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Features

How Women Shape the Economy and Business World

By Kimberly Blaker

Women today account for or influence 70-80 percent of all buying decisions. The 'female economy' was estimated by Forbes in 2017 to be worth \$18 trillion, and continues to grow. These statistics reveal the crucial role women play in keeping the economy afloat—in good times and in bad.



Top Real Estate Producers

Work with one of Tysons top producing real estate agents who have a passion negotiation and knowledge of the area and industry. Get a preview of their current listings.

The Down Syndrome Trailblazers

By Eugene Tossany

Our society has come a long way since the 1950's, when Down Syndrome (DS) individuals were categorized as non-functioning mongoloids and locked up in institutions. In retrospect, the children who were brought up in an often-cold environment are today's adults who have been paving the way for a new generation of proverbial and science-fiction superheroes. Their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed.



Get to Know Archer

By Analiese Kreutzer

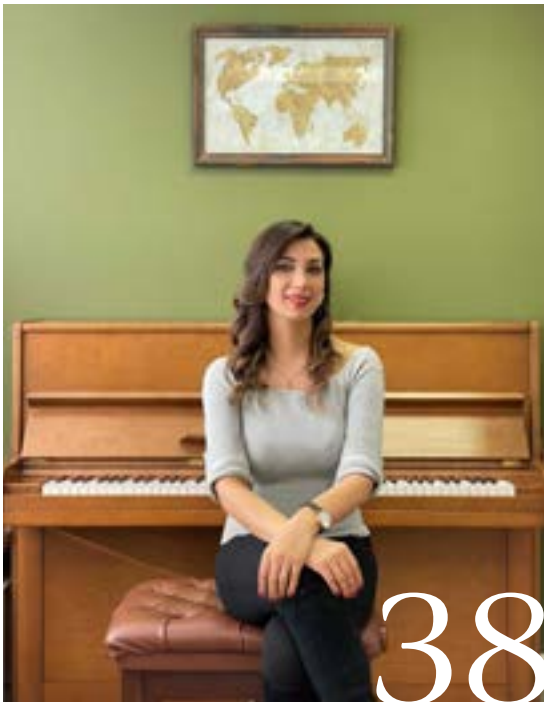
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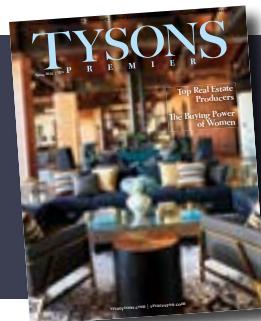
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ON THE COVER

The Living Room at the Archer Hotel. *Read the article on page 58.*

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JOHN MCCUTCHEON
The Barns at Wolf Trap
April 21

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MICHELANGELO'S SISTINE CHAPEL: THE EXHIBITION - DC

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Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel: The Exhibition showcases the awe and wonder of arguably one of mankind's greatest artistic achievements, while allowing its visitors to experience this art from an up-close, life-size, and never-before-seen perspective. With special expertise and care, the ceiling paintings from the Sistine Chapel have been reproduced in a truly unique way using licensed high definition photos. Brought to life using a special printing technique that emulates the look and

feel of the original paintings, visitors are given a chance to engage with the artwork in ways that were never before possible: seeing every detail, every brushstroke, and every color of the artist's 34 frescoes. Each image is accompanied by informative signage, and audio guides are available to rent for an even more in-depth experience.

This globally successful exhibition is an innovative and unique interpretation of Michelangelo's timeless masterpiece. Whether visitors have already been to the Sistine Chapel or not, everyone can admire the artwork up close, at their own pace, and with the ability to capture photographic memories of this iconic work

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THE MAMALOGUES

April 21-May 8

7:30pm-9:00pm

Written by Lisa B. Thompson

Directed by Angelisa Gillyard

In this satirical comedy, three friends share the joys, challenges, and anxieties of being middle class single Black mothers in predominantly white suburbs. The story celebrates motherhood and community while exploring racial profiling on the playground and supporting your kid who is perpetually the Only Black Child (OBC).

Follow their journey as they lean in and steer their children from pampers to college while navigating their own road toward retirement. Visit boxoffice@1ststage.org to book your ticket.



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STRING MASTERPIECES

Chamber Music Society

of Lincoln Center

Chamber Music at The Barns

Friday, April 1, 7:30PM

TIX Start at \$44

Recognized as the heavy-hitters of the chamber music canon, Beethoven, Mozart, and Brahms are often heard in concert halls with large orchestras. In this performance, an all-star Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center line up presents a selection of trios, quintets, and sextets, allowing us to revel in the beauty and power of these titans of classical music in an intimate setting.

JOSEPH

THE REQUESTS ONLY TOUR

Saturday, April 2 and 3, 8pm

TIX start at \$25

Oregon-bred sister trio Joseph (Natalie Schepman, Allison Closner, and Megan Closner) are best known for their crystalline vocal work and harmonies that suggest a near-telepathic connection among sisters. "[They] blend their voices in the eerily close way that only siblings seem able to accomplish" (NPR). Experience Joseph's dreamy folk and pop-rock-filled Barns debut.

TOM PAXTON & THE DONJUANS

Wednesday, April 13, 8pm

TIX start at \$26

Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award-winner and folk icon, Tom Paxton, teams up with the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter duo The DonJuans: Don Henry and Jon Vezner. Within days of writing and playing together, they knew they were onto something. Now they're taking it on the road!

Photo credit: Myriam Santos



33RD ANNUAL EVENING OF COMEDY

Friday, April 15 and 16, Times vary
TIX start at \$27

The Barns transforms into a comedy club for three performances of hilarious stand-up entertainment. The 33rd Annual Evening of Comedy performances originally rescheduled for Friday, March 19, 2021 and Saturday, March 20, 2021 at The Barns at Wolf Trap have been rescheduled to Friday, April 15, 2022 and Saturday, April 16, 2022.

MEOW MEOW

Wednesday, April 20, 8pm
TIX start at \$32

Post-post-modern diva Meow Meow has hypnotized and inspired audiences globally with unique creations and sell-out shows from New York's Lincoln Center to London's West End. "The voice alone is glorious in its range and texture. But combine it with carefully chosen songs, superb comic timing, improvisational wit, and some engaging audience partici-

pation, so cannily conducted that you suspect a degree in psychology, and you have an evening that demonstrates that Meow Meow really is the cat's whiskers" (The Guardian).

JOHN MCCUTCHEON

Thursday, April 21, 8pm
TIX start at \$27

A master instrumentalist, powerful singer/songwriter, storyteller, activist, and author, John McCutcheon is folk music's Renaissance man. "His storytelling has the richness of fine literature" (The Washington Post). The John McCutcheon performance originally rescheduled for Thursday, April 15, 2021 at The Barns at Wolf Trap has been rescheduled to Thursday, April 21, 2022.

A BANDHOUSE GIGS TRIBUTE TO LINDA RONSTADT

Saturday, April 22 and 23, 8pm
TIX start at \$27

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PAUL THORN
The Barns at Wolf Trap
April 27

tribute concert featuring the DC-area's premier vocalists and musicians performing classics like "You're No Good," "When Will I Be Loved," and many more. A BandHouse Gigs Tribute to Linda Ronstadt performances originally scheduled at Wolf Trap on Friday, January 21, 2022 and Saturday, January 22, 2022 have been rescheduled to Friday, April 22, 2022 and Saturday, April 23, 2022.

