Grooming the locals for over 30 years

See page 4
# Wall-to-Wall Carpet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPER 176</strong></td>
<td>4&quot; Solid Kempas</td>
<td>$2.29 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUPER 178</strong></td>
<td>4&quot; Solid Oak</td>
<td>$2.19 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dakota Falls</strong></td>
<td>Wardated Nylon</td>
<td>$2.88 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heat Wave</strong></td>
<td>Extra Heavy, Soft, BCF Fiber</td>
<td>$2.79 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fast Break</strong></td>
<td>Extra Soft BCF Fiber</td>
<td>$1.59 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Santa Catalina</strong></td>
<td>Wardated Nylon</td>
<td>$2.88 sq. ft.*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Limited to stock colors only*

**Additional Information**
- **Lifetime Stain Warranty**
- **10 Year Warranty**
- **Heat Wave Stainmaster**
- **Moiré Healthy Home Carpet**
- **Skywalker Stainmaster Nylon**
- **FREE Padding & Installation with Minimum Purchase**

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## Laminate by Shaw or Mohawk

16 Colors to Choose From
- $3.99 sq. ft.*

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## Hard Flooring by Budget

**FREE Installation with Minimum Purchase**
- **2 1/4” Solid Oak**
  - $5.99 sq. ft.*
- **3” Engineered Oak**
  - $3.99 sq. ft.*
- **3” Engineered Merbau**
  - $3.99 sq. ft.*
- **2 1/4” Canadian Oak**
  - $6.99 sq. ft.*
- **3 1/4” Solid Maple**
  - $4.99 sq. ft.*
- **5” Designer Oak**
  - $5.99 sq. ft.*
- **5” Hand-Scraped Exotics**
  - $6.99 sq. ft.*

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## Area Rugs

**Up to 12 Steps Enclosed or Open Installed**
- **Hand Carved, 100% Wool**
  - 5’x8’ $99
  - 8’x11’ $199
- **Million Point Persian Design**
  - 5’x8’ $189
  - 8’x11’ $399
- **Hand-Knotted Works of Art!**
  - 5’x8’ $499
  - 8’x11’ $999

**Elegant Contemporary Wool Blend Rugs**
- 5’x8’ $249
  - 8’x10’ $499
**Designer Rugs by Nourison**
- 5’x8’ $499
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**More Information**
- Offers valid 4/20 - 5/20/11
- Not to be combined with any other offers
- Applies to purchase of stock items only
- 50-70% OFF Area Rugs
- 50-70% OFF Purchase of $1000 or More
- 50-70% OFF Purchase of $1500 or More
HOW TO GIVE US FEEDBACK

I have to face facts. My cute, playful, adorably dog, Lucy, wants to be an only child – I mean only dog. I took one look at the precious face of Lizzie on our inside back cover and thought she’d be just perfect to bring into the Zebra fold. Heck, she even looks a lot like Lucy and is the same size, and little Lizzie has diabetes, just like Lucy. I can handle that. What’s a couple more shots a day? The insulin isn’t very expensive, and I could easily double up on the food I cook for her daily. But Lucy is having nothing to do with the idea. She has no interest in sharing toys, her space or me. Oh, I have tried before, and I know. As much as I wish I could take all the strays home, I have a regular Nellie Olsen living underfoot, and that’s all there is to it. She is set in her ways and has dog in her paws.

So, despite my personal predicament, I’ll continue to do my best to promote pet adoptions and the joys of having dogs and cats, and turtles, and birds, and rabbits, and all the rest. On our cover this month, you’ll meet a lady who shares the sentiment and has spent her entire career tending to the neighborhood four-pawed family members, making them look spiffy and keeping them clean, caring completely about the animals as well as their “parents.”

In this issue, you will also find our regular “Cat in a Box” feature, and new this month, photos of the dogs you take to work. Finally, there are eight special canines begging for a “forever home.”

Remember what George Eliot said, “Animals are such agreeable friends – they ask no questions, and they pass no criticisms.”

Cheers,
Mary Wadland
Publisher

Publisher’s assistant Lucy spends lazy Spring afternoons in the Zebra garden.

GROWING UP FOR PET’S SAKE.

IN BOX

RE: MARCH 2011

Dear Zebra,

I just wanted to let Marcus Fisk know how much I appreciated his article about Army Brats. I too was an Army Brat and we lived in France about the same time that Marcus lived in Germany. We lived the life Marcus described and I’ll always remember being “the hidden diplomat.” We owe much to our military families and what they have done to promote America in a positive light.

Thank you, Marcus, for your article!

Susan Fitzgerald

HOW TO GIVE US FEEDBACK

If you would like to send as a comment, send your mail to mary@thezebra.org or Zebra, PO Box 6504, Arlington, VA 22206. Submission of a letter constitutes permission to publish it. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

PUBLISHER’S NOTE

For advertising information call 703-919-7533.
Jacqueline L. Barchesky leads a dog’s life. Literally!

BY CHUCK HAGEE

A s the founder, owner, and president of “For Pets’ Sake” at 1537 N. Quaker Lane in Alexandria, Jackie and her 13 staff members groom and care for the pets, dogs and cats, numbering approximately 6,000 customers. And, while other businesses were struggling or failing during the recent recession, the pet grooming business continued to howl and meow.

“In the last 34 years, since I’ve been in business, we’ve had two serious economic downfalls. But, the pet businesses, grooming in particular, has been able to sustain these downfalls,” she said.

But, Barchesky was no stranger to hard work and hard times when she moved to Northern Virginia in 1976 from Latrobe, Pennsylvania, a hard scrabble town southeast of Pittsburgh. “I grew up as part of a family of 10 children and we were very poor,” she revealed.

“I always said that as soon as I received my high school diploma, I would be leaving home. We didn’t have money so there was never even a suggestion of further education,” Barchesky said.

“The very day I graduated, I said to my boyfriend of four years that I was moving to Northern Virginia. One of my brothers already lived here. He said ”What about me?” I said, “I am going and you may join me if you want, but I am going,” she recalled.

“Thank God, he did go with me. We both landed nice jobs within two weeks of our arrival. I worked at a mortgage company processing loans and he found a great job with a construction company. One year later we were married,” Barchesky stated.

But, the mortgage business was not for her. “I knew I did not want to sit at a desk. I began searching the yellow pages for career ideas. That’s when I came across a listing for veterinarian assistants with an emphasis on dog grooming. It dawned on me there was a grooming shop near where I was living,” she said.

“I stopped by and spoke to the ladies that worked there. The owner suggested that I come in on Saturdays to see how I liked it. I started as a bather and fluffer, just to get the feel of the business,” she explained.

“There was no doubt in my mind. I loved it. I went to grooming school in Silver Spring, Maryland for two months. When I graduated, both the school and the owner of the shop in Alexandria offered me a job. “I took the one at the shop because it was near where I lived,” Barchesky said.

That started her on a 34-year career path that is still thriving and growing.

“Several of my friends and family said that I should open my own shop where I could do what I loved,” she said.

Continued on [5]
Then one day he didn't arrive for his scheduled appointment. The week went by and no John. "There were no calls to say he was going away or anything. I went over to his house and noticed there were several UPS deliveries on the porch. I knew this was not a good sign given that he was so disciplined," she said.

"I called the police. They came and went in and found John dead in the upstairs hallway. He had died of an apparent heart attack. They asked me to identify the body, which I did. Then there was the puppy in its carrier ready to come to be groomed. John had been dead for eight days," Barchesky recalled.

