

# Drumming For Victory

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The Bataala drummers ended the summit with their thunderous rhythms.

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

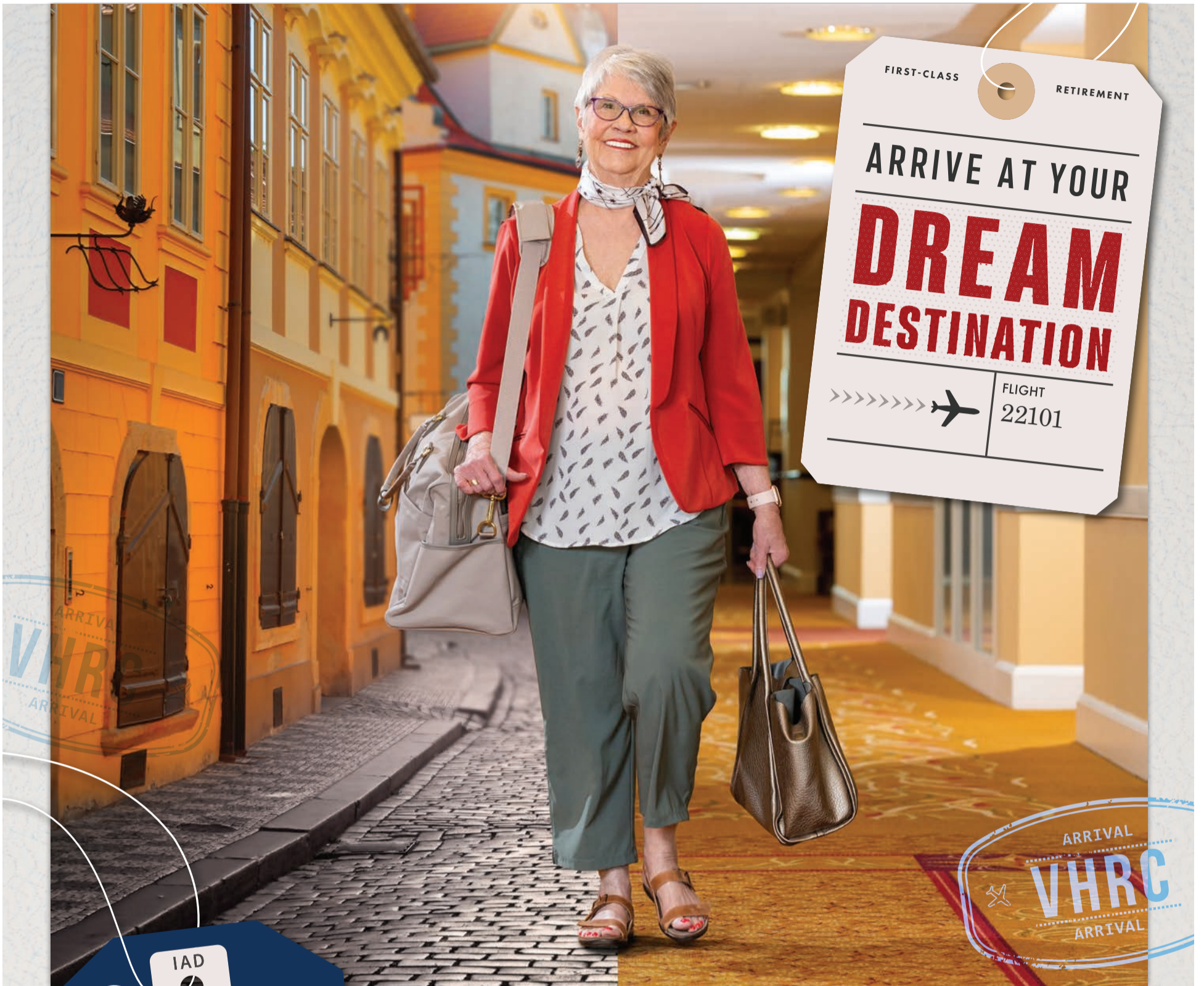
Why Do We Love  
Pugs So Much?

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Butterflies Bring Cheer  
at Summer's End

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Heather Booth addresses the Women's Summit to remind women of the earlier battles for women's rights and civil rights she fought beginning in the sixties.



