Christmas
Everyday for
Over 40 Years
Meet Alexandria’s
Christmas Attic Family
See page 4
Free Hard Flooring Installation with Minimum Purchase!*  
Free Padding & Carpet Installation with Minimum Purchase!*
On Cover: Cheri Hennessy, co-owner of The Christmas Attic alongside a life size toy soldier. PHOTO BY GREG KNOTT.

Dear Mary:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to my email. I enclosed you will find my check for my subscription. After 42 years of living in the Alexandria (Del Ray) area, I made the decision to move into a retirement community. I got the October issue of The Zebra, and I love your newspaper/magazine, and enjoy reading the good news and stories. I have shared it with many others. I look forward to having a little piece of home sent to me each month in Warrenton. Blessings to you and your staff.

Frances Augustine

Publisher’s Note

Where! I can’t believe it has been a whole year since Zebra galloped onto the scene. Well, maybe we didn’t gallop all the time, but we cantered. We definitely cantered. It’s been a journey well worth the making, and I have a lot of people to thank for where we are and how we got here.

First off, the writers, columnists and contributors have given freely of their time and energy, and asked little in return to help keep Zebra growing. Our main features writer, Chuck Hagae, has worked tirelessly to bring you the cover stories, and the Civil War Series, in addition to numerous special assignments and projects. Our two photographers, Greg Knott and Harry Merritt, have been nothing short of miracle givers, providing the hundreds of images that color our pages and bring them to life.

Single-handed magic-making belongs to our ingenious designer, Vicky Cruey, who alone tackles all the editorial and advertising bits every month, which believe me is like being handed a bag full of a thousand little jigsaw pieces and being asked to figure out the final image without the benefit of a picture on the front of the box. Month after month, the puzzle comes together, and each time, I think it’s better than the last.

And finally, the advertisers who “get” what being part of a well-read and exciting publication filled with good news and positive community action is all about, and who have continued to support us from the first issue. We intend to keep doing what we are doing, and giving them the value to back up their investments.

So this month, I am enormously grateful to our loyal, very much under-paid staff, the folks that buy ads, the guys who hand deliver over 25,000 of our copies every month, and to you, our bedrock of interested readers, who constantly ask, “When is the next Zebra coming out?”

Well, we’ll be out around January 9th when next you see us, so in the meantime, have a wonderful season sharing with family and friends, and here’s wishing you have Z-Best of holidays!

Mary Wisland
Publisher

On Cover: Cheri Hennessy, co-owner of The Christmas Attic alongside a life size toy soldier. PHOTO BY GREG KNOTT.
Forty-three years ago, 125 South Union Street was a framing and gift shop known as the Picture Place, owned and operated by Henry Hobbs. Then his wife Nita had an idea. She asked her husband if she could open a small Christmas shop in one corner of the store on the second floor. He agreed, and along with her friend Suki Groscup, Nita Hobbs introduced Old Town Alexandria, and the Washington Metropolitan area, to her idea of the holiday season. That was 1971. Nita’s experiment soon overtook the Picture Place. “It was so successful that they decided to turn the entire store into The Christmas Attic,” said her daughter Cheri Hennessy, who now owns and operates one of Alexandria’s best known businesses, along with her sister Fay Hobbs-Carter.

“It was such an unusual concept at the time. There were only a handful of Christmas shops throughout the nation. Mom brought in items from throughout the world such as Equadorian bread dough ornaments and handmade ornaments from Germany,” Hennessy explained.

At the beginning there were only five year-round employees. Their ranks swelled to 15 or 20 during the Christmas holidays. Tourists and locals alike flocked to The Christmas Attic to find that special something for themselves or to give as special gifts. The enterprise was eventually expanded to add another store in Old Town at 107 North Fairfax Street, known as the House In The Country, which opened 15 years ago, as well as shops in Virginia Beach and Norfolk. Each location became a booming success.

Then five years ago, Nita passed away and her two daughters were faced with this retail enterprise in three location spread across the Commonwealth of Virginia. After trying to operate the three locations, Cheri and Fay decided it was time to cut back. Which turned out to be a wise and perfectly timed decision, according to Hennessy.

“It was just before the economic downturn. Had we tried to keep all three locations operating we may not have survived,” she said. They owned the properties in Old Town and Virginia Beach. The Norfolk location was leased space in a shopping mall that has now lost most of its retail businesses, according to Hennessy.

“Of course we were sad to see the property go, but it saved us money,” Hennessy added.

The original shop on South Union Street has also undergone a transformation during 2011. “Although Christmas ornaments are still our specialty, we have broadened our merchandise base to meet the changing needs of our customers,” Hennessy explained.

In addition to the vast assortment of Christmas items they now feature decorations for other holidays and a variety of home decor items. Overall The Christmas Attic carries over 50,000 items, according to Betsy Hasuer, store manager, who previously managed House In The Country.

“We have broadened the store’s appeal in the last year and have added another name — ‘The Urban Attic,’” Cheri said. The original door into the shop, the one closest to King Street, with the elevated electric train circling overhead, still bears the name “The Christmas Attic.” The second door, closest to Prince Street, is the entrance to the original’s new sibling, “The Urban Attic.” However, both still bring customers into the first floor of the shop with its wonderland of holiday cheer.

Among those items are clear, hand-blown glass ornaments and figurines from Egypt, where Fay is now living since her husband’s job took them there. They range in price from $12.95 to $19.95.

“We are still both involved with the store and are in constant touch about everything from merchandise to management decisions. Fay does a great deal of buying for the store and it saves us money,” Hennessy noted.

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CHRISTMAS ATTIC from page 4

Dealing with the middle men,” Cheri stated. Some of their very unique offerings, in addition to the Egyptian glass, include a line of wooden ornaments made specifically for The Christmas Attic in the Shenandoah Mountains of Virginia. Each features a detailed scene of Old Town and sells for $36.95.

From Germany come hand painted pewter ornaments of intricate detail. Each “is cast individually from molds carefully engraved in slabs of slate,” then artistically hand painted.

To preserve the artists’ originality, none have undergone any mechan- ical process, according to accompanying literature. They are priced at $29 each.

Finally, there are a group of ornaments named “Straight From The Source.” Created by local artisans Judith Fraser these $8 paper creations can be individualized for the recipient. “While Judith celebrates all things a bit of the season and makes ornaments intended to be original and appealing,” explained.

In addition to all the wondrous items within Christmas Attic’s two levels, Cheri and Fay have introduced something entirely new this holiday season. They have turned their building into a three story Advent Calendar display.

Each of the windows facing South Union Street has been covered with a full size canvas that has been hand painted with a Christmas symbol. Each original art work is wrapped and displayed.

Beginning December 1 and ending December 24, Christmas Eve, each day at sundown the store will reveal a work of Advent Art as part of the store’s 40th Anniversary Celebration. The idea originated with a visit by Fay to Prague where she saw Advent art on buildings throughout the city, according to Cheri.

“She called me and said we have to do this to our shop,” Hennessy explained. “I went to schools, preschools and churches and got an overwhelming reception for the idea. As each painting is unveiled each evening it is back lighted,” she explained. Younger students are doing Christmas pieces and older students are contributing nativity scenes, according to Hennessy.

At the closing of the Advent Calendar event, the canvases will be available during a silent auction at a post-event celebration on January 7, 2012 from noon to 2 p.m. at The Christmas Attic. Proceeds from that auction will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation of the Midwest, an organization that grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions “to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy.”

“Christmas is all about hope and the future and celebrating what is the best in all of us.”

—Cheri Hennessy

For the holidays, The Christmas Attic assembled an extraordinary Advent Calendar. Working with local community and school groups, 25 Advent-style panels are now part of the facade of the Christmas Attic store. Each of the 25 days leading up to Christmas, a panel is unveiled at the store. In January, the artwork from the panels will be auctioned with proceeds going to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

The Christmas Attic employees get into the spirit of the season. Here Debra Foster (in elf clothes) poses with young patron Madeleine Durkin.

The Christmas Attic from page 4

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“We are also considering having a caroling event on Christmas Eve at the store when the last canvas is unveiled and lighted. That’s when it will be the most impressive,” Cheri stated.

“Christmas is all about hope and the future and celebrating what is the best in all of us. Things are beginning to look up. And, people are still buying Christmas ornaments,” she said.

Christmas Attic or Urban Attic or both, if you want to get in the holiday spirit, 125 South Union Street is the place to visit. Even Santa would let out a “Ho! Ho! Ho!” at the sight of the many treasures contained within the walls of the old “Picture Place.” On this anniversary year, it is literally picture perfect for the Advent season.
The Frosty Follies provided a high energy Christmas dance performance for the crowds to enjoy.

Mayor Euille introduced Santa Claus.

After the ceremony the crowds participated in singing Christmas carols.

Mayor Euille and Santa pose for the camera.
STROLLING BY HISTORY
This is a private residence on South Fairfax Street decorated for the holidays. But since we’re here, have you ever wondered who Fairfax was and why so much is named after him?

In short, all this land around Alexandria belonged to Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron, who while born and living in England in 1709, came into possession of his mother’s family inheritance of vast estates and lands in Virginia’s Northern Neck between the Rappahannock and Potomac Rivers. Fairfax travelled to Virginia for the first time between 1735 and 1737 to protect his lands. He eventually settled in Belvoir (present day Ft. Belvoir) and became the only resident peer in North America. Fairfax befriended a young George Washington and hired him to survey his lands.

It was his young cousin Brian Fairfax, who became a lifelong friend of George Washington’s and the first American-born member of the House of Lords. Bryan Fairfax was torn between England and America during the Revolutionary War. On his own in 1777, he tried to travel to England. He was arrested in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, for refusing to sign a loyalty oath. However, he wrote to his good friend, George Washington, who sent him a pass to travel between the lines. In New York, British officials also required a loyalty oath, to board ship, which he refused to take.

Limited editions of this print are available at Todd Healy’s Studio at 320 King Street in Alexandria, 703-549-7883. Todd is also available for private commissions.

Christine Roland Garner

Thanks to all my clients for a successful 2011

Christine’s 2011 Sales

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404 Russell Rd, Alexandria 2700 Cameron Mills Rd, Alexandria
3601 Tupelo Fl, Alexandria 2405 Terrett Ave, Alexandria
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614 Columbus St N, Alexandria 18 Braddock Rd W, Alexandria
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801 Howard St N #549, Alexandria 520 Pitt St S, Alexandria
100 Mapie St E, Alexandria 1938 Shiver Dr, Alexandria
121 Raymond Ave E, Alexandria 9514 Neuse Way, Great Falls
106 Spring St E, Alexandria 2378 Wilton Crest Ct, Alexandria
513 Columbus St N, Alexandria 615 Melrose St, Alexandria
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THE ZEBRA
DECEMBER 2011

ASK THE CLOCKMAN
BY PHIL WADLAND

T is month, the movie Hugo came to my attention, as it had something to do with clocks and a little boy. I started to learn about clocks from my father when I was 4 years old. When I was 12, I was repairing clocks in my father’s clock shop in Melrose, Massachusetts. So off to the movies I went! I mean, how often does a clockmaker get to see a blockbuster movie about his chosen vocation? The theatre offered the option of 3D. On went the glasses, and I sat back to be amazed. I was by the movie and the true story, but not so amazed by the automatons all the ton segments of the movie. As I work with automatons all the time, I have come to think of them as just more work. How

time, I have come to think of

happening. Most people have no

idea what an automaton is, but as a clockmaker, I run into them quite often. In fact, certain cuckoo clocks have a automaton feature. But, but fair, there

is one artistic contraption I see the most often, and it is a singing bird in a cage.

