

# The Arlington Connection

Seniors from The Jefferson retirement community line the sides of the Welburn Square protesting on Saturday.

## All Ages, No Kings

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PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

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NOVEMBER 5-18, 2025

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## Early Morning Vote Up at Madison Community Center

The Connection heads to press on Tuesday before election results are in.

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/THE CONNECTION

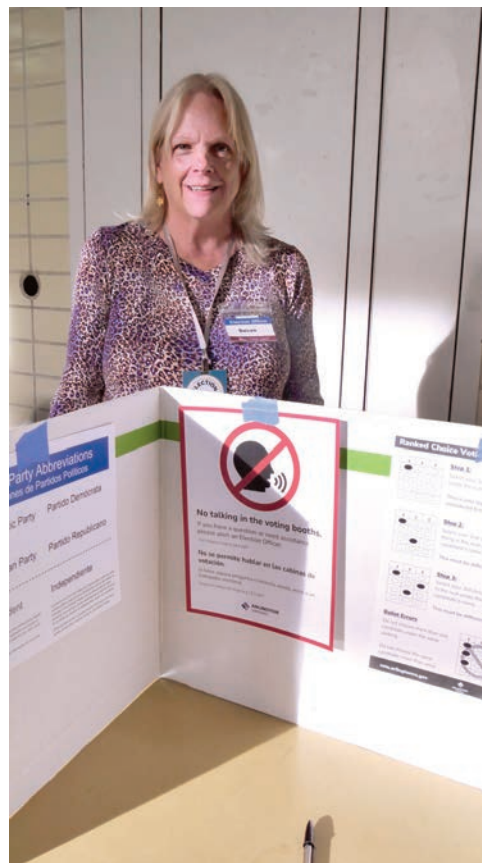
It's 8 a.m. at Madison Community Center. The vote tally is 167. The Election Chief says this is the first time in six years that she has been working the polls that there have been over 100 people voting before 8 o'clock. She adds, "It usually picks up at 8." And at 8:30 the parking lot is full.

Susan Berkeley, Registration Clerk, says there have been quite a few people so far and also quite a few spoiled ballots due to ranked choice voting. She says the election worker brings the spoiled ballot and the voter over to her and she marks SPOILED on the ballot and gives the voter instructions and a new ballot. Berkeley says she came at 5 a.m. and will be there all day and evening until everything is finished.

Robert McLaughlin, a Republican poll worker, stands on one side of the sidewalk outside the build-



An early morning voter fills out his ballot at Madison Community Center on Election Day in Arlington.



Susan Berkeley, Registration Clerk at Madison Community Center polling place in Arlington.



Michael Wigmore has voted and is now choosing a donut — definitely not blueberry or maple.



The sun rises early at the Madison polling place.

ing with his pink information sheet while Democratic poll workers Linda Roman and Shirley Kauffman stand on the other side with their blue voting instructions. The three agreed to stand together for a picture in the interest of bipartisan cooperation. They speculated

there have been a few voters at a time but a steady stream since they have been there.

Allison Larmee and Hadley Griffin sit outside Madison Community Center at a table with donuts, homemade cookies and rainbow rice Krispy treats. Their table is

a familiar sight every election as students man the Model UN table of bakery items to raise money for their event. Larmie says this is her fourth year at the table "and my last" and today is really cold. Larmee says she thinks there has been a bigger turnout this year

than she remembers in previous years. Next year she will be able to vote. Griffin adds that she will be 18 mid-November, just too late to vote this time but she knows who she would have voted for but was not inclined to share that information.



Robert McLaughlin, Republican poll worker and Linda Roman with Shirley Kauffman, Democratic poll workers, normally on opposite sides of the sidewalk but agreeing to pose for a picture in the interest of bipartisan cooperation.



Allison Larmee (left) explains the Model UN to a voter stopping by at their table selling bakery goods to raise money for the event. She and Hadley Griffin have been there early and have noticed more voters than usual.

Robert McLaughlin, Republican poll worker and Linda Roman with Shirley Kauffman, Democratic poll workers, normally on opposite sides of the sidewalk but agreeing to pose for a picture in the interest of bipartisan cooperation.

# Arlington Contingent Displayed Pro-American Passion

Thousands of Arlington and NOVA residents demonstrated downtown.

By EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

It would have been hard not to feel the joy of the Arlington contingent at No Kings Day 2 held Oct. 18 in Washington, D.C. In a well organized display of patriotism and shock at the actions of the Trump administration, the Arlington and Northern Virginia residents came early, waved flags, paraded down the Mall, and sang folk songs on the steps of the National Archives. There were over two thousand of them before they joined the larger demonstration as it headed down Pennsylvania Avenue.

They wore dinosaur, frog, monarch, and Care Bear costumes, waving 50 U.S. state flags, Virginia flags, American flags and rainbow flags. Their banners messaged love, for country, for democracy, for fellow citizens, for our children, and for the U.S. Constitution.

Some were in their teens and twenties, some were in their seventies and eighties. Many were furloughed or fired government workers. Some were immigrants. One of them was Bill Nye, the Science Guy, from NPR, who spoke at the rally.

They had one goal: to let the country know the recent policies by the Trump administration were not okay, not normal, and not legal, and to emphasize their



Trish Brown of Arlington holds a banner for the group We of Action Virginia.

views, rather than being anti-U.S. or un-American, were pro-U.S. and very American, as American

as Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, John Adams, and apple pie.



PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

An Arlington couple in their eighties, Richard and Caroline Young, recently decided to join up with other Arlington residents who didn't like what was happening in their country, and volunteered to carry the "Epstein Files."



An Indian-American U.S. citizen was particularly indignant about what was happening to her adopted country.



The group, We of Action Virginia (WofaVA) organized an impressive display of flags and banners on the National Archives steps, sending a message of strong support for Virginia's democratic tradition.



Lesley Philips, of Arlington, and a member of Moms Demand Action, a group fighting for safer gun laws, stood on the steps of the Archives.

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Wolin Sky and Melanie Ridney sit on a bench at the edge of the square on Saturday at the No Kings Day rally at Welburn Square in Arlington.



A small group sings, "Put a little love in your heart."

