

# Old Instruments, New Friends in Arlington

## Quartet Salonnières hosted at Norwood.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Salons, the kind 18th century French ladies hosted, are a thing of the past. Or are they? Who in this day and age invites people to sit in their living room, enjoy music and conversation over a glass of wine and a plate of french hors d'oeuvres? Who does it for the love of good music, good conversation, and good food? Beth Lewis does. She renovated her husband's childhood home in 2006, designing it to serve his profession in myriad ways. For 10 years her husband, Reilly Lewis, a prominent musician, would utilize the space for rehearsals, concerts and special events for his organizations. Beth put his piano in the bay window, pushed out the rear of the room to a beautiful garden, and bought some folding chairs.

On Oct. 22 the "salon" held about 28 guests who came to hear the Quartet Salonnières, a New York City based group which plays period instruments, now on tour to raise money for its upcoming international trip to Tanzania. It was one of many concerts she has hosted over the past 5 years.

Lewis envisioned just this kind of event when she rebuilt the Arlington house; she just didn't expect her husband, Reilly Lewis, not to be there. In 2016 he died suddenly, at 71. He had been an organist at Clarendon United Methodist Church, and conductor of the Cathedral Choral Society and the Washington Bach Consort. He was a beloved figure in Washington's classical music circles. And the house Beth Lewis renovated played an important role in his musical life, even back in the 1970s. Lewis and several friends from the National Symphony began meeting at his mother's house in Arlington to play the music of Bach. That group became the Washington Bach Consort in 1977, and is now recognized as one of the country's premier baroque-music ensembles, with an emphasis on historically authentic performances on instruments from Bach's era. So Reilly Lewis would have loved hearing the Salonnières, particularly when the quartet's special guest, Dominic Giardino, played Mozart's Clarinet Quartet in A Major on a historical clarinet from that era ... in his living room.

Beth Lewis has been doing these concerts at the rate of about one every other month for the past five years. She felt the house needed to reverberate with music to preserve her husband's memory. His piano, his harpsichord, his organ all sat in the house in need of playing. And so, through word of mouth, Lewis opened up her home to musicians. For what is now known as Concerts at Norwood she invites neighbors, friends, and acquaintances, cooks up an amazing array of hors d'oeuvres and occasionally dinners. She glows with the sense that her house is doing what it was meant to do: give musicians a place to be heard. It doesn't hurt that she



Beth Lewis's spread reflects her French culinary background. The Quartet in full concentration.



PHOTOS BY DON LASSELL



A portrait of Reilly Lewis hangs in the study.



The Quartet Salonnières preparing to play.

attended French culinary school and loves to use those skills.

The Salonnières formed their quartet about four years ago. Aniela Eddy, Natalie Kress, Rebecca Nelson, and Cullen O'Neil met during their studies in the Historical Performance program at The Juilliard School. Their quartet's name comes from the fact that women were often denied the opportunity to play in public during the male dominated Baroque era, and the only way they could be heard was in small salons not unlike Beth Lewis's.

The Quartet Salonnières has toured nationally and internationally, performing on stages across New Zealand, and with Les Arts Florissants in Paris, Philharmonia Baroque in San Francisco, Apollo's Fire in Cleveland, Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, and Pacific Baroque Orchestra in Vancouver, Canada.

Playing with the old instruments is harder, they noted, munching on the macarons. The cello O'Neil plays has no pin, so it is harder to control, and the gut strings on the violins and violas have a completely different



Dominic Giardino plays the old clarinet.

sound. The clarinetist required great skill to play notes which sought the right pitch, but were more haunting and emotional than a newer instrument would produce.

Lewis said she feels good about her "Concerts at Norwood" because, for instance, during the pandemic, when most performing venues were shut down, she was able to

help a young man, who could not perform publicly, by allowing him to use her home to video record his performance, which he could then share digitally.

Lewis, who has had some very interesting roles in life herself, including becoming one of the first professional women firefighters in the country, is now using her skills as a rare book conservator at the Bishop Payne Library at Virginia Theological Seminary.