Believe it or not, in the last two weeks, I have repaired three of them.

It doesn’t sound like much when you hear the chirping of the moving, “singing bird”, but this little caged bird is still made today and retails for around $5,000 (but recently I did notice some nice antique versions and even newer models available for bid on eBay at very reasonable prices). The cage is only 12 inches tall and seven inches around. Three inches of those 12 are the base which houses the automaton mechanism. Inside the cage, sitting on a small perch, about two inches tall, is a tiny feathered bird. This automaton has wind-up clockworks in its base that control the sound and motion of the little bird. The bird sings multiple notes in different order, while the bird’s mouth opens and closes in time with the bird’s whistles. While the bird moves, his tail feathers up and down and he moves his head left and right.

Automatons were very popular in the 1800’s. Most are very detailed and were made in France and England. Many of the old automatons still exist in working condition. A very famous one was the life-size “chess playing Turk”, constructed in 1770. This “Turk” traveled the globe on exhibition until 1854, when it was destroyed by fire. It even won chess matches throughout Europe, playing chess with the likes of Ben Franklin and Napoleon. The Turk was able exact all moves needed to complete a chess game. If the challenger made an illegal move, the Turk would sweep all the chess pieces off the board.

Automatons are an interesting genre within the world of clock making, and should you ever have the opportunity to see one operate, or even choose to invest in their collectability, I am certain you will be glad you did. Happy Holidays!

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

Happy Holidays from The UPS Store in Shirlington

Santa couldn’t possibly deliver everything without an assist! You can always count on The UPS Store in Shirlington to help around the holidays. Whether it’s packing and shipping your gifts or shipping your luggage ahead of time, we’re ready for you this holiday season. Our heartfelt thanks to our customers who we value dearly. We wish you and your family a safe, peaceful, and happy holiday. If you have any questions, please feel free to email us at store4832@theupsstore.com or call us at 703.820.3300.

Your friends at The UPS Store in Shirlington

The UPS Store
The Village at Shirlington
2776 S. Arlington Mill Drive
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703.820.3300
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Aches and pains?
Stop suffering today!

If you hear a voice within you say "You cannot paint"
Then by all means, paint and that voice will be silenced.
— Vincent Van Gogh
Artist & Framemaker

Pork Barrel BBQ Fires It Up

Pork Barrel BBQ has opened its first restaurant at 2312 Mount Vernon Avenue in Alexandria, and has officially fired up its smoker and is serving hungry and happy customers. Pork Barrel BBQ co-founders Heath Hall and Brett Thompson partnered with veteran restaurateurs “Mango” Mike Anderson and Bill Blackburn in 2009 with the goal of turning their dream of creating a gathering place for the community, centered around their national award-winning barbecue, into a reality. The attention to detail and quality is ever present in the new restaurant. The owners literally have their hands in every detail from the hand-laid rock walls and columns to the one-of-a-kind beer tower constructed from sprinkler pipe by Blackburn himself. As for the barbecue, Hall and Thompson have climbed to the top of the professional competition barbecue circuit and racked up numerous awards for their ‘que and sauces since the restaurant groundbreaking ceremony in October 2009. Pork Barrel BBQ has earned a reputation for their consistency in producing high quality barbecue and side dishes alongside some of the world’s top pitmasters in the competition barbecue community.
The menu includes Pork Barrel BBQ’s take on traditional barbecue meats and side dishes. Customers can order ribs, brisket, pulled pork, and sausage as a sandwich, platter or by the pound. Side dishes include BBQ baked beans, coleslaw, mac and cheese, smoked Ratatouille, collard greens, Texas caviar, potato salad and corn pudding.

Now In Stock for the Holidays!
Come into the gallery and load up on your holiday cards, gift cards, ornaments, calendars and specialty items all adorned with Todd Healy’s signature artwork of Old Town’s famous buildings and locales.

Discover a New Family Tradition

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Aches and pains?
Stop suffering today!

An Invitation

Doctor Robert M. Knapp

No obligation on your part whatsoever!!
Wishing all of our clients and friends the happiest of holidays.

Patent & Trademark Office Remembers Steve Jobs

Displaying over 300 patents and trademarks from the iconic Apple computer to the latest IPad, the Patent and Trademark Office pays tribute to the brilliance of Steve Jobs. With the passing of Steve Jobs this past year, the world lost an innovator, and entrepreneur of immense status. The exhibit located in the Patent and Trademark Madison building, is free and open to the public through January 15.

The Cat in the Hat’s Secret Art in Town

P & C Art Gallery, at 212 King Street is excited to host the highly anticipated national art exhibition “Secrets of the Deep” at their Alexandria Gallery. In conjunction with the release of the new award winning coffee table book, Dr. Seuss’s Secrets of the Deep: The Lost, Forgotten, and Hidden Works of Theodor Seuss Geisel, the “Secrets of the Deep” art exhibition features limited edition reproductions of the original artwork from Dr. Seuss’s never before seen personal collection.

Secretly, Ted Geisel wanted to be recognized as a serious artist, but openly, he was quick to describe his private works as “midnight paintings.” While researching Ted’s paintings and sculptures at his La Jolla home, it was discovered Ted and his wife Audrey kept more than forty artworks behind a concealed false door that were publicly unknown and unpublished, all waiting for Audrey to reveal them to Ted’s fans upon his passing per his request.

The Secrets of the Deep coffee table book is the first book released in more than 15-years featuring never before seen artwork from the Seuss private collection. Two extraordinary exclusive limited tour editions are also being showcased as part of this exhibition:

The Cat Behind the Hat: Ted Geisel’s most iconic self-portrait ran in the July 6, 1957 issue of The Saturday Evening Post. Appearing just four months after the launch of The Cat in the Hat, this classic portrait depicts Dr. Seuss as his mischievous alter ego, complete with red and white stovepipe hat, cat ears, and the Cat’s now famous red bow tie.

Cuddle Fish: Cuddle Fish was kept close at hand by Ted throughout his lifetime which to this day resides with Audrey in the Geisel home. In the vein of the Horton Line Drawing, this work exudes classic Seussian charm and confirms the Good Doctor’s breezy artistic talent. The exhibition is free and runs through December 24.
Studio Body Logic Celebrates 15th Anniversary as Northern Virginia’s First Authentic Pilates Studio

It was 1996: Braveheart won the Oscar, Spice Girls ruled the stage, and Bill, Bob and Ross were vying for the White House. Pilates? It was barely a blip on the fitness radar despite an avid following among dancers and its proven effects on flexibility, strength and posture.

Undeterred by the lack of awareness in 1996 and inspired by her own life changing experience with the exercise, professional ballerina Karen Garcia threw open the doors to Studio Body Logic, then the first authentic Pilates studio in Northern Virginia. Ms. Garcia is one of a handful of second generation Pilates instructors in the world, having been certified by Romana Kryzanowska, a protégée of Joseph Pilates. Now the proud owner of two locations – Del Ray in Alexandria and Ballston in Arlington – Ms. Garcia remains dedicated to Pilates’ original teachings and employs instructors with 600+ hours of intense training. Both studios offer dozens of mat classes at varied levels as well as private and semi private sessions on apparatus known as Reformer, Cadillac, Tower and Wunda Chair.

Studio Body Logic will kick off its 16th year with a Winter Mat Session starting January 2, 2012.

FROM THE WEB

“Awww”

- A cat with a permanent top hat
- A turtle the size of a grape
- A firefighter giving a kitten oxygen
- An otter showing you its baby
- A pug with pug slippers
- Baby penguin meeting a baby dolphin
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A Christmas Blessing

Marcus and Pamela Fisk

I was going through my family photos the other day and found several Christmas pictures from various years. They included our lives growing up in the Army and celebrating Christmas stationed in North Carolina, Germany, Thailand, Virginia, and Colorado. More recently there were other photographs that struck a particular chord with me. The Christmas 2005 photo showed the entire Fisk clan at my parents’ home in Arizona. It included all of us kids and all the grandchildren up to that wonderful, warm, laughter-filled time.

Looking over the faces in that photo I remembered that my nephew Rawley, then an exuberant, 16-year-old soccer player, is now a Navy Corpsman with the Marine Corps in Afghanistan and how tough it must be for him to spend his first ever Christmas away from family—and do it in a combat zone.

I also remembered that it was the last time I had spent time with my daughter Chand- dier. How happy she looked standing arm-in-arm with her cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Today, she is in college, following her dream of being in the performing arts. It was an unfortunate set of circumstances that has kept us apart over the ensuing years and yet as I looked at her in the photograph, I could see the light in her eyes signaling the direction of her future.

That photograph was in my personal gear when I was in Iraq. I had spent many, many holidays away during my military career so as Christmas 2006 approached in Baghdad and since we were all sharing the same experience, it was just another day closer to going home to me. Being gone is an unfortunate but undeniable fact of life in our line of work. It always lurked in the back of my mind when I heard my Commander, General Caldwell, give all of us senior folks a quick cautionary note at our morning meeting on Christmas Eve. He reminded us that many of us had been away for Christmas in the past but it would be a new and tough experience for some of the younger folks and we should spend time visiting and talking with as many young Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines that we could to stare-off ‘the blues.’

I remember that he distinctly said, “Until we all turn in tonight, no one will be alone. Make sure your troops are not alone and make sure you stop and talk with as many as you can.” Every senior officer knew that, but the reminder was like a quick leadership refresher.

Christmas Eve dinner that evening was tremendous. No expense was spared and officers and enlisted personnel sat together, talking, laughing and remembering the good things in our lives. After dinner I made a trip to the combat hospital to visit the wounded, and then spent the remainder of the evening wandering our compound, stopping to talk with the Marines on security detail, the Airmen outside the Intelligence Center, Soldiers coming off convoy/escort duty, and stopping to offer every Sailor I met a ‘Merry Christmas, Shipmate’ and we exchanged thoughts of home, our lives and careers. It had been a particularly long day. The Iraqi insurgency was in full throttle and our casualty counts devastating—three Americans killed per day—as but the night fell, it was eerily quiet. No mortars, no sporadic small arms fire, no roadside bomb explosions. The Christmas dinner and the walks around the compound vis-à-vis Prince Hal in Henry the 5th were poignant and exhausting. But all of us did our part and we found even the most morose of those we met were able to keep on the sunny side. Morale was high and our troops rallied around one another.

It was nearly midnight when I headed home to my ‘hooch’ as we called our little trailers where we lived. I walked around the sandbag wall that protected my hooch, found a little bench and sat down to relax a bit and sip on my bottle of Gatorade. The sandbag walls were high but you could see the palm trees silhouetted against the clear starry night sky, and in the distance the Muslim call to evening prayer was being called from a Mosque. I remember thinking how close I was to the Holy Land and how ironic it was to hear a Muslim prayer on that night, as if they were honoring our Holy night. It was one of those moments that stays with you a lifetime.

Sure, I had been away at Christmas before and this should have been no different, but I broke down. Quietly, on a bench, behind the sandbags protecting us from an enemy that few of us saw, and sheltered from any of my troops so they wouldn’t see me, I let lose the tears of a father for his estranged daughter and the joy I felt for being alive, at that very moment, and in that very place.