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

# Generations Join in Peaceful No-Kings Day Protest

**"Think of your fellow man, give him a helping hand. Put a little love in your heart."**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**H**andmade signs on cardboard, American flags — Arlingtonians, some in costumes and others wearing crowns — marched round and round Welburn Square peacefully protesting the Trump Administration. Several hundred people joined the nationwide protests on Saturday, Oct. 18 in one of the many local demonstrations. The crowd of 300-400 ranged from babies in snugglies to seniors in wheelchairs and everyone in between.

Jan and Ed Harkness are standing along the side of the square. Jan is holding up a sign that says

"Will We Still Have Scientists to Replace Me?" She explains she is from China. Ed says, "We met in Berlin where she was getting a PhD in agriculture, and I was a diplomat with the State Department." Jan says, "I'm not really political but we wanted to attend a low-key rally to protest the way Trump has behaved. He is ... really destroying American democracy. Now I wonder why I came to America."

Next to them along the edge of the crowd a small group accompanied by a banjo is singing, "Think of your fellow man, give him a helping hand. Put a little love in your heart."

Wolin Sky, a resident of The SEE GENERATIONS JOIN, PAGE 7



The signs say so much at the No Kings demonstration on Welburn Square in Arlington.



Demonstrators ranged from babies in snugglies to seniors in wheelchairs.



Jan and Ed Harkness are protesting the way the Trump administration has behaved including cuts in research spending.



Bob, a Vietnam War veteran and his wife Beverly, residents of the Jefferson, are protesting the weaponization of the justice system, the lack of due process and the treatment of immigrants.



Seniors from The Jefferson retirement community line the sides of the Welburn Square protesting on Saturday.

# Generations Join in Peaceful No-Kings Day Protest



Protestors march around the Welburn Square on Taylor Street and sit on benches surrounding the square in Arlington protesting President Trump's usurpation of the democratic process.



PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE

FROM PAGE 6

Jefferson retirement community across the street, sits on a bench beside Melanie Ridney. Sky says he is trying to protest what has been destroyed in our democracy. "It's no longer what it used to be, not even a little bit."

Ridney says she is there because she is a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. "I

Protestors march around the Welburn Square on Taylor Street.

have 22 ancestors that are connected. My father fought in the Pacific in WWII. I lost an uncle in the war. A lot of people don't understand what they have here." She added, "I don't think any of us knew how tenuous democracy was."

A dinosaur passes by marching

around the square. Soon a protester follows holding up a "Fight Truth Decay" sign along with others, "Immigrants Make America Great Again" and "Melt ICE."

Beverly and Bob Johnson, also residents of The Jefferson, estimated they had over 60 participants in

today's demonstration. The Johnsons have come from the protest on the Mall where "there were rivers of people." Bob is a veteran of the Vietnam War and is appalled by the use of the military in our cities. He says he is not a fan of the Secretary of Defense and his favor-

ite sign on the mall where they had been earlier in the morning today was "Hesketh DUI hire."

Beverly says, "We are here protesting the usurpation of our due process, the treatment of immigrants and the weaponization of justice."

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**ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL**

## ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

# 'Gun Show' Provokes Conversation

'Gun Show' will be screened Friday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 pm at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**"G**un Show" is award-winning cinematographer and director Richard Chisholm's 30-minute documentary about David Hess. Hess is a metal sculptor who made assault weapons out of junk and scraps as a reaction to the Sandy Hook massacres. It was Hess' way of processing what had happened. It had shocked him, and it was very personal.

So Hess looked for spare parts — discarded auto mufflers, bicycle gears, pipes, discs — and welded a couple of assault weapons as art. But a museum curator, who was looking at Hess's sculptures for an upcoming exhibit, discovered the assault weapons lying in a corner of Hess's studio. The curator picked one up and said it was amazing, disturbing and interesting all at the same time.

He asked Hess if Hess could make more of the art assault weapons for the exhibit and gave him a whole room to exhibit them. This was the impetus that started Hess on a journey to do pop up exhibits across America. He wanted to generate conversations about assault weapons and get reactions.

By the summer Chisholm says Hess had 30 of his art assault weap-

ons, and they trucked the guns to the Eastern Shore for a show. Hess asked if he could lay the assault weapons on the ground. Chisholm says, "The night the show opened so many people came — wine and cheese — students, liberals, local people, fishermen and farmers." Chisholm said people asked if they could pick the guns up.

Hess said it was amazing the body language changed when someone was holding a gun — sometimes bravado aiming guns, laughing at the new experience, sometimes frightened, sometimes generating conversations about guns in America. Hess and Chisholm went to new places every month for two years and ended up in D.C. They stopped when their budget of \$35,000 ran out.

Chisholm said he directed and shot the experiences and "even though I have feelings about guns we decided to have a measured approach in the film." He continued, "A lot of people get obsessed about guns. We had all kinds of people all over the political map but we wanted all different people to watch the film so decided to be neutral."

Chisholm explains it is difficult to raise the money to make documentaries. He says they are the stepchild of the film industry. "The TV industry itself doesn't want to show them unless they have

sharks. Or murder mysteries get on all the time, and a celebrity helps of course."

The challenges faced along the way were the things that didn't happen but might have — and always lingered in the back of their minds as possibilities. "We always worried about yelling or harassing or someone trying to steal the guns. That never happened but we knew we had to be careful. On 5th Avenue the cops were driving by, and Black people were holding up the art weapons."

"We were uncomfortable." A black teenager commented, "You couldn't do this on our block."

And there was the gun show in rural Pennsylvania held in a barn. "It was mostly rural America, NRA types. We were worried they would think we were making fun of them and chase us out. It turned out they loved the art objects and wanted to buy them."

Chisholm has been a cinematographer for more than 30 years and won a number of awards including an Emmy and a Peabody. Once in a while he says he makes his own film. Chisholm recalls he was an artist as a kid but when he was a mid-teen he started to make sarcastic films with his friends. One of his films got screened in a film festival and, "I got a rush. I said 'this is what I want to do.'" Then Chisholm submitted his senior



Richard Chisholm shooting "Gun Show" in Washington D.C. with David Hess, the sculptor and subject of the documentary being screened during the Alexandria Film Festival.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Assembling David Hess's assault weapons artistic display.

project in college to PBS as a lark. To his surprise PBS liked it and aired it nationally. This flicked another switch for Chisholm on the road to becoming a well acclaimed

cinematographer.

