not exactly the “canswer” i was hoping for

by kenneth b. lourie

If this past week’s test results (EKG, blood pressure and lab work) pass muster, then I will join the ranks, full time, of thyroid cancer patients. At present, the medical plan is to pivot, completely, from any lung cancer treatment - which for the past 18 months has been immunotherapy alone, and focus instead, exclusively, on my stage IV, papillary thyroid cancer. If I can go forward, I’ll be taking three pills a day, no more red cross visits to the radiation Center and of course, no more infusions. And not that I’m paranoid about getting exposed to the coronavirus, but less exposure to whatever can be transmitted by droplets, door knobs, elevator buttons, etc., can’t be a bad thing. The question remains however: is the medication I’ll be receiving likely to have a positive effect? As in, will it cure my thyroid cancer?

What little I already know is that the type of papillary thyroid cancer that I’ve been diagnosed with recently - after three biopsies, is unfortunately not curable. It’s scarily tough. And my previous lung cancer diagnosis was described. I like curable much better. But curable I’ll take with, hopefully for a long time, as I have for 11 and 1/2 years with the originally diagnosed stage IV non small cell lung cancer. Moreover, as I will be now, is to try and stay alive until the nest new drug comes along which might actually cure my thyroid cancer. But curable, difficult, different, is the only option, is the only possible hope, is the only real goal; stability; turning the incurable disease into terminal-ish. I’m on the clock, alright, as I have been asking me if I’m still on the clock (meaning am I still treatable). Patients have unique characteristics and it’s never going to be as easy as yes or no.

Imagine what every boost would mean to a cancer patient and his or her family. What little I already know is that the type of papillary thyroid cancer that I’ve been diagnosed with recently - after three biopsies, is unfortunately not curable. It’s scarily tough. And my previous lung cancer diagnosis was described. I like curable much better. But curable I’ll take with, hopefully for a long time, as I have for 11 and 1/2 years with the originally diagnosed stage IV non small cell lung cancer. Moreover, as I will be now, is to try and stay alive until the nest new drug comes along which might actually cure my thyroid cancer. But curable, difficult, different, is the only option, is the only possible hope, is the only real goal; stability; turning the incurable disease into terminal-ish. I’m on the clock, alright, as I have been asking me if I’m still on the clock (meaning am I still treatable). Patients have unique characteristics and it’s never going to be as easy as yes or no.

The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

ELECTRICAL 14

www.connectionnewspapers.com

14  alexandria gazette packet  september 3-9, 2020

bulletin board

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vernon genealogical society will speak about genealogical research on uk ancestors. online access information to be emailed to members and nonmembers. email registration by sept. 11 to contact-us@mygenealogy.org. see http://www.mygenealogy.org.

art by mail ii

the “art by mail ii” online exhibit (september 1 - november 30, 2020) from del ray artsisans features small format original paintings in watercolor, oil, and acrylic; mixed media art and artistic cards; plus, small 3d paper creations by our members. purchases are mailed to you from the artists! del ray artsians is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization in alexandria, va. directly support the arts in your community and enjoy the exhibit today: www.delrayartsians.org/artbymail

act virtual celebration

act for alexandra’s fall collection and virtual celebration will be held wednesday, sept. 23 from 7-8 p.m. this event will be an evening when the best of alexandria — the community, the friendships, the supportive spirit — is on full display. and while this year they are not able to gather in person, the virtual celebration still promises to be a festive evening to come together, enjoy some moments of reflection, and toast our collective efforts to support the community during this unique, challenging time. unique to this event, all guests will receive a cheers in a box, full of local goods and treats! our box can also be part of an engaging virtual platform and a program filled with lots of special treats, including musical performances by local singer-composer lake james shaffer and billboard-charting vocalist chealsey green. support act by purchasing your ticket at bit.ly/actfallsalud2020. registration closes sept. 14.

library hosts “rightfully hers” exhibit

the kate waller barrett branch at 717 queen street is currently hosting a new pop-up exhibition from the national archives, “rightfully hers,” commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th amendment. rightfully hers contains simple messages of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. Rightfully Hers contains simple messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women’s voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today. Developed decades of marches, petitions, and public debate to enshrine a woman’s right to vote in the constitution, the 19th amendment — while an enormous milestone — did not grant voting rights for all. the challenges of the struggle reverberate to the ongoing fight for gender equity today. this exhibit runs through wednesday, sept. 30, 2020.