The dog was severely dehydrated. Jackie took it to the shelter. They kept it overnight and told Jackie the next morning it had responded perfectly — alive, well and spunky.

She then called John's brother to tell him she had the dog and to ask him to come get it. His response: "We have no need or desire for a dog." Nine years later Bunny II, a Lakeland Terrier, is well ensconced in Jackie's home along with her other dogs and cats.

Barchesky stated. That was 22 years ago and that is exactly what she did.

In addition to her grooming business, Jackie had expanded into ownership of a boarding kennel — "For Pets' Sake Hotel." It was located a mile and a half from her Quaker Lane grooming operation. After the string of misfortunes the kennel was the last thing she needed — prime business times at kennels are weekends, holidays and during summer vacations.

"A gentleman approached me about purchasing the boarding kennel. I didn't have to think twice," she recalled.

But, her success is not just because of her love of dogs and cats. It also applies to her customers. That became crystal clear in the case of John Yoshimura. A long-time customer, he had been bringing his dog "Bunny" to Barchesky for years. Then Bunny became ill and had to be put to sleep.

After a short absence John came in with a new pup. "He was as punctual and regular as ever. When he said he'd be here at 11 a.m. it didn't mean five or five after it meant 11 a.m.," Jackie explained.

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For Pets' Sake is a full service operation — beyond grooming dogs and cats. They also offer baths, hydro surge, nail cutting, FURminator, flea shampoo, and other services as well as a full line of pet products such as Lupine collars, an array of leashes, a variety of treats and toys, beds, carriers, and Science Diet dog and cat food.

"Our biggest sellers are leashes, bones and treats. Science Diet is the only brand of food we carry. It is highly recommended by veterinarians. We've had it since we opened. It's not a big money maker but I think it is the best," she said.

Barchesky's shop was reviewed and recommended by Washingtonian Magazine in 2004, 2006, and 2008. It was awarded the Pawsitive Impact Award by the Alexandria Animal Shelter in 2003. And, was recognized by Consumer's Checkbook of Quality in 1997. It is a registered member of the National Dog Groomers Association of America, certified in for a combined total of 78 years. And, we have apprenticed three of our newest groomers who are rapidly adding to our loyal client following," she said.

Thanks to that loyal client base, For Pets' Sake is now a third generation stop for many of them. “Over the years we have watched the children of our clients grow up and come to us for their pets' grooming needs,” Barchesky said.

Right now she is seeking new groomers due to the pending retirement of several staff. "If you want to make a good living, love animals and are willing to work hard, this is the profession to be in. But, you must love it. Otherwise it won't work," she insisted.

"There was a time when grooming pets was considered a low-class career. Not any more. With the right training and attitude we get the respect and status we deserve. Even if you don't want to own your own shop, you can be the valued groomer that well-designed, modern shops everywhere desire," Barchesky stated. "Just go for it."
Turn-of-the-Century Fun on the Banks of Four Mile Run

If you peel back the layers of time near the intersection of South Glebe Road and Jef ferson Davis Highway/Route 1, the landscape undergoes a re markable transformation. The stark dinges of the Arlington County Sewage Treatment Plant on the north bank of Four Mile Run slips away, revealing Washington’s Luna Park, des cribed as “a fairyland of amusement overlooking the beautiful Potomac” in the 1906 Washington to terian newspaper. Frederick Ingerson, a builder, designer, and inventor from Pittsburgh, built Luna Park in 1906, for about $350,000. Situated on 40 acres on the Wash ington, Alexandria, and Mount Vernon Railway electric trolley line in what was then Al exandria County, the park was funded by local capitalists, many of them stockholders in the rail way. Accounts differ regarding the connection between Luna Park and the nearby St. Asaph Track operating from 1894 to 1905. One source states that the railway hoped to profit from rail traffic to Luna Park since cash was short after the track was shut down because of illegal gambling. Another article from 1977 claimed Luna Park was created to divert business from the St. Asaph Track, a less likely scenario since the track closed in 1905. Undoubtedly the social climate leading to prohibition (effected in 1920) rejected gambling as a legitimate activity, prefer ring more respectable endeavors such as visiting amusement parks. Luna Park’s opening promotional brochure boasted that “Everything in connection with the park is clean, moral, and wholesome.” Visitors to Luna Park enjoyed reduced rates on railroad tickets to Luna Park and gallivanted recklessly for several days. Queenie, “the wildest of the herd,” was captured last. Barlow persuaded Major George W. Gillespie, “Paw nee Bill” of “Pawnee Bill’s Wild West and Great Far East Ex hibition,” to use his cowboy skills to recover her. Pawnee Bill’s posse pursued Queenie until August 27th, finally catching her 20 miles south of Alexandria. Said Pawnee Bill, “I’ve been in a balloon from Paris to Belgium, and I thought it was my most unusual experience, but that is beaten to a standstill by the Virginia elephant hunt.”

In 1915, a fire destroyed Washington Luna Park’s roller coaster, and the park was dismantled soon afterward. Increased trolley fares to the park deterred visitors, according to Joseph Price, son of the park’s police chief, interviewed for a 1974 article by Steve Behrens. Today what was once “a land of laughter for the little ones, and a nec ro for rest, retrospection and recreation” is quite a different place, but certainly a very necessary place.

Meg Peters is a web designer, a history buff and a contractor at the Library of Congress. Formerly a resident of Arlington, she now lives in Alexandria, just over the boundary line.

Washington Luna Park

The jest and laughter of the pleasure seeker is heard. There is nothing sordid or gloomy about Luna Park. It is meant for the fun lover, the tired, the weary, and all humanity.” Text from Luna Park’s opening promotional brochure. The amusement park opened May 28, 1906.”

PHOTO COURTESY OF VIRGINIA ROOM, ARLINGTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Luna Park was open from 1906 to 1915.

Funded by bonds in 1933, Arlington County’s sewage treatment facility is located at 3402 South Glebe Road on land once occupied by Luna Park.

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Ice in Historic Ice Well Completely Melted!

Ice Melt Contest in a Puddle

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum staff is mourning the loss of several tons of ice from its 18th-century subterranean ice well. First stocked on Friday, February 18, the last of the ice melted early this past weekend, ending a contest that had participants guessing the day when the ice would be completely melted. That day was Saturday, April 9. Liz Williams, Assistant Director at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, has been documenting the Ice Melt Contest through her blog, “History on the Rocks.” Williams had noted in recent days that the remaining ice had been about the size of a cat and then just a guinea pig. But she was still shocked and saddened when she discovered on Saturday afternoon that not even a cube or a sliver of ice remained.

Contestants bought guesses at $10 each to help raise money to restore the historic ice well and to get a chance at cool, “ice”-y prizes like a diamond bracelet, Waterford crystal and a gift certificate to PX. Museum staff notified the three winning contestants, Peggy Baker, Patricia Sowers, and Anne Bernat whose names were drawn at random as all had correctly picked April 9. Though the contest is officially over, Williams is continuing her blog to help raise awareness of the importance of Gadsby’s Ice Well in the museum’s interpretation of travel and hospitality in the early years of our country and in Alexandria’s history. Currently, the ice well is in need of extensive restoration and about $250,000 still needs to be raised for the final phase of the project. For more information, call 703.746.4242 or visit www.gadsbystavern.org.
Last month I asked the question “Why is a clock called a clock?”

Based upon your many responses, no one got it right. Or I should say right by the way it was told to me by my grandfather. When large time pieces were first made in the 1500’s, most of them included a bell that struck on the hour. The word for bell in German is “glock,” so when the bell made a sound and a person unfamiliar with a time piece would ask, “What is that?”, the owner of the time piece, thinking the person was just plain stupid would reply “That’s a glock.” Words in the English language change over time and glock became clock.