My favorite Christmas picture however, is a fairly recent Christmas photograph of my wife Pamela and me shortly after we met. There are stars in both our eyes but the stars in hers remind me of that Baghdad sky from five Christmases ago. She has helped me through some particularly tough times and I am particularly thankful for the blessing she has been to me. Looking at that picture I wonder if she was there among those stars I saw that night in Baghdad but I hadn’t met her yet. She truly is the greatest Christmas blessing of all.

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.
I have always been fascinated by pearls. They are available in so many shapes, sizes, and colors. And now is a particularly exciting time for anyone who loves pearls, because they are available in so many different price ranges that they are affordable treasures which can cost under $100, or as much as $1,000,000 or more.

At this holiday time, I thought I’d share some of my 35-plus years of experience gained by buying, selling, designing with, and wearing pearls. There are two basic categories of pearls. There are pearls which grow in freshwater lakes, and which are found in mussels, and there are pearls which grow in salt water and are found in oysters. Either category of pearl can occur naturally when some small irritant enters the mussel or oyster, such as a grain of sand, causing it to try to protect itself from the “foreign body.” The oyster or mussel secretes a material called “nacre,” which encases the foreign object. When layers of nacre are secreted over each previous layer of nacre, a pearl is formed.

A cultured pearl is one which has been created by man provoking the irritant. Mikimoto developed this technique of “culturing” pearls by inserting a round mother of pearl bead into the oyster by a surgical technique. Then the oysters were put into the water and left there to develop more and more concentric layers of nacre. Some pearls were left for 2 years to develop a really thick nacre and a finer lustre. These pearls were known in the jewelry trade as “2 year pearls.” In today’s market, most pearls are not left in the oyster for more than 1 year, and about a 5 mm thickness of nacre is what is likely to be found in most stores.

Today the waters in Japan are becoming more and more polluted, as are many of the other bodies of water elsewhere in the world. Several years ago, an entire harvest of cultured pearls was ruined by a Japanese manufacturer dumping his plant’s toxic wastes into the waters which flowed into the pearl beds where pearls were being cultured. That resulted in a scarcity of cultured pearls that year, and also for several more years, since those pearl beds were contaminated and the oysters were also killed. It takes at least 2 years to start the culturing process all over again, so cultured pearls became very expensive as a result of this thoughtless dumping of chemical pollutants by a nearby manufacturer who didn’t want to pay for the proper disposal of his chemical waste.

Now culturing has become very popular and new areas of production include China where stands of freshwater pearls, which have the appearance of “rice crispies” cereal, can be produced and sold for as little as $3 to $5 per strand. Also the pearl farmers in China have developed some proprietary processes of culturing freshwater pearls into more round shapes which also have nice nacre thickness and lustre. These new pearl farms are in competition with the round cultured pearl which is much more expensive. Many consumers do not see a difference significant enough to justify the additional expense. For example, a strand of 7 1/2 – 7 mm round cultured pearls of a fine quality can cost $1500 to $2000. A similar strand of cultured freshwater pearls can cost as little as $100 to $150.

COLOR OF PEARLS

There are many pearls which naturally appear white with rose overtones, or cream with rose overtones. There are also many freshwater pearls which can be found in almost any color. Many of the pastel shades of peach, apricot, pink, grey, silver, and golden colors are natural. There are also many colors of pearls which are produced by dying the outer nacre layers of pearl. Some pearls are also irradiated which alters the color of the nacre. There are many variations of Tahitian Black pearls. These are usually cultured pearls which are grown only in the Black-lipped oyster in the waters around Tahiti. The pearls can have a size ranging from 8 mm up to 15 mm or more in diameter. The rounder the pearl, the more valuable. Black Tahitian pearls are not always “black.” Tahitian pearls have about 80 different categories of color and range from brown to green and magenta overtones. I took a recent course from GIA (Gemological Institute of America) focusing on pearls. It is somewhat mind boggling and overwhelming to realize how many factors must be considered to properly evaluate a pearl. There is size, shape, nacre thickness, lustre and orient, and of course, body color of the pearl as well as overtone colors.

I have had to pleasure of seeing the Cherry Blossom Princess’s Pearl Crown up close about 7 years ago. This crown has some truly fine cultured pearls which have fabulous color, lustre, nacre thickness and orient. By the way, the Crown weighs about 20 pounds, and whoever wins the title of Cherry Blossom Princess had better have a strong neck!!!

There are also South Sea pearls which are basically white or golden colors. Some necklaces which have 31 pearls in them, have taken 5 to 7 years time to collect enough well-matched pearls to be strung together into a necklace. When the necklace is also graduated to pay for the proper disposal of the pearl. DO NOT allow your pearls to dry out. They can chip and crack if they become too dry.

Restring your pearls periodically, usually once a year, if you wear them frequently. The knots between the pearls get dirty and stretched. The dirt and body acid which accumulates on the thread can damage the pearls if not cared for by regular restringing. It is best to get dressed first, put on your hairspray and your perfume next, and put your pearls on LAST!!! You will be glad that you did, and your pearls will last for many years to come, and may become an heirloom that you can give your children.

LASTLY, pearls are a symbol of wisdom. Make a wise choice
Director of Tenants & Workers United. Jon was a co-founder. Established in 1986, TWU is the largest member-based, low-income community organization in Northern Virginia. Its mission “is...to develop multi-racial leadership for social and economic justice, and to democratically control or own community resources including housing, education and health care.” In 1990 TWU’s budget was $3,100. Today its operating budget is $1.1 million. Tenants & Worker’s United was born in response to a Washington Post article detailing mass evictions in Alexandria’s Arlandria section near Four-Mile Run. Many of the residents “were Salvadoran, victims of gentrification.” In 1996 Liss and the TWU solved the problem, in part, by establishing a resident-owned housing cooperative known as Chirilagua. TWU’s constituency is primarily Hispanics. “I spoke my smattering of Spanish, the residents responded, and together we prevented the mass evictions of low income tenants,” Liss smiled.

Jon believes housing, like city space, is a right. Low income housing, however, need not be scattered-site. Liss again reminisces about his life in an “immigrant Jewish enclave.” In 1996 Liss’ other accomplishments: passage of Virginia’s first Living Wage legislation (Alexandria and Arlington), education reform including the creation of a bilingual immersion program, and formation of the nationally-organized Right to the City Alliance. What is Liss’ life lesson? “I am the father of two and I want to teach my children that we can make the world a better place. I believe on some fundamental level people have a tremendous capacity for good. Income implies riches, but real wealth is adequate housing, healthcare, work that brings sustenance and a better life for our children.”

Virginia New Majority is TWU’s sister organization. Liss’ goal is “to patch together a new progressive majority in Virginia.” The political agenda includes universal healthcare, better public education, and immigration reform. In 2008 VNM reached “more than 100,000 homes in Virginia’s 11th Congressional District.” “A New Majority is not outside the realm of possibility,” Liss said. “So what if some politicians drive us like a cork-screw. We’re advocating for a different kind of Virginia.” From Virginia New Majority’s website: “Founded in August 2007, VNM breaks from Virginia’s old history of racism and corporate domination. We build on the best democratic traditions…we work to create a new and modern political system…we work power by organizing the diverse peoples of the Commonwealth.” Jon argues “people first,” aligns with “progressives” and favors “the progressive tax.” The connection between ethnicity, race and class is difficult for Liss to detail. A recent Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation-Harvard University poll confirms Hispanics and blacks are “far less likely to own homes.” Foreclosures are not uncommon and Hispanics median income is 73% that of whites. Can a Hispanic be elected to Alexandria’s City Council? “There could be a Hispanic on School Board maybe as early as the next election,” Liss replied. “City Council could be within the next ten years, but it would have to be a coalitional deal.” Jon Liss is a street soldier who in his own words is “creative and collective, realistic, but ambitious.”

Living Legends: The Project
Now in its fifth year, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria’s Living Legends. The project was conceived by Nina Tricca to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. 2011 Platinum and Gold Sponsors are Club Managers Association of America, Eriketian Real Estate Development, Inova Alexandria Hospital, Renner & Co., Rotary Club of Alexandria, the Alexandria Commission for the Arts and the late Douglas Thurman. For more information, visit www.AlexandriaLegends.com. Writer Sarah Becker was nominated as a Living Legend of Alexandria in 2007.
HONORING OUR VETERANS, 100,000 WREATHS WERE PLACED AT GRAVE MARKERS IN ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY.

BY MARY MAVALAND

Maine Gov. Paul LePage joined thousands of volunteers Saturday, December 10 in placing over 100,000 wreaths at grave markers in Arlington National Cemetery. A convoy of more than 20 trucks left Maine the Sunday before, bound for the cemetery just across the Potomac River from the nation’s capital.

The tradition began 20 years ago with little fanfare. Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Co. in Harrington, Maine, and others laid 5,000 wreaths on headstones the first year.

Worcester. He estimated that there may be 20,000 people here. So it’s -- I can’t say enough about it,” said Worcester. Since then, it has grown into an organization called Wreaths Across America with ceremonies across the country. Organizers estimated 10,000 people joined Saturday’s wreath laying at Arlington.

“It means a lot to those who are serving to know that what they are doing is important enough that we are going to remember. And I think it is the right thing to do,” said Karen Worcester.

For more pearl information, or to view some spectacular pearls, please call The Nugget. I would be delighted to show you some more of these gorgeous gems.

Mary Ehlers is a goldsmith and the owner of The Nugget, located at 123 South Fairfax Street in Old Town Alexandria.

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Three years of Living Legends of Alexandria portraits by artist-photographer Nina Tisara are currently being exhibited at the offices of Prudential PenFed Realty, 300 N. Washington Street, Suite 100 in Old Town, Alexandria.

In her review of the exhibition, Trudi Van Dyke, Independent Fine Art Consultant, wrote: “...Artist Nina Tisara is representative of the many historical photographers and painters who see beyond the subject of the “head shot” and present the soul and personality beyond the likeness. “Capturing the essence of each person is the key to making the black and white portraits of the legends come to life. The viewer of this exhibition is treated to meeting each of the legends in a way that brings their individuality to the forefront. The careful composition, lighting, and unpretentious appearance allows the viewer to virtually interact with the subject. “...I encourage citizens of Alexandria in particular to visit this outstanding art exhibition before it closes on January 27 and get insight through art into the people who make Alexandria a great place to live and work. The Prudential PenFed Realty office is open 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday-Friday.”

Now in its fifth year, Living Legends of Alexandria is an ongoing 501(c)(3) photo-documentary project to identify, honor and chronicle Alexandria’s Living Legends. The project was conceived by Tisara to create an enduring artistic record of the people whose vision and dedication make a positive, tangible difference to the quality of life in Alexandria. Major 2011 sponsors are Club Managers Association of America, Erkiletian Real Estate Development, Inova Alexandria Hospital, John McEnorney, Renner & Co., Rotary Club of Alexandria, the late Douglas Thurman and the Alexandria Commission for the Arts. The Legends of 2012 will be announced by the end of December. For more about the project and a list of past Legends see www.AlexandriaLegends.com or contact Nina Tisara, AlexandriaLegends@NinaTisara.com. For information about art exhibitions at Prudential PenFed, contact Becky Arnold, becky.arnold@penfedrealty.com, 571-345-6175.
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The prices are right. The products are unique. And, best of all you won’t have other shoppers walking on the tops of your feet. Here are some suggestions.