Eileen Davis, the founder of Women-Matter, a feminist group, and an advocate for passage of the E.R.A. passes the torch to Emily Ocasio.



Ellie Smeal addresses the Women's Summit urging the passage of the ERA.

## Women's Summit in Coalesces Local Women

Next election alarms many who see women's rights infringed.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

There is nothing quite like entering a ballroom overflowing with 1,000 (mostly) women to understand the effect the last few years have had on Virginians. They are fired up. One could hear the buzz all the way down the hall. On the stage was Heather Booth, who fought for civil rights in Montgomery, Alabama in the 1960s, and then for the right to abortion, and who at 77 remains a powerful force for change. It was a look back at some of the feminists who have been actively breaking barriers, including Ellie Smeal, Eileen Davis and Sen. Mamie Locke. And it was a look forward to the new feminists, including a panel of Gen Z women, and Galilea Sejas-Machado, who runs Catalyst for Empowerment. Emily Ocasio, 18, of Girls Computing, said she had been coming to the Summit since she was 14, and this year is finally old enough to vote. It was like a massive family reunion of activists. And when Ms. Magazine was handed out — its fiftieth anniversary edition — many in the room smiled in recognition of an old friend.

The Women's Summit started in 2017. After an "Adopt a Candidate" event at a local library hosted by Network NOVA (a grassroots group formed after the Women's March) a group of women went to a nearby bar to continue chatting. Katherine White, co-founder of Network NOVA said "We should do a summit, like Seneca Falls." (Seneca Falls was the first organized event by women's rights activists in 1848.) Robbin Warner had done events before for NATO, so she thought it could be done. White and co-founder of Network NOVA Stair Calhoun had known each other since their children were young, had organized a bus to go to the Women's March downtown and thought the event could happen.

Dedicated to keeping local people involved, their summit was organized by a group of eight women in 90 days, held in Loudoun County, and got 300 attendees. Its focus was 34 Virginia House of Delegate candidates and their staff. Calhoun attributes their success to their willingness to innovate, and the inability to take no for an answer. In 2018 the Summit had 750 attendees, with Congressional candidates from nine districts. In 2019 it was sold out at 1000 attendees with 140 candidates for local, state, and federal office. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner, Representatives Beyer, Connolly, Spanberger, and Wexton spoke.

In 2020 and 2021 the Pandemic meant the Summit was online. In 2021 it was online and had three satellite locations in Northern Virginia, Harrisonburg and Virginia Beach. Warner, Calhoun, and White made each summit fun, with swag and music — even the virtual ones, one of which featured a very lively virtual cocktail party.

**THIS JULY**, the Summit, once again sold out, didn't have to make it clear that obtaining and maintaining majorities in the Virginia House and Senate respectively, is crucial if voting rights, healthcare choices, civil rights and environmental gains were to be protected. So in a series of workshops, they worked on navigating the urban-rural divide, how to run for office, advocating for change, protecting Virginia's climate laws and passing new ones, understanding the history of culture wars against public schools, and protection of reproductive health access, among many other topics. The attendees in 2023 were 84 percent female, aged from 16 to 70-plus, and came from 103 Virginia cities as well as some from the states of California, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, New York and Oregon. The summit was more diverse,



The Batala drummers ended the summit with their thunderous rhythms.

younger, and had more workshops and vendors than previous summits. To name just a few topics, there was a special session for school board candidates, a session on social media, a discussion of guns and the legal landscape, and storytelling to create change.

Attendees see this year as an important one for safeguarding equal rights in Virginia, particularly since Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) has expressed a willingness to ban abortion in Virginia and has already moved to restrict the rights of LGBTQ residents. Attendees at the summit sent a clear signal: we aren't taking it anymore. They clapped and shouted support for each speaker who said the ERA must be passed, who said the curtailment of women's right to healthcare must be stopped, who decried the infringement of the full rights of LGBTQ people, the banning of books in school libraries, and the continued

mass shootings by people who shouldn't have weapons.

