



THE HOLIDAYS

Canned Food Drive

Light Show daily til 12/25

Come see a beautiful light show—and help the area food banks at the same time. Every night, now until Christmas, 5:30 p.m.-midnight, lights dance to the music in this spectacular holiday light show at 13915 Rockbrook Ct. in Clifton. ★

Thrift Shop

Ongoing

The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop in Springfield (6127- B Concord Center) is a great place to shop for used clothes and holiday gifts—from new in their package to vintage items, or to consign your unused items. The Pink Elephant is run by the Woman's Club of Springfield and proceeds are used to help the local community. Visit at www.womansclubofspringfield.org or call 703-451-2467. ★

Holiday Magic

Through January 10

The U.S. Botanic Garden's National Mall and fanciful garden-train exhibits have become a beloved Washington tradition, and this year we're serving up even more magic with larger and more amazing displays made of plant-based natural materials. You'll find an enchanted storybook garden with trains popping in and out of a landscape that now includes Snow White's cottage and the Owl and the Pussycat's beautiful pea green boat. Our exhibit of the National Mall landmarks is up to date this season with the Obama children's swing set and another new addition: the National Museum of the American Indian. Again this year, one of Washington's largest indoor holiday trees will tower over pools of colorful poinsettias and other holiday plants. The USBG Conservatory will be open until 8 p.m. on select Tuesdays and Thursdays in December for the Holiday Season. During these evenings there will be musical performances from 6 p.m.-8 p.m. The museum is also open on Christmas Day. For information, visit www.usbg.gov. ★

Striking 12

December 2-13

Combining pop-rock, musical comedy and old-fashioned uplift with a healthy dose of 21st-century skepticism, "Striking 12" is a unique hybrid of musical theater and live concert performed by celebrated pop-rock trio GrooveLily. From the Tony Award-winning writer Rachel Sheinkin (The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee) comes this story of a Grumpy Guy who decides to avoid the hectic, loveless world on

New Year's Eve, until he's visited by an incandescent salesgirl with the promise to chase away his winter doldrums. At Arena Stage Crystal City (1800 S. Bell Street, Arlington). For tickets or information, call 202-488-3300 or visit www.arenastage.org. ★

Christmas Trees

December Weekends

Freshly cut Douglas fir, Canaans, and Frazier firs, 14 inch and 24 inch wreaths, plus pine roping by the yard are available at reasonable prices from the Church of the Good Shepherd (corner of Braddock Rd. and Olley Ln. in Burke). Sales are staffed on weekends in December. Weekend help is available in selection and loading. Weekdays, you can buy a tree at the church office across the parking lot. ★

ZooLights

December 3-31

Join us for ZooLights, the National Zoo's annual winter celebration. Don't miss your chance to meander through the Zoo when it is covered with thousands of sparkling lights, attend special keeper talks, and enjoy live entertainment including presentations on how visitors can adopt energy saving practices at home! And last but not least, visitors have the chance to see lots of animals. The Small Mammal House, Great Ape House, Reptile Discovery Center, Think Tank, and Kids' Farm will be open every night. The ZooLights is open for people of all ages. Dec. 4-13 (Friday through Sunday nights), Dec. 18-Jan. 2 (Every night except Dec. 24, 25 and 31), 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for FONZ members and \$8 for non-members. For more information, visit <http://nationalzoo.si.edu> or call 202-633-4470. ★

Black Nativity

December 10-January 3

"Black Nativity" is a celebration that tells the original story of the Nativity in scripture, verse, music and dance. Based on the Gospel of St. Luke, combined with the poetry of Langston Hughes, this song-play touches a special chord in the hearts of all. Presented by Theatre Alliance at H Street Playhouse (1365 H Street, NE). For tickets and more information, call 202-399-7993 ext. 2 or visit www.theateralliance.com. ★

NSO Pops Holiday

December 10-12

Step out of the cold and allow time-honored holiday classics to warm your heart! The NSO Pops captures the spirit of the holiday season in this Kennedy Center tradition featuring vocal ensemble Afro Blue, a visit from Santa Claus, and other guests. For tickets \$20-\$85, call 202-467-4600 or visit www.kennedy-center.org. ★

It's a Wonderful Life

December 11-19

The McLean Community Players will present Joe Landry's "It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play." The show is an adaptation for the stage of Frank Capra's classic holiday film first released in 1946. The production will be performed at the McLean Community Center's Alden Theatre (1234 Ingleside Ave.) Dec. 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 12 and 13 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults, \$13 seniors and students and \$10 for groups of 10 or more. Call 703-790-9223 or www.ticketmaster.com. ★

Clifton Lions

Tree Sale

Support local charities and get a beautiful Douglas Fir at a very reasonable price (approximately \$60 each) at the Clifton Lions Annual Tree Sale at the University Mall (Braddock Rd., near GMU). All proceeds go to support local charities. ★

Folger Consort

December 11-20

The Consort celebrates the holidays in the Elizabethan Theatre with the festive music of Michael Praetorius, the most prolific German composer of the early 17th century. The son of a Lutheran minister, he more than anyone else was responsible for combining the wonderful north German Lutheran chorale tradition with the new Italian developments of the Baroque. The Consort performs some of the great Christmas favorites, including "In Dulci Jubilo," "Es ist ein Rose," and "Puer Natus Est." In the Elizabethan Theater (201 East Capitol St.). For tickets and more information, call 202-544-7077 or visit www.folger.edu/consort. ★

Chorus, Brass & Bells

December 12, 7:30 p.m.

The Metropolitan Chorus presents "Chorus, Brass & Bells," a family holiday concert featuring the handbell ensemble Virginia Bronze plus brass choir. At Thomas Jefferson Theatre (125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington). Admission is Adult \$20; Senior Citizen/Military \$18; Youth \$5. For more information, call 703-933-2500 or visit www.metchorus.org. ★

Candlelight Tour

December 12 & 13

See historic Alexandria in a whole new light this holiday season! Four of Old Town Alexandria's finest historic sites will welcome guests for the festive Historic Alexandria Candlelight Tour. The area's premier traditional holiday event features period music, seasonal decorations, and special costumed tours. This year's tour includes Carlyle House Historic Park (121 North Fairfax Street), Gadsby's Tavern Museum (134 North Royal Street), Lee-Fendall House (614 Oronoco Street), and Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (105-107 South Fairfax Street). Tour times are from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, and the Sunday afternoon program features kid-friendly tours and a special activity! The tour is self-guided, and the sites may be visited in any order, with a free shuttle running on a continuous loop among the sites. Ticket prices are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, and \$5 for children (ages 6-17). Contact Gadsby's Tavern Museum at www.historicalexandria.org or 703-838-4242. ★