PAUL THORN

Wednesday, April 27, 8pm

TIX Start at \$37

Before becoming a rootsy singer/songwriter, Paul Thorn was a prizefighter and skydiver. However, as the son of a Pentecostal preacher, music was always in his blood. After retiring from boxing, he turned to music—his lifelong passion. "Thorn is a natural-born Southern storyteller with humble stage banter and musical delivery that's gritty and gruff" (NPR).

CHOIR! CHOIR! CHOIR!

Friday, April 29, 8pm

TIX start at \$24

Choir! Choir! Choir! turns the audience into performers. Founders Nobu Adilman and Daveed Goldman travel around the world building community through the joy of song. No audition necessary! Just show up, and get ready to sing! Arrangements to favorite songs are provided. The Choir! Choir! Choir! performance scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021 at The Barns at Wolf Trap has been rescheduled to Friday, April 29, 2022.

THE QUEBE SISTERS

Saturday, May 5, 8pm

TIX START AT \$25

The Quebe Sisters combine the musical stylings of The Mills Brothers, Ray Price, Count Basie, and Willie Nelson to create a unique Americana blend of Western swing, Texas-style fiddling, and three-part harmonies that has been performed at concert halls and festivals all over the world.

THE JAZZ EFFECT

Chamber Music Society of
Lincoln Center

Chamber Music at The Barns

Sunday, May 8, 3PM

TIX start at \$44

Pianists Zhu Wang, Wu Han, and the Orion String Quartet explore the influence jazz has made on the classical music canon. Repertoire spans Gershwin's beloved Rhapsody in Blue to Marsalis' At the Octo-
roon Balls.

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And the Queens of Go-Go Fitness

Saturday, May 28, 7PM

TIX start at \$27

Trouble Funk, worldwide ambassadors of go-go music, headline this lineup of DC's best go-go groups. Signed into law as the official music of DC in February 2019, go-go is a music of celebration and participation that thrives off the audience's energy. Come ready to dance and sing along!

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SPRING COMMUNITY PARKING LOT TRUNK SALE

Sunday, April 10, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Shoppers, find bargains at this parking lot sale with up to 50 vendors! Residents selling household items are welcome. Limited commercial vendors or flea market dealers are also welcome. Register online, or in person or by phone by contacting

the MCC Registrar at 703-744-9365,
TTY: 711. Adults, All Items
Vendor Space Fee: \$30/\$20 MCC district residents. Children (up to 15 years old), Children's Items Only
Youth vendors must be supervised by a parent or guardian. Vendor Space Fee: \$15/\$5 MCC district residents. The vendor enrollment deadline is Wednesday, April 6. Advanced registration is required. Vendor spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

McLean Community Center is helping the American Red Cross with Diverse Blood Donations!

Friday, April 15, 1-6 p.m.

It is urgent for donors of all ethnicities to support patients in need! Join us and support the community with your lifesaving blood donation. All donors will receive a \$10 Amazon Gift Card via email. For an appointment, visit www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor word: HEARTOFGOLD, or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Questions? Contact Melanie Hurley at melanie.hurley@heartogold.org or Meosha Hudson at 410-375-5190 or meosha.hudson@redcross.org.

SPRING FEST

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.–noon
\$5 per person, children under 29 months are free. Advance registration is required for all participants. Walk-ins will not be accepted. Activity No. 4502.322

For families with children ages 2-8. Join your neighbors as we celebrate the changing of seasons with self-guided arts and crafts, entertainment and an opportunity for your child to take a photo with our Bunny character. Bring your camera or smartphone for photos! An MCC staff member will be on hand to take a photo of you and your family. Remember to bring your basket for our Parent-Child Egg Hunt (10 egg limit per child). Please register early! Space is limited.



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Photo courtesy of Wolf Trap



MEOW MEOW
The Barns at Wolf Trap
April 20

OLD FIREHOUSE FAMILY FUN BINGO (VIRTUAL)

Friday, April 22, 7–9:30 p.m.
\$5 for 5 cards.

Activity No. 4711.322

For all ages. Join us for a virtual evening of fun and prizes! Winners will take their pick of themed prize packs. Preregistration is recommended.

EARTH DAY MCLEAN— ACT LOCALLY

Saturday, April 23, 9 a.m.–noon
Free admission for MCC district residents; registration is required. To allow us to process everyone in a timely fashion and prevent overcrowding, we ask that you sign up for a specific timeslot. This outdoor environmental action event is designed to provide McLean residents an opportunity to create a healthier planet.

Shred, reuse, recycle and replenish, and make McLean an even better place by acting locally. The event will include document shredding (up to 5 file boxes – no clips please), composting, recycled art displays, bulk and household item donations, and more. Don't leave without your free gifts of a tree seedling and pollinator seeds! Note: This event is limited to McLean residents who reside in Small Tax District 1A—Dranesville.

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All of our indoor shows require a proof of vaccination (original card or picture is sufficient), or a negative COVID 19 test that is no more than 72 hours old for entry. At home tests will not be accepted. Please call the

box office at 703-237-0300 with any questions.

MELODIME

Farewell Show

Saturday, March 19, 9pm
TIX start at \$17

Melodime is a Virginia-based band with influences in both country and rock that features emotionally charged anthems, piano driven hooks, and energetic guitar solos for a dynamic, organic sound. Melodime, featuring Brad Rhodes (lead vocals, guitar), Sammy Duis (piano, organ, bass), Tyler Duis (drums), and Jon Wiley (guitar, mandolin, dobro), has performed over 100+ shows annually throughout the continental United States, sharing the stage with such well-known acts as Sam Hunt, Eli Young Band, A Thousand Horses, and Sister Hazel.

BADFISH

A Tribute to Sublime
Saturday, April 23, 8pm
TIX start at \$25

The phenomenon known as Sublime, arguably the most energetic, original and uniquely eclectic band to emerge from any scene, anywhere, ended with the untimely death of lead singer, guitarist and songwriter Brad Nowell in May of 1996. But encompassing the sense of place and purpose long associated with Sublime's music, Badfish, a Tribute to Sublime continues to channel the spirit of Sublime with a fury not felt for some time. What separates Badfish from other tribute bands is that they have replicated Sublime's essence, developing a scene and dedicated following most commonly reserved for label-driven, mainstream acts. Badfish make their mark on the audience by playing with the spirit of Sublime. They perform not as Sublime would have, or did, but as Badfish does! ♦



