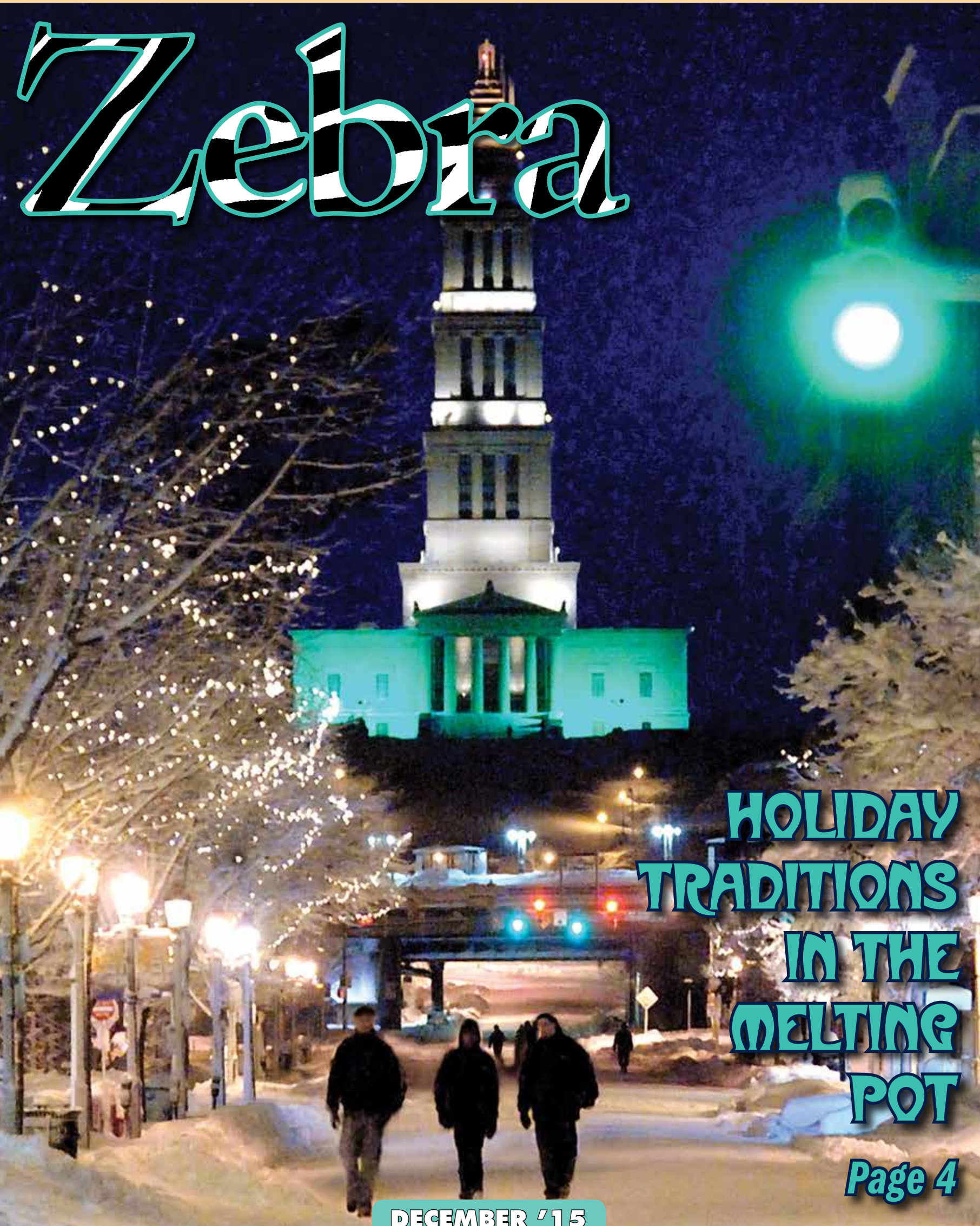


Zebra



HOLIDAY TRADITIONS IN THE MELTING POT

Page 4

DECEMBER '15

BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER



ALEXANDRIA
HEALTH FAIR

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STREETS MARKET
AND CAFE

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LIVING LEGEND
NINATISARA

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TURK'S MEN'S SHOP
IN 1963...

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Christine Garner

Wishing You A Peaceful & Happy Holiday Season

OLD TOWN

\$2,550,000

Elegant 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath brick semi-detached townhouse with 3-4 off street parking located just steps from Historic King St. and the riverfront. Circa 1815 with approximately 4,400 sq. ft. of living space featuring generous room sizes, original random width wood floors, high ceilings, tall windows, exquisite woodwork and architectural details throughout. A two level sun-room offers views of the spacious walled garden and patio. Lower level walks out to the garden and features a gourmet kitchen with center island, breakfast area and adjoining family room with fireplace.



OLD TOWN

\$1,725,000

Historic 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath home on "Captain's Row" 1 block off King Street and 2 blocks from the river. Extensive restoration with nearly 3,000 sq. ft. of living space featuring spacious light filled rooms with 10' ceilings, beautiful moldings, random width wood floors and 2 fireplaces. Eat-in kitchen with exposed beams and rear stairs to upper level. Main level bedroom with full bath plus half bath for guests. Upper level with 3 bedrooms and 2 baths including the Master suite with en suite bath. Unfinished lower level with tall ceilings and heat, back porch, roof-top deck and fenced yard with pergola and Koi pond.



PORTO VECCHIO

\$1,299,000

Rarely available 3 bedroom, 3 bath unit with unparalleled views of the river from every room! Resort-like living with fabulous amenities. Over 2100 sq. ft. of living space with light filled rooms and a large glass solarium where you can enjoy watching the abundant wildlife and activity along the river. Spacious formal living room and dining room make this home perfect for entertaining. Private Master suite with balcony ample closet space, dressing room and en suite bath with jetted tub and separate shower. Coveted "wine cellar" plus an additional storage unit and 2 garage parking spaces convey.



OLD TOWN

\$1,149,000

Beautifully updated 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath brick townhouse just 1 block from the river and Lee St. Park. Spacious living room with gas fireplace flanked by custom built-ins and wet bar. Formal dining room with wainscoting and wood burning fireplace. Renovated gourmet kitchen opens to family room with gas fireplace and French doors to a large brick patio. Finished attic with 4th bedroom and en suite bath is ideal for guests. Updated baths, freshly painted with wood floors throughout.



ROSEMONT

\$989,000

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath Victorian with 4 finished levels and a detached garage. Built in 1918 with loads of character and updated for today's lifestyle. Formal living room and dining room with access to screened in porch. Main level family room with fireplace and built-ins. Spacious eat-in kitchen with French doors to deck and fenced yard. Upper level with 4 bedrooms and 3 full baths including the finished attic. Lower level recreation room with access to yard. Blocks to METRO, shops & restaurants!



ROSEMONT

\$649,000

Totally renovated 3 bedroom, 2.5 bath semi-detached townhouse with off street parking just blocks from METRO! Desirable open floor plan on the main level with light filled living room, dining room. Fabulous new kitchen with granite breakfast bar and counters, SS appliances and espresso cabinetry. Upper level with 3 bedrooms and new full bath. Lower level family room with tall ceilings, luxury bath, walk-in closet and storage room with outdoor egress. Fenced yard with patio & manicured lawn.



WATERGATE OF OLD TOWN

\$599,000

Fabulous renovation of this 2 bedroom, 2 bath brick townhouse. Great location just a couple of blocks from the river, shops and restaurants in a quiet courtyard with garage parking. Desirable open floor plan, gourmet kitchen with granite counters, SS appliances and 42" custom cabinets and dining area. Living room with wood burning fireplace and French doors to a brick patio. Two upper level bedrooms with 2 full baths including the Master suite with updated en suite bath.



HARBOR TERRACE

\$259,000

Price and location! This beautifully updated 1 bedroom, 1 bath condo with a balcony has it all and then some! Just 1 light from D.C. and a few blocks from the river, shops and restaurants in North Old Town. Living room with wood burning fireplace and wood floors opens to kitchen with granite counters and breakfast bar, SS appliances and new cabinets. Carrara marble bath, bedroom with 2 large closets and new carpet. Stacked washer/dryer, storage unit, off street parking.



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DECEMBER '15

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PUBLICATION DATES

Zebra is printed monthly.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the receipt of all new advertising materials is 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, seven days prior to publication. Materials and space reservations will be accepted for proofed unchanged camera ready repeat ads until 5:00 p.m. Friday, the week before publication. Cancellations and changes cannot be accepted after Monday, the week of publication and no refunds will be made after that time. For advertisers wishing to see a proof before publication, the deadline for approval is Wednesday, seven days prior to publication.

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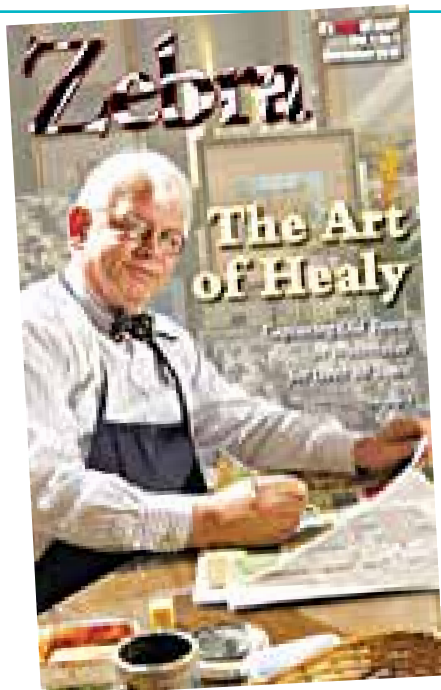
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thezebra.org

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CATCH OUR MISTAKES

We proofread, but occasionally we make mistakes, so to make a game of it, we encourage you to find the errors we missed. The entrant who finds the most wins a gift certificate from an area retailer or restaurant.

If you have a keen eye and a sharp pencil, send your catches to editor@thezebrapress.com.



Our debut issue in December 2010 featured the ever-popular Alexandria artist in residence, Todd Healy of Gallery Lafayette, 130 Royal Street.

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Picture it. December 2010. Newspapers are folding, and pundits are saying print is dead. So I launch a new product called the *Zebra*. We have defied the odds, and taken our cues from you, our loyal readers and proudly continue the mission to deliver only good news about our kids, our schools, our Mom and Pop businesses, and our community leaders and heroes.

Indeed it does take a village. So many of you have been generous with your time, dedication and investments with us, and I am grateful. As always, I hope you enjoy the issue, and are blessed with family and friends that allow you to soak up all of the



spirit of wonder during this holiday season.

See you in 2016!
Mary Wadland

WHAT BUGS ME

BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and wishing you a wonderful holiday season.

COVER PHOTO:

"I found this wonderful image walking up King Street after a snow storm. For once I could stand in the middle of the street and not worry about cars," said this month's featured Living Legend (and founder of the Living Legends Project) Nina Tisara.

Photo by Nina Tisara.



Zebra Spotted in CHINA!

It's time for a **ZEBRA** break in HARBIN, CHINA

"I was in Harbin, China, for the reunion of those born in Harbin who are now scattered all over the world. The picture was taken on the banks of the Songhua River. Sun Island is visible on the other shore."

Submitted by Tatyana Schremko, an Alexandria artist with a studio in the Torpedo factory. *Tatyana just picked up a \$25 gift certificate to Celtic House Irish Pub and Restaurant in Arlington!*

Send photos of *Zebra* read around the world to editor@thezebrapress.com, and we'll publish them and send you a gift card from an area retailer or restaurant!

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS THAT AREN'T IN THE DICKENS BOOKS

BY MIKE SALMON

We all know about the Festivus pole of Seinfeld fame or the

Chinese food for Christmas dinner, but with multi-culturalism, and the influx of mass media, there are more of these peculiar ways of celebrating the holiday than people think.

Wearing reindeer antlers around the office? Check. Having your dog wear reindeer antlers? Check. Making a batch of *Sven's Happy Nog* from a magazine recipe? Check. Even a zesty round of sex under the tree on Christmas Eve has made the top-ten list. Let's face it, instead of the visions of sugarplums dancing in our heads, we're thinking outside the box these days. Does anyone still make sugarplums?

Enter the "Caganer," a little figurine that makes an appearance during the holiday season, in the nativity scene, with its drawers dropped, taking a dump in front of everyone. Cheery, isn't it? According to information on the Amusing Planet website,

the Caganer has roots in Catalonia — a historic territory in the northeastern Iberian Peninsula, a part of Spain and southern France. The typical nativity scene has Mary, Joseph, sheep herders, the three wisemen, cows and hay in a manger. In some though, there's

the Caganer too, a little figurine of a defecating Catalan peasant in the corner doing his stuff. Caganer, means *pooper* in Catalan.

As the legend goes, the Caganer, by pooping, is fertilizing the Earth which will lead to a good harvest during the forthcoming



For at least the past two centuries, the traditional nativity scene in Catalonia — you know, the usual suspects of Mary, Joseph and the shepherds gathered around the baby Jesus in his manger — has been enhanced by a character called a caganer. There's no delicate way of putting this so the most polite translation is "the defecator" as, despite an innocuous-looking appearance from the front, its buttocks are bare with each one containing a small, brown deposit beneath. Charmed, we're sure



CHANUKAH TRADITIONS

BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

Chanukah, or Hanukah, is the Jewish Festival of Lights. This was always a minor holiday in the ranks of Jewish holidays but with its proximity to Christmas, it has become a big deal. Chanukah is a fun holiday to celebrate with lots of delicious food and games.

According to the Talmud, the Greeks under Antiochus IV had desecrated the holy Temple. Mattathias the Hasmonean and his son Judah Maccabeus joined together to defeat the Greek occupiers in Jerusalem.

The revolt was successful and the Temple was cleansed and rededicated. The Maccabees found only enough sacred oil to burn in the holy menorah (candelabrum) for one night.

This oil miraculously burned for eight days, enough time to allow for the preparation of a new supply of holy oil. The holiday celebrates the miracle of the oil burning for eight days.

The most familiar icon of Chanukah is the menorah. According to Shabbat 21b of the Babylonian Talmud, *Our rabbis taught the rule of Chanukkah: ... on the first day one [candle] is lit and thereafter they are progressively increased ... [because] we increase in sanctity but do not reduce.* Tradition holds that candles are lit each day in a

menorah that holds nine candles, one for each night and a shamus or lighting candle. Candles are added each night from right to left and lit from left to right. The shammas is used to light the other candles as the Chanukah candles are for pleasure and should not be used for any kind of work.

It is traditional to eat fried foods during Chanukah to remember the importance of the oil. Favorites among the Ashkenazi (Eastern European/Russian) Jews are potato latkes or pancakes. The shredded potatoes are usually combined with eggs, oil, onion, and seasonings and then dropped into hot oil to fry. We always ate them topped with either sour cream or applesauce. Sufganiyot, Jewish doughnuts, are also a holiday favorite. Sephardic Jews from North Africa and the Middle East also celebrate with fried foods.

Giving gifts for Chanukah is a more modern tradition to make the holiday more compatible with Christmas. Children traditionally receive chocolate coins or gelt (coins). Playing dreidel with a four sided top is another traditional activity on Chanukah. This gambling game is played for pennies, candies, or chocolate coins for tokens. The dreidel has a Hebrew letter on each side: Nun, Gimel, Hei, and Shin. These letters represent the Hebrew phrase Nes Gadol Hayah Sham, "a great miracle happened there." To play, each player puts a token in the pot. Each player spins the dreidel. If it lands on Nun, nothing happens; Gimel wins the whole pot; Hei gives you half of the pot; and Shin means you add a token.

So, when you see one of your Jewish friends between sundown on Dec. 6 through sundown Dec. 14, wish them a Happy Chanukah!

year. Another explanation is that the Caganer represents the equality of all people: regardless of status, race, or gender. After all, everyone defecates, right? Sitting on the toilet is where we're the most vulnerable in life. He doesn't have the newspaper to read though, so it must be from way back in time.

The exact origin of the Caganer is not really clear, but the tradition dates back to the 17th century. Originally, the Caganer was portrayed as a Catalan peasant wearing red stocking hat with a black band similar to Santa, but modern Caganers are often caricatures of famous people. Surprisingly, the practice is tolerated by the local Catholic church, the folks at Amusing Planet say. Could the Caganer be the original idea for "Mr. Hankey, the Christmas Poo" of South Park fame?

In the Ukraine, people's spidey senses are tingling! They have what you call a "Spidey Christmas," where instead of glittering ornaments and tinsel, Ukrainian Christmas trees are covered with artificial spiders and cobwebs. Spiders are normally creepy, but according to the local folklore, there was a poor woman who could not afford to decorate their Christmas tree. But the next morning, her children woke up to see the tree covered with webs and when the first light of Christmas morning hit the web threads, they turned into gold and silver and the family was no longer poor. Hence, it is believed that seeing a spider web on Christmas morning brings luck.



Do you know the legend of the pickle? It's an old German tradition, one that kids will love – on Christmas morning, the child who finds the pickle ornament on the tree first wins a special gift! Aside from the extra-gift possibilities, kids will love the silliness of having a bumpy bright green pickle hanging from their tree. It's a fun tradition to start!