Arlington resident Rose Fabia spoke about enriching voter engagement, Sharon Shutler of Arlington spoke on protecting Virginia's climate laws, and Nancy Morgan of Alexandria spoke on money in politics. Commonwealth's Attorney Parisa Deghani-Tafti spoke about reproductive rights and prosecution. Sen. Jennifer Boysko and Del. Briana Sewell, along with Kristina Hagen, State Director, Family Friendly Virginia, spoke on the family friendly economic policy they advocate. Congressman Don Beyer spoke. Del. Dan Helmer (D-10) spoke, a strongly pro-women's rights talk. U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine gave a moving talk about how important his roles in government have been for him, and his wife, former Virginia Education Secretary, Anne Holton speaking passionately about keeping schools open minded. U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger got a big round of applause, as did Del. Danica Roem, always a rousing speaker, Del. Kathy Tran.

In one of the last sessions, called "Badasses Get Things Done," which was a rapid fire motivation-stirring string of speakers, Kate Slayton, Executive Director, Virginia21; Angela Ferrell-Zabala, Executive Director, Moms Demand Action; Eileen Filler-Corn, 56th Speaker of the Virginia House; Chris Diaz, Executive Director, Drag Out the Vote; Yasmin Radjy, Executive Director, Swing Left; and Tarina Keene, Executive Director, Repro Rising; left the crowd buzzing. Chris Diaz, usually entertaining, got serious about the specter of lost rights on the horizon.

What was the most important take-away of the summit? "Barbie, Taylor Swift, and Beyoncé are not the only amazing 'Girl Power' events of the summer," said Robbin Warner. "The Summit brings together grassroots

SEE WOMEN'S SUMMIT, PAGE 5



# Arlington Pug Remembered: Ode to Hokie

Singing a pug's praises ....

BY BECKY REYNOLDS  
THE CONNECTION

**H**okie Reynolds was a rescue pug hound mix from Blacksburg, Virginia. He was our "Virginia Tech" dog, hence the name. I found him on Petfinder.com with a small rescue organization there, run by a lady named Cathy Higgins. He almost died of Parvo when he was 5- 6 weeks old – before we got him; I paid the vet bill for him so he ended up costing about the same as a French Bulldog.

He was great company. He liked to bark and howl when he felt good. He felt he should always go where he wanted to go even if the door was closed. He could and did scratch on doors until they opened (as you might guess this did affect the appearance of the woodwork on the doors). He also felt it was his duty to be with me when I went to the bathroom. Another task that he felt was his job was patrolling



PHOTOS BY BECKY REYNOLDS

Hokie when he was first adopted by Nick and Becky Reynolds, just sprung from a shelter in Blacksburg.

the perimeter of the yard & barking at every dog or person passing by. I had a vision of Hokie being a therapy dog; that was not to be as he didn't like small children or large dogs. He was willful, self-focused, and not very obedient. His main life skill was to catch treats. He loved his food. He always met us at the door and told us that he missed us.

We love pugs. What attracts us to pugs is they have tons of per-

sonality. You can't be depressed around a pug; they can literally smile. They are so ugly until they are cute. They are a sturdy breed. We fell in love with pugs in Mexico when we met Sultan, who managed to charm and mate a female Shar Pei. Pugs became part of us. I sign my notes to friends, "Pug Hugs." We loved Hokie to pieces and he loved us back and we miss him tons. R.I.P Hokie 12/1/2008-



Hokie's last day. Hokie had reached the point where the kindest thing was to let him go.

4/5/2023

*Nick and Becky Reynolds have lived in Arlington for about 20 years. Becky is an acupuncturist in Ballston and a retired Foreign Service Nurse Practitioner. Nick has written two well received books, "Writer, Sailor, Soldier, Spy: Ernest Hemingway's Secret Adventures, 1935-1961," and "Need to Know: World War II and the Rise of American Intelligence."*

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# Operal NOVA Concert Honors Community Servants

Opera NOVA will hold a community concert to honor five prominent Arlington individuals as well as the many people who serve Arlington through their work as firefighters, police, electrical workers, hospital volunteers, civic association and federation volunteers.

The concert will be held at Walker Chapel United Methodist Church on Glebe Road on Sept. 16 at 3 p.m. Due to limited space, an RSVP is requested at 703-536-7557 or operanovaoffice@gmail.com

The five individuals to be honored through narration and musical celebration are Dr. Alfred O. Taylor

Jr., Lola Reinsch, Sidney Dewberry, Preston Caruthers and Bill Bostwick.

