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‘It’s Our Time to Act’

Student Peace Awards Presented

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‘It’s Our Time to Act’

By Andrea Worker

The Connection

Alina Ghobadi and Ben Goodson are both 18-year-old seniors at Langley High School in McLean. Neither can recall a time “before this,” when school safety and lockdowns against possible “active shooters” hadn’t become, at the least, the background consideration of a school day, as Goodson puts it.

“But you always think it can’t happen at your school,” adds Ghobadi.

There have been dozens of violent incidents at schools across the country in recent years, but the latest, where 17 students were killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., by a former student armed with a semi-automatic weapon, really touched Ghobadi, and she reached out to Goodson for help in “showing our solidarity with Parkland, and making a statement. Enough is enough. It’s our time to act.”

THE TWO, who have known each other since the eighth grade, decided to do their best to galvanize their fellow students into joining the National School Walkout Day on March 14, the one-month anniversary of the Parkland tragedy. They met with teachers and school principal Frederick Amico to discuss their intentions, and while they weren’t given a “free pass” to leave class for the 17-minute protest (one minute for each of the students who were killed), they were not given a categorical denial.

“We were asked to use a study period to avoid disrupting classes,” said Ghobadi, “but we felt it was important to do this at the same time as others around the country. Together, our voices are stronger. If there is a consequence, then I guess we will have to bear it.”

Goodson agreed. “The years go by. More kids are killed. Nothing happens. We have to speak and act together, and then maybe we will be heard and something will be done.”

Neither Ghobadi nor Goodson were impressed with the action taken by the House of Representatives on the same day as the Walkout. By a vote of 407-10, the House passed a “School Safety Bill” that focused on better coordination between schools and law enforcement, and offered funding for training, including of students, in the detection of the early signs of potential violence, as well as for anonymous reporting systems. The bill, which is backed by the National Rifle Association, makes no mention of guns or any type of gun restrictions or regulations. This omission contributes to the resolve of the two high schoolers to speak out.

“It’s ridiculous not to address gun regulation as part of the solution,” insisted Goodson, who also sees the House bill as ignoring the dangers for those of us beyond the campus confines. “We’re not saying that people don’t have the right to have guns for protection or hunting,” said Ghobadi, “but what are you hunting with assault rifles?”

“Exactly,” said Goodson, who upholds the Constitution and its Amendments, but believes that the language of the 2nd Amendment “doesn’t make sense today.” He notes that today’s weaponry “can be loaded and repeatedly fired a lot faster than a musket,” and that the spirit of the Amendment “came from fighting back against a hundred years of a tyrannical government. I think things have changed a bit since then,” he said. Like Ghobadi, he doesn’t see assault weapons as having a place in a modern, civilized society.

Both think putting more guns in classrooms is “just asking for trouble” and see the move as pushing schools to be “more like prisons than places of learning.”

“Teachers already have so much to do and think about. Adding armed protector to their jobs is not the answer,” said Ghobadi.

What’s next for these two concerned young people? They were encouraged by the support their Walkout efforts had among their fellow students. “We weren’t sure anyone would join us,” said Ghobadi, but when, by their estimations, about 25 percent of the school population took to the athletic fields for the action, “we felt really good, proud of our generation,” added Goodson, who plans to join the national March For Our Lives protest in D.C., one of hundreds of protests scheduled worldwide to take place on March 24. Ghobadi will be out of town next weekend, but hopes to join up with a local march near her destination.

Writing letters, continuing to speak out, and supporting voter registration among their peers is also on their agenda.

“I hope we can help things change,” said Ghobadi. “Since Parkland, now when I head out in the morning, I make sure to say ‘Mom, I’m going to school. I love you.’ Nowadays, you just never know what might happen.”

Students at Langley High School spark support for National Walkout Event.

From left, Langley High School walkout co-organizer Alina Ghobadi stands with fellow students Roumina Adab, James Rau and Emily London. Profoundly affected by the school shooting in Parkland, Fla., that saw 17 students lose their lives to a teenaged gunman with an assault rifle, Ghobadi decided it was time to speak out for school safety and sensible gun regulations.

Ben Goodson, a senior at Langley, co-organized the student protest. “It’s time for us to try, to make our voices heard. It’s crazy that nothing has been done, shooting after shooting, death after death.”

One of many signs that students held at the National Walkout to honor the Parkland, Fla. victims, and to advocate for better gun regulations.)
Students from 23 Fairfax County Public Schools were named recipients of the 2018 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, which were handed out in a reception held Sunday, March 11, at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax.

Since 2006, the awards have recognized youth who introduce programs in their schools on many different issues that promote peace and conflict resolution throughout the county. In the 2017-2018 school year, the recipients each received $200, plus another $100 to be given to any nonprofit organization of his or her choice.