"Gun Show" will be screened Friday, Nov. 7 at 4:30 pm at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

## About the Alexandria Film Festival

Free Film  
Fest Tix for  
Furloughed  
Feds.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

**T**he Alexandria Film Fest opened Sunday, Nov. 2 and will continue Friday through Sunday, Nov. 7-9 at venues across the city.

The 62 independent films to be screened at the 18th Film Festival this year span from 3 minutes to 118 minutes and cover topics from environ-

mental issues to documentaries about a gun show to comedies and satires to fantasies. Half of the films were made by local filmmakers and 50 of them will be present for a Q&A session after their films. Tickets may be purchased at \$15 per show or an All-Festival Pass for \$80 at [affilmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org](https://affilmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org).

Jill Ray, chair of the festival announced they will offer complimentary tickets to Federal workers due to the government shutdown.

The full program is available at <https://affilmsthatmatter2025.eventive.org/welcome> <https://alexfilmfest.com/>

## 'Turn Me On' Characters Get Turned Off

'Turn Me On' will be screened at the Alexandria Film Festival on Friday, Nov. 7 at the American History Museum at the Lyceum.

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**M**ichael Tyburski is premiering his 99 minute feature, "Turn Me On" at the Alexandria Film Festival on Friday, Nov. 7 at the American History Museum at the Lyceum. His first feature premiered at Sundance in 2019. "Turn Me On," Tyburski's second feature, takes place in a world that feels like a Utopia, where everyone is comfortable with no positive or negative feelings due to a pill they take by choice every day.

Then one day Joy doesn't take the "vitamin" and discovers a

SEE 'TURN ME ON', PAGE 9



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michael Tyburski, the director of "Turn Me On" on the set with the cinematographer.

## ALEXANDRIA FILM FESTIVAL

# Film Discovers Too Many Annies

**“The Other You,” Virginia premier at the Alexandria Film Festival on Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at Virginia Tech (ALX) Boeing Auditorium.**

BY SHIRLEY RUHE  
GAZETTE PACKET

**T**he Other You,” Shoshana Rosenbaum’s first feature film, is having its Virginia premier at the Alexandria Film Festival on Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. at Virginia Tech (ALX) Boeing Auditorium.

The film was shot in an Alexandria house and yard in Rosemont over 17 days. “This was the biggest challenge. We had the house for a finite period of time, and scheduling it all was difficult,” Rosenbaum explains, “We had to dress the house to be a regular world and then flip it over to the closet world. Every actor plays two parts in the two different worlds, and it was complicated going back and forth.”

Then they also learned the house next door was going to be doing construction so she had to make a schedule in case they had to work around that.

“The Other You” is about a woman who is married with three children and is feeling disgruntled about her hassled and humdrum life where everyone wants something from her, and she has no time to do creative work. One day she finds a small door in her closet. Through that door she discovers another world which seems like a better version of her life — where

her children are well behaved, her husband attentive and loving, and she has plenty of quality time for her writing. She discovers her other self and another life.

But as time goes on, she learns there is more to the life through the closet door. It is an actual place, the other world, and there are problems there, too. And there seem to be too many Annies.

They worked long days to make the film. “You know Alexandria in the summer with tornado warnings and runs to the basement and thunderstorms. But we got it done. There are always a lot of things that happen along the way. But we are problem solvers.”

Rosenbaum made her first short film 10 years ago when she was 40. She had been an elementary school teacher but she says turning 40 was the catalyst; and she decided if she wanted to do it, she needed to do it now. Rosenbaum says she was always a writer but it wasn’t as accessible when she came up to produce a film, and she didn’t see it as a career path. Now she says with the digital possibilities, it is so much easier to do it yourself.

Rosenbaum says the whole life cycle of a film takes so long. She read the script in 2021. It took a year to develop the script and raise the money and it was shot in 2023. Then there is post production, sound design, and color. “Color is

very important in the film; it differentiates the two worlds for the viewer.”

For a lot of films raising money is really their biggest challenge “but we got really lucky with the funding. We received a \$100,000 grant.” She explains that while you can generally make a short film for under \$10,000, “it is expensive to make a feature.” She says you see the cast but you don’t see the writers, sound and camera crew, etc. and equipment is very expensive. “I directed, produced and edited so we didn’t have to pay for separate people.”

Now she is working on her next indie film about a mother trying to invent a robotic AI to help raise her children. “I’m trying to get it off the ground.”

Rosenbaum grew up in Arling-



**Director Shoshana Rosenbaum and Casting Director/Producer Kimberly Skyrme shooting “The Other You” on location in the Rosemont neighborhood of Alexandria.**

ton and she says many of the cast and crew are local and will be at the screening.

“You never know what will go.

The longer I do it I celebrate the small wins. You just hope it will resonate with other people. I’m excited to be part of the festival.”

**Annie opens the portal door into the other world.**

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED



## ‘Turn Me On’ Characters Get Turned Off

FROM PAGE 8

whole range of feelings. When she shares this with her partner William and the others in her group, it causes major disruption in their lives.

“Like most satires this shines a light on our own society, taking pills to avoid feeling things, exploring the over-medication in our society.” He says, “When Angela wrote the script, it was during the pandemic, and she was looking at the idea of how young people don’t connect physically anymore. She took it to the extreme, and I could project some of my feelings when everyone was isolated during Covid.”

Tyburski says, “You have to be creative to translate a script to the screen and on a budget. With a screenplay maybe there are no limits. It took place in a cosmopolitan



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Bel Powley and Nick Robinson cast in the film “Turn Me On”**

future city. But,” he says, “We wanted to make it a little more original, and we didn’t have the budget to fabricate a city so we adapted it to

rural community in the wilderness. We don’t know where it is but they speak English, and we wanted to place them in nature.”

He says it took about a month to shoot the film. “The actual making of the movie took about a year’s worth of time for me — work on the script, develop for the screen, find the cast, many months of post production, sound mix and color.” He says, “You have to be quick on your feet. The biggest challenge was creating a lot of problems you have to solve. It takes a lot to make a movie.”

As the director he was involved in all the steps. “Finding the cast, working with the wonderful cast. They are very talented.

I live in New York, the leading actress in London, the other lead in L.A.”

