

Making jails places for rehabilitation

By Hugh Schwartz

“Is there a follow-up course?” demanded the first. “Will the county consider convicted felons like me for a job?” questioned the second in my class in Personal Finance. “I’ll talk to them and get back to you,” I replied to the second. To the first, I had to admit that though I was trying, the prospects didn’t seem good, particularly after even the low-cost correspondence programs had been eliminated, and no one was even talking about courses that led to a college degree or the acquisition of vocational skills. No one. And cutbacks were coming despite several good years for the local economy.

There are those who seek to make

the judicial system fairer, to reduce the extraordinary numbers in jails in this country, to reduce racial and other inequalities, to expedite shorter sentences for those who are found guilty of minor crimes, and to provide more appropriate treatment for those whose

My concern is what is done to equip inmates to better contribute to the community once they are released, and to make them less likely to return to incarceration.

mental condition or illness contributed to what are regarded as offenses against communities, as well as for those who, independent of the explanation of their offenses, develop infirmities while incarcerated. There is a case for each of these positions, but that is not what I want to consider.

My concern, triggered by more than three years as a teacher in the Fairfax County Detention System a short time

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Stoking a flame for ancient oil lamps

By Patricia Beltrante

It came as a surprise.

I was living in Israel at the time. I often drove to Jerusalem, sometimes with friends, but this day I was alone.

I was inside the ancient walls, slowly making my way down King David Street. Something caught my eye, a solitary, beautiful Roman era oil lamp. I didn’t KNOW that at the time.

My step slowed and I went up to the glass window to look and look and look. I went into the shop and asked a young man about the oil lamp and the price.

His name was Victor Barakat and he was to be my mentor for many things ancient for my time in Israel.

The price was \$100 and it became the first of 40 ancient oil lamps I collected and treasured, dating in age from 4000 BCE to AD 600.

I was addicted and ultimately visited museums and shops, looking for more,



BOD seeks three more engineering firms for erosion control solutions

By Mikhailina Karina

In addition to signing a contract with R.C. Fields & Associates earlier this spring to make recommendations for alleviating Montebello’s erosion woes, the Board of Directors is looking for input from three other civil engineering firms, said board president Greg Bender at the Tuesday night work session.

When sent follow-up questions regarding the reasons for additional firms, to confirm that R.C. Fields had been paid \$11,000 for their services – and exactly what services they had provided – Bender’s complete, verbatim email response was: “We are seeking some fresh ideas. This will be addressed in the Contracts Update section of the September *Times of Montebello*.”

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reading the history relating to the long-gone eras.

I met Victor again in California where he had a large shop selling ancient treasures. We talked about our families and children and of course oil lamps. I couldn’t afford L.A. prices.

I had the wonderful opportunity to see Jerusalem again. I walked down King David Street, hoping to see my old friend and mentor. He was not there. He was a world known expert on matters ancient and was traveling at that time. Put his name into Google and there he is. And you are bound to collect information about oil lamps. ■

Voices on the 37



One is hard pressed not to notice the beauty surrounding us, yet if we dig even further off the beaten track of our woods, it can be truly astounding. Above are Indian Pipe (the translucent flower-like specimen), Amanita muscaria (red mushroom) and Laetiporus sulfureous (the gorgeous salmon colored fungi) – Text and photos by Catherine Cooke

Board, continued from page 1

As children say, “sharing is caring.” For 10 minutes the board discussed the logistics of having the community center TV broadcast the Rio Olympic Games for 16 days without excluding other activities and events, such as films, large dinner parties, and bridge games.

It was finally decided that community activities manager Thirasisit “T” Insiengmay will be the go-to person to coordinate and sort out any potential conflicts between cheering fans and other community center users. ■



Olive, the reading dog, takes Sarah-Mai Simon on a walk.

The **MONTEBELLO** **Voice**

Alexandria, Virginia
an independent gazette

This publication accepts no funding or oversight from advertisers, residents, or the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association. All opinions are encouraged and reflect the diversity of views in the community. All articles and photographs come from Montebello residents. To receive or contribute to this email-only gazette, please contact montebellovoice@cox.net or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.

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ago, and in response to the questions put to me by many of my students there, is what is done to equip inmates to better contribute to the community once they are released, and to make them less likely to return to incarceration.