The Feast

Along with the decorations of Christmas, the feast is a big part of it. The standard fare in this country is the turkey, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, cranberry sauce and pies. Northern Virginia resident Debby Critchley borrowed a tradition from her mother, who was from New Orleans, and uses

corn flakes as her stuffing along with the basic bread crumbs. "That's her nod to corn bread stuffing," Critchley said. She has all the fixin's but when it comes to gravy, no giblets. Something about eating the heart, kidney and livers does sit well with her.

In Greenland, the feast has the "Mattak," a chunk of whale blubber that they eat. Yummy! But the real treat comes around the holiday season when they wrap a dead bird in the whale blubber, wait a while until it partially decomposes, and then they feast.

Gifts Under the Tree

The gift giving is another area of tradition, but waiting until Christmas morning to dig into the packages isn't for everyone.

Herndon resident Susan Michlik's family had a tradition Christmas night. "When I was growing up we had a nice, quiet family dinner on Christmas Eve, played games, opened one present, then went to bed.

"Santa" would visit during the night and leave all of the presents — unwrapped — set up on the couch or the floor of the living room. Christmas morning, we'd get up and wait for my parents to go downstairs and get the camera ready and then they'd call us down. After we saw what Santa brought, we would open our presents one at a time in age order," she said.

The Christmas Eve gift unwrapping isn't for everyone though. One

Centreville resident thinks it doesn't mesh with the whole Santa story. "I must say that it does bother me when parents allow their kids to open one present on Christmas Eve. How is that supposed to work? Does Santa drop a special gift off before he makes his trek around the world? I don't think so. I'm very traditional, so I don't like to see people changing the rules," she said.

These fun traditions aren't just getting by without a scientific study of some sort, leading to an explanation. In 2007, Peter Clarke, a marketing professional from the Griffith Business School at Griffith University, Gold Coast, Australia, did a study "The Measure of Christmas Spirit." His conclusion? "Christmas celebrations are a complex amalgam of motives, strategies, attitudes, rituals, behaviours and relationships. (That's how the Aussies spell behavior) Christmas spirit is an important topic of deep interest to consumer behaviour researchers; being an often-used, but ambiguous term there is a need for theoretical clarification. Therefore, it is timely to explore and develop behavioural theory related to the celebration because of the festivity's economic and social impacts on society."

Somewhere in that conclusion, we can insert the phrase "it's all good," and go back to kissing under the mistletoe or singing carols, with our glasses of egg nog.



CELEBRATING KWANZAA

BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

Kwanzaa was created by Dr. Maulana Karenga, professor and chairman of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach in 1966 after the Watts riots in Los Angeles to bring the African-American community together. He researched the African 'first fruit' celebrations and combined the rituals of several different groups including the Zulu and Ashanti to create the beginnings of the Kwanzaa traditions. He derived the name Kwanzaa from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza* which means first fruits. Families and communities celebrate the seven nights of Kwanzaa in many ways including singing and dancing, drums, storytelling, poetry reading, and traditional meals. A candle is lit each night on a Kinara (candleholder). Each candle represents one of the seven principles – *Nguzo Saba* – African cultural values that reinforce community. The seventh day is celebrated with an African feast, *Karamu*.

Five common sets of values are central to the activities of the week: ingathering, reverence, commemoration, recommitment, and celebration. The *Nguzo Saba*



of Kwanzaa are represented by Kiswahili words: unity (*umoya*), self-determination (*kujichagulia*), collective work and responsibility (*ujima*), cooperative economics (*ujamaa*), purpose (*nia*), creativity (*kuumba*), and faith (*imani*).

The symbols of Kwanzaa include crops (*mzao*) which represents the historical roots of African-Americans in agriculture and also the reward for collective labor and is patterned after African harvest festivals in which joy, sharing, unity, and thanksgiving are the fruits of collective planning and work. The place mat, (*mkeka*) made

from straw or cloth, lays the foundation for self-actualization. It symbolizes the historical and traditional foundation to stand on and build lives because today stands on yesterday. The candle holder (*kinara*) reminds believers in the ancestral origins, the original stalk. The *kinara* symbolizes the ancestors, who were once earth bound; understand the problems of human life; and are willing to protect their progeny from danger, evil, and mistakes. In African festivals the ancestors are remembered and honored.

Corn/maize (*muhindi*) signifies

fertility symbolized by children and the hope associated in the younger generation. One ear is called *vibunzi* and two or more ears are called *muhindi*. An ear is placed on the *mkeka* for each child in the family. If there are no children, two ears are placed to represent how each person is responsible for the children of the community. The unity cup (*kikombe cha umoja*) is used to perform the libation (*tambiko*) ritual during the *Karamu* feast on the sixth day of Kwanzaa. During the *Karamu* feast, the *kikombe cha umoja* is passed to family member and guests, who drink from it to promote unity. Then, the eldest person present pours the libation (*tambiko*), usually water, juice, or wine, in the direction of the four winds – north, south, east, and west – to honor the ancestors. The eldest asks the gods and ancestors to share in the festivities and, in return, to bless all the people who are not at the gathering. After asking for this blessing, the elder pours the libation on the ground and the group says "Amen."

Gifts (*zawadi*) represent commitments of the parents

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

The Capitol Steps Help Raise \$85,000

On Sunday, November 8, The Friends of UCM hosted a sold-out crowd at the US Patent and Trademark Office for the 24th annual benefit performance of The Capitol Steps. The event raised a record-breaking more than \$85,000 to benefit the mission of United Community Ministries (UCM) to provide help and hope to vulnerable individuals, families, and children in the Huntington-Mount Vernon community.

Poverty is no laughing matter, but The Capitol Step's political satire was as hilarious and timely as ever, including skits about the Democratic and Republican presidential hopefuls, Obamacare, and foreign heads of state.

"The Friends of UCM is a group of volunteers providing fundraising and community education about UCM," says Suzy Coffey, President of The Friends of UCM and member of the UCM Board. "Since our founding in 2001, we have raised more than \$2.2 million to ensure that people in our community can turn to UCM for help during their time of need and achieve financial stability. We are so pleased that our Capitol Steps signature event was such a success this year. Thank you again to all our sponsors and guests for joining us and for supporting UCM in so many ways to strengthen and support low-income families."

"This fundraiser would not be possible without the commitment of all The Friends of UCM, especially event co-chairs Sandy Doyle, Kristi Long, and Janis Surovell," says Mitchem. "We cannot thank them enough for their tireless energy and commitment to make the event a success, as well as all The Friends and other volunteers. They each exemplify the caring and can-do spirit in our great community."



The Friends of UCM hosted the sold-out benefit event. Pictured with the check for \$85,000 raised for UCM are (from left): event co-chair Sandy Doyle; Suzy Coffey, President of The Friends of UCM and UCM Board Member; and event co-chairs Janis Surovell and Kristi Long. Courtesy photo.

Alexandria Library Receives \$7,500 Grant

Alexandria Library received a \$7,500 "Curiosity Creates" grant from the American Library Association (ALA)'s Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) and Disney. Out of 400 applications, the Library received one of the prestigious grant awards and is **the only Virginia library** among the recipients. The grant is for creating programs that encourage creativity in children, particularly programs that reach low-income, immigrant, and under-served areas.

Beatley Central will be doing a series of 21 programs under the collective name "STEAMtivity" — a compound of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) and creativity. These programs will be both low-tech and high-tech and encourage children to be creative, explore their own interests and ideas, collaborate, and have fun while learning in the STEAM areas. Programming began

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

IN UNIFORM

Seaman Shaquan Johnson, from Alexandria, Va., strikes down the lines after the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer USS The Sullivans (DDG 68) departs Brest Naval Station Nov. 2. The Sullivans is in transit while returning to homeport in Mayport, Florida after a scheduled port visit in Brest, France. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Daniel Gaither/Released)



Sergeant Craig Davie delivers canned vegetables as part of Project Thanksgiving's meal delivery to Hopkins House.



ALEXANDRIA SHERIFF'S OFFICE DELIVERS

The Alexandria Sheriff's Office once again assisted in Project Thanksgiving, a regional effort to provide deserving families with complete Thanksgiving dinners. On Tuesday, November 24,

Sergeant Craig Davie picked up 16 Thanksgiving dinners — complete with turkeys, potatoes, veggies and dessert — from Lockheed Martin in Manassas and then delivered them to Hopkins House, a

local organization that will share them with Alexandria area families in need. Lockheed Martin funds the dinners and their employees arrange for the food purchases and meal coordination.



WHAT'S GOING ON WITH LANDMARK MALL?

A new Landmark has been a long time in the making, and what is promised is a new live-

shop-dine urban village on its way. The Howard Hughes Corporation has promised

to transform the 50-year-old mall into an active and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

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ARCHAEOLOGISTS DISCOVER 1755 WAREHOUSE

It's being called one of the most exciting archaeological finds in Alexandria's history. And it was unearthed while riverfront excavating machines dug the ground to build a new hotel's foundation.

What you need to know is that in 1749, when the Town of Alexandria was founded, the southwestern half of the property at 220 South Union Street was on top of a bluff overlooking a cove of the Potomac River. The filling of the cove (called "banking out") in the late 18th century created the remaining land that became the northeastern half of the property. By 1755, Duke Street was cut through the bluff and extended down to the water. The Alexandria Trustees called upon John Carlyle to erect a public warehouse on the north side of Duke Street, on what would become 220 South Union Street.


During the final days of September, 2015, hints of an exciting discovery began to emerge during construction of the new Indigo Hotel. Archaeologists from Thunderbird Archaeology were monitoring the excavation for the hotel garage,



Imagine the surprise of the hard hats when their machinated shovels hit hard wood while excavating for a new riverfront hotel's garage. Courtesy photo.

when large timbers were found at the edge of Duke Street. Construction work ceased in the area to allow for a substantial archaeological

investigation, which was completed in early November, revealing the remains of the public warehouse!!



"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

QUOTABLES

— Eleanor Roosevelt

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HELEN S. MCILVAINE NAMED ALEXANDRIA'S DIRECTOR OF HOUSING

City Manager Mark B. Jinks announced the appointment of Helen S. McIlvaine as Director of Housing for the City of Alexandria, effective November 23, 2015. McIlvaine has served as Acting Director since January 1.

"Housing affordability is a top priority for City government, and Helen has been an outstanding leader on this important issue," said Jinks. "I look forward to her continued work to ensure that a range of affordable, quality housing options is available in Alexandria."

McIlvaine joined the Office of Housing in 2006 as Deputy Director, where she worked with the Alexandria Housing Development Corporation, other nonprofit and private developers, and the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA), to structure and finance projects that incorporate affordable



Helen S. McIlvaine

housing. She supervised the Housing Implementation Division, which provides homeownership assistance loans for first time buyers, home rehabilitation loans and housing counseling.

McIlvaine's work also supports citywide planning processes, including the 2013 Housing Master Plan and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



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ALEXANDRIA’S HEALTH FAIR HIGHLIGHTS THE CITY’S HEALTH NEEDS

BY MARY ANNE WEBER

What if no one comes? The committee had spent months planning Alexandria’s first community health fair. They knew who needed help, even which parts of the city had the greatest health needs. But had the message been heard? They needn’t have worried. Though the health fair was scheduled to open at 9 a.m., November 14 at Francis Hammond Middle School, people began to arrive at 7:30. By 10 the trickle had turned into a flood and everyone was busy giving and receiving help and information.

Hosted by the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria City Public Schools, in partnership with Neighborhood Health, Inova Alexandria Hospital, the Department of Community and Human Services and the Alexandria Health Department, volunteers at the fair on November 14 saw nearly 275 adults, mostly uninsured residents of the city. These uninsured were the whole reason the fair was begun.

In the fall of 2014, when Mayor Bill Euille was faced with the stark fact that the Virginia General Assembly’s refusal to expand the Medicaid program had left about 5,000 very low-income Alexandrians without health insurance, he appointed a 13-member Special Advisory Panel to examine the health care



Many attendees were eager to have their blood pressure checked, a service provided by Anthem HealthKeepers and others. Those whose blood pressures were elevated were counseled by registered nurses and nurse practitioners on the critical need for follow up care.

needs of the uninsured and to develop recommendations to address the problem. That problem was easily described. Alexandria had a population of adults between 18 and 64 who were too rich to qualify for Virginia’s miserly Medicaid, too young or not deemed disabled enough to qualify for Medicare and too poor for the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). The panel painted a complete portrait of those denied including where they lived, what the greatest barriers to accessing health care were and what services were available but possibly unknown to those who needed them.

They also made a list of recommendations and number one was to host a



More than 180 flu vaccines were provided by Walgreens

health fair targeted at those with the greatest need that



Jan O’Brien of the Northern Virginia Community College Dental Hygiene Clinic teaches a little girl the correct way to brush teeth using a large stuffed animal. Attendees were referred to the low cost clinic which provides dental screening and hygiene services.

In addition 116 people were screened for glaucoma and 36 needed further attention.

More than 180 flu shots were administered by Walgreens. Those with high blood pressure were counseled by registered nurses and nurse practitioners on follow up care. Nova Salud offered testing and counseling to 26 attendees for HIV.


The more than 100 medical and non-medical volunteers who worked at the fair were praised by Dan Hawkins, chair of the mayor’s advisory panel and the fair committee. “Our Community Health Fair was an overwhelming success! With more than 300 fellow Alexandrians receiving care and attention, the Fair set a standard for our future endeavors to bring both care and caring to our neighbors who most need it – and this would not have been possible were it not for the many volunteers who contributed to making the event such a home run!”

Some of those volunteers included TC Williams students from LASS (Latin American Student Services) who spent the entire day working with children and literally running from post to post to translate for Spanish speakers. One high school sophomore who has only lived in Alexandria three months said she loved helping people, doing it with a friendly reassuring smile.

Other popular services included the Enroll Virginia table which not only explained the complicated Affordable Care Act but enrolled 21 individuals in an ACA plan, helped one person renew and directed 14 people to apply for Medicaid, a service that was also available. The interest was so great that they were still busy helping people when the fair officially closed at 4 p.m.

The Department of Community and Human Services completed

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34



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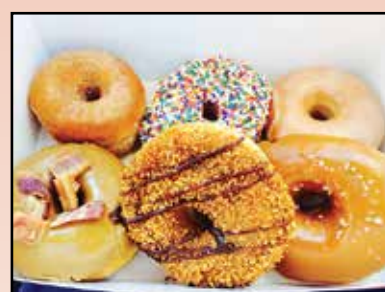
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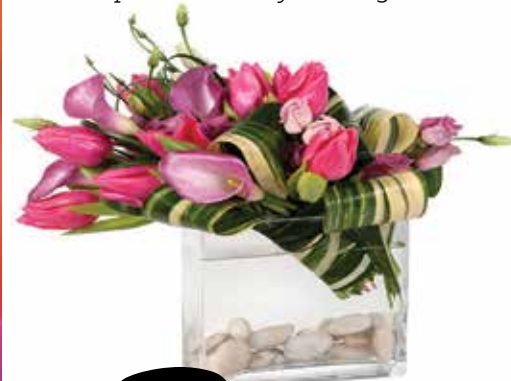
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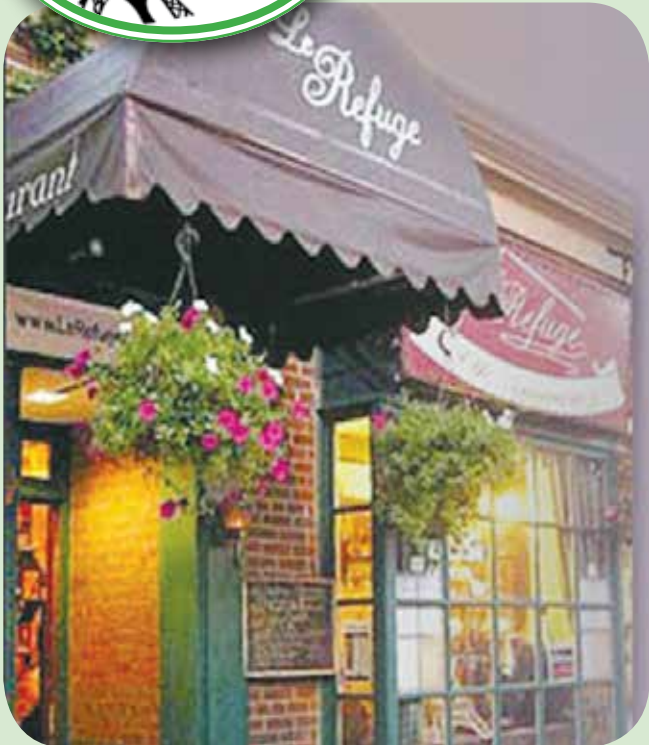
BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

FOODIE

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Lena's Wood-Fired Pizza and Tap, 401 E Braddock Rd., is now open. The menu features a wide variety of Neapolitan pizzas cooked in a 900° oven and Italian food including a giant meatball



appetizer, pasta, and Paninis. Reports say the food is very good. Look for a large variety of craft beers too. **Hula Girl** opened November 19 at 4044 Campbell Ave. in the former



Aladdin's Eatery in Shirlington. The restaurant is serving many of the food truck favorites like Spam masubi and teriyaki. The chef is offering other Hawaiian classics such as Poke. It also feature Hawaiian cocktails and both local and Hawaiian beers. Owner Mikala Brennan was born and raised in Hawaii and visited to this summer to research the state's dishes to feature in the restaurant. The outdoor patio is a welcoming space for dogs

Buzz Bakery, 901 Slaters



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Ln., is now **Buzz Bakeshop**. Wedding cake artist Maggie Austin LaBaugh has taken the



helm as Culinary Director. Baked good additions include chocolate chip cookies, brownies, muffins, and seasonal specials. **Casa Rosada Artisan Gelato**, 111 South Payne St., is adding an addition to their existing restaurant. This will provide much needed space to prepare their delicious gelato.