“It’s an honor to be here to help recognize you today for your outstanding work to promote peace throughout Fairfax County and beyond. Your areas of focus cover a wide range of topics and methods, but all unite in one common goal, and that is to encourage and to strengthen peace and unity among all of us,” said Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors chairman. “In Fairfax County, we consider our diversity to be our greatest asset. It is what makes us special.”

Special guests included Bulova; U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11); state Del. Ken Plum (D-36); School Board Member Ilryong Moon; School Board Chair Jane Straus; School Board member Ryan McElveen; and Guest Speaker Janessa Gans Wilder, founder and CEO of the Euphrates Institute, who flew in from California for the event. The host and organizer was Margaret Fisher.

Bryce Liquerman, 16, of McLean, a Junior at McLean High School, worked with Special Olympic athletes by coaching softball and soccer teams. “I help spread the word in the community that people shouldn’t be awkward around them and people should be very accepting of people who are different mentally and physically,” he said. “We’re all people; it doesn’t really matter, we’re all the same …. I’ve led a lot of activities like doing tournaments and team events with many different Special Olympic athletes who have partnered a lot with other kids in our community.”

Arnaz Carter-Newman, 17, of Reston, who attends Cedar Lane High School, worked with a Positivity Project. “We just hope to pass on the message that no one should be having a bad day. Everyone should be having a better day; everyone should be in a better mood,” he said. “When you produce negative energy, then other people around you want to produce negative energy. When you produce positive energy, you start spreading positive energy and then everyone around you gets more happy.”

Janan Iranbomy, 17, of Falls Church, who attends Marshall High School, served on the Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission and was president of Marshall’s Amnesty International group. “I started a Fairfax County campaign called the ‘Embrace Diversity Campaign’ where we involved all students from Marshall and other Fairfax County high schools to have a campaign to unite the diverse community that we have in Fairfax County and just celebrate the unity in the community,” she said.

Katie Oliveira, 18, of Vienna, who attends James Madison High School, is one of the presidents of Madison’s Amnesty International group along with Allison Janowski. “We worked really hard this year to do a ‘Write for Rights Campaign’ at our school, which is one of Amnesty International campaigns to get prisoners of conscience released from prison internationally,” she said.
Blood Donation Opportunities

Though spring has officially arrived, the American Red Cross blood supply is still recovering from severe winter storms in March. Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve and help save lives. Volunteer blood donors from across the country are needed to help ensure lifesaving blood products are available for patients this spring. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in the area, March 20 to April 15

Herndon
4/4/2018: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., Amazon Web Services, 12900 Worldgate Dr, Suite 800
4/9/2018: 2 p.m. - 7 p.m., St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 432 Van Buren St.
4/11/2018: 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., ArtSpace Herndon, 750 Center St
4/13/2018: 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr.
4/14/2018: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m., St Thomas a Becket RCC, 1421 Woldie Ave
4/16/2018: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr
4/19/2018: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Extended Stay America, 12100 Sunset Hills Rd

Reston
3/28/2018: 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Reston Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Dr.
3/28/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
3/29/2018: 12:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
3/30/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
3/31/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/1/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/2/2018: 1:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/3/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/4/2018: 12:45 a.m. - 8 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/5/2018: 12:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
4/6/2018: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr
4/6/2018: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Extended Stay America, 12100 Sunset Hills Rd
4/10/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
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3/23/2018: 7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
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4/6/2018: 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., U.S. Geological Survey, 12201 Sunrise Valley Dr
4/6/2018: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Extended Stay America, 12100 Sunset Hills Rd

Burke
4/2/2018: 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., Alding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Rd

Fairfax
3/20/2018: 10:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
3/21/2018: 12:45 a.m. - 5:45 p.m., Fairfax Blood Donation Center, 2720 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 200
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Opinion

‘When Is Passover Supposed to Be?’

By Rabbi Leibel Feinland
Director Chabad of Reston-Herndon

This was the question recently asked of me by a close friend who is not Jewish. I, of course, was totally caught off guard by the question. I had no idea what he was asking. So, I asked him what he meant.

He replied: “Well, I have lots of Jewish friends. And over the last nearly two decades I have attended many Passover Seders. Almost every year, the conversation turns to either how ‘early or late’ Passover is that particular year. So, if every year Passover is either ‘early or late’, when is Passover supposed to be?”

For the uninitiated, the ancient Hebrews were enslaved to Pharaoh, king of Egypt, a little over 3,300 years ago. Passover commemorates the miraculous redemption from this slavery and the birth of the Jewish nation. Though the events took place a very long time ago, we believe that not only do they provide us with eternal lessons and instructions on how to live our lives, even in the most modern of times. We believe that they are also events that are to be relived and re-experienced by every one of us, in every time and place. So, to me, the question runs deeper.

