



Fairfax Lions Club News

“The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter”
for March 2025

Fairfax Lions Club - Since 1951



[Facebook link](#)



[Instagram link](#)



[Web Page link](#)

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

— Club Service (Several this Month!) — Recycling Eyeglasses & Hearing Aids



You know we collect used eyeglasses (& hearing aids) to turn in to the NOVA Lions recycling center, where they are serviced and given to medical teams going around the world.

Here is Lion Scott dropping off several hundred pair of donated eyeglasses. It's easy to do and does not take long. Let Scott know if you can join him!

Vision & Hearing Screening

By Lion Marty Lockard

Fairfax Lions completed another successful vision and hearing screening outreach event at St. Luke Catholic School in McLean on Feb 13. A total of 15 third graders and 15 seventh graders were screened. Four students were referred to a professional optometrist and three students were referred to a professional audiologist. And - the school provided coffee and delicious pastries for the Lion volunteers.

This is a very worthwhile service event, the schools, family & students sincerely value this service. Watch for the next opportunity - no experience necessary!

See all screening participants in the photo on the next page: (left to right) two parent volunteers, Nurse Mary Foley, and Lions Diana Amsbaugh, Marty Lockard, Joe Rovansek, and Maggie Reidy.

(photo on next page)



Bland Contest

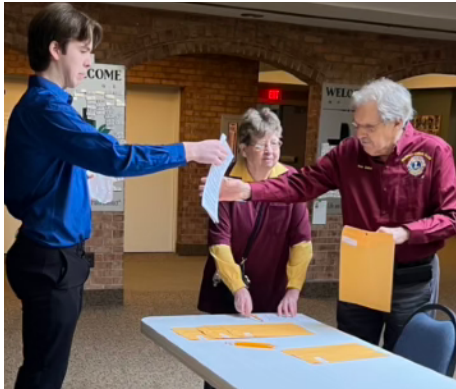
On Feb 16, FX lions held their Club-level youth music competition. Winners advance on April 13 to the District-level Lions competition, and then on May 2 to VA Lions state finals where 12 scholarships will be awarded totaling \$18000. We congratulate all contestants on their talent and accomplishments: (L-R in photo below)

- Sela Eugenia Rongero, 16, 11th grader at Lake Braddock Secondary School;
- Jude Lawrence Bruce, 12, 7th grader at Trinity Christian School;

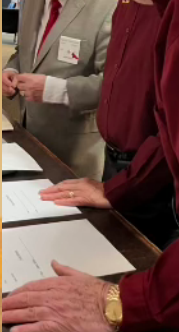
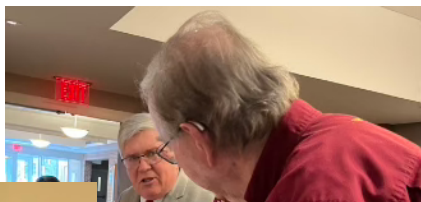
- Wroten McQuirter, 14, 9th grader at Thomas Jefferson High School;
- Alexander Moon, 12, 7th grader at Thoreau Middle School;
- Erik Daniel Lindgren, 17, 12th grader at Charles Colgan School;
- Connor Kim, 13, 8th grader at Liberty Middle School;
- James Josep Abiden, 14, 9th grader at Trinity Christian School;
- Joshua Min Gwon, 16, 10th grader at Woodson High School;



Contestants



Many Lions
helped!





Lion Gary with 1st place:
(L) Vocalist - James Josep Abiden
(Rt) Instrumentalist - Connor Kim



(L) 2nd place inst: Alexander Moon
(Rt) Honorable Mention: Wroten McQuirter

Video clips of the top four performances are on our club web page: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/>

Books for Children

On February 21, Fairfax Lions presented 42 children's books to [Main St. Child Development Center](#). (Main Street is also our Lions partner when we provide meals to local families for the holidays.)

Main Street's Director, Susan, gave us a tour of the facilities. They have a very nice library for their audience of pre-school and young school-age children. Each year, Fairfax Lions help expand the library's collection with new children's books.