Columbia Pike is now the place to be. Fans of **Tosceno Grill** will be happy to hear they have reopened at 3207 Columbia Pike. There will be a variety of new entrees featuring chicken, seafood, and

veal plus 'make your own' pasta. Sugar Shack is opening its second location in early 2016 at Columbia Pike and Glebe Rd. in the Pike 3400 building. The building currently features a **Chipotle** and will also become the home of **1000 Degrees Neapolitan Pizza**. The restaurant is known for its \$7.99 personalized pizzas cooked in two minutes, fire roasted wings, and build-your-own salads.



Although not in Arlington or Alexandria, **SUCCOTASH** is a short water taxi ride to National Harbor at 186 Waterfront St. The restaurant will remind you of architecture found in Savannah and New Orleans. The menu features new interpretations of classic Southern dishes including shrimp n' grits,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15



"Sharing the holiday with other people, and feeling that you're giving of yourself, gets you past all the commercialism."

—Caroline Kennedy

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GOOD EATS AT GADSBY'S TAVERN

BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

Did you know that **Gadsby's Tavern** at 138 N. Royal St. has a beautiful dining room and offers delicious food? I have lived in Alexandria for almost 30 years and had no clue. I had the pleasure of dining there recently and was delighted with the entire experience. The dining room is much like it was when General George Washington dined there. The room is simple without much decoration but feels warm and comfortable with tables set with beautiful china and lit by hurricane lamps with real candles. This is a wonderful setting for lunch or a special dinner, family gathering, or just a good meal with friends.



Ham biscuits

Our server, Debbie, was dressed in a simple colonial frock which added to the ambience of the meal. She served as a culinary guide and greatly enhanced the evening. Her suggestion of hot cider with rum provided us with the perfect complement for our meal. Tricia Vayo, Event Coordinator, and her brother

Christopher, General Manager, ensure everyone enjoys their visit. Wilberth Hernandez ably manages the kitchen as it produces one appealing dish after another.


The dinner menu features many items that are much like what you would have found in colonial times. There are choices to please everyone in your party including vegetarians. They can order a beautiful grilled vegetable Napoleon filled with roasted seasonal vegetables and brie and served with a roasted red pepper puree on risotto. Meat eaters can choose from homey meatloaf elevated by a Port wine and mushroom demi-glace, prime rib of beef with Yorkshire pudding, double-cut lamb chops, and herb and spiced-rubbed grilled filet mignon. Seafood is represented with jumbo lump crab cakes, herb crusted grilled salmon, and shellfish Newberg. There are also a selection of soops (soups), salads, and sides.

We started with Petite Savoures (appetizers) that included Martha's Puff Pastry, a golden brown triangle of puff pastry filled with a croquette like mixture




Beef Bordelaise

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



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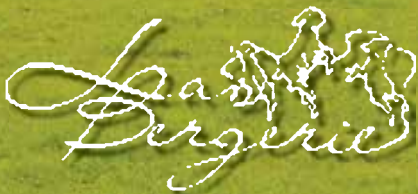


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Ramen

STREETS MARKET AND CAFÉ

BY DEBBY CRITCHLEY

You may not have noticed that **Streets Market and Café**, 3108 Mt. Vernon Ave. has an open sign hanging over the front door, but I got a wonderful guided tour of the market and café and love it all. The market is small and carries a variety of quality items. It strikes me as a small version of Whole Foods, MOMS, and Harris Teeter combined, with the best features of each. There is a good selection of organic products and quality meats such as D'Artagnan poultry, yet you can also find your Diet Coke® and other everyday products.

The Café menu

features a selection of Asian-inspired dishes. The Korean fried chicken wings and drums are served with a choice of original soy garlic, soy & spicy, and original Korean sweet flavors and all crunch soundly due to the light rice flour coating. I loved all three and will have to order them lots more times to decide my favorite. They are accompanied by very good French fries and mixed greens. You also don't need to go to one of

the crowded ramen shops and wait in line. I tried the pork ramen – a wonderful combination of pork and chicken broth, pork char siu, a seasoned half hardboiled egg, bean sprouts, sesame, nori, green onions, and a generous portion of ramen noodles. I ate half and took the other half home for a delicious hot breakfast.

Among the small plates, you must try the pork bun. You get two beautiful

Chinese style white buns, each stuffed with the same pork cha siu found in the ramen, mixed greens, and a mayo and wasabi sauce. I shared the buns with our publisher, Mary Wadland, who, never having had a pork bun before, declared she loved them and that they were like an Asian Big Mac with special sauce! I also recommend the purple coleslaw made with a vinegar based sauce. I could make a meal of it. Also good are the pickled grapes, a chef specialty you won't find anywhere else. The menu items



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The Café has a thoughtfully selected beer and wine list as well as mixed drinks. The seating is comfortable and the noise level allows for comfortable conversation. There is ample parking behind the building. Even better, you can stop by and carry out your favorite items to eat in at home in your PJs.

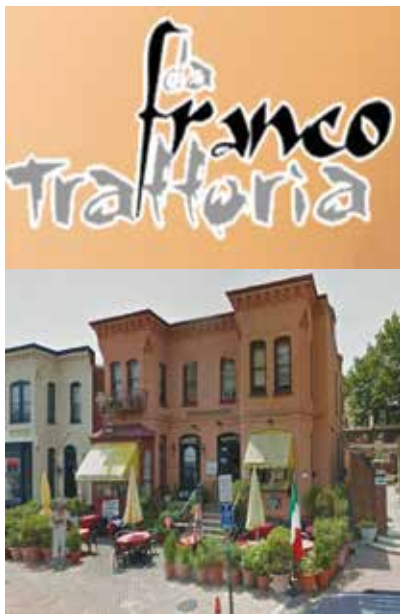
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FOODIE NEWS ...

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

smoked short-ribs, fried chicken & waffles, kimchi collard greens, pecan buttered trout, and their own version of succotash.



Cedar Knoll at 9030 Lucia Lane is reopening. This well-loved restaurant originally opened in 1941 and closed in 2014. The building was originally a farm house built River Farm once owned by George Washington. Charles Blevins, Andrew Holden, Neal Wadhwa, Christopher Holden and Max Peña are working hard to open the restaurant soon. The menu will include American favorites with French influences. Dinner reservations are available for Dec. 18, 19, and 20.

Let's talk turkey. If you like big breasted turkeys injected with a solution of up to an 8% salt solution that that gives you lots of dry, crumbly white meat, hurry to your local grocery and pick up a bird. But, if you want a bird that looks more like an overgrown oven stuffer chicken and tastes

like the turkey you've always dreamed of with juicy, tender white meat, hurry to **Let's Meat on the Avenue**, 2403 Mt. Vernon Ave. in Del Ray and order a KellyBronze® turkey.

A KellyBronze is a heritage turkey which means it's more like the turkey wandering in the wild than the big white bird bred for grocery store sales and pardoned every year by POTUS. Your KellyBronze arrives in a lovely black box with a bag of seasoning, a meat



thermometer, a separate bag filled with giblets, liver, etc., and directions on how to cook it. The bird is quite different from the usual grocery bird. When you remove it from the bag, you'll find it is dry as a result of being dry plucked and hung for flavor like wild game. It is well proportioned and has the remnants of the hand-plucked quills. Don't be squeamish. You can use a needle nosed pliers to remove the bigger pieces of remaining quills but it's not necessary.

The bird needs no brining,

just salt and pepper. It cooks breast side down to start and turned over for the last ½ hour. Like a goose, this bird has lots of fat that renders to baste and flavor the meat as it cooks and it cooks quickly. My 14 lb. bird was done in less than 2 hrs. The skin comes out crispy and gorgeous brown. This is the most beautiful turkey you will ever cook, worthy of a magazine cover. Let it rest before you start carving. I prefer dark meat because it is moist and flavorful and the

white meat on this bird is every bit as tasty as the dark.

I begrudgingly shared the bird with several people and the results were unanimous - this was the best turkey they had ever eaten. On a scale of 1 to 10, this bird is a 10. It is not inexpensive, but if you want the best turkey ever, this is the one you want.

HOT PICK

BY MIKE SADE

So Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is about here. But there are other things to celebrate.

Did you know December 29th is Pepper Pot Day? Legend has it that during the Revolutionary war, the Continental army was camped at Valley Forge. George Washington asked his army's chef to prepare a meal for the army that would both warm them, and boost their morale. The chef found scraps of tripe, small bits of meat and some peppercorn.

So celebrate *Pepper Pot Day* by making some Pepper Pot soup for the family. If you don't like or can't find tripe you can substitute the tripe with chicken or that leftover turkey. You can find recipes on the internet and Crazy



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Nathan Leibovitz's graphite illustrations are part of main altar at St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Washington, D.C. Courtesy photo.

BY BOB MURRAY,
ART REPORTER

Christmas time is art time. A gift of art is thoughtful and lasting. Framed or unframed, a work of art between friends is personal when it reflects the giver. Seems to me that it is a mistake to select a gift for

another that I wouldn't choose for myself.

Many galleries, shops and main stores in America carry a wide choice of artist's prints. Some maintain special editions and offer framing services to corporate customers and interior designers. Arlington and Alexandria galleries,

including the Torpedo Art Center's extensive print gallery, have work displayed in bins or display wings encourage people to browse with the pressure of buying.

It's my experience when buying art for someone else that the "print" is an economical

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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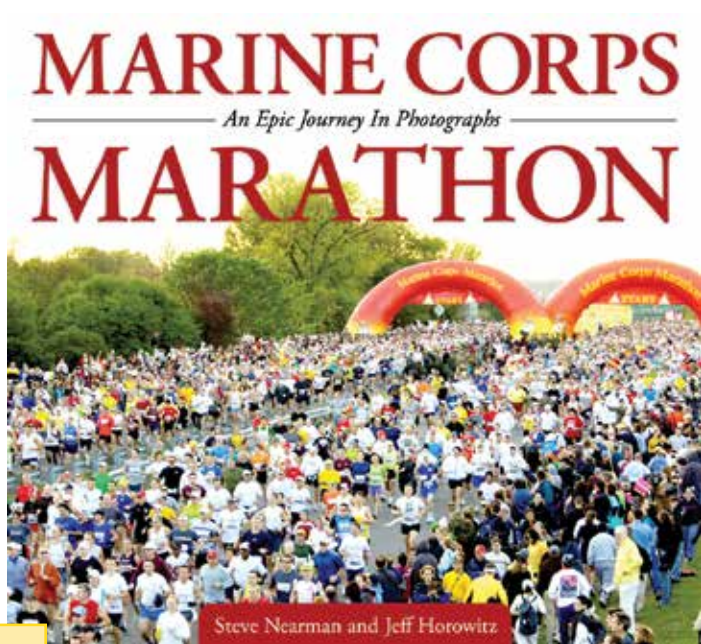
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13 GAD ELMALEH 'All in english!' 7:30pm \$25.00	14 The Aimee Mann & Ted Leo Christmas Show with Jonathan Coulton, Liz Phair, and very special guests! 7:30pm \$49.50	15 Asleep at the Wheel "Merry Texas Xmas Y'all!" w/ Jeanne Jolly 7:30pm \$35.00	16 Carbon Leaf An Evening with 7:30pm \$35.00	17 PIECES OF A DREAM with special guest Selina Albright 7:30pm \$35.00	18	19
20 ROBERT GLASPER EXPERIMENT 7:30pm \$49.50	21 A John Waters' Christmas: Holier & Dirtier 7:30pm (Adult Content) \$49.50	22 An Evening with TODD RUNDGREN featuring Todd, John Ferenzik, Jesse Gress, Prairie Prince, Kasim Sulton 7:30pm \$55.00	23 CHARLES ESTEN 7:30pm \$55.00	24 TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND A TRADITION CONTINUES 2016 TOUR FEBRUARY 25, 26, 27 WARNER THEATRE (WASHINGTON, DC) TICKETS AVAILABLE AT WARNERTHEATREDC.COM	25	26 Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes 7:30pm \$39.50
27 19th Annual HANK WILLIAMS TRIBUTE featuring Robin & Linda Williams, Robbie Fulks, Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer, Rickie Simpkins, Dave Chappell, Mark Schatz 7:30pm \$29.50	28 mint condition 7:30pm	29 'Holiday Show'	30 8pm \$65.00	31 New Year's Eve with THE SELDOM SCENE Gold Heart, Only Lonesome 8pm \$39.50	January 1, 2016 In Gratitude: A Tribute to Earth, Wind & Fire and Motown & More: A Tribute to Motown and Soul Legends 7:30pm \$35.00	January 2, 2016 Bill Kirchen & Too Much Fun with Commander Cody 7:30pm \$29.50



EVERY PICTURE TELLS AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY

In 490 BC, a severely outnumbered Athenian army, against long odds, stopped the advancement of the invading Persian army at the decisive battle of Marathon. A loss would have allowed the Persians to exit the coastal city and march into Athens a mere 42 kilometers away. The victorious field general desired to promptly deliver the news of this dramatic victory back to the council anxiously waiting in Athens. He summoned Pheidippedes, a paid courier. Obeying the



Marine Corps Marathon

Authors: Steve Nearman and Jeff Horowitz

Publisher: 26point2 Publishing

Reviewed by: Ralph Peluso, Zebra Literary Editor

Zerba Rating: 4.5 Stripes

command Pheidippedes immediately headed southwest. The trek would take him across a variety of terrains, from soft marshy fields to firmer plains and

finally rocky crags. Alone, Pheidippedes ran and ran. After twenty kilometers he began to feel the effects from the lack of hydration. At thirty kilometers his body was overheating and each

stride had become a painful jolt. The trail he followed was isolated. No fans to cheer him on. But he was driven by his purpose. Reaching Athens just a few hours after the battle concluded he dug down deep found the just enough energy to sprint the final incline to where he knew the archons sat caucusing. Adrenalin and will power had carried him through to the end. Triumphant he raised his arms and proclaimed “Joy to you; we have won!” His legs trembled, all strength evaporated. Pheidippedes suddenly crumbled. He lay motionless on the ground, dead. This is the romanticized version of the origin of the Marathon.

The Marathon is the longest track event of the Olympic Games, covering approximately 26.2 miles. A strict training regimen is

required to give entrants a chance to complete the grueling event. It is the ultimate test of determination. For the ill prepared, the race ravages one’s body. My question is, “Why, what drives the millions of Americans to take part in a brutally demanding event such as a marathon?”

I put that question to Steve Nearman, co- author. “Well for the many ordinary people who enter this road race it is an opportunity for a very, very extraordinary achievement. There are thousands of reasons. The person who dedicates the race to the loved that has passed. The man who completes the event while pushing his son in a wheel chair. The women rejected by the New York City Marathon from her participation in the elite group proving she did

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

PRINT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

and versatile option. You have limited edition prints as well as the regularly run selections. Museum stores as well as many online services offer reproductions of modern and traditional art. The line between reproduction and regular print making is a separate topic important to professional artists and serious collectors.

There’s a bundle of forms of “prints.” There are lithographs, silk screens, woodcuts, linocuts, cardboard prints, relief block prints, soft ground etchings, monoprints, aquatints, lift-ground prints, sugar-lift aquatints, photo etchings, traditional engravings

on copper, drypoints and collographs with embossed or raised surfaces. Widespread and popular today are the prints on canvas which the Chinese are marketing everywhere. They have perfected an inexpensive process of transferring images photographically onto canvas or other surfaces and adding the “hand touch” of paint. But it is really still a print...and pretty attractive and decorative.

I picked two professionally-recognized Alexandria artists for examples since these prints are small, no larger than 4”x4.”

Nathan Leibowitz’s intricate illustrations vary in subject matter. These shown happen to be small parts of a large mosaic on the front of the main altar at historic St. Aloysius Gonzaga Church in Washington, D.C. I’m attracted

to older, historic images which are discovered in many local galleries. Artfully framed or loose in a nice folder or card, they act as interesting, useable in limited areas, a singularly meaningful gift for the right person.

Yury Kokoyanin’s “Ensemble” brings the music theme into the holidays with his unequaled originality in composition and the human figure. His intensive artistic training at the Russian Art Institutes brings its own originality to anyone’s art collection.

Both artists have home studios in this area and have offered on consignment their work to local and international galleries.