Herndon-Reston Community Seder

This year, join friends and family at the Chabad Community Passover Seder. Relive the Exodus, discover the eternal meaning of the Haggadah, and enjoy a community Seder complete with hand-baked Matzah, wine, and a wonderful dinner spiced with songs & insights.

First Seder Night Friday, March 30, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.
In the Herndon Kentmart Center. 306 Elden St. Herndon 20170
For more information or to reserve (a must) call 703-476-1829 email rabbis@chabadhr.org or visit www.chabadhr.org

“When, indeed is Passover sup- posed to be?”

Well, if you turn out the Hebrew word for Egypt, Mitzrayim, comes from the same root as the word for “limitations or boundaries.” Read this way, we can experience an Exodus from Egypt by “eman- cipating ourselves from our limitations and boundaries.”

Every day we are faced with self, or societal-imposed limitations. It may be as big as some world-changing cause with which we would like to be involved, but feel like it is “beyond us.” Or, it may be something as simple as a smile and a “hello” to someone next to us in line at the market, or in an elevator. Irrespec- tive of the deed, it is our “limitations” which hold us back from a myriad of acts of goodness and kindness. And yet, it is precisely these acts which can change the world forever, and usher in an era of humanity, understanding and peace, exceeding our wildest dreams.

So, it seems that the correct answer to the question is: Passover is supposed to be every minute, of every day. And, one certainly does not have to be Jewish, or celebrating Passover to experience their own “Exodus.”

How about we start right now? Think of something noble and great you have hesitated to do, and do it. And watch the world change around you, for good!

Happy Passover to all!

Passover observances include conducting a Seder. The Seder is a fifteen step, family ori- ented, tradition and ritual packed feast. The focal points of the Seder are:

❖ Eating Matzah.
❖ Eating bitter herbs to commemorate the bitter slavery endured by the Israelites.
❖ Drinking four cups of wine or grape juice, a royal drink, to celebrate the newfound free- dom.
❖ The recitation of the Haggadah, a liturgy that describes in detail the story of the Exodus from Egypt. The Haggadah is the fulfillment of the biblical obligation to recount to our children the story of the Exodus on the night of Passover.

Letters to the Editor
Costs and Benefits of Arming the Teachers

To the Editor:
The lead editorial by Monte F. Bourjaily, IV (“No Guns in the Classroom,” Connection March 7-13, 2018) warns of many ills that try more than $259 billion a year. Alzheimer’s costs the coun- try an additional $425 million for Alzheimer’s research funding at the National Institutes of Health, $140,000 Virginians over the age of 65 live with Alzheimer’s. Additionally Latinos are at one and a half times greater risk of Alzheimer’s than older whites. Alzheimer’s is the most expensive disease in the United States. Alzheimer’s costs the coun- try more than $259 billion a year.

My grandfather, my “Abuelito” in Peru, was diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. I remember Abuelito sometimes picked me up from school. Every once in a while, we walked to McDonald’s to get his favorite Big Mac meal and he would buy me a Happy Meal, too. We used to go trick-or-treating together every Halloween. He gladly held my plastic pumpkin filled with candy. Due to Alzheimer’s, I was unable to spend more quality time with my grandfather. We could not take day trips together to Luray Caverns or to the National Aquarium. I missed out on listening to him tell stories about his life experi- ences and family history.

Please join me in calling on U.S. Rep. Don Beyer to support an ad- ditional $425 million for Alzheimer’s research funding at the National Institutes of Health, with the goal of achieving break- throughs in prevention and treat- ment. Together, we can end Alzheimer’s. Visit www.alz.org for more information.

Jacqueline Calderon
Alzheimer’s advocate
Falls Church

Change in Richmond Brings Metro Funding

To the Editor:

As a long-term resident of North- ern Virginia, I have been frustrated year after year to hear of a fund- ing crisis for Metro or breakdowns affecting safety and reliability. In Virginia we were always faced with a hostile legislature that was controlled by downstate interests who did not see value in support- ing mass transit. Meanwhile Metro suffered from the lack of a secure funding source.

This year we see a different pic- ture with the results of last November’s election which found the Democrats just one vote short of winning control of the House of Delegates. Elections matter and now we see the real impact of an election that empowers the North- ern Virginia delegation to deliver support for Metro funding.

I was pleased to see the North- ern Virginia delegation in the House and Senate take leadership on the Metro funding issue.

Sue Boucher
Falls Church
The Adeler Jewelers
Great Falls Optimist Club

34th Annual
Children’s Spring Festival

Games
Rides
Food
Fun!