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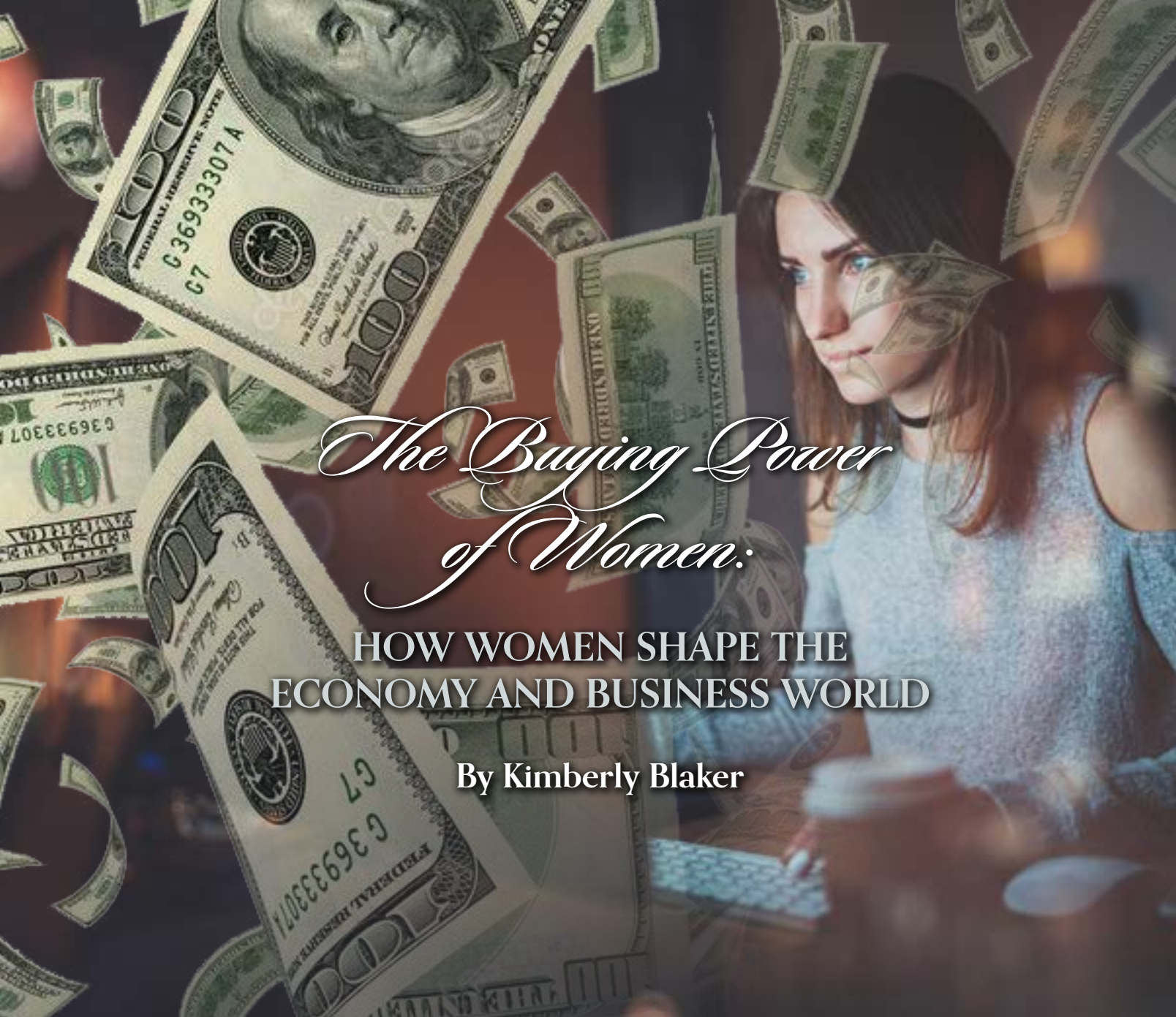


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The Buying Power of Women:

HOW WOMEN SHAPE THE ECONOMY AND BUSINESS WORLD

By Kimberly Blaker

Women today account for or influence 70-80 percent of all buying decisions. The 'female economy' was estimated by Forbes in 2017 to be worth \$18 trillion, and continues to grow. These statistics reveal the crucial role women play in keeping the economy afloat—in good times and in bad.

As a result, many businesses have taken heed. Still, plenty of industries and companies remain behind the times when it comes to treating women as major consumers. They fail to see the power this segment possesses.

For example, most women can attest to occasions when their gender has negatively affected the service and attention they received. Additionally, women are still taken advantage of because of their lack of or perceived lack of knowledge in certain industries.

Women, however, have become increasingly educated consumers, and businesses that don't recognize this are learning the hard way. Many women, offended by these biases, walk away from a purchase and go elsewhere, demanding to be treated with respect.

Advertising and marketing specialists are also catching on. Advertising that stereotypes women and marketing explicitly geared to male audiences don't sit well in the minds of women today. Stereotyping and the absence of recognizing women as potential consumers for traditionally male products are off-target, offensive, and fail to give these large consumers the information they need.

House and Home

Women today account for well over half of the spending on household goods and personal items. That's because they take more interest in shopping for these items, especially non-essentials. Women control most of the expenditure not only on décor, linens, and kitchen gadgets, but furniture, cabinetry, carpeting, lighting, and more.

Furthermore, women play a significant role in the purchase of real estate, the biggest investment most families make. According to the National Association of Realtors' 2020 Profile of Home Buyers and Sellers, "19% of first-time home buyers and 17% of repeat home buyers were single women," totaling 36%. Single men accounted for only 20% of homebuyers in 2020.

Married women also markedly influence real estate decisions. According to David Powers Homes of Houston, Texas, couples ultimately agree on the purchase together. Yet research conducted by the company found women make almost 80 percent of the home-buying decisions in the company's \$180,000 to \$500,000 price range.

When buying a home, men and women each look for certain features. Women are most concerned with floor plans and designs and how these factors will accommodate their lifestyles. Specific features of importance to

women include large closets, kitchen space and design, space needs, and overall comfort. Men focus mainly on technology, energy efficiency, and garage functionality.

Probably one of the most under-recognized areas of women's buying power, however, is in the tool and home improvement industry. With the surge in do-it-yourself remodeling, women have fast become one of the big spenders in tool departments and home improvement aisles. Kimberly Stevens, a staff reporter for The Wall Street Journal, explains, "We're talking buzz saws, routers and power sanders."

The growth of female tool shoppers isn't minimal, Stevens points out. A survey by the Home Improvement Research Institute, found women have been outpacing men in their involvement in do-it-yourself projects since at least 2000. According to a female industrial designer at Porter-Cable of Jackson, Tennessee, as reported by Daily Gist, "Women are using these tools on a regular basis."

The growth of female tool sales is the significant increase in women working in the construction field, which has nearly doubled over the last 15 years.

Health care

Women's voices are gaining prominence in the healthcare industry, as well. Women make at least two-thirds of the healthcare decisions in U.S. households, according to Amy Ertel Bellcourt, vice president of corporate communications for MVP Health Plan. So healthcare systems are paying particular attention by improving maternity wards and focusing a portion of their marketing on services affecting women.

Travel

Women are equally important to the travel market. They now make seventy percent of all travel decisions. They're the larger clientele of adventure travel.

But business travel has also seen marked growth by females. Women make up nearly half of all business travel, according to research by Judi Brownell, Ph.D., professor of Cornell University's Management & Organizational Behaviour Program.

Over 75% of women traveling on business are college-educated and abler than men to articulate their needs. They participate in more leisure activities while traveling on business. They're also much more likely to order room service while traveling alone. For these reasons, they have a significant impact on this industry.

Investment

While the percentage of women who own stocks still lags behind men, ample research has found women make better investors. In 2017, Fidelity Investments reported after analyzing more than 8 million clients that when it comes to the return on investments, women outperform men.

Automotive

Another area where women play a crucial role is in the automotive industry. "Women," according to a report by the National Institute of Automotive Service Excellence, "are not only becoming more influential in deciding what car to buy, they are also taking over the traditionally male-dominated responsibility of maintenance and repair." Women make up between 65 and 80 percent of auto repair and service shop customers.



Women are also responsible for almost half of new car sales and slightly over half of the used-car sales, according to Art Spinella, of CNW Research. Women influence 80% of all transactions. Not to mention, says Ford Motor Marketing, 95% of women have the power to “veto” an automobile purchase.

What women want from this industry, experts say, is not to be treated differently. They want to be treated with respect. “Women ask more questions, inquire about details, and are more willing to look under the hood, or check out parts,” says Diane Hohman, an automotive aftermarket consultant in Herndon, Virginia. So they’re beginning to get the respect they deserve in this market.