The concert will be followed by a reception at the church.

Opera NOVA was established in 1962 and has evolved as a resource for the arts reaching the community where they live — targeting seniors, children and the diverse Arlington population with the opportunity to have the arts as part of their experience. Arlington is the smallest entity in the United States to have its own opera. [www.operanova.net](http://www.operanova.net)

— SHIRLEY RUHE

# Women's Summit in Coalesces Local Women

FROM PAGE 3

groups. It brings together candidates running for office, many of whom have never met each other before. It's very special to see them meet each other and become friends, and encourage each other to keep running. Money doesn't win elections, people, coalesced people, win elections."

The same eight women who organized the first summit, Calhoun, White, Warner, Renise Leresche, Barb Jones, Leslie Emery, Holly

Hazard, Vicki Moffitt, have been there every year since, donating their time and making it one of the most sought after events on the calendar, even in summer. Finale Norton, who ran and lost an election, joined the team. The summit was sponsored by Clean Virginia, NOVA Labor, Feminist Majority, Repro Rising, UpVote, SwingLeft, Virginia Grassroots Coalition, 4PublicEducation, VADems, Del. Dan Helmer, Red, Wine, and Blue, Planned Parenthood, Sister District Project,

Freedom Virginia, NWPC-VA, Ride-share 2 Vote, Virginia's List, Moms Demand Action, PostcardsforVirginia, Bards Alley, Justice Forward Virginia, Center for Common Ground, the Impact Center, and many other individuals (see [www.NetworkNova.org](http://www.NetworkNova.org) for the full list.) Hundreds of volunteers gave their time to assist in the event.

To attend the Friday Power Lunch, an event held every Friday at noon, focusing on the upcoming election, see [www.NetworkNova.org/live](http://www.NetworkNova.org/live).

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**The Arlington Central Library Plant Clinic** at 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington operates on Wednesdays from 6:00 - 7:45 pm. The Alexandria Old Town Farmer's Market Plant Clinic at 301 King St, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 7:00 - 9:30 am. The Arlington Farmers' Market at N 14th and N Courthouse Roads operates on Saturdays from 8:00 - 11:00 am. The Del Ray Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at Oxford & Mt. Vernon Avenues, Alexandria operates on Saturdays from 8:30 - 11:00 am. The Fairlington Farmers' Market Plant Clinic at 3308 S Stafford St, Arlington, operates on Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am.

### WEDNESDAYS/

**SEPT. 6, 13, 20, 27**  
**Central Library Wednesday Talks.**  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m., Arlington Central Library, 1015 N Quincy St, Arlington. Join Friends of Urban Agriculture, Arlington/Alexandria VCE Master Gardeners and other expert speakers as they provide information on a variety of garden topics each month. Topics in September include: Garden Herbs for Teas on 9/6, Fruits for you Taste Buds and Landscape on 9/13, Microgreens for Your Indoor Garden on 9/20, Garlic - Plant It Now on 9/27 Free. No registration required. For more information call 703-228-5940.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 6

**Garden Herbs for Teas, Flavor and Health.** 6:30 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, First Floor, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Your herb garden offers a bounty of flavorful enjoyment. Sample the tastes and learn the benefits of herbs.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 8

**Native Ground Covers for Sun and Shade.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. A variety of native plant species, including perennials, ferns, grasses, sedges, and even some woody plants, can function as ground covers in multiple landscape situations. Join Extension Master Gardener Elaine Mills to learn which native plants may serve as excellent replacements for overused and invasive traditional ground covers such as English ivy, lirioppe, and periwinkle, while providing much-needed food and habitat for our local pollinators and birds. Free. RSVP at <http://mgvnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-class/> to receive a link to participate.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

**Comedy Karaoke Trivia Funtime Show.** 7:30 p.m. At Highline RxR, 2010 Crystal Drive, Arlington. The Capital City Showcase, which produces some of the best events in the D.C. area, returns with its new one-of-a-kind blend of entertainment. Bring a team or fly solo and win prizes by dropping knowledge in a trivia competition, then duking it out in a karaoke battle. Hosted by Christian Hunt, this amazing experience features comedy from the DC area's finest comics. The headliner for September's show is the hilarious Gigi Modrich.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

**Rosslyn Jazz Festival.** 1-7 p.m. At Gateway Park, 1300 Langston

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WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Northern Virginia Hits Record Registration

Registration for the 2023 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics has hit a record number of 924, up 11% over last year. Herb Levitan, NVSO Chair, said the largest increases were in the 70-74, 75-79 and 80-84 age groups. "City of Falls Church, a jurisdictional sponsor, doubled their registration and almost all of the sponsors had increases," Levitan said. "Table tennis and Wii bowling had over 50% increases."

