

Langley High School cast of 'Book of Days.' Top, from left, Andrew Wantula, 16, Lily Brock, 17, Richie Follin, 16. Bottom, from left, Jessica Taylor, 15, John Bucy, 17, Jamie Goodson, 16, Vivian Vaeth, 18, Samuel Kit, 16, and Krista Hackmeier, 18.

# Shaking Small-Town Morality

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## Holocaust Remembrance

"One of the most important things we do."

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**H**olocaust survivor Michel Margosis spoke before the Board of Supervisors, Tuesday, April 7, when the Board of Supervisors made a proclamation declaring April 16 as Holocaust Remembrance Day in Fairfax County.

The proclamation serves "to urge all residents to not bear silent witness to injustice and remain always vigilant to the principles of individual freedom and a just society," said Sharon Bulova, board chairman. "It is so important that we not ever forget."

Six million Jewish women, men and children were killed by the Nazis.

"The spark of evil flared into a raging fire that swept over much of Europe, the residual embers of discrimination, bigotry and intolerance have never been extinguished and have been reinvigorated," said Margosis.

Margosis said he joins in mourning the millions of others murdered by the Nazis including gypsies, priests, homosexuals, Jehova's Witnesses and political prisoners.

"We must embrace our expanded diversity," said Margosis.

"At some point, there won't be anybody left who actually experienced the horrors



The Board of Supervisors thanks Holocaust survivor Michel Margosis for his work to ensure that no one ever forgets the atrocities of the Holocaust.

of the war at that particular time, but that is part of your legacy to pass that along and to pass that along to younger people so nobody ever forgets," said Supervisor Penelope "Penny" Gross. "What you do makes sure we will always remember and never forget."

**MARGOSIS INVITED** the Board and entire Fairfax County community to an observance at the Jewish Community Center on Sunday, April 19 from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

"We have a responsibility to those who

SEE HOLOCAUST, PAGE 5

### Holocaust Kaddish: Never Forget

Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia  
8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax  
Sunday, April 19, 5-8:30 p.m.  
[www.jccnv.org](http://www.jccnv.org)  
[www.jccouncil.org/Holocaust](http://www.jccouncil.org/Holocaust)

## Thirteen Young Artists Awarded Scholarships by The Alden

The Alden in McLean awarded scholarships to 13 local high school students for successfully competing in the 2015 James C. Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship Competition.

Following a preliminary audition and a final completion at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 25, the prizes were presented by MCC Governing Board Chair Chad Quinn and Performing Arts Director Sarah Schallern. The Alden is housed in the McLean Community Center, which is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

The James C. Macdonald Fine Arts Scholarship Competition encourages artistic achievement and promotes study in the arts by high school students who reside or attend school in the McLean district (Small Tax District 1A, Dranesville). Scholarship prizes of \$1,200 are awarded to students placing first in each of five categories: Dance, Instrumental Music, Theatre, Visual Arts and Vocal Music. Second-place winners are awarded \$800 and third-place winners win \$400.

This year's winners were:



PHOTO BY LISA HELFERT PHOTOGRAPHY

**2015 Macdonald Scholarship winners (from left) Madeleine Walker (Dance), Alex Stone (Theatre and Vocal Music), Jennie Kim (Visual Arts) and Eric Lin (Instrumental Music) with MCC Governing Board Chair Chad Quinn.**

❖ Dance — First Place: Madeleine Walker, McLean High School; Second Place: Xiang "Mia" Yi, McLean High School; Third Place:

Savanna Hunter, McLean High School.

❖ Theatre — First Place: Alex Stone, McLean High School; Second Place: Jack

Posey, McLean High School; Third Place — Claire Hungar, Homeschooled.

❖ Visual Art — First Place: Jennie Kim, Langley High School; Second Place: Catherine Park, Langley High School; Third Place: Suhyun Yoon, McLean High School.

❖ Vocal Music — First Place: Alex Stone, McLean High School; Second Place: Nicole Sheehan, McLean High School; Third Place: Lily Lord, McLean High School.

❖ Instrumental Music — First Place: Eric Lin, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

Wendy J. Conte (Theatre/Vocal Music), Peggy Feerick (Visual Art), Melanie George (Dance), Adriana Hardy (Theatre), Rebecca Kamen (Visual Art), Pamela Lassell (Instrumental Music), Seyon Lee (Instrumental Music), Cynthia Lin (Dance), Sarah Markovits (Vocal Music), Ephraim Schum (Visual Art) and Jim Scopeletis (Theatre/Vocal Music/Instrumental Music) were judges for the completion.

For more information, call The Alden at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: <http://bit.ly/1yd1tHS>.

# 14 Hours, Three Days, 200 Speakers

Schools, libraries, economic development authorities and others seek more funding while tax-hawks call for reductions.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors listened to more than 14 and a half hours of testimony from approximately 200 speakers Tuesday through Thursday, April 7-9.

"I very much respect and admire the stamina and the force of will all of you have demonstrated the last three days," said Dennis Hays of Reston, Chairman of the Fairfax Library Advocates, and the second to last of 214 scheduled speakers.

"I am overwhelmed by the sheer breadth of the services this County provides and I am proud to be a member of this community," said Hays.