And in this case it was shot during Covid and there were the extra restrictions mandated by Covid with required medical staff on set and distancing. “Filmmak-

ing is very intimate with close conversations in small environments but with the extra restrictions mandated it was more hurdle to work around.”

He says he grew up in rural Vermont, and it was not a path everyone was doing. “But I had an interest in how things work and when I got into movies as a kid, I started experimenting with my own.” Then he studied film in Santa Fe. “I worked directing commercials and short films for 15 years.”

He is currently in the early phases of writing his third film. Tyburski thinks film has become easier technically today. “It is certainly competitive but talent does prevail and good stories find their way to the top.”

He adds, “I have a lot of tenacity. And I don’t want to stop. It’s what I love to do.”

# Watch for That Scout at Your Door

**S**aturday, Nov. 8 Arlington Scouts will participate in the national Scouting for Food drive by collecting food door to door and donating it to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). This is AFAC's largest single-day food drive all year, and their partnership with Scouting for Food has resulted in donation of 1 million pounds of food

since 1995.

Nov. 1, the Saturday before the drive, Scouts place door hangars in neighborhoods where they plan to collect food the next Saturday, Nov. 8. They ask that the donations be placed outside the door by the mailbox by 8 a.m.

The donations should be placed in a sack or container and should not include glass jars, out-of-date

food or perishable items. The most requested items include: canned protein (tuna, chicken, salmon), low-sugar cereal, canned beans and tomato products, cooking oil in plastic containers, peanut butter in plastic containers.

In the event you miss the scouts or do not receive a notice to participate, you can bring your non-perishable food donations to the fol-

lowing locations:

- ❖ AFAC Warehouse (2708 S. Nelson St)
- ❖ Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St)
- ❖ Arlington Mill Community Center (909 S. Dinwiddie St)
- ❖ Arlington Public Library Branches: Central Library (1015 N. Quincy St), Cherrydale (2190 Military Rd), Shirlington (4200

Campbell Ave), or Westover (1644 N. McKinley Rd)

Donations can be dropped off during the regular operation hours at each of these locations.

If you are unable to donate non-perishable food items, AFAC is also accepting monetary donations at [www.afac.org](http://www.afac.org)

— SHIRLEY RUHE

## Kate Ange Named Acting Director Of Arlington Economic Development

**A**rlington County Manager Mark Schwartz has named Katharine (Kate) Ange Acting Director of Arlington Economic Development (AED), following the departure of AED Director Ryan Touhill on Nov. 7, 2025. Touhill has served as director since November 2022.

Ange came to Arlington as AED's Deputy Director in September 2023 and has been involved in many of the efforts that are helping position Arlington to face the ongoing economic challenges



Kate Ange

in the region and strengthen the County's resiliency.

"Kate has become a critical part of the AED team since arriving in Arlington," said Schwartz.

In her role as Deputy Director, Ange has focused on the development and implementation of a new strategic plan for AED and strengthening external partnerships to achieve positive economic outcomes.

She has also contributed significantly to the Commercial Market Resiliency Initiative (CMRI) and

advancing efforts to form a Tourism Improvement District (TID) in Arlington.

She currently serves as the liaison to all three of the County's BIDs, works closely with the Economic Development Commission, and oversees AED's Business Investment Group, the Arlington Convention and Visitor Service, BizLaunch, and the Communications team.

Trained as a city planner, Ange spent nearly three decades working with local and state govern-

ments, regional planning organizations, and federal agencies on the advancement of community development efforts before coming to Arlington County.

Kate holds a Master of Planning in Urban and Environmental Planning from the University of Virginia, and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies from Rollins College. She has been an Arlington resident since 2009.

[www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com](http://www.arlingtoneconomicdevelopment.com)

### SENIOR LIVING

## Flourishing After 55

Office of 55+ Programs  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA 22203

55+ Programs are in person at 55+ Centers unless otherwise noted. A 55+ Pass is required to participate starting at a \$25 annual fee. To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Coffee or Tea and Thee, Mondays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m., socialize with other 55+ friends at Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Volleyball, all skill levels welcome, Tuesdays, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center; and Thursdays, 2 – 4 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Both are drop-in.

Introduction to beginners line dancing class with 55+ volunteer Suzie Pratts, Fridays, Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Learn box step, quarter turn and grapevine. Drop-in.

Cribbage, a challenging card game yet easy to learn and play, Fridays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Water walking and lap swimming to strengthen muscles at Long Bridge Aquatics Center, Mondays, 8-10 a.m., Wednesdays, 1-3 p.m. No instruction provided. Long Bridge Aquatics Center membership required or pay daily admission fee. Located at 333 Long Bridge Drive. Drop-in.

Tai Chi practice with experienced volunteers, no instruction provided, Mondays, 2-2:45 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center; Tuesdays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center; Fridays, 1-2:15 p.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. All are

drop-ins.

55+ Ice Skating, Mondays, 8:40 – 9:40 a.m., MedStar Capitals Iceplex, roof level parking at Ballston Quarter. \$1 skate rental fee. Pre-registration required at [www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com](http://www.medstarcapitalsiceplex.com), click on Senior Public Skate.

Memoir Writing group to share and exchange ideas, meets second and fourth Wednesdays, beginning Sept. 10 through Nov. 26, 2-4 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 911402-19.

Play pickleball, 55+ Pass required at the following 55+ centers: Walter Reed, Mondays, 8:15 a.m.- 4 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 – 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, 2:15 – 4 p.m.; and Fridays, 8:15 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Arlington Mill, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12 – 3 p.m. Drop-ins.

Women's drop-in basketball, Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m.-8:45 p.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Drop-in.

Black bears in Arlington, join Jenn Hazen, certified Arlington regional master naturalist and black bear ambassador for an engaging and educational session to learn how to co-exist with the bears, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 6 p.m. Arlington Mill 55+ Center, registration # 911400-37.

Opera appreciation group will hear and discuss "Marriage of Figaro" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Wednesday, Nov. 5, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Professional commentary by George Cecchetti. Registration # 911300-05.

Ticket to Ride, a cross-country train adventure

board game, taught by 55+ Center Director Jennifer Weber, Thursday, Nov. 6, 9:30 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Registration # 911600-07.