Sunday, March 25th
1:30 - 4:30 pm
Manners in the Tech Age

Etiquette classes aim to teach lost art of manners.

By Marilyn Campbell

On a sunny, autumn day a group of 10-year-old children sat around an formal dining room table at a home in Arlington. The boys wore blazers, pressed khakis and shiny loafers, while the girls had donned festive dresses, nude stockings and wore grosgrain ribbons in their neatly combed hair. They had arrived at the home for a lesson in etiquette, but most of them would have rather been somewhere else.

“I have to leave early for a soccer game,” said Jimmy, who didn’t bother hiding his glee over missing part of the class.

In an era when it’s commonplace to order pizza on a smartphone and coordinate play dates by text, old-fashioned etiquette can appear obsolete. A recent survey of teachers shows that 73 percent of instructors believe that students are less polite than when the teachers themselves were students. In the age high-tech conveniences, children can become over scheduled and under socialized, which has led to an uptick in the number of parents who are enrolling their children in etiquette classes, says protocol instructors.

“Parents have a tremendous interest in etiquette classes because so many parents realize that they don’t have that knowledge themselves,” said Dorothea Johnson, who founded the Protocol School of Washington and is the author of the book “Modern Manners: Tools to Take You to the Top,” which she co-authored with her granddaughter actress Liv Tyler.

“I think most parents know that good manners and etiquette will be important to their children’s future,” added Henyette Neal who teaches etiquette classes for children through the Fairfax County Park Authority. “Young people will be educated, but without proper social skills they will not be able to present themselves properly.” Neal is also the owner of Steppin Out Charm & Imaging Studio.

The result of fast-paced lifestyles combined with overloaded schedules is a generation of children who place more value on social media savvy than on knowledge of social graces. Family dinners are replaced by fast food, says one parent. “Who needs good manners to gobble down a slice of pizza,” said Carole Minney of Alexandria, whose 14-year old daughter and 11-year old son have taken etiquette and ballroom dance from Mrs. Simpson’s Classes, one of the area’s invitation-only etiquette schools. “Because everyone is so busy and technology is so advanced, reality television shows are setting standards of behavior and handwritten thank you notes have been replaced by emails and texts.”

Good manners are as important to a child’s future success as academics, says another parent. “I feel like if people know what to do in social situations it empowers them,” said Sarah Henry of Chevy Chase, mother of a 10-year-old daughter and a 12-year old son. “If you’re unsure of what to do it can make you feel intimidated. So it’s all about empowering children with knowledge. And it’s good for them to be exposed to proper etiquette in case they’re not getting it at home. And if they are getting it at home, etiquette classes can reinforce it.”

Interactive class sessions help keep their children engaged in the etiquette lessons. “They key is to keep the children occupied,” said Johnson. “For example, when teaching proper introductions, I would call two children up to the front of the room and have them introduce themselves to each other.”

In addition to learning such common courtesies such as saying “Please,” “Thank you” and “You’re welcome,” children learn to write thank-you notes and introduce themselves to others by making direct eye contact and offering a firm handshake.

“Knowing how to give a proper handshake is important. When I took my seven-year-old granddaughter Liv to formal events, her little hand went out as she was being introduced to someone,” said Johnson. “I could take her anywhere because she had impeccable manners.”

Henry says that in a class that she coordinated for her daughter’s Girl Scout troop, part of the curriculum included having the children form a receiving line with parents where they practiced handshakes and eye contact.

“We also printed proper table setting samples online and give the girls plastic forks spoons, knives, napkins and a copy of the place setting,” said Henry. “We talked about how to talk about the placement of the utensils, how to hold a knife and fork properly. One of my pet peeves is watching people hold a knife like it’s a stick.”

These are good life lessons, says Neal. “Etiquette classes are important because people still need to be respectful of others, and it starts with our children,” she said. “A simple please and thank you is important.”
GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES
The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center’s tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their name placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:
❖ Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
❖ Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
❖ Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and The Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
❖ Saturday, May 19: Elections at the MCC, from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center’s website: http://bit.ly/2ix7qc1.