(L-Rt): Lions Mike, QL Karen; Main St's Director Susan and staff member Veronica; Lion Greg

VLEIF Scholarship Awards Luncheon

On Feb 22, VA Lions Eye Institute Foundation presented checks to 22 recipients of “Joe Lipomi



Scholastic Grants.” Scholarships totaled \$49,000. VLEIF Board, sponsoring Clubs, recipients, Teachers of Vision Impaired, families attended. FX Lion Dr. Suleiman Alibhai introduced:

Lion Suleiman

(1) Dr. Mohammed Jaafar, Chair Emeritus - Children's National's Dept of Ophthalmology; Prof of Ophthalmology & Pediatrics, GW Uni; (2) Special Guest Angel Collaku. Angel is a life-long low vision patient, retired after



Dr Jaafar



Angel Collaku

a career as senior attorney for the FAA; his advice to vision impaired scholarship recipients:

- It takes a village: use your resources
- Work hard; be self sufficient
- Have determination, and good judgement
- Be responsible and know your limits
- Don't accept “No”
- Never stop learning
- Accept constructive criticism
- Do what you can, when you can;
- Be thankful

The group presented a 90th BD cake to Lion Woody Woodward (President, VLEI Foundation). Fairfax Lion Harry Parker helped present the scholarship checks, AND at the conclusion, Harry presented FHLC's donation to VLEIF!



(Above)
Scholarship
Recipients



PCC Harry presents
FHLC donation

Thank You Notes From Families Receiving Food Baskets

Each year, Fairfax Lions deliver food baskets in late November, and December to families in need.

We work with Main Street Child Development Center who identifies the families, and holds our assembled food baskets for the families to pick up.

Main Street collected a large set of thank you notes they received from the families.



Fairfax Lions Sponsor Blood Drive

By Lion Bill Szymanski

The American Red Cross is in urgent need of blood products. Severe winter weather and wildfires have forced thousands of blood donations to go uncollected. Donors, like you, are urgently needed to sustain this lifesaving care.

FX Lions are sponsoring a Red Cross blood drive on March 12th, 1-6pm...schedule your appointment now to give blood!!!

Where? Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax, VA 22031; 1:00 PM - 06:00 PM

To schedule - <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?order=DATE&range=10&zipSponsor=FAIRFAXLIONSVA>



Fairfax Lions Club



We Serve
Since 1951

— Charity Fund Raising —

SERVICE DEPENDS ON CHARITY FUNDS

IPP Greg often says, “we raise money the first half of the Lions year (July-Dec), then donate it to great causes in the second half (Jan-Jun).” We have no charity fund raising events to report this month.

But a continuous fund raiser is **Dining at Fosters Grille in Vienna**. Started by the Vienna Lions Club,

for customer spending on each second Tuesday, Fosters gives 20% (“Put receipt in the Lions box!”) to Fairfax Lions charity account.

Lion Tom Comi always advertises the event in the Vienna area: *“2nd Tuesday, from 11:30 am - 8:30 pm, funds go to Fairfax Lions club. Please enjoy a meal and bring used eyeglasses and hearing aids with you to give to one of our Lions.”*

Dinner Meeting - Feb 4th

Lion Gary Maxwell was our featured speaker, on the topic of “End of Life Planning.” Gary’s is a funeral director, and he is an expert in all final arrangements. He spoke on a number of topics based on the experiences he has seen over the years. He knows about burial (or cremation) in National Cemeteries like Arlington National. Gary’s bottom line: *“put it in writing,”* meaning: whatever your desires are for your own final arrangements, make sure your heirs know what they are - make it easy for them, document your desires.



Lion Joe Rovansek accepted our invitation to share his knowledge of Blackhawk helicopter operations in the DC Area. Joe is well qualified, as a Master Army Aviator with over 3000 flight hours, experience as an Instructor Pilot in Blackhawks, and experience flying out of Davison Army Airfield at Fort Belvoir. Regarding cause of the recent tragic accident near DCA airport, Joe advised us to wait for the formal investigation report.



Great news! IPP Greg DeRosa told the Club he plans to run for 2nd VDG of District 24L and asked the Club's support; the Club heartedly voted YES for Greg's nomination!



Past President Mike Greeley reviewed plans to deliver children's books to Main St Child Dev Center.