Fourteen McLean High School teachers testified as a group to urge the Board to bring the salaries of teachers in Fairfax County on par with other jurisdictions.

Steven Ward of McLean spoke on behalf of Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling. "We appreciate and commend the Board for its past efforts to make the county more bike friendly including the adoption of last year's Bicycle Master Plan."

Ward asked the Board to keep pedaling forward to maintain momentum on its initiatives.

Tapan Banerjee, of McLean, testified for the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board. The budget process, he said, is an opportunity for all of the county to come together to determine solutions to address the needs of all residents. "Thank you for a chance to speak out," he said.

Stella Koch testified Thursday, on behalf of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

"The shortness of this testimony does not reflect the lack of concern we have with the issues," she said. "In fact, we are honored to have an ongoing dialogue with you throughout the year."

Koch voiced satisfaction that the Board is taking environmental issues and concerns



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Board of Supervisor Chairman Sharon Bulova watches as School Board Chairman Tamara Kaufax makes her plea for full funding of the schools at the April 7 budget hearing.**

seriously, including storm water management.

"I think EQAC is one of the most effective organizations in tracking our environmental initiatives and making sure we stay on track," said Chairman Sharon Bullova.

**THE HEARINGS BEGAN** Tuesday with a presentation by School Board Chairman Tamara Derenak Kaufax as 200 people packed the Fairfax County Government auditorium.

Members of the Fairfax County School Board sat in the front row, gave a standing ovation, and remained standing as Kaufax finished her testimony to begin the budget hearings.

"Budget reductions come with a price — the price should not be our children's future. This budget does not meet all of the school systems needs and it certainly does not adequately fund our shared vision of excellence for our schools and students," said Kaufax.

The Fairfax County Public Schools re-

quested \$14 million more than is in the proposed budget.

Fairfax County Public Schools is the 10th largest school system in the country with more than 188,000 students.

Kaufax cited statistics and trends that challenge the school system. "We would be the sixth largest school division in Virginia, if you counted just our free-or-reduced-price meal population; or the ninth largest if you only counted our English for Speakers of Other Languages population," she said.

Nearly 53 percent of the proposed \$3.8 billion county budget is slated to be transferred to the schools.

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Board of Supervisors, said that while the schools didn't ask for everything they needed or get everything they wanted, that the amount of the proposed transfer from the county to the schools was closer to the amount requested than anytime in memory.

"We appreciate that you rolled up your sleeves, and we rolled up our sleeves," said Bulova.

Supervisor Jeff McKay called it "unconscionable" that the state doesn't adequately fund the schools. "We will have the same conversations year after year after year," he said, if the Board of Supervisors and School Board don't advocate together in unity. "We need to march together," he said.

**FAMILIAR FACES** advocated for a reduction in spending and taxes, such as James Parmalee of Centreville, and Arthur Purvis, of Vienna.

There were also advocates who encouraged an increase in taxes to ensure that funding will address the needs of all of Fairfax residents.

Steven Davis, chairman of the Economic Development Authority, said the county is experiencing record office vacancy rates, which pushes down commercial property values and, with it, the proportion of taxes paid by the commercial tax base, shifting more of the burden onto residential taxes.

Maintaining Fairfax County's AAA bond rating is critical, Davis said. "You send a signal to businesses around the world that Fairfax County is one of the best managed jurisdictions in the world," he said. "We all know it has taken decades to build a product that gets businesses here and keeps people here."

Brian Engler, of the Fairfax Library Foundation, and Charles Fegan, of the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees, addressed the cuts to the library system. Libraries are part of educating the county's young people, and provide a myriad of other services to residents of all ages despite significant cuts in recent years, they said.

Hays was the last to speak on the libraries, and the second to last speaker of all.

Hays cited studies from Minnesota, Florida, Colorado, Great Britain and Korea. "All came to one conclusion," he said. "The library is an economic engine," providing high rate of return on investment.

On April 28, the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt its FY 2016 Budget and tax rate, including budget transfer to the school system. The School Board is scheduled to adopt its budget on May 21.

The FY 2016 Budget becomes effective July 1.



Photo by Ed Knepley

## Community Open House

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2014 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Kay Bransford with MCC Executive Director George Sachs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## McLean Community Center Names Kay Bransford 2014 Outstanding Volunteer

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held on Sunday, March 22, in the Community Hall. The theme was "New Orleans Jazz" and center volunteers were treated to a catered lunch by Splendid Fare and live music by The Wayne Tympanick Trio. The center is located at 1234 Ingleside Avenue.

The 2014 H. Gordon Randall Outstanding Volunteer Service award was presented to Kay Bransford for her contributions to the Center's Lifetime Learning 50+ Program. Bransford became involved with the Center after hearing about it through the McLean Community Village for All Ages (MCVA), a community-based, volunteer-managed work group that works to assist seniors and people with disabilities. Bransford is president of MemoryBanc.

In the fall of 2013, she began working as a volunteer for MCC Lifetime Learning Coordinator Sydney Duberstein. She has helped Duberstein recruit speakers on a variety of subjects that are important to seniors including housing options, organizing the home and defining healthcare wishes. Bransford has also led three classes herself on such topics as organizing and protecting documents and accounts and assets. In addition to her work with Duberstein, Bransford has volunteered for the Joy of Dance program at the Center and as an usher for The Alden. MCC Executive Director George Sachs presented the award.