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Amended & Late Returns
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• Civil Litigation
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www.beatsonlaw.com

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 22
Criminal Justice and Public Safety Career Fair, 9 a.m.-noon at Marshall Academy, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Marshall Academy, a Governor’s STEM Academy, will host its biennial Criminal Justice and Public Safety Career Fair, featuring professionals from local and federal agencies. The fair is open to the public. RSVP to Shelli Farquharson at smfarquharso@fcps.edu.
Making Connections, 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Mind in the Making - The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs. Child development researchers call these skills executive functions of the brain. At each workshop learn strategies for improving a skill, the importance of it in children’s lives and activities to promote each skill. Registration required. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24
New Member Orientation, 1 p.m. online. To RSVP for the next New Member Orientation for Fairfax County NAACP, email membership@fairfaxnaacp.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25
Passion/Palm Sunday Services, 10-11 a.m. at Leesburg Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chantilly Bridge Road, Leesburg. Often referred to as “Passion Sunday,” the day marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with palm branches. Free and open to the public. Call 703-327-0358 or visit www.leesburg.org.
The Spring fashion statement this year is the color yellow and soft pastels with ruffles thrown in for good measure. That’s what we learned when the New Dominion Woman’s Club (NDWC) held its 11th Annual Spring Fling Benefit Fashion Show on Sunday, March 18, at Bloomingdale’s at Tysons Corner Center, which provided the clothing.

With NDWC celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year on April 5, the fashion show raised between $8,000 and $10,000 that will be distributed to four local charities: The Friends of Pleasant Grove; McLean Project for the Arts; Safe Community Coalition; and SHARE of McLean.

Some of the special guests were Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust, State Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34), emcee Bill DuBose, and Paul Kohlenberger, President of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, who modeled some clothes.

“The show is a lot of fun for all of us to put together every year. It’s the kind of event that brings the club together,” said Kitty Gonzalez, Vice President of Communications for NDWC. “It’s really a high-energy event. We have five models who are friends or members of the club and we have professional models as well that help.”

Del. Murphy added: “I’m very proud of the work that the club does on behalf of all of the people of McLean. It’s a wonderful organization; it’s been around for years and years and years, and they do really good work, so I’m always glad to come and help support them.”

Event Chairman Desi Woltman said the fashion show has become the breadwinner for NDWC’s beneficiaries. “It’s our big event; it’s been very successful and we owe most of our success really to the great partners we’ve had throughout. We want to thank Effie Elkorek, the personal shopping manager at Bloomingdale’s; and Annalisa Varian, the PR manager. They are super professional; they make it very easy and fun.”

About 60 guests could sip mimosas and sample finger-foods catered by Ridgewells Catering while perusing the raffle items, which included a Lancôme Gift Basket, Dooney & Bourke handbag, and tickets to the McLean Project for the Arts Spring Benefit. Tickets for the show were $75/adults; $40/students.

The Platinum Premier sponsor was Bill Page Toyota; Silver sponsors were Chesterbrook Residences; District Financial Advisors; and other sponsors Monica Gibson of Keller Williams Realty; McLean Pool and Spa; Wheat’s Landscape; and McLean Properties, as well as in-kind sponsors Bloomingdale’s and Safeway.

NDWC also supports the Reading is Fundamental program; Adopt a Highway; and they’re having a big food drive for SHARE with Giant Food on April 7. For more information on the NDWC, visit the website at https://www.ndwc.org.

— Steve Hibbard

About 60 guests help raise $8,000-$10,000 for four local charities.

The Spring Fling Fashion Show Held at Tysons

A professional model shows off the latest Spring fashions from Bloomingdale’s during the New Dominion Women’s Club Spring Fling Fashion Show on Sunday, March 18, 2018 at Bloomingdale’s in Tysons Corner Center.

Paul Kohlenberger, President of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce and model; Desi Woltman, Event Chair; and Bill DuBose, emcee.

NDWC Member Kimberly Briggs shows models Spring fashions from Bloomingdale’s.

Organizers (from left): Susan Sallaway, Carrie Sallaway, Kitty Gonzalez, Hanan Daqqa, and Desi Woltman.
Four Comstock Challengers Discuss Foreign Policy

George Washington University student moves crowd to tears.

BY EDEN BROWN
The Connection

Suzie Egolf of Herndon was glad she had come to the Foreign Policy Candidate Forum on Sunday, March 4, at the Tysons Corner Hilton Doubletree Hotel.

“I came here because I really know nothing about these candidates who are running for Rep. Barbara Comstock’s seat in Congress,” she said. The June 12 primary was coming up. She didn’t think she really needed to know what their foreign policy positions were, but at least she would get a chance to see them in action so when she voted she could pick the right candidate. Then she realized, as she listened to positions on intervening in Syria, the Iran-Nuclear deal, and North Korea, that the role of every congressman in deciding whether we go to war or not, seek peace or not, just got a lot more important.

State Sen. Jennifer Wexton (D-33), Lindsey Davis Stover, Daniel Helmer, and Alison Kiehl Friedman addressed a standing-room-only crowd of Congressional District 10 voters to address questions about foreign policy. Wexton acknowledged humorously that she hadn’t been involved in a lot of foreign policy decisions during her tenure as a state senator, unless you count cross border issues with Kentucky and Tennessee.