Sports and entertainment

Women are not only spending increasing amounts on clothing but on entertainment and electronics.

With the surge in do-it-yourself remodeling, women have fast become one of the big spenders in tool departments and home improvement aisles.

Furthermore, the women’s sports apparel market is valued at \$26.8 billion, nearly a third of the total sports apparel market of \$80.1 billion as of 2018, according to the Euromonitor International. In fact, an unexpected 45% of NFL fans are now women according to the NFL’s 2017 estimate.

What this all boils down to is two-fold. Being America’s biggest consumers, women not only keep the economy from becoming stagnant during times of stability. They keep it from collapsing during a recession. This means women are gaining the upper hand in the way the business industry treats them. Women aren’t demanding preferential treatment, but they do expect equal treatment and respect. ❖



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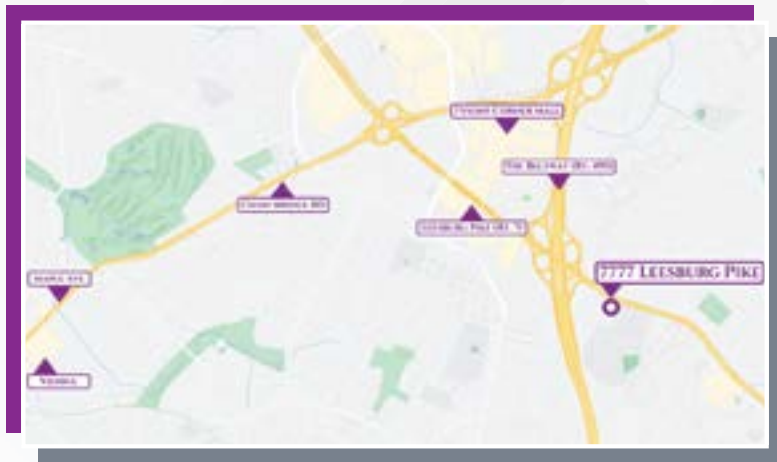
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A close-up portrait of Mikayla Holmgren, a young woman with long, wavy blonde hair, smiling and resting her chin on her hand.

The Down Syndrome *Trailblazers* A World Down Syndrome Day Exclusive

By Eugene Tossany
Author of The Down Syndrome Superhero series

Our society has come a long way since the 1950's, when Down Syndrome (DS) individuals were categorized as non-functioning mongoloids and locked up in institutions. In retrospect, the children who were brought up in an often-cold environment are today's adults who have been paving the way for a new generation of proverbial and science-fiction superheroes. Their sacrifices have not gone unnoticed.

The growing list of world-renowned Down Syndrome celebrities, public speakers, authors, athletes, and academic achievers is quickly reaching a pinnacle. They are pushing the limits of what can be accomplished with a little extra effort and a sustainable support system. As the parent of a DS kid, I sometimes wonder if she might be hiding a superhero cape and leotards in her room! She seems to have an unseen internal drive that propels her to tear down barriers.

We recently contributed autographed books to Mikayla Holmgren's *Dream Big Without Limits* initiative. She was the first Down Syndrome Miss USA state pageant contestant (2017). Our daughter was tickled pink when we watched Mikayla's online fashion show. Her little face was glowing with excitement and joy as she mimicked some of Mikayla's dance moves. One of her passions is singing and dancing, as well as encouraging family members to sing and dance with her. This is a community that knows how to uplift and support one another, not just with kindness, but also with humility and gratitude.

Let us not forget the earlier DS Hollywood trailblazers like **John Taylor**, *The Seventh Sign*, who did not receive notoriety for his important film role. And there have been exceptional Advocates, such as **David Egan**, international inclusion spokesperson. Their continued efforts are just so they can be appreciated, and to maintain dignity. They have cleared a path for younger generations to have role models, and maybe a few movie posters with the likes of **Zack Gottsagen**, from *Peanut Butter Falcon*.

Some of the recent national and world headlines you may have seen include **Kayla McKeon**, Capitol Hill Lobbyist, **Grace Strobel**, first American DS model, **Chris Nikic**, Ironman Triathlon finalist, and **Sofia Jirau**, first DS Victoria's Secret model (respectively pictured). These pioneers are one of many examples of our country's extraordinary pivot to provide the Down Syndrome community with equal opportunities.

Is it all glitz and glam? No. Overachievement is not a requirement for happiness. It is perfectly understandable if families choose to shun the limelight and just enjoy each other's existence. There are a multitude of Down Syndrome organizations,

such as Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia (DSANV), and various Facebook support groups to help our loved ones along the way.

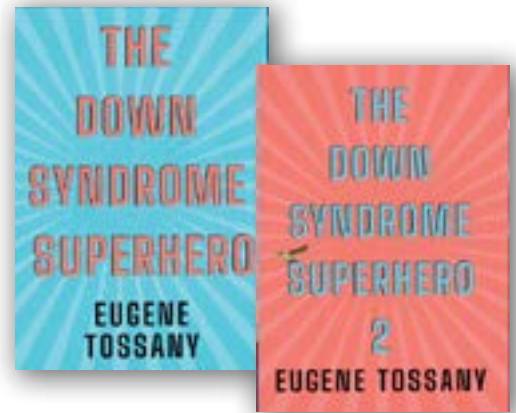
From my years of involvement with support groups, I have seen expectant parents share their concerns, anxieties, and curiosities with community members – requesting input on what to do next. My advice? Breathe. You've got this! And if you need a helping hand, then there are plenty of resources: from intervention services to public school aides and behavioral development therapists. There is an advocate waiting to be your champion, wherever you are.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the diligent caregivers, medical specialists, intervention teachers, therapists, and communities who understand the importance of standing up for these beacons of hope. One of my favorite news articles was a recent occurrence, in Macedonia, where a neighborhood pulled together to protect a Down Syndrome child who was being bullied. **Stevo Pendaroski**, North Macedonian President, intervened with a public statement and personal appearance at 11-year old **Embla Ademi's** school, where he started a viral sensation:

"They [Down Syndrome children] should not only enjoy the rights they deserve, but also feel equal and welcome in the school desks and schoolyard. It is our obligation, as a state, but also as individuals, and the key element in this common mission is empathy." —**Stevo Pendaroski**, President of North Macedonia. ♦

¹ National Association for Down Syndrome | History of NADS

² About David — David Egan | Athlete, Self-Advocate, and Partner in Helping Create a Better World (davideganadvocacy.com)





Ava Music School

Bringing Music to the Lives of Students

By Keith Loria

A nahita Khorsandi opened Ava Music School at 311 Maple Ave. W in Vienna last year, offering piano, guitar, violin and vocal lessons—both private and group for children (starting at age 3) and adults.

“Being aware of the significant therapeutic effects of music and arts in the development of mind and spirit of humans of all ages and specially the children, makes us strong believers in what we have undertaken,” she says.

Highly skilled at the piano, Khorsandi started playing at the age of 6 in her home country of Iran, and credits her teachers—Mr. Pardis and Mojgan Salehi—with providing her the skills she possesses today. She also studied piano in a conservatory of Tehran for several years, moving to the U.S. at the age of 17.

“I always had a passion for music,” Khorsandi says. “I wasn’t sure what I wanted to do when I came here, but I decided I wanted to open a music school.”

Knowing that she wanted to teach piano to students of her own, Khorsandi studied marketing and business at the University of Massachusetts so she could learn how best to operate a successful studio. She founded the Ava Music School based on the philosophy that developing emotional depth, artistic maturity and a genuine love of music is the essence of musical study.