The Quartet Salonnières is looking for donations to help defray the costs of their upcoming tour to Tanzania. The trip was organized in 2020 but postponed twice due to COVID. The month-long trip was made possible by funding from the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania which awarded the group its prestigious Artist Grant. They will be collaborating with local artists, workshops, performances, schools, and universities, and holding free public concerts. The Quartet still has to raise funds for airfare and equipment. To make a tax-deductible donation, see:

see: [ci.ovationtix.com/35560/store/donations/35887](https://ci.ovationtix.com/35560/store/donations/35887)

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# Arlington's USA Team Headed To Finals in Ramadan Tourney?

Soccer tournament is a gathering place for multicultural team.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

The holy month of Ramadan can be tough when you are away from home. Like any major religious event, there are special home-cooked recipes for breaking the fast, mouth-watering and calorie-rich, and it's hard, when you live across the world, to replace the most important part of Ramadan: the gathering of extended family and friends uniting over the Fitar (breakfast) table as the sun sets. But the whole idea of Ramadan is to practice self-discipline, self-control, sacrifice, and empathy for those who are less fortunate, so a few Arlingtonians have carved out their own Ramadan gathering.

Arlington resident Dr. Zeyad al-Shammari, a Saudi who came to the U.S. in 2006 to study, started the soccer team "USA" along with his friend, Dr. Yahya al-Qatani, in order to bring people together during Ramadan. Al-Shammari teaches political science, international relations, Global Studies and Middle Eastern Studies. Dr. Yahya teaches Physics at Howard University. Al-Shammari and Yahya paid for the "USA" jerseys, and invited some of the players they had met while playing before Ramadan began, like Murad, one of the youngest teammates, who immigrated to the U.S. on a visa lottery four years ago. A Moroccan from Rabat who grew up playing soccer, like all Moroccan boys, he is working at a Whole Foods store in Washington, D.C. and is slowly adjusting to life in the U.S., learning English on the go. He lives in Arlington.

Al-Shammari said they deliberately chose people from different walks of life and nationalities. "The beauty of the USA team is that we unite, we offer to help any of the younger people who are still adjusting to life here, and we aren't just Muslims — our team has Latino guys, Black guys, Jewish guys, Catholic guys, and even atheists! We can accept each for who he is, and what he believes. We shouldn't hate each other, we are all human. This is the beauty of the real USA, not just the team. Personally, I highly appreciate this country. I came when I was a student in 2006, now I am a PhD teaching new generations. I found myself. The USA made me a better person. So that's why we named our team USA: we wanted to show how America added to us as students, as employees, as people."

The USA team was having trouble fielding an entire team on Thursday night at 10 p.m. because of a schedule change. They were playing a predominantly Iraqi team. Players came into the South Run indoor pitch in Fairfax carrying their cleats and changing on the sidelines. The two teams played hard, with the Iraqis pulling even with the USA team twice. In the last five minutes of the game the USA Team scored to win. This win was due in large part to the goalie, Mario Shuja, who, gloveless in the first quarter, was "The Terminator" when it came to stopping the fast, hard, and high balls being drilled at his goal. Although the USA team had not played much together before Ramadan, they came

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From left, standing, Dr. Yahya al-Qatani, Khalid al-Qatani, Dr. Zeyad al-Shammari, Murad Lahfidi, Allawi. From left kneeling: Shafiq, and Abdullah al-Shammari.



One of the exciting moments in the close match on Thursday night with Number 6 showing off his excellent handling skills, while Number 7, Murad Lahfidi, prepares to assist.

**"I highly appreciate this country. I came when I was a student in 2006, now I am a PhD teaching new generations. I found myself. The USA made me a better person. So that's why we named our team USA. We wanted to show how America added to us as students, as employees, as people."**

—Dr. Zeyad al-Shammari, teacher at NOVA and Arlington resident

together as the game progressed. Their collegial attitude and high energy level was a large part of their success.

"We play for points: each win gets a point, and the teams with the most points go to the finals," said al-Shammari. "We are number two, so we think we will make it to the finals, but nothing is for sure yet. There are other strong teams on the field, and our team has new players; we had never played together." Al-Shammari took great pride in the fact that his team USA had not gotten any yellow or red cards (penalties) since the match started. "We think that shows how peaceful we are."