For more information on volunteer opportunities at the Center, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit, [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

## Holocaust Remembrance

FROM PAGE 3

perished as well as those who survived to educate future generations and rededicate ourselves to the history of the Holocaust and its impact on the world," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

More than two dozens synagogues, houses of worship and nonprofits, plus Holocaust survivors, youth and interfaith leaders will join the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia Sunday, April 19 for the annual observance.

The program includes a reading of names of those murdered in the Holocaust, "Unto Every Person There is a Name," a youth workshop and an adult seminar on "The Psychology of Scapegoating."

"I always try to participate in that observance, it is one of the most powerful things we do," said Supervisor Gross.

"We will consider the intricacies of human nature and social interaction that al-

low for unspeakable atrocities to be committed by some individuals or groups against others. With hope, we will look at strategies that have succeeded in mobilizing the silent bystander and raising up societies to take a forceful stand against injustice and inhumanity," according to JCC of Northern Virginia.

**THE EVENING** is scheduled to culminate in a community commemoration with readings, poetry, a community interfaith choir, recitation of the Holocaust Kaddish and the intergenerational candle lighting and pledges of the children and grandchildren. "Many of us come to the Jewish Community Center to read the names of individuals who lost their lives, who perished, who were murdered during the Holocaust," said Chairman Bulova. "I think it is a very powerful thing that our community does, it is so important, so very important not to ever forget what had happened."

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## Counting Homeless; Solution Is Housing

Results of the annual census of homeless show progress, persistence of the problem, and some worrying trends.

**O**n the night of Jan. 28, 2015, there were 1,204 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax County area.

Of those, 715 were people in 213 homeless families, with 431 homeless children; 347 of those children were under 12. Sixty-two percent of the adults in these homeless families are employed, but don't earn enough to avoid becoming homeless. Domestic violence was identified as the cause of homelessness for 41 percent of the people counted in homeless families. Women made up 78 percent of the adults in homeless families.

Men accounted for 77 percent of the single homeless people.

Of the single homeless people, 55 percent, 268 people, are identified as having serious mental illness; 203, or 42 percent were identified as chronically homeless.

Twenty-five percent of the single homeless individuals were employed.

Eight percent were veterans. Four percent, or 21, were former foster children.

Some troubling trends:

This year, 123 or 25 percent of the single homeless people were over 55.

This year, 52 or 11 percent of the single

### COMMENTARY

homeless people were transitional adults, aged 18-24.

This year, 58 percent of homeless individuals in families and 43 percent of single homeless people counted were African American. This is disproportionate to the overall African American population of 9.7 percent.

This year marks a reduction of 21 homeless people, or approximately 2 percent reduction over the previous count in 2014. It is a decrease of 34 percent since 2008 when there were 1,835 literally homeless people counted, including 1,091 in families. The Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness credits adoption of housing first and rapid rehousing models, heightened prevention efforts and prioritizing housing for longest and most vulnerable homeless for continuing decrease.

What's needed is more affordable housing, more housing affordable to those with very low income, more affordable housing designated for formerly homeless people with the supports they need. Without a commitment to more affordable housing, it will be impossible to continue to reduce the number of homeless people in the region.

It's critical to note that those who are literally homeless are a small part of the problem. In terms of preventing homelessness, literally thousands of families live at risk of becoming homeless in our region. Very high housing costs combined with the growth of low-wage service jobs mean that many families are one unexpected bill away from homelessness. Nonprofits in the county play a huge role in preventing homelessness by responding to crises.

As the development of the Silver Line brings a wave of new residential construction in the county, we must insist that affordable housing be a part of that growth.

### Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is May 10 and, every year at this time, The Connection calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery. Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. (We will not print your full address or contact information.) You can upload photos and information directly to [www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/) or email to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM),  
[@MARYKIMM](https://twitter.com/MARYKIMM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Inappropriate 'Choices'

To the Editor:

My name is Donna McHugh and I am writing in response to your article ["Moving: From Institution to Community"] printed on April 2 regarding the Northern Virginia Training Center.

I am the sister and co-guardian of my 58-year-old brother Joseph F. McHugh (Joe) discussed in the article. He lives at the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTC). Joe is minimally verbal, non-ambulatory, has serious digestive issues with spasticity and without continual preventative medical routines, performed by others at NVTC, he would be dead.

The article states that we have

been provided a multitude of community placement choices. The choices presented to me and Joe's other legal guardians have been inappropriate. The community does not have the skills or supports necessary for his real medical needs for his survival. We are actively investigating and reviewing choices — but nothing is available. There are not comparable and appropriate choices in Northern Virginia like we were promised. Currently, my only choice is the Central Virginia Training Center in Lynchburg, Va., which is slated to close in 2020 and go through the process of placement/discharge all over again which is stressful and

full of anxiety.

No one can predict the future of the state-funded a-la-carte waiver, currently funded at 60 percent, which is being offered as my brother's source of funding while currently he has a fully-funded (100 percent) Medicaid/Medicare federal waiver which means whatever his needs are they are met, so from a fiduciary standpoint as a legal guardian why would I change that? I can't predict how he will react to a new home, staff and routine. My hope is this will be a positive transition. But, I strongly feel that the impending closure date is unrealistic and makes me wonder if the department/state is more interested in "discharge" and closure than fos-

tering the correct and appropriate placements.