Old-time and String Band Jam, bring your guitars, banjos, fiddles, mandolins and dulcimers for an open jam of old-time (pre-bluegrass) and string band music, Thursday, Nov. 6, 5 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. All skill levels welcome. Registration # 911304-17.

Artist cookbook, Community Arts Programmer Jennifer Droblyen will introduce participants to "recipes" for art materials that can be made for household items, Thursday, Nov. 6, 9 a.m., virtual. Registration # 911300-13.

First Friday Social, Friday, Nov. 7, 1 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Halloween theme, enjoy music and light refreshments. Registration # 911801-03.

Multicultural celebration at Walter Reed 55+ Center, learn about cultural traditions of many different backgrounds, Friday, Nov. 7, 11 a.m. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Bring your tradition to share and find out how, contact 55+ center director Jennifer Weber for more details at [jweber@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jweber@arlingtonva.us) or 703-228-0949. Registration # 911899-03.

Intergenerational photo contest and show, attend this show to view the creative work of adults and teen photographers, Saturday, Nov. 8, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Open to all ages; no 55+ Pass required. Registration # 911899-04.

55+ Travel group participants will attend the opening of the annual Northern Virginia Christmas Market, in Chantilly, Saturday, Nov. 8. Cost \$13, Arlington resident; \$15, non-resident. Registration # 902511-06.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### ARLINGTON PLANETARIUM BOARD VACANCIES

The Friends of Arlington's Planetarium seeks to fill two vacancies on its 2026 Board of Directors. Interested candidates seeking information and an application can find details at the FOAP Elections web page. The deadline for submission is Dec. 15, 2025.

#### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS NEEDED

Have some extra time to drive a neighbor to a doctor's appointment? You pick the days, times, and places that are convenient for you. There is NO MINIMUM

driving requirement. Not only do you help older adults in need, you also get to meet wonderful folks, often with very interesting backgrounds and stories to tell. The Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church (SCMAFC), is an all-volunteer, non-sectarian, non-profit organization. Its mission is providing free transportation to seniors for medical and dental appointments or run errands to grocery stores and pharmacies. To sign up, visit the website at <https://scmafc.org/volunteer>, or email [contact@scmafc.org](mailto:contact@scmafc.org) with questions.

# Arlington Gears Up to Help SNAP Recipients

Extra funding for AFAC could help feed an additional 3,000 families a week.

By Shirley Ruhe  
Arlington Connection

**A**rlington County has issued a notice that "Due to the ongoing federal shutdown, November SNAP benefits will not be issued by the USDA Food and Nutrition Service."

As the cutoff of benefits remains unresolved, it continues to cause chaos amid political promises to return it or not, partially or not.

Around 5,700 Arlington residents currently receive SNAP benefits which provide financial assistance to low-income households to buy food through a debit card credited monthly with the benefits. The cards can be used to purchase food at 6,400 authorized retail locations in Virginia. These benefits lapse Nov. 1 due to the political wrangling surrounding the Federal government shutdown.

According to the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, in FY 2024 827,800 Virginia

residents or 1 in 11 of the state population received SNAP benefits. More than 67 percent of SNAP participants are in families with children. In 2024 SNAP recipients in Virginia received \$1.76 billion in benefits.

SNAP is a Federal program which is administered by the state and managed locally by Arlington's Department of Human Services (DHS). But Arlington doesn't control the amount or when the benefits are delivered.

However, to address the potential negative impact of the pause in SNAP benefits, both the state and Arlington County have jumped in to provide food assistance.

Arlington County has approved \$350,000 in emergency funding to the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) which provides supplemental groceries weekly to families in need.

According to Charles Meng, CEO of AFAC, they plan to expand their food distribution capacity to accommodate the additional need.

"At the current time we are serving 4,200 families a week, a number we expect to in-

crease by 30 percent over the month of November to over 5,200 a week." Meng says an additional 3,018 families have been referred to AFAC by DHS but haven't come to AFAC. "But at any time they could come almost immediately in addition to the 4,246 who came to us last week."

Meng says they are not planning to change their menu which offers eggs, milk, protein, fresh fruits and vegetables as well as canned foods and bread weekly. "We have contacted our suppliers about additional orders and have received positive responses from all of them."

He says, "While the abrupt disruption of SNAP is the immediate challenge that AFAC and Arlington County must address, it is only a precursor to the long-term reductions to SNAP, WIC, TANF and other support programs included in the 'Big Ugly Bill' that are taking effect in January of the new year."

A list of the distribution sites and residential buildings where food may be picked up as well eligibility criteria for AFAC supple-

mental groceries can be found on the AFAC website at afac.org

"Food security is a fundamental need and we are committed to ensuring that no Arlington community member goes without essential support during this uncertain time," said Anita Friedman, Director of the Arlington County Department of Human Services. Arlington has announced they will continue working with SNAP applicants who may be caught in the middle of the process.

In addition, the Commonwealth of Virginia has announced Virginia Emergency Assistance to be provided out of state funds. It will provide pro-rated benefits to eligible SNAP recipients.

SNAP benefits depend on a household size and income. The maximum monthly allotment for a family of four in 2025 is \$975 and \$292 for a single person. The minimum benefit for 2026 is \$24 for a household of one or two members. The average SNAP benefit was \$177 for each household member per month.

# Dems Sweep Top Spots, Gain 13 Seats in House

New majorities set stage for vote on constitutional amendment to allow mid-decade congressional redistricting and other priorities.

By Mercia Hobson  
The Connection

**D**emocrat Abigail Spanberger won the Virginia governor's race, securing a Democratic trifecta and full control of the state government for the first time since 2021.

"We sent a message to the whole world that in 2025, Virginia chose pragmatism over partisanship. We chose our commonwealth over chaos. You all chose leadership that will focus relentlessly on what matters most. Lowering costs. Keeping our communities safe, and strengthening our economy," Governor-elect Spanberger, 46, said in her celebration speech shortly after 8:30 p.m. Election Day, Nov. 4. Polls closed at 7 p.m.

The win flips the Governor from Republican control, removing the veto power that halted many Democratic-backed bills in the past legislative session.

Spanberger defeated Republican Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears by a 14.7% margin, receiving 1,916,895 votes to Earle-Sears' 1,425,519, according to the unofficial count from the Virginia Department of Elections as of 2:17:33 a.m. Wednesday.