"But perhaps the most important part of the team effort is that we gather together. We fast all day (for Muslims during Ramadan, this means no water, tea, smoking, eating, or gum, are allowed among other

things.) Then we break our fast, lightly, with just a date, some soup, and water or milk, at sunset (7:53 p.m. on April 2022) and at 10 p.m. we go down to South Run to play with the league teams. After the match, we gather at the Middle Eastern restaurants that are open until two in the morning during Ramadan. We drink coffee, eat shawarma, and talk. I don't stay out too late because I have to get to work the next day, but it's typical for some to stay out until 3 a.m."

Is it hard to fast in a culture that seems obsessed with food and drinking?

"I don't find it hard here in Arlington: they know Ramadan, the people here are well-traveled and educated, they actively wrote welcoming messages when the month started. I love my neighbors."

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PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

Zeyad ALshammari, PhD ...  
Our team in the Ramadan tournament in the DMV area

We wanted it to be from different religions and cultures, because soccer is a message to build bridges of peace and humanity to combat stereotypes and racism between different peoples, religions and cultures



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Upper L-R, Mario Shuja, goalie; Muhammed, Alex, Dr. Zeyad al-Shammari, Dr. Yahya al-Qatani, Zachary Alerte. Lower L-R, Rafael, Dr. Majad Alfandi, Abdullah al-Shammari. Yahya teaches Physics at Howard University; Dr. Majid Afandi, is a cybersecurity expert and researcher; Zachary Alerte, is a statistician, Rafael is in the army, Abdullah al-Shammari is studying public policy at Catholic University.



A caterpillar is removing debris from Fire Station 8 on April 22. The machine operator says this is nothing; the big machines are on the way.

# Demolition of Fire Station 8 Begins

The demolition of the Fire Station 8 structure on 4845 Langston Blvd will begin on the week of May 2, and is expected to finish on the week of June 20. This demolition work will be in preparation for construction of a new fire station facility.

Demolition work hours will be Monday to

Friday, approximately 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Work during demolition will include:

Installation of erosion and sediment control and stormwater pollution prevention before demolition starts

Demolition of the building, after protections are installed

Dump trucks carrying away debris after

demolition

Demolition of two fuel tanks after the building is demolished

Some small trees near the corner of Langston Blvd and N Culpepper St will be removed

Minor utility work to be done on N Culpepper St and Langston Blvd

The project team will be sharing updates as the project progresses. Learn more about the demolition and plans for the new Fire Station 8 facility on the project page.

<https://www.arlingtonva.us/Government/Projects/Project-Types/County-Facilities/Replacing-Fire-Station-no-8>

## Doorways

FROM PAGE 3

“We let them know ‘we will be with you.’” She said they put a safety plan in place. “The person may not choose a shelter right away. They may want to get out but don’t know how. That’s when most homicides happen. It is a very dangerous situation.”

Doorways operates an emergency temporary shelter as well as a shelter for homeless families. Ortiz says these residences are always in need of basic supplies such as cleaning supplies that go by quickly with more people, and the need for diapers is high. Other special requests can be found on the Doorways Amazon wish list from time to time or could be dropped off at the office.

Ortiz says in addition to operating the shelters they run a vigorous prevention program. “We be-

lieve the best way to solve violence is to get ahead of it.” She explains when people are calling the hotline it might not be their first situation of abuse. Ortiz says, “we want to change the culture where violence is not the only or first option.”

The approach is to teach middle school and high school students to know what a healthy relationship with a peer looks like, what are the boundaries, and conflict resolution. The classes and workshops are open to everyone but they particularly target marginalized communities in the LBTG community and serve all genders.

For more information or to offer support contact: <https://www.doorwaysva.org>

To reach the violence and domestic abuse hotline: 703-237-0881.

## FLOURISHING AFTER 55

“Flourishing After 55”  
Office of 55+ Programs  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
300 N. Park Dr., Arlington, VA  
22203 703-228-4747

Date: 3-23-22 Contact: Judy Massabny, [jmassa@arlingtonva.us](mailto:jmassa@arlingtonva.us)

55+ Programs are virtual, indoors at 55+ Centers and outdoors. A 55+ Pass is required to participate (starting at a \$20 annual fee). To join or register, go to [registration.arlingtonva.us](http://registration.arlingtonva.us) or call 703-228-4747.