College and vocational courses tend to cost less, could provide inmates with skills in demand outside the penal system, and would be a better alternative to the current approach which encourages many to learn from those also incarcerated how to become more effective criminals.

tion. There are several reasons for this approach. First, and most important, the present system is not working. Two-thirds or more of those who are sent to jails or prisons return within just a few years. A year in these institutions costs more than a year in a good educational institution, so there's a particularly good cost-benefit argument for considering alternative approaches. College and vocational courses tend to cost less, could provide inmates with skills in demand outside the penal system, and would be a better alternative to the current approach which encourages many to learn from those also incarcerated how to become more effective criminals. It would also help reduce the bias of many employers against hiring felons and others with prison records.

There are other reasons for providing inmates with college vocational courses. To begin with, communities are likely to be safer with former inmates gainfully employed. In addition, an important consideration is that some of those who are incarcerated received a primary and secondary education that didn't help them very much in the job market. And there's the overriding concern of what prison is supposed to achieve in the first place – punishment, yes, but prisons are also supposed to be correc-

tional institutions that enables those inside to lead better lives afterwards, lives that are more in line with the needs of their communities. We pride ourselves on giving people a second chance, and, indeed, to reward those who succeed the second time around. That's part of the heritage of Western Civilization.

Most prison systems do provide some help. There are high school equivalency programs, which is a start, and most penal systems have allowances for private institutions to provide courses on anger management, interviewing techniques, financial management and religious matters, but these are not enough. (Nor are the laudable efforts of those private institutions to offer assistance to inmates who serve time and afterwards find themselves in dire straits.) Only a few communities have provided college or vocational education to those who are incarcerated, and though most of these programs seem to be quite successful, many officials and most individual citizens are not inclined to help those whom the judicial system has spoken against. In many cases, there is an understandable but mistaken reaction against providing funds for criminals when education tends to be so costly in general (though recall that most educational programs for the incarcerated are self-sufficient over a three-five year

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period). In some cases, criminals are simply regarded as pariahs, not to be dealt with favorably. And in some cases, an element of fear is involved. (That appears to be an overriding factor in explaining why few otherwise public spirited individuals are willing to enter prisons to teach in programs aimed at helping the incarcerated.)

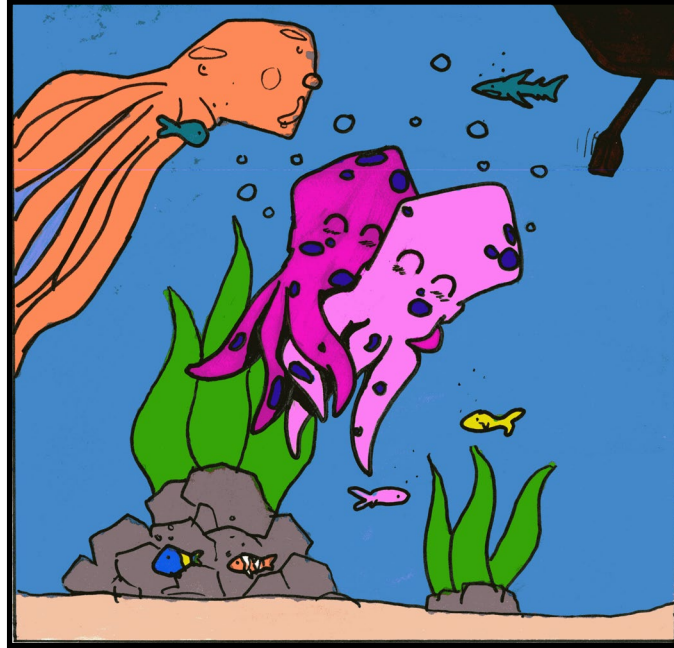
There are problems, of course. Sentences for misdemeanors may seem too

short to allow planning for substantial vocational or college courses (though perhaps arrangements can be made to continue such education when inmates are released or sent to a longer term penal institution). Some who are convicted of the most violent crimes may not

Some who are convicted of the most violent crimes may not seem like good candidates for programs which would expose them to outside instructors – though inmates may change over time and, in any event, violent offenders may be most in need of such rehabilitation.

seem like good candidates for programs which would expose them to outside instructors – though inmates may change over time and, in any event, violent offenders may be most in need of such rehabilitation. (And most classrooms do have panic buttons for extreme situations.) There may be other problems that present themselves, of course. The point, though, is that educational programs for inmates represent an alternative to what is currently in place in many communities and one that seems to be working in most of those in which it is being tried. Those in agreement can contact local or state officials, NGOs such as OAR, and attempt to influence public opinion by writing letters to the editor of local newspapers when appropriate, and also, by raising the subject with friends. An easier alternative would be to drop me a line explaining your views. (I'm still trying to bring about changes.) 📧

Poetic License



By Erwin M. Jacobs

Cuddle

Football players huddle; other people cuddle.
Hold each other tight, day or night.
Look into each other's eyes, give longing sighs,
Usually in the main, a horizontal plane.
Various forms of dress, can make quite a mess.
It may begin, as skin to skin,
There may be more, if je t'adore,
I wish I would, or could; it feels so good.