The consolidation of power was complete as the party took a House of Delegates majority to an estimated 64-36. State Senate seats were not on the Nov. ballot. The next regularly scheduled election for all Virginia State Senate seats is in two years, November 2027.

Democrats also won the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General races on the

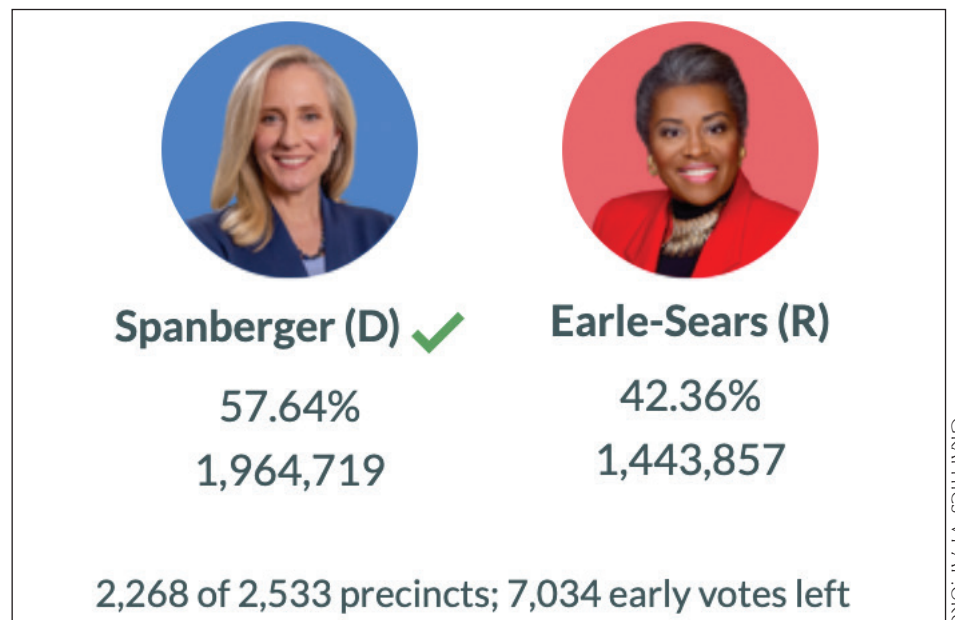
statewide ticket. Democrat Ghazala Hashmi won the lieutenant governor race with 1,887,753 votes (55.6%) over Republican John Reid (1,499,064 votes) for an 11.4 percentage point margin. Hashmi's victory makes her the first Muslim and first South Asian American elected to statewide office in Virginia. Democrat Jay Jones won the attorney general race with 1,791,589 votes (53.1%) over Republican incumbent Jason Miyares (1,569,450 votes) for a 6.6 percentage point margin, based on the near-complete unofficial results from the Virginia Department of Elections as of 2:17:33 a.m. Wednesday.

Northern Virginia counties like Fairfax produced vote totals that supported offsetting Republican strength in the state's rural, historically conservative areas. The Democratic vote totals from Northern Virginia were key to securing the sweep.

Democrats also defeated incumbent Republican members of the House of Delegates in other parts of the state to increase their margin by 13 seats as of Wednesday.

Gov. Glenn Youngkin (R) vetoed 157 bills in 2025, including legislation concerning gun safety (many); minimum wage; affordable housing; retail framework for adult-use cannabis; reproductive health; and many others. This week's election outcome creates an opportunity to break the to advance many of those issues.

This week's election outcome also creates a path to amend the state constitution. The Democratic majority has the numbers to pass a constitutional amendment in the 2026 ses-



Abigail Spanberger will be the first woman to serve as Governor of Virginia.

sion that would allow redrawing U.S. House districts. The constitutional amendment bill is House Joint Resolution 6007, or HJ 6007, formally titled the "Virginia Allow Mid-Decade Congressional Redistricting if Another State First Conducts Redistricting Amendment."

The amendment has successfully passed its first of two required votes by the General Assembly: The State Senate approved HJ 6007 in a party-line 21-16 vote on Oct. 31, 2025. The House of Delegates had approved the measure earlier in the week on a 51-42 vote. This completed the "First Passage" requirement for a constitutional amendment.

The amendment, HJ 6007, must be approved again during the 2026 Regular Session, which begins in January 2026, and then passed by voters in a statewide referendum before new maps could take effect for the 2026 midterm elections.

The amendment is temporary, granting the General Assembly this power only between Jan. 1, 2025, and Oct. 31, 2030, and only if another state first conducts a mid-decade congressional redistricting.

If passed, this could potentially create more Democratic-leaning U.S. House seats, impacting the national balance of power.

# Ukraine Tattoo Artist Escapes Russian Bombs, Sets Up Shop in Arlington

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

As the Russian artillery pounded the city of Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine, Karyna Sidorenko and Artem Ivanov knew there must be other options for their tattoo business so they packed up and left, ending up in Arlington where they opened “Banana Peel Tattoos,” on Washington Boulevard.

“Where our shop was located, now it’s the front lines,” said Karyna. “It was not easy,” she added. They’ve combined art with resilience and cultural exchange to make it work at Banana Peel.

They found the right spot too, and since they moved in 2023 they’ve won over 30 trophies and brought on a sponsor, “Extreme Inks,” for the ink that they use. Throw in custom needles from Galliot Needles, snacks and tea around the shop and they have a winning formula. More is planned too, but they’re keeping it secret.

“Something really, really new in the tattoo industry,” Karyna said.

Even the name “Banana Peel,” says a little more. They serve fresh fruit to customers and their receptionist is a barista too so she brews a variety of teas to make the customers’ experience feel unique. So unique that when the name “Banana Peel,” was brought up, they liked it. “We want to make something funny,” she added, “our clients like it.”

Clients chimed in too. “Artem is an incredible artist” said one reviewer while another named Pablo noted his experience: “He made sure I was comfortable the whole time and helped me get through the whole 8+ hour tattoo in one session”

Next week, they plan on setting up shop at the tattoo convention at the Dulles Town Center. On Friday, Oct. 24 thru Sunday, Oct. 26, Dulles is hosting the Villain Arts’ 1st Annual Northern Virginia Tattoo Arts Festival.