Q. I have a large clock I bought in 1960 for $100. It’s not working and what is it worth today.

A. Your clock is called a Store Regulator. This type of clock was located in stores, hotels, train stations and other public places. Dubbed a ‘regulator’ meant that this clock was very accurate for the day, so if a person needed to know the correct time he would set his watch by one of these. I looked at your clock movement and it is very dirty and needs oil. So the clock needs a good cleaning and some of the bearings need to be repaired. Regarding value, this is a Gilbert clock 36”X16” with a calendar. I would put an insurance value of $1200 on it.

Phil Wadland is a third-generation clockmaker and horologist, residing in Manchester, New Hampshire. If you have questions for the Clockman, email clockman@thezebra.org.

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ACT for Alexandria recently announced the 2011 Legacy of Service Award to Jack Taylor of Alexandria Toyota. The Legacy of Service Award will be presented at the 2011 Generations of Giving Gala held at Episcopal High School’s Flippin Field House on Thursday, May 5 from 6:30 – 10 PM.

“In celebration of his many years of community philanthropy with the City of Alexandria, we are delighted to announce the Legacy of Service Award to Jack Taylor and his family. Jack has made a tremendous impact on our community by giving back generously to numerous charities and scholarships, including the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, and we are pleased to honor him with this very special award,” said Executive Director of ACT for Alexandria John Porter.

“I am honored to receive the Legacy of Service Award from ACT at the Generations of Giving Gala. I look forward to seeing you all on May 5 at Episcopal High School,” said Alexandria Toyota’s Jack Taylor.

ACT for Alexandria is a community foundation that seeks to raise the level and effectiveness of community engagement and giving for the benefit of all Alexandrians.

Catch Our Mistakes
Venise Lewis of Fredericksburg, Virginia wins a $25 Target gift card for finding the most typographical errors in our March 2011 issue. She found six actual ones and pointed out many space breaks (which happen frequently and are editorial columns): Congratulations Venise!

We know we make mistakes, and to make a game of it, we welcome your catches. Please send them to info@thezebra.org for a chance to win a $25 gift certificate from an area retailer or restaurant.
Northern Virginia’s own Tony Award®-winning Signature Theatre presented its 2011 Stephen Sondheim Award to Broadway doyen and Tony Award® winner Bernadette Peters at a black-tie gala held at the Embassy of Italy on April 11.

Chaired by philanthropists Ted and Mary Jo Shen, the Sondheim Award gala, established in 2009, benefits Signature Theatre’s numerous artistic, educational and community programs. In addition to the award presentation by Sondheim himself, cocktails, dinner and tribute performances by Stephen Buntrock, Rebecca Luker and Signature favorites Eleasha Gamble and Euan Morton highlighted the evening’s festivities, fetching an unprecedented $360,000 in fundraising support.

Sondheim, joined by Helen Henderson, His Excellency Gary Doer and Ms. Ginny Devine, The Honorable James Moran, His Excellency Giulio Terzi and Ms. Antonella Cinque and The Honorable Jim Webb and Mrs. Webb, served as honorary hosts for the event.

Sondheim is considered America’s most influential contemporary musical theater writer and composer, and the Sondheim Award was established to recognize his vast contributions to the theater community. In turn, Peters has become synonymous with Sondheim through her Broadway appearances in, most notably, Sunday in the Park with George and Into the Woods as well as her vocal interpretations of Sondheim songs performed in concerts and on numerous albums. She recently starred on Broadway as Desiree in Sondheim’s A Little Night Music, and will play the role of Sally in the May 2011 Kennedy Center production of Sondheim’s Follies, directed by Signature Artistic Director Eric Schaeffer.

On Peters’ selection for this prestigious award, Sondheim stated, “This is given for artistry and achievement, and it is a joy for me that Bernadette, who so deserves it, is the recipient.” In 1985, Peters received her first Tony Award® for her performance in Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Song and Dance, and earned her second Tony® in 1999 for the revival of Annie Get Your Gun.

Peters is also the author of Broadway Barks, a children’s book named after the animal adoption organization she co-founded.

To continue the tribute to Sondheim, Signature will present Side by Side by Sondheim, April 26 through June 12, an evening of songs from Sondheim’s most notable productions over the past 50 years.

The Signature Theatre is a non-profit professional theater company located at 4200 Campbell Avenue in Arlington, Virginia, dedicated to producing contemporary musicals and plays, reinventing classic musicals and developing new work. For more information, visit www.signature-theatre.org. To purchase tickets for Side by Side by Sondheim, visit www.signature-theatre.org. To purchase tickets for the upcoming Kennedy Center production of Follies starring Bernadette Peters, visit www.kennedy-center.org.

Drew Carey to Run First Half Marathon At Marine Corps Historic Half in Fredericksburg, VA

Comedian and “The Price is Right” game show host Drew Carey will make his half marathon debut at the Marine Corps Historic Half on May 15 in Fredericksburg, VA. Carey announced his plans to run in a March 14 tweet. In addition to running, Carey also will serve as the official starter of the half marathon event, organized by the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM).

Carey, who is celebrating his dramatic weight loss, will join 8,000 Historic Half participants on the 13.1 mile run through the scenic and historic City of Fredericksburg. Known for his trademark buzz cut and black wide-rim glasses, Carey is a former U.S. Marine corporal who served six years in the Marine Corps Reserves from 1981 to 1987. He was a communications center operator serving with the 4th Marine Division in Las Vegas and Cleveland.

“The Marines are proud Drew Carey is making the Marine Corps Historic Half his first half marathon event,” says MCM Director Rick Nealis. “His participation is certain to inspire others to pursue a healthy, active lifestyle.”

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ZEBRA WEB POLL

Web Poll Results and Next Question

Last month we asked, “Which would you rather receive? A voice mail or a text message?”

- 81.8% Text
- 18.2% Voicemail

This month’s question:
Would you vote to elect Donald Trump as the next President of the United States?

Yes No Maybe

Cast your vote today on the home page at www.thezebra.org

Around Town

Mr. Levy follows all the OSHA regulations while on the job at Cub Run Builders, Inc., a cabinet-making shop at 3211 Colvin Street in Alexandria.

Working Like Dogs

Emma and Molly take a break during another hectic day in the busy office of Christine Garner at Weichert Realtors, at 121 North Pitt Street in Alexandria.

If you take your dog to work, send a picture to mary@thezebra.org or Zebra, PO Box 6504, Arlington, VA 22206.
I was a quiet Saturday morning in Lisbon, one of the sleepiest and most charming capital cities of Old Europe. I had stopped by the pastelaria on the way to the U.P.I. office near the Baixa, the center of the oldest part of the city, and only the streetcars were making a noise that would carry more than a couple of blocks. The castle of S. Vicente on the Lisbon horizon. It was already in the city.

I had no sooner settled into the chair at my desk with a fresh cup of Portuguese coffee and a couple of my favorite pastries, the newspapers spread out in front of me, when the phone rang. Innocent enough, but isn't that how small disasters frequently begin? I answered inYO, I wasn't ready. OK, I'll take the gun out of the desk drawer, go to the scene, and shoot 2 more people. We'll be ahead in the body count.” The silence was deafening. I was left alone.

It was a little after midnight when the Portuguese TV and radio stations calmed down with their varying accounts of the event. The contradictions in the news seemed to fade. I filed my completed story and waited. There would be follow up articles, but the worst was over.