Helmer, who was a Rhodes Scholar, noted his foreign policy is directly related to his time abroad as a soldier. Davis Stover and Friedman both held jobs in the Obama administration with direct policy engagement. Friedman led a team combating human trafficking at the Department of State, and Davis Stover served in the Department of Veterans Affairs, working on increasing access to care for veterans.

Egolf wasn’t put off by Friedman’s “California connections” and “outside money,” buzzwords sometimes used to denigrate personal connections and fundraising. The debate was civil and productive, Egolf concluded, and the candidates’ positions were sound.

Four Comstock Challengers
Discuss Foreign Policy

See Foreign Policy, PAGE 14
Calendars

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar. The deadline is noon Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Great Falls Farmers Market.
Children’s Art Exhibit.
Art Exhibit.
Photos/artwork encouraged.

endar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar. The deadline is noon Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

Children’s Art Exhibit. Through March 31 at Great Falls Library (Small Conference Room), 8300 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The McLennan Community Choir will present Mary Chase’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, “Harvey” on weekends, through March 24, 2018, at the Great Falls Grange, 9618 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. $18-$20. Email info@McLennanPlayers.org or visit McLennanPlayers.org.

Harvey
The McLennan Community Players will present Mary Chase’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, “Harvey” on weekends, through March 24, 2018, at the Great Falls Grange, 9618 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. $18-$20. Email info@McLennanPlayers.org or visit McLennanPlayers.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25
Free Tai Chi: 7:55-9 a.m. at St. Luke’s School Gym, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free introduction and beginners’ practice every Saturday morning. Call 703-759-0414 or see FreeTaiChi.org for more.

Build a Bat House and Go for a Wagon Ride. 9:30-10 a.m. for the build; 10:30 a.m. for wagon ride. At Riverbend Park, 7800 Perrin Mill Street, Great Falls. For ages 3 to adults. Cost is $8. Everyone must register. A fee of $15 per bat house is payable to the instructor the day of the program. Meet at the park’s nature center. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rivberd.

Healthful Strides Wellness Club
CLub 11 a.m. - noon at Tysons-Panorama Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. “The Prehistoric Day Pies” by Hilary Wright. This club is for adults, and meets at different Fairfax County Public Library sites each month. No registration is required to attend. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthy-steps.

SATURDAY/SUNDAY/MARCH 24-31
Fairfax County Parks. Egg-citing activities are breaking out at parks throughout Fairfax County in March. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2018/parks-2018.html.

On Saturday, March 24 — Children age 1-8 are invited to the Easter Egg Hunt at Sully Historic Site (4000 Backlick Road, Sully Station, 22032). There’s also an Egg Hunt that day at Nottoway Park. Register at the point-shooter for egg hunts for children age 1-9. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Schedule: ages 1-2; 10:30 a.m.; ages 3-4; 11 a.m.; ages 5-6, 11 a.m.; ages 7-9, 12 p.m. $10 per child, registration 9:30-11:45 a.m. $10 per child – cash only at registration.

SUNDAY/MARCH 25
Stretch and Sip: Custom Kinetics Yoga and Brews Event. 10 a.m. at 7921 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Enjoy a yoga class accompanied with yoga instructor Aubrey of Custom Kinetics. Followed by beer at Tyson’s Burg’er. Call 703-462-9258.

See Calendar. Page 13

One mile east of Dolley St./St. EK at 44, at 6751 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101

St. John’s Episcopal Church

Journey with us through Holy Week, remembering the compassion of Jesus’ life and preparing our hearts for the resurrection Christ.

Holy Week at Trinity United Methodist Church

SUNDAY
March 25 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
March 26 7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
March 27 8:30 a.m. 

THURSDAY
March 29 7:30 p.m.
March 30 7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY
March 30 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Services at each location
March 31 7:30 p.m. Good Friday Services at each location

Easter Sunday
April 1 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

To highlight your Faith Community, call Don at 703-778-9420

PARISH WEBSITE:
www.stjohnschurchva.org

SPARISH OFFICE: 703-528-6276

Sunday/10:30 AM: 703-549-3340
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday 7:00 AM: 703-549-3340

DAILY EUCHARIST:
Monday-Friday 8:30 AM
Saturday 8:30 AM

All Are Welcome!

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.

St. Anne’s Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM
1:00 PM Spanish Liturgy

7:00 PM Bilingual Magnificat Mass

March 31 - Easter Vigil
March 31 - Easter Vigil
4:30 PM Finale Procession of Easter

April 1 - Easter Day
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Mass in the presence of Christ (7:30 AM)
7:30 AM - Back Eucharist

5112 North 10th Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22201
P.O. Box 512-7678

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stannechurch.org

To highlight your Faith Community, call Don at 703-778-9420

Saint Andrew Catholic Church

SUNDAY LITURGY SCHEDULE:
Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM
Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM

www.StAndrewChurchVA.com

April 1 8:30 AM, 10:30 AM

All Are Welcome!

Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.

St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Noon-5:30 PM Mon/Wed/Thu/Fri
5:00 PM Saturday

March 30 - Good Friday
March 31 - Easter Vigil

March 31 - Easter Vigil

April 1 - Easter Day
7:30, 9:00, 11:00 AM Holy Eucharist
Mass in the presence of Christ (7:30 AM)
7:30 AM - Back Eucharist

5112 North 10th Street,
Arlington, Virginia 22201
P.O. Box 512-7678

PARISH WEBSITE: www.stmarkchurchva.com

To highlight your Faith Community, call Don at 703-778-9420

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Hanna Ermich, an established artist, will be presenting a demonstration of special collage techniques. Call 703-356-9519.

SATURDAY/MARCH 24
Free Tai Chi: 7:55-9 a.m. at St. Luke’s School Gym, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Free introduction and beginners’ practice every Saturday morning. Call 703-759-0414 or see FreeTaiChi.org for more.

Build a Bat House and Go for a Wagon Ride. 9:30-10 a.m. for the build; 10:30 a.m. for wagon ride. At Riverbend Park, 7800 Perrin Mill Street, Great Falls. For ages 3 to adults. Cost is $8. Everyone must register. A fee of $15 per bat house is payable to the instructor the day of the program. Meet at the park’s nature center. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rivberd.

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See Calendar. Page 13

Adopt
Volunteer

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April 1 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

At Trinity Church, we are open to all.

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

1205 Dolley Madison Blvd
MCLEAN, VA 22101

unitedmethodist.org

Facebook / Trinity Church
Twitter: TMU20

To highlight your Faith Community, call Don at 703-778-9420
Calendar

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

The Monarch Migration: Marvel of Nature, 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9810 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Featuring photos and videos by Robin Kent of the monarch butterflies who take a 2,500-mile journey from as far north as Canada to Mexico. Contact Robin Kent at kentro@cox.net or 703-759-3839.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

“Clue,” 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden staff as they quote along with the dialogue from “Clue” (PG). Admission and popcorn are free. Bring your own non-alcoholic beverage. Don a secret identity, select a room, but leave lead pipes and ropes at home. Prop bags are $5 each. Supplies are limited and advance purchase is recommended. Visit mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31


SUNDAY, APRIL 1

Take Back the Forest. Volunteer to combat invasive plants this spring. The Fairfax County Park Authority has many volunteer opportunities available to work in local parks to remove non-native invasive plants from the parkland and replace them with native plants. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/invasive-management-area. Or contact Eric Steckelhander at 703-324-8681.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

“The Wall’s Embrace” Film Screening, 7 p.m. at The Angels Film Center, 2911 District Ave., Fairfax. Produced and directed by Nancy Frohman of Potomac, Md., the film explores the psychology behind the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and its power to heal. Visit www.goldendoodleproductions.com.

APRIL 4-5


THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Betty McIntosh’s OSS, 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Dr. Ann Todd will discuss her book OSS Operation Black Mail, the story of Betty McIntosh, a journalist who served during World War II on the China-Burma-India front in the organization that became the CIA. Books will be available for signing and sale. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3721993.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Shape Note Singing, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join singers from across the country for spirited, four-part, participatory, unaccompanied singing from classic shape-note tunebooks. Midday potluck; bring a dish to share. Experienced singers, newcomers, and listeners are all welcome. Loaner books available. Registration at 9:30 a.m. Free. Also Sunday, April 8. Visit dcshapenote.squarespace.com/big-singings. For questions, contact Matt Roberts at saraatman@yahoo.com.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Artist Reception, 6-8 p.m. “A Study of Manhattan: Power, Dominance and Excitement” by Great Falls Studies Artist Robert Gilbert. At The Torpedo Factory at the Art League in Alexandria. The Gallery is located at 105 North Union St., Alexandria. Visit torpedofactory.org.

ARTIST RECEPTION: “Bon Appetit!” 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Hagey St., NW, Vienna. The public is invited to enjoy light refreshments and meet the artists at a reception celebrating the “Bon Appetit!” exhibition. Watercolor artist Cathy Williams will present a demonstration during the reception.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Model Railroaders Open House, 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.vnrre.org.

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SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Visit www.mcleancenter.org for more events.