Finally, the Commonwealth of Virginia has had 40 years to develop community homes and resources. Virginia has the solution to serve many of its citizens including the medically fragile by using the property they already have and renovating it to meet individual/group needs. This is a solution that involves compromise and cooperation and would have Virginia leading the country.

I fear that my brother as well as many of the remaining residents will not find good, appropriate placements.

**Donna McHugh**  
Centreville

### CAREGIVING

Have fun, learn something new, and unleash your creative spirit! Fairfax County, the Arts Council of Fairfax County, and AARP Virginia invite you to celebrate the **Creative Aging Festival in May 2015**. This month-long festival features over 100 events including art exhibits, dance, musical performances, poetry readings, lectures, wellness programs and classes in watercolor, woodworking, knitting, clogging, tap, piano, photography, & more! Find the events calendar at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults)

and click on Creative Aging Festival!

Fairfax County presents **Legal Tools for Caregivers: WEBINAR**. As a family caregiver you may need to make legal and health care decisions for a loved one. This free Webinar will cover durable powers of attorney, trusts, guardianship, and advanced medical directives. Join us on Wednesday, May 6, Noon-1 p.m. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County will sponsor **Strategies for Managing the Stress of**

**Caregiving** on Tuesday, May 12, 7-8:30 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, **Falls Church**. Find out more about this free event and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Fairfax County presents **"Alive Inside"** Movie and Discussion on Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.-Noon. This free movie focuses on the Music & Memory program's ability to combat memory loss and restore meaning to the lives of those with Alzheimer's disease.

Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Dr., Ste. 100, **Fairfax**. Find out more and register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm) or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

Get the facts about health insurance for older adults at Fairfax County's free presentation on **Medicare 101**. Tuesday, May 19, 3-4:30 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., **Fairfax**. Register beforehand at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregiver.htm).

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# WEEK IN MCLEAN

## Potomac School of McLean to Host Bike Collection

The Potomac School of McLean will sponsor a used bicycle collection on Saturday, April 18, from 10 a.m. – 1p.m., to benefit Bikes for the World, a non-profit organization that collects thousands of unwanted bicycles for donation and re-use in developing countries. Overseas, the bikes will provide essential and affordable transportation for workers, students, farmers, and small businesspeople. The collection will be held in the parking lot of Trinity United Methodist Church at 1205 Dolley Madison Boulevard in McLean. Each donor is asked to contribute \$10 per bicycle to help defray shipping, processing, and distribution costs.

For further information on Bikes for the World, visit [www.bikesfortheworld.org](http://www.bikesfortheworld.org), or call 703-740-7856.



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## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

Or to mail photo prints, send to:  
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**THE CONNECTION**  
NEWSPAPERS

## Education • Learning • Fun

### Moving for Academic Excellence

Researchers say frequent physical activity can lead to success in school.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORWOOD SCHOOL

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Inside an elementary school classroom in Bethesda, Md., a class of third grade students is divided into small groups and given a task: to cross a desert using a limited supply of tools that often include a jump rope, a foam noodle or a scooter. Their mission is to devise a plan to cross the desert without touching the sand.

This classroom exercise at Norwood School requires cohesive collaboration, quick analytical skills and, most of all, creative physical movement.

"This type of activity is so much more than who has the most points on the scoreboard or how to kick a football," said Jane Martens, physical education coordinator at Norwood School. "It shows the direct relationship between movement and academic success, particularly when it comes to focus. Twenty minutes is long enough for little ones to sit and focus on academics. After that they need movement to refocus their attention."

Martens and other educators and researchers cite substantial evidence that physical activity can boost academic performance, including grades and test scores. In fact, many say the recent trend of sacrificing physical education for the sake of academics is counterproductive.

"Unfortunately, with an increased focus on academic standards of learning and budget dilemmas, physical education and

active outdoor play have often been among the first things to be cut," said Ivy Beringer, Ph.D., assistant dean, early childhood education and substance abuse, Northern Virginia Community College in Alexandria. "Based on research findings this appears to be counterproductive to the development of the whole child. Even when there is limited time in the daily schedule for physical activity and outdoor play, teachers can engage children in classroom activities designed to get them moving."

Experts say aerobic exercise has the greatest effect on academic performance, and elementary school students benefit most from being physically active.

"Some of the largest cognitive benefits were linked, in order of importance, with mathematical achievement, IQ and reading achievement, all critical components of the standardized testing movement," said Dominique Banville, Ph.D., director, division of health and human performance at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Physical education is the only subject in school specifically dedicated to not only make students move during class time, but also to provide them with knowledge that will allow them to be

### Resources for Movement Activities

**Recessitate**, a box of cards that have movement activities can be used quickly during breaks and transition times. Visit <http://oranda.org/products/recessitate>.

**"10 Simple Ways to Encourage Physical Activity in the Classroom."** These suggestions do not require equipment and are easy to incorporate throughout the day. Visit [www.yourtherapysource.com/10simple.html](http://www.yourtherapysource.com/10simple.html).