As with every season of the year, but particularly during the Christmas holidays, The Virginia Florist, with stores in Belleview Shopping Center and Hollin Hall Shopping Center, boasts excellent floral offerings, but also has some of the unique gifts to be found in the immediate area.

At the top of this year’s possibilities is an assortment of historic American flags covering the period from 1876 to 1940. They include such hallmarks as a northern flag of the Civil War with 13 stars and a southern flag of that era with seven stars; a 48-star American flag; a “Remember The Maine” flag and many others.

“These are not replicas. These are the real thing. And, each is individually framed,” said owner Kevin Green. “They range in price from $60 to $200 depending on size, age and condition.”

Other specialty items include a large red Santa bag at $99; Narcissus and amaryllis bulbs in Nantucket baskets ranging from $32.50 to $47; three-foot tall Mark Roberts decorative phenols; and miniature old fashioned “television set” music boxes that light up with winter scenes as the songs play. They are priced from $138 to $300.

In Del Ray, Linda Johnson, owner of The Purple Goose, has assembled a wide array of handmade furniture, toys and home decorating items that he personally buys and transports directly from the craftsmen in the Pennsylvania Dutch countryside to his store. One of the big favorites each holiday season include the wooden toys—primarily trucks and trains that sell for approximately $80 each. There are also children’s table and chair sets at $270 and rocking horses at $275.

On the political front, Gadsby’s Tavern sign at The Alexandria Boating Sign at The Gadsby’s Tavern sign at The Virginia Florist. The store boasts excellent floral offerings, but also has some of the unique gifts to be found in the immediate area.

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Holiday Shopping à la Yesteryear

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There’s plenty of parking. The prices are right. The products are unique. And, best of all you won’t have other shoppers walking on the tops of your feet.

For adults, he offers all types of wooden handmade furniture from rockers to dressers, tables and chairs, and a myriad other items. One of the most popular accessory pieces is the wooden quilt rack that sells for $95.

Trudging the sidewalks of Old Town, the average shopper can find just about anything they desire. Got that person on the list who supposedly has everything? I’ll bet not.

Just walk through the door at Ten Thousand Villages, 915 King Street, and prepare to be amazed. A “fair trade” enterprise, managed by Kate Mc Mahon, every item in this store is hand-crafted by villagers in third world nations, enabling them to tell their stories while making a livable wage.

It is literally packed with highly unusual items that are not available anywhere else. Does that hard to buy for person have a mirror made of recycled metal washers, painted black and connected together with a mirror in the center? Highly unlikely. It is priced at $115.

There are antique bracelets, dogs, musical instruments, washing sites, you name it,” said Mc Mahon, every item in this store is hand-crafted by villagers in third world nations, enabling them to tell their stories while making a livable wage.

As you walk in the door you are greeted by a giant Christmas stocking selling for $13.95. Throughout, there are many items that would make excellent primary gifts and stocking stuffers.

Another unique Irish offering in her shop is a series of necklaces and earrings of silver and gold named, “Windows to the Soul.” Pieces of this collection sell for $105 to $190.

Exquisite antique jewelry can be found at King’s Jewelery, 609 King Street. “We refer to it as previously loved jewelry,” said owner Norman “Brad” Bradford. Prices range from $100 to $10,000 with the average price coming in at $400 to $800.

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Stephanie Kokkinis opened 3 Sisters, a woman’s clothing and accessory shop, eight months ago. As you walk in the door you are greeted by a giant Christmas stocking selling for $13.95. Throughout, there are many items that would make excellent primary gifts and stocking stuffers.

And, finally, but far from least, is lou lou, managed by Stephania Schaffer. As one of nine such establishments throughout the metropolitan area, the Old Town location features women’s clothing accessories. For this holiday season they are highlighting a long Echo scarf with a contrast fringe in five different colors, priced at $40. Happy shopping!
This holiday season, the Zebra staff wanted to pay homage to the quintessential American actor, Jimmy Stewart, who portrayed George Bailey in Frank Capra’s It’s a Wonderful Life, perhaps the most beloved Christmas movie of all time. Also starring in the title role of such films as The Glenn Miller Story, Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and The Stratton Story, Stewart made an indelible mark on our country’s cinematic culture with every part he played. See if you can match his character names in the left column with their corresponding films. Correct answers will be revealed in our January issue. Enjoy the game!

MATCH GAME
A Wonderful Life: The Many Faces of Jimmy Stewart

BY HOLLY BURNETT

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November Match Game Answers:
Cary Grant/Archibald Leach; Joan Crawford/Lucille LeSueur; John Wayne/Marion Morrison; Rita Hayworth/Margarita Carmen Cansino; William Holden/William Beedle, Jr.; Susan Hayward/Edythe Marrenner; Marilyn Monroe/Norma Jeane Mortenson; Shelley Winters/Shirley Schrift; Judy Garland/Frances Gumm; Charlton Heston/John Charles Carter.

Macaulay Connor
Lt. Col. Robert ‘Dutch’ Holland
Elwood P. Dowd
Charles Augustus ‘Slim’ Lindbergh
Theodore Honey
John ‘Scottie’ Ferguson
Ransom Stoddard
L.B. ‘Jeff’ Jeffries
Frank Towns

No Highway in the Sky
The Greatest Show on Earth
Rear Window
Vertigo
The Man Who Shot Liberty Valance
The Flight of the Phoenix
The Philadelphia Story
Strategic Air Command
Harvey
The Spirit of St. Louis

The Spirit of St. Louis

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Cat In A Box

If you have a cute photo of your cat in a box, please send it to mary@thezebra.org and we will try and get it published as soon as we are able.

“I finally got one! My cat gets in boxes all the time, and I kept trying to get a picture to send in. Thanks Zebra for making my cat famous for the holidays!”

Submitted by Jena Misercola

It looks like Barnaby is fully relaxed and settled into the box he found.

Submitted by Richard Bunch

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Historic Alexandria 2011 Holiday Ornament Commemorates Civil War

Collectible Ornament on Sale in Museum Gift Shops, Online

Celebrate the holiday season and honor Alexandria’s Civil War heritage with the newest collectible ornament from the Office of Historic Alexandria! This year’s ornament commemorates the Civil War Sesquicentennial with an etched brass-finish design of historic Marshall House, an important site in Alexandria’s Civil War history. Each ornament costs $16.95 and comes in an embossed gift box.

On May 24, 1861, the Marshall House became the scene of a violent confrontation between Union officer Colonel Elmer Ellsworth and secessionist innkeeper James Jackson that would come to symbolize the opposing sides and the war itself. Because of its significance, the Marshall House, at the corner of King and South Pitt streets, became a popular destination for sightseeing soldiers to visit and one of the most photographed subjects during the war.

The ornaments will make memorable gifts for family and friends this holiday. Order your 2011 ornament online or stop by Gadsby’s Tavern Museum, The Lyceum, the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, City Hall, Carlyle House or the Historic Alexandria History Center and Museum Store.

For more information, please call 703.746.4242 or visit www.historicalexandria.org.

Kiwanis Luncheon Honors All Alexandria Non-Profits

On November 17, Keynote Speaker, former T. C. Williams Principal, John Porter captivated over 100 attendees at the Annual Joint Services Luncheon of the Alexandria Kiwanis Club. The Club holds the event every year to publicly acknowledge and recognize the tremendous impact all the Alexandria service and non-profit organizations make to the youth and children of the community.

Approximately 100 people were in attendance and were honored: City Council members Kerry Donley and Del Pepper joined Chief of Police Cook and Sheriff Lawhorne in both the humor and seriousness of Porter’s message to keep giving and paying back. Don Wells, a WWII veteran, and 52-year member of Kiwanis with a perfect attendance record, gave the benediction.

Al-Anon helps families deal with drinking problems during the holidays

Problem drinking during family celebrations can turn parties into disasters. Holidays tend to raise expectations for family happiness, and disappointments caused by problem drinking can do serious damage. Reverend Daniel Gowan said, “As a family disease, alcoholism must be treated within the entire family.”

Gowan said, “Attending Al-Anon meetings helps clients to engage with this disease in a healthy way. Al-Anon is a useful resource for family members and friends to discover how they participate in this system or family disease. I encourage family members to consider that the alcoholic is a sick person trying to get well, rather than a bad person trying to get good.”

Over 14,000 Al-Anon Family Groups meet every week throughout the U.S. and Canada. There are no dues or fees to participate. For information about groups in the northern Virginia area, visit the web site, www.alanonva.com, call 703-534-4357 or toll-free 1-888-4AL-ANON, or send an e-mail to info@alanonva.com. For more detailed information about Al-Anon, go to www.al-anon.alateen.org or call toll-free 1-888-4AL-ANON.

QUOTABLE:

One can always be so much more friendly to people who can’t stay long.

–Sir Anthony Hopkins as C.S. Lewis in Shadowlands, 1985

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22 THE ZEBRA DECEMBER 2011

Happy Holidays from your neighborhood happy source for kids.

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HOLIDAY SHOP

The Shops at Mount Vernon:
TODAY’S TREASURES AT HISTORY’S FRONT DOOR

BY CHUCK HAGEL

Need something special for that really special someone? Are they a history buff? Do they love natural products? How about concentrating on “made in America” in this time of need for American workers?

All of these requirements can be fulfilled in one location and without the hassle of the malls — both inside and in the parking lots. This one-stop shopping mecca is located at the southern terminus of the George Washington Memorial Parkway. It’s The Shops at Mount Vernon.

Located just off the circle at Mount Vernon Estate, there is ample free parking and gifts for everyone on anyone’s list regardless of age, sex, interests, or nationality. And, best of all, there is no mall rush scene or walking the length of several football fields.

Your shopping experience can also be made even more memorable by taking a break to enjoy a leisurely lunch or dinner in the Mount Vernon Inn, immediately adjacent to The Shops. Or if a quick snack is all that’s desired, there is the food court just beyond the shops.

Speaking of dining, a gift that would be appreciated by any hostess and/or host who is into American history is the new 208-page hardcover book “Dining with the Washingtons: Historic Recipes, Entertaining, and Hospitality from Mount Vernon” priced at $35.

Edited by Stephen A. McLeod with contributions from Steven T. Bashore, Carol Borchert Cadou, Nancy Carter Crump, J. Dean Norton, Dennis J. Pogue, Walter Scheib, Mary V. Thompson and Esther White, this attractive volume contains 250 color illustrations, notes, and index.

As the home of America’s first “First Family,” Mount Vernon Estate saw a constant flow of guests. This book is the definitive guide for how the Washingtons entertained and contains many recipes of the favorite cuisines of the day.

There are also vivid photos of many of those dishes accompanied by engaging essays that shed fresh light on the daily lives of the first couple. There are over 90 historic recipes “adapted for today’s kitchen” and guidelines for formal and everyday entertaining and dining in colonial style.

Complimenting this attractive treatise on historic dining and food preparation are a myriad of products in The Shops that originate at Mount Vernon, either on the farm or at the Gristmill and Distillery. Some of the offerings that would intrigue any cook on anyone’s list include Gristmill yellow cornmeal, yellow grits, pancake mix, and white cornmeal. Each comes in its own decorated bag that holds 907.2 grams and is priced at $7.95.