The Cuddlefish

The cuddlefish lived in the deep,
They hardly ever went to sleep.
Each had a distinctive color
Inherited from the mother.
This was on a crest,
To prevent incest.
But they became extinct
When they all turned pink.

Facts & Figs

Census site provides insight into Montebello's demographic data

By Turo Dexter

Montebello, plus one house by the Metro station, constitute Census Tract 4205.01. There is just a single Block Group in our tract.

There are lots of ways to go into this database. Here is one example to see simple population age and sex data. You can use this same basic method to explore many other characteristics – look around at the options on the screens as you step through this example.

[http://factfinder.census.gov/
Guided Search](http://factfinder.census.gov/GuidedSearch)

- Get Me Started
- 1. Start: Information about people
- 2. Topics
Don't select a topic - click Next
- 3. Geographies:
Select a geographic type > **Census Tract - 140**
Select a state > **Virginia**
Select a county > **Fairfax**
Select one or more geographic areas
> **Census Tract 4205.01** > **Add to Your Selections** > **Next**

- 4. Race/Ethnic Groups: *skip this step*
- 5. Search Results: **Age and Sex**

Use the Back button in your browser to explore other data sets for our tract if you wish. For example, you may choose
5. Search Results: **Educational Attainment**
Happy browsing!



Montebello Café

July 30 – September 9

Opening Reception

July 30, 4 – 6 p.m.

Light refreshments, cash bar



Brief Encounters
Lasting Memories

A photo exhibition by Dian McDonald

Discovering Washington's hidden treasure museums

By Maria Rosa Schwartz

Heurich House Museum

www.heurichhouse.org
1307 New Hampshire Ave., NW,
Washington, DC 20036
202-429-1894
Reservation needed

Christian Heurich (1842-1945) was a self-made businessman who immigrated from Germany to America



in 1866. Recognized as Washington, D.C.'s most successful brewer, he ran the Christian Heurich Brewing Co., the city's longest-operating brewery (1872-1956). He was the District's second largest landowner and largest non-governmental employer. As the active manager of the company at his death at the age of 102, he was also the world's oldest brewer.

The mansion was built from 1892-94 by Christian Heurich. He and his family lived in their Dupont Circle home from its completion in 1894 until his wife's death in 1956. The mansion is notable for its fireproof construction, original interiors, and family collections.

The interior of the house is a masterpiece of craftsmanship and design as conceived by the design firm The Huber Bros. The 31-rooms are replete with hand-carved wood, fireplaces with individually carved mantles and cast bronze fire backs, hand-painted ceiling canvases and original turn-of-the-century Heurich family collections.

Anderson House

www.societyofthecincinnati.org
Society of the Cincinnati
2118 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20008
202-785-2040
Free admission

In the spring of 1905, Anderson House was completed and took its

place as one of the capital city's most fashionable mansions – a “Florentine villa in the midst of American independence.” The firm of Arthur Little and Herbert Browne of Boston designed the mansion as

the winter residence of Larz Anderson, an American diplomat, and his wife, Isabel, an author and benefactress. For more than 30 years, the couple enjoyed their Washington home as a showcase for their art collection, a backdrop for high society galas, and a home from which they explored what they considered “the most beautiful of American cities.”

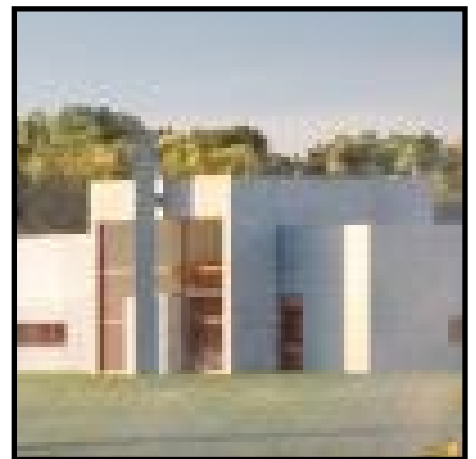
To the Andersons, their Washington home represented the culmination of what America's founders hoped their capital city would become – a grand, modern city to rival European capitals, but with a patriotic identity and a sense of history that would make it distinctly American. When Larz Anderson died in 1937 with no children, his widow oversaw the gift of Anderson House and its contents to the Society of the Cincinnati, of which Larz had been a devoted member.