Obviously I didn’t understand the difference between a journalist and a journalist. But as a proud grad of the University of Missouri, I wasn’t going to fail on the journalist side of the issue. I received a quiet thank you about 25 minutes later. The thank you was not from the new bureau chief. The next day my story ran on the front page of The International Herald Tribune, with only one word changed. I was relieved, and a little proud. Little did I know how close to being fired on the spot I had come.

The bomb was delivered to an apartment in Lisbon by Jorge, a stringer in the future and not a journalist. For a!... and the clunker. However, the building was surrounded and police were sealing off the neighborhood. But, how was I going to cover the story? My boss was in Africa on assignment. The Portuguese sports score wasn’t due until in the late evening after all the soccer matches were finished. The Portuguese secretary was on vacation in England. It was up to me to cover the story. Perp! I turned on the TV, the radio, and I opened the windows … I didn’t care how I got the news, but I couldn’t leave the office. It was the command center and everyone would be calling the office for my updates. This was 1983, no cell phones. Poi claro! … About two hours later, as I was beginning to weave information together and verify some of the facts, the clunker came to life. The teletype machine, a gargantuan typewriter that immediately warned whatever you typed, letter by letter, began what would be for me a two-day and overnight battle with the U.P.I. European headquarters in London. The newly appointed European chief was excited about her first hot story and U.P.I. wanted to lead the news coverage.

London couldn’t get a “real” reporter into Lisbon that day … all the seats on every plane from London, Paris, and Madrid were taken. I would have to do it! But, as I gathered my facts, and tried to be accurate, the worried messages kept coming into the Lisbon office on the clunker. Finally I’d had enough of the messages. It was around 8 p.m. “Why does Reuters and Agence France Presse have 5 dead and you’re only reporting 4 dead?!” I was the message that caused me to snap. I promptly typed back to London … “OK, I’ll take the guns out of the desk drawer, go to the scene, and shoot 2 more people. We’ll be ahead in the body count.”

The silence was deafening. I was left alone.

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I was lucky that morning in Lisbon, one of the sleepiest and most charming capital cities of Old Europe. I had stopped by the pastelaria on the way to the U.P.I. office near the Baixa, the center of the oldest part of the city, and only the streetcars were making a noise that would carry more than a couple of blocks. The castle of S. Vicente on the Lisbon horizon. It was already in the city.

I had no sooner settled into the chair at my desk with a fresh cup of Portuguese coffee and a couple of my favorite pastries, the newspapers spread out in front of me, when the phone rang. Innocent enough, but isn’t that how small disasters frequently begin? I answered inYO, I wasn’t ready. OK, I’ll take the gun out of the desk drawer, go to the scene, and shoot 2 more people. We’ll be ahead in the body count.” The silence was deafening. I was left alone.

It was a little after midnight when the Portuguese TV and radio stations calmed down with their varying accounts of the event. The contradictions in the news seemed to fade. I filed my completed story and waited. There would be follow up articles, but the worst was over.

Obviously I didn’t understand the difference between a stringer and a journalist. But as a proud grad of the University of Missouri, I wasn’t going to fail on the journalist side of the issue. I received a quiet thank you about 25 minutes later. The thank you was not from the new bureau chief. The next day my story ran on the front page of The International Herald Tribune, with only one word changed. I was relieved, and a little proud. Little did I know how close to being fired on the spot I had come.

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Art Imitating Life

Signature Theatre’s current show, *Art* by Tony Award®-winning playwright Yasmina Reza, is terrific theatre. It is minimalist in every way. And that’s the way it needed to be otherwise peeling this onion about friendship would have been too raw.

The script is wonderful to listen to as the actors move carefully — very carefully — through this philosophical and artistic minefield. But don’t let that scare you. Reza has chosen just the right phrases to propel the story with such precision, thought, empathy, and laughs that you think she used a scalpel to write it.

Matthew Gardiner has done great work with his tight, sharp, three-man ensemble cast. He has knitted them together just enough to show the fabric of their friendship as it starts to fray before it completely unravels and how they put it back together again. His direction allows his team to play with Reza’s philosophical tone, sometimes extremely highbrow or so base that it hurts. What he does do is allow his actors to bring out the laughs from Reza’s carefully constructed jabs at relationships as well as the depths of emotion that pass for sincerity.

The action centers around three friends Serge, Marc, and Yvan. John Lescaut plays Serge, the catalyst for the conflict, who buys an expensive albeit simple, modern painting, and with great fanfare shows it to Marc, played by Mitchell Hebert, and Yvan, played by Michael Russotto. His frenetic and chaotic Yvan is a perfect balance for the bombastic Marc, and the ego-bruised Serge determines that Yvan will decide if the piece is good or not.

The merry-go-round of emotions beautifully developed by the dynamic team outing is exciting to watch, see and hear. Lescaut wears his heart on his sleeve but provides enough fire to keep his Serge real. Hebert’s performance as Marc may start as domineering but he too brings out a lighter touch to add that necessary layer to what was a real friendship. These two are fire and ice and spend the evening going from one to the other with great rhythm, timing and energy. But it is Russotto’s on-again-off-again frenzy that adds the levity. His refereeing of his friends is exhausting and his performance is the lynchpin of the story and the production.

James Kroener’s purple, brown, and silver scenic design and Mark Lank’s laser-like lighting are antiseptic, almost monastic. Matt Rosse’s equally sparse sound design complements this perfect blend depicting three men turned off from reality. Clearly they all need a life. Go and see great *Art*. You, too, will see how art imitates life — or vice-versa. More important — you might also see what’s really important.

Photograph credit: Scott Suchman

Art runs through May 22nd at Signature Theatre - Tickets: www.signature-theatre.org

Real Chick Flick

At the end of March, Natalie Yang, owner/operator of the Chick-fil-A store in Crystal City was filmed for Chick-fil-A corporate Atlanta, interviews Yang while Ben Smallbone films and Dan Ostroff works the audio.

Crystal City’s Outdoor Studio

Margaretta Murray explains that the park in Ballston Common Mall is a great people-watching location. The water park was purchased by John Lescault (as Serge). Mitchell Hébert (as Marc) gets his first look at the Antrios painting

Ballston Common Mall Hosts 8th Annual Construction® Competition

Through the Construction® Competition, five area architectural and design firms show off their building skills and feed the needy at the same time. Using donated cans of food the participants construct whimsical and unique structures for this national competition. Afterwards the cans of food are donated to the Arlington Food Assistance Center which provide supplemental groceries to families in need.

Five firms participating in the event are Kerns Group Architects, Samaha Associates, PC, and Dewberry. Located in Ballston Common Mall they have only seven hours to build their design. Organized by the American Institute of Architects, Northern Virginia Chapter, awards are given for Ingenuity, Best Use of Labels, and Best Meal. Local sponsors for the event are Grant Food, Can Manufacturers Institute, Woodburn & Associates Inc., HITT Contracting Inc., KFF Digital Printing Solutions, RPG Digital Print Solutions, Kimball Office, Aerotek, and Chick-fil-A of Ballston Common.

Constraction® 2011 judges Alie Ditzel (Virginia Tech Washington Alexandria Architecture) and Tom Kerns (Kerns Group Architects) evaluate the Metro sign designs on display at Ballston Common Mall.
There’s An App For That New iPad

Note Taker HD

As a student, I always try to find new ways to use technology in my learning. One great new app is Note Taker HD. This is an amazing app that allowed me to not only drastically decrease the weight of my backpack but effectively organize and digitize all of my notes. Note Taker HD allows the user to write with their finger (or a stylus which I prefer) to write all of their notes. The app can easily organize your notes into classes, or “staple” notes together to read through easily. This application has hundreds of useful features, including the ability to import PDF files and write on them, adding pictures, shapes and even highlighting your notes. Combined with Apple’s AirPrint the user is able to print out their notes easily. This is a must have for anyone that takes countless amounts of notes and would rather carry around a 1.3 pound iPad than six notebooks.