Early morning art activity with community arts programmer Jennifer Droblyen, Monday, May 2, 9 a.m. Registration # 913303-13.

Canasta games, Wednesdays, 10 a.m., Walter Reed 55+ Center. Instruction available. Drop in.

Mother’s Day Music and Tea, packaged assorted sweets, Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m., Aurora Hills 55+ Center. Bring pictures of mother, wife, children. Registration # 913890-02.

Local history group to discuss Arlington’s parks, Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m. Registration # 913402-15.

Opera appreciation, hear and discuss musical selections from Bellini’s “Norma”, Wednesday, May 4, 1:30 p.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Reg-

istration # 913300-06.

Basic hand crafts, develop skills using silk flowers and bottle cap crafts, Wednesday, May 4, 11 a.m., Lubber Run 55+ Center. Registration # 913310-04.

Aging in Place, find out if your home is suitable and safe to stay long term, Thursday, May 5, 1:30 p.m. Presented by Patrice Winter, associate professor, George Mason University. Registration # 913404-06.

Smart homes, hear a basic introduction to home automation devices such as Amazon Alexa and Google Home, Thursday, May 5, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913403-07.

Travel Trivia, Thursday, May 5, 11 a.m. Registration # 913601-04.

Sudoku puzzles, new techniques, share favorite puzzles, Thursday, May 5, 1:30 p.m. Lubber Run 55+ Center. Drop in.

Mom knows best or does she? Learn how to make healthy versions of family favorites, Friday, May 6, 2 p.m., Arlington Mill 55+ Center. Registration # 913501-05.

Spellbinders, volunteer storytellers, practice the magical tradition of oral storytelling, Friday, May 6, 9:30 a.m., Langston-Brown 55+ Center. Registration # 913301-11.

## Ramadan

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Al-Shammari’s friend, Dr. Majid, a geneticist researching liver cancer at Virginia Commonwealth University came up to Arlington for the month of Ramadan. As he watched the game, he said that after living in the U.S. for as long as he had, it is really home now, and he has adapted to Ramadan outside Saudi Arabia. He acknowledged that fasting can be hard when all the restaurants are open and people walk around with drinks and ice cream. In Saudi Arabia the restaurants close during fasting hours. But it’s no big deal because

the hours of fasting are relatively short here, he said.

“My favorite thing about Ramadan is that I lose a little weight, feel healthier, and I am more in touch with myself mentally, spiritually, and less concerned with eating, especially junk food.” Al-Shammari added, “The gatherings that take place during Ramadan are definitely my favorite part. Another thing I love about Ramadan is the spiritual aspect: people become more tolerant, more generous, more peaceful. The beauty of Ramadan is to open your door to people, try to understand their religion, and show compassion.”

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PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/THE CONNECTION

**SLOW  
DEATH IN  
FAMILY**

## Nightmare on Jackson Street

PAGE 3

Jackson Street decked out for Halloween.

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# Nightmare on Jackson Street

**Arlington does halloween despite rain.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION

**W**hen your veterinarian tells you to go down to Jackson Street to see the Halloween decorations, listen to her. You might encounter Vampira, a ghoulish lady who “does vampire” so well you want to release the handshake quickly lest she catch you in a steely grip. Sean and Robin Whitmore have been overdoing it on their front lawn (and roof, and porch) for 25 years. They haul in an old hearse-like 1950s station wagon from their property in Louisa County. There it sits on their Ashton Heights front lawn, blinking, smoking, burning, a rotting corpse in the casket, a skeleton reaching in through the



**Lori Rizzi in front of her house. Skeletons for St. Jude is a nationwide effort by haunters to raise \$100,000 during the 2022 Halloween and Holiday seasons. Rizzi’s home was one of over 620 homes dedicated to raising money.**

shattered windshield to grab the driver, as though the horrible accident has just happened. It is part of  
SEE NIGHTMARE ON, PAGE 8



**When asked what her name was, this resident of Jackson Street said, mysteriously, “Vampira is my name and I am very shy.”**



**Death in Family — an all too relevant sign as there had been some deaths in the family on Jackson Street this year and as a result there were fewer houses displaying decor, at least, that’s what Vampira said, somewhat mournfully.**



**Bruce Pickett handing out candy to two young astronauts.**



**Dona, Liz, and Katherine were dressed to the nines for Halloween as they made the rounds on North 33rd Street, despite the rain.**



**35 jack o’lanterns made by Bruce Pickett’s friend.**



**The Skeleton reaching into the cracked windshield made everything seem like it was happening in real time.**



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**NEWS**



Lori Rizzi's house and her donation QR code to make her display benefit the charity she chose this year.