Practicality is my favorite everyday word that applies to the subject of the framing and care of art prints in general. There is no reason why you should not or could not do your own framing if you employ simple skills. Acid free papers and matte boards are pretty commonplace now. They’re widely available from framers and craft suppliers like Michael’s. Sensible framing can be economical if you look out for certain hazards. For instance, a sensible frame should include a good quality picture glass, mounting, a barrier to keep galls off the surface of the print, a backing and molding that comes in acceptable sizes. There is no substitute, however, for art framed by a professional whose work is precise, labor intensive, using moldings that may vary



“Ensemble” by Yury Kokoyanin incorporates music and the holidays. Courtesy photo.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

Give Meaning

A gift from Ten Thousand Villages also gives employment, hope, and dignity to artisans in more than 30 developing countries around the world.



bronze statues, Burkina Faso



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Artist & Framemaker

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703-549-7883

DECEMBER Z-VENTS

NOW THROUGH JAN. 6

Christmas at Mt. Vernon
9:00 am-4:00 pm
Mt. Vernon Estate
3200 Mount Vernon Hwy

Holiday visitors will enjoy themed decorations, chocolate-making demonstrations and 18th-century dancing, plus a rare opportunity to tour the third floor of the Mansion. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for the enjoyment of his guests. Today, visitors can meet Aladdin the camel on the grounds. Event included with purchase of a general admission ticket \$18 adults (\$17 online); \$8 children ages 6-11; free children ages 5 and under.

DECEMBER 11-13, 18-20

Fine Art & Fine Craft Holiday Market 2015
Fri-Sat 6:00-9:00 pm; Sun 11:00-6:00 pm
Del Ray Artisans Gallery in the Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Ave.

The market offers unique handmade fine arts and fine crafts from local artists including pottery/ceramics, photography, jewelry, cloth, paper crafts, and glass. Different artists each weekend. [www. TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket](http://www.TheDelRayArtisans.org/HolidayMarket). Free

NOW THROUGH DEC. 23

Alexandria Holiday Market



11:00 am – 7:00 pm (Wed. 11:00 am – 2:00 pm)
John Carlyle Square
300 John Carlyle St.

While shopping for unique art and craft items for loved ones, at this unique holiday market, visitors can enjoy live entertainment, traditional European food and sweets, wine and beer. Also present will be a children's corner featuring kids' activities that help little ones learn more about European traditions and culture.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 4

No Ordinary Woman
Mon-Sat 10:00 am-6:00 pm; Thurs 10:00 am-9:00 pm; Sun 12:00 noon-6:00 pm
Art League, Inc.
105 N. Union Street

Kathlyn Avila's exhibit "No Ordinary Woman" is composed of mystical and quirky ceramic figures that are full of character. Her figures are rich in color, pattern, and texture, and embody the spirit of the unforgettable personalities that crossed her path as a child. "No Ordinary Woman" grew out of Avila's childhood interest in the women in her community, especially those considered to have "special powers" – reading palms, healing, hexing – whether real or imagined. Though inspired by people Avila has encountered, her figures embody "familiar souls" that viewers can recognize regardless of where or when they grew up. Each figure is an expression of a unique individual, whose story is told through adornment, symbolism, and gesture.



DECEMBER 12-13

Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tours
Sat. 6:00 pm -9:00 pm; Sun. 3:00 pm -6:00pm
Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle, Lee-Fendall, and Lloyd Houses
134 N. Royal Street



The tour blends history, food, and drink through special tastings, seasonal decorations, period music and tours highlighting festive traditions. Tour Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Carlyle House, The Lloyd House and Lee-Fendall House. Special seasonal libations may be purchased along the tour! Free shuttle service between sites is available. Adults: \$25, seniors (65 and over) and active duty military: \$20, children (ages 6-17): \$5; tickets online at www.shopalexandriava.gov

DECEMBER 12

Civil War Christmas in Camp
12:00 pm-4:00 pm
Fort Ward Museum
4301 West Braddock Road



Learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War. This popular family-oriented event features a patriotic Civil War Santa Claus, reenactors in winter camp settings, period decorations, fort tours, and kid's activities. The program features a Civil War-era Union Santa Claus, based on an 1863 cover of Harper's Weekly by artist Thomas Nast, who will interact with the public, present readings of 'The Night Before Christmas' and visit soldiers in camp. The Museum will be decorated with festive greenery and a Victorian parlor tree. Youngsters can make a Christmas card or ornament. Suggested donation is \$2 per person. 703.746.4848 or www.fortward.org.

DECEMBER 12

Lecture & Book Signing: Jonathan Roberts, The Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff
10:00 am-noon
Alexandria Archaeology
105 N. Union Street, Torpedo Factory Art Center Third Floor, #327

When people think of peace-loving Quakers, Civil War army scouts and county sheriffs rarely come to mind, but nineteenth century Quaker Jonathan Roberts of Fairfax County, Virginia, managed to reconcile his religion with his sense of moral and patriotic duty. This extraordinary and fascinating biography paints a larger picture of life in the Quaker community during the Civil War.

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is limited, reservations required. Free. Donations gratefully accepted. 703-746-4994

DECEMBER 15 (RAIN DATE DECEMBER 16)

Annual North Ridge Tree Lighting and Caroling Celebration
7:00 pm
Beverly Park
Corner of North and South Overlook Drives

Please join us for some old-fashioned family fun and community cheer, including the tree lighting, caroling, doughnuts, hot cocoa and apple cider ... and a visit from Santa (arriving on a firetruck!). Santa's fire truck will bring him at 7:00 pm so he can join the fun.

DECEMBER 18-19

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon
5:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Mt. Vernon Estate
3200 Mount Vernon Hwy

An evening of holiday-themed fireworks and special programs. Before the fireworks show begins at 8:45 p.m., watch colonial artisans make chocolate, meet re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment, enjoy cider by a bonfire, and learn 18th century dance moves from costumed guides. "General and Lady Washington" will be on hand to greet Mount Vernon's holiday guests, who can learn more about the Washingtons' Christmas traditions in a tour of the first and second floors of the mansion. Visitors can also look forward to performances by local choirs and musicians playing 18th century tunes, with the evening culminating in a sparkling fireworks display set to holiday music and overlooking the Potomac River. \$30/adult, \$20/youth (6-11), children five and free. 703-780-2000



\$25, seniors (65 and over) and active duty military: \$20, children (ages 6-17): \$5; tickets online at www.shopalexandriava.gov

DECEMBER 13

Colonial English Handbell Ringers
2:00 pm and 4:00 pm
Lyceum, Alexandria's History Museum
201 S. Washington St.

The Colonial English Handbell Ringers return with their annual concert at The Lyceum, featuring performers from across the Maryland/D.C./Virginia area clad in colonial attire, bringing a 5-octave set of nearly 80 handbells from the world-famous Whitechapel foundry in London. Be our guest at their upcoming "Silver Bells" 25th Anniversary Celebration. Our concert this year features several new exciting holiday pieces, music from around the world, a sing-a-long, classics and showstoppers you are sure to love! We thank you for our 25 years of patronage and support. Seating capacity



CHRISTMAS AT MOUNT VERNON

Now through January 6, 2016
9:00 am-4:00 pm
George Washington's Mt. Vernon

Visit George Washington's estate and see Aladdin the camel on the grounds, in honor of the camel that Washington paid to visit Mount Vernon in 1787. Stroll through Mount Vernon's modern buildings and view sparkling holiday decorations, featuring 12 dazzling Christmas trees, and historical chocolate-making demonstrations. Experience Christmas how the Washington's would have celebrated it on a tour of the Mansion. Go behind-the-scenes and tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion. Included in general admission.

DECEMBER Z-EVENTS

DECEMBER 19



Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia (SONOVA)
6:30 pm- 9:00 pm
George Washington Masonic National Memorial
101 Callahan Dr.

An evening of classical music performed by the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Virginia (SONOVA) at the Masonic Theater. SONOVA will perform their annual Christmas Concert featuring seasonal and classical favorites and sing-a-longs for the entire family to get everyone in the holiday spirit. The concert will include guest soloists and the SONOVA Choral.

DECEMBER 21

4:00 pm
St. Elmo's Coffee Pub
2300 Mount Vernon Ave.



Join the Rainbow Lady (Kate Moran) and Guitarmony Gus (Derek Evry) as they entertain your little dudes with tunes, laughs, and lots more! This amazing team is joined by the lovely Pattycake Patty (Patty Moran) who is on hand to help out with tambourines, xylophone's, maraca's and more for your little one to join in the fun! The third Monday of every month, don't miss your shot to rock! Suggested donation \$5.00 per family. <http://www.rainbowrockband.com/>

DECEMBER 25

Merry Christmas

DECEMBER 26

Happy Kwanza

DECEMBER 31

First Night Alexandria
Afternoon Activities: 2-5 p.m. / Performances: 7 - Midnight / Fireworks: Midnight
Old Town Alexandria / Fireworks on Potomac River at foot of King St.



This annual New Year's Eve bash takes over Old Town Alexandria with more than 175 performances at 29 indoor venues, with live music, dancing, children's face painting and games. The afternoon's Seventh Annual Fun Hunt is accompanied by all-new activities for families and pets. There's an old fashioned carnival at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center in Del Ray. First Night's fireworks finale returns with a spectacular display over the Potomac River at midnight. \$20 before December 14 / \$30 after December 14. 703-746-3299

WATERSKIING SANTA IN OLD TOWN

December 24
1:00 pm to 2:00 pm
City Marina behind the Torpedo Factory and to the south at King Street Park and Waterfront Park
 Now in its 30th year, this favorite DC-area Christmas Eve event returns to Old Town Alexandria. Gather at Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a



spectacular show by the Waterskiing Santa and his wakeboarding reindeer, plus flying elves, the Grinch and his friends, Frosty the Snowman, and Jack Frost. Santa likes to perform rain, snow or shine, but in case of very severe weather, @AlexandriaVA will tweet if the show is cancelled. Free

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Cruise: Sip, Sparkle and Sail Aboard The Cherry Blossom!
9:30 pm to 1:00 am
Alexandria City Marina
1 Cameron St.

Ring in the New Year aboard the Cherry Blossom Riverboat. Cruise to the countdown on the authentic paddle wheeler with cocktails and friends. Enjoy light hors d'oeuvres provided by King St. Blues, and heavy dancing. Join us for fireworks on the Potomac with a complimentary champagne toast. Premium Open Bar, Hors d'oeuvres and Desserts, DJ and Dancing, Fireworks on the Potomac, and Champagne Toast at Midnight. \$110 per adult. All passengers must be 21 or older with valid ID.

JANUARY 1-MAY 1

Green Family Exhibit
Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum
105-107 S. Fairfax St

The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary remained open and operational when Alexandria was occupied during the Civil War. The Green Family and Union Quartermaster staff shopped there to purchase everything from Laudanum to Cologne. Today, visitors can take a guided tour and experience the historic space where occupied Alexandria came to shop. The exhibit will feature the purchases



and stories of the Green Family and the Union Quartermaster.

JANUARY 1- MARCH 2016

"The Journey to Be Free: Self-emancipation and Alexandria's Contraband Heritage"
Daily
Alexandria Black History Museum
902 Wythe St.

During the Civil War, thousands of African Americans escaping slavery sought refuge behind Union lines in Alexandria, Virginia. The fugitives found freedom in Alexandria, but also a city under siege. The influx overwhelmed the city. Rampant

disease and deprivation took their toll on the freedmen. A cemetery was created for those who had survived slavery, but did not live long in freedom. "The Journey to Be Free" shows the legacy of Alexandria's Contraband community and the amazing story of their burial ground that was lost and rediscovered.

JANUARY 2-JUNE 19

Medical Heroism in Alexandria Walking Tour
4:30 pm, weekly on Sat. and Sun.
Alexandria Visitors Center at Ramsay House
221 King St.



Experience an inside access tour of 19th century Alexandria. Inspired by the PBS mini-series "Mercy Street," accompany a trained military historian through Civi War era Alexandria and learn the actual history ehind the TV show. Get behind the scenes of locations "Mercy Street" characters lived, worked, and played. DC Military Tours, 703-407-6663



Photos with Santa at Landmark Mall

The Alexandria Symphony Orchestra
 presents a
Family Holiday Concert
Sunday, December 20, 2015 at 3pm

\$5 Youth
 (18 and under)
\$20 Adult



Family Sing Along and Jingle Bells
Pictures with Santa, Cookies and Refreshments
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
228 S. Pitt Street • Alexandria, VA 22314
www.alexsym.org • (703) 548-0885

SCHOOL BRIEFS



Local Teacher Invents Math Game

An interactive math game beloved by St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School students will now be produced by the award-winning game company ThinkFun! “Dice Chase” was invented by SSSAS Lower School Math Resource Teacher Ann Bremner. It will be sold on Amazon.com in late December and at Barnes & Noble in January.



Innovation in Education Award

St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes science teachers Tim Dodds and Alexandra Mooskin won the 2015 Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) Middle School Innovation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28



Francis C. Hammond Middle School Principal Pierrette Hall. Courtesy photo.

HAMMOND PRINCIPAL ACKNOWLEDGED FOR COMMUNITY WORK

Francis C. Hammond Middle School Principal Pierrette Hall has been given the Unity Bridge Initiative’s Selfless Service Award for developing programs to empower youth and engage parents at her school.

Hall was praised for raising cultural awareness at Hammond in an unprecedented way through the establishment of community and mentoring groups.

The Unity Bridge Initiative aims to empower impoverished youth in Africa

through education, health and community-based initiatives, while at the same time engaging American youth in educational opportunities to increase their leadership and global citizenship. Francis C. Hammond has particularly reached out to the large Ethiopian population in Alexandria’s West End to encourage them to engage with the wider Alexandria community.

“At Hammond, we are doing our best to reach every demographic. We try to ensure

that we touch every student in our school and have been working with the Unity Bride Initiative to enable every student at Hammond to feel connected,” said Hall.

“This award is a small testament of how Hall is leading by example to help surround students with a community of support while empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life,” said Isabel Perez, Site Coordinator for Communities in Schools of NOVA, a partner in the initiative.

IDASHBOARD ADDS NEW LAYER OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Alexandria City Public Schools has launched an iDashboard that will add an extra layer of accountability and transparency to its presentation of numbers.

The iDashboard provides a way for the public to look at division-wide enrollment and performance data in an interactive and easily consumable way. It is also a way for the public to see how ACPS is progressing in line with the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan and benchmarks set by the Commonwealth of Virginia.


The idea behind the iDashboard is to be able to measure in hard facts how every student is succeeding. In the future, the iDashboard will include metrics that relate directly to the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan.

“The launch of the iDashboard reflects a new level of accountability and transparency regarding our data. Through this we will be able to measure our successes and easily identify the areas that still need working on. This is a new era for ACPS data,”

said Marya Runkle, Director of Education and Business Applications in Technology Services.


The iDashboard shows five main areas: Individual School Demographics, Division-Level SOL Results, Attendance and Suspension Information, On-Time Graduation Information and AP/SAT Information.

The iDashboard is one more step in ensuring effective and efficient business operations across ACPS, as outlined in the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan.



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14 SAINTS RECOGNIZED AT NOVEMBER SIGNING DAY

On November 11, a National Signing Day, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School seniors gathered with their families and coaches to celebrate their athletic commitments. There will be additional commitments and another Signing Day in February. The following seniors have signed a National Letter of Intent, received a Likely Letter, or made a formal commitment to their college or university for next year:

Mattern Burnett - Vanderbilt, Lacrosse; Ellie Carson - Dartmouth, Lacrosse; Camryn Collette - Coastal Carolina, Lacrosse; Mary Elizabeth Cordia - SMU, Equestrian; Molly Dougherty - James Madison, Lacrosse; Michael Janowski - West Point, Basketball; Garrison Kedda - Saint Joseph's, Lacrosse; Ben Martin - Dartmouth, Lacrosse; Posey Paoletta - George Washington, Lacrosse; Anna Pusey - Holy Cross, Lacrosse; Wade Shervin (not pictured) - Drexel, Lacrosse; Palmer Voorhees - Elon, Lacrosse; Jasmine Walker - George Washington, Lacrosse; and Katie Wood - American, Lacrosse.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARS RECOGNIZED

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes has two National Merit Semifinalists this year, who placed in the top 1 percent of more than 1.5 million students took the 2014 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship qualifying test. These seniors will continue on in the National Merit Scholarship competition, and Finalists will be announced in early 2016. The semifinalists are Caroline Curran and Isabel Shaw. In addition, SSSAS has 15 seniors who scored in the top five percent in Virginia and are named National Merit Commended Scholars.

Commended Scholars are Samantha Archer, Adrienne Atkins, Ann Bailey, Nancy Brooks, Elizabeth "Bit" Brown, Helen Cunningham, Anna Godek, Nicole Gray, Katherine Henshaw, Eric Karsten, Sarah Lowe, Charles O'Brien, John Sweeney, Morgan Walton and Sarah Wilton.



SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES EXTENSION OF REDISTRICTING PROCESS TO LATE SPRING

The Alexandria City School Board voted to extend the process of redistricting by three months to tie in with the City of Alexandria's budget process and allow for a fuller discussion around programming changes needed to ensure academic excellence.

The change in the timeline follows a recommendation by the Redistricting Review Committee last week that the redistricting process should be extended until late spring 2016 and possibly further, to ensure that the process of altering boundaries is implicitly tied to other criteria including high academic performance.

The late spring timeline fits better with Alexandria's budget process, as the City does not finalize their budget until May. This will give both the School Board and Redistricting Review Committee a clearer idea of what parts of the school modernization program the City intends to support before they make a final recommendation. The School Board had originally

agreed to a tentative timeline that had them voting on a recommendation in February 2016.