For every name on anyone’s list regardless of age, sex, interests, or nationality. And, best of all, there is no mall rush scene or walking the length of several football fields.

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For other possibilities in the colonial food and beverage line there various varieties of Virginia peanuts ranging in price from a four-ounce bag for $2.95 to nine and 16-ounce containers of roasted salted and honey roasted at $6.95 each.

For those who prefer something sweeter in nature, there is the 13.8-ounce decorated tin of “24 delicious chocolate covered classic shortbread cookies” at $21.95. For a more whimsical gift, emphasizing Washington’s venture into distilling spirits, try a decanter in the form of the stills now operative at the distillery adjacent to the Gristmill. It sells for $355 and can be accompanied with an ornament depicting the still for $21.95.

As always, there is a wide selection of Virginia wines and the continuation of the “Ales of The Revolution” to accompany the various food offerings. The ale is a joint effort of Mount Vernon Estate and Yards Brewing Company of Philadelphia to recognize the preferred beer of Washington, Jefferson and Franklin. It makes the perfect gift for beer lovers at $3 per bottle.

And, what would proper entertaining be without the appropriate silverware and the ornate cases in which to keep it? Both are available at The Shops.

Sterling silver utensils in the Classic Bead design from Reed & Barton are available in both adult and child sizes. The adult fork and spoon, gift-boxed and engravable, are priced at $195. Silverware pieces can be complimented by a Tarpley knife and flatware mahogany case with vertical storage and removable rack.

The linings of the chest is black tarnish-resistant silver cloth. It holds service for 18, including serving pieces and sells for $255. There is also a Reed & Barton jewelry box at $250. Both pieces are handmade and feature inlaid woodwork.

Other sterling silver items available at The Shops include various flatware pieces as well as baby cups and comb and brush sets selling for $95 to $195.

Not only was Washington a surveyor, farmer, military general, and entrepreneur, but also he was a Free Mason, as were many of the founding fathers including Benjamin Franklin and Alexander Hamilton along with Washington’s military compatriot in the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette. Masonry was a theme throughout Washington’s life.

To honor that fact, The Shops are offering a 44-inch tall Bev’s Masonic George Washington caroler, holding a bible and gavel, and wearing the traditional masonic apron of “cream-colored cotton with nearly 30 symbols of the Masonic brotherhood” Handcrafted in Pennsylvania, it is priced at $72 and available only at The Shops.

One of The Shops most unique offerings this year is a collection of hand painted coin and stamp jewelry featuring pieces representative of the United States and around the world. They are offered in a variety of settings including necklaces, pendants, cuff links, belt buckles, and money clips. And, they are a “Made in the USA” product ranging in price from $85 to $179.

Created by a United States family of artisans, each piece is hand-done and covered with a space-age plastic to protect it and add depth

See TREASURES on page 36

KEY FOR GIFT PHOTOS

1 Stoneware Whiskey Still Decanter
2 Chocolate Covered Shortbread
3 White Dove of Peace Ornament
4 Mount Vernon Estate Cookbook
5 1800 Silver Dollar
6 Commemorative Ornament of the Distillery and Gristmill
7 Various Flours and Gristmill products
8 Tarpley Knife and Flatware Case
9 Prayer at Valley Forge Ornament
10 Sterling Silver Engravable Flatware
11 George Washington Mason Caroler
12 Wide Assortment of Canned Nuts
**Dump** Cake

This cake was recently served at the Associated Builders and Contractors’ 2011 pot luck lunch and won raves! It’s incredibly easy to prepare, with no mixing involved. Just “dump” the ingredients in a pan and bake. The result is amazingly delicious, something between a cake and a cobbler - a definite new addition to your holiday table.

1 20-ounce can crushed pineapple, undrained
1 21-ounce can prepared Cummstock More Fruit cherry pie filling
1 18.25-ounce box yellow cake mix
2 sticks (1 cup or 2 1/2 Tbspoons) butter or margarine, cut into 12 slices
1/4 cup chopped nuts of choice (pecans, walnuts, etc.)

Have a 9 x 13-inch baking pan (glass baking dish ready).
Preheat oven to 350 degrees (325 if using a glass baking dish).
Dump undrained pineapple into pan and spread evenly.
Using a spoon, dump globs of cherry pie filling evenly on top of pineapple.
Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over the cherry and pineapple layers.
Place 12 butter/margarine slices evenly over cake mix.
Sprinkle nuts on top.
Bake for one hour.

To serve, scoop out with a large spoon and dump in bowl. Top with vanilla ice cream or whipped cream. Delicious hot or cold!

**Recipe Courtesy of Barbara Sexton**

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**ASK DR. KNAPP**

By Robert Knapp
Legal Services

NO CHARGE for First Consultation

32 years experience

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Sir Winston Churchill

---

**The Quotable:**

We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give.

Sir Winston Churchill

---

**Dr. Knapp, one of Virginia’s most recognized Chiropractors, discusses the benefits of combining chiropractic care and simple lifestyle choices to become healthier and even pain-free.**

Bidding a fond farewell to 2011, a year new filled with possibilities has been ushered in. As with each New Year, 2012 brings with it a multitude of resolutions. Many of these often-unkept promises revolve around enjoying life more, spending more time with family, or quitting smoking. Other resolutions involve the ongoing “battle of the bulge.”

However, as these resolutions fall by the wayside almost as quickly as an ice storm in Washington DC, Dr. Knapp encourages you to consider and keep ten simple resolutions that can quickly improve your health and help you become – and stay – pain-free.

Says Dr. Knapp, “Making a New Year’s resolution for your health may actually be one of the most important things that you do in 2012. Of course, when talking about healthy resolutions, most people immediately think of eating healthier foods and exercises...”

This type of movement rots the spine in an unnatural and painful manner, often causing strained, inflamed, or even torn soft tissues.

**Make 2012 Your Best Year Yet!**

Dr. Knapp graduated from Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Science degree, followed by a Doctor of Chiropractic degree from New York Chiropractic College. He received his C.C.S.T. degree from Life University in 1995. His post-graduate work has exceeded 600 hours. These hours have included study in spinal curvature, disc disease, arthritis, nutrition, headaches, sports injuries, and carpal tunnel syndrome, just to name a few. Currently, Dr. Knapp is taking courses at the prestigious Carrick Institute of Neuroscience. He is also a contributing author of Neck Pain, Neck Pain – You Don’t Want It, You Don’t Need It. Since his arrival in Alexandria in 1989, Dr. Knapp has been involved in many civic associations, as well as serving as chiropractor for the Kennedy Center and Shakespeare Theatres. His hobbies include kayaking, strength training, biking, art, and literature, just to name a few. If you have a question, please email him at dr.knapp@chiropractic.com or call (703) 823-2201.
Tuesday, December 6, The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce held its 2011 Annual Meeting and State of Business Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Old Town, Alexandria. Terry McAuliffe, businessman, entrepreneur, past Democratic National Committee Chairman and former Virginia Governor contender gave the keynote address. Among the many issues he covered, McAuliffe highlighted the need to create jobs and what efforts he has personally done to bring jobs to this country. This includes starting GreenTech Automotives and building electric cars. During the breakfast, members of the Chamber’s board and staff were recognized and presented awards. At the conclusion of the breakfast, a drawing for a Land Rover Evoque lease was held.

Photos by Harry Merritt

Alexandria Chamber of Commerce 2011 Annual Breakfast Meeting

“By way of nourishment, not by way of knowledge.”
—Rabbi Isaac the Blind

Anne Alden
Kabbalistic Healer

Kabbalistic Healing is an alternative to psychotherapy that uses a model of the human psyche that is derived from Kabbalah, Jewish Mysticism that has been used for centuries for achieving wholeness. It is a transformational process that teaches us that we are whole in our brokenness and allows us to love and respect our true self.

It is appropriate to issues that would bring one to counseling, including relationship difficulties and self-esteem issues. It also addresses the mind/body connection.

Sessions can be in person or over the phone. Call 703 521 4898.
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OUR PUB HAS 16 HIGH DEFINITION TELEVISIONS with all of your sports packages and we have live bands every Tuesday through Saturday with no cover charge.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY
Half Price Burger Night
(includes a dozen special burgers)

TUESDAY
“Simply Fish” Night
(Seafood Steamers & other fresh fish specials)

WEDNESDAY
45¢ Wing Night

THURSDAY
Southern BBQ Night
(reduced price on ribs and other BBQ specials)

FRIDAY
Steak Night (prime rib and other steak specials)

SATURDAY
Half Price Bottles of Wine (list of 50+ bottles)

SUNDAY
Comfort Foods
(Kicked up Mac-n-Cheese, Loaded Meatloaf)

VISIT THE LOBSTER ZONE
You catch ‘em...We cook ‘em for you FREE!

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE and NEW YEAR’s EVE!!

Come and become a part of the Ramparts family!

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Come and become a part of the Ramparts family!
The fabulous ensemble cast of The Little Theatre's production of December 2011 brought to bear. of its participants' sacrifices are poignant when the full weight of their journey to the 600 Wolfe Street stage in October. Each put their egos and vulnerabilities on the line to read for a part in Jim Howard's production of the classic holiday fable, fully aware of a stringent cast size limit of more than 30 actors, young and old, spanning the generations with varying degrees of stage experience, some first-timers, began their journey to the 600 Wolfe Street stage in October. An ensemble cast of more than 30 actors, young and old, spanning the generations with varying degrees of stage experience, some first-timers, began their journey to the 600 Wolfe Street stage in October.

There's an 8th grade teacher, a personal trainer and a few defense contractors thrown in for good measure. If it were the London of 1843, there'd be a candlestick maker. Everyone has a day job, but when the curtain rises on The Little Theatre of Alexandria's holiday offering of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, it's pure magic.

The one-act play's prologue draws the entire cast onstage to dissect Ebenezer Scrooge's stingy, Christmas killjoy behavior when Scrooge, portrayed by retired Navy Captain Marcus Fisk, appears silent in their midst. Fisk's unctuous omnipresence envelopes the stage, cascading down into the audience like a seaport fog, rolling row after row, overtaking, pulling us into his persona. For a moment, he is intoxicating. When he is on stage, you can't release yourself from his inflicted psychological trance.

In like fashion, Robert Heinly as Marley and Marcus Fisk as Scrooge steal the show in this well-acted production of A Christmas Carol. The onstage support for each other is palpable, and a great deal of credit must be given to director Robin Parker, who has elevated this production and its actors to bring audiences a truly memorable holiday experience. And she should know. A Christmas Carol was the first play in which she performed at age 12, and it made an impact on her for life. As well, this Dickens tale is too late. He tells Scrooge that he will be awakened by three ghosts who will show him his past, present and future. Heinly, who commutes from Ashburn, Virginia, to performances here, is thrilled that he has acted in a base production while living in Germany in 1964. He was so enthralled that he has acted in more than 40 plays since (while still maintaining his day job).

So while you perhaps know how Scrooge's story comes out, The Little Theatre has brought the volunteer spirit to this production with the true meaning of the play lived out every day in the individuals who have come together collectively to bring a voice and a presence to community theatre. It can be great, it can be good, but, in this instance, it is too late. He tells Scrooge that he will be awakened by three ghosts who will show him his past, present and future. Heinly, who commutes from Ashburn, Virginia, to performances here, is thrilled that he has acted in a base production while living in Germany in 1964. He was so enthralled that he has acted in more than 40 plays since (while still maintaining his day job).