In addition to all the tattoos, there will be expert piercers, tooth gem artists, and vendors selling everything from fancy jewelry and stylish clothing to rare oddities and art pieces.

There is also a full lineup of live entertainment all weekend, including a contortionist archer, dazzling burlesque sideshow performances, circus acts, and even stunning human suspension, the description said.



Artem and one of his awards.

## Award Winning

Artem has received several top awards during his time in the U.S., including:

- ❖ 1st place at the Baltimore Tattoo Convention in 2023, 2024, and 2025
- ❖ 1st place at the DC Tattoo Convention in 2023
- ❖ 1st place at the Richmond Tattoo Convention in 2024



It takes a steady hand with the needle machine.



Batman on the calf.



Karyna Sidorenko and Artem Ivanov brought their tattoo skills from Ukraine.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

# ENTERTAINMENT

## CENTERS FOR OPPORTUNITY ARLINGTON

The Centers for Opportunity Arlington is a safe, stigma-free place to spend time for those recovering from homelessness, substance use, and mental illness. It has a donation closet that needs adult clothing and shoes. Some participants at the Center are looking for jobs and need the proper attire. Located at 3219 Columbia Pike, Suite 101, Arlington. Contact Greg, Program Coordinator at 703-567-1346.

## VOLUNTEER FOR ARLINGTON'S COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

Arlington Neighborhood Village, in partnership with Arlington County and Marymount University, has started the Community Ambassador Program (CAP). CAP is a volunteer fueled system that identifies "Ambassadors" connected with civic associations, faith communities, senior centers, apartment buildings, etc. These individuals will be trained to be a reliable source of information about the many opportunities available to older adults in Arlington.

Ambassadors will spread the word about programs and support services, opportunities for social and civic engagement, and educational and enrichment activities for older adults in their own neighborhoods. They are actively recruiting ambassadors to act as a bridge between their community and the Arlington safety net, providing information and soliciting feedback to improve offerings that help older adults remain safe, independent, engaged, and connected to their community.

Contact [cap@anvarlington.org](mailto:cap@anvarlington.org) if this is something you are interested in or want to learn more. Let's work together to create a supported and connected community for all ages!

Receive Support Services: Are you a senior in Arlington? Do you need support services but don't know where to look? Are you looking for fun and enriching activities in Arlington? Email or call 703-509-8057 and they will connect you with an Ambassador.

## THE MARJORIE HUGHES FUND FOR CHILDREN

The Marjorie Hughes Fund for Children (MHF), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit serving Arlington Public Schools (APS) students, helps underinsured and uninsured students obtain medical and dental services and other necessary medical care. Established in 1992 to honor the work of public health physician Marjorie F. Hughes, who dedicated her career to public school students in Arlington, MHF is made up of Public Health School Nurses, School Health Aides, APS staff, and community stakeholders. In collaboration with pediatric office staff and dental providers, MHF pays for school entry and sports physical exams, dental treatments, assists with the purchase of medications or medical equipment, and provides transportation via UberHealth rides to doctor and dentist appointments. MHF services are supported entirely by generous donations and grants, and they have helped students throughout Arlington schools, from kindergarten to high school, to be happy, healthy, and ready to learn. To learn more about MHF, its mission, its work, and to make a contribution, visit <https://www.marjoriehughesfund.com/>.

## YEAR ROUND ON SUNDAYS

**Farmer's Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** At Casa Chirilagua Community Center, 4109 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Experience fresh foods, native plants, artisan crafts, music and community at Four Mile Run Farmers & Artisans Market in the heart of Arlandria outside the Casa Chirilagua Community Center, every Sunday 9-1 p.m.

## OCT. 23 TO NOV. 20

**Arlington Artists Alliance Galleries Ceremony,** Member Juried Show Opening Reception. Thursday, October 23, 2025, 5-7 p.m. At 2700 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite R330, Arlington 22201 (down the breezeway from Chip City and Soul Cycle). Alliance Gallery has invited Arlington Artists Alliance members to apply

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The National Chamber Ensemble will perform on Saturday, Nov. 8, 2025 at Gunston Arts Center in Arlington.



The Fall 2025 Open Studios Event will be held Nov. 15-16, 2025 in Arlington.

for its fall member juried show, Ceremony. The exhibition asks artists to explore themes of celebration and the warmth of gathering. They welcome works that capture the spirit of traditions and festivities and encourage our member artists to reflect on what it means to come together, honor milestones, and celebrate life. Visit: [arlingtonartistsalliance.org/alliance-gallery](http://arlingtonartistsalliance.org/alliance-gallery)

## NOV. 7 AND 14

**The Friday Morning Music Club** will perform two free chamber concerts in November at St. George's Church, 915 N. Oakland St., adjacent to the Virginia Square Metro, Arlington. The November 7 concert will feature works by Grieg, Respighi and Beethoven; the No-

vember 14, Bach, Schubert and Loeffler. The one-hour concerts continue every first and second Friday of the month through May. All concerts start at noon.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 8

**Arlington Chorale REACH Concert. 5 p.m.** At Westover Baptist Church, 1125 Patrick Henry Drive, Arlington. Join the Arlington Chorale for REACH, a concert featuring global voices and the world premier of a brand new commissioned work! In partnership with Tunisia 88, this concert brings together 26 remarkable young singers from Tunisia with the Arlington Chorale for an evening that celebrates music's power to connect across borders. Tunisia 88 is a youth-driven initiative

that empowers students across all 24 regions of Tunisia to form music clubs, compose original works, and lead through creativity. Their songs—often centered on hope and resilience—offer an authentic window into a generation using art to shape a more harmonious world. Get tickets: <https://www.arlingtonchorale.org/performances>

## SATURDAY/NOV. 8

**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 DC area, returns with its 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! The headliner for November's show is the hilarious Nathan Luft.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 8

**National Chamber Ensemble. 7:30 p.m.** At Gunston Arts Center, Theater 1, Arlington. The National Chamber Ensemble (NCE) launches its 2025–2026 season with Parisian Dreams: Ravel and Saint-Saëns. This elegant evening transports audiences to the glamour and charm of turn-of-the-century Paris in a program celebrating French sophistication, lyricism, and innovation. The concert pays tribute to the 150th birthday of Maurice Ravel, featuring some of his most beloved and exotic works, including the sensual Habanera, the stately Pavane, the sparkling Le Tombeau de Couperin, and the brilliant Alborada del gracioso for solo piano. Completing the program is the passionate Piano Quartet in B-flat Major by Camille Saint-Saëns, showcasing French romanticism at its most dazzling.