The manic driver of the hearse was part of the action.

PHOTOS BY EDEN BROWN

**Nightmare on Jackson Street**

FROM PAGE 8

the display on a grassy stage of all the things we fear: plastic dolls with manic smiles, rats, death, accidents, clowns, ogres, and black hooded men holding scythes and looking RIGHT AT US.

Down the street, a more gentle Halloween display: the usual coffin, pumpkins, skeletons, and ghosts, but with a plea to donate to St. Jude's Children's Hospital "if you liked

the display." Lori Rizzi, on her front porch, wanted something good to come out of the work she put into her display.

And another eye catcher was the row of 35 jack o'lanterns at the house belonging to Bruce Pickett. "They were made by a friend over the winter," he said, "and this year he added 15!"

To donate to Lori Rizzi's charity of choice this year, see: [www.skeletonsforhope.org](http://www.skeletonsforhope.org)

**BULLETIN BOARD**

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

**CONSTRUCTION BEGINS FOR ARMY NAVY DRIVE COMPLETE STREET PROJECT**

Arlington County officials, representatives from state and regional transportation agencies, and business organizations last week broke ground to mark the beginning of construction on the Army Navy Drive Complete Street project.

The Army Navy Drive Complete Street project will enhance transportation facilities for all road users on a key 1.2-mile segment between the Pentagon City and Crystal City neighborhoods by delivering safety and access improvements. These include widened sidewalks, shorter pedestrian crossings, a two-way curb-protected cycle track, and additional segments of dedicated bus lanes that will form part of the Transitway Extension to Pentagon City.

The project is being funded primarily through a partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)'s Federal Lands Access Program and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA).

When complete, Army Navy Drive will deliver two blocks of dedicated bus lanes for the Transitway Extension to Pentagon City between the Pentagon City Metrorail Station to the future Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Metrobus facility at the Pentagon, extending Metroway service to the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. It will also support connectivity between Pentagon City and Columbia Pike on WMATA's Metrobus 16-series routes.

The cycle track will connect Pentagon City and the Aurora Highlands neighborhoods to the future Crystal City Bike Network. It is

designed to accommodate bike riders of all comfort levels to access the Mount Vernon Trail and the future Long Bridge bike and pedestrian bridge to Washington, D.C.

**NOW THRU NOV. 17**

The Ballston Farmer's Market returns to Welburn Square near the Ballston Metro stop. Visit the Mega Markets on the first Thursday of each month, 3 - 7 p.m., with live music, local vendors, and the return of the beer and wine garden. The market offers conventional and certified organic fruits and vegetables, grass-fed meats and pastured eggs, organic milk, yogurt, ice cream, sweet and savory baked goods, Virginia-made wines, cold-pressed juices, handmade soaps and lotions, wood-fired pizza, hot-pressed sandwiches, and more.

**DONATIONS NEEDED**

Pet Food Bank. AWLA has established a Pet Food Bank to serve qualifying residents of Arlington County and the City of Falls Church. In consideration of the effect financial obstacles have on a pet owner's ability to afford pet care, the AWLA Pet Food Bank program's goal is to keep family pets out of shelters. If you are an Arlington County or City of Falls Church resident and are in need of assistance in feeding your pet, follow this link and fill out a pre-registration form. Visit [goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2](http://goo.gl/forms/s2FuFdaYWdZm4tPw2).

Donations Needed. Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, 2700 South 19th St., is seeking to replenish its food pantry. Particularly needed are rice (large bags appreciated, the pantry will rebag), dry beans, canned vegetables, soup, small jars of peanut butter, small jars of jelly, pasta and pasta sauce. Donations are collected during Mass each Sunday. Visit [www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org](http://www.ourladyqueenofpeace.org) for more.

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