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City of Alexandria to Host Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition

The public is invited to attend the Alexandria Holiday Invitational Cheerleading Competition, scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday, December 17 at T.C. Williams High School, 3330 King Street. The competition features youth cheerleading teams from City recreation centers and other teams from the metropolitan area. Tickets are available for purchase in advance and also at the door the day of the event. Tickets will be on sale from December 2 – December 15, at the Charles Houston, Cora Kelly, Patrick Henry and William Ramsay recreation centers and at the Recreation Services Division Office, located at 1108 Jefferson Street. Tickets can be purchased in advance for $5 for ages 13 and older, $2 for ages 6-12 and ages 5 and under are admitted free. Ticket prices at the door will be $6 for ages 13 and older, $3 for ages 6-12 and for ages 5 and under are admitted free.

Alexandria author Brooke C. Stoddard will discuss and sign copies of his new book World in the Balance: The Perilous Months of June-October 1940 at The Hangar: Aviation Specialties, 1325 King Street, Alexandria, Va., on Saturday, December 17 from 2:00PM to 4:00PM. Owing to the aviation aspects of the Battle of Britain, Stoddard and The Hangar: Aviation Specialties are teaming up. The Hangar specializes in aviation memorabilia, clothing, and aircraft models, especially as they relate to World War II. Stoddard is a former editor of Military Heritage Magazine as well as a former writer and editor at Time-Life Books and National Geographic. “I wrote this book about the Battle of Britain for Americans,” he says, “because there are stories about the struggle Americans often over-look. One is the attack of the British navy on the French fleet days after France’s armistice with Germany so that French battleships would not fall to the Nazis. More than a thousand French sailors were killed.” The book also presents plenty of aviation-related material, including comparisons of British and German aircraft, the story of Hugh Dowding who masterminded Royal Air Force Fighter Command, and the development of radar just in time for the Nazi air invasion. Stoddard has lived in Alexandria since 1979 and the Washington, D. C., area since 1973.

Why is Christmas just like a day at the office? You do all the work and the fat guy with the suit gets all the credit.

–Anonymous
Latin Students Excel at State Convention

A talented group of classics students from St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria took home more than 30 awards at the Virginia Junior Classical League (VJCL) state convention, held in Richmond November 20-21. The annual convention brings together delegations from independent, public, and home schools across the state for competition and camaraderie. SSSAS 11th grade student Evan Draim won the position of VJCL president and was sworn in before more than 1600 delegates. He delivered the opening remarks of the final assembly and now serves as president of the statewide organization.

With a large delegation of 39 creative and enthusiastic Middle and Upper School students, Saints Latin won first place in the Grand Delegation category during the convention. The Saints also won the VJCL Publicity contest, as well as the best article and most original publicity activity. In academic awards, SSSAS students scored well and earned dozens of honors. Among them, Draim won best-in-show in Roman History and Roman Life. In addition, he earned first place on five tests (Latin Literature, Grammar, Pentathlon, Roman History, and Roman Life) and fourth place on Greek. Junior Brett Williams placed first in Derivatives, second in Grammar and in Reading Comprehension Prose, fourth in Vocabulary, and second in Photography. Seventh grade student Kathryn Riggs placed fourth in Greek.

“It is amazing how many Latin students have seized themselves of countless opportunities for Classical enrichment,” said Upper School Latin Teacher Ian Hochberg. “Latin is fortunate to have so many competitions, which serve as outlets for such enthusiasm, and to have so many students interested in this enrichment.” Hochberg manages the St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes Upper School Latin program and was the 2011 recipient of the Larlene W. Todd Teacher of the Year Award from the Classical Association of Virginia. The convention offers many opportunities for creative and artistic expression related to the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Among the art awards, sophomore Liza Freed earned first place and best-in-show in Sculpture for her bust of Diana, while freshman Zach Tilch’s Hydra also placed first in Sculpture in his division, and Draim placed first in Dramatic Interpretation. Seventh grade student Courtney Tillman earned a first place award in Impromptu Art and second in Child’s Books, and seventh grade student Nathan Pugh placed second in photography and cartoons. Freshman Joshua Reed earned second in Dramatic Interpretation and third in Child’s Books, and seventh grade student Patrick Fullen placed fourth in Impromptu Art.

Fourth Grade Students Help Buy Toys for Sick Children

Fourth grade students at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria organized their own bake sale to buy toys for patients at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. this holiday season and then delivered the toys to the hospital. This is the 18th year of the program. Each December, the children turn their classrooms into bakeries for a day to raise money from the school community. They organize the baking, advertise the sale around school, decide how to price the items, make change, and roll the coins. Then they make a list of toys they’d like to buy, and their teachers purchase them with the bake sale proceeds.

On December 9, the Lower School held an assembly with a representative from Children’s National Medical Center and special guest mascot, “Dr. Bear.” Immediately following the assembly, the fourth grade went to Children’s National to deliver the toys around the Christmas tree in the lobby.

“The bake sale is a service-learning project in which every member of our Lower School community can participate,” said SSSAS Fourth Grade Teacher Beth Barrow, co-creator of the annual program. “We love doing this project at holiday time, as it lets the students express the true spirit of the season through giving to others. We are so grateful for everyone’s support!”

SSSAS will continue its service with the hospital later in the school year, when the fourth grade will make fleece blankets for infants in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and the fifth grade will perform a magic show for patients.
Fern Street Gourmet
Your neighborhood wine shop
We carry more than 1,200 varieties of fine wine and the cheeses to match them.
Drop by and meet Andy, the new owner, and let him help you choose a special wine for your holidays.
* Weekly wine tastings
* Gift Baskets for the last minute
* New Year's Specials

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BY MARI STULL

The Vixen Ten
Gifts for the Special Wine-Oh in Your Life

1. Champagne Cork Catcher $40 – Screwpull’s Cork Catcher protects eyes and windows by catching the cork securely while allowing for the festive pop.
   All Williams-Sonoma stores.

   MoMA Store (momastore.org)

3. Handstamped Holiday Wine Charms $20 – Set includes four wine charms hand stamped with the words love, joy, noel & merry. Wine tag is stamped “Happy Holidays.” Shipped free and hand made. Use Holidays10 at check out and enjoy 10% off. Such a deal! Philanthropic Panda shop on Etsy www.etsy.com/shop/PhilanthropicPanda

   World Market, All major wine shops.

5. Keep Calm and Drink Wine print $12 – Absolutely.
   A Drop of Golden Sun shop on Etsy www.etsy.com/shop/adropofgoldensun

6. Monogrammed Champagne Bucket $34 – They will use it. Often.
   West Elm Stores www.westelm.com

7. Personalized Linen Cocktail Napkins $25 (set of four) – Simple and chic
   Saks Fifth Avenue www.saksfifthavenue.com

8. Wine Carafe with Oak Stopper $36 – It’s a carafe. With an oak stopper.
   www.uncommongoods.com

9. Mingling Plate (set of four) $24 – Now you don’t have to choose between a plate of cheese and your wine.
   Pottery Barn

10. Laguiole Engraved Corkscrew from $119 – These corkscrews are handmade in Laguiole, France and are simply stunning. Engrave your wine-oh’s monogram or name on the handle for a lovely touch.
    www.customcurling.com

Ass Reaper hot sauce will make you feel like the Grim Reaper came for a temporary visit! This sauce ranks at #20 on the ReimerSeeds.com Top 20 list of super hot sauces! It is a product from Costa Rica and distributed out of Texas. This fiery hot sauce has a great combination of flavors and heat. It is not for the normal over the counter hot sauce users. Ass Reaper Hot Sauce is made with Habanero and Scotch Bonnet Peppers. Not only does it look good in your collection, but delicious on nachos and fajitas. I tried it on pizza and it automatically became one of my favorites.

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   MoMA Store (momastore.org)

3. Handstamped Holiday Wine Charms $20 – Set includes four wine charms hand stamped with the words love, joy, noel & merry. Wine tag is stamped “Happy Holidays.” Shipped free and hand made. Use Holidays10 at check out and enjoy 10% off. Such a deal! Philanthropic Panda shop on Etsy www.etsy.com/shop/PhilanthropicPanda

   World Market, All major wine shops.

5. Keep Calm and Drink Wine print $12 – Absolutely.
   A Drop of Golden Sun shop on Etsy www.etsy.com/shop/adropofgoldensun

6. Monogrammed Champagne Bucket $34 – They will use it. Often.
   West Elm Stores www.westelm.com

7. Personalized Linen Cocktail Napkins $25 (set of four) – Simple and chic
   Saks Fifth Avenue www.saksfifthavenue.com

8. Wine Carafe with Oak Stopper $36 – It’s a carafe. With an oak stopper.
   www.uncommongoods.com

9. Mingling Plate (set of four) $24 – Now you don’t have to choose between a plate of cheese and your wine.
   Pottery Barn

10. Laguiole Engraved Corkscrew from $119 – These corkscrews are handmade in Laguiole, France and are simply stunning. Engrave your wine-oh’s monogram or name on the handle for a lovely touch.
    www.customcurling.com

Ass Reaper hot sauce will make you feel like the Grim Reaper came for a temporary visit! This sauce ranks at #20 on the ReimerSeeds.com Top 20 list of super hot sauces! It is a product from Costa Rica and distributed out of Texas. This fiery hot sauce has a great combination of flavors and heat. It is not for the normal over the counter hot sauce users. Ass Reaper Hot Sauce is made with Habanero and Scotch Bonnet Peppers. Not only does it look good in your collection, but delicious on nachos and fajitas. I tried it on pizza and it automatically became one of my favorites.
Decanters and Vinturis: How to Breathe Without the Crystal Cost

Wine tips often involve purchasing products, an Olympian’s assault on your kitchen or bizarre info impossible to repeat on a date (and therefore what the hell’s the point if you can’t impress!). Wineboy wine tips are tailored to meet the needs of real people that want more pleasure without the pain. “No pain, no gain.”? For the birds. And of course, email with any questions. The most precious will be published (with permission).

BREATHE! Oxygenators, aerators, Vinturis, decanters, call them by their brand or purpose, they baffle most people as yet another “wine—people exclusive, self-hated inducing accessory”. But they’re a great idea for complex reds, though fun to use and no harm for simpler wines. Here’s why: “Breathing” is exposing wine to oxygen and allowing the complex compounds that are the physical make-up of juice to breakdown and in the process turn, like a flower from bud to brown, into a bright, glowing beauty. And like a flower that’s bloomed, there is the ‘opening’, ‘peak’ and ‘station wagon ride a la National Lampoon’s Family Vacation to death’. The process of “letting a wine breathe” adds to the pleasure and enjoyment of most reds, generally those of the more tannic, bolder and aged variety. I own multiple of all of the above as I enjoy their practical purpose as well as the aesthetic nature of a crystal decanter on a baroque monster dining table. They are expensive. Aerators average about $40 and decanters start at the same price and can reach into the thousands of dollars.

What you can do: Remove the cork from your wine bottle and pour enough wine into your glass to expose the shoulder of the bottle (where the neck meets the curve – until the wine is about 3 in. from the mouth of the bottle). For most reds (I do not recommend decanting or aerating Pinot Noir given its delicate aromas), I’d let the wine rest in the open bottle for about 20 min. and then taste. It’s fun to taste what you’ve poured into your glass immediately after exposing the shoulder to compare at the 20 min. mark. For wines that are older, beyond 5–6 years, particularly blends and ‘big’ Cabernets, you can wait anywhere from 30 min - an hour. For some wines, I’ve waited beyond four hours and the wine still needed more time. But don’t worry: only the Chinese can afford those days.