Kwanzaa Celebration

December 12

The Alexandria Black History Museum (902 Wythe St.) will host two free Kwanzaa programs—a holiday celebration and a film screening.. The first, a Kwanzaa Celebration, begins at 11 a.m. with Kwanzaa authority, Brian Sales, exploring the history of Kwanzaa. Then Sales, who studied with Kwanzaa founder Dr. Maulana Karenga, will perform the Libation Ceremony and lead Alexandria Black History Museum volunteers and staff in the presentation of the holiday's principles through illustrations and food samplings. Then at 4:30 p.m., join award-winning filmmaker M.K. Asante, Jr., as he presents his film, "The Black Candle: A Kwanzaa Celebration" (71 minutes). This landmark, vibrant documentary uses Kwanzaa as a vehicle to explore and celebrate the African-American experience. A discussion follows the film screening. For information, call 703-838-4356 or visit www.alexblackhistory.org. ★

Park Gift Cards

Ongoing

Give a Fairfax County Park Authority gift card—the card can be purchased at RECenters, golf courses, lakefront parks, nature centers, historic sites, Green Spring Gardens and Frying Pan Farm Park. The park card is a retail gift card and can be used to purchase goods or services at most park sites and for online purchases. The card can be preloaded in amounts ranging from \$20 to \$999. It's a perfect gift for first time park visitors and regular visitors alike. The card can also be used to buy park passes, pay for camps or even classes. The gift card is valid for two years from the date of purchase. Gift cards are not available to purchase online at this time. For information call 703-324-8702 or visit <http://parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov/giftcards/>. ★

Christmas in Camp

Saturday, December 12

Get into the holiday spirit and learn how Christmas was observed during the Civil War by attending Fort Ward Museum's (4301 W. Braddock Rd.) annual Christmas in Camp Open House at 12-4 p.m. This popular family-oriented event features a patriotic Santa Claus, living history presentations, period music, Victorian decorations, refreshments, tours and crafts. Suggested donation is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children. Call 703-838-4848 or visit www.fortward.org. ★

Holiday Sing-A-Long

Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:00 p.m.

Bring your entire family to a Holiday Concert & Sing-a-Long, presented by the Potomac Harmony Chorus to benefit Doorways for Women & Families at Thomas Jefferson Theater (125 South Old Glebe Road, Arlington). Arlington's own award-winning, all-woman Potomac Harmony Chorus will perform a wide range of traditional and contemporary Christmas and other Holiday songs. Each audience member will receive a free customized song book for the sing-a-long portion of the concert. Admission is free. Donations will be accepted to benefit Doorways for Women and Families. Doorways offers safe shelter to abused, homeless and at-risk women and families in Arlington and surrounding areas. For more information visit www.PotomacHarmony.org or call 703-764-3896. ★

Joyeux Noël

December 14, 19, 20, 24

The Choral Arts Society presents a Christmas Celebration with a French twist. From the opening processional to the lively sing-alongs, the whole family will delight in this holiday tradition featuring great seasonal classics intermingled with the uniquely enchanting carols of France. At the Kennedy Center. For tickets, call 202-244-3669 or visit www.choralarts.org. ★

Rockapella

December 19, 2 & 8 p.m.

This season, Rockapella returns with "A Rockapella Holiday" performing such holiday classics as "Angels We Have Heard On High" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," as well as popular new pieces like "Little Mary Snowflake," a funky new version of "The Dreidel Song," and "Matunda Ya Kwanzaa," an original composition honoring the celebration of African culture. Young and old alike are drawn to Rockapella's humor, style, and artistry; their amazing and innovative "vocal percussion"; and their winning combination of soul, rock, R&B, and jazz. George Mason University's Center for the Arts (Intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax). Tickets are \$42, \$34, \$21. Call 703-993-2787 or visit www.gmu.edu/cfa. ★

Santa's Hayride

Saturday, December 19

Visit Santa at Lake Accotink Park (7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield) Climb aboard a tractor-or-horse-drawn haywagon for a fun and festive ride through the park from 3 until 8 p.m. Listen to classic holiday stories told around a warming fire. It's a holly jolly good time for everyone! This is an outdoor event, so please dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. The fee is \$8 per person and includes hayride, visit with Santa, and cup of hot chocolate; babies on laps ride free. Advance payment and registration are preferred. Call 703-569-0285 for credit card registrations and to reserve your hayride time. ★

Rockin' Hanukkah

December 19, 2 p.m.

Ages 3+. You've never heard your classic Hanukkah songs done quite this way! An interactive & humorous family concert filled with Klezmer, Rock, Ska, Jazz & of course, Rockin' Hanukkah tunes! At the Alden Theater (1224 Ingleside Ave., McLean). For tickets and more information, visit www.mcleancenter.org/alden or call Ticketmaster at 703-573-SEAT. ★

Holiday Ice Show

Dec. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays at Mt. Vernon RECenter's Holiday Ice Show (2017 Belle View Blvd., Alexandria). This popular neighborhood event features the RECenter's most experienced skaters, as well as beginners of all ages showing off their skills. The public is invited, and admission is free. For more information, contact Ice Manager Carl Kirtley, at 703 768-3224 or via e-mail at carl.kirtley@fairfaxcounty.gov. ★

Handbell Ringers

December 20, 2 & 4 p.m.

Enjoy your favorite holiday music with the Colonial Handbell Ringers at The Lyceum (201 South Washington Street). The show, "Merry Medleys,"

will begin at 2 p.m. and will be repeated at 4 p.m. The free show features ten ringers in period costume playing a full five-octave set of nearly 80 handbells from the world-famous White Chapel Foundry in England. The performance will feature children's classics, an audience sing-along of holiday favorites, and unique visual experiences with original works. Limited free parking is available. Call 703-838-4994 or visit www.alexandriahistory.org. ★

A Christmas Carol

Through January 3

Ford's Theatre (511 10th Street, NW) presents a new production of "A Christmas Carol" that reinvigorates this timeless tale. Join the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future as they lead the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge on a journey of transformation and redemption. Signature Theatre's Michael Baron directs a new staging that captures the magic and joy of Dickens' classic. Tickets are \$16-\$65, call 202-397-SEAT or visit www.fordstheatre.org. ★