COMPILED BY IVY BERINGER, PH.D.,  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ing it with academic subjects. "Teachers and school leaders need to see movement and play more through an interdisciplinary lens," said Glenn Whitman, director, Center for Transformative Teaching and Learning and girls' varsity soccer coach at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. "Teachers need to recognize that regardless of the length of a class period, students need to move."

"Simple solutions are to have students move among different workstations in class or to collaborate with their peers while standing up," Whitman added. "Students can recreate the movements of historical battles. Before an assessment, students can do some jumping jacks or stretches, which elevate dopamine levels in the brain and have been shown to lead to increased academic performance. Building movement into class is only limited by the level of a teacher's willingness to be creative."

Parental involvement is critical, say educators, particularly in schools where physical education is limited. For example, parents can suggest ideas for brief movement activities that are interspersed with academics, volunteer to lead such activities or form focus groups to brainstorm ideas to increase movement.

"Movement is so important that parents need to be more vocal about it," said Martens. "Parents need to be informed about what they're losing when they take away physical activity and movement."

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### THROUGH SATURDAY/MAY 6

**6 Artists: 5 Years.** The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists: Jackie Elwell, Elaine Floirmonde, Debbie Glakas, Lisa Neher, Sarah Swart and Barbara Wagner.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 14

**Great Falls Citizens Association (GFCA) Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. will be a joint meeting of the GFCA Land Use & Zoning Committee (LUZ) and the Environment, Parks and Trails Committee (EPT). The two committees are holding this session to look more closely into the environmental issues at the Brooks Farm property in Great Falls, which is proposed to be rezoned with cluster development.

**Legos in the Library.** 4 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Age 5-12 use provided legos to get creative.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 15

**Arts Jam Anniversaries.** 7:30 p.m. GMU Center for the Arts, Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. A Flint Hill School music and dance extravaganza, at More than 150 performers and 8 ensembles, and the cast of the Upper School Musical, "Bye Bye Birdie." Free and open to the public. No reservations required. Free Parking in Lot K with Flint Hill mini bus shuttle service and paid parking at the Mason Pond Deck parking garage attached to the concert hall.

**Pokemon League.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. School age kids drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 16

**Introduction to Painting.** 1-4 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. If you have always wanted to learn how to paint, attend this class with Donna Grone and you will take home your own finished painting. All supplies provided by the Vienna Arts Society. No experience necessary. Free. Call to register: 703-319-3971.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 17

**Pilobolus.** 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Award-winning, internationally recognized Pilobolus Dance Company will perform innovative, energetic and gravity-defying works. Tickets are \$50 for the general public and \$40 for McLean tax district residents.

**"Other Desert Cities."** 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Te story of the fictional Wyeth family — a clan highly regarded in old Hollywood circles. The play explores the dark family secrets that threaten to destroy external and internal perceptions about the life the family members lead. Runs through May 2. [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

**Eileen Ivers.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. This virtuoso's award-winning skill and Irish-inspired playing prove she is "the Jimi Hendrix of the violin," according to The New York Times. \$27-30. 703-255-1900.

**Playdate Café.** 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for



**On April 17 catch a performance of the Pilobolus Dance Company at the McLean Community Center. Acclaimed for its mix of humor, invention and drama and for the quickness and athleticism of its dancers, the Pilobolus Dance Company continually breaks down barriers and challenges the way people think about dance. For more information, visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org).**

preschoolers, coffee and conversation for grownups.

### Drop-in Chess and Board Games.

3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. All levels and ages are welcome to play.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 18

**Model Trains and Thomas at Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free admission. 703-938-5157. [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 19

**"Call Me William: The Life and Loves of Willa Cather."** 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue. The life and times of Pulitzer Prize-winning author Willa Cather are explored in the show, by Prudence Wright Holmes. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$15 for McLean tax district residents.

**Amadeus Winds.** 4 p.m. Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Amadeus Winds will perform a concert. Tickets are \$30 and may be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Students 17 and under are admitted free of charge.

**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-noon. American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, blueberry pancakes, biscuits, sausage gravy, home fries and fruit. Adults \$8, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more information.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 21

**Table Panache for Festive Celebrations.** 10 a.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street, NE, Vienna. The program will feature eight tables designed by Five Hills Garden Club Members and will be held on in the Great Hall. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. to browse the boutique of unique vendors. The program will begin at 10 a.m. Tea and a light lunch will follow. For ticket information call 703-988-9324 or email [mariansanders@cox.net](mailto:mariansanders@cox.net).

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 22

**Pokemon League.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. School age kids drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.

### Silent Comedy on the Civil War

**"Hands Up."** 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The 1926 comedy on the Civil War "Hands Up," starring silent movie icon Raymond Griffith. The film has one of the most eye-opening endings of any era.

### THURSDAY/APRIL 23

**John McCutcheon.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk expert with a vital, narrative voice performs classics like "Christmas in the Trenches" and "Hail to the Chief." \$25-28. 703-255-1900.

**Reading Buddies.** 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers practice with teen volunteers.

**Arbor Day and Green Expo.** 4 p.m. Peet's Coffee, 332 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The tree planting ceremony will be held in front of Peet's Coffee. After the Arbor Day ceremony, the public is invited to attend the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Vienna Green Expo at the Vienna Community Center from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. The Vienna Green Expo is a juried showcase of local and regional earth-friendly exhibitors educating the public on how to achieve a green lifestyle.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 24

**Sybarite5.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. String quintet blurs boundaries with exacting musicianship and adventurous programming for a transfixing result. \$35. 703-255-1900.

**McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m. - noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Sue Moses, an award winning watercolorist will be the guest artist at the McLean Art Society meeting. Moses is an accomplished sketch artist and will demonstrate doing animal portraits in water colors.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 25

**Taste of Vienna.** 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. 400 Center Street South, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. to <http://www.tasteofvienna.org/>. <https://www.facebook.com/tasteofvienna?fref=ts>. Rain or shine.

### SUNDAY/MAY 9

**Annual Yard Sale/Flea Market.** 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. You can reserve a space (\$20) to sell your own treasures or donate items to the church. Come shop, donate and/or sell your own things. 703-759-3705

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# NEWS

**Philip Hosford as Professor Josef Mashkan in 1<sup>st</sup> Stage's production of "Old Wicked Songs."**



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1<sup>ST</sup> STAGE

## 'Old Wicked Songs' at 1st Stage

**Masterful production to run through May 3 at Tysons.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

High accolades are due for the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage production of "Old Wicked Songs," a play powered by a heart-tugging premise, precise high-caliber acting, with an evocative set and piano music from composer Robert Schumann that opens anyone's heart to tenderness. And all as two characters are fraught with personal demons and the turmoil of the Holocaust.

"Old Wicked Songs" by Jon Marans was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1996 and has been staged not only in the United States but across Europe. However, it has been rarely produced in the D.C. metropolitan area.

The play is set in Vienna, Austria in the mid-1980s. An American piano student; a rather brash, tense 20-something piano prodigy, Stephen Hoffman (Aaron Bliden well-tuned to resentment) arrives at the music studio of a seemingly over-the-hill, eccentric, music Professor Mashkan (a charming, wise-cracking Philip Hosford). Bliden has hit a creative wall and can't play in public anymore.

"Old Wicked Songs" explores their relationship; as teacher and student, as two men of different gen-

erations, and of two individuals coming to terms with their own personal secrets and connections to the Holocaust and the Dachau Concentration Camp.

Under the assured direction of Michael Chamberlin, the production is full of real passion given off by the two actors. Bliden and Hosford have a felt empathy throughout their entwined characters. There is a mysterious emotional spark that binds them.

With "Old Wicked Songs," the audience is confronted with the "sadness and joy" and humor of life and music. Through the music direction of Walter "Bobby" McCoy the audience basks in the lush melancholy sounds of Schumann's music like patrons at a dazzling private piano recital. The music becomes a third very key actor in the show's proceedings.

The technical design elements start with a gorgeous set devised by Kathryn Kawecki. The audience nearly surrounds the stage, providing intimacy with the close-by actors. The set is wonderfully detailed; one can almost smell the oiled wood of the furniture. The costuming, also by Kawecki, gives the two characters a visual sense of who they are whether a constricting tie for Hoffman, or casual attire for Mashkan. Lighting design by Brian Allard and sound design by Kenny Neal add changing sunlight and the sounds of nature, along with trembles from darkness inside the sounds of train box cars.

"Old Wicked Songs" is a fascinating journey for both the characters and audience.

### Where and When

1<sup>st</sup> Stage performs "Old Wicked Songs" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through May 3. Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$23 - \$28. Student and military tickets are \$15. Tickets online at [www.1stStageTysons.org](http://www.1stStageTysons.org) or by calling the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage box office at 703-854-1856.

## Here's What's Happening at MCC



**Onstage @ The Alden  
Pilobolus**  
Friday, Apr. 17, 8 p.m.  
\$50/\$40 MCC district residents

**McLean Spring Community  
Garage Sale**  
Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Free admission  
1420 Beverly Road  
(behind the Giant Shopping Center)

**Onstage @ The Alden  
"Call Me William: The Life and  
Loves of Willa Cather"**  
by Prudence Wright Holmes  
Sunday, Apr. 19, 2 p.m.  
\$20/\$15 MCC district residents

**"Fabulous Floral" Day Trip  
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts**  
Tuesday, April 21, 8:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
\$130/\$125 MCC district residents

**Classics of the Silent Screen  
Raymond Griffith in "Hands Up"**  
Wednesday, Apr. 22, 7:30 p.m.  
\$12/\$8 MCC district residents

**OFTC Family Events  
Dinner & A Show Featuring  
the Alden's Unruly Theatre**  
Friday, April 24, 7-9 p.m.  
Dinner available for purchase; show is free.

**Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia  
"The Very Hungry Caterpillar  
and Other Eric Carle  
Favourites"**  
Saturday, Apr. 25, 2 p.m.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

**The McLean Community Center**  
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# SPORTS

## McLean Gymnastics: Remarkable Season

The Board of Supervisors honored McLean High School's girls gymnastics team for winning the Virginia High School League 6A state championship, the team's first.

"Congratulations on an extraordinary accomplishment. I realize this is the first time McLean High School has won the state championship. Is that correct?" said Supervisor Foust.

"We're going to do it again next year, is that also correct?" asked Supervisor Foust.