NVSO begins Saturday, Sept. 9 with opening ceremonies at 9:30 a.m., followed by nine track events at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center, 3501 S. Jefferson St., Arlington. Events will continue through Sunday, Sept. 24 at over 20+ venues throughout Northern Virginia. All events are open to the public to observe. The daily schedule of events is posted on the website at [www.nvso.us](http://www.nvso.us).

Event results will also be posted throughout the two weeks of competition.

NVSO is sponsored by the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church. NVSO is also supported by Gold Patrons who contribute \$1000 enabling NVSO to purchase and replace equipment and services, promote participation and provide awards of recognition. All money donated is used for NVSO activities. It is a non-profit 501-C-3 organization. 2023 Gold Patrons are Retirement Unlimited Inc., Facial Plastic Surgery Center, The Jefferson, Advanced Hearing Services, Greenspring Village, Hunters Woods at Trails Edge, Elance Luxury Living, Goodwin Living, Sentara Health, Aetna and Falcons Landing.

## ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 6

Blvd., Arlington. The Rosslyn BID and Arlington Arts are bringing an exciting lineup to the 31st edition of the Rosslyn Jazz Fest: Galactic, featuring Anjelika "Jelly" Joseph (pictured), plus performances from Pedrito Martínez Group, Oh He Dead, and DuPont Brass. At Gateway Park for an afternoon of music, food trucks, yard games, community table experiences, and more.

### STARTING SATURDAY/SEPT. 9

**AVAST@3700.** Select works by Arlington artists will go on view Saturday, Sept. 9 at Gallery 3700, an Arlington County-owned visual art space. AVAST@3700 will display artworks by artists who are participating in the Arlington Visual Art Studio Tour, which will take place Sept. 23-24. AVAST@3700 includes painting, photography, prints, mixed media, and a small sample of wall-hung sculpture. The exhibit will run through Dec. 7.

### WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 13

**Fruits for Your Tastebuds and Landscape.** 6:30 p.m. Meets at Arlington Central Library, First Floor, 1015 North Quincy Street, Arlington. Well-chosen fruits give years of delicious enjoyment. Learn what fruits grow well in our area, their care, and how to prune and winterize.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 15

**The Cutting Garden.** 10:00 - 11:30 a.m., ONLINE. Do you love having fresh flowers in your home or giving them as gifts? Do you have a sunny spot in your garden or outside your home? If so, then perhaps you'd like to start a cutting garden – your own private source of flowers for bouquets and arrangements. Join Extension Master Gardener Nicole McGrew to learn about creating your own cutting garden to grow fresh flowers across seasons. Free. RSVP at <http://mgnv.org/rsvp-for-public-education-classes/> to receive a link to participate.

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 16

**Opera NOVA** will hold a community concert to honor five prominent Arlington individuals, Dr. Alfred O. Taylor Jr., Lola Reinsch, Sidney Dewberry, Preston Caruthers and Bill Bostwick, as well as the many people who serve Arlington through their work as firefighters, police, electrical workers, hospital volunteers, civic association and federation volunteers. Walker Chapel United Methodist Church on Glebe Road, 3 p.m. RSVP is requested at 703-536-7557 or [operanovaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:operanovaoffice@gmail.com)



The Rosslyn Jazz Festival takes place on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023 in Arlington.



The AVAST@3700 exhibit of Arlington artists will go on view on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023, at Gallery 3700 in Arlington.

The concert will be followed by a reception at the church.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 18

**AI/Chat GBT 101.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Lubber Run Community Center, 300 N. Park Drive, Arlington. Presented by Arlington AAUW. Speaker Jennifer Swann, Director of Information Security at Bloomberg Industry Group. Open to the public.

