 20, 2023, I celebrated (you bet I celebrated; every single day that I'm still alive I do) the 14th anniversary of my date with destiny, the date when Team Lourie (my wife, Dina; my brother, Richard, and me) attended our initial meeting with an oncologist (a specialty with which I don't believe I was familiar at the time). He was referred by my internal medicine doctor (who also had been the doctor who had called me the previous week with the results of my surgical biopsy). We had never met this man/oncologist before. Nevertheless, here we all were sitting across from one another in his office as he proceeded to read the reports from all the doctors who had been involved in the previous seven-plus weeks of various diagnostic tests to determine what had caused the pain in my rib cage. Pain which subsequently migrated to the other side of my rib cage and then completely disappeared. It all began, innocently enough (or so I thought) when I first went to Urgent Care on Jan. 1, 2009, for an assessment. (Yes, New Year's Day, of all days to go to an Urgent Care). However, it wasn't until this Feb. appointment that I learned the results of the two different sets of X-Rays, one CT scan, one PET scan and a surgical biopsy which had occurred since that first fateful day when the pain in my rib had made it difficult to breathe, especially inhale - and even bend over to tie my sneakers, as I got dressed to drive to the emergency room: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, a killer if there ever was one, and unfortunately, in medicine, there are many.

As the oncologist read all the reports/summaries from the physicians who had been investigating the cause of my rib pain, I couldn't quite believe what I thought I was hearing. I mean, I heard all the words from the oncologist, as he was sitting less than 10 feet away but really couldn't process what I was hearing. I remember saying "What?!" However, I clearly remember being told that I had a "terminal" diagnosis. The prognosis: "13 months to two years."

At that time, I was 54 and half and I had never spent a night in a hospital, broken a bone, or barely even had any stitches. Yet, here I was, in major harm's way. My luck, such as it had been, had officially changed. The worm, figuratively speaking, as so many have said in similar circumstances, had turned (along with everything else. Topsy turvy, inside out and upside down, might give you a sense of the total upheaval in your life when a boom such as this is lowered. Actually, it's more like kaboom). The most common description/word I can use to respond to being given a "terminal" diagnosis like this, out of the blue, no less, is/was surreal. It's hardly a unique reaction. I've heard others in similar do or die-type scenarios use the exact same word.

After receiving this life-changing news, the ride home, with Dina and I alone in the car, and my brother a phone call away, was one of stunned silence. Whatever words we exchanged are lost in the ether. I remember, we were barely able to converse. In a matter of 30 minutes or so, our world of possibilities just shrank to next to nothing. What little we understood about cancer, the treatment, my prospects, et cetera, paled in comparison to the fear and anxiety that enveloped us. Lung Cancer!? I thought was a smoker's disease? I never smoked a cigarette in my life, and moreover, being an outside salesman my entire adult work life until then, I rarely spent time in an office and so had never been around much second-hand smoke either. Yet here I was: jackpot city.

But I survived it all. And every February, I take stock and count (figuratively speaking) my blessings. As for the future, I sort of play it dumb and try to go about my business/life as if I haven't been afflicted with a "terminal" form of cancer. Not dying gives one a certain amount of hope. In the early days of every-three-month in person appointments and regular scans, I would often ask my oncologist what if-type questions about various scenarios and side effects and so forth. He was always hesitant to answer my questions. He didn't want to talk too much about scenarios that might never arise or side effects that I might not experience. Eventually, I got the message and the process: thinking too much (or constantly) about something unpleasant/impactful that may or may not happen health wise in the future was counterproductive. And I've been rewarded for my attitude and understanding ever since. And it's never clearer to me than it is every February: My favorite month of the year.

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

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OPEN SAT 3/11 & SUN 3/12, 12-2

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