rec program modified

the department of recreation, parks and cultural activities (rpa) will offer a full-day program that supports acps virtual plus+ learning for elementary school aged children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. the program will be offered from september 14 through december 18 at mount vernon and patrick henry recreation centers. recreation leaders will provide supervision of acps virtual learning from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and after school recreation from 2:30 to 5 p.m. the program fee is $460, or $228 with free or reduced priced school meals documentation, $190 with snap benefits; or $114 with tanf benefits. additionally, families interested in participating are required to verify eligibility by completing a pre-registration eligibility form. the form is available in both spanish and english at alexandriava.gov/recreation. paper copies will be available beginning on saturday, august 29. to request a paper copy be mailed or to make an in person appointment to complete the form, call the registration and reservation office at 703-746-5173. a questionnaire for all families can also be picked up and dropped off at an out of school program box at the following locations: lee center, 1108 jefferson street mount vernon recreation center, 2701 commonwealth park henry recreation center, 4653 taney eligibility forms must be submitted by september 4 and all applicants will be contacted by sept. 8-9. eligible families must then complete their registration by september 11. once the pre-registration is complete, general registration for any remaining capacity will begin september 14 online on a first-come, first-served basis.

Could please the acps virtual plus+ childcare page for information about acps virtual plus+ learning services provided by rpa and other partners. visit alexandriava.gov/recreation for more information about programs offered by the department of recreation, parks and cultural activities.

volunteers needed

mount vernon at home is a community village, providing support, services, and community to seniors in the area. volunteers are needed for a variety of services, with transportation to medical appointments being greatest need. they can also use help in home handyman work and solving IT problems. if you are interested in volunteering, contact info@mountvernonathome.org or call 703-303-4906.

now this week

fredericksburg weekly newspaper beginning wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at del ray psych & wellness, 900 mt. vernon ave, alexandria. maureen clyne, an affiliated agent with coldwell banker residential brokerage in the alexandria office, will be giving the eighth session of free outdoor yoga classes in the del ray section of alexandria. this community event, “yoga in the park,” is expected to continue for the rest of the fall, and may return in the spring of 2021. announcements will be made on the cool yoga facebook page. call 703-967-8884.

online worship service

fairlington united methodist church. sundays. 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. via zoom. address: 3900 king street, alexandria. are you looking for hope, healing, and community during this time? you are invited to online worship at 11 a.m every saturday morning. pray, sing, read scripture, share a meditation, and respond. follow this link: https://fairlingtonumc.org/worship/watch-or-listen-to-a-service.

green spring gardens phone orders

green spring gardens is now offering phone orders. customers can provide pickup of plants from its garden gate plant shop. choose from an assortment of shrubs and perennials, place your order, and have the plants loaded directly into your trunk.

gardens are open to shop at green spring to go to the park’s website to see what is for sale. the order form, which is updated weekly, lists what plants are available, their size and price. once you’ve made your selections, call green spring at 703-642-5175 to place your order. all orders are being taken by telephone and must be paid by credit card. orders are accepted monday through saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on sundays from noon to 4 p.m. pickups are wednesdays and fridays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and on tuesdays from 2 to 3:30 p.m. plants can be picked up in the traffic circle at the horticulture center. their registration for any remaining capacity will be open until september 11. eligible families must complete their registration by september 8-9. eligible families must then complete their registration by september 11. once the pre-registration is complete, general registration for any remaining capacity will begin september 14 online on a first-come, first-served basis.

auditions for peaceful protest

auditions are being held in person for volunteers for the red rebels in alexandria. the red rebel brigade is a movement within extinction rebellion, an international ecological peace organization. a quarantine, the red rebels are a performing protest group, wearing red costumes, pale dramatic mime face and holding red flags. the red rebels are an active rebel action group that is composed of protesting against the american government's war in Iraq, the occupation of Palestine, and the war in Afghanistan. the red rebels are a group of people who are willing to put their lives on the line to protest against the government's policies. the red rebels believe that the american government is guilty of war crimes and they are willing to be arrested in order to make their voices heard. the red rebels are a group of people who are willing to put their lives on the line to protest against the government's policies. the red rebels believe that the american government is guilty of war crimes and they are willing to be arrested in order to make their voices heard. the red rebels are a group of people who are willing to put their lives on the line to protest against the government's policies. the red rebels believe that the american government is guilty of war crimes and they are willing to be arrested in order to make their voices heard. the red rebels are a group of people who are willing to put their lives on the line to protest against the government's policies.