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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 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.

Please, help save these historical papers. 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.

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

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## July 16th Has Come and Gone



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Through no acknowledgement by me. The acknowledgement came from my sister-in-law, Vanessa. (The date not exactly unbeknownst to me, more like lost in the ether.) July 16th, 2023 was the one-year anniversary of the first day my brother Richard was admitted ("ambulanced" is more like it) to the hospital. The date which is firmly stuck in my brain is Dec. 3rd, the date of his death, which some of you regular readers are no doubt familiar. And likely the subject of a future column – or two, as we get closer to the actual date of his semi-unexpected, though not totally surprising, death. This column is not about dates or acknowledgements, however. It's about a phone call and a story that I was not ready to tell, which became increasingly obvious as I stammered and stuttered my way through the call.

The call to which I'm now going to refer was a call I made to one of my brother's nearly 2,000 clients. As it so happens, I had spoken to this client about a year or so ago concerning a Social Security issue I was having. Per my brother's referral, I contacted these clients for advice - as both husband and wife previously worked as lawyers for the Social Security Administration. I had needed some insight on the best way to reconcile a financial discrepancy between me and Social Security. These clients were helpful, but it was hardly "Casablanca," in that it was not "the beginning of a beautiful friendship." It was simply a one-time request for advice/assessment of a situation I was experiencing with Social Security about my retirement benefits. The point being: these clients and I did not have any kind of relationship.

Recently I had cause – and need, to contact these clients about this same Social Security issue as before. Still, my call was out of the blue as it had been previously when I had initially reached out. Their phone rang and the wife picked up the receiver and naturally said "Hello." I said "Hello" as well and introduced myself. She knew immediately who I was and excitedly asked "How's your brother? I haven't heard from him in months" (ordinarily he's in very regular contact with his clients). To which I responded with a brief exhale, then began muttering to myself that she/they don't know about Richard's death – and now, quite unexpectedly, I had to tell this extremely sad tale. I was not prepared for the gruesome task at hand: the recounting of my brother's final few months of life.

The greatest difficulty I have discussing my brother's death is when I get a totally out-of-the-blue question about his status/death from someone from whom I might not be anticipating such a query. (Cheryl, my brother's Dir. Of Operations had sent out a mass email to his clients alerting one and all to Richard's passing – and of course, there was an obituary in the Washington Post.) This was that exact situation. I tried to compose myself as I slowly began the story of Richard's month's long hospitalization, his cancer, his surgery, his two weeks in a rehab hospital, and finally his return home and ultimate death on Dec. 3rd. And as I continued to detail his last few months; my voice cracked, my eyes watered, and I began to cry – controllably, all the while sharing some of the facts and feelings with these clients.

Clients of Richard's who I knew he had known going back 25 years. I tried to be as open and honest as possible about what had happened to Richard. I knew he would expect nothing less from me when talking with his clients. It wasn't easy – for either of us. They were shocked and saddened to hear of Richard's death. Apparently, they never received – or overlooked, the mass email that Cheryl had sent.

Here I thought I was a big shot; having handled/assimilated my brother's death as responsibly and maturely as one would hope. But the first time that I had to – unexpectedly, answer questions concerning his death, the three and half months preceding it and the story of how Vanessa found Richard on the floor that final morning and then called 911, I crumbled. Maybe that's why I whiffed acknowledging July 16th, his initial hospitalization in ICU, and all the surrounding circumstances. It's still too hard for me. (As the old joke says: "When God made him, they broke the mold: You should see what they did to the mold maker.") There will never be another like him.

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





Monarch butterfly garden sign and milkweed at the Hollin Hall Senior Center in Mount Vernon.



Monarch butterfly caterpillar on a milkweed leaf on Aug. 26 at the Hollin Hall Senior Center in Mount Vernon.



Larry Meade, president of the Northern Virginia Bird Club, led the August 26 butterfly walk.

# Butterflies Bring Cheer at Summer's End

BY GLENDA C. BOOTH  
THE CONNECTION

The numbers of butterflies may be down this year, noted Larry Meade as he led an Aug. 26 butterfly and dragonfly walk for 18 enthusiasts in Dyke Marsh. Nevertheless, the group delighted in finding 12 species, from the summer azure with a one-or-so-inch wingspan to a spicebush butterfly with a 3.5-to-4.5-inch wingspan.

