

Fairfax Lions Club News

April 2024

- Fairfax Lions, Serving Since 1951 -

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**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND OUR
LOCAL COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE,
COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**

— We Serve — Bland Contest

Bland Contest Chair Jeff Root scheduled the facility; recruited contestants, judges, and Lions; and on March 10 led a marvelous music competition. If you attended, you were proud of your Club!

Lion volunteers: Bonnie Short, Diana Amsbaugh, Phil Mayo, Gordon Tillery, Dave MacPherson, Mike Greeley, Marty Lockard, Gary Maxwell, Mike Rumberg, Bill Szymanski, Greg & Karen DeRosa, Don & Jean Bradley (Burke Lions Club)



Lion Jeff and contestants

Three Cash Prize Winners advance to District 24L, Apr 7.



Judy Leonard
1st Vocalist



Connor Kim
1st Instrumentalist



Jude Bruce
2nd Instrumentalist

Contestants



Aaron Goldman, 11, 6th grader at Oak Hill Elementary School. Violin. Composition: *Tempo di Minuetto* by Fritz Kreisler.

Judy Leonard, 14, 8th grader at Rocky Run Middle School. Soprano. Composition: *"On My Own"* from *Les Miserables* by Claude-Michel Schonberg.

1st Place - Vocal

See performance: [Fairfax Lions web page](#)



Matthew King, 14, 8th grader at Wakefield School. Cello. Composition: *Cello Concerto in C Minor Casadesus* by J.C. Bach.

Jude Bruce, 11, 6th grader at Trinity Christian School. Piano. Composition: *Concert Etude (Un Sospiro) S. 144, No. 3* by Franz Liszt.

2nd Place - Instrumental

See performance: [Fairfax Lions web page](#)



Nathan Liang, 15, 9th grader at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Piano. Composition: *French Suite #5 in G Major (Allemande and Ganotte)* by J. S. Bach.

Hannah Lee, 17, 11th grader at Chantilly High School. Cello.
Composition: *Suite No. 3 Gigue* by J.S. Bach.



Connor Kim, 12, 7th grader at Liberty Middle School. Piano.
Composition: *The Lark* by Glinka/Balakirev.

1st Place - Instrumental
See: [Fairfax Lions web page](#)

Sela Rongero, 15, 10th grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School. Piano. Composition: *Prelude 1 – Allegro ben Ritmato e Deciso* by George Gershwin.



Terry Sheiko, 12, 7th grader at Rocky Run Middle School. Piano. Composition: *Etude Op. 25 No. 1, "Aeolian Harp"* by Frederic Chopin.



Judges



Judges Assistants

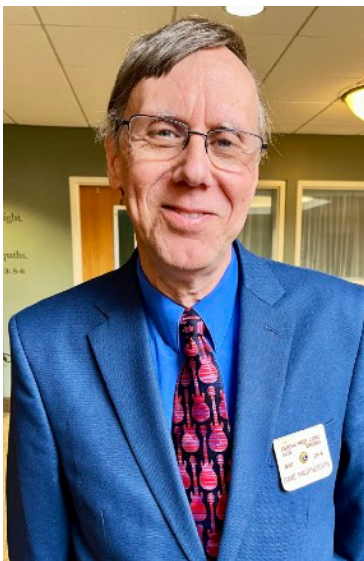


Lion Bonnie
Short sets
up
registration
table

King Lion Greg DeRosa gave a talk at intermission about Fairfax Lions Club, explaining our web page address is on the backs of our shirts



Below: Lions sporting their own “music” uniform gear...