Sprinkle, sprinkle, all those little sparks, sparkles. Crystal tears, golden bubbles, I love how you twinkle. —A morning prayer to Champagne.

THE MESSAGE WAS LOUD AND CLEAR

People have a love-hate relationship with traditional hearing aids. While regaining their hearing is a huge plus, many are frustrated with the limitations and maintenance that comes with these devices. In fact, many decide to just live with their hearing loss rather than put up with the daily hassles.

24/7 HEARING WITH NO DAILY HASSLES

With lyric, you can forget the daily hassles of traditional hearing aids. You can use lyric during your daily activities such as sleeping, showering, exercising and talking on the phone. There are no batteries to change, no maintenance needed and no daily insertion or removal is required.

Lyric Benefits:

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Lyric is the only 24/7, 100% invisible, hearing device.

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Lyric is placed deep in your ear canal and uses your outer ear to naturally direct sound into the ear canal. This placement helps minimize background noise, improve speech clarity, and deliver natural sound quality.

SIMPLE AND EASY

Lyric is not an implant and requires no surgery or anesthesia. It is comfortably placed in the ear canal by a trained Lyric hearing professional. Lyric can be worn 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for up to 4 months at a time.*

*

Formerly a wine buyer for Whole Foods Market before devoting himself exclusively to Wineboy Wegman, he has also managed two wine retailers, was director of operations for the French Wine Society, an international trade organization and is a regular columnist for local publications. He began his career as the associate wine buyer and wine specialist for Dean and Deluca of Georgetown and is certified through the Wine and Spirits Education Trust in London. He is from Naples, FL.

www.wineboywegman.com

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Part time secretary (some legal experience required). Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite. Transcription capability is desirable. Salary negotiable. Old Town Alexandria law office location. Hours flexible. Phone 703-869-1444. Email cpschewe@verizon.net.

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1960’s Schwinn Tank bike (girls model). Original turquoise paint and seat. Been left outside under cover, but needs restoration. 703-919-7533.

**SERVICES**
Computer Help. Fairlington resident will help resolve problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Mention you saw this ad in Zebra. Jim, 703-820-8597 or jandgonline.com.


Home Alone Felines. Loving, professional in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-3504 or homealone-felines@gmail.com.

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The Alexandria Chamber of Commerce presents:

**The Chairman’s Giving Back Gala and Auction**

February 11, 2012
The Westin Alexandria

Featuring

Auction with a Twist

The Most Giving People in Alexandria
VIP Champagne Reception 5:30PM — 6:30PM
Cocktails 6:30PM — 7:30PM
Presentation of Chairman’s Chamber Charity Award
Dinner Dancing and Live Auction 7:30PM to Midnight

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**The Nation’s U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree visits Del Ray**

The Nation’s U.S. Capitol Christmas tree made a stop at Alexandria’s Del Ray neighborhood for all to view. Along with the tree an enormous Christmas card was attached for visitors to sign. The 63-foot, Sierra White Fir tree was donated from the State of California. It will make a 4,500 mile voyage before ending up in the front of the U.S. Capitol.

Photos by Harry Merritt

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“A Broadway Christmas Carol”
Through December 18
MetroStage
1201 North Royal Street
Alexandria
703/548-9044
metrostage.org
Created by Kathy Feininger, the show tells the story of the classic Dickens’ tale with uproarious parodies of favorite Broadway show tunes. Laugh out loud, roll in the aisles funny. A holiday tradition returns. Thurs and Fri at 8, Sat at 3 & 8, and Sun at 3 & 7. Tickets $45-50 (students $25).

“A Christmas Carol”
Now thru December 18
Little Theatre of Alexandria
600 Wolfe Street
703/683-0496
littletheatre.org
LTA rings in the holiday season with a return of the classic by Charles Dickens. Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian humbug, travels with ghostly guides through Christmas past, present, and future to find the true meaning of the holidays. Complete with special effects, Victorian cars, and Tiny Tim, A Christmas Carol is a must for the entire family.

Colonial English Handbell Ringers Perform
December 18
The Lyceum
201 South Washington Street
Alexandria
703/746-4994
alexandriahistory.org
Enjoy your favorite holiday music with the Colonial English Handbell Ringers, now in their 20th season, will give two performances with the first beginning at 2 p.m. and the second, a repeat performance, at 4 p.m. Limited free parking is available. FREE!

“Holiday Follies Cabaret”
Now thru December 23
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Transforming its smaller performance space into an intimate club complete with small tables and candlelight, Signature invites patrons to bring the outstanding wine, mixed drinks, and light fare from its highly praised Ali’s Bar into the Theatre to enjoy during the performances. Tickets $41.

“Holiday Follies”
Now thru January 9
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
Transforming its smaller performance space into an intimate club complete with small tables and candlelight, Signature invites patrons to bring the outstanding wine, mixed drinks, and light fare from its highly praised Ali’s Bar into the Theatre to enjoy during the performances. Tickets $41.

Dreamworks’ Merry Madagascar in ICE!
Now thru January 8
National Harbor
301/965-4000
nationalharbor.com
Two million pounds of ice sculpted into scenes from the famous movie. Handcrafted by artisans from as far away as China, who worked an entire month in 12 hour shifts. Adult ticket prices range from $25 to $35; children ages 4-12 are $20 to $30; seniors age 62 and older are $19 to $24; military adults are $22 to $32; children of military are $17 to $27; and children under 3 are free. Ticket prices range depending on the day of the week.

First Night Alexandria
December 31, 2011
Durant Arts Center
1605 Cameron Street
Alexandria
703/746-3301
firstnightalexandria.org
Second Annual Fun Hunt: 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Kick-off Event at Durant Arts Center: 5 p.m.
100 Live Performances throughout Old Town: 7 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.
Multimedia Fireworks Finale at George Washington Masonic Memorial: 12 midnight
$15 before December 21; $20 after. Children 12 and under are free. Admission badges may be purchased online through December 25. Badges can be purchased in person at the Alexandria Visitors Center at Ramsay House, 221 King Street. On December 31, all First Night venues will have badges for sale beginning 15 minutes prior to the first performance. Admission badges will also be available beginning at noon on December 31 at the Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron Street.

“Hairspray”
Now thru January 29
Signature Theatre
4200 Campbell Avenue
Arlington
703/527-1860
signature-theatre.org
When she wins a coveted spot on “The Corny Collins Show,” Baltimore’s most popular teen dance program, the high school loser with the big heart, big personality and big hair proves everyone wrong and becomes a local TV celebrity. It seems like Tracy will have it all - the eye of heartthrob Link Larkin, the Miss Teenage Hairspray crown, even a modeling gig with Mr. Pinky’s Hefy Hideaway. But is segregated Baltimore ready to embrace her demand for racial integration? And will her larger-than-life mother ever leave the house? Tickets $41.
at month indicated that I would discuss the Small Claims Court as it exists in Virginia. It is part of the General District Court and has a jurisdictional limit in the amount not to exceed $5,000.00.

Claims in this Court shall be commenced by filing of a “Warrant-In-Debt -Small Claims”, which must be served on the Defendant. Mailing to the Defendant is in and of itself not sufficient service. This requires service by the Sheriff, private process server or any individual over the age of 18 who is not a convicted felon. Plaintiffs may not serve themselves.  Plaintiffs is this convicted felon.  Plaintiffs may not serve

This is a gift from Santa Claus since here they will not even let you have a lawyer. In fact, our Virginia Law states that an attorney may be involved here (in this court) only if he is representing himself in a case which involves his own claim. However, a person who is not a lawyer, but qualifies as an owner, general partner, officer or an employee can represent their own businesses.

In addition, a party (Plaintiff or Defendant) who a Judge believes cannot understand or properly participate in his own case may be represented by someone who is a friend or relative and he demonstrates that he is familiar with that person’s case. Remember in this Court he cannot be an attorney for this purpose.

There is one problem regarding this Small Claims Court. This is, that at any point – as a Defendant has a right to “remove” or switch to the “regular” General District Court at any time prior to the decision by the Judge and for that purpose this Defendant may have a lawyer. Remember that in General District Court, in my opinion you should have a lawyer. The best way, of course, to prevent this from happening is for the parties to agree ahead of time that they will at least let a decision be rendered by the Judge in the Small Claims Court. Also, note that in this Court the Judge is to conduct the trial in an informal manner and will not be strict or even follow the strict rules of practice, procedure, pleading or evidence. As always, however, the decision in this Court may be appealed to our higher Court (Circuit Court) where the case will be heard De Novo (all over again and a whole new show). In the Circuit Court you can even have a jury hear the case. We will talk about the Circuit Court next month. Happy Holidays to you all.

Christopher Paul Schewe is a former City of Alexandria attorney and has been practicing over 32 years specializing in personal injury and DUI/DWI cases. If you have a question for Chris, please email him at cpschewe@virgin.net or call his office at 216 South Patrick Street, Alexandria at 703-684-8200.
peace on earth, goodwill toward men.” A nice thought. But, hardly apropos to December 1861 as the Civil War entered its first winter with many soldiers away from home and family for the first time over the holiday season.

In fact, December 1861 proved to be one of the most contentious periods for the Union cause. President Abraham Lincoln was at odds with his newly named Commanding General George McClellan’s timidity in pressing troops simultaneously — the Confederacy and, the far more potent adversary Great Britain, which had the largest naval force in the world at that time.

As with all wars, money was also a prime concern. The U.S. Treasury had estimated that the Civil War could be adequately financed for up to two years, depending on the supply circumstances. Beyond that, the U.S. faced substantial financial trouble.

Again Congress acted with their own Christmas gift to the American people. On December 19 and again on December 30— in time for Christmas — Congress passed a series of new duties on tea, coffee, sugar and what they considered “luxury goods.”

With all this, Lincoln called a cabinet meeting for Christmas Day. The prime focus was how to deal with the so-called “Trent Affair” and Mason and Slidell. The result was that on December 26, it was announced that the Confederate emissaries would be released and turned over to Lord Lyons. That occurred on December 30 — in time for a New Year’s Eve celebration in Richmond, capital of the Confederacy.

They were subsequently placed on a British ship to coincide with Lyons’s return to England. Trent’s Captain Wilkes, who had originally been hailed as a hero by Congress, and many northern citizens, became the fall guy when it was also announced that he “had acted without the knowledge of the U.S. Government.”

On Christmas night, after a hard day of Washington politics, Lincoln hosted a holiday White House gathering. Christmas was not yet an official holiday. That did not happen until five years after The Civil War ended.

Unlike the cessation of hostilities on the battlefields of World War I on Christmas Eve and throughout Christmas Day, the American Civil War enjoyed no reprieve during that season. Military actions did not cease on December 25, 1861.