The entire team school stood with their coach, Courtney Lesson, before the Board on Tuesday, April 7 in Fairfax.

"Not only are they great competitors, but they are truly supportive of one another," said Lesson. "They have a great work ethic and team spirit."

Lesson thanked the McLean community, parents, friends, families and the McLean High School administration, including Dr. Ellen Riley, principal; Jim Patrick, director of student activities; Fernando Belli, assistant director of student activities.

"Great job ladies. I'm so proud of you on everything you have accomplished this



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored McLean High School's girls gymnastics team on Tuesday, April 7.

year," said Lesson. "And thank you for having us here today."

"We love bringing you before the Board for a number of reasons," said Foust. "First, obviously, is recognition for winning a state championship, that's an amazing accom-

plishment that makes us very proud. What really makes us most proud is the quality of students we have at McLean High school and the wonderful wonderful student athletes that you all are."

The team was congratulated just after

Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School students sang for the Board.

"Feel free at any time to sing your school song," said Supervisor Jeff McKay.

— KEN MOORE

## Langley Swim and Dive Honored at Board

Sheriff Stacey Kincaid gave Langley High School Girls Swim and Dive team an extra splash of praise Tuesday, April 7 while the Board of Supervisors were recognizing the team for winning the VHSL 6A state championship this past winter, the sixth time in the school's history.

"Are you a swimmer?" Supervisor John Foust said, as he looked up to see Kincaid standing with the Langley swimmers.

"I was a swimmer, but I did not swim for Langley High School," said Kincaid. "I did play softball for Langley High School so I just wanted to come up and support my alma matter and I'm very proud of these women."

"This is a great time to celebrate so I celebrate with them," she said.

"Well, we're very proud of you. A Langley High School student who is the first female Sheriff in the county in 272 years," Foust said.

Foust told the swim and dive team how



Fairfax County Board of Supervisors honored Langley High School's girls swim and dive team on Tuesday, April 7.

proud he was of them. "I will always bet on you because it is your sixth state championship and that is really amazing."

"Thank you very much for this recognition," said coach Ryan Jackson. Four of the students on the state championship team

appeared before the Board of Supervisors for their recognition; three were at school and one was swimming at the Olympic training center.

"They are a fantastic and phenomenal group of young ladies," he said. "As a team we were able to win those titles, so it really speaks how this group of young women competes, not as individuals but really competes as a team and supports each other. We are all so very proud of their accomplishments."

Their recognition followed Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School students who sang the school song at a recognition for the school's 50th anniversary.

Jackson said as he waited for his team to be honored, he asked the Sheriff if there is a Langley School song.

"We have no idea if there is a Langley school song, but we are going to find out about that," said Jackson.

— KEN MOORE

## McLean Boys' Lax Improves to 6-0

The McLean boys' lacrosse team improved to 6-0 with a 7-6 triple-overtime victory over Stone Bridge on April 9.

The Highlanders faced Yorktown on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. McLean will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, April 16.

Meaghan O'Reilly and the McLean girls' soccer team remained undefeated with a 2-1 victory at South County on Monday. The victory improved the Highlanders' record to 4-0-2. McLean will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



The McLean boys' soccer team dropped to 2-3 with a 3-2 loss to South County on Monday. The Highlanders will host Thomas Jefferson at 7 p.m. on Friday, April 17.

Sophomore Jessica Taylor, 15, and junior John Bucy, 17, rehearse their lines during rehearsal for Langley High School's "Book of Days," running April 23 to 25 at Hunter Woods Elementary School in Reston.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION

# Langley High School's 'Book of Days' Shakes Small-Town Morality

Performance in Reston while high school venue undergoes repairs.

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Langley High School's spring production of Lanford Wilson's "Book of Days" will run on April 23-25 at Hunter Woods Elementary School in Reston. The show must go on even while Langley is undergoing major renovations.

The cast had their first practice in the venue for the first time on Saturday, April 11. "We've been practicing in school but this is actually the first time we've been here," said sophomore Jamie Goodson, 16, who plays the lead character Ruth Hoch.

Goodson said she sees a lot of similarities between her character and herself. "She's outspoken, not reserved, says whatever's on her mind," she said. Because of the play within the play, Goodson is also playing Joan of Arc. "We read scenes from Joan of Arc," she said, to prepare for the role and get into the character.

Sophomores Sam Kit, 16, and Kanishk Singh, 16, share the role of Earl Hill, a "low-life, poor guy," said Singh, whom Ruth suspects of foul play when Walt Bates, played by senior Liam Nimick, the owner of the cheese plant in the small town of Dublin, Mo., is found dead.

Singh and Kit both said that they are nothing like their character, whom they described as secluded, both emotionally and physically. "You just have to find that element within yourself," said Singh. "I really had to search myself for this role," added Kit.

Under the direction of Valerie Karasek, the cast also utilized techniques that allowed them to truly get into their characters. John Bucy, 17, and Sivan Tretiak, 15, spent a part of the rehearsal play fighting. There is no actual fight scene in the production but Karasek had the boys run their lines while pretending to be engaged in a fistfight, in what she calls



Sophomore Jamie Goodson, 16, plays the lead character Ruth in Langley High School's "Book of Days," running April 23 to 25 at Hunter Woods Elementary School in Reston.