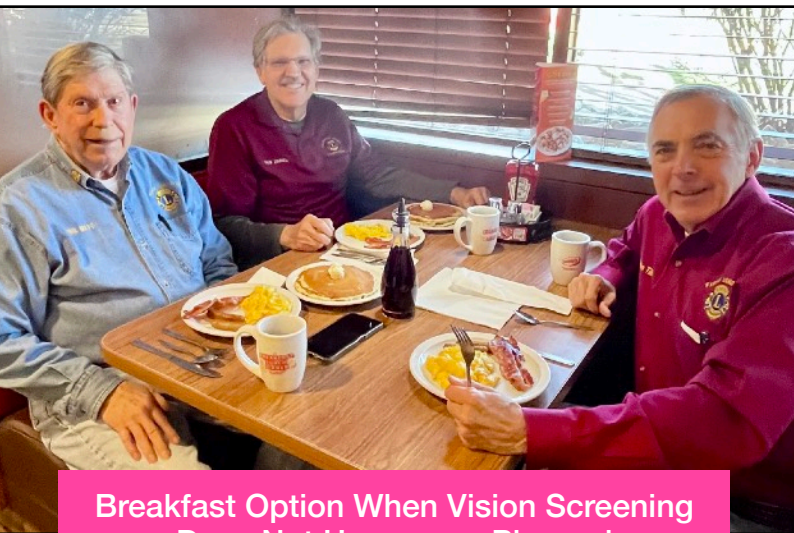


Above: Lion Gary Maxwell guitar socks

Left: MC Lion Dave MacPherson with guitar tie (a “Carlos Santana” tie)

Vision Screening?

Scheduled to screen vision of pre-schoolers at Fairfax United Methodist Church, four Lions arrived on-time on March 11. Then they learned of a scheduling mix-up; screening will be on April 11-12. No problem, Lions are flexible! Lion Diana Amsbaugh went back home to catch up on sleep; Lions Phil Mayo, Ron Zabel, and Gordon Tillery had breakfast right around the corner at Denny's.



**Breakfast Option When Vision Screening
Does Not Happen as Planned**

— Charity Fund Raising —

SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS

Fosters Grille

Lion Tom Comi published this, in the April edition of “Vienna Voice:”

Lions Club Dining for Dollars Fundraiser

Enjoy a delicious meal and support a worthy cause by dining at Foster's Grille in Vienna on Tuesday April 9th - and the second Tuesday of every month - between 11am and 9 pm. Simply ask the cashier to put your receipt in the Lion's box, and Foster's will donate 20% of your purchase to Lions' youth, sight, hearing, and community programs. If you have used eyeglasses and hearing aids please bring them with you. For more information contact Lion Tom at golfertom1943@gmail.com

Club Meetings

Dinner Meeting - Mar 5th

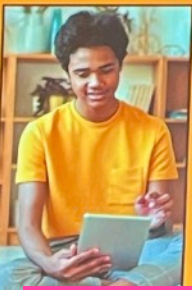
The opening song “Home on the Range” was led by 2VP Cory Green. On a road trip last year, Cory drove past Sentinel Butte, North Dakota and saw the exit sign to [Home on the Range](#)...and the sky was not cloudy all day!



Our guest speaker was Dr Unnatti Jain, an expert in mental health and wellness. Dr Jain specializes in working with Generation Z youth to address their challenges and unlock their full potential.

Dr Jain told us that in America, suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for ages 10-24 years. Common situations in Gen Z youth are video game and smart phone addiction which lead to isolation; Gen Z has become the “lonely generation.”

My Coaching Approach



Discovery, Clarity, Action

1. Self-awareness	7. Self-Esteem
2. Emotional Regulation	8. Peer Influence
3. Resilience	9. Family Dynamics
4. Relationship Skills	10. Community Engagement
5. Decision-Making	11. Mindfulness
6. Goal Setting	12. Coping Skills

Dr Jain's Method

See [Dr Jain's webpage](#)



KL Greg, 1VP Karen Present gift to Dr Jain Jain's

A highlight of the meeting was KL Greg's recognition of Lion Joe Breda's 50 years as a member of Fairfax Lions Club.

A while back, someone overheard Joe say his original membership certificate had faded to the point it was no longer readable. KL Greg presented Lion Joe a new certificate, with Joe's original membership date: March 1, 1974. Congratulations Lion Joe, on 50 years as a Fairfax Lion!