On that day, a blockade runner was caught by the U.S. Navy and earlier, there were skirmishes in Maryland and Virginia. One was known as the Battle of Dranesville—a confrontation between Union General David E. Twiggs and Edward O.C. Ord and one of the Confederacy’s most recognized field commanders J.E.B. Stuart. It began on December 6 when Meade and his brigadier, Major General William B. Franklin, were ordered to move toward a farm in the Dranesville area to arrest southern sympathizers for alleged Union spying. Ord had protect his flank to the east. Although nothing happened that day, Meade learned that Confederate foragers planned to be in Dranesville on December 20. Based on that information General George McCollard ordered Ord to stop the Confederate troops from their mission. Dranesville, located on what was then known as the Alexandria-Leesburg Pike, some 16 miles from the District of Columbia, was a critical location.

Ord’s orders were to “drive back the enemy pickets” and “procure a supply of corn.” As Ord stated, “If Ord and Ewell can catch Slidell and Mason and Stuart, without any intervention of the British, it will be a great thing.”

Bradford had a force of approximately 3,000 composed of cavalry, artillery and infantry. But, he had no backing as did the Union forces. Stuart made his move at a key intersection on Leesburg Pike in an attempt to cut Ord’s forces from communications. An artillery battle ensued. Both Stuart and Ord had the same objective — take a key farmhouse strategically located between the two opposing forces.

Ord’s troops got there first and secured their position by calling up reinforcements. Stuart had no such reinforcements to rely upon and therefore called off his attack retreating to Centreville. The result was that on December 20, Ord protect his flank to the east.

Bradford was reinforced with a force of approximately 3,000 men, including the 9th Virginia Cavalry. They engaged a Union force of some 1,500 men near Millwood. The result was that on December 20, Ord protect his flank to the east.

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A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria at The Lyceum on January 25

Encore Lecture by Author Wally Owen Includes 3-D and Rare Civil War Images

See what Alexandria looked like during the Civil War through the eyes of photographers who documented it! The Office of Historic Alexandria will sponsor a special Civil War 150th Commemoration lecture on Wednesday, January 25, 2012, at The Lyceum, entitled “A Visual Tour of Civil War Alexandria.” Wally Owen, Assistant Director of Fort Ward Museum and co-author of Mr. Lincoln’s Forts: A Guide to the Civil War Defenses of Washington, will present an illustrated lecture featuring 3-D images and rare photographs, including many that have never been published. This presentation is an encore of the sold-out lecture Owen gave earlier this fall. Meet some of the people behind the lens who are responsible for Alexandria’s rich Civil War photographic heritage, such as Andrew J. Russell and Egbert Guy Fowx. Also learn about the challenges that contemporary historians face in studying these images, and how technological advancements can be used to bring these 19th-century photographs to life.

The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are $10 per person. Reservations are recommended due to space limitations. Tickets are available by calling The Lyceum at 703.746.4994 or through the online shop at www.alexandriahistory.org. Should this event be rescheduled due to winter weather, the snow date will be Wednesday, February 1, 2012.

The Lyceum, Alexandria’s History Museum, is located at 201 South Washington Street in Old Town Alexandria and is open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, visit www.alexandriahistory.org or call 703.746.4994.
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Waynesboro, Virginia lbran’s great grandfather (12 generations) was John Alden, the ship’s carpenter on the Mayflower. Not kidding! It’s made from reclaimed white oak from a barn in Weyers Cave, VA, which was built around 1880’s. He didn’t use screws, nails, or glue. It’s not just a table it’s a story that will last generations to come: conceptscrafted.com $490-647-4695

2. The Sofa

We estimate the cost at about $6,000.00 for their beautiful, linen slip covered sofa. You can slip right out of that expense and go for:

OURS IS: We found and love our gorgeous, affordable, comfortable Loretta sofa from SimplicitySofa.com, 800-813-2889, for way less! It has a solid oak frame, comfy cushions, kid/pet friendly fabric, and the next thing is it comes in two boxes and is super easy to assemble for $1,049.00 Twillo Stone, Slipcover is $399.00 Geo Pearl.

3. FIRE PLACE

Nothing creates a cozy focal point better than a fireplace. If you have one, great. If not, fake it! We found a 4’ wide VENICE ELECTRIC FIREPLACE SUITE, at $1599 ($500 off while supplies last). We all love Horchow, but that’s the cost of just their mantle—no fire, no heat!

OURS IS: We planned a day trip to Richmond to visit the Victorian Fireplace Shop, gascoals.com, 804-355-1688 for their HUGE selection of “faux” fireplace options. Electric is the way to go for us busy Northern Virginians; it’s super-convenient and there’s no messy installation process - just unbox your fireplace, plug it in and enjoy instant ambiance!

4. Chair

The Set Designer found this one for George Smith at $5,000.00. OURS IS: Handmade chairs from Arthur Basley Co $1,100.

5. Bright Orange Chair

We really love this look, and the punch of paprika is... delish, but only the incredibly brave would invest a portfolio on an orange chair. You don’t have to. Two ideas for this: Buy a simple, cotton slip cover and a box of orange dye or....

Buy a simple, cotton slip cover and a box of orange dye or....

6. Accessories

Great texture, interest and whiny is introduced with the enormous glass bowl of artichokes... porcelain artichokes, that is! You can opt for: Porcelain artichokes for a mere $175.00 each (we DO hope they come with a vignette for that price!) or OURS ARE: Jun-as-great-looking Artichokes $19.99 from CountryDoor.com, 1-800-341-9477

7. Floor Covering

This Sisal Rug is a great look that can work just about anywhere. We “canvassed” the internet and found a very reasonable option: SisalRugs.com Every rug is made to order, even standard sizes. We chose Size: 14’4”x 14’4”, Style: Sienna Brasilia Sisal, Extra-wide binding in Honey color, blind stitched for just $1744, and Freight is FREE. 888-613-1335

8. WALL COLOR

Ahhh... paint. Wonderful, never expensive, totally “customizable”... paint. It’s by Benjamin Moore Tapistry Beige. 9 Art!

Now, I grant you that the Mitchell Johnson landscape over the fireplace mantle does bring all the right colors into focus... and for $4,500... it should! But for the somewhat more sensible cost of $193.98 you could also choose Embudo Cliffi or Monterey Cypress, available on EncoreEditions.com on stretched canvas, sent right to your door!

10. THROWS

Final touches... for snug, napping and adding more texture to the room, we found BedfordCottage.com throws in indigo & mandarin at only $69.99. Great rich color, nice and cozy, and easy on the budget! Add a few pillows in blues, beige, and flax with bright navy and orange. Invite the girls over for wine, cheery, conversation, fun... and if a Baldwin happens to drop-in, give the guy a chance!

We’re here to help and accepting new clients.

A Virginia native, Ginger shares her experiences: some personal, some professional, in her light-hearted Blog Coffee With Ginger (www.coffeewithginger.com) and teaches monthly design seminars (The Alexandria Design Dilemma Meetup Group) FREE to the community. She lives in Alexandria with her husband and two sons. Have a design dilemma or question you want answered in the Zebra?
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Call for BackUp!!

Design Dilemma? Interior Emergency? Domestic Decorating Dispute?
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AFH is ALWAYS in need of foster homes!

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.

Barbara - (Female) - Available
Breed: Domestic Short Hair-black Mix
Age: 17 Months
History: Cross-post Description: Barbara is one of eight kittens that were born to Monna Anna on July 15, 2010 in West Virginia. Barbara and her alphabet siblings (Can! Dona, Ethel, Pat!, Gertrude, Henry and Iris!) were given up when their owners were given a 10-day eviction notice because their landlord had not paid the mortgage on their rented house. The cats were rescued by a Maryland foster, who drove to West Virginia to pick up Monna Anna and her eight kittens. All have been altered but Barbara and four siblings. Barbara was the “nut” of the litter, but received more attention and as a result is very friendly and loves to be brushed. She has a small swath of white hair on her chest, is litter trained, fully vetted and spayed. She is playful and is familiar with dogs, as her fosters have two of their own whom she sees regularly.

Chili - (Male) - Available
Breed: Pomeranian / Chihuahua Mix
Age: 9 Years
History: Owner Release Description: Chili is a Pomeranian/Chihuahua mix. He was given up because his owner passed away. He is housetrained and very sweet. Chili is good with other dogs. He has not been around young children. He loves being held.

Chase - (Male) - Available
Breed: Rottweiler Mix
Age: 5 Months
History: Shelter Description: Description: I’m Chase, and my brother Caeser and I are available! The other 6 of our littermates have all found their forever homes. Caeser and I have gotten our last set of shots so our foster mom has been taking us on walks with a collar and leash. We are doing great...I guess that’s because we have great temperaments and we are very intelligent and calm, well as calm as two male puppies can be. But really, we are smart playful and healthy.

Steve - (Male) - Available
Breed: Beagle / Australian Shepherd Mix
Age: 15 Weeks
History: Shelter Description: Hi, I’m Steve and I’m the last puppy out of a litter of 4 VERY cute puppies. I’m adorable and I’m the biggest of the litter. But I’m also the abotest. I live with a bunch of big dogs and love them. But I’m still a bit shy around humans. I’m really well socialized with dogs and am playful and super sweet. I’m about three months old and weigh about 20 lbs. I’ll probably only get to about 45-50 lbs. If you would like to meet me, please send an email and we can set up a time to meet.

Garrett - (Male) - Available
Breed: Chesapeake Bay Retriever Mix
Age: 13 Weeks
Weight: 30 Pounds
History: Shelter Description: Garrett is a newly arrived gorgeous male Chesapeake Retriever mix who is approximately 30lbs at just 12 weeks old, so needless to say he is going to be a big dog. He has a thick, soft, curly coat that is various shades of caramel with black markings, specifically around his face, neck and tail and heart-melting big brown eyes. He enjoys his toys and chewing on his bone and some unapproved items, such as slippers, but is easy to correct. He is very playful and curious of his surroundings, and is well behaved in the house for a such a young pup and will gladly cuddle next to you or on your lap when it is time for a nap. He does well in his crate during the day for short periods of time and throughout the night which is putting him on the right track for being housetrained.

Doughboy - (Male) - Available
Breed: Terrier Mix
Age: 12 Weeks
History: Shelter Description: Littermates Dice, Doughboy, and Danny are now available for adoption. I’m Doughboy and aren’t I just so cute!

Honey - (Female) - Available
Breed: Beagle Mix
Age: 17 Months
Weight: 20 Pounds
History: Shelter Description: This beautiful little beagle mix (20 lbs) was found on the side of the road with six new newborn puppies. She is a wonderful mom, not wanting to leave her puppies for a second, but definitely prefers children to adults. When the foster’s children are near, her tail is wagging and she is quite happy. She’s so sweet she was instantly named “Honey” by the foster’s daughter. Honey is still very tentative and shy with adults. Honey’s puppies have all found their forever homes and now Honey is available for adoption.

Sadie - (Female) - Available
Breed: Dachshund Mix
Age: 2 Years
History: Shelter Description: Sadie is as sweet and snazzy as can be. She is about 2 years old and the proud mom of nine adorable puppies. Sadie is housebroken, good with kids and social with dogs. During the short breaks from her maternal duty, only if pups are well fed and awake, she likes cuddling in bed with us or a moment of fresh air outside. Sadie has been with us for four weeks now and she continues to show a delightful personality, lovely with everybody and particularly patient with kids of all ages. While being a quiet and relaxed dog, at the sight of the leash she bursts in excitement and is ready to go with you for new outside adventures. She is an ideal pet companion who deserves a new chance of happiness with a loving family she can call her own.

These furry friends (and many others) are looking for loving homes...
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Wishes You

and

Yours a Happy

Holiday From

All of Us!

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