At Mount Vernon

Through January 6

Mount Vernon is again joyfully decking the halls for Christmas at Mount Vernon, a special daytime program offered from Thanksgiving Day weekend through the Twelve Days of Christmas. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees), a gingerbread Mount Vernon by former White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, historical chocolate-making demonstrations, and 18th-century dancing will be offered. Back by popular demand will be "Aladdin," who plays the role of a Christmas Camel! George Washington was fond of unusual animals and plants, and he paid 18 shillings in 1787 for a camel to temporarily live at Mount Vernon for his guests during Christmas. Christmas at Mount Vernon is included in regular Estate admission: \$15 for adults, \$7 for children ages 6-11, and free for children under 6. For more information, call 703-780-2000, or see Visit.MountVernon.org. ★

Holidays on Display

Through September 2010

"Holidays on Display" at the American History Museum, examines the art, industry and history of holiday display across the United States. Focusing on parading culture and department store retail display, primarily between the 1920s and 1960s, when holiday displays were considered commercial endeavors equally rewarding for the American public, the exhibition showcases numerous photographs, postcards and rendering illustrations of parade floats and window displays—including the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade and Marshall Field & Company Christmas windows. Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu>. ★

First Night Alexandria

Thursday, December 31

Don't miss the best New Year's Eve party in the region! Alexandria will host 19 indoor venues with multiple stages featuring performances from 7-11:30 p.m. And spectacular fireworks at midnight. To gain admission to all venues you need just one badge per adult (\$15 online thru Dec. 23. Children 12 and under are free with adult wearing a badge.) Visit www.firstnightalexandria.org. ★

Send Us Your News

We will publish nonprofit news releases on a space available basis. If you belong to an educational, business, religious, sport or civic association and have a news item, we'd like to hear from you. We prefer your news release one month prior to the the event, but can accept releases on shorter notice. Contact us with questions at 703-866-5156.

3 Ways to Submit Your News

Mail: Buyer's Guide, 8136 Old Keene Mill Rd A-302
Springfield VA 22152-1850

Fax: 703-866-3994 **Email:** news@bguide.net

SALES & FESTS

Sugarloaf Crafts

December 11-13

Don't miss the last show of the season. The Sugarloaf crafts Festival will be at the Dulles Expo Center. Lovers of fine crafts and art will find more than 250 top artisans displaying and selling their unique creations in pottery, sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, home décor, furniture and home accessories, items for the garden, and photography. In addition to top national artists, the Festival will also introduce new and emerging artists showcasing the latest trends in handmade fashion and accessories, statement jewelry and fine art. Admission is \$8. \$1 discount if you buy online. 12 and under, free. Visit sugarloafcrafts.com. ★

Holiday Craft Fair

Saturday, December 12

Laurel Ridge Elementary (10110 Commonwealth Blvd., Fairfax) will hold a holiday craft fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission and parking. ★

Cathedral Gifts

Ongoing

Celebrate the season with gifts of the spirit from Washington National Cathedral. The new, online Cathedral gift catalogue is now available! Shop online and find the perfect gift, an aid for spiritual reflection during Advent, or a splurge on special fudge or coffee. Or visit to the gift store and come see the beautiful architecture and grounds, learn more about our history, and enjoy the spectrum of spiritual and cultural activities offered year-round by Washington National Cathedral (Massachusetts and Wisconsin Ave., NW). Visit www.nationalcathedral.org. ★

Workhouse Works

Through December 24

The Workhouse Arts Center (9601 Ox Rd., Lorton) present The Workhouse Works Show with original works of art no larger than 8 x 10 created especially for this exhibition and sale by Workhouse Artists. This show will provide the opportunity to view and purchase a wide selection of original artwork priced for collecting and gift giving. These works are suitable for both the novice and the experienced collector! The exhibition will be shown on the first and second floors of Gallery W-16. For more information, visit www.workhousearts.org. ★

Gem & Jewelry Show

December 18-20

The Int'l Gem & Jewelry Show at the Dulles Expo Center offers the greatest selection and lowest prices on diamonds, gold, silver, beads, and more. Choose either costume or fine jewelry from more than 360 exhibitors from around the world. Admission is \$8 for adults. For hours and more information, visit www.dullesexpo.com. ★

IN THE PARKS

Sully by Candlelight

December 12 & 13

Tickets for Candlelight Tours of Sully Historic Site (3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly) are on sale for tours on Dec. 12, 5-8 p.m. and Dec. 13, 5-7 p.m. See the home of Richard Bland Lee and meet costumed characters of the 19th century, enjoy music and entertainment by candlelight. The fee is \$10 per person. To make your reservation, call 703-437-1794. ★

Star Lite, Star Brite

December 12, 13 & 14

All ages are invited to come to Hidden Oaks Nature Center (7701 Royce

St., Annandale) from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Take a guided tour of December's night sky in preparation for the Geminid meteor shower. Learn to identify constellations and how best to watch for the meteor shower. Reservations and advanced payment are required. The cost is \$5 per person. Call 703-941-1065 to reserve. ★

Sky Watching

December 13, 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Watch the sky at Sully Woodlands during the peak of the Geminid meteor shower. Learn about the night sky, as well as the best way to view meteor showers. The fee is \$4 per child, \$2 per adult. To reserve, call Cub Run RECenter at 703-817-9407. ★

Naturalist Boot Camp

December 18, 19, 20

Kids 6-10 yrs. are invited to a "Naturalist Boot Camp, Friday evening, 6:30-9:30 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m.-noon or Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center (8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield). Enjoy an action-filled day or evening of hiking, critter watching and catching, and live animals to meet, feed and hold. Make a craft with natural items. The evening will conclude around the campfire with snacks, holiday songs and ghost stories. The cost is \$30 per child. To reserve, call 703-451-9588. ★

Wine Tasting

Saturday, December 19

Enjoy sipping wine and educating your palate just inside the Beltway at Hidden Oaks Nature Center (7701 Royce St., Annandale) from 7 to 9 p.m. with professional wine educator Dan Robinson of Total Wine. Wine aficionados and novices are welcome. This pre-holiday event is sponsored by Friends of Hidden Oaks Nature Center. Proceeds benefit the center's environmental education programs. Registration is limited to 30 and for folks 21 years and older. Advanced registration and payment are required. The cost is \$30 per person. Call 703-941-1065 to for reservations. ★

Donate Your Vehicle

Ongoing

The Fairfax County Park Foundation invites park friends to "Go Green" by donating used cars, trucks, motorcycles, boats and RV's to benefit Fairfax County's parks. Donors will receive a tax deduction and avoid the hassle and expense of trying to sell their own vehicles. The proceeds from vehicle sales will be used to improve county parks and provide recreation program scholarships for low-income children. Donating is easy! Just call and a driver will pick up your vehicle from your home, business or repair shop. For more information about vehicle donations and to schedule a free pickup, call 877-537-5277 or visit www.fairfaxparkfoundation.org. ★