New school boundaries are now likely to be implemented in time for the start of the 2017-18 school year, depending on the outcome of the process. Superintendent Alvin L. Crawley has said that he will put temporary provisions in place to ease capacity issues and relieve pressure particularly on the West End for the 2016-17 school year.

The last time ACPS changed school boundaries was in 1999. Since then, ACPS enrollment has grown by more than 4,200 students. After seeing consistent growth of four percent since 1999 which is already challenging current capacity, the school division needs to plan for an average growth of 3.6 percent over the next five years. Considerable numbers of students are currently transferred out of their neighborhood schools because of a lack of space.

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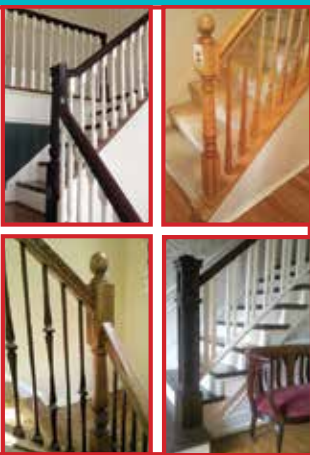
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nourishment,
not by way of
knowledge.”

— Rabbi Isaac the Blind



Anne Alden
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MARATHON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

belong. Completing a marathon is a special feat, regardless of how long it takes.”

From the time he was a journalist Steve believed the every raw emotion could be captured through photos. This pictorial tribute to DC’s most highly-profiled road race, he co-authored with Jeff Horowitz, does exactly that.

Steve says they did not focus on the celebrity aspect. Through their photographic documentation of the marathon journey they captured the raw feelings of the thousands upon thousands of everyday people motivated and driven to take part in the Marine Corps Marathon, including those working behind the scenes. It is not all triumph. That would have been too easy.

Each picture is an emotional portrayal: ranging from experiencing the simple joy gained from helping to organize, through to the abject dejection when the body fails and the runner is faced with the realization they’re unable to go, even move one more foot, reaching their goal a stark impossibility.

In one series of photos a senior aged runner broke down with the finish line well within sight, only a mere hundred yards away. Each

photo created stirring flashbacks for me to the final moments of Pheidippedes. I felt the runner’s anguish, pain and disappointment. The distortion in his face memorializing to the world he had been beaten. The distance had beaten him! A Marine standing in the crowd yells out to him, “YOU WILL FINISH THE RACE!” To have an official time recorded a runners needs to cross the finish line without assistance. Those five simple words from the Marine’s demonstrative voice drove him on. He titled his head up to eye the end. Slowly arose and fell again. Bloodied, he began to crawl on the asphalt. A few yards later he stopped. Rising again, he had regained enough strength to stand and walk. He struggled through each step. He completed the race and dropped into the waiting arms of the medical staff.

Dudley Upton, a septuagenarian serial marathoner, gave different perspective. “They are fun! But, you need to train properly.” Dudley has completed nearly two dozen marathons and his eyes still light up when he talks of running. “The Marines do it right, the blue mile (a tribute to fallen Marines between mile post 11 and 12) is especially emotional.”

There are all types of runners who take part in the Marine Corps Marathon; professionals runners, world class athletes, and celebrities. But that is not what this book

is about. It is about the regular man and women, the weekend warrior athlete desperately holding on to their glory days, it is about the indomitable spirit of those in wheel chairs, those with prosthetics. It is about the teachers, the accountants, the dentist’s or the firemen. All wishing to do something extraordinary. This book is a must have for anyone thinking about taking on any life challenge.

Each picture is a unique and inspirational story. Take your time and deeply examine the photos. Then jump inside the photo that touches you and fell what it says.

There are captivating reminders for everyone. The picture of the Pentagon takes you to the dark moments of 911. The blast of the Howitzer to open the race, symbolically serves as a reminder to all of the strength of our great country.

Steve Nearman is an Alexandria resident where remains a competitive runner and dedicated high school track coach. His wife Melanie and son Jonathon support his efforts.

Jeff Horowitz, an attorney turned certified trainer, lives in DC with his artistically talented wife Stephanie Kay and son Alex.

The pair have also published a pictorial of the Cherry Blossom Ten Mile race and founded the Woodrow Wilson Half Marathon.

HOT PICK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

sweetness and adds that slight heat that is tolerated by most.

As you get ready for entertaining for the holiday season what better way to add some spice and heat to some of your favorite dishes. This ancho powder adds a great punch to any Crazy Cassidy Fiery Foods is a family owned and operated all natural, gourmet Hot Sauce and Salsa manufacturer. Located in the town

of Huntington, a small town in the foothills of the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

This powder is a great substitute for paprika. Try it instead of paprika to add some additional heat. It adds a nice blend of heat and sweetness. Sprinkle it on some deviled eggs, veggie dips, or in any sauce that you want to add some heat.

They have several locations throughout Massachusetts so if you want to try some you will need to order it online at <http://www.crazycassidy.com/>.

PRINT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

in cost depending on where and how they are manufactured—many now made overseas in Europe and Asia.

Your basic rules for protecting pr caring for your art prints are:

- 1. Do not hang a print where it will catch direct sunlight.
- 2. Do not hang a print over a heater, radiator or a hot air duct.

- 3. Do not train or fix a light immediately over or close to a print.
- 4. Do not attach or seal a print to any other material (while framing) that cannot be removed. Real collectors remove their prints form frames every few years to prevent dampness and dry rot, believe it or not. Whatever you choose, make a great holiday with the gift of art.

GADSBY’S

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

of lump crab, Smithfield ham, and smoked salmon that was very comforting. The Crock of Crispy Fried Oysters served with a house-made citrus sauce changed my mind about fried oysters. The oysters were tender without being mushy and were coated in a cracking crispy coating. Another delight was the Hot Smithfield Ham Biscuits layered with mascarpone cheese and fresh

raspberry puree. The balance of ingredients rendered these two-bite wonders moist and flavorful. You should also try the Grilled Shrimp –jumbo shrimp with a delicious smoky flavor from the grill and finished with a balsamic glaze. Also not to be missed are the Mini Crab Cakes served with sweet corn relish and citrus cocktail sauce

Our dinner entrees included my favorite and George Washington’s favorite, a roasted half duck with scalloped potatoes, corn

pudding, rhotekraut (red cabbage), and a cherry orange glaze. I love duck and this dish did not disappoint. I truly understand why George loved this dish. My dinner companion pronounced the scalloped potatoes some of the best she had eaten. I loved the corn pudding and the rhotekraut. The pork chop was nicely prepared and served with brandied apples, mashed red potatoes, and an assortment of lightly steamed vegetables. I happily traded my scalloped potatoes for

the mashed. The whole dish was wonderful. We also tried the beef Bordelaise – beef tenderloin tournedos sautéed with Bordeaux, shallots, and fresh thyme, served with those great mashed potatoes, and lovely garlic scented spinach. The beef was meltingly tender with a deep brown sauce that was a bit salty to my taste but very good. The star of the plate was the spinach, tender and delicious. You would think we had had enough but there was more. Gadsby’s offers a nice selection

of tea, coffee, and after dinner cocktails. The desserts choices make it difficult to choose just one. We decided to try the Tippy English Trifle made with sherry-laced pound cake and layered with strawberries, blueberries, and vanilla pudding, all topped with real whipped cream. We were only going to have a bite or two but it disappeared quickly. Good food at Gadsby’s Tavern is a staple, as much today as it was in colonial times. Make your reservations immediately.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

in November and will carry on through May 2016. The grant money will be used to purchase laptop computers, iPad minis, MaKey MaKeys, Arduino kits, littleBits snap circuits, Lego Mindstorms Robot kits, and Strawbees building supplies. All materials will be kept by the Library after the grant period is over and will be used for continued programming.

Upcoming STEAMtivity programs in December are a partner program with Alexandria’s Mobile Art Lab (Monday, December 7 at 7:00pm), a Ping Pong Ball Run Challenge (Tuesday, December 15 at 7:00pm with supplies from UpCycle CRC), and Fun With MaKey Makeys (Tuesday, December 22 at 2:00pm).

Corey Smedley Named Alexandria’s Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Management and Homeland Security

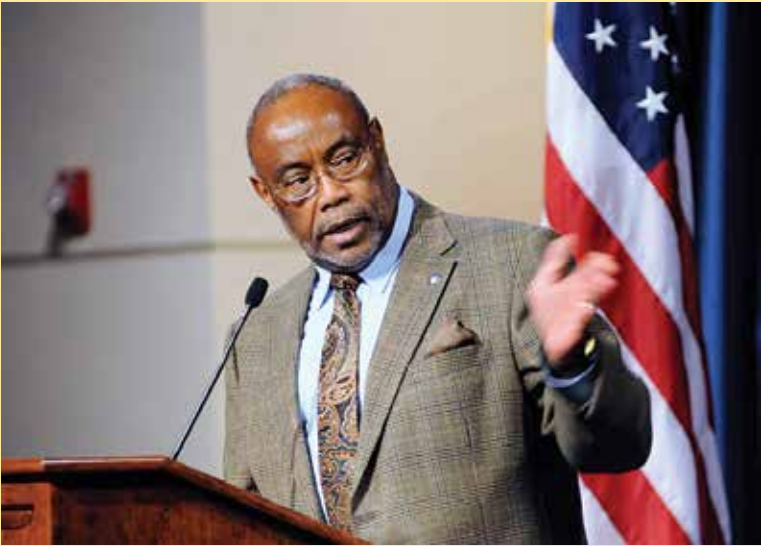
Fire Chief Robert C. Dubé announced the appointment of Corey Smedley as Deputy Fire Chief of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, effective December 7, 2015. “Emergency preparedness and response are essential components of our public safety system, and Corey’s expertise will be very valuable,” said Dubé. “Corey’s leadership in planning and coordination will support the role each member of our community plays in being prepared for emergencies and reporting hazards.”



Most recently, Smedley served as the Deputy Chief of the Prince George’s County (Md.) Fire/EMS Department responsible for administrative services and budget. He began his career with the department in 1995 as a firefighter, and has served in roles as varied as Fire Marshal, Special Events Coordinating Chair, and Fedex Field Stadium Commander. In Prince George’s County, Smedley also served as Special Assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Public Safety, where he assisted with strategic planning initiatives. He also served as a Fire/EMS liaison with Police, Corrections, Homeland Security/Emergency Management, Office of the Sheriff, State’s Attorney and the county judicial system. Smedley is a Nationally Registered Paramedic and a certified fire inspector, instructor and investigator. He earned the Certified Public Manager credential from The George Washington University and holds inactive status as a Maryland certified law enforcement officer. Smedley holds a bachelor’s degree in mass media from the University of the District of Columbia and a master’s degree in management from Johns Hopkins University.

ALEXANDRIA ENDS VETERAN HOMELESSNESS

Mayor William D. Euille announced that Alexandria has functionally ended veteran homelessness in the city, achieving this goal by providing greater capacity to house homeless veterans than the need for veteran housing. This milestone fulfills the goal laid out by First Lady Michelle Obama’s Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, and coincides with Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s announcement that Virginia has been certified as the first state in the nation to functionally end veteran homelessness statewide.



On November 11, Mayor Euille declared, “As we celebrate Veterans Day, we are very proud that Alexandria’s community has joined forces to ensure that those who served our country with honor can continue to live with dignity.” Courtesy photo.

The City worked with local homeless service providers, veteran services providers, the Office of Veteran Affairs and PATH Homeless Outreach to reach this goal. Most recently, City Council authorized the lease of City-owned property to nonprofit housing-provider New Hope Housing for rapid-rehousing of single men who are homeless, with preference given to veterans. Achieving a functional end to veteran homelessness is defined by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness as identifying all veterans experiencing homelessness, providing immediate shelter to any

unsheltered veteran who wants it, maintaining the capacity for all veterans to move into permanent housing, and providing a system to respond to any veteran who experiences homelessness in the future. Housing leaders stress that functionally ending veteran homelessness does not mean that no veteran is or will be homeless, since some persons experiencing homelessness choose not to accept housing and a veteran may become newly homeless at any point in the future. Homelessness can occur

suddenly and cannot always be prevented, but communities participating in the Mayors Challenge have committed to ensuring that veterans who become homeless will be quickly identified and aided. The City’s goal is that any veteran who becomes homeless in Alexandria will move into permanent housing within an average of 90 days after connecting with the City’s community-based homeless response system.



Ian Schurr, center, holding award. Photo courtesy of the BSA

Local Scout Awarded the BSA Honor Medal

BY KEITH GRAY

Since the inception of the Boy Scouts in 1923, only 2,452 Honor Medals in Recognition of Heroic Efforts have been awarded. In 2013, only 98 were selected. It is the second highest lifesaving award that may be granted by BSA, and recently Ian Schurr, of Alexandria’s Troop #888 was tapped. Ian was working as a lifeguard at the pool one evening when his manager Jimmy went to the

filter area to add acid to correct pool levels. The equipment was new, and this was the first time Jimmy had operated it outside of the training. Ian was walking back to the office when he heard Jimmy call his name. When Ian arrived at the filter enclosure, he saw the area was fogged with acid vapor and the acid hose was loose and streaming muratic acid. The acid had pooled and blocked Jimmy’s escape, as Jimmy sat in the back, retching and unable to see or breathe. Drawing on his Emergency Preparedness Merit Badge, Ian determined that he needed to dilute the acid and began spraying the room and Jimmy with a water hose. With gas partially subdued, Ian struggled to get Jimmy out. Recognizing that something was wrong, more people came over to investigate and one of the adults assisted getting Jimmy to safety. Ian alerted the other lifeguards, asked one to call 911 and ordered the pool to be closed and evacuated. He then assisted Jimmy with a resuscitation mask and washed out his eyes with clean water. EMTs and Hazmat arrived and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 29

Living Legends celebrates Beaujolais Nouveau

In observation of the annual French celebration of the 2015 Beaujolais Nouveau and to present the newly elected board members of Living Legends of Alexandria (LLA), LLA sponsored Beaujolais Nouveau at Del Ray Towers. The semi-guided wine tour showcased three wine flights by sommeliers accompanied with light fare introduced new board members and celebrated past year’s Living Legends. Beaujolais Nouveau is made from the Gamay noir à Jus blanc grape, better known simply as Gamay. The grapes are required to come from the Beaujolais region of France. The mission of Living Legends of Alexandria is to identify, honor and chronicle individuals who have made significant contributions to the quality of life in Alexandria.



Past Legends gathered for a photo: 1st row, (L-R), Richard Merritt, Mike Oliver, Patsy Ticer, Lonnie Rich, Kathryn Brown, Nina Tisara and Marlin Lord; 2nd row, (L-R) Bill Kehoe, Kathleen Baker, David Martin, Joe Shumard and Gayle Reuter. Photo by Steven Halperson.



“PEACE ON EARTH; GOODWILL TOWARDS ALL MEN?”

December is that time of year when we pause and turn our thoughts outward, away from ourselves and our seemingly petty everyday lives to those in need, in troubled places, in pain and suffering, or enduring tragedies that make our petty travails truly miniscule. We hope.

December is also that odd month when three of the world's religions celebrate or observe major events. These are called 'holidays' today and we dash off to every car dealership and shopping mall to throw our money at America's once-a-year good deals or order online to avoid the lines to 'observe' what ancient religions originally called "Holy Days." This month is a strange time of year when these three religions, usually focused on amplifying the differences between one another and pounding the others into oblivion, remarkably, or dare I say miraculously, actually share some things in common.

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah falls about the third week of the month and according to Hebrew scripture, it is the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication. It recognizes the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem as a holy shrine after its desecration. It recognizes the successful Maccabees revolt against Antiochus IV, a Greek monarch who sought to impose Greek polytheism on the Jews. It would take diluting a Master's thesis and turning out a *Hunger Games*-style cable mini-series in order to explain it all but, for the simple-minded like me, let's just say that it was a bad idea to kick out God and replace Him or Her with a whole bunch of Greek gods that we all forgot back in high school mythology class.

Islam celebrates Mawlid al-Nabi, the observance of the birth of the prophet Mohammed in the third month of the Islamic calendar. But just like nearly everything else in the Muslim religion, the Sunnis and Shias disagree on what the exact date of Mohammed's birth was, so Mawlid is observed on either the 8th day (Sunni) or the 17th (Shia). And references indicate that the date also shifts from anywhere between November 30th to January 17th depending on the year. Let's not even try to bring in the Kurds, although they are the only group that seems to have their stuff together in the region.

Christians, despite our belief that we really have it all going on, observe the birth of Jesus. Christmas is observed anywhere from December 24th (Catholic), December 25th (Protestant), and all the way to January 7th (Eastern Orthodox). From Bethlehem to Jerusalem, with side trips to the Sinai and Galilee, (Don't miss a dip in the River Jordan – that's a keeper!) the Holy Land is really a combination of incredibly desolate, sandy places with a few modern glass and steel metropolitan locales complete with mega hotels, shopping malls that make the Mall of America look like a strip mall in Kansas, and even an indoor Olympic ski jump



– and all built by oil. Nonetheless, Christians, Muslims, and Jews alike absolutely go gaga over the place.

