

McLean CONNECTION

PHOTO BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM OPINION, PAGE 6 CALENDAR, PAGE 8 SPORTS, PAGE 12 CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

Kelsey and Christe Lodge prepare Ozzie and Toto for the 13th Annual Reindog Pageant in McLean.

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The winners of the Best Pet/Owner Combo prize do an encore performance for the crowd, holding out five hula hoops for their dog to jump through.



Holiday Cheer at Reindog Pageant

BY CHRISTY STEELE
THE CONNECTION

The 13th Annual Reindog Pageant drew a large crowd Sunday afternoon as festively dressed canines filled the parking lot of the McLean Baptist Church. Holiday music played over loudspeakers as participants checked in and received a contestant number. Canine elves, angels and reindeer sniffed their way through the crowd before preparing to show off in front of the judges. Peggy Fox of WUSA-TV and three other judges observed nearly 50 dogs who competed for prizes, including treats and gift certificates.

Roger, a mini Pomeranian, was dressed as Santa and competing for his first time in the pageant. His owners, Kate, Hope and Adrienne Albers, were dressed as a reindeer, an elf and Mrs. Claus to support Roger.

The Albers had attended the past two years and decided that it was time to enter Roger into the competition.

The Lodge family brought their Yorkshire terrier, Ozzie, dressed as a wrapped present, and Toto dressed as Mrs. Mint. Ozzie received second place in the small dog category at last year's pageant and this year Toto was awarded second place in the medium dog category.

Harley, a Boston terrier, was dressed as Santa's helper and donned a bright red and green sweater with red antlers. Harley's owners reported that they put the antlers on her a month ago "to get her used to it. They kept sliding down when we first tried it so it was good we tried them early." They



Best in Show: Malaika, Bennie, Ellie and Teddy. The four dogs belong to four friends who teamed up and dressed the dogs as the Three Wise Men and a camel.

were rewarded for their preparation when Harley received second place in the small dogs category.

The Best Pet/Owner Combo was given to the family who trained their dog to jump through five hoops in succession. Because their

dog performed the task so well, the audience asked for an encore performance. The Best in Show award was given to four friends for their team of dogs — Malaika, Bennie, Ellie and Teddy who were dressed as Three Wise Men and a camel.



The Albers family shows off Roger, a mini Pomeranian, in his Santa outfit.

PHOTOS BY CHRISTY STEELE/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN/THE CONNECTION

Robert Rosenbaum and his wife's aunt Katherine Maugin mixing with attendees before the Sons of the American Revolution annual Christmas meeting.

'Piano Man' Named Citizen of the Year

Bob Rosenbaum honored for "exceptional volunteerism."

BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN
THE CONNECTION

It seems that Robert Rosenbaum, McLean's own "Piano Man," can't help but make an impact wherever he is. Known for his good humor and charm as much as his talent for music, Rosenbaum has performed at countless events. Lately, the Roanoke native has been recognized once again.

Rosenbaum was named Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution on Sunday, Dec. 6 at Vinson Hall, during the chapter's annual Christmas meeting. By receiving the award, Rosenbaum becomes a candidate for the state and national award given by the same organization. The award is given to honor those who provide exceptional volunteerism in their community. Rosenbaum received the award at the Vinson Hall event.

At the end of the evening, he took requests from the attendees. For many, it was their first time hearing him play. "Well, I just enjoyed him," said attendee Eilene Maksymiec. "It's the first time I heard him and he's fabulous."

Rosenbaum considers his tal-

ent for music a gift. "When you play by ear, it's something that you can just do. ... I can't explain it," he said. He has played since the age of 6 and has never learned to read music, instead relying on his natural musical intuition. His skill has allowed him to pick up and play virtually any instrument. He's the kind of man who couldn't stand piano lessons while loving the piano.

Rosenbaum was born in Roanoke in 1920. He got his B.A. from Hampden-Sydney College and was a first lieutenant in the counter-intelligence division of the military. In 1963, he opened the Washington, D.C. office of his father's business and has lived in McLean since 1971. He is now semi-retired.

The man responsible for nominating Rosenbaum is Denis Hickey, president of Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution. He is someone who gives his time and talent for the good of the community without any fees and he brings a lot of smiles and laughter to all those that he touches," said Hickey, justifying his choice. "He's a well known clown of the best sort."

The Sons of the American Revolution is a hereditary orga-

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Rosenbaum Honored As Citizen of the Year

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nization established to promote the values of patriotism and volunteerism. The organization honors citizens who best embody these values.

Rosenbaum's range of volunteerism is extensive. He still plays at the Lewinsville Adult Day Care Center almost every Tuesday, but has also played piano for everything from wedding receptions and birthday parties to events at

the New Zealand and British embassies. For each one, he requests that any fees he would have been paid to be given instead to a charity, amounting to thousands of dollars over the years. "He brings smiles and laughter to all those that he touches," said Hickey.

"I learned a whole lot from example," Rosenbaum said, of his parents, who were both honored as great citizens in Roanoke, as Father of the Year and Mother of the Year, respectively.

When asked if his children were going to keep on with the family tradition, Rosenbaum said, "They might, my eldest son, he's already going in that direction, and so is my youngest son. I've got two sons and a daughter, and they're all pretty much in that direction."

Despite all of the honors, Rosenbaum isn't the sort that seeks attention. "The piano playing is like the quarterback of a team, you can have other players that make the quarterback look good, but it's

the quarterback that usually gets featured," he said. "But it doesn't take away from the fact that the others are quietly working hard and are doing a fantastic job. I don't want to be the focus. ... I like it when I'm quietly doing what I do and others are enjoying themselves."

In his speech, Rosenbaum summed up his attitude. "I'm not just being gracious, I don't feel that I deserve it, I do what I do because I love doing it," he said.

"His generosity of time and talent are legend with the McLean and Fairfax community," said Hickey. "He may get honors for, in his words, what amounts to 'eating my favorite ice cream,' but that is something he can't help but share."

Even without a piano, Rosenbaum is seen as an exceptional man. "I think he has a wonderful personality, I don't care if he plays the piano or not," said attendee Eleanor Barron.

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Wednesday, Dec. 30
10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
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The McLean Community Center
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