The staff at Ava Music School is made up of incredible teachers, including Sheida Jenkins who teaches music for wellness; Sheida Jenkins who teaches piano and music composition; Antonio Espinal, who teaches piano and vocals; Niloufar Rahmanzadeh, who teaches piano; Pendar Kordnavahsi, who offers group piano lessons; Dr. Nikan Milani, another piano teacher; and Arman Nasrinpay, who works with violin and viola students.

She hopes to add more to the staff, including a guitar instructor in the months ahead.

Music is important for children to learn at a young age, she notes, because it helps them build up confidence.

“Myself, I was a very shy kid; I wouldn’t talk and I didn’t want anyone to notice me,” Khorsandi says.

“One day I decided that I wanted people to see me. I was 11 and piano was my thing.”

She calls the piano her “best friend,” and whether she’s sad, mad or happy, she can be found playing and pouring her emotions into her songs.

“I think kids should play, no matter what instrument they decide,” Khorsandi says. “I tell parents that I don’t know if their kids will become a pianist, but I

promise that they will fall in love with music. That’s my goal. If that happens, then the passion comes and the hard work comes.”

As a teacher, Khorsandi gets her students interested with rewards and just making positive connections, helping them to get off their phones and video games and sit down at the piano to play.

“We take the best student of the month and give them a trophy, and the students work hard for that—they love to be shown and be seen,” she says. “Before COVID, we had a recital, and all the parents would come. We hope that we’re able to do that again soon.”

Not surprisingly, Ava’s Music School suffered a bit when the pandemic began, but Khorsandi did what she could with virtual lessons and made sure her kids continued to stay interested in their instruments.

“In January, all my students came back because they wanted their lessons in person,” she says. “I still teach online to adults, but I think it’s really important to teach kids in person to get that connection and keep them interested.”

Khorsandi hopes to grow her school so every day there are group lessons going on, because she feels that helps students learn the basics best.

“I’m also trying to open my own piano gallery,” she says. “One part of that would be to repair old pianos and resell them, and another part is to rebuild customized pianos. I have someone who is coming on this year to help me with that.”

“In my opinion, everyone should learn an instrument because it makes a big difference in a person’s life,” she says.

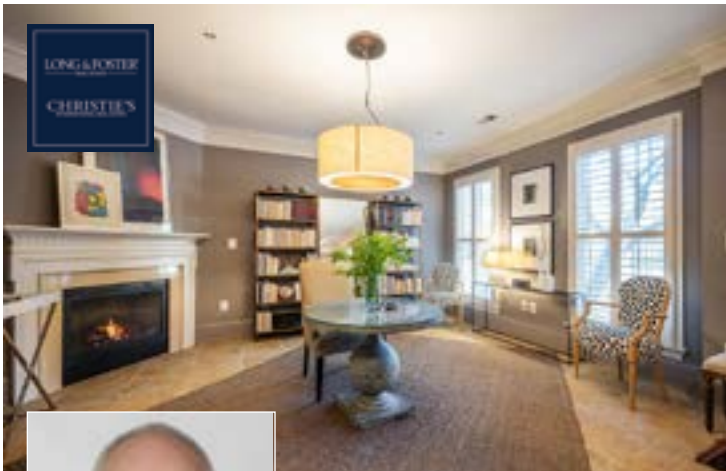
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During the summer, Khorsandi will host a two-week summer camp, combining music instruction with other fun activities.

A man and a woman are standing in a bright, modern interior space. The woman on the left is wearing a purple suit and holding a white tablet. The man is standing behind her, looking at the tablet. The woman on the right is wearing a tan trench coat and a black handbag, looking towards the man and the tablet. The background shows large windows with white curtains.

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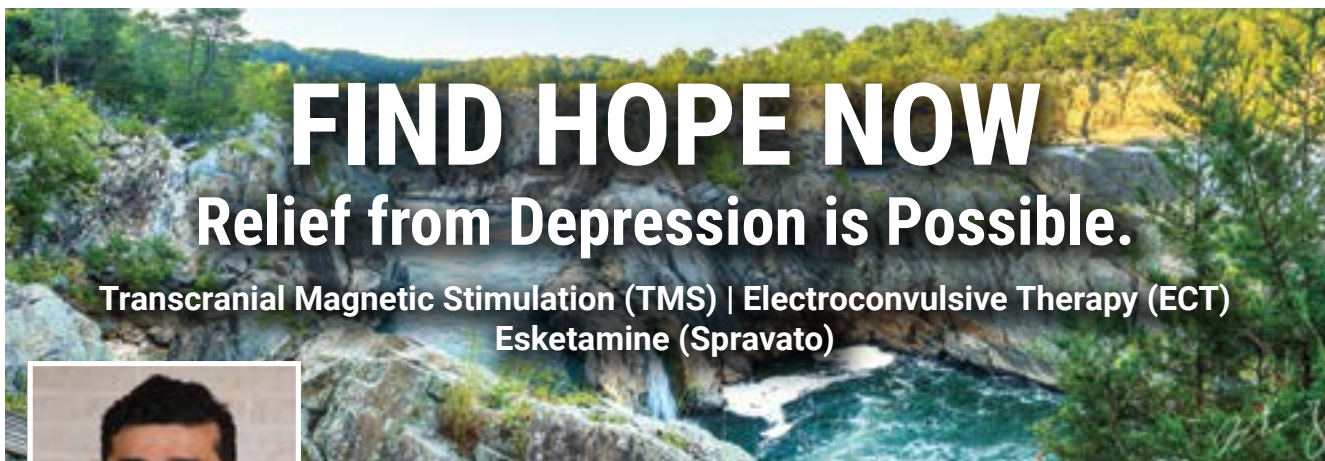
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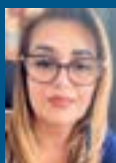
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Photo credit: Drew Hickox

TWO MUST-SEE MUSEUMS

at Virginia Wineries

By Linda Barrett

Our area wineries keep “upping their game” to provide even more reasons to visit—other than their fine wines. You’ll find games including cornhole and axe throwing, entertainment like bands and comedy nights, fire pits, a plethora of dining options, and now... museums! In this column, we’ll introduce you to two of Northern Virginia’s winery/museum options located at The Winery at Bull Run and adjacent to the Vint Hill Craft Winery.

Witness to History Civil War Museum at The Winery at Bull Run

The Winery at Bull Run added a new attraction to its popular tours in March 2022: its Witness to History Civil War Museum. Explore the collection of more than 200,000 artifacts and become your own witness to history through the relics

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and stories of real Civil War soldiers. A knowledgeable tour guide takes guests on an hour-long adventure through the exhibits, along with four coordinated wine and cider pours.

The museum, located downstairs from the main tasting room, hosts one of the largest Civil War artifact museums open to the public in a beautifully-curated exhibit. It includes the vast collection of D.P. Newton, former curator of the White

Oak Civil War Museum who died in 2019, along with relics acquired by winery owner Jon Hickox and others.

Hickox wanted to create a non-political way to let people experience what life was like for soldiers in the Civil War. You’ll see relics from both Northern and Southern forces, including the African American troops, along with descriptions of the items and where and how some were recovered.

Don't miss the pyramid composed of 60,000 bullets (120,000+ in the collection); a flag made by the wives of the 4th Virginia Cavalry soldiers that flew at the Battle of Bull Run; a trunk belonging to Captain W.C. Hearn, 1st Mississippi Chaplain; and the recreation of a camp hut with its Sibley stove and mural of a winter quarters camp scene. The museum also hosts a unique collection of 30 IDs and dogtags, alongside photographs of these individuals.