He attributed the lower numbers to several possible factors, including a “cool start” last spring and an ongoing drought resulting in fewer blossoms. Butterflies “eat” or actually nectar on flowers and prefer certain plants. While a few, like the mourning cloak, might emerge from winter hibernation on a warm early spring day, most are active in Northern Virginia from April to October. Butterflies develop through a process called “metamorphosis” and go through several stages called “instars” which take time. “They need warm weather,” Meade explained, adding, “Insects are solar powered. They like the sun.”

“Butterflies are day-flying moths,” he said, and both insects are in the order Lepidoptera. Both insects have four wings with distinctive markings and their larvae are caterpillars. Unlike moths, butterflies have a club or bulb on their antennae and in general are more colorful than most moths.

On Saturday, summer azures seemed abundant, fluttering around seemingly erratically. On a leaf or on the ground, they could be mistaken for a little splotch of white bird poop. Zabulon skippers prefer forest edges, said Meade. They were darting around and displaying an orange wing patch. Mating pearl crescents elicited oohs and awe.

The swallowtails, viewed as large butterflies in North America, wowed the walkers. The male eastern tiger swallowtail is yellow with black stripes. There are two morphs of females, one yellow and one black. The tiger swallowtails were nectaring on bear's foot plants.

Swallowtails have tail-like extensions on each hindwing, hence their name. A black male spicebush swallowtail provided some



PHOTOS BY GLENDA BOOTH

Pamela Krist, master gardener, plants native plants to support native insects, here monarch caterpillars on common milkweed.

drama, its bluish, hind-wing bands glowing in the sun.

The group also spotted Needham's skimmers and common whitetail dragonflies. The whitetail has a striking white body and distinctive dark bands on its otherwise translucent wings. “Dragonflies cannot walk. They fly or perch,” Meade observed.

“Once you start watching dragonflies, you can't help but notice how amazing they are. They fly at speeds of up to 30 miles per hour, zip forward and backward, pivot in a flash and hover with ease,” wrote Jill U. Adams, in an Audubon magazine article.

In 2022, Friends of Dyke Marsh volunteers documented 31 butterfly species and 22 dragonfly and damselfly species in the preserve.

## Migrating Monarchs

While the Saturday, Aug. 26, group saw no monarch butterflies, Meade predicted that people will see some migrating through

## Events and Resources

Sept. 5, Online butterfly identification webinar, by Larry Meade. Visit <https://www.audubonva.org/calendar>.

September 6 and 23, Native Plant Sale, Green Spring Gardens, Virginia Native Plant Society, Potowmack Chapter, <https://vnps.org/events/>.

September 10, Annual North American Butterfly Association butterfly count. Visit <https://www.audubonva.org/calendar>.

Butterfly Gardening Basics, <http://nababutterfly.com/basics-of-butterfly-gardening/>



Silvery checkerspot butterfly



Mating pearl crescent butterflies.



The whitetail dragonfly has a snow white body and distinctive dark wing patches.

the region soon.

These bright orange and black butterflies, which weigh one-fifth the weight of a penny, migrate through Northern Virginia in September and October en route to central Mexico's mountains. Some will fly 2,000 miles from Canada to reach their winter sites. Monarch caterpillars feed exclusively on milkweed leaves.

Locals have spotted a few monarchs and their caterpillars recently. On Saturday, a monarch caterpillar was under a common milkweed leaf at the Hollin Hall Senior Center's monarch waystation, clear evidence that an adult had laid a pencil-point-size egg there. Pamela Krist, who lives in Fair Oaks Estates, brought home a sickly-looking milkweed plant from Merrifield Gardens six weeks ago and last week found four monarch caterpillars on the plant. One started what's called a “J hang,” dangling upside down in a formation resembling the letter J, a step toward forming a green, bag-like chrysalis. Krist moved two to a cloth terrarium with some milkweed plants for their pupation and safety. She plans to tag some monarchs for Monarch Watch, to help track the butterflies' migration routes and popula-

tion trends.

“The caterpillar does all the work, but the butterfly gets all the publicity,” said comedian George Carlin. Get ready for some monarch butterfly publicity.