Flipboard

Flipboard is an app that organizes all of your social media, news and photos into a magazine-like experience. When viewing FaceBook within Flipboard, the user has the ability to comment, Like, and even send links to other people’s posts. Flipboard gives you a virtual timeline on the bottom of the screen which allows for quick scrolling of all of your different feeds. While using this app I have gotten numerous comments about how “cool” it looks.

TeamViewer HD

Have you ever been out and realized that there is something that you need to do, but need your home computer to accomplish it? Then TeamViewer HD is the app for you. With this application any iPad can be transformed into a virtual portal to your home PC or Mac. When using this app, the user can control every aspect of their computer. The app even allows the user to lock the mouse and turn off their screen at home so no one else can see what they are doing. TeamViewer HD has saved me many time, especially when I need to email myself a file that is saved on my hard drive. And perhaps the best part of this app is that it is free! Unless you have a business and need the $140 version the free one will serve most everyone’s needs.

Procreate

If you are an artist, or just like to doodle you have free time, than procreate is the application for you. This app is the most feature-packed drawing app that I have used to date. What sets this app apart from other drawing applications is its ability to use layers. Layers, like most artists know, are extremely helpful in creating almost all of the digital art we see today. When using this application, the user will immediately notice the simplistic and useful design. This app was recently on sale for free and is one of the best drawing apps that I have used.

Untangle

Untangle is for those of us that want to be challenged when playing games on our iPads. Untangle is an iPad game in which you must “untangle” different puzzles to advance to the next round. As you progress in the game there are more obstacles to move around and much harder levels. Untangle is one of those games that you get frustrated with but still can’t put down. If you enjoy solving puzzles, you will love this app.

TeamViewer HD can be downloaded from the Apple App Store. Note Taker HD can be downloaded from the Google Play Store. Procreate can be downloaded from the Apple App Store. Untangle can be downloaded from the Google Play Store.
The Alexandria Historical Society has selected author Barb Winters as the winner of its 2011 T. Michael Miller Alexandria History Award. The annual Alexandria History Award, named in honor of Alexandria’s longtime City historian, is given to a person or persons who have made noteworthy contributions to the preservation of the historic, cultural, and artistic heritage of Alexandria. Ms. Winters, who retired from the Alexandria Library in 2010, will be honored at a special awards ceremony on Wednesday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m., at The Lyceum, 201 South Washington Street. State Senator Patricia S. “Patsy” Ticer, who announced her retirement earlier this year, will present the award.

Ms. Winters processed, read and organized a collection of hundreds of family letters in the Alexandria Library Local History/Special Collections. These letters, written by members of the Eaches, Fendall and Tackett families, spanned three generations, two major wars, and more than one hundred years. Winters recognized the collection provided detailed insight into Alexandria’s history and compiled the letters into the compelling narrative *Letters to Virginia* (Acclaim Press, 2010) that revealed Alexandria’s past through the words of people as they lived it.

Three special honorees, all authors of important works researching intriguing local aspects of the Civil War, and four local high school students will also receive awards at the ceremony. Special Award recipients are Donald C. Hakenson, who is being recognized for *This Forgotten Land Volume II: Biographical Sketches of Confederate Veterans Buried in Alexandria, Virginia*, and Benjamin Franklin Cooling III and Walton H. Owen II, who are being honored for *Mr. Lincoln’s Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington*.

The awards for outstanding high school history students will be presented to Lee Anderson of T.C. Williams High School, Sarah Olsen of Bishop Ireton High School, Sarah Olsen of Bishop Ireton High School, and Shannon Lin of St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Upper School.

Following the awards presentation, guest speaker Vola Lawson will give a short talk. Mrs. Lawson served as Alexandria’s City Manager from 1985 until her retirement in 2000.

A reception will follow the awards ceremony and lecture. The event is free and open to all. For more information about the 2011 History Award, contact Anne Paul of the Alexandria Historical Society at 703.535.3570.
The Justice Department wanted me to do one of my free lectures on Carpal Tunnel Syndrome some years ago. I recall that there were about fifteen people who attended the event. Most of the attendees lived on the west side of the Potomac River, but six came to see me about their wrist problems. I was surprised that four of the six had already had surgery to relieve their symptoms. The surgery had failed as it does in many cases.

One can have scar tissue build up after surgery which can further aggravate the problem causing a chronic condition to develop. I explained to my patients that this could be the culprit.

I began treating C.T.S. patients I have treated successfully for over ninety percent of my patients induced. The patients that I would see were people who used a jackhammer, a hammer, those who were weight lifters and so forth. Times have changed and I am seeing more patients coming in with repetitive movement as the cause. In other words, if you are working at computers all day and keep this up for an extended amount of time you can develop C.T.S. Yes, the simple act of keying information into the computer can create this problem.

Other cases can be obesity and pregnancy that put pressure on the nerve in the wrist. The syndrome is caused by a pinched nerve. The fly in the ointment usually found in my tenure of treating this syndrome that the issue can be a misdiagnosis. I have found in my treatment of nerve that the issue can certainly be in the wrist, but it can also be started by elbow and shoulder problems. In half of the patients I have treated successfully the cause is a pinched nerve in the neck. This pinched nerve can be caused by an accident (auto) or a forearm head posture (from sitting in front of a computer too long). A spinal curvature can also be the culprit.

So how do you handle this problem? The individual can take anti-inflammatories to relieve any swelling and sometimes one might get temporary results. Bracing can help, but this is also a temporary measure in the majority of cases. Surgery would most certainly be held out as a last resort. Some just leave it alone and ‘maybe it will go away’. Unfortunately many people do this and wind up with a longer course of treatment. The best treatment is a conservative program. I have found that over ninety percent of my patients respond very well to chiropractic procedures. In my clinic I first examine the individual to determine the treatment course. If x-rays are needed I have that at my disposal. During the treatment program I might use chiropractic adjustments of the spine, wrist, elbow, or shoulders.

in my protocol. I also have at my disposal physical therapy equipment, if necessary, to aide in the treatment.

So please steer yourself away from surgery and use that only as a last resort. Conservative care is still the best treatment around!
Pat Kelly — An American Political Institution

Known throughout her congressional career as "Madam Protocol," due to her congenial personality and reverence to civility, Edna Kelly was an advocate for working families calling for child care tax deductions. She is credited with passage of the Equal Pay Act of 1963, establishing the concept of equal pay for equal work for women.

The only woman among the New York Congressional delegation, Representative Edna Kelly was active in both domestic and foreign affairs legislation. After the Soviet Union, she became the third ranking member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

As a teenager, Pat Kelly campaigned with her mother while at the same time studying history and political science at Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY, from which she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1955.

She commenced her congressional public service journey as a research analyst for the House Committee on Un-American Activities, then under the Chairmanship of Francis E. Walters (D-PA) and Edwin E. Willis (D-LA). “It didn’t help us do anything. Now it seems, all they talk to each other more,” she insisted.

The Communist Party in America was not some shadow organization. It played an active, visible role in our political system. “Gus Hall, head of the Communist Party in America, ran against my mother in 1966. She absolutely trounced him,” Kelly said with pride, as she sat in the living room of her Villamay home in Mount Vernon District just off the George Washington Memorial Parkway.