You'll discover what life was like both in the camps and on the battlefield. "The soldier's experience was 99% boredom and 1% sheer terror," Hickox said. His favorite part of the exhibit? The boom room!



Photo credit: Drew Hickox

History of Manassas National Battlefield

The museum is especially poignant as it sits on the edge of the Manassas National Battlefield Park where two major battles of the Civil War were fought: the First and Second Battles of Bull Run, also known as the Battles of Manassas. It was also where Confederate General Thomas J. Jackson acquired his nickname "Stonewall." The park was established in 1936 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966, and hosts more than 700,000 visitors yearly.

Cold War Museum, adjacent to Vint Hill Craft Winery

The Cold War Museum was founded by Francis Gary Powers, Jr., the son of the CIA U-2 pilot

shot down over the Soviet Union in 1960, and John C. Welch to preserve Cold War history, honor Cold War veterans, and educate people about this time period. The museum spans a two-story building adjacent to the Vint Hill Craft Winery where guests can enjoy a tasting and a meal at the nearby Covert Café while visiting. It is not associated with the Winery.

Enter the museum and you'll be approached by one of several volunteers who will be glad to explain any of the numerous exhibits. Note the Tom Hanks movie poster from "Bridge of Spies." See what you can recognize in the SR-71 film of Washington D.C. taken from a NASA SR-71 Blackbird. Learn about Lockheed's Skunk Works®. Check out maps used by the Civil War balloon corps, and watch a video showing tests of Atomic Bombs at the Nevada proving grounds.

Upstairs, take notice of the many communist flags lining the ceiling. Touch a piece of the Berlin blockade wall and gaze at the array of German and Russian military uniforms.

Curator John DePerro, pointed out an important exhibit concerning the Cuban Missile Crisis. He explained how we were just minutes away from WWII as he pointed out how the U.S. spotted and stopped a Soviet submarine carrying a nuclear torpedo by faking an attack with hand grenades that caused the submarine captain to believe he was under attack.



Photo credit: Linda Barrett

Cold War Museum

Free Admission
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continued on page 65



BRING YOUR APPETITE TO

Bear Branch Tavern

By Analiese Kreutzer

Driving west on Maple Avenue in Vienna, it's easy to miss Bear Branch Tavern, but you won't want to. The warm and welcoming atmosphere, tasty menu choices, and weekend entertainment will keep you coming back again and again.



Set back from the road in an unassuming office building, Bear Branch Tavern offers several surprises. At first glance, parking appears tight, but if you continue around to the back, you'll find a larger lot along with the restaurant's entrance. The interior manages a blend of rustic and contemporary decor that puts diners at ease. The lighting is bright enough to read the menu easily but subdued to encourage relaxation at the end of the day. The dining room tends to be a little loud, making it hard to communicate with the wait staff, but they do a good job making sure they get your order right.

The restaurant includes two bar areas, one open to the main dining room and another in a separate bar and dining area in the back, facing Maple Avenue, where local entertainers perform on Friday and Saturday nights.

Owned by the Vintage Restaurant Group, whose other offerings include Dogwood Tavern in Falls Church and Rhodeside Grill in Arlington, Bear Branch Tavern serves up hearty portions of classic bar food as well as interesting menu selections that cross cultures. For example, alongside the menu's standard nachos with black beans, cheese, and jalapenos on tortilla chips are tuna poke nachos with seared yellowfin ahi, seaweed salad, poke sauce, and sriracha aioli over light and crispy wontons.

Among a selection of burgers, cheesesteaks, a ribeye, and a cobb salad are a torta with pork carnitas, ham, fried chicken, cheese, and house-made pickles or a miso braised pork belly featuring shishito peppers, fingerling potatoes, peas, corn, and kale. The food is well-prepared, with the fried buttermilk chicken crispy and juicy, the side of bacon mac and cheese creamy, and all the dishes flavorful, although a few may be a little spicy for some diners. You might want to skip the sriracha mayo that comes on the fried chicken sandwich or ask for it on the side, same with the sriracha aioli included on the tortilla-crust mahi tacos with jicama slaw.

The portions here are large, and the plates get a little overwhelmed. Fries or salad greens tend to spill off the sides of the plate as you try to get to your entree. A bigger plate or separate dishes would be appreciated.

The menu features some gluten-free items but not many vegetarian choices. The few vegetarian options do sound tasty, though. They include a falafel burger, falafel and couscous bowl, and a Buddha bowl featuring red quinoa, brown rice, baby kale, cherry tomatoes, beets, grilled corn, garlic chickpeas, arugula pesto, avocado, country olives, and a balsamic vinaigrette. The menu description for the Buddha bowl includes a hardboiled egg, so diners who don't eat eggs would need to ask that it be left out.

In addition to its main menu, Bear Branch Tavern also offers a late-night menu starting at 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and brunch on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with a DIY Bloody Mary bar. Specials include happy hour Monday through Friday from 3 to 7 p.m. and a Tuesday raw bar beginning at 4 p.m. and featuring \$1 oysters on the half shell and other seafood specials.

[Bear Branch Tavern](#) is located at 133 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Appetizer prices range from \$6 – \$15, and entrees average from \$16 – \$30. ♦





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Traveling Trends

By Jeannine Bottorff

The travel business is crazy right now. Travelers are making up for lost time over the past two years by rebooking their missed trips now. In the past two months, I've booked my clients on river cruises and biking trips, wine tastings and hiking treks. Trips that celebrate big birthdays, anniversaries, or families who are finally able to go someplace together...and people are splurging—if not with money with their time. They are staying in 5-star hotels and deciding to do the trips they always wanted to do but kept putting off because they would have to take too much time off work. The past few years have taught us that we shouldn't put off things we really want to do—and so they are leaping into the trips of a lifetime with gusto!

I want to inspire you to travel by giving you a few of the trends I am seeing this year.

There's Always Italy and France

I cannot tell you how popular Italy and France are in 2022. They are always at the top of the list but this year, almost every other call I get is for one of these destinations. The Amalfi Coast is extremely popular with visits to Positano and to the Isle of Capri. Sunshine, lemon trees and stunning scenery are what brings people to this region of Italy. Visits to Buffalo Mozzarella cheese farms, ancient ruins and lunch overlooking vineyards are the experiences my clients are booking. In France, Paris is almost always part of the experience

with its trendy and traditional restaurants and iconic landmarks like the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre, but there is also Normandy with the D-Day beaches and the South of France with the beaches and the Rosé...always a great choice!

Kicking off Retirement with a Bang

One of my clients recently retired and decided to book a waterfront luxury villa on a Caribbean Island for an extended time. They plan to have friends and family visit while taking advantage of the services available at the villa including housekeeping, a private chef and a concierge who can help with anything else they might need – all while gazing at the blue waters and white sands on their own personal oasis.

Cruising with a Group

Lots of us, including my family, will be cruising this summer. We are sailing in the Greek Isles as part of a group of friends and family. Cruising is one of the best vacations around! We've done it before with extended family and it works because everyone has their own space and gets to pick their own activities while meeting up for drinks and dinner to share the discoveries of the day. The choices of cruise types are enormous! You can cruise on a luxury ship or an expedition ship. There are small vessels with room for 50 people up

to huge ships with thousands of cabins available. One of the best experiences is a river trip. You can go to Europe or Alaska or even Africa or Egypt. The world is truly your oyster when you are on a cruise ship.