BOOK NEWS

Donate Bestsellers

Ongoing

The Fairfax County Public Library encourages residents who receive bestselling books as gifts to keep the books moving through the community after they've read them. The library welcomes donations of gently-read books for all ages. Due to budget restrictions, the library can't buy the number of books it would take to fully satisfy avid readers. Donations of these types of books can be put on library shelves while demand is hot, or offered in the used book sales. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. ★

Expert Express

The Fairfax County Public Library's, Expert Express, offers free 30-minute presentations by subject-matter

groups, associations, government agencies and private businesses. Groups may choose topics from:

- How to Raise an Enthusiastic Reader
- Designing Business Brochures That Work
- Free Genealogy and Local History Resources
- Surviving Volunteer Boards
- Homework Help
- Seven Hot Books Coming Out Soon
- Preserving Your Family's Papers, Books, Videos and CDs
- Technology for Aging Eyes and Ears
- Using Books to Help Children Through Troubled Times
- Leaving a Literary Legacy Through the Library Foundation
- How to Publicize Your Group's Activities

Details and a speaker request form are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. ★

Emily Dickinson Tribute

December 14, 7:30 p.m.

Lucie Brock-Broido, director of poetry in the School of the Arts at Columbia University, reads selections from her book "The Master Letters," inspired by three mysterious, unsent letters written by Emily Dickinson and found after her death. Brock-Broido's other volumes of poetry include "Trouble in Mind" and "A Hunger." The post-reading reception features black cake made from Dickinson's own recipe. At the Folger Elizabethan Theatre (201 East Capitol Street, SE). For tickets or more information, call 202-544-7077 or visit www.folger.edu/poetry. ★

The Hemingses

December 16, 7 p.m.

The National Archives will host Pulitzer prize-winning author Annette Gordon-Reed who will discuss her groundbreaking new book, "The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family." In the book, the Hemings family finally comes to light in all its complexity. Author Annette Gordon-Reed, professor of law at New York Law School and professor of history at Rutgers University, delves deeply into the historical record, employing many unpublished primary sources. She reveals connections not only within the Hemings family but also within the Jefferson family. Ms. Gordon-Reed was the winner of the 2009 Foundation for the National Archives Records of Achievement Award. A book signing will follow the program, and the book is available at a discount from the Archives Shop before or during the event. Please call 202-357-5271. This event is free and open to the public, and will be held in the William G. McGowan Theater of the National Archives Building. Enter at the Special Events Entrance at Constitution Ave. and 7th St., NW. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. ★

Cyber Book Groups

Ongoing

If you would love to chat about a book but can't make it to a real-time discussion group, try some online options. The Fairfax County Library's web staff has just added a new web resource for readers at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library. The site is called "100 Places to Connect with Bibliophiles Online." It lists collector web sites, blogs, librarian sites, social media, writer sites and much more. To find a link to the site, click on Good Reading, Web Sites for Readers and Good Starting Points. You can also write your own reviews of books on our Web site. Just click on the "Review our hottest books!" link in the Good Reading section. ★



Mount Vernon by Candlelight

Friday-Sunday, November 27-December 13

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m

Martha Washington hosts an 18th-century Christmas with candlelit walks, fireside caroling, and early American décor during Mount Vernon by Candlelight. Visitors will be treated as holiday guests of the Washington family who, upon presenting their "letter of introduction," are greeted by Mrs. Washington. Visitors will also meet a cast of friends and family of the famous founding couple. In the kitchen, the final stop on the tour, guests will hear about 18th-century holiday cooking, see Martha Washington's Great Cake, and be given a complimentary copy of the recipe. Following the Mansion tour of the first and second floors, guests are invited to stroll candlelit walks, join in fireside caroling, and enjoy complimentary hot cider and cookies.

Admission is \$18 for adults and \$12 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Ford Orientation Center or through Visit.MountVernon.org.

703-780-2000 • Visit.MountVernon.org

Diane Shiely Frykman Exhibits in Gallery 4 at the Workhouse for the Arts



The Invitation by Diane Shiely Frykman

Diane Shiely Frykman, a Burke painter, will exhibit her latest series "re:collection." Her paintings are a simple collection of objects, but upon further observation, there is symbolic, ironic content which leads to a narrative and not always an obvious one. While there are personal stories of the artist depicted within the work, the viewer is presented with an arrangement that is a puzzle to solve using his or her own experiences. "re:collection" refers to the memories evoked in both the artist and the observer upon viewing the familiar objects.

December 9-January 10
Mon.-Sat., 11-7 p.m.; Sun., 12-5 p.m.
Tea Reception, December 12, 4-6 p.m.

Workhouse for the Arts
9601 Ox Road, Lorton VA 22079
703-584-2900 • www.workhousearts.org

Ice Skating at the National Gallery of Art



The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden Ice-Skating Rink, a popular and affordable recreational destination in Washington, D.C., is now open until mid-March, weather permitting.

National Mall at 7th Street & Consitution Ave., NW
www.nga.gov/ginfo/skating.shtm

Brass & Bells Family Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 12 at 7:30 p.m.



THE METROPOLITAN CHORUS
"Celebrating 40 Seasons of Enchantment"

Join us for this family holiday concert featuring the handbell ensemble Virginia Bronze plus brass choir.

Thomas Jefferson Theatre
125 S. Old Glebe Road, Arlington, VA
Adult \$20; Senior Citizen/Military \$18; Youth \$5
703-933-2500 • www.metchorus.org.



The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop

The Pink Elephant Thrift Shop opened for business in 1964, with The Woman's Club of Springfield becoming the sole owner and operator in 1974. The shop is staffed entirely by the unpaid volunteers from the Woman's Club. All profits are used for philanthropic projects such as an Annual \$3,000 Education Scholarship to a young woman, alternating between Lee and West Springfield High Schools, holiday food for local needy families, Special Olympics, and many more. A complete list can be found at the shop.

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Consignments Taken 10 a.m. to noon

6127-B Concord Center, Springfield
703-451-2467 • www.womansclubofspringfield.org
In the Concord mini-mall between Backlick Road & Fisher's Hardware

Theater Alliance



Black Nativity is a celebration that tells the original story of the Nativity in scripture, verse, music and dance.

Based on the Gospel of St. Luke, combined with the poetry of Langston Hughes, this song-play touches a special chord in the hearts of all.