All three religions share a spiritual and emotional fever for a chunk of the Middle East that comprises parts of Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, and Syria – a place that is referred to as the 'Holy Land' (Not to be confused with the "Holy Land Experience" in Orlando, Florida. Only in America...). But over the past four decades we have all learned what the British and French learned a century ago, and the Turks learned starting some 700 years ago. I contend that the Holy Land is a misnomer. It is branding of the poorest order. This region of the Middle East should more accurately be called the 'Unholy Land.'

Considering the mass quantity of ordnance ('Bullets' for those of you civilians out there) fired, dropped, or detonated in the region over the centuries, one could argue that it might break-off and sink due to the sheer tonnage of metal that has fallen there. Couple that with the constant turmoil and animosity between nearly every group, tribe and clan due in no small part to the religious differences throughout the region, and there is something truly unholy about the place.

Today, hundreds of thousands of Syrians and Iraqis are fleeing the flames, fury and death in their homelands and risking their lives crossing the Mediterranean seeking asylum throughout Europe. They are ditching everything they have except

what they can carry in a small boat and searching for peace and quiet. Europe is busy trying to divvy-up the immigrants, looking for ways to provide the help they need and share the burden across the continent.

A couple of thousand miles away in the USA, the potential onslaught of thousands of refugees from Syria has really got us reeling. After the Paris attacks smeared on our minds by 24-hour news networks and via social media, we have been confronted with the prospect of harboring thousands of Syrian and Iraqi refugees. Paris is in the 'west' and it is something we can all identify with. The daily, ripping explosions that have raped the Holy Land over the past decades and desolated land, fortunes, and people in that region however, pale in comparison to our western view of the death and destruction Paris endured.

Don't get me wrong. Paris is a tragedy of huge proportions. But it is no less horrible than the terror endured by civilians of the Holy Land and the Middle East at large.

But leave it to the ingenuity and opportunism of our political system, we never miss a beat, and have turned horror and disaster into political pay-dirt. Nearly every candidate for President has issued statements on the future of Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and in true, patriotic naïveté, have totally missed the boat and basically all of them are wrong because they only create new security problems. I worry about former Secretaries

of State who drop the ball in Libya and then pontificate about 'solutions' in a neighboring state. Two former governors who want Syrians as far away as possible to ensure we are safe. One has a terrific track record in keeping people out. He shut down a bridge to keep New Yorkers out of New Jersey and vice versa. The other has a name akin to a Hanna-Barbera cartoon character and that alone calls his credibility into question. "The Donald" may actually have a good idea, but it's in the wrong place. He needs to build a wall around the Middle East and not across our southern border. He could use his negotiating skills to have the Mexicans pay for it and that would indeed show the world he means business when it comes to security. In his own words – that would be "Yoooouuuuuge."

It's vitally important to protect our country by interdicting bad guys before they even make it to our shores. But consider the threat posed by bombing the hell out of their neighborhoods looking for Isis ('Da-ish' in the region) or al-Queda, leveling their homes, businesses and places of worship because bad guys are operating from there, and then when they show up looking for a night's sleep, a hot meal, and a chance for their kids to go to school in the "the world's greatest democracy." Telling them "sorry" and to hit the road – just imagine how many terrorists we will have created by that gesture.

We didn't do that to the Vietnamese when they escaped from their country when it fell to the North Vietnamese. We didn't check to see which one of them was a former Viet Cong. We simply helped them escape from the hell raining down on them, brought them to military bases across the USA, connected them with civic, community and church groups and resettled and integrated them into American society. Today, by-and-large, these former refugees are living the American dream.

Perhaps it's time to reflect and take a serious look at who we are and what we stand for. We Americans are a smart, resilient and compassionate people. Perhaps it time to put our money where our mouth is and help create 'peace on earth' and demonstrate that we are the epitome of 'goodwill towards all men.' That's why I dedicated 30 years of my life as a Naval Officer to this country.

Happy Chanukah – Allahu-akhbar – and Merry Christmas.



Marcus Fisk is a retired Navy Captain, Naval Academy graduate, sometime actor, sculptor, pick-up soccer player, and playwright. He and

his wife Pamela are former residents of Alexandria and currently live in Connecticut where they own a B&B.

Alexandria Real Estate

ASK "REALTOR® CHERYL"

By Cheryl Spangler



Welcome to my new real estate column where I intend to keep you up to date on neighborhoods, market conditions, trends that are changing the Alexandria market, successful marketing strategies, and how real estate in Alexandria, VA

is improving. Expect to hear local real estate stories, tips, videos, images, insights and data that will make you laugh, read, enjoy and want to be a part of this extremely open and interactive real estate forum. I encourage everyone to send in

questions, request topics to be covered, share your story by emailing: Cheryl@CherylSpangler.com. Any question sent in will be answered at the beginning of the next month's article. Cheers!

Ever wonder why your home is not selling, even though your price is clearly at or below market value, your marketing is spot on, your Realtor is actively pursuing buyers and communicating great with you weekly, but still NO OFFERS! Yes, there are many other factors, such as location, time of year, features of your home, uniqueness of your home, price range in general, but there is something else that is in high demand and increasing across the country especially in urban cities such as Alexandria, VA.

Gen Y, Millennials (born between 1982-2001) about 80 million of the US population AND Aging Boomers (Born between 1945-1964) about 80 million also of the US population have begun setting the standard on what is being purchased. Of course there is always plenty in demand for the middle group consisting of families with 2 children, large families and multi-family dwellings, but with almost half of the US population fitting into the first two categories, developers are taking note and building according to these new living trends. No matter what you are selling, it is important to be aware of these trends and see where you fit in. Below is a list of things that you may or may not consider an "Amenity" but buyers do.

Go Green: (i.e. Conscience living) a home that does not negatively impact the community is more attractive to buyers. The demand for more sustainable and healthier environments is seen across the U.S. and in Alexandria VA. There is a reason the Chinese are buying luxury homes in large cities, Washington DC and surrounding areas being one of the them, clean air, environmentally friendly, energy efficient and healthy living compared to the well-known hard to breath polluted air that China deals with on a daily basis. Buyers want to live healthier now and in the future, so beyond personal choices such as food and exercise, the home they live in is just as important.

Experiential Homes: New wealthy consumers are more informed, more globally exposed, and more sophisticated than previous generations. Baby boomers

BATTLE OF THE AMENITIES!



are for example now less materialistic and more experiential. This means that developments, communities and neighborhoods that provide a type of concierge service, meditation gardens, convenience features, and homes with family spaces such as guesthouse for elderly parent. Last but certainly not least, ultimate privacy and seclusion are in high demand.

Dog Park: Practically an essential amenity for all ages if buyers are not purchasing a home with a yard. Dogs and pets in general are the new children for millennials, middle age and older homeowners, they provide another type of friend. If your community doesn't have a dog park, no worries just play up your proximity to any area dog parks or other pet friendly venues. Builders and developers are putting dog parks on the roof, in garage spaces as well in between floors in some condos.

Movie rooms: Having a space where friends and family can visit and watch and entertain each other, i.e. a movie room is a feature that buyers are looking for. While this may seem like an overrated amenity, it is something that is considered when buying.

Fitness Center: If there is a fitness facility in your neighborhood or development it may just be what tips the scales for buyers to make a move on your home. If there is a fitness facility, it needs to be top notch, meaning have more than one treadmill and elliptical, a room that is large and spacious, modern equipment, personal TV screens on each piece and

the ability to plug in I-pods and other media devices. If your home does not have this amenity, then play up how close you are to the nearest gym or fitness facility to bring in those buyers.

Flex Space: Having a flexible space within the community amenities or development allows for things such as Yoga or Tae Bow, stretching classes. In general this allows residents to have more choices in activities without driving too far and allows for a more community feel so that people can get to know their neighbors.

Premium Parking: In some areas of the state and country this may seem like a given that parking would be included in the purchase of a new home, however when living in the city parking is a premium amenity. Convenient parking and having enough for each owner is essential and one of the most desirable amenities when buyers are searching and comparing homes to purchase. Right alongside this is the desire for elevators, with regards to condos and luxury homes over 7,500 square feet.

Walkability: Yes this is an amenity. Go to www.walkscore.com to check your home's walkability. Access to public transportation, good schools and parks go along with this topic when finding selling points your home might have. Many people would even consider giving up their car as long as there was enough public transportation options and it was close enough to get to. Alexandria knows this and has made efforts with the coming Potomac Station to

extend and increase metro stop options to homeowners.

Electric charging station: Both homes and condos that have this amenity have a leg up on their competition.

FIOS/WIFI: If selling a single family home, this is a must that the home and area has high speed internet. Depending on when your home was built, sometimes the walls prevent good internet connectivity. Know the limitations of your home if any and make up for them in other ways. When selling a condo in the city make sure and find out of the common areas have FREE WIFI. More people are working remotely, condos have rooftop and outdoor terraces, with WIFI available people can grab a laptop and work in any area of building without being confined to their rooms/condos/houses. Making sure that cell service works all the way into the garage is another overlooked feature. WIFI, cell service and being connected digitally in all areas of the building including indoor and outdoor flexible spaces.

Technology IN the architecture: This will minimize the number of gadgets you will see in the homes and home design. Meaning, the future of architecture may look like the past. With a touch of a button, you can lock your doors with your iPhone, control your home's climate, control lights and your alarm system. (all from the other side of the country).

Outdoor Living: Rooftop Pools and decks as well as large outdoor terrace attached

to the home, townhome or condo are practically essential for grabbing the attention of buyers in today's market. If you don't have any of these features/amenities, locate the nearest outdoor space such as coffee shop with plenty of seating or park and highlight it when selling your home.

Commercial grade kitchen: Especially in the high end luxury homes including warming drawers, wine fridges, restaurant quality appliances, and plenty of storage with a walk-in pantry.

Outdoor kitchen & pool: Built-in gas grill, a sink and stainless food prep area outdoors, along with plenty of lavish stone patio seating for entertaining. Large pools, hot tubs, changing cabanas, expansive pools with waterfalls and plenty of privacy are on demand when it comes to luxury homes. The leisure life is moving outdoors and those homes that embrace these features will sell quickly to the highest bidder and in most cases for cash.

Floor to ceiling windows: This amenity suggest that luxury buyers are more interested in what is outside the property than what is inside. This is also in demand when purchasing a smaller place such as condo or micro unit, to give the feel of large and open.

Storage Space: Mostly in demand when speaking of condos, having an extra storage is a valuable asset and in high demand when selling a smaller square foot property.

Trophy real estate: Just like you would acquire and hold collectibles, Trophy Real Estate is the ultimate collectible treasure. Like buying a prized sports team or high value artwork, trophy residences can ignite the passions of the ultra-high net worth individuals. Limited-edition structures and one-off creations, highly regarded international architects and designers, homes that become works of art. If your home fits into this category or you are not sure, talk to a real estate professional who specializes in international clientele to get a feel of where to market these kinds of properties.

A PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREE

“The perfect Christmas tree? All Christmas trees are perfect!”
— Charles N. Barnard

One of the most beloved holiday family traditions is choosing and decorating a Christmas tree. The tradition dates back to the 7th century when, legend has it, an English monk traveled to Germany to teach the Word of God. The story goes that the monk used the triangular shape of a fir tree to illustrate the Holy Trinity. Converts began to revere the tree and by the 12th century it was being hung – upside down – from ceilings over Christmas in Central Europe.

History tells us the first decorated tree was in Riga, Latvia, where, in the early 16th century, Martin Luther is said to have decorated a small fir with candles to show his children how stars twinkled. Today’s Christmas trees are an eclectic bunch, with decorations reflecting family tradition and style.

Regardless of decoration styles, firs still reign as the number one Christmas tree choice. The Fraser fir is the most popular. This tree has dark green needles with excellent retention and fragrance. It was named for Scottish botanist John Fraser who explored the southern Appalachians in the late 1700’s.

Another favorite is the Noble fir. It grows in a more open pattern than the Fraser, but it too has a long shelf life and a nice fragrance. Its stiff branches can support heavy ornaments. Turkish firs, which



have long been popular in Europe, are gaining favor here. This tree has lovely two-tone needles with a dark silvery-green underside and is very fragrant. Its strong branches will hold heavy ornaments and the tree has good needle retention.

These tips from the National Christmas Tree Association will help you buy and care for your cut Christmas tree:

- When you find a tree that you like, do a freshness test by gently grasping

a branch between your thumb and forefinger and pull it toward you. Very few needles should come off in your hand. Shake or bounce the tree on its stump. You shouldn’t see an excessive amount of green needles fall to the ground. Some loss of interior brown needles is normal.

- After you’ve chosen your tree, place it in a bucket of water in an unheated area, such as a porch or garage, protected from wind and

sun until you are ready to decorate it. Remember to refill the water bucket as needed.

- When you’re ready to bring the tree inside, make a fresh, straight cut across the base of the trunk (about 1/2 inch up from the original cut) and place the tree in a tree stand that holds at least a gallon of water. The fresh cut is essential – this lets the tree absorb water and keep it fresh longer.
- Make sure your tree stand

will hold enough water for the size of your tree. Measure the diameter of your tree trunk inches — that’s how many quarts of water your tree stand should be able to hold. (For example, if it measures 6 inches across, then you need 6 quarts of water.)

- Keep the tree stand filled with water. A seal of dried sap will form over the cut stump in four to six hours if the water drops below the base of the tree. If a seal does form, you’ll have to make another fresh cut, which is much harder to do when the tree’s decorated.
- A tree will absorb as much as a gallon of water or more in the first 24 hours and one or more quarts a day thereafter. Water is important because it prevents the needles from drying and dropping off and the boughs from drooping. Water also keeps the tree fragrant.
- Keep your tree away from all heat sources, such as fireplaces, radiators, baseboard heat, portable heaters and heat vents. Not only can all of these can make the tree dry out faster, but can also contribute to setting a tree on fire. Never burn any part of a Christmas tree in a wood stove or fireplace.

A fresh tree properly cared for should last in the house for several weeks. When the holidays have ended and it’s time to take it down, locate a Christmas tree recycling center in your area.

SCHOOL BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

in Education Award! The award recognizes teachers who are globally minded and encourage students to think beyond boundaries. They were recognized at the VAIS Leading Learning Conference in Richmond on November 16 with a \$500 stipend to enhance their global aptitudes.

Mr. Dodds and Ms. Mooskin received the award for their “Green City Design Challenge.” Students are tasked in a collaborative group setting

to create a sustainable city for 10,000 residents. Students encounter and address many real-world issues related to the increasingly unsustainable western lifestyle. This project allows students to understand common problems (energy accrual, water and food access, refuse management) and how the solutions are determined by how different cultures perceive, through valuing or devaluing, the problems themselves. To add an additional real-world aspect to this project, each city group is assigned a real geographical location.

KWANZAA


CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

for the children. When celebrating Imani on the seventh day of Kwanzaa, meaningful zawadi are given to encourage growth, self-determination, achievement, and success. The seven candles (mishumaa saba) recreate symbolically the sun’s power

and to provide light. The celebration of fire through candle burning is not limited to one particular group or country; it occurs everywhere. There are three red, one black, and three green candles. The green candles represent Nia, Ujima, and Imani are placed on the right of the Umoja candle. The red candles for Kujichagulia, Ujamaa, and Kuumba are on the left.

One candle representing a principle is lit each day and the others relit.

Information provided by The Complete Kwanzaa Celebrating Our Cultural Harvest, and Akwansosem African Studies Program – Outreach, University of Wisconsin-Madison.



“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.”

— Aristotle

took over; eventually bringing Jimmy to a hospital where he was treated for minor burns.

New CEO at Alexandria Chamber

Joseph V. Haggerty, the former Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer for United Way Worldwide, will be leading the way for Alexandria’s Chamber of Commerce.



Joseph Haggerty is the new CEO at the Alexandria Chamber. Courtesy photo,

“We are extremely pleased to have Joe at the helm of the Alexandria Chamber,” said Walter Clarke, the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce’s Chairman of the Board of Directors. “He has had a long and distinguished career in community relationship-building, strategic organization and planning, and philanthropic fundraising. He will bring those valuable skills and expertise to Alexandria’s very active Chamber of Commerce, which will benefit greatly from his depth of knowledge and experience as the local business community continues to grow and prosper.”

“I am honored to step into this position with the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and I believe my skills and experience can help the Chamber move forward,” said Haggerty. “Both business and individuals need to be the Chamber’s strong voice, working with our elected leaders, to ensure that we thrive economically.”

Haggerty received his undergraduate degree from Boston College and earned a Master’s Degree of Social Work, with a major in Community Organization and Planning, from the University of Connecticut. He has also completed executive management programs at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management, Harvard Business School, and United Way of America.