To recognize Lion Joe Rovansek's engagement since becoming a Lion, QL Karen read a certificate:

Special Recognition

Since joining in April 2024, this Lion has participated regularly in meetings and activities, and has contributed noteworthy acts. He stepped up to co-chair Club fruit sales, and improved several Club operations. For example, he installed a safety handrail on



wooden steps leading to the fruit sale van. He installed new wheels & burners to replace broken ones on a grill we use for food sales. He donated plastic storage bins and shelving, and reorganized our storage shed. He created a system for hanging fruit sale signs, when the sales van's doors were too small to hold the signs. And, discovering a broken door latch on the sale van, he created a work-around locking system. For these special contributions, Lion Joe Rovansek is recognized as our "Handyman of the Year."

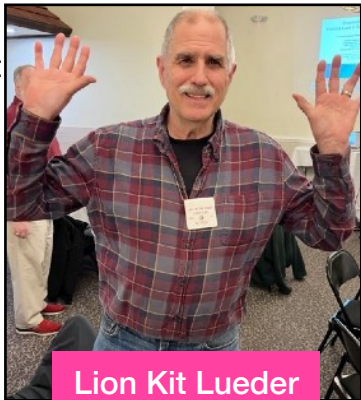
Lion Scott Dulaney had a "gag gift" for QL Karen. It took time - and stealthy action - by Scott; he substituted a "mini-mallet" for the Club President's gavel. The subterfuge was quickly discovered by our QL, but it got a good laugh!



QL Karen and
“mini-mallet”

Dinner Meeting - Feb 18th

A guest at this meeting was Lion Kit Lueder. Lion Kit is a member of Lake of the Woods Lions Club (Orange VA), but spends most weeks in Northern VA, with local residence in Chantilly. Kit wants to participate in our Club activities while he maintains Lions membership in the L-O-T-Ws Club. Welcome Kit!

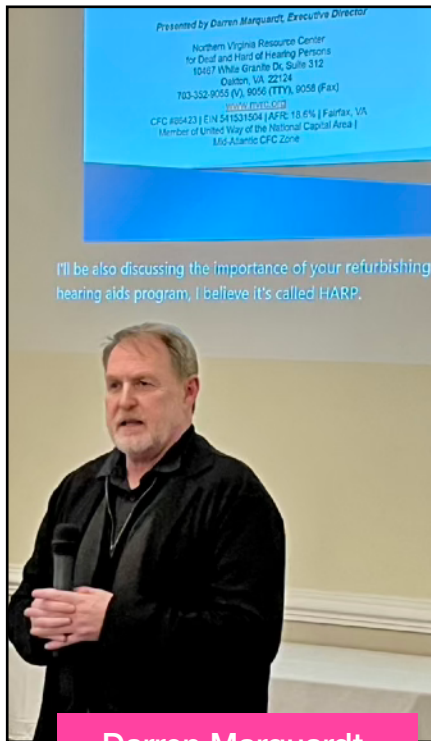


Lion Kit Lueder

Our main speaker was the Executive Director of Northern Virginia Resource Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Persons (NVRC), Darren Marquardt. Darren spoke about the “invisible disability” hearing loss, and the functions of NVRC.

In the DC area, 1 in 8 persons has hearing loss; as do 15% of all Americans; and 33% of those over age 65.

Just below the slide in the photo is *text captioning* of David’s voice track. It is provided by “Google Translate Live” - one of the many tools NVRC can suggest for individuals with hearing loss. See more at the [NVRC web page](#).



**Darren Marquardt,
Executive Director
NVRC**



Former professional dancer and now Exec Dir of NVRC Darren Marquardt accepts speaker's gift from Queen Lion Karen

You may know Lion Gary Maxwell enjoys collecting and trading Lions pins. Gary has designed a couple of pins himself. The photos below are Lion Gary and his newest pin... "The Undertaker."



Will Lion Gary
"box-you-in?"



Lion Bill Szymanski
encouraged us to sign up for
the March 12th Blood Drive
FHLC is hosting - see info
earlier in this newsletter

Lion Bill Szymanski spoke about the blood drive on March 12th (mentioned earlier in this newsletter).

Schedule your appointment: enter sponsor code FAIRFAXLIONSVA on this web page: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?zipSponsor=FAIRFAXLIONSVA>

Some Lions have been known to adjourn to the “Social Quarters” after dinner meetings. All are welcome; that group on February 18th:



After-Meeting in Social Quarters

Board Meeting - Feb 25th

At the monthly board meeting, two guests were present: Lions Marty Lockard, and Tom Hewlitt. (Any club member may attend any Board meeting, to hear about Club business.)