KL Greg presents Lion Joe 50-year-old membership certificate

NEW 50-year-old membership certificate



New Member Orientation - Mar 14th

We had a good turnout at The Auld Shebeen for a new-member orientation for Joe Rovanseck. Your bulletin editor forgot to take photos, but the food was good, the Lions orientation information was excellent as usual (presented by KL Greg), and Joe is ready to be inducted into our Club's membership!

Dinner Meeting - Mar 19th (Nominations)

Lion Jim Purton told us about [Canine Companions](#) (CC) - an outstanding provider of all types of service dogs. CC is the largest assistance dog provider in the world. Jim himself has raised 10 puppies, prior to their training, over the past 20 years. Lions Clubs have raised over \$5 million for CC, so far, and CC provides trained dogs at no cost to the client. Go to CC's live "[Puppy Cam](#)" to see future service dogs.

Founded in 1975, Canine Companions has provided over 7,300 service dogs to people with disabilities. There are six regional dog training centers, with a 7th just approved to start up in Matthews, VA. Fairfax Lions Club supports CC each year with a charity donation; we usually present the check at "[Dog Fest](#)," in Reston - this year on October 5th.



King Lion Greg thanks Lion Jim Purton for his wonderful presentation.

Attending this dinner meeting was our youngest club member: Lion Cindy Roman. Join all of us in congratulating Lion Cindy on her recent accomplishment: graduating from George Mason University with a major in Criminology, and a minor in Forensics.



Lion Joe Breda drafted a slate of club officers for the fiscal year beginning July 1. KL Greg announced we have a position that remains unfilled - Lion Tamer (who manages Club equipment). It would be great to have two Lions share the job - which is getting easier, as the American Legion has agreed to allow us to store equipment on site, so the Lion Tamer does not need to take equipment home after each meeting. If you wish to help with this job, please give Lion Joe a call at: 703 250 9251, or 703 505 2002.

Club members will vote on the nominees at the dinner meeting on April 2nd.

IMPORTANT NOTE

Charter Night RSVPs are VERY SLOW coming in!!!

TO DO NOW: Please Email full names of Lion & guests to: derosagk@aol.com
or call Karen DeRosa at 571-213-7089.

The Invitation

73rd
Anniversary Celebration
of the
Fairfax Host Lions Club
Sunday, April 14
(5:00pm to 8:30pm)

Chantilly National Golf and Country Club

14901 Braddock Rd. Centreville, VA

20120

*Please join our Charter Night Celebration with
Socializing, good food, music, prizes, and gifts*

Who's invited: *Fairfax Host Lions & families & guests*

Dress Attire: *Informal - Suit or Jacket & Tie; Evening
Dress or Evening Suit*

Price: *No Cost for full dues paying Fairfax Lions in
Good Standing; \$50.00 for each adult guests.*

Cash Bar is available. *Wine included at the table
during dinner.*

**The Treasurer will bill your account. No refunds after
April 6.**

Agenda

5:00pm-5:40pm Reception/Social Cash Bar

5:40 pm Opening

5:50pm Dinner

6:45pm Special Presentations/Remarks

— —

TO DO NOW: Please Email full names of Lion &
guests to: derosagk@aol.com
or call Karen DeRosa at 571-213-7089.

Board Meeting - Mar 26th

Your Bulletin Editor missed this Board meeting; meeting minutes are recorded by the Club secretary - just ask if you are interested.

April Dates

Apr 2 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Apr 3 - ISCC meeting

Apr 4 - Blood Drive (details - page 19)

Apr 4 - Lions Lunch Bunch (see Bill Bartlett email)

Apr 7 - District 24L Bland Contest Finals

(The Lyceum, Alexandria - 1:45 pm)

Apr 8 - Total Eclipse of Sun (partial in DC area)

Apr 9 - Lions "Dining for Dollars," at Fosters Grille

Apr 14 - Charter Night; **RSVP ASAP derosagk@aol.com**

Apr 16 - NO FHLC Dinner mtg (due to Charter nite)

Apr 18-21 - **[VA Lions \(MD24\) State Convention](#)**

(Hyatt Regency Dulles)

Apr 21 - "Sipping for Sprout" (**[Click this link](#)**)

Apr 23 - Board Meeting (all welcome)

Coming up:

May 7 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Fairfax City Inter-Service Club Council

The ISCC met on March 6th, at the Moose Lodge in Fairfax. Friends of the Fairfax City Library

announced the sale of used Children's books, April 6-7. Details at [this page](#).