With December comes the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanza, a festive time of year with many of us sharing gifts, joy and love. While many of you might have a ‘wish list’ of things you might like to receive as you celebrate, here are just a few of mine:

1. A winning season for the Washington Redskins. Seriously. The Redskins, almost consistently for the past twenty plus years, have been one of the absolute worst teams in the National Football League. Sometimes they so bad that they are just painful to watch on television that people quite often are out raking leaves out of their yards by halftime.
2. How about a championship of any kind for either the Capitals, Wizards, D.C. United, or Nationals? The Caps have never won the Stanley Cup; the Wizards were NBA Champs, one-time, in 1978; D.C. United last won a MLS Cup in 2004; and the Nationals, well, they have not even won a National League Championship, dating back to their inception as the Montreal Expos in 1969.
3. I would love to see one of our local colleges ‘win-it-all’ in basketball. I was born at Georgetown University Hospital, so I have a great affinity for the Hoyas, especially with their basketball program, but they have not won an NCAA championship since 1984, with John Thompson, Jr. The Maryland Terrapins, who won their only NCAA championship in 2002 with former head coach Gary Williams, are now in the BIG 10, shows great promise with head coach Mark Turgeon. The George Mason Patriots men’s basketball team made it to the Final Four in 2006 with then head coach, Jim Larranaga, but the programs



HOLIDAY WISH LIST



has had its fits and starts over the years and unfortunately has not had a truly successful tournament run since. George Washington Colonials men’s basketball head coach, Mike Lonergan, also has a strong squad on the hardwood this season and could make a strong run to get into the NCAA tournament next spring.

4. Switching to amateur sports, how about some decent baseball fields in the City of Alexandria, which are usually an absolute mess after rain storms? Both Big and Little Simpson Fields collect vast amounts of water which make them unplayable for days. Frank Mann Field, behind Cora Kelly School, in Four Mile Run Park, at the end of Commonwealth Avenue, also has the very same

problem after it rains as water ponds for days out in left field. Hopefully the City can allocate some future funding to ‘Field Turf’ some baseball fields, which would give them an artificial surface but would essentially make them playable fifteen minutes after it rains. Soccer, football, lacrosse, field hockey, all play on rectangular fields, of which there are many in the City of Alexandria, but baseball seems to be on the very low end of the totem pole when it comes to the allocation of funding for proper field drainage and maintenance, as many Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Activities staff ardently struggle to do the best to prep and line fields that are quite often unplayable due to the often waterlogged nature

of the playing surface after it rains. Field Turf in place of natural turf for both 60’ and 90’ baseball diamonds are long overdue in the City of Alexandria, which has a growing baseball program with Alexandria Little League and various City travel teams, as well. The proverbial phone is ringing on this subject, but no on in the City is picking up.

Lastly, I hope that you have an awesome holiday season that is full of joy, love, and happiness with friends and family. You are the best! Thanks for reading my last column of 2015. I will see you on this page in 2016, so “Happy New Year!” in advance. If you have any thoughts or comments, please send me an email at malonemarketing@gmail.com. I would sincerely love to hear from you.

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Although she and Living Legends of Alexandria are sometimes seen as one and the same, artist-photographer Nina Tisara had a life before she founded Living Legends and is living the life she planned after her retirement from its management.

Living Legends of Alexandria (LLA) is an ongoing, not-for-profit photodocumentary project that tells the stories of the people who are shaping the physical and cultural face of the city. Though there are many recognition programs no other program has chronicling the current history of Alexandria as its mission.

The idea for Living Legends came when within a two-week time in the fall of 2006, the City and the Gazette Packet came to the Tisara Photography studio asking for photos of people who had died to include with stories they were writing. When the photos weren't there, Tisara thought why not photograph people while they're still alive. From there it was a natural step to capture their stories at the same time and create an ongoing historical record. Incorporated in July, 2007, LLA is beginning its ninth year. The Legends are selected annually by the LLA board of directors from nominations received from the public.

Tisara majored in sculpture at the High School of Music and Art in New York City. She had just turned 18 when she moved to Washington, D.C. from Brooklyn, N.Y. on Christmas Eve, 1956. She soon married and had four children, Julie, David, Steven and Lynn.

Early in her working career, Tisara worked for an Air Force photo unit. One of the airmen volunteered to teach a class to those responsible for selecting photos for the permanent archives. That, mused Tisara, created the "latent image" that developed many years later when she took a photography class at Northern Virginia Community College to reward herself for passing Economics. A fellow student told her about a possible job opening at the Port Packet (now the Alexandria Gazette Packet) and that was the start of a 30-year-plus career as a photographer.

Later, Tisara worked for a national association of state agencies on Capitol Hill while freelancing for the Port Packet on the weekends. She incorporated Tisara Photography in 1985 and in 1990 she quit her full-time job and opened her photography studio in the newly developing King Street Metro area. Two of her children, Lynn Mills and Steven Halperson, joined her as partners in the business endeavor. Halperson now runs the studio specializing in portraits and special events.

While still operating from the basement of her Fairlington home, Tisara taught photography to senior citizens at the Durant Center and to children at the Mount Vernon Recreation Center. She collaborated with a photography teacher at the Capitol Children's Museum, then located near Union Station in Washington, D.C. At the end of the class, the children's work was displayed at the museum in an exhibition curated by Jim Coldsmith, then the editor

ALEXANDRIA LIVING LEGENDS:

Nina Tisara



Several years ago Tisara began creating intricate mosaics of porcelain tile and bits of stained glass. Asked what's next after after directing Living Legends, she said "I'm looking for exhibition sites!" Photo by Steven Halperson



Tisara helps students with photos for their author pages during a Family Legends class.
Photo by Kathleen Baker

of the Alexandria Port Packet. Tisara was gratified to learn many years later that one of her students had become a professional photographer.

At the time she started Tisara Photography, Tisara was accepted in the Torpedo Factory Art Center and was a founding member of the Factory's first photo gallery, Factory Photoworks (now Multiple Exposures Gallery). She gave up her gallery membership when she was awarded a grant from the Alexandria Commission for the Arts to document worship in Alexandria and could no longer maintain the required number of gallery hours. For the project she called "Converging Paths" Tisara photographed over 50 churches and synagogues in the City of Alexandria—all in black and white and all in available light. The work was exhibited at the

Lyceum, the City's history museum, from December 1985 through April 1986 and later in other locations including the Campagna Center and Marymount College in Scranton, Pa. Some 15 years later, Tisara focused her lens on the City's African American churches and produced "United in the Spirit" which was exhibited at Alexandria's Black History Museum.

The national recession at the time Tisara opened her King Street studio motivated her to become active in the business community. She joined the newly formed group, KSMET (the King Street Metro Enterprise Team), and became its second president. Tisara served for six years on the board of directors of the Alexandria Chamber of Commerce and received its Outstanding Board Member Award in 1995 and

its Friend of Small Business Award in 1996. She was a member of the King Street Metro Task Force, a group of citizens and city staff concerned with the development of the area, and an establishing member of the King Street Gardens Park Foundation. The park is an award winning public art project in the area.

Tisara's recognitions include: Women to Woman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Cultural Affairs and the Arts, Alexandria Commission on the Status of Women, 1989; the Alex Award for contributions to the Arts, Alexandria Chamber of Commerce, 1991; the Alex Award for work as an artist, Alexandria Arts Forum, 1991; Outstanding Service Award, KSMET, 2004; Service to the Community Award, Alexandria Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs, 2006; Alex Award for Service to the Arts and Living Legends of Alexandria, Alexandria Commission for the Arts, 2008; Marian Van Landingham Lifetime Service Award, Volunteer Alexandria, 2011; and Donna Bergheim Cultural Affairs Award, Alexandria Commission for Women, 2013.

Since 2007 LLA has chronicled the stories of over 200 extraordinary Alexandrians and when in 2014 Alexandria lost three legends, LLA was there to tell their stories, just as it was created to do. Legends lost that year were civil rights leader Ferdinand Day (age 96), former councilman Nelson Greene, Sr. (age 100), and Gladys Seisler. Tisara was especially pleased that Day and Greene had recently attended LLA's 2nd annual Theatre Night at MetroStage in September. Held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, the occasion honored those Legends who played key roles in fostering civil rights in Alexandria in the 60s. In addition to Day and Greene, also honored were Melvin Miller, Connie Ring, Patsy Ticer, Gwen Menefee-Smith, Dorothy Turner and the memories of civil rights activists Vola Lawson and Mel Bergheim who were named Living Legends in 2007 and 2008 respectively.

"Having this group of iconic leaders gathered at one time in one place was a dream come true for me," said Tisara remembering the event with a smile.

In a move that is near and dear to Tisara's heart, LLA plans to focus more in the future on "Family Legends." The free programs have been offered at local recreation centers, the Alexandria Black History Museum and Carpenter's shelter for the homeless. The program expanded last year with a new collaborative effort with Alexandria City Schools (ACPS) and the PTA on their Reflections program. Reflections is a national arts recognition and achievement program for students. This past summer a Family Legends component was included in the ACPS Summer Enrichment Program.

Asked what she plans to do next, Tisara reports happily "I want to continue working with children and adults to encourage their appreciation for photo-documentation--and several years ago I started creating intricate mosaics of porcelain tile and bits of stained glass. I'll be looking for exhibition sites."

FIRST NIGHT ALEXANDRIA

DECEMBER 31, 2015

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It's Saturday and I head out of my Nelson Avenue door for my job at Turk's Men's Shop. Mr. Turk has taken a chance on a 16-year-old, partly because my brother, Bill Schoeni, is the manager. Mr. Turk also enjoys the fact that I can impersonate John F. Kennedy almost as well as Vaughn Meader.

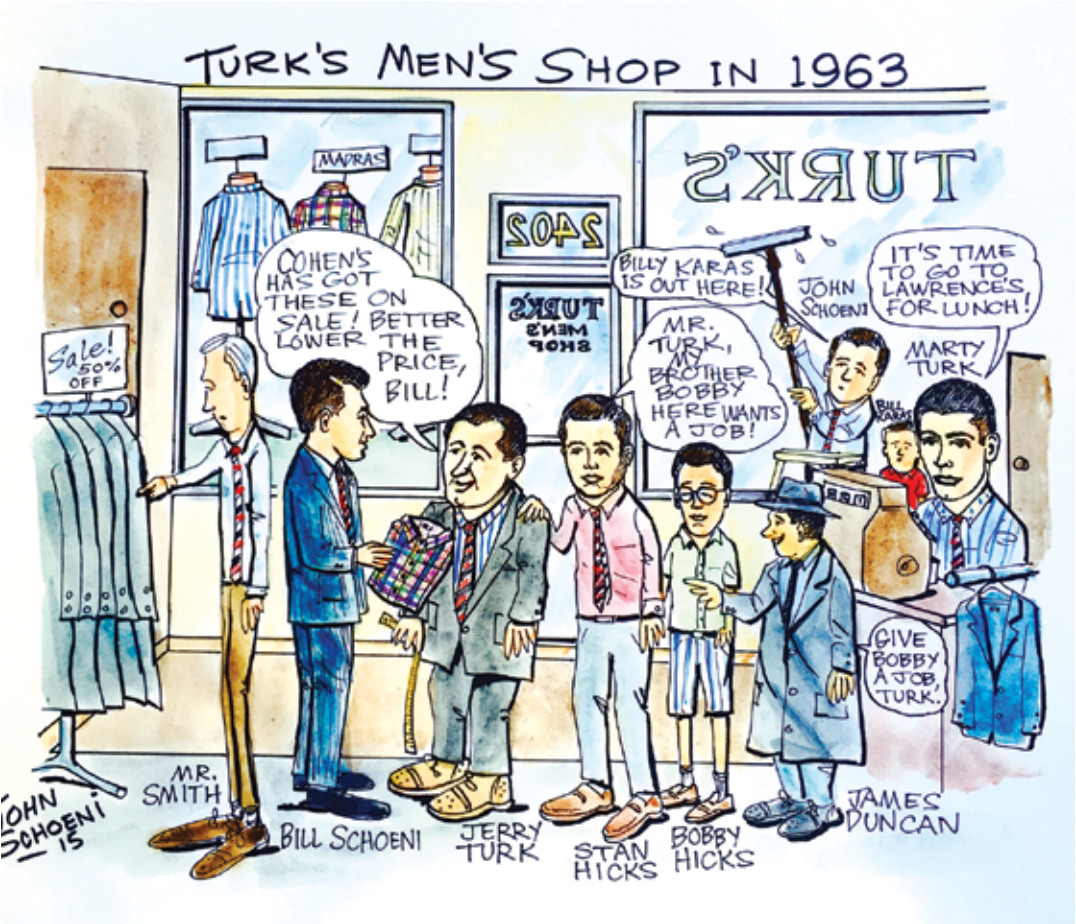
My first task is washing the front windows. As I drag the last streak of wash water off the glass with my squeegee, I see a cute blonde in a short skirt walking by. I turn demurely to look at her then stop quick when I realize it's Mr. Turk's oldest daughter Rochelle. Rochelle and I are both at George Washington High School but we seldom talk. I'm shy and she's too good looking. Bill Karas who is a fellow classmate and loves shopping at Turk's is always asking Rochelle for a date and she is always refusing. I could never ask her so I set my sights on Rochelle's younger sister Glenda whose smile and laugh lights up the store. But Mr. Turk counsels me that she is only 13 and I should wait until she is 16.

A social butterfly at the store is customer James Duncan. He walks in in a grey overcoat and hat. He looks dapper, like he's going to an office or a wedding, but he's just there to once again shoot the breeze. Mr. Smith, a tall, older salesman, strokes James under his chin as James bunches up and laughs until he turns red, as Mr. Smith says, "James is getting pink under the gills."

Stanley Hicks arrives late for his part time job and has his younger brother Bobby with him. Stanley wants to show Bobby the new Alumni Shop



TURK'S MEN'S SHOP IN 1963...



that Mr. Turk and my brother have conjured up to attract the high school and college crowd. Stanley heads there to check out the Windsor shirts, the Van Heusens, the Arrows, the Cricketeer sports coats, the Bass Weejuns, the button down shirts (no one would wear a fly away collar) and Chino pants. Stanley suggests that Bobby work there so he can have a big clothing allowance.

My brother gives me a cash

register slip with scribbling on the back and asks me to go to Lawrence's Delicatessen to pick up everyone's lunch. Mr. Turk's son Marty who also works at the store is hungry and biting at the bit for lunch to begin. Lawrence's is a block away near the Scott Shop and I'm glad to take a breather.

Mr. Turk used to brag at quitting time every night that he was going home to make himself a banana milkshake.

He described them in such a way that I couldn't resist asking if I could try one. That's when he invited me to his house on the way home to taste one of his specialties. I was honored to get an invitation to the boss's house. After that it became a standing joke and he'd fix me a banana milkshake or invite me to his house on Howell Avenue at the corner of Commonwealth.

Mr. Turk has made the final

decision to close his new store, the second Turk's Men's Shop, in the Shirlington Shopping Center in Arlington. Everyone agrees that expanding too quickly is sometimes not so good.

Today I'm learning how to do alternations. I've been summoned to the back room of the building that was once the Palm Theater. It was small for a theater by today's standards. As I look around the back room I imagine when the screen stood there which gave Del Ray residents a chance to see the latest westerns. The cash register counter in the front was no doubt where the ticket booth was and the first counter in the middle that holds pants was the pop corn, candy and soda counter.

Mr. Sam Turk, Jerry Turk's brother, rushes in with a question about the grand opening of the baby clothing store that they are putting in next-door. The two brothers confer and as usual Mr. Turk is the expert on retail stores. His other brother Morty is in town and stops in to make a welcomed appearance.

Evening comes quickly to end a full day and the magic hour – six o'clock – closing time, approaches. Mr. Turk is finally tired after a long week and he's not one to hang around, so he bids his staff a good evening. He's always upbeat and a joy to know.

52 years later and I can still see it all and hear those wonderful voices at a time that passed by way too quickly. Turk's back in the day was a great place to shop and a wonderful place for employees and customers alike.

CALLING ALL WRITERS - CITY OF ALEXANDRIA SEARCHES FOR POET LAUREATE AND ALEXANDRIA'S DASHING WORDS IN MOTION POETRY CONTEST

The City of Alexandria's Office of the Arts is in search of a Poet Laureate to promote an appreciation of poetry as an art form, promote creative writing and reading of literature, and promote literacy through poetry. The individual will serve as Poet Laureate for three years and receive a modest annual honorarium.

Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else. Nominees must distinguish themselves in the field of poetry through the body of work created; be a resident of the City for a minimum of one year and maintain residency through the three-year term of service; must accept the Poet Laureate post as a ceremonial role, which includes presentations of work appropriate for all audiences; and be 18 years of age or older. Tori Lane Kovarik, Poet Laureate, City of Alexandria's term expires in March, 2016.

Prior to Ms. Kovarik's appointment, Amy Young and Mary McElveen



served as the City's Poet Laureate. The City of Alexandria's first and only Poet Laureate of record was Jean Elliott, a 78-year-old Alexandria resident. The Alexandria City Council voted Elliot as Poet in Residence and honored her by placing a plaque on her South Fairfax Street home in 1979. She passed away in 1999.

Writers are invited to also submit

poetry for the "**DASHing Words in Motion**" poetry contest. The poetry contest encourages quality writing by writers and poets 16 years or older, who lived, worked or studied in the City of Alexandria.

The City of Alexandria Office of the Arts and the Alexandria Transit Company joined forces to host a poetry contest "**DASHing Words in Motion**".

The competition's primary goal is to encourage a broad range of ideas and subject matter. Possible inspirational ideas might stem from the Alexandria Transit Company's DASH buses motto "Keep Alexandria Moving," or bus stops, neighborhoods, buses, cars, roads, or transportation. Other modes of transportation in Alexandria and the region will also be considered.