December 10 to January 3

1365 H Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
www.theateralliance.com
202-399-7993 ext 101

STAGE

Solid Gold Cadillac

December 2-January 10

Written in 1953, George S. Kaufman and Howard Teichman's lost American classic, "The Solid Gold Cadillac," percolates with startling contemporary resonance. A "fairy tale" disguised in farce, this play follows the trials and travails of Mrs. Laura Partridge, a minor stockholder in a major corporation. In this farcical Cinderella story, big business meets its match when Mrs. Partridge takes on the big, bad, board of directors, ultimately bringing the executives to their knees. A true David and Goliath story, "The Solid Gold Cadillac" underscores the power of the individual in the face of corporate corruption. At Studio Theater (150-1 14th St., N.W.). For tickets and more information, visit www.studiotheatre.org or call 202-332-3300. ★

Look Out Below

December 4-20

Fun for the whole family with this whimsical clown theater production, "Look Out Below at Round House Theater Bethesda (4545 East West Highway). The end of the 19th century is at hand...Pierrot is on his way to Paris where he intends to make the very first recorded sound. En route he meets Augustine, the would-be Hot Air Balloonist. Accompanied by an eccentric one-person Band they encounter comic misadventures at the Circus, the Paris Metro, the Eiffel Tower, and the Moulin Rouge. For tickets or more information, visit www.roundhousetheatre.org or call 240-644-1100. ★

The Floor is Sticky

December 12-13

Jane Franklin Dance performs at Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company, (641 D Street NW), on Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. in "The Floor is Sticky." The Floor is Sticky uses passion, humor, text, poetry and dance in a boisterous and thoughtful expression of the spoken word. For tickets (\$28/\$25 students/seniors, \$16 under 17), call 703-933-1111 or visit www.janefranklin.com. ★

Young Frankenstein

December 15-January 10

The classic Mel Brooks movie Young Frankenstein is ALIVE in a spectacular new musical production direct from Broadway. The Tony-winning trio behind "The Producers" teams up for this wickedly inspired re-imagining of the Frankenstein legend. At the Kennedy Center. For tickets or more information, visit www.kennedy-center.org or call 202-467-4600. ★

Mommy Queerest!

December 16-January 3

The star of the critically acclaimed "25 Questions for a Jewish Mother", comedian Judy Gold is back in this edgy, multi-media comic memoir with original music featuring her hysterical take on being a working gay mom, anti-depressants, nursing homes, and raising two boys in New York City. At Theater J (1529 Sixteenth Street, NW). For tickets or more information, visit www.washingtondcjcc.org. ★

Pearl Bailey By Request

Through December 20

An evening of marvelous music and memorable stories performed by Roz White as Pearl Bailey, the legendary songstress, acclaimed actress and irrepensible show biz personality. Pearl's "most requested songs" include "Baby, It's Cold Outside", "St. Louis Blues" and "Ain't She Sweet." Ms White is joined by Hot Lips Page, played by MetroStage favorite William

Hubbard. Playing to sold out audiences last season, Pearl Bailey returns to MetroStage (1201 N. Royal St., Alexandria). For tickets and information, visit www.metrostage.org. ★

August: Osage County

Through December 20

"August: Osage County" is a grand, gripping new play that tells the story of the Westons, a large extended clan that comes together at their rural Oklahoma homestead when the alcoholic patriarch disappears. Forced to confront unspoken truths and astonishing secrets, the family must also contend with matriarch Violet, a pill-popping, deeply unsettled woman at the center of this storm. At the Kennedy Center. For tickets or more information, call 202-467-4600 or visit www.kennedy-center.org. ★

As You Like It

Through December 20

The Shakespeare Theatre Company will transform its stage at Sidney Harman Hall (610 F Street NW) into a busy Hollywood sound stage with the opening of "As You Like It." In Aitken's fresh take on this Shakespearean classic, the characters' journeys take them through American history as seen by Hollywood and depicted in classic films of the past century. In the Forest of Arden, exiles from a tyrannical kingdom search for freedom, just as so many immigrants have traveled to America for similar sanctuary. As characters dream of possibility, the irrepressible Rosalind, Shakespeare's most fully realized female character, finds freedom of her own as she pursues love in disguise. For tickets or information, call 202-547-1122 or visit www.ShakespeareTheatre.org. ★

Tyne Daly

Tickets on Sale Now

Award-winning actress Tyne Daly stars as Maria Callas in Terrence McNally's Tony-winning "Master Class," which depicts the diva reminiscing on the triumphs and tragedies of her life and career. Part of Terrence McNally's Nights at the Opera. At the Kennedy Center, March 25-April 18, 2010. Tickets are on sale now at www.kennedy-center.org or by calling 202-467-4600. ★

Show Boat

Through January 17

Spanning the years 1880 to 1927, this lyrical masterpiece concerns the lives, loves, and heartbreaks of three generations of show folk on the Mississippi. "Show Boat" is a sweeping tale of enduring love and devastating hatred, illuminating through unforgettable music the cruelty of prejudice – and the beauty of romance. Show Boat is a musical epic, a classic theater event not to be missed. At Signature Theatre (4200 Campbell Ave. Arlington). For tickets, call 703-573-7328 or visit www.signature-theatre.org. ★

The Fantasticks

Through January 10

The memorable score by Tom Jones and Harvey Schmidt enlivens the heart of "The Fantasticks," this passionate musical that charmed Off-Broadway for a record-breaking 42 years. In a twist on the classic story of boy meets girl, Matt and Luisa are led by El Gallo from the wistfulness of "when life was slow and oh so mellow" to the reality that "without a hurt the heart is hollow." Rising star director Amanda Dehnert re-imagines this timeless fable in an abandoned amusement park, a perfect playground for the story's emotional carnival. Presented by Arena Stage at Lincoln Theatre (1215 U Street, NW). Call 202-488-3300 or visit www.arenastage.org. ★

CONCERTS

East Meets West

December 17, 7:30 p.m.

Mongolian-born pianist Shuree and Ukrainian violinist Solomia Gorokhivska unite in an evening of western classical and contemporary Ukrainian and Mongolian music, on at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre, (1611 North Kent Street, Arlington). Admission to this special concert is \$15, tickets on sale at the door, only. For info and directions, call 703-228-1850, or visit www.arlingtonarts.org or www.planetarlington.com. ★

Bach to Rock

December 19 & 20

Jeff Levin, Founder of Bach to Rock (B2R), today announced that the Winter, 2009 B2R Battle of the Bands will take place at the 9:30 Club (815 V Street, NW). Due to increased enrollment, this semester's Battle of the Bands is B2R's biggest show ever, spread out over two days by school location. Students from Maryland schools will perform on December 19 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., and students from Virginia schools will perform December 20 from Noon-6 p.m. This season there will be 70 bands playing both original songs and popular hit singles. Tickets for the Battle of the Bands are \$5/each. They can be purchased at B2R schools or at the 9:30 Club door on the day of the event. Visit www.b2rmusic.com for more information. ★

U.S. Air Force Band

December 18, 8 p.m.