Solo Treks to Far Flung Lands

I have a couple of solo travelers who have decided to go on active guided vacations, where a group of like-minded travelers hike, bike or walk some of the most exciting destinations in the world. My one client chose to venture to Argentina this Spring. In the past she's gone to New Zealand, Croatia, and Vietnam. There are literally hundreds of choices all over the world.

The active vacation is extremely popular this year for many reasons. It is perfect especially for people who want to go somewhere somewhat exotic but don't want to go alone, but it is also great because you are actively seeing the destination and your creature comforts are taken care of: your luggage is handled for you as is transportation, sightseeing, fantastic hotels and authentic restaurant choices.

Most people who select these types of trips add on time at the beginning and at the end to explore on their own, making it a unique experience for them.

Get Started Early

If you are interested in traveling in 2022, I suggest getting the process started as soon as you can. Everyone is catching up on their travel and the best options will go first including flights, hotels and tours. Also, prices are fairly high, so be prepared for a bit of sticker shock. In most cases, the earlier you book, the better the price you will get.

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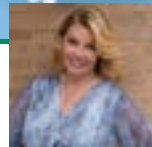
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GET TO KNOW *Archer*

By Analiese Kreutzer



There's a new neighbor in the Scotts Run South community, and people want to know, who is Archer? What is he like? Those who know Archer best describe him as an adventurer, storyteller, connoisseur, and humorist. He's gracious, the consummate host, and his hotel reflects that.

When you enter this luxury boutique property, you immediately get swept up in Archer's worldview. It's got an urban industrial-chic

vibe combined with residential comfort. The open floorplan lets you take in the lobby, living room area, and AKB—its classic hotel bar. Archer's casual elegance, attention to detail, and impeccable service shine through from the lobby to the 178 guest rooms and suites to the seventh-floor penthouse event space.

You get a sense of a world traveler who knows how to make guests comfortable while never losing sight of where they are right now. Local art throughout the hotel depicts Virginia-centric stories such as the famous "Virginia Is for Lovers" advertising campaign, a flowering dogwood mural, and a mural of the peach grove that once occupied the hotel site. Curated amenities and souvenirs provide lasting memories of time spent in Northern Virginia.

Why Archer?

In this up-and-coming community nestled between Tysons and McLean, Archer provides convenient access to shopping, restaurants, entertainment, and businesses. You are steps from the McLean Metro Station for easy access to Tysons and DC. A five-minute walk to Capital



One Center brings you to Capital One Hall performing arts center and conference venue, as well as Starr Hill Biergarten, a park, and an amphitheater. Across the street from Archer, a public plaza with restaurants, shops, and luxury residences is slated for completion next year.

Guests in town for business, vacation, or visits with family and friends will find that Archer's residentially minded design, amenities, and service make their stay unforgettable.

"More than ever, travelers and locals are trading up for experiences and making up for lost time—so while guests may choose Archer because it's a truly gorgeous new boutique hotel, they'll love that Archer has it chock-full of thoughtful (and complimentary) touches," said General Manager Pam Domingo. In addition to the amenities you would expect at an upscale hotel, Archer also features an arrival gift, favorite local bedside books (*The Little Prince*, *Misty of Chincoteague*), Nespresso coffee makers, and a rubber ducky in all rooms with a bath/soaking tub.

"Guest can choose from one of four guest rooms or suites—each with a unique design palette and luxe details like Frette robes, whimsical slippers, a rotation of curated daily turndown treats, and complimentary Wi-Fi throughout the hotel," said Domingo. "Archer's hosts go above and beyond to personalize every stay, so whether it is setting the mood with a Crosley record player and a selection of albums from artists with connections to Virginia, a nostalgic Kid-in-Archer gift for our youngest guests, or perks for your pup—every stay at Archer Hotel is singular and special."



AKB—A Classic Hotel Bar

AKB serves as an inviting gathering spot for hotel guests, but complimentary self-parking makes it convenient for locals as well. Whether gathering for drinks with friends or conducting business over a meal, AKB sets just the right mood.

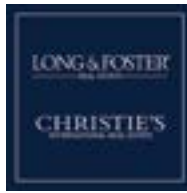
"Locals have already discovered AKB—Archer's twist on the quintessential hotel bar," said James Lee, director of food and beverage. "A grand central bar is surrounded by cozy niches and community tables set for group gatherings." AKB also includes a private dining room and an outdoor patio with a firepit.

"The bar beverage menu is extensive, the food is supremely shareable, and the service is on point. If you'd like a showstopper, try the Hennessy smoke smash or the new Manhattan, both smoldered to perfection. A brick oven churns out savory wood-fired pizza, and house-made rotisserie chicken is a star ingredient on the menu," said Lee.

Meetings and Events

Consider putting Archer's signature style and service to work for your next business meeting or event. "Archer's 17,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor venues and knack for hosting will make long-awaited gatherings even more grand. The seventh-floor penthouse with tumbled red brick walls, crystal chandeliers, built-in bar, and adjacent outdoor terrace is Tysons' new chic spot," said Lee.

For more information or to book online, visit ArcherHotel.com/Tysons. ❖



FABULOUS WINDSONG

OAKTON, VA | \$1,685,000

Gorgeous all-brick custom Monte West home with stunning updates. Large owners suite with remodeled sumptuous bath with hand-laid tiles and relaxing soaking tub. Family room with cathedral ceilings and one of four fireplaces. Upgraded kitchen with SubZero refrigerator and five-burner gas cooktop. Each of five bedrooms has its own private bath. Breathtaking heated pool with covered terrace/patio.

TIMBERLAKE ESTATES NORTH

GREAT FALLS, VA | \$1,442,000

Completely upgraded from head-to-toe! Completely remodeled white kitchen with stainless steel appliances, quartzite counters and large island with barstool seating. Amazing owners bath with separate tub and shower... and even heated floors. Large walk-out lower level with fifth bedroom and fourth full bath. Over-sized library with built-ins. Both deck and patio face south for lots of sun!

UNDER CONTRACT



UNDER CONTRACT



TIMBERLAKE ESTATES NORTH

GREAT FALLS, VA | \$1,585,000

Largest model in wonderful community with nearly 6,000 sq.ft. Five bedrooms upstairs with three full baths. Upgraded kitchen with new large island and granite counters. Completely remodeled owners bath with gorgeous tiles and separate soaking tub/shower. Newer HardiePlank and 50-year roof. Upgraded stone and slate entry portico. Fully finished walk-out lower level with great gym.



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TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR *Financial Future* DURING A DIVORCE

By Sarah Avila CFP®, CDFA®

We all go into marriage hoping for the happily-ever-after ending, but often it doesn't work out that way. The divorce process requires both spouses to make a host of difficult decisions around financial topics that may be unfamiliar, complicated and emotional – yet these decisions will help create the foundation on which each person builds a new, fresh start.

If you or someone you know is contemplating divorce, or even if you are already in the middle of the process, the time to find professional financial advice is now. Partnering with a certified divorce financial advisor (CDFA®) can help you with those financial decisions. Here are three tips to consider regarding your financial investment strategy during divorce proceedings, shared with us by Sarah Avila, financial advisor and certified divorce financial analyst with VLP Financial Advisors in Vienna.

TIP 1: Recognize why professional advice is in your best interest

The investment and financial needs of recently divorced individuals often look very different than that of married couples. A trusted financial analyst will get to know you and your needs so she can design a portfolio tailored just for you.