Denna Payne, representing the City's Parks and Rec office reported applications for Service clubs to participate in Independence Day, Fall Festival, Rock-the-Block, and other activities are now available.

Club Marketing

Have you seen the Club's Instagram page? We try to add something new every week or so, any activity worth sharing. The more folks that "follow" our account, the more it will be promoted by Instagram and other users will eventually see our account. Over time, interested folks will go to our main webpage (link in club Instagram profile) and hopefully contact us. [FX Lions on Instagram](#)

Blood Drive - April 4th

By Lion Bill Szymanski

The American Red Cross will draw blood from donors at Providence Presbyterian Church on Thursday, April 4, 10am - 3pm. Make an appointment for your donation time at this link:

[**Choose a Donation Time**](#)

Working with Providence, Fairfax Lions have a strong tradition of donating blood to the Red Cross

over the years. Click the link above to schedule your appointment time NOW!

Providence Presbyterian Church
9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031

“Sipping for Sprout”

One of our community charities is Sprout Therapeutic Riding and Education Center, dedicated to changing lives through equine assisted activities and therapies. Sipping for Sprout is a fund-raising event on April 21st at Stone Tower Winery in Leesburg. Some FX Lions go each year. Your entry fee includes a donation to Sprout. For info see [this link](#).



Who is This?

Can anyone guess who this is?

Hints:

- Current Member of FHLC
- Photo taken at Douglas S Freeman HS (Richmond, VA), 1969



Answer to Previous Month's "Guess Who"

February 2024 newsletter

Hints:

- Member of FHLC, 2001-2015.
- Photo taken when a junior at Seneca HS (Seneca, MO), 1947.
- Number 34 on HS Varsity FB team
- Married in Lynchburg VA, 1956, while in US Navy
- Loved poetry



ANSWER:

Ben Wiles

(First to guess correctly -
Lion Gary Maxwell - who said:
"The giveaway was love of
poetry!")



Remembering Ben Wiles

Benjamin Franklin Wiles, Jr

AUGUST 8, 1930 - SEPTEMBER 23, 2019

In the FHLC newsletter of Sept 2012, then Bulletin Editor Sandy Mayo wrote this report on Ben. Although Ben Wiles received the Melvin Jones award this year, what do you know of this quiet fellow who writes poetry? Did you know that his poetry is used in the sermons of the church he attends? Or that he

has published two volumes of Poems of Praise: Simple Thoughts and Prayers in Rhyming Phrases to Help You On Your Walk?

Jim Dellinger, who is his next door neighbor, involved Ben in various activities (the sight and hearing van, as well as the youth camp) of the FHLC even before Ben joined the club in 2001. (A note for all of us in encouraging club membership.) Since then Ben's main emphasis in the club activities has been in the eye glass recycling project. Every two weeks, Ben travels to 6 to 7 locations to collect eye glasses. The biggest contributors are three libraries: Chantilly, Centreville and Fairfax. The average pick up is 180-500 pairs of glasses per trip! Ben also liked rolling fruit for the citrus sales, but he physically can no longer participate in that activity. Every Thursday morning he and a friend from the Fairfax United Methodist Church pick up food from various grocery stores for the Food For Others organization. As Ben says, "when you have a pick up truck, you have a lot of friends."

Born in Oklahoma about three miles from the Missouri line, he has three brothers and in his words, "those three brothers have three sisters." Yes, that makes seven children in the family! His grade school consisted of one room and high school was notable for the three-mile walk – each way. He received

passing grades in school without much studying. And on a farm with no electricity, he read by the light of a kerosene lamp.