The U.S. Air Force Band presents "An Evening of Music for String Quartet" at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial (101 Callahan Dr., Alexandria). This concert is free and tickets are not required. For more information, call 202-767-5658 or visit www.usafband.af.mil. ★

Concerts at the Library

September-May

The Concerts from the Library of Congress series presents a definitive look at the intimate art of the string quartet as the centerpiece of its 84th concert season. The concert series is presented free of charge to the public but requires tickets for admission, distributed by TicketMaster at 703-573-7328. Each ticket carries a nominal service charge of \$2.80, with additional charges for phone orders and handling. Tickets are also available at TicketMaster outlets and online at www.TicketMaster.com. Unless otherwise noted, all concerts will be held at 8 p.m. in the Coolidge Auditorium, (Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First Street, S.E.). All pre-concert lectures will be held at 6:15 p.m. in the Thomas Jefferson Building. Visit www.loc.gov/tr/perform/concert/ for up-to-date-concert listings. ★

Chamber Music

October-April

The Smithsonian Chamber Music Society (SCMS) in residence at the National Museum of American History, celebrates its 33rd season with performances of musical masterpieces from the late 17th century to the 20th century, played on some of the world's most highly prized musical instruments. The SCMS will perform in the newly renovated Hall of Musical Instruments at the National Museum of American History, as well as in the Grand Salon at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum. One hour before each performance, SCMS artistic director Kenneth Slowik will host pre-concert lectures. Tickets are required and may be purchased in advance by series or individually at the door when available. For information

about locations, ticket prices or to purchase tickets, call 202-633-3030 or visit www.residentassociates.org. ★

MUSEUMS

The Dolls' House

Thursday, Dec. 17, noon

The Dolls' House returns to the American History Museum west wing, third floor this December with enhanced lighting and a new glass vitrine. The five-story, 23 room home of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Doll, their 10 children, two visiting grandparents, five servants and 20 pets, will be dressed for the holidays with winter décor that is normally stored in the house's attic and closets. On Dec. 17, join curator Larry Bird on the second floor, flag hall as he recounts how museum staff found the wreaths, trees, presents and other holiday decorations for Faith Bradford's miniature doll house in the display's various closets and attics and how they were installed for the holidays. For more information, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu>. ★

Against the Grain

Through December 30

The Kreeger Museum (2401 Foxhall Rd., NW) is proud to present "Kentrige and Kudryashov: Against the Grain," an exhibition of works by South African artist William Kentrige and Russian artist Oleg Kudryashov. Although the artists have never met, there is an undeniable affinity between the two including similarities in technique, composition and content. Their unique situations and direct observations of harsh political climates in their countries made them look for more personal means of expression. Call 202-337-3050 x10 or visit www.kreegermuseum.org for hours and admission fees. ★

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

Through December 31

The Newseum's exhibit, "Manhunt: Chasing Lincoln's Killer," explores how new developments in journalism and technology came together in the news coverage of Abraham Lincoln's death and the hunt for his killer. Open daily from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and closed on Christmas and New Year's Day. For more information, hours and admission fees, visit www.newseum.org. ★

Sports Photographs

Through December 31

"Athlete: The Sports Illustrated Photography of Walter Iooss" includes some of the greatest names in sports. From classic images of superstars such as Muhammad Ali, Tiger Woods, Michael Jordan, Serena Williams and Michael Phelps, to photos of children playing soccer and stickball, Iooss's work reflects a lifetime of documenting the impulse that connects all athletes: a pure love of the sport. On the concourse level of the Newseum (555 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.). For more information, hours and admission fees, visit www.newseum.org. ★

Big!

Through January 3

The National Archives celebrates its 75th year in 2009 with a new exhibition featuring big records, big events, and big ideas. BIG! is in the Lawrence F. O'Brien Gallery of the National Archives Building (9th St., NW). From the 13-foot scroll of the Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, to the size 22 sneakers of basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal, the items in the exhibition are pieces of the American story-writ large. Exhibit Hall hours are 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily. For more information, call 866-272-6272 or visit www.archives.gov. ★

MUSEUMS

Staged Stories

Through January 3,
“Staged Stories: Renwick Craft Invitation 2009” is the fourth in the Renwick Gallery’s (17th St. and Pennsylvania Ave.) biennial exhibition series that honors the creativity and talent of contemporary craft artists and features the work of ceramic artist Christyl Boger, fiber artist Mark Newport, glass artist Mary van Cline and ceramic artist SunKoo Yuh. For more information, call 202-633-1000 or visit www.americanart.si.edu. ★

New Deal Paintings

Through January 3,
In 1934, Americans grappled with an economic situation that feels all too familiar today. Against the backdrop of the Great Depression, the U.S. government created the Public Works of Art Program—the first federal government program to support the arts nationally. A selection of paintings made with support from this program will be on in the exhibition “1934: A New Deal for Artists” at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. For more info, visit www.americanart.si.edu. ★

Form and Movement

Through January 3
“Form and Movement: Photographs by Philip Trager,” on view at the National Building Museum (401 F Street NW), consists of black and white photographs selected from Trager’s 40-year career. It brings together early New England landscapes, extraordinary images of architecture from Italian Renaissance villas to New York City skyscrapers, and thrilling depictions of modern dance. The installation reveals Trager’s ongoing exploration of form and movement, whether it be a Palladian villa or a body in flight. Call 202-272-2448 or visit www.nbm.org. ★

Spirits in a Bottle

Extended Through January 9
D.C. artist, Barbara Hardaway, showcases 100 Arizona Tea Bottles decorated with feathers, fabric, beads, seashells and beads—with several of the bottles designed to pay homage to such prominent black American icons as W.E.B. DuBois, Sojourner Truth and Martin Luther King Jr. The craft dates back to an ancient Congolese tradition of adorning tree branches with colorful bottles to catch the sunlight. At the Alexandria Black History Museum, (902 Wythe Street), open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and suggested admission is \$2. For information, call 703-838-4399 or visit www.alexandriaarchaeology.org. ★

Portraits

Through January 10
On view at the National Gallery of Art, Washington “Robert Bergman: Portraits, 1986–1995,” presents everyday people the artist encountered in the streets of the United States during his travels from 1985 to 1997. The portraits were previously published in Bergman’s book, “A Kind of Rapture,” with an introduction by Toni Morrison and afterword by art historian Meyer Schapiro. Visit www.nga.gov or call 202-737-4215. ★