It is adorned, as is the wall of her family room, with photos of her with a gallery of some of the nation’s most well known politicians — President John Kennedy, House Speaker Tip O’Neill, and many others. But the most revered, in Pat’s Irish eyes, is the portrait of her mother holding her first grandchild that hangs over the living room fireplace.

When asked what was some of the most memorable days of her long career, the first example out of her mouth is “The day my mother was first sworn into Congress.” That is followed by the day her mother spoke at the 1966 Democratic National Convention. Then comes the inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the days her mother spent as a delegate to the United Nations alongside Adlai Stevenson.

Although, she tactfully refused to rate former Speakers of the House, she did list among her favorites, whom she also considered among the most successful, O’Neill, Sam Rayburn, Joseph Martin, and Tom Foley. “Their secret was that they were able to get along with just about everybody. That’s what a good politician needs to do. That’s how things get done,” Kelly said.

“Their strategy was not to control the press agents. It used to be if they had something to say on a given day what they had been involved with, they just said it. If they didn’t have anything to announce on a given day, they said nothing. Now it seems, all too often, it’s about sound bites,” Kelly said.

They tried to learn about other districts — whether Democrat or Republican. We used to talk more to each other,” Kelly explained. “Now there are so many caucuses that I think it tends to encourage splintering. They just need to talk to each other more,” she insisted.

They also don’t need all these press agents. It used to be if they had something to say on a given day what they had been involved with, they just said it. If they didn’t have anything to announce on a given day, they said nothing. Now it seems, all too often, it’s about sound bites,” Kelly said.

This ultra-partisanship among House members reaches to the staff level as well, according to Kelly. As a past president of the now defunct Congressional Staff Club and as Roll Call’s 1976 Congressional Staffer of the Year, she is well versed on the nuances of how Congress is run.

Pat Kelly at her Villamay home.

PatKelly stands before a beloved portrait of her mother.

Ph oto by CH u c k H Agee

Congressional public service involvement while, at the same time raising eight year old Pat and her 12-year old brother Edna Kelly held various leadership positions in the Brooklyn Democratic Party until she was filled the vacant seat of the late Representative Andrew Simmons (D-NY) and held that seat for the next 20 years.

By CHUCK HAGEE

Continued on [17]
Have You Discovered Alexandria’s Secret Garden?

Owners Denise and Chris Papaloizou enjoy an evening in the Taverna garden.

S

troll north on Alfred Street, and just before you get to King, look to your right. Follow the discreet brick walk to a large magnolia tree that stretches itself up between buildings, offering haven to a hidden Mediterranean oasis dotted with linen-draped tables, vintage pottery and vividly hued flowers cascading in baskets from every eave. Tinking glasses, animated conversation and convivial laughter draw you inside to Christos (Chris) and Denise Papaloizou who welcome you to Taverna Cretekou and their secret garden.

Established in 1973, this Alexandria mainstay provides an unparalleled Greek experience intermingled with the American dream. Thirty years ago, Chris began his career as a Taverna busboy, learning the restaurant business and working his way up to maître d’ before purchasing it in 2005. Today, son, Nick, and daughter, Maria, join him and his wife in transporting their patrons to the Greek islands. Substantial buffet lunches, a spectacular banquet to the Greek islands. Substantial meals and fine dining are served.

Taverna Cretekou serves lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. For hours and reservations, call (703) 548-8688 or visit tavernacretekou.com. Seating is limited, so it’s best to make a reservations.

The hallmarks of the food are its quality. Chris takes enormous pride in obtaining the freshest ingredients, most evident in their unrivalled garpacho and horiatiki, a traditional Greek country salad of tomatoes, onions, cucumbers, green peppers, capers, black olives and feta, the flavors so pure as if the vegetables were picked minutes before serving. The lamb is succulent and flavored to perfection. The Taverna Cretekou special, a combination of traditional Greek dishes, including Moussaka, Pastitsio, Dolmades, Soutsoukakia and Spanakopita, is a testament to the chef’s exceptional seasoning skills.

Things not to miss are the sizzling kesaris cheese appetizer, flamed tableside, the fresh daily seafood platters, including the box baklava you may ever have, and a special lemon cream flan topped with grape preserves. You’ll be delighted to have discovered this secret paradise at 818 King, and you’ll wonder how you ever could have missed it?

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I know NHH does important work, and I’m pleased to be able to help them and to help people in the community where I grew up. I wish NHH great success with this year’s gala.

Garcia has been a great friend of New Hope Housing for several years. His earlier network shows included the Emmy Award–winning My Name Is Earl. In 2008 a team of cast members from the My Name is Earl show competed on Celebrity Family Feud and won $25,000 that Garcia donated to New Hope Housing.

“All of us at New Hope Housing really appreciate Greg’s support and his interest in helping us,” commented Pamela Michell, New Hope Housing’s executive director. “He is a talented and generous friend. I’ve known Greg’s mom, Natalie, a local realtor, for several years, and we look forward to having her and his friends with us for the Gala as well.”

New Hope Housing is an innovative, award-winning housing service agency with programs in Fairfax, Arlington and Falls Church. The agency helps over 1,000 individuals each year through shelter programs, transitional and supportive housing, and support services. For information on this year’s gala, including the Raising Hope walk-on auction opportunity, go to www.newhopehousing.org or contact them at 703-799-2293.

Staff have personally seen this in action on all sorts of fabrics from cotton to silk to wool, and been flabbergasted. Imagine this example: After a hard day at the office, your favorite bartender pours your usual glass of Merlot. In trying to be extremely efficient, said bartender is cleaning the bar surface and in an instant, as if in slow motion, her sweeping gesture sends your wine into the air, splashing all over your newly dry cleaned garb. Fear not. In lightning speed, she pulls from behind the bar, Wine Away. She squirts a few drops on your reddish spots, and within seconds, they disappear! A miracle!!! Be as clumsy as you want, because Wine Away will save the day.

Available at Fern Street Gourmet, 1708 Fern Street, Alexandria, 22302 and various Internet sites.
2011 will include music by The Kate.
The 2nd season will be on May 7.
The grand opening festivities for Del Ray Artisans.
For more information:
703/407-6992
DelRayArtisans.org
Mount Vernon Avenues
Saturdays thru November
May 7 Opening
Del Ray Artisans
Alexandria Art Market
Alexandria
April 2011
The Kate
2011 Art
Art
Now thru May 22
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Enter the world of Yasmina Reza's Art, where Serge's purchase of an expensive, abstract painting raises questions about the nature of art and friendship. Set in Paris, the story revolves around three friends who find their previously solid friendship on shaky ground — when Serge invests in a new painting. The purchase reveals unsettling secret opinions and conflicting world-views. As their arguments shift from the theoretical to the personal, this Tony Award-winning comedy examines the pressures friends place on each other — and how different values can transform relationships. Tickets $55-81.

“Side by Side by Sandrein”
April 26-June 12
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Signature Sontheim is the leading composer of musical theater for the past fifty years. His work is timeless. From the streets of ancient Rome, through 19th century Japan and turn-of-the century Sweden, to the high-rise apartments of 1970s Manhattan, his songs represent a definitive time and place, and yet move beyond their particular settings to speak to us all. Now, with this award-winning revue of his earlier work, Signature presents some of the most lush, unforgettable songs from this musical theater master whose work has so influenced Signature's history. Signature takes you back to where it all began with the early works of Stephen Sontheim. Tickets $55-81.