McLean Community Center
The Center of It All
3721 Virginia Rd.
Vienna, VA 22180
703-938-5157
www.mcleancenter.org

The McLean Community Players
MARCH 23-24, 2018
FRIDAY AND SATURDAY AT 8:00 P.M.
Presented at the Great Falls Grange
9818 Georgetown Pike
Great Falls, VA 22066
TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION: WWW.MCLEANPLAYERS.ORG
Directed by Eleanor Topscott
Produced by Jennifer Levy and Mike Scott

The McLean Community Players, Inc. is funded in part by the Arts Council of Fairfax County. HARVEY is presented with special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc.

CONNECT WITH MCP: FACEBOOK.COM/MCLEANPLAYERS T T
March 21-27, 2018

hundreds of Arlingtonians knocking on doors to help

See Debate. Page 15
**SUNDAY-MARCH 25-APRIL 1**

St. John's Episcopal Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Call 703-938-8596 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

- **Sunday, March 25:** Palm Sunday (10:30 a.m., regular service)
- **Thursday, March 29:** Passover/Seder Dinner (5:30 p.m.), RSVP with the church
- **Friday, March 30:** Good Friday (7:30 p.m.)
- **Sunday, April 1:** Easter Sunday (10:30 a.m., regular service)

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Call 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

- **Sunday, March 25:** Palm Sunday (7:45, 9, 11:15 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.)
- **Monday and Tuesday, March 26:** 27: 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- **Wednesday, March 28:** 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Healing Service
- **Mundy Thursday, March 29:** 5:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing in services designed for children and 7:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar with music and choir

**Debate**

*From Page 14*

Barak was at the meeting of District 10 candidates because he was invited to the meeting by eMgage, a family of civic and political institutions dedicated to strengthening the engagement of Muslim Americans in the civic and political process. They advocate voter engagement, issue advocacy, and political activity.

**THE FORUM**

was sponsored by organizations who represent voters with an interest in foreign policy: J Street; NIAC Action (NIAC Action is a grassroots, civic action organization committed to advancing peace and championing the priorities of the Iranian-American community); the API Victory Fund, (the first Super PAC of its kind, the fund is focused on mobilizing Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) eligible voters and moving them to the ballot box); Foreign Policy in America (FPIA), a grassroots, non-partisan 501c4 organization, launched in 2017 to champion a strong, principled foreign policy; Emgage Foundation; and the Council for a Livable World, which for more than 50 years, has been advocating for a more principled approach to U.S. national security and foreign policy.

For more information about Emgage Foundation, see www.emgageusa.org or www.emgageaction.org; for more about J Street, see www.jstreet.org; for more about NIAC Action see www.NIACaction.org; for more about A Council for a Livable World, see www.livableworld.org; for more about a Foreign Policy for America, see www.fpamerica.org; for more information about the candidates, see www.alisonforvirginia.com, www.lindseyforcongress.com, www.helmerforcongress.com, or www.jenniferwexton.com.
# JD Sold More Homes Last Year in 22101 Than Any Other Agent!

Don’t miss my annual Community Clean-up Day!

BRING YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS (FURNITURE, APPLIANCES, ETC.) CLUTTERING UP YOUR HOME TO US AND WE’LL DISPOSE OF THOSE ITEMS FREE OF CHARGE!

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 7th, 2018
8:00am-12:00pm

**WHERE:** Chesterbrook Elementary
1753 Kirby Road
McLean, VA 22101

For questions and information about what and what NOT to drop off, please call us at:

(703)821-1025

I look forward to seeing you on April 7th!

5906 Calla Drive, McLean

*STUNNING* 6BR/5.5BA BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION by BlackRock Holdings!
This home features an open floor plan w/spacious living areas & gourmet eat-in kit w/ island; MBR w/sitting rm, his & her walk-in closets & en suite BA w/double vanity & soaking tub; hdwd floors throughout; 3 car garage; patio & wrap-around porch!

Offered for... $2,650,000

**OPEN**
SUN 3/25
2-4pm!

6056 Sugarstone Court
McLean, 22101
$1,499,000

UNDER CONTRACT!

7073 Idywood Road
Falls Church, 22043
$699,000

UNDER CONTRACT!

7709 Bridle Path Lane
McLean, 22101
$1,025,000

UNDER CONTRACT!

6805 Lumsden Street
McLean, 22101
$1,765,000

UNDER CONTRACT!

1429 Lady Bird Drive
McLean, 22101
$1,349,000

UNDER CONTRACT!

6636 Gordon Avenue
Falls Church, 22046
$1,590,000

**OPEN**
SUN 3/25
2-4pm!

1601 18th Street #516
Washington, DC
$415,000

**OPEN**
SUN 3/25
2-4pm!

*Call Me Today for a Free Analysis of Your Home’s Value!*