The Club Membership Chair has contacted two potential candidate members; neither has responded.

Our club eyeglass recycling program has collected (in the eight months of this Lions year) over 11000 pair of donated eyeglasses, and 40 hearing aids. These are all delivered to the recycling center, and processed for distribution with world-wide medical mission teams.

Lions Joe Breda and Harry Parker offered to meet with the Chantilly CC to determine best dates for our club's Holiday Party 2025, and 75th Charter Night in 2026.

One VLEIF Scholarship winner was unable to attend the VLEIF Awards Luncheon on Feb 22, and will attend FHLC March 4 dinner meeting to be recognized.

Considerable discussion occurred on renewing Club 501(c)3 certification, and business licenses.

ISCC Meeting - February 5

The Fairfax InterService Club Council guest speaker was Wendy Baird of [The Lamb Center](#) - the Fairfax-based daytime drop-in homeless shelter. Wendy said total case load is 1932 individuals, about 130 per day; most are from within FX County. The load has increased about 23% since covid. The Center received a grant from FX City to help pay for an in-house dental clinic. The biggest need to stem homelessness is affordable housing. In the future the center wants to expand mental health care service, and workforce development. Their annual budget is \$2.3M, with 2/3rds from private donations.

Local service club “Friends of the Library” reported used book sales netted more than \$20k for service programs. They reported Food For Others, a food bank, accepts donated books to give out with family meals.

The ISCC agreed to allocate time in upcoming meetings to sharing individual service clubs best practices. On March 5th, FHLC will share its processes for “communications outreach,” such as web page, newsletter, and media advertising.

March Dates

Mar 4 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Mar 5 - ISCC meeting

Mar 6 - Lions Lunch Bunch (Wegmans Market Cafe)

Mar 11 - Fundraiser at Foster's Grille (Vienna)

Mar 12 - Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-6pm:

appointments [https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?zipSponsor=FAIRFAXLIONSVA](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time?zip&zipSponsor=FAIRFAXLIONSVA)

(sponsor code: FAIRFAXLIONSVA)

Mar 18 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Mar 25 - (tentative) Vision & Hearing Screening, St Mark Catholic School, Vienna

Mar 25 - Board Meeting

Miscellaneous Info...

A Milestone Birthday!!!

On Feb 13, Past President, Past District Governor, Past Council Chair, Melvin Jones Fellow Bill Bartlett turned 90 years young...a major accomplishment for a very accomplished Lion. We all wish Bill many more years of fun!



Birthday Boy PCC Bill Bartlett celebrates 90 years young, with Lions Mike Greeley and Joe Breda

Remember Hearing About Lion Bob Stahl?

This newsletter is named for Lion Bob Stahl. We have written about Bob in the past...(example see the article beginning on page 18, of June 2021 newsletter: <https://www.fairfaxlions.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/June-2021-Newsletter-3.pdf>). That newsletter also reports (page 3) on FHLC achieving the “Kindness Matters Service Award” recognition.

Back to Bob Stahl...FHLC received this email:

“In 1956, US Naval Commander Stahl and my father, Commander Rowland Wilson (stationed in Gibraltar) worked together to have a US Navy ship transport a Barbary Ape (named Rocky) from Gibraltar to the Zoo in Columbus, Ohio where both my father and Commander Stahl grew up. Please see news clips and Commander Stahl’s letter, and photo with my father and Commander Stahl. I am doing research on Rocky. I know Commander Stahl has passed away but wondered if you could connect me to any family members who might be in possession of info on Rocky or know where I might be able to obtain any info. Thank you so very much for any help. Charlie Wilson”

We could not help with the request, but it is an interesting story - as you can see from the attachments that follow.

ROCKY THE ROCK APE GOES TO NEW WORLD



CDR Bob Stahl,
1956,
Captain of
USS Alcor

AN unusual passenger was taken aboard U.S.S. "Alcor" when she paid a brief visit to Gibraltar yesterday morning. This was 'Rocky,' a six-and-a-half-year-old Rock Ape, who lately has been the contender for leadership of the Queen's Gate Pack.

'Rocky' has been presented by H.E. the Governor to the Mayor of Columbus (Ohio) for the school-children of that city. The Captain of the U.S.S. "Alcor," (Cmdr. R. B. Stahl) is also from Columbus, and the seaman who will be looking after Rocky's interests during the voyage is Petty Officer J. M. Reddington, from Cincinnati (Ohio).