“Art”
Now thru May 22
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Enter the world of Yasmina Reza’s Art, where Serge’s purchase of an expensive, abstract painting raises questions about the nature of art and friendship. Set in Paris, the story revolves around three friends who find their previously solid friendship on shaky ground — when Serge invests in a new painting. The purchase reveals unsettling secret opinions and conflicting world-views. As their arguments shift from the theoretical to the personal, this Tony Award-winning comedy examines the pressures friends place on each other — and how different values can transform relationships. Tickets $55-81.

Rockapella
May 5
The Birchmere
3701 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria
800/745-3000
birchmere.com
703/548-9044
metrostage.org
1201 North Royal Street
Arlington
571/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Signature presents some of the most lush, unforgettable songs from this musical theater master whose work has so influenced Signature’s history. Signature takes you back to where it all began with the early works of Stephen Sontheim. Tickets $55-81.

Rockapella is back with a “Bang”!

With the celebration of their long-awaited new studio album titled, “Bang,” this awe-inspiring quintet of vocal talent returns to the Birchmere. If you’ve missed their concert in the past, DON’T MISS IT THIS YEAR! With new songs, new staging and new surprises, this is the show not to miss. Ticket prices vary.

Family Tour Days
May 8, June 5, June 19
Gadsby’s Tavern Museum
134 North Royal Street
Alexandria
703/746-4242
gadsbytavern.org
Families are invited to tour the historic tavern as Junior Docents, volunteers from grades 3 through 7, share their enthusiasm for history with your family. Let your kids be inspired by their peers as they tour the tavern where George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and others made history! Junior Docents will be stationed at each stop on the tour, including the taproom, bedchambers, ballroom, assembly room and dining room, so visitors can tour at their own pace. 1-4 pm. Free!

Summer Art Camp
June 20-August 19
Art League
110 North Union Street
Alexandria
703/924-6900
theartleague.org
Featuring the work of members of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS). Students are inducted into the NAHS upon recommendation by their art teachers. T.C. Williams students must have completed a minimum of two years of high school art study during which they have demonstrated exemplary achievement. Fifteen juniors and seniors comprise this year’s selection. Free!

Fauna
Alexandria Art Market
201 South Washington Street
Alexandria
703/838-4565
torpedofactory.org
Alexandria Art Market
Del Ray Artisans
May 7 Opening
Saturday thru November
Nicholas A. Colasanto Park
Corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues
Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org
703/407-6992
The grand opening festivities for the 2nd season will be on May 7, 2011 will include music by The Kate Moran Band and yummy food from local food purveyors. A variety of original artwork from over 25 artists will be displayed for sale including, but not limited to, painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, and glasswork. Free!

“Art”
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Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Enter the world of Yasmina Reza’s Art, where Serge’s purchase of an expensive, abstract painting raises questions about the nature of art and friendship. Set in Paris, the story revolves around three friends who find their previously solid friendship on shaky ground — when Serge invests in a new painting. The purchase reveals unsettling secret opinions and conflicting world-views. As their arguments shift from the theoretical to the personal, this Tony Award-winning comedy examines the pressures friends place on each other — and how different values can transform relationships. Tickets $55-81.

Martinez and Guthrie
May 15
Church of the Resurrection
2280 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria
703/501-6061
Focus presents folk pop duo, Joe Martinez and Gus Guthrie, a pair of Northern Virginia-based teachers and singer-songwriters playing modern folk/pop songs backed by guitar, mandolin and other instruments. Their sound has been compared to Jack Johnson, Mumford and Sons and the Avett Brothers. 7 pm. $15 in advance/$18 at the door.

14th Annual TC Williams Art Show
May 6-15
Nicholas A. Colasanto Center
2704 Mount Vernon Avenue
Alexandria
703/924-6900
theartleague.org
Featuring the work of members of the National Art Honor Society (NAHS). Students are inducted into the NAHS upon recommendation by their art teachers. T.C. Williams students must have completed a minimum of two years of high school art study during which they have demonstrated exemplary achievement. Fifteen juniors and seniors comprise this year’s selection. Free!

Spring Open House: Flora and Fauna
May 6
Torpedo Factory Art Center
Target Gallery
205 North Union Street
Alexandria
torpedofactory.org
703/838-4565
Artful flora and fauna abound with a festive garden party at this year’s annual Spring Open House! Studios are blossoming with bright and vibrant artwork, and special activities and treats will round out a lively evening. Live music. 6-9 pm. FREE!

Commemorative Ware Exhibiton
“Patriotic and Public Spirited”
Now thru July 31
The Lyceum
201 South Washington Street
Alexandria
703/746-4994
historicalalexandria.org
A variety of commemorative ceramic wares recovered from archaeological excavations or preserved in collections shows the community’s interest in events and historic places of local and national significance. These artifacts provide a tangible link to many generations of “patriotic and public spirited” Alexandrians. Free!

If you have an event you want listed, please email info@thezebra.org. Space does not allow the printing of all we receive, but we will try!

Alexandria Art Market
Del Ray Artisans
May 7 Opening
Saturday thru November
Nicholas A. Colasanto Park
Corner of Commonwealth and Mount Vernon Avenues
Alexandria
DelRayArtisans.org
703/407-6992
The grand opening festivities for the 2nd season will be on May 7, 2011 will include music by The Kate Moran Band and yummy food from local food purveyors. A variety of original artwork from over 25 artists will be displayed for sale including, but not limited to, painting, photography, pottery, jewelry, and glasswork. Free!
April 24th 1980 I was a young officer embarked in USS SAN BERNARDINO (LST 1189) at a modified location called 'Camel Crossroads' in the Indian Ocean. We had a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) dispersed across the five ships of our amphibious task force. Our job was to drive around in circles waiting for the other ship to drop from the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Iran some three months before by opponents of the Shah's repressive government. I had just gotten off the Midnight watch and had crashed in my rack for some well-deserved sleep, when the ship's announcement system blared: “This is not a drill – This is not a drill! General Quarters, General Quarters, all hands man your battle stations!!” Article I of the Constitution on the responsibilities of Congress predominantly deals with finances, budget and funding the federal government. Nearly everything in the Constitution relating to Congress deals with money. Congress prides itself on the amount of money each member or committee influences or controls. When asked about power in Washington – it’s the power of the purse – and that power resides with Congress. So let’s re-cap March 2011 and really see who put points up on the scoreboard. Americans in uniform were: 1) providing humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in Japan following the earthquake and tsunami; 2) fighting an irregular war in Afghanistan; 3) keeping the sea-lanes open and countering piracy threats off the Somali coast and in the Indian Ocean; 4) deployed with military and non-governmental agencies in Asia and South America to provide medical assistance and badly needed construction projects to distressed areas; 5) helping Iraq in its transition from a nation at war to a viable and strong Arab League nation; and 6) knocking the hell out of a cruel and inestimable dictator in Libya after three decades of corruption, greed, power, abuse of his own people, and just being a pain in the you-know-what for the rest of the civilized world. Congress had to complete the 2011 budget. They didn’t. So I see it – it’s the U.S. military 6 – Congress 0. Congress’s activity (or inactivity to be precise) in the days leading up to a potential government shutdown has given a whole new meaning to ‘March Madness’. Akin to a bunch of petulant college students, they had been partying since the school year began and had to cram for finals in order to make their deadline. The righteous indignation of Congressional members espousing their role to ‘do the job they were sent to Washington to do’ and ‘fix government spending’ really hasn’t fixed anything but set a dangerous precedent for future antics at the expense of our military. Abraham Lincoln once said, “A house divided against itself cannot stand.” Congress’s inability to pass a budget bill six months after their deadline is a rare, vivid example of the ‘house divided’. Unless they get the nation’s business done and on time, all this talk about fixing the budget and stimulating the economy won’t matter much. Every delay in funding the military is weakening our country in a way al-Qaeda couldn’t even muster. Today, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Tunisia, Egypt, Sudan, Gaza, Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast), Somalia, Liberia — oh yeah — Afghanistan (or insert the ‘Stan’ of your choice here) — you name it — is on fire. And if you think the people of these countries are fed-up with the status quo in their respective countries – wait until the frustration from our own political inertia lights fires in our country.