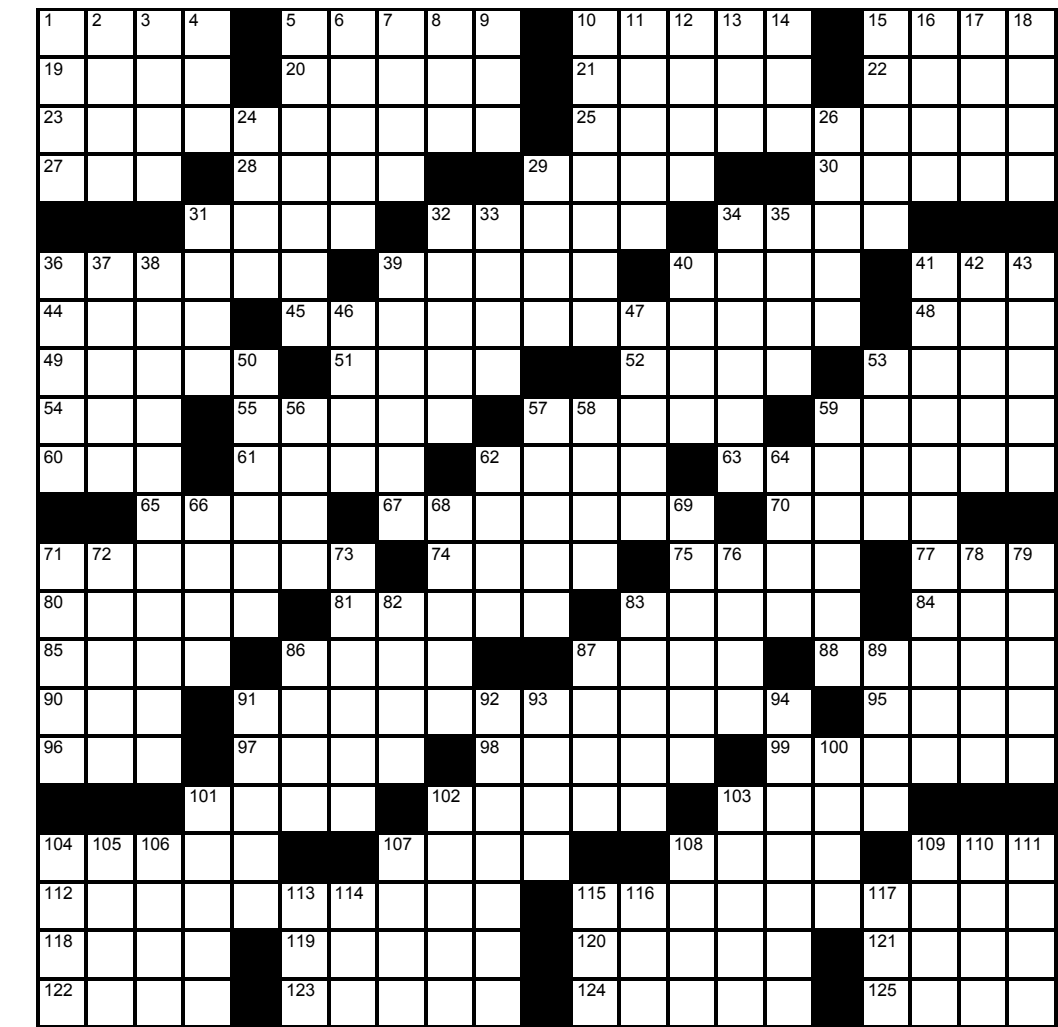
Winning poems will be published and placed on DASH buses and trolleys for the 2016 National Poetry Month (April) and May.

The online submission deadline for both poetry opportunities is Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 10:59 p.m. Visit the Office of the Arts website www.alexandriava.gov/Arts to request links for the online application forms. For additional about the literary programs, email the Poet Laureate at poet@alexandriava.gov; or call the Office of the Arts at 703.746.5588.

This Bud’s For You

Across

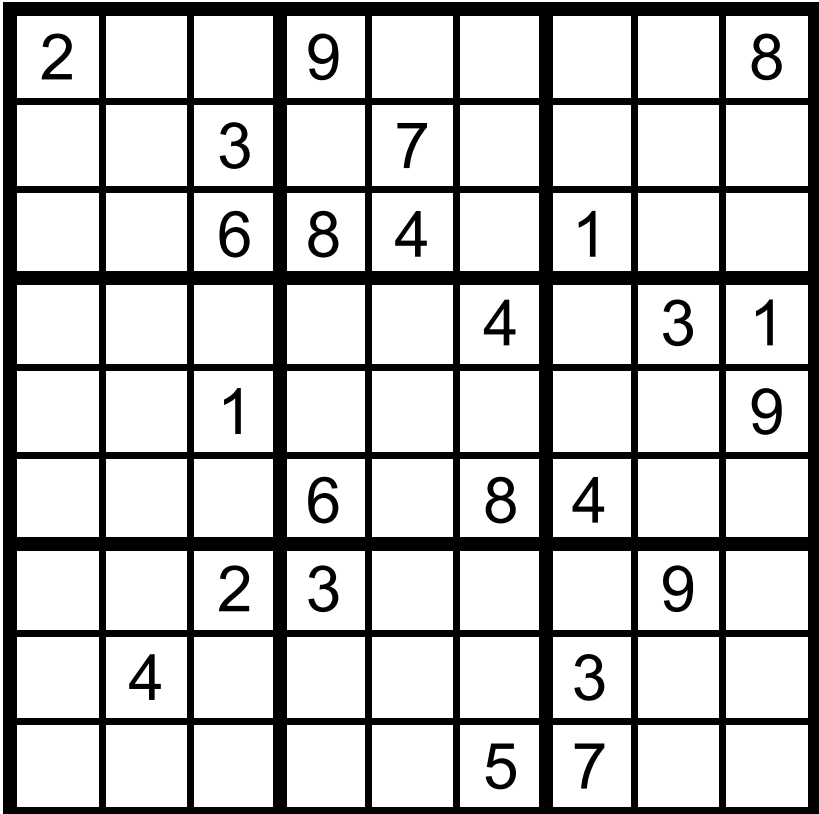
- 1 Gradation
5 “The Crucible” setting
10 French clerics
15 Primary
19 Prefix with dynamic
20 Foolish
21 Hum
22 Plus
23 Ringing bud?
25 Ferocious but cool buds?
27 One (Fr.)
28 Auto pioneer
29 Sailing vessel
30 Void
31 Silk (Fr.)
32 Golf course part
34 Jewels
36 Discount
39 Medicinal plants
40 Palm starch
41 Compass pt.
44 Talipot palm
45 A bud for a Gless?
48 Global business group (Abbr.)
49 Some vacation trips
51 Mil. school
52 Strays
53 Back end
54 Unlock (Poet.)
55 Lengthen a skirt
57 Contradict
59 Combustibles
60 Renegade, briefly
61 Ancient lt. deity
62 Peer
63 Sweet sultan, for one
65 Clods
67 Canine bud?
70 Actor Guinness
71 Daisy relations
74 Compacts
75 Mine entrance
77 Test site
80 Wing
81 Model Crawford
83 At that place
84 Mineral
85 Ball of yarn
86 Perfume name or forbidden: Var.
87 Contemplate
88 Rambles
90 Chapeau
91 Tomlin bud?
95 Let off steam
96 Method (Abbr.)
97 Bullfight cheers
98 Half a sunken ship
99 Mus. dramas
101 Galls



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- 102 Treacle
103 Paradise lost
104 Prayer words
107 Short statue
108 Bitters
109 Boston subway inits.
112 Bread spread holders in bud form?
115 Heliacle buds?
118 Consumer
119 Thick sauce
120 Actor Davis
121 At the summit
122 Indian buzzard
123 Jovial
124 Gash
125 Some stingers
- 8 Compass pt.
9 Boulogne-sur-____
10 Speak to
11 Intellect
12 Bell sound
13 Cease
14 Envision
15 Injures
16 Drooping
17 Negative contraction
18 Snoopy
24 Hoof
26 Citrus fruit
29 Black Angus
31 Coal-rich German region
32 Shine
33 Crucifix
34 Loft
35 Selves
36 Eggbeater
37 Skip the big wedding
38 Sad topper buds?
39 Rise
40 Hindu frock
41 Sugary bud?
- 42 Procrastinate
43 More than bad
46 Hawaiian island
47 Conversation starter
50 Word ending
53 Deceptive maneuver
56 Space org.
57 Off-color
58 Cupid’s counterpart
59 Air cleaner
62 Mild oath
64 “Aquarius” musical
66 From scratch
68 Confess
69 Another daisy relative
71 Scott and Taylor, to friends
72 Filling
73 Alarms
76 Wooded hollow
78 Stadium
79 Outsmarts
82 Egypt. wading bird
83 Old World bulbous herb
- 86 Chatter
87 Japanese ship name
89 Pizzeria fixture
91 Code name
92 Homer’s epic
93 Ilk
94 Sang, in a way
100 Baja bread
101 Prefix with venous
102 Topnotch
103 Mischievous
104 Adjoin
105 Contemplate
106 Fr. seasons
107 Aaron or Raymond
108 Korean apricot
109 Columbian river
110 Ounce name
111 Vipers
113 Engine stat (Abbr.)
114 Pool stick
115 Germinate
116 G.I. entertainers
117 Card game for two

To solve the Sudoku puzzle, each row, column and box must contain the numbers 1 to 9.



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HOLIDAY DANGERS AROUND THE HOUSE

BY ADRIENNE HERGEN, DVM

Many dangers present themselves during the holiday season. There are a number of things that you should be very careful with and make sure to keep out of reach of your cat or dog.

As discussed in the October issue of *Zebra*, it is always important to keep chocolate, fatty foods, anything containing garlic or onions, and alcohol away from your pets. These types of foods might be more likely to be present around the holidays.

Let's start by reviewing some common plants that can be problematic for our furry companions. Christmas trees can definitely be an issue for dogs and cats. Always make sure that your tree is placed in a sturdy base and that the tree is secured so that it can't be toppled easily. Cats may try to climb the tree and dogs could knock it over. Ingestion of tree needles can

ANIMAL TALES

cause drooling, vomiting, and diarrhea. Additionally, needles can potentially irritate the mouth, cause perforation of the intestines or cause an obstruction if ingested in large quantities. If your dog or cat eats artificial tree material this can cause similar symptoms. Drinking Christmas tree water should be discouraged and can cause mild vomiting and diarrhea. If Christmas tree preservatives are added to the water this usually causes the same mild symptoms mentioned above.

Mistletoe, when ingested in small quantities, causes mild nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Very large ingestions of mistletoe have the potential to cause cardiovascular and neurologic signs although this is an uncommon occurrence in pets. Some mistletoe have the berries replaced with

plastic berries which could cause an intestinal obstruction if eaten.

Many people will grow amaryllis plants from bulbs during the holiday season. If your cat or dog eats the blooms or leaves, most commonly you will note drooling, vomiting, and diarrhea. The bulb is more toxic and if ingested, especially in large amounts, can result in weakness, tremors, seizures, and changes in blood pressure.

Eating holly leads to similar clinical signs as eating Christmas tree needles, including drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy. All parts of this plant can cause GI upset.

It is a myth that poinsettias are highly toxic to your pet. They do contain a milky white sap that can cause mild drooling, vomiting, and diarrhea. More serious signs of toxicity are not expected. Additionally, Christmas cactus is considered non-toxic but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

"This is Chloe. I don't know how she managed THIS!"
—Submitted by
Rhonda Gravis, Falls
Church, VA

The truth is the truth. Cats love exploring boxes. The next time your cat finds his or her way into a cardboard predicament, snap a photo and send it to us. If we publish it, you will win a \$25 gift card to an area retailer or restaurant. Be sure to include your cat's name, your name and neighborhood. Please send to editor@thezebrapress.com. Rhonda just picked up a \$25 gift card from Celtic House Irish Pub and Restaurant!



“
QUOTABLES
Did you ever notice that the first piece of luggage on the carousel never belongs to anyone?
—Erma Bombeck



King Street Cats is proud to be the only all-volunteer, cat-exclusive, no-kill rescue facility in Alexandria, Va. Because we are a free-roaming facility, you can come visit with the "cat-friendliest cats" in town.

To meet a King Street Cat, please email contact@kingstreetcats.org.



ANGELINA
Female, Age 7
Quiet, gorgeous sweetheart longs to be your "one and only" best friend



JACK 2015
Male, Age 5
This youthful gem is THE perfect best friend you've been waiting for



KALA
Female, Age 7 months
Affectionate baby girl will ask for her dinner and then say thank you



BLINKY
Male, Age 2
Plush, fluffy black beauty loves people, cats...and warming your lap as often as he can.



FOXTROT
Female, Age 1
Quiet, soft sweetie will melts hearts with her golden eyes and gentleness.



LUKE SKYWALKER & HAN SOLO
Bonded pair of brothers, Age 5 months
Baby "Star Wars" boys love to be rocked to sleep in your arms

Our adoption open houses are every Saturday and Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

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www.kingstreetcats.org

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and
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at 703-919-7533 or
mary@thezebrapress.com**

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— Bill and Nickie Aldridge 4508 Upper Cub Run Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

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TIGER

Tiger has been waiting for a new home since January. We can't figure out why: He's friendly, handsome, and an all-around great cat. Tiger is a four year old neutered male with a soft brown tabby coat and a great disposition. He'd make an excellent "Netflix-and-chill" buddy. Tiger's adoption fee has already been paid by a donor so come to the shelter if you can make Tiger's dream of going home for the holidays come true!



PEPE

When Pepe came to the Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, he couldn't walk, stand on his own, and was in so much pain that he didn't want anyone to touch him. He was diagnosed with intervertebral disc disease and a deep corneal ulcer. Now that Pepe's corneal ulcer has healed and he is on medication that helps his back problems, this eight year old Chihuahua is ready to find a home! Come to the shelter and meet this special little dog!



LOLA

Lola is a lionhead rabbit who is just over one year old. She's been at the shelter since September and she's love to spend the holidays with a new family! Lola has a long, fluffy coat and a sweet personality. Lola loves munching on Timothy hay, playing with chew toys, and snoozing in boxes. Rabbits make wonderful pets and Lola is no exception! Come meet her today!



MACHO AND SMORES

Macho and Smores are 2 male guinea pigs who happen to be best friends. They're looking for a home where they can stay together. Guinea pigs are social animals and adopting a bonded pair can make it easier for them to adjust to a new home. Macho and Smores are both around one year old and would make a great addition to your family! Come by to meet this dynamic duo today!

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AlexandriaAnimals.org/donate



SHELTER HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday,
Thursday, Friday:
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Adoption,
9-7 for Business

Saturday, Sunday:
12-5 for Visitation/
Adoption, 11-5 for
Business



Animal Welfare League of Alexandria

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703-549-3647 VCAoldtown.com

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FRI 7:30 AM - 7:00 PM • SAT 8:00 AM - 6:00 PM



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CROSSWORD

S	T	E	P		S	A	L	E	M		A	B	B	E	S		M	A	I	N
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SUDOKU

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6	4	7	1	8	9	3	2	5
9	3	8	4	2	5	7	1	6

ANIMALTALES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

could cause similar symptoms to those mentioned with poinsettia ingestion.

With cats, in particular, ingestion of tinsel from the tree or ribbons from gifts can potentially cause GI upset and/or intestinal obstruction leading to the need for surgery. Ingestion of small characters from nativity scenes, dreidels, and small parts from toys, just to name a few, can also lead to intestinal foreign bodies that could require surgery. Be careful that batteries from toys are not accessible either. If these are ingested ulceration of the mouth, esophagus, stomach, and small intestines can occur. In the worst case scenario, intestinal perforations can occur.

Broken ornaments can

pose a risk to pets as well. If they step on them, laceration to the paws or paw pads can occur. Christmas tree lights if ingested could cause GI irritation or perforation and if the pet chews on the cord there is a risk for electrocution.

Always place candles and menorahs in a safe location away from pets. If knocked over they could burn your pet or cause a house fire. Curious cats are particularly at risk given that they often jump up on counters and tables.

We want the holiday season to be safe for everyone in your household. Please do your best to keep these dangers to your pet in a safe and inaccessible place to try and avoid a visit to your veterinarian with an emergency.

Please don't hesitate to call us if you have any questions or concerns. Happy Holidays from the entire staff at Shirlington Animal Hospital!

MAIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

welcoming hub to Alexandria's West End—a community destination for the entire city.

As an open-air urban village, the new Landmark will feature new residences, plazas and green spaces for community events, shops and restaurants, a 10-screen movie theater and more.

The benefits will be many, including a walkable environment—with vibrant streets, open spaces, improved accessibility and new entertainment opportunities. There will be more jobs, increased tax revenues and enhanced property values

that will likely spur more improvements in the area.

The redevelopment of Landmark Mall was approved by City Council in summer 2013. In June 2015, City Council approved a Site Plan Amendment, as submitted by the Howard Hughes Corporation, to increase the residential and commercial floor areas by approximately 54,000 square feet.

Landmark Mall's redevelopment has been a priority for the City and has been approved by the City Council. The project is in the Final Site Plan process, which involves completing architecture and engineering details.

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