The Military Leader

Through January 10
Historic Mount Vernon opens “George Washington & His Generals,” a new temporary exhibition featuring over 120 paintings, prints, personal artifacts, and manuscripts associated with the generals of the Continental and French armies. These objects offer an unprecedented look at Wash-

ington’s leadership and character as commander-in-chief by bringing to life the relationships that formed between him and his generals as they fought for our nation’s freedom. For hours, fees and more information, call Mount Vernon at 703-780-2000; or visit <http://visit.mountvernon.org>. ★

Darker Side of Light

Through January 18
The private worlds of late 19th-century Paris, London, and Berlin are reflected in some 120 beguiling, often enigmatic prints, drawings, illustrated books, and small sculptures in “The Darker Side of Light: Arts of Privacy, 1850–1900.” On view at the National Gallery of Art, the exhibition reveals a late romantic sensibility, an art for collectors who kept their prints and drawings under wraps. Due to the fact that they tended to be stored away and viewed discreetly on chosen occasions, prints in particular encouraged the investigation of suggestive, sometimes disturbing themes, including complex states of mind and expressions of deep social tension: opium dreams, the obsessions of a lover, the abject despair of an impending suicide, meditations on violence, the fear of death. For more information, visit www.nga.gov or call 202-737-4215. ★

Wiley in Retrospect

Through January 24
William T. Wiley (b. 1937) has created a distinctive body of work during a 50-year career that addresses critical issues of our time. The exhibition “What’s It All Mean: William T. Wiley” in Retrospect will be on view at the Smithsonian American Art Museum (Eighth and F streets N.W.). This retrospective, which features 88 works from the 1960s to the present, is the first full-scale look at Wiley’s long career and explores important themes and ideas expressed in his work. Many artworks in the exhibition are on public display for the first time, and the installation includes several of Wiley’s avant-garde films of the 1970s, which are rarely screened. Museum hours are 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission is free. For information, call 202-633-1000 or visit www.americanart.si.edu. ★

Braille Exhibit

Through January 20
Louis Braille’s invention of a tactile six-dot reading and writing system enabled blind and visually handicapped people throughout the world to read and write as well as sighted people. The Library of Congress commemorates the 200th anniversary of Braille’s birth with “Louis Braille: His Legacy and Influence,” an exhibition in the foyer of the Mumford Room on the sixth floor of the James Madison Building, (101 Independence Ave. S.E.). Also at <http://myloc.gov/Exhibitions/braille/Pages/default.aspx>. ★

French Drawings

Through January 31
Some 135 of the most significant and beautiful drawings made over a period of three centuries by the best French artists working at home and abroad and by foreign artists working in France will be on view in Renaissance to “Revolution: French Drawings from the National Gallery of Art, 1500–1800.” This is the first comprehensive exhibition and catalogue to focus on the Gallery’s permanent collection of French old master drawings, which is remarkable for its breadth, depth, and individual masterpieces. For more information, visit www.nga.gov or call 202-737-4215. ★

Keeping History

Through January 31
History can be kept and revealed in many ways. “Keeping History: Plains

Indian Ledger Drawings” features ledger drawings, a style of visual history, developed by Native warriors from the Northern and Southern Plains in the late 19th century. The visual style of the ledger drawing was developed out of a fusion of older documentary traditions, such as petroglyphs (on rock), pictographs (on bark and hide), and the newer media of ink, lead, colored pencil, paper and muslin. These drawings serve as valuable, first-hand biographical documentation of the personal and cultural histories of a Native people. At the National Museum of American History. For more information, visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu> or call 202-633-1000. ★

THINGS TO DO

Fall Design House

Through December 12
Washington Design Center’s Fall Design House (300 D St., SW) features eight rooms decorated to represent different historic areas of the city, such as U Street, LeDroit Park, Georgetown and Capitol Hill. Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Visit www.dcdesigncenter.com. ★

Seminar on Trusts

December 14, 10-11:30 a.m.
“Impending Disaster: the New Law of Wills and Trusts” will be presented at the Vienna Community Center (120 Cherry St., S.E.). Attorney David Hoffman will discuss the changes in trust laws that will take effect on January 1, 2011, and how to keep the IRS from becoming your new beneficiary. This seminar is free of charge, and no advance registration is required. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov. ★

Go Skating

Through Mid-March
The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden’s 2009–2010 ice-skating season will begin on Saturday, November 14, and continue through mid-March, weather permitting. Located on the National Mall at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue NW, the ice rink is a favorite destination, attracting thousands of visitors to skate in the nation’s capital. The skate rental fee is \$3.00 (ID required as a deposit), and lockers are available for \$5.00 (\$5.00 deposit required). Season tickets are available for \$195. For general information, or to make lesson reservations, call 202-216-9397 or visit www.pavilioncafe.com. ★

Artwalk

2nd Saturday, 6 -9 p.m.
The Workhouse Studio Artists (9601 Ox Rd., Lorton) will keep their doors open after hours on the 2nd Saturday of each month from 6-9 p.m. The 2nd Saturday art walks are the perfect time to explore the Workhouse and experience the vitality, creativity and diversity of the artists who make up this unique arts community. The Association of Interior Design Professionals (AIDP) will host a reception in conjunction with the Art Walks in W-16 from 6-7 p.m. to bring together artists, interior design professionals and the public to highlight the creative incorporation of original art into interior design settings. All are invited to talk art and design with these creative design professionals. Don’t forget to pick up your Workhouse Passport to chronicle your adventures and experiences and to enter to win special prizes! ★

Behind the Counter Tour

Third Saturday Monthly
The Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum (105-107 South Fairfax St,

Alexandria) is now offering up-close and highly informative guided tours once a month with its new “Behind the Counter” tours. This is your chance to truly explore this Alexandria treasure first established in 1792. Witness the evolution of the Stabler-Leadbeater pharmaceutical business through the museum’s buildings and collection. Examine the objects, archival materials, and the building itself—by going behind the counter! “Behind the Counter” tours will be held on the third Saturday of every month, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Reservations are required, and the tour price of \$25 per person also includes a light breakfast. Because of the exclusive access, tours are limited to no more than 12 people. Call 703-838-3852 or visit www.apothecarymuseum.org. ★