My bottom line is fairly simple — another month like March 2011 and our wonderful country will be standing on shakier ground than the Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Marcus Fisk is a retired Navy Captain, Naval Academy graduate, sometime actor, sculptor, pick-up soccer player, and playwright. He and his wife Pamela live in Alexandria.
### Monthly Home Sales Recap for Alexandria, VA

**March 7 - April 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listing ID</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Close Price</th>
<th>Date Sold</th>
<th>Beds</th>
<th>Baths</th>
<th>Price Delta</th>
<th>Days on Market</th>
<th>Information</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4760606002</td>
<td>100 NEW YORK ST #601</td>
<td>$575,000</td>
<td>$465,000</td>
<td>04/01/2011</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-10,000</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Colonial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1003 WASHINGTON ST #101</td>
<td>$529,900</td>
<td>$410,000</td>
<td>04/01/2011</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-119,900</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Colonial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4760606004</td>
<td>1001 WASHINGTON ST #101</td>
<td>$520,000</td>
<td>$400,000</td>
<td>04/01/2011</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-120,000</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>Colonial</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What's happening with home sales in your neighborhood?**

In order to stay up-to-date with the latest trends in the Alexandria, VA market, it is important to monitor the home sales reports regularly. This not only helps in making informed decisions about buying, selling, or investing in real estate, but also provides insights into the current market conditions and trends. Regular updates and analysis of the housing market can be crucial for those looking to sell their homes, buy a new one, or invest in rental properties. By staying informed, one can make better-informed decisions and take advantage of opportunities in the real estate market.
**Supermarket Steals**

**Whatever You’re Buyin’**

One of the misperceptions about wine writers is that we sit around our palatial wine cellars every night popping Petrus and Screaming Eagle every night. The reality is that we love a good wine value and are constantly on the chase for solid wines under twenty bucks. I’m a firm believer in the merits of a good wine shop. Get to know their wine pros, go to their wine tastings and get on their mailing lists. The individual attention they can give you will assure that you don’t get stuck with just a pretty label from a randomly grabbed shelf of the wine store’s neighborhood chain supermarket.

Having said that. Every once in a while we’re at the mercy of the supermarket for our mandatory wine ration. And at those times, we need to know what to grab with pin-point precision before the produce manager regales us with his glowing review of Yellow Tail.

**Supermarket Steals**

Supermarkets generally have a consistent selection labels across their chain. Which can be a good thing if you’ve established a comfortable relationship with one of those labels. Sometimes predictability and security are the best qualities of a good love affair.

Your Vino Vixen Value Supermarket Steals (I’m a sucker for alliteration) for this month:

**RED**

St. Francis Winery & Vineyards
2007 Old Vines Zinfandel
Sonoma, CA
$13-$25

I’m an unabashed fan of St. Francis Winery and her director of winemaking, Tom Mackey. Mackey is a superb winemaker with an artist’s touch (try his Wild Oak label - stellar juice). He has a solid winemaking team behind him, excellent vineyards at his disposal, and a winery owner who isn’t bashful about pumping cash into the operation. All of this is an easy recipe for a good wine. And the Old Vines Zinfandel fits that bill. A well rounded textbook Zinfandel with plenty of pepper, extracted black cherry, and a touch of oak. Made from 50-100 year old vines that produce enriched fruit more in the old world style. I’ve noticed the pricing varies wildly on this wine – wait for a sale and grab it under $15.

**WHITE**

Villa Maria
2010 Private Bin Sauvignon Blanc
Marlboro, NZ
$12-$17

Sauvignon Blanc – especially from the New World, often run the risk of being overly fruity or incredibly grassy. Villa Maria straddles the fruit with the herbaceousness well in this bottle. Definite notes of grapefruit, lime and general citrus. But, also a nice addition of white paper and garden herbs. When Spring finally hits, reach for this bottle.

Cheers, VV

The Vino Vixen™ is a syndicated wine writer whose musings appear in over 25 publications nationwide. She’s also a correspondent on Wine Taste TV (WineTasteTV.com), national and international wine judge, and Wine Critic to WinesForSaleOut. com – one of the Internet’s largest (and cheapest) source of fabulous wines. Have a question or wine tip for The Vixen? Email her on VinoVixen@VinoVixen.com
Find LOVE
THIS SPRING

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It is fun and rewarding. Without enough foster homes we can’t save as many pets. Since AFH tries hard to not use boarding facilities, we cannot accept new, deserving animals into our program without ready foster homes. If you are interested in making your home available to a deserving pet, please drop us an email at Foster@aforeverhome.org.

1. A永远的家-救生基金会

这是一个非盈利的狗救援组织，它位于弗吉尼亚州Chantilly的Northern Virginia / Washington Metropolitan地区。我们努力使狗狗们在被收养前得到足够的训练和照顾。AFH是一个100%志愿者运营的组织，我们无法防止宠物的死亡。在许多情况下，我们提供寄养家庭、宠物运输、以及在寄养活动中的食物和物业。如果您愿意帮助，请通过以下方式联系我们：

AFH is a forever home rescue foundation located in Chantilly, Virginia that operates in the Northern Virginia / Washington Metropolitan area. We strive to make quality dogs available for adoption and do our best to match prospective adopters with the right animals!

2. 约瑟夫-斗牛士/拉布拉多混合品

这是一只斗牛犬/拉布拉多混合品，它有中等的体重和整洁的外观。它有蓝色的眼睛和白色的鼻子。它非常温顺，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Joseph - (Male)
Breed: Boxer / Labrador Retriever Mix
Age: 1 Year
Weight: 50 Pounds
History: Owner Release

3. 艾莉雅-斗牛士

这是一只斗牛犬，它有典型的斗牛犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Alyia - (Female)
Breed: Siberian Husky Mix
Age: 2 Years
Weight: 55 Pounds
History: Owner Release

4. 贝拉-斗牛士

这是一只斗牛犬，它有典型的斗牛犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Bella - (Female)
Breed: Poodle
Age: 5 Years
Weight: 60 Pounds
History: Breeder

5. 好莱坞-斗牛士

这是一只斗牛犬，它有典型的斗牛犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Hollywood - (Male)
Breed: Poodle
Age: 4 Years
Weight: 30 Pounds
History: Owner Release

6. 艾拉-斗牛士

这是一只斗牛犬，它有典型的斗牛犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Erra - (Female)
Breed: Poodle
Age: 2 Years
Weight: 25 Pounds
History: Return

7. 沙普-育犬

这是一只育犬，它有典型的育犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Scupper - (Male)
Breed: Coonhound Mix
Age: 2 Years
Weight: 30 Pounds
History: Owner Release

8. 莉兹-� Yorkie Mix

这是一只育犬，它有典型的育犬特征，如蓝色的眼睛和白色的身体。它非常友好，喜欢和孩子们一起玩耍。

Lizette - (Female)
Breed: Yorkshire Terrier Yorkie Mix
Age: 4 Years
Weight: 27 Pounds
History: Owner Release
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