“As a certified divorce financial analyst, I work with the client pre, mid and post-divorce,” Sarah says. “By the time the divorce is finalized I generally have a sound understanding of their budget, assets, liabilities, concerns and longer-term financial needs.”

TIP 2: Understand what a CDFA® can do for you

When someone is going through the divorce process, they may feel a lot of uncertainty



about their future financial landscape.

“One of the biggest questions is whether their settlement agreement is in their best financial interest,” Sarah tells us. “I work closely with clients and often their attorneys to look at the client’s complete financial picture and, if necessary, help come up with settlement options that best suit their needs.”

A CDFA can provide you with unbiased, straightforward advice specific to your situation. Where lawyers may fight for legal agreements that make their clients happy in the short term, CDFAs® take the emotion out of negotiations and instead aim for sound, sensible financial advice for the long term.

Here are a few of the common issues Sarah advises on as a CDFA®:

- Considering whether the client can afford to keep the marital home and if not, helping them determine what they can afford;
- Evaluating spousal support negotiations;
- Educating the client on the tax implications on the sale of investments;
- Understanding the present value of a pension plan;
- Projecting life insurance needs on the ex-spouse if applicable;
- Educating the client on Social Security as it pertains to divorce;
- Developing a full financial plan and continuing to work with the client post-divorce to ensure they stay on track with their longer-term goals

TIP 3: Pull together documents and information as soon as you can

Sarah recommends you do the following to prepare for negotiations:

- Try to get a good handle on your budget by tracking household expenses

- Know what you and your spouse own and what you owe
- Begin collecting account documents (regardless of who’s name they are titled), such as:
 - retirement account statements,
 - bank accounts,
 - 529 college plans,
 - car loans,
 - mortgage statements,
 - tax returns, etc.
- Lastly, engage with a CDFA® as soon as possible, versus waiting until the end of your divorce.

Working with divorcing couples is only a part of what Sarah does in her role with VLP Financial Advisors, but she sees it as an opportunity to assist clients in a meaningful way with what can be a very emotional and difficult time in their lives.

“Divorce is a difficult and stressful time but it’s also an opportunity to start fresh. I love being able to help clients build a financial plan and make longer term projections based on their new situation,” she says. “From my experience, when clients begin to get a clearer picture of how things might look for them down the road, they start to feel better and gain confidence that they will get through this period. They often come out of it feeling more empowered and in control of their future, which is exactly what I want for all my clients.” ♦

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This photo shows part of Dulles Airport Station at dusk, with the main terminal for Dulles International Airport in the background and the parking bowl in between. The photo was taken from Parking Garage 1. ❖



Two Must-See Museums at Virginia Wineries *continued from page 49*

Numerous other stories can be found on the museum's website at coldwar.org. The museum also offers a Presentation Series featuring distinguished speakers who discuss their experiences with and in the Cold War.

History of Vint Hill Farms Station

The site itself holds a significant history. The owner of Vint Hill Farm, Mitchell Harrison, was a Ham radio buff and in 1939, realized that he could receive transmissions from as far away as Europe due to the unique topography of the area.

In 1942, the farm was purchased by the U.S. Department of the Army as a top-secret post for the Signal Intelligence Service to operate, along with a cryptographic school that taught personnel how to encode, decode and translate messages. It was named "Monitoring Station No. 1." The upstairs area of the smaller dairy barn (now the Vint Hill Craft Winery), was one of the areas where monitoring took place. The lower barn was still a dairy barn.



Photo credit: Linda Barrett

In November 1943, a message from the Japanese ambassador in Berlin was intercepted and decoded, giving a detailed description of the German Atlantic Wall defenses, troop strengths and contingency plans. The "Oshima Intercept" was a crucial contribution in D-Day planning.

Go out and enjoy some of Virginia's fine wines, and take in a bit of local history at the same time with these museums. ❖

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With Construction Boom, County Adds Emergency Services in Tysons

By Marcia McAllister

As high-rise, high-density residential and commercial development booms in Tysons, fueled in part by the 2014 arrival of the Silver Line, so has the need for the expansion of emergency services.

For proof, just look at The Boro along Route 7 at West Park Drive, the coming expansion by Macerich Corp. at Tysons Corner Center, the Capital One complex and residential projects along Route 123.

Add to that mix the opening of new hotels, expanded construction of housing for seniors such as The Mather on Jones Branch Drive and another on the site of the former National Association of Automobile Dealers, the arrival of entertainment venues such as the Capital One Hall, and roof-top penthouses, eateries, aerial train tracks along Route 123 and 7, and the tunnel beneath the Route 7/Route 123 intersection.

Plus, four Metrorail stations: McLean, Tysons Corner Center, Greensboro and Spring Hill.

To meet these needs, Fairfax County continues to focus on improving emergency services.

Plans are underway to relocate Fire Station 29 from its Spring Hill Road location next to a post office and half block from the Spring Hill Metrorail station to a site next to the Dulles Toll Road/International Drive/Jones Branch Drive/Spring Hill Road intersection. There is no room for expansion at the current one-level station, built in 1978. A previous plan to move the station into a proposed multi-story building near the rail station failed.

The proposed station will be larger than the existing one and will permit use of larger fire-fighting equipment necessary for taller buildings. Plans call for a two-story building with five bays, living facilities for firefighters

and additional bus bays for transit service.

A one-story bus transit facility now occupies the new fire station location, but bus usage there declined after the Silver Line opened. The new plan calls for a \$16 million fire station as well as a new bus transit center. Fairfax must win approval of a change to the agreement made long ago with previous owner West Group (now Cityline Partners) that limits usage of the site.

Last Fall, Fairfax opened Fire Station 44, Scotts Run, near the McLean Station. It was built as a condition for development of nearby mixed-use development under construction by Cityline, at 1766 Old Meadow.

When that station opened Fire Chief John Butler said the facility would help meet demands of the Tysons area which provides unique challenges to responders, according to the Connection Newspapers. ❖

Affordable Housing Project Planned Near Spring Hill Station in Tysons

In recent years developers in Tysons have been contributing to a special fund to help provide affordable housing in the Tysons area through what's known as the proffer system, a part of the zoning process.

The first project to use these dollars is on the horizon.

More than \$33 million from that fund will go toward 175 housing units in the first phase of Dominion Square along Spring Hill Road at Route 7 (Leesburg Pike) near the Spring Hill Metro station.

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn praised the recent decision by the board to go ahead with the plan, which provided \$22 million in the form of a loan to the Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing to develop the property. The other \$10 million comes from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Phase 1 of Dominion Square will include a nine-story building with 35 one-bedroom apartments, 105 two-bedroom units and 35 three-bedroom units. It will be available to households at or about 30 percent, 50 percent and 60 percent of area median income levels.

The 175-unit Dominion Square West building will be a significant and positive step forward in providing much-needed housing near Metro all along the Silver Line, Alcorn said.

In 2010, Alcorn recalled, the county adopted a comprehensive development plan for Tysons that included a call for developers "commercial properties to make a contribution to affordable housing in Tysons at \$3 per square foot. This is the first such housing proposal to use these proffered funds and I look forward to the life-changing impact these new homes will have on working families," he said.



The canopies over five of the six new Silver Line stations opening later this year will look like this one at Innovation Center Station. Those five stations look like Wiehle-Reston East Station, which will cease to be the end of the line once Phase 2 opens. Dulles Airport Station is the only one of Phase 2 with a different design, one that mimics the Eero Saarinen-designed main terminal at Dulles. Some people see a face in this photo; do you? ❖



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