"physicalizing the scene."

"Book of Days" was written in 2000 by Pulitzer Prize winning playwright Lanford Wilson. The mystery of Walt Bates' death and the dogged persistence of main character Ruth Hoch, along with the residents of the small town, hold a mirror on the values of the tight-knit community. "The play shakes up small-town values, it takes on its morality," said Karasek. "Can we accept truth if it's uncomfortable and if it shakes our values?" she said.

"Book of Days" will run April 23 to 25 at Hunter Woods Elementary School, 2401 Colts Neck Road, Reston. For more information, go to <http://www.saxon-stage.com/>.



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## Up and Down and All Around

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



No. That's not my stomach talking. Nor is it the recurring effects of the six-plus years of chemotherapy. Fortunately, nausea has rarely been a part of that experience. However, like so many others, I have endured my share of side effects: I've lost my hair, lost weight, lost interest in food/lost taste, lost energy, lost sleep and a few other things I can't remember I've lost ("chemo brain"), but amazingly, I've not lost my life. Neither have I lost my will to live. Still, living with cancer is hardly the stuff of which dreams are made; more likely, they're nightmares. And though living is its own reward, for a cancer patient/survivor, it's not a given; you sort of have to take it.

To say that "living with cancer" – meaning you're the one afflicted – is like being on a roller coaster, would be unkind to all roller coasters. I can't really see that there are any thrills to being on board for this emotional/physical ride. Aside from there not being a safety bar, there are no guarantees that you'll survive the trip/ordeal; and unlike the ride at the amusement park, it's unlikely you'll want to go on again. For cancer patients, being diagnosed once is more than enough. And if your diagnosis is the terminal kind, once really is all there needs to be. Because if there's one thing that cancer has proved to be beyond a reasonable doubt, is an indiscriminate killer with reach beyond many a grasp.

Ergo; assimilating, integrating, processing this fact into your daily existence is hardly the pause that refreshes. It's more of the premature finish that you worry about. Immediately, your outlook on life changes. Whatever plans/expectations you may have had for a long life may have to be modified. I had a modest plan, more like a presumption: that I would live into my mid eighties, as both my parents had. Learning at age 54 and a half that my presumption turns out to be an assumption I shouldn't have made, is unsettling to say the least, and extremely disappointing to soften the most. Finding a level, a mechanism, a rationalization, a sense of purpose in the midst of such a devastating change of plans is the axis on which your life – with its cancer-related fits and starts – twists and turns.

As difficult as this challenge is, it is particularly difficult during the weeks leading up to your CT Scan and the days following, until your appointment with your oncologist when the results are finally discussed. Then you'll know where you stand or whether you should be sitting; whether your life hangs in the balance or whether the balance is completely out of whack. It's rare that you'll be pardoned; realistically speaking, all you can hope for is lighter duty. But that's the problem, there's nothing light about it. It's all heavy and often very unpredictable. And there's very little that's amusing about it. And unlike a roller coaster which has a beginning and an end with a middle to die for, cancer's beginning, middle and end is all to die for.

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

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by Friday.

From examining the genes in the monkey flower, to exploring the Rev. Martin Luther King's political, social and theological beliefs, to epilepsy therapies, to sustainable tourism, 38 **University of Virginia** undergraduates will pursue 36 grant-funded research projects this summer. Thirty-five of the proposals received Harrison Undergraduate Research Awards and another student has had his research underwritten by the Stull family of Dallas. This marks the 16<sup>th</sup> year of the program, which helps further a key component of the U.Va. student experience: hands-on research.

The research awards support students who present detailed plans for projects that have been endorsed by a faculty mentor. In February, a Faculty Senate committee selected the winners, who receive up to \$3,000. Faculty mentors who oversee the projects receive \$1,000.

This year's Harrison Undergraduate Research Award winners and their research topics include

♦ **Pasha Davoudian, 21, of McLean**, a third-year neuroscience major, who is researching the role the thalamus plays in epilepsy therapy.

♦ **Daniel Naveed Tavakol, 19, of Vienna**, a second-year biomedical engineering student, who is researching angiogenesis, or blood vessel growth, in the mouse cornea and retina, distinguishing key factors in support-cell recruitment and location in vascular networks.

Four Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have won **national awards in the 2015 Scholastic Writing Awards Competition**. Sixteen FCPS students won regional Gold Key awards, and 29 students won regional Silver Key awards.

♦ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Flash Fiction, "A Defector and Family's Guide to the Aftermath of Defection from North Korea." Dabich won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

♦ Peiqi Wang of Carson Middle School for Critical Essay, "A False Dichotomy: Privacy and Security in the Digital Age." Wang won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

National Silver Medal award winners were:

♦ Mei Baek of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) for Poetry, "Grandmother." Baek won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

♦ Samiksha Kale of Kilmer Middle School for Poetry, "3-2-1 Fun, My Spark of Inspiration, The Jewel of India, Wretched Soul." Kale won a Gold Key award for this entry in the regional competition.

Regional Gold Key award winners are:  
♦ Colleen Flanagan of Herndon High School for Poetry.

♦ Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for Short Story and Poetry.

♦ Tara Abrishami of TJHSST for Poetry.

♦ Suzie Bae of TJHSST for Personal Essay-Memoir.

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