Winter Coat Drive

Through March 13
The eighth annual Hunter Mill District Winter Coat Closet is open and accepting donations at the North County Governmental Center, (12000 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston) on the following days, excluding all major holidays: Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon., Thursdays from 6 to 8 p.m., Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Donated coats should be new or gently used, in good condition and dry cleaned. Volunteers are needed to assist clients in selecting coats, greet donors and sort donations. For more information or to volunteer, contact 703-478-0283, TTY 711. ★

www.FairfaxCares.org

Ongoing
Fairfax Cares helps address the demand for assistance with immediate basic needs, such as food, housing, utility and short-term financial aid, in the Fairfax-Falls Church community. Donations are allocated directly to local nonprofit partners that provide short-term emergency assistance to area residents. All donations are made through the Fairfax Cares Fund at the Northern Virginia Community Foundation, a 501(c)3 public charity (Tax ID # 51-0232459), and are therefore fully tax deductible. The campaign is supported by leaders across the local nonprofit, business, faith, school and government organizations. To donate or for more information, visit www.fairfaxcares.org. ★

ECHO Wish List

Ongoing
ECHO, an all-volunteer, 501c3 nonprofit, provides food, clothing and household items and also helps with financial support to needy families in the Springfield/Burke areas. The need for food has risen faster than donations and they are asking the community for help. Currently needed items are powdered milk, canned pasta, bagged rice, bagged beans, jelly, spaghetti sauce, laundry detergent, toilet paper, razors, pain, cold, flu medications, deodorant, four, vegetable oil and men’s jeans size 32-34. Volunteers will carry the items into the building for you and provide a receipt. They are located at 7205 Old Keene Mill Rd., in Springfield. Hours area M-F, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and Tue.-Thur., 7-9 p.m. For more information, visit echo-inc.org. ★

LOOKING AHEAD

Stick Fly

January 1-February 7
Arena Stage Crystal City (1800 South Bell Street, Arlington,) presents “Stick Fly,” a thought-provoking and lively modern family comedy. One lazy summer weekend, Kent LeVay invites his fiancée, Taylor, to meet his parents at their luxurious Martha’s Vineyard summer home. Taylor,

under the microscope and unaccustomed to the surrounding wealth, challenges the household dynamic. The family ties rapidly unravel when Kent’s womanizing older brother surprises everyone with his white girlfriend. Conflict and dysfunction ensue as the household vigorously airs their long-secret dirty linens along with the drapes. For tickets and information, visit www.arenastage.org or call 202-488-3300. ★

Red & Brown Water

January 6-February 14
A steamy coming-of-age in tale the Louisiana Bayou bubbles out of a gumbo of rhythm and sensuality. With “In the Red and Brown Water” Tarell Alvin McCraney returns to a world driven by intense music, enflamed passions and spiritual Yoruban myth. At Studio Theatre (1501 Fourteenth St., NW). For tickets and more information, visit www.studiotheatre.org or call 202-332-3300. ★

U.S. Navy Band

January 8, 8 p.m.
U.S. Navy Band Country Current will perform at the Fairfax Old Town Hall (3999 University Drive Fairfax,VA). Just back from a successful National Tour, the band has thrilled audiences with upbeat modern-day country music as well as a few classics thrown in for good measure. Come out and enjoy an intimate family-friendly concert and get to know the band. Free concert, no tickets needed. For information call 202-433-4777 or visit www.navyband.navy.mil. ★

Blind Boys of Alabama

January 8, 8 p.m.
A soulful, uplifting tribute to the spirit and the sounds of New Orleans since 1939, the Blind Boys of Alabama have sung a powerful blend of traditional and contemporary Gospel music. The four-time Grammy winners and members of the Gospel Hall of Fame have a global following as diverse and fervent as ever. They are joined on this special evening by the Crescent City’s most revered guardians of the New Orleans Jazz tradition, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band. At the Warner Theater (13th and E Streets, NW). Visit www.wpas.org or call 202-785-9727. ★

Lifetime Learning

January 12, 10:00 a.m.
Open Forum offered by Lifetime Learning Institute of Northern Virginia is holding a free presentation; no reservations needed, entitled “An Inside Look at Medicare, Present and Future.” At the Second floor of the Ernst Cultural Center on the NVCC Annandale Campus at (8333 Little River Tnpke). Garage parking \$1 per hour. Enter garage from lower level on Center Drive off Wakefield Chapel Road. LLI is a volunteer-run nonprofit offering educational and social opportunities to adults over 55. Come at 9:30 for social hour. Visit <http://lli.nova.org> or call 703-503-0600 for more information. ★

Sweet Honey

January 16, 2 & 5 p.m.
An annual tradition for children of all ages, Sweet Honey In The Rock’s Children’s Concert celebrates the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., with folk songs, spirituals, sing-alongs, and messages of wisdom, strength, and hope! At the People’s Congregational United Church of Christ (4704 13th Street NW). For tickets or information, visit www.wpas.org or call 202-785-9727. ★

Shen Yun

January 20-24
This is a brand new program featuring traditional Chinese culture as it was meant to be—a brilliant blend of beauty, energy, and grace. Dozens of dancers in dazzling costumes move in seamless, flowing patterns. A Live Orchestra and performers whose thunderous drums shake the stage while spectacular backdrops transport you to another world. See ancient legends of virtue brought to life alongside modern tales of courage. Hear soaring songs by masterful vocalists that will move and inspire. Experience a sense of beauty and enchantment like no other with this unique, thrilling, and unforgettable show. At the Kennedy Center. Call 202-467-4600 or visit www.kennedy-center.org. ★

Fairfax Symphony

January 23, 8 p.m.
Christopher Zimmerman, conductor, will pay homage to the anniversary year of Samuel Barber’s birth, with Barber’s Violin Concerto combined with Haydn’s Symphony No. 92 and Sibelius’ Symphony No. 1. Zimmerman will give the pre-concert lecture (7:30 p.m.), and will write the program notes to explain his ideas and thoughts about Sibelius as a composer. George Mason University’s Center for the Arts (Intersection of Braddock Road and Route 123, Fairfax). Tickets are \$55, \$45, \$35. Call 888-945-2468 or visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org. ★

Civil War Ball

January 23, 8-11 p.m.
Enjoy an evening from the 1860s in the historic Gadsby’s Tavern ballroom at the Civil War Ball. Get ready for the Civil War Sesquicentennial at this distinctive event, which will include live music, dance instruction, and period desserts. Tickets are \$45 per person in advance and \$50 at the door. Period attire, either civilian or military, is encouraged. In preparation for the Ball, Civil War dance classes will be offered at Gadsby’s Tavern Museum from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, January 7, 14, and 21. Dance instruction will include the waltz, polka, Virginia Reel, and more! Classes are \$12 each or \$30 for the series. Advance reservations for both the ball and dance classes are highly recommended. Call 703-838-4242 to register or for information. Online tickets at www.gadsbystavern.org. ★

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