## DROP-OFF YOUR OLD HALLOWEEN COSTUME

**Don't let your old Halloween costume haunt your closet—or worse, end up in a landfill.** The Solid Waste Bureau is accepting gently used Halloween costumes after the holiday for future costume swap events. Drop off your donations at:

Fall 2025 E-CARE (1425 N Quincy St.)  
Saturday, Nov. 8, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Solid Waste Bureau (4300 29th St. S)  
Nov. 3 – Nov. 14, 7 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Friday  
Please make sure of the following:  
Costumes should be in good or excellent condition. No rips, tears or stains, unless it's part of the costume.  
Include all clothing and accessories that are part of the costume. We will not accept individual pieces.  
Clean costumes are appreciated (if they can be washed).

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# Arlington Seniors Pull Off Their Own No Kings Demonstration

**Hundreds showed up, some on walkers, some in wheelchairs, some pushing strollers.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

Some older Arlingtonians wanted to be demonstrating downtown but couldn't walk the distance required. Many of them were in their late eighties or early nineties. Some were in wheelchairs. So they planned their own demonstration. They wanted to prove age is just a number when it comes to defending democracy. Many of these Ballston neighbors have been demonstrating for civil rights and free speech since the 1960s. They came full circle to participate in the nationwide No Kings Day rally on Oct. 18.

Equipped with canes, walkers and handmade signs, the seniors gathered with concerned residents of all ages at Welburn Square from noon to 3 p.m.. Their participation was one more chapter in a decades-long commitment to causes like free speech, civil rights, women's rights, anti-war movements, and nonviolent activism.

"We may be physically fragile, but our love for our country and democracy is stronger than ever," said one protest organizer from the senior community. "From the Civil Rights Movement to today, our core values haven't changed. We are demonstrating to use our free speech while we still have it and to encourage nonviolent action to protect our future."

No Kings Day is a peaceful, nonviolent mobilization designed to remind elected officials that power in the USA belongs to the people, not to any single entity or individual.

Giving credit to the Indivisible No Kings movement for inspiring them, the seniors deployed their considerable social media and PR skills to spread the word about their event. They had to apply to use Welburn Square because it is privately owned by the adjoining building. The owner wasn't thrilled: this is a non-political space, he said, for farmers markets and the like. "But I can't stop you, if you decide to use it to demonstrate." So they did. Del. Patrick Hope came to support the group. Originally thinking they would have 200 people if they were lucky, they ended up having 400-500 people, not all of them seniors, but many younger residents also came with strollers and small children. For young and old, the message was as loud and clear as the one happening downtown: NO KINGS!



Many of the participants gave each other credit for being organizers of the event. Mary Wise said, "This man is 101. He marched with Martin Luther King. His peace making goes back a long way. I think he's amazing." Terri Rea described the event as "his brainchild."

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PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION



Seated, left to right: Mary Wise, Pat Robbins, Ken Kimbrough and his wife Juneann in the wheelchair.



Terri Rea was one of the organizers of the event. An artist who grew up in Leeds, England, her mother was a Czech Holocaust survivor. She never knew her grandmother or uncle who perished in Auschwitz and Dachau. She has been demonstrating against repression since the 1960s.

## Some Reward



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As a regular consumer of food made by others, outside of our home, I have, when prompted, joined their respective rewards' programs, to accumulate points, which turn into dollars which lower my net expenditures at their establishment. In setting up these accounts, a little bit of information is requested: name, address, email, date of birth, phone number, et cetera. It wasn't until recently, when a new iteration of programs had been installed that when September rolled around, I received a five-dollar credit in my account - for my birthday which is in September. In my nearly 10 years participating in these programs (think supermarkets as the most popular purveyor of these types of programs), I have never, ever received a birthday bump until now.

And so, with my bump in hand, figuratively speaking, I called in a takeout order at one of my local haunts. Ten minutes or so later, I was standing in front of the store's register waiting to pay for my order, which was, per my reward, about to be \$5 less than was quoted to me over the phone. The employee/young man, approximately high school age walks up to the register behind his side of the counter and asks my name. I give it to him, and he quotes the phone price. To which I reply: "I'd like to use my rewards' birthday credit." "Oh, happy birthday. How old are you?" He asks with a smile. "Guess" I reply. Before he could answer, I add: "Unless you think I look like I'm 80." He shrugs his shoulders and not really answering my question says: "I don't want to be disrespectful." I shook my head at his response, laughed and paid for my order. After a thanked him, I turned my head and followed my body back toward the entry/exit door where I then strolled to my car parked a few yards away, snickering and still smiling.

At home, after dinner, I sat down to write of this exchange, in an abbreviated form to make sure that, given my age, I would have sufficient notes to remind what was said so that I could write a column about it. And what preceded this paragraph and what will follow are my recollections and reactions to this employee not wanting to be disrespectful.

In thinking about it then and now, I can't quite determine what the employee meant. Did he think I looked aged 80? Was he afraid to guess an age, not 80 necessarily, but one he thought might offend me because the number was higher/older than I actually am? If truth be told, and it is a hard pillow to swallow (and believe me, due to my cancer diagnosis, I swallow a lot of pills), I am closer to aged 80 than I am to already having been aged 60. And as my fellow near-octogenarian might wonder: what happened to the last 20 years? How could I be that age (OKAY, I'll s, s, s, say it: 71.) I don't understand. I know time flies. But this seems like warp speed.

However, I can imagine that time doesn't fly by nearly as quickly for this young man as it does for me. After all, I was once his age working at Baskin-Robbins, way before they started sharing space with Dunkin' Donuts. So I have shared his one-to-one, up-close experience with customers who were mostly older than me (I was not quite aged 15, a rising 10th grader as would be said today). And I learned that summer, that guessing other people ages is fraught with all kinds of feedback/pushback. Most of it not good.

For me, this 'How old are you question'/my answer to him to: 'Guess,' was simply friendly banter. For him, apparently it was following the golden rule: respect your elders.

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



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