Glenstone Museum

www.glenstone.org
2002 Glen Road, Potomac, MD 20854
301-983-5001
Reservation needed

The name Glenstone derives from two local sources: Glen Road, where the property line begins, and a type of carderock indigenous to the area, which is still extracted from several quarries nearby. That the name does not refer directly to its founders, Mitchell and Emily Rales, was a conscious decision. They hope that for future generations this name will evoke the same unique setting that we all experience today.

Glenstone is a place that seamlessly integrates art, architecture, and landscape into a serene and contemplative environment. Guided by the personal vision of its founders, Glenstone assembles post-World War II artworks of the highest quality that trace the greatest historical shifts in the way we experience and understand art of the 20th and 21st centuries. These works are presented in a series of refined indoor and outdoor spaces. 🏠



The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you: musings, travels, announcements, photos, and ads

Write on, sister!

By *Mikhailina Karina*

After about six months of publishing *The Montebello Voice*, our community's independent alternative gazette, people often ask me how the Board of Directors and management treat my plucky little venture. So far, I've been guardedly tolerated – individual board members have (occasionally) promptly and fully responded to my written follow-up questions, while the management's responses have generally taken the requisite 5,000 business days.

I have been pleased to see improved communication with board meeting summaries and more email updates – many residents attribute it to my example of more thorough board coverage that goes beyond the final votes. And residents are happy to have a forum in which their opinions can be published without the restrictions of word counts, editorial changes, or subject matter guidelines. So far, it's worked very well to allow the Montebelloans express themselves without the usual filters and rules.

As much as I've appreciated our residents' support and encouragement, the powers-that-be's "guarded tolerance" has grown into "detached contempt." Sensing my disappointment and frustration, one super smart close friend has advised me to ignore all the official Montebello stuff and instead focus on the happy feature stories everyone enjoys. "But people need to know what happens at board meetings," I protested. "*The Voice* is the only source that prints the discussions around the decisions and puts them into context."

Again, my wise friend insisted, "Don't do anything controversial – stay away from sex, politics, and religion." So what's left?! Although I generally listen to my friend's counsel, playing it safe with happy stories and pretending that contentious board meetings don't take place feels like abdicating my journalism principles. It just ain't me. I was

named after my grandfather, Mikhail Karin, an idealistic, unrepentant Bolshevik. That's a heavy burden to bear.

So I decided to meet with my Journalism Matriarchs: Molly Ivins, Helen Thomas, and Nora Ephron. I can't imagine them shying away from an HOA controversy and needed to hear what they thought* I should do.

Mizz Ivins, wearing her trusty cowboy boots that only added height to her 6-foot-frame, got things going, "As they say around the Texas Legislature, if you can't drink their whiskey, screw their women, take their money, and vote against 'em anyway, you don't belong in office." Oh, how I've missed her unique, fearless, colorful expressions! "You can't ignore politics, no matter how much you'd like to."

Helen Thomas, the doyenne of the White House press corps, added, "We don't go into journalism to be popular. It is our job to seek the truth and put constant pressure on our leaders until we get answers."

But what if the leaders don't want us to know the truth? Ms. Thomas knows only too well how difficult it is to get information from elected officials and bureaucrats. "People will never know how hard it is to get information, especially if it's locked up behind official doors where, if politicians had their way, they'd stamp 'top secret' on the color of the walls." Sounds like Montebello's 5,000 business days and other annoying forms of non-answers.

"Sure, I could keep *The Voice* as a features-based gazette, but so many people have told me how much they appreciate the board coverage and what a valuable service I am providing with my objective, professional reporting," I whined to the matriarchs.

"I don't think a tough question is disrespectful," Ms. Thomas replied in her usual no-nonsense manner. "We in the press have a special role since there is no other institution in our society that can hold the President accountable. I do believe that our democracy can en-

sure and prevail only if the American people are informed."

"But what about tackling taboo subjects such as sex, politics, and religion?" I asked. "I believe our readers are smart and mature enough to have respect for differing opinions."

"I am continually fascinated at the difficulty intelligent people have in distinguishing what is controversial from what is merely offensive," joined in Nora Ephron, clad in a black turtleneck and munching on a wedge of Brie de Meaux.

And don't take it all so seriously, exclaimed Molly Ivins. "I've always found it easier to be funny than to be serious," she said. Feel free to speak truth to power with an occasional salty expression. "