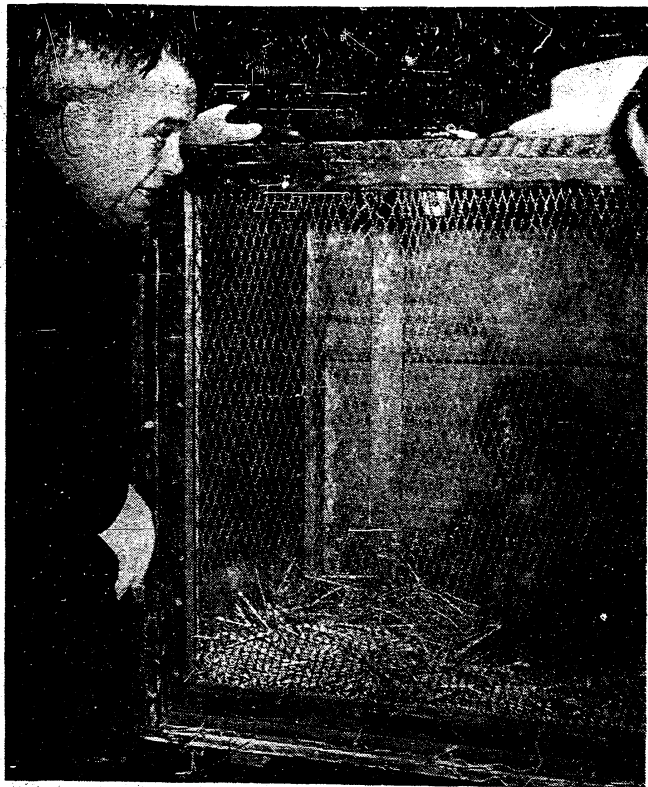
Rocky's private quarters on board have been named the "Si-mian Suite" and Cmdr. Stahl will be keeping a journal on Rocky until his arrival in the U.S.A., which is expected to be shortly before

Christmas. His future home will be in the Zoological Gardens at Columbus.

In June of last year, four pairs of Rock Apes were sent abroad—to Chester Zoo, Milwaukee Zoo, Oklahoma Zoo and the Calgary Zoo, Alberta (Canada).

The picture shows, left to right, Cmdr. R. S. Wilson, U.S.N. (the U.S.N. liaison officer here who is also from Columbus), Gunner W. Portlock, keeper of the Apes for the past 19 years, Sgt.-Major C. B. J. Stewart, of the G.D.F., who looked after the documentation and transportation, "Rocky," Petty Officer J. M. Reddington, who will be in sole charge of the 'passenger,' and Cmdr. R. B. Stahl, U.S.N., Captain of the U.S.S. "Alcor."

Rocky's ration for the journey can be seen on top of his cage.



'ROCKY' ARRIVES FOR BERTH AT ZOO

Capt. L. L. Köepke, commander of the Port Columbus Naval Air Station, greets "Rocky," a "Barbary ape" from the Rock of Gibraltar, who arrived at Port Columbus Friday morning en route to his new home at the Columbus Zoo. The ape was presented to the zoo through the courtesy of the Navy, which trans-

ported him to this country. A former Columbus man, Comdr. R. S. Wilson, was instrumental in delivery of the ape. "Rocky," born on Gibraltar June 21, 1950, had been a leader of the pack of apes that roams the Gibraltar area. "Rocky" is not an ape at all, but a tail-less monkey.—(Dispatch Staff Photo)

6 June 1989

Dr. Jack Hanna
Director, Columbus Zoological Gardens
Box 400
Powell, Ohio 43065

Dear Dr. Hanna,

Last night we watched you on NIGHTLINE with Charlie Rose and we enjoyed the show very much. As a result, I decided to write you and find out what ever happened to Rocky, the Barbary ape that arrived at your zoo in December 1956.