As we all know, Ben is the FHLC poet laureate. He says it comes naturally to him – possibly from his mother who could quote almost all of Hiawatha. While Ben's memorizing abilities are not as good, he does claim to have a photographic memory. Unfortunately, he "ran out of film years ago!" In addition to composing poems, reading is another hobby. His favorite poet is Longfellow with Whittier being a close second. He admires their poetry as it tells a story, much like Ben's. The Village Blacksmith is his favorite poem, followed by The Last Leaf.

He joined the Navy in 1948 when he was 17 years old. The Navy was the first time he had been away from home. During his nine-year service with the Navy, he served on a carrier (the Rendova) which was sent to China in 1948-1949 to evacuate Marine squadrons before the Communist took over the country. While on that mission, the ship encountered a typhoon and Ben wondered what in the world had he gotten himself into. He was stationed in Tacoma, Washington for eighteen months. He also served on a destroyer (the McNair), and served eighteen months in Trinidad. The remainder of his service was spent in Norfolk where

he worked in the receiving department of the commissary. He says it was almost like a civilian job. After the Navy he drove tractor trailer trucks until he became an electrician and worked as such for 40 years in the area before retiring in 1992.

While stationed at Norfolk, his best friend arranged a blind date for Ben with Marian in 1955. Since then Ben says he treats his wife like Royalty taking her to the Dairy Queen and Burger King. They were married on March 3, 1956 in Lynchburg where Marian grew up. They have two daughters, Karen and Lori, who live in Manassas and Vienna, respectively. Karen attended NOVA and Strayer Business School and Lori is a graduate of James Madison University.

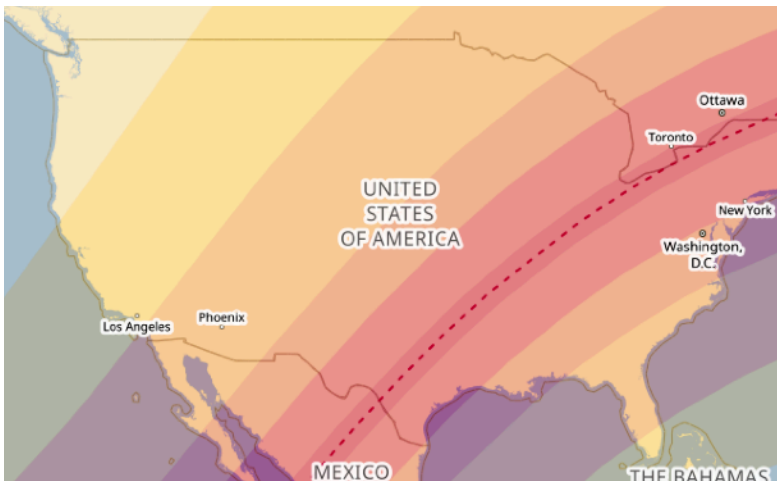
He and Marian are very involved in their church, Columbia Baptist in Falls Church. Both have taught Sunday School classes there and it was at the Men's Bible study class that he commenced writing his poetry. Marian has been a member for 50 years and sings in the choir. Ben was asked to join the choir as a "tenor (singing ten-or 12 miles down the street)". That's another Ben joke! One of the things Ben likes to do is make people laugh.

Miscellaneous Info...

Total Eclipse of the Sun, April 8

By Lion Mike Greeley

Eclipse Map



Dotted line traces path where total eclipse is visible

The total eclipse shadow will be about twice as wide as the one in 2017 and also last almost twice as long. The path of the eclipse comes up through Texas, Arkansas, Ohio and out through Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. Should FHLC hire a bus and take 50 people to Arkansas to see this spectacle which will not occur for another 20 years? We could probably arrange Graceland too, ha-ha. Might be a good fundraiser!

Total Eclipse music: No surprise, many folks have made music about a total eclipse. Hear Don McLean's song "A Total Eclipse of the Sun" [at this link](#). We all remember Carly Simon's "[You're so Vain](#)" where the object of the song flew to Nova Scotia to see a total eclipse. George Harrison sang "[Here Comes the Moon](#)." Perhaps best known is Bonnie Tyler's "[Total Eclipse of the Heart](#)." So, if you can't make it to the total eclipse, listen to some fun music!