At that time I was commanding officer of USS ALGOR (AK259) and a CDR Wilson was the Naval Liaison Officer Gibraltar. We both had graduated from South High School in Columbus and his dad was a big shot with the Columbus Dispatch. I carried the big-patch out of Substation #44 at the corner of Livingston & Champion and knew Wilson slightly since he was older than I. When ALGOR arrived in Gibraltar in early December he came on board and recognized me and we had a short reunion. Later when we were in Naples a series of messages began re ALGOR taking a Barbaryape back to Norfolk, Va. for shipment to the zoo at Columbus. Rocky came on board in a large cage with a basket of small bananas and a basket of peanuts in small plastic bags with crossed British and American flags on each bag. A wealthy American had established a fund to provide peanuts for the apes. Rocky was #2 in the Queen's Pack and he had just finished a big fight with the CO of the Pack and had lost. He had some real bites on his arms which he licked all across the Atlantic.

So we began our homeward journey thinking we had a good Navy public relations pre-holiday chuckle. We were to call it OPERATION ANTHROPOID; Mission-"Get the ape home by Christmas." The Navy went along at first and then decided they would not touch it because of the service men who could not get home for Christmas. We arrived in Norfolk and learned that the CO, Naval Air Facility, Columbus, Ohio had a plane waiting to take the ape to Columbus so that he could present the ape to Columbus. We had the last laugh because that day the first gorilla born in captivity suddenly appeared in the Columbus Zoo and that was news.

I have never been to your zoo but the next time I am in Columbus I will look you up and maybe you can show me the cage Rocky occupied for so many years.

Sincerely,

Bob Stahl

Sheila - Research Project! Any records on Rocky - what happened to him, etc.? I have to write to him for Jack.

Thanks! John E

Financial Crimes Awareness

By Charles Schwab News

In a sophisticated scam, fraudsters are using social media and other channels to lure investors into “pump-and-dump” schemes. Their goal is to create a buying frenzy using false and misleading information that artificially inflates, or “pumps” up, the price of a stock. Once the price has surged, the fraudsters quickly “dump” their shares by selling them at the inflated value.

In these schemes, the stock eventually crashes, leaving unsuspecting investors who purchased at the higher price holding devalued shares—often leading to significant financial losses. We want to make sure you can recognize the signs so that you can protect yourself and your assets.

How this pump-and-dump scheme works

Fraudsters create fake social media profiles of celebrities, Schwab professionals, and other financial experts to gain credibility. They may also use social messaging apps like WhatsApp, X (formerly Twitter), and Telegram, as well as lower-tech methods like text messages and phone calls. The fraudsters then lure potential investors into private investment groups where they are pressured

into investing in specific securities at set times to inflate the price of these securities.

Know the tactics & warning signs.

Get-rich-quick offers. We'll never ask you to invest in specific stocks over social media or invite you to exclusive investor groups. If you receive unexpected messages urging you to invest in specific stocks through exclusive private groups, these are scams.

Stock purchase manipulation. Fraudsters may try to guide you step by step, asking you to buy specific stocks and invest specific amounts. Never follow investment directions from someone you don't personally know.

Manipulative tactics and coaching. To avoid detection, fraudsters may manipulate you into initiating trades or transactions yourself. They may even provide scripts with instructions on what to say if questioned. If anyone tries to coach you into saying or doing specific things, it's a red flag.

Looks Like Scam

Newsletter editor received the text message below from an unknown sender:

Pay your FastTrak Lane tolls by February 8, 2025. To avoid a fine and keep your license, you can pay at

<https://ezdrivema.com-safq.top/i>

(Please reply Y, then exit the text message and open it again to activate the link, or copy the link into your Safari browser and open it)

Sure looks like a scam - a prudent caution
NEVER click on a link unless you are certain it is legit!

Dad's Joke

I hired a kid to paint my porch.

When he came back to get paid, he said, "By the way, that was a BMW, not a Porsche."



Fred Mertz?

News reports say Friedrich Merz, leader of the center-right Christian Democratic Union party, will become the next chancellor of Germany.

Unapologetically, his name brings to my mind the old TV series "I Love Lucy."

In that show, Fred Mertz (played by actor [William Frawley](#))



and Ricky Ricardo were best friends; Lucy and Ethel (Fred Mertz's TV spouse) were likewise.

Wonder if the real Friedrich Merz has ever heard that before? (He does not look like the actor.)



Cast members from left, standing: William Frawley, Desi Arnaz, seated: Vivian Vance and Lucille Ball



Merz in 2024

Worthwhile Thoughts?

“Keep your face always toward the sunshine – and shadows will fall behind you.” Walt Whitman

“Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you need to keep moving” Josiah Soto

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