[Artificial Intelligence and Deepfake Videos: What You Need to Know](#)

"Deepfake-based misinformation could wreak havoc on both a small and large scale."

See 3-page article on page 12 of Fairfax County's Golden Gazette, at [this link](#).

[What's Up With the Name "April?"](#)

Many Thanks to Lion Joe Breda for suggesting this as a monthly topic in our Newsletter

We started this topic over a year ago - if you want to review the origin of the name of the month April, go back to the [April 2023](#) newsletter.

Past newsletters are available on our club web page...on the right side of the main page (at <http://www.fairfaxlions.org/>), click on "newsletter")

» About Us

... Club History

... Board of Directors

... Membership

» Newsletter (Monthly Details of our Activities)

Where to find past newsletters
on the Club Web Page

Dispose of an Old US Flag

If you have an American flag that is no longer serviceable, you can properly dispose of it by giving it to the American Legion....just drop it in the box.



Drop Your Unserviceable
Flag in the Box at Post 177

And, for the **Tail End** of this Newsletter....

What Happened to Our Tails?

BY CHRISTINA LARSON

(Summary of article published in journal *Nature*.)

Our very ancient animal ancestors had tails. Why don't we? Somewhere around 20 million or 25 million years ago, when apes diverged from monkeys, our branch of the tree of life shed its tail. From Darwin's time, scientists have wondered why — and how — this happened.

Now, researchers have identified at least one of the key genetic tweaks that led to this change.

"We found a single mutation in a very important gene," said Bo Xia, a geneticist at the Broad Institute and co-author of a study published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

The researchers compared the genomes of six species of apes, including humans, and 15 species of monkeys with tails to pinpoint key differences between the groups. Once they identified a significant mutation, they tested their theory by using the gene-editing tool CRISPR to tweak the same spot in mouse embryos. Those mice were born without tails.

Xia cautioned that other genetic changes may also play a role in losing tails.

Another mystery: Did having no tails actually help these ape ancestors -- and eventually, humans —

survive? Or was it just a chance mutation in a population that thrived for other reasons?

“It could be random chance, but it could have brought a big evolutionary advantage,” said Miriam Konkel, an evolutionary geneticist at Clemson University, who was not involved in the study.

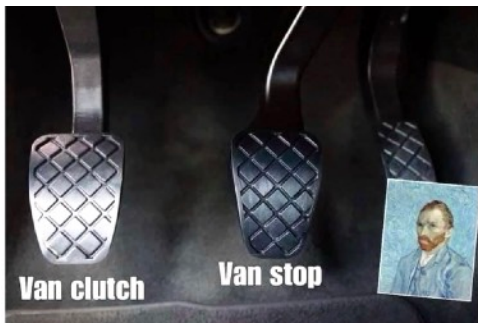
As to why having no tails may have helped, there are many tantalizing theories — including some that link being tailless to humans eventually learning to walk upright.

Rick Potts, who directs the Smithsonian Institution’s Human Origins Project and was not involved in the research, suggests being tailless may have been a first step toward some apes adopting a vertical body posture, even before they left the trees.

Not all apes live on the ground today. Orangutans and gibbons are tailless apes that still live in trees. But Potts notes that they move very differently than monkeys, who scamper along the tops of branches, using their tails for balance. Those apes hang below branches, swinging between them while hanging largely upright.

New York University biologist Itai Yanai, a co-author of the study, said that losing our tails was clearly a major transition. But the only way to certainly know the reason “would be to invent a time machine,” he said.

Dad's Joke



Special thanks to...

Several Lions always step up to help make this newsletter happen...thank you for providing ideas and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos). Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club!

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! (News items, photos from recent trip, etc.) Send words & photos for the newsletter, anytime....they must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue. We need **YOUR** help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published on the [Fairfax Lions web page](#) (see right hand

column under the section titled “Pages”). You should check the FHLC web page periodically.

Club members are alerted around the 1st of each month to the newsletter’s availability on the web page. That's all folks!

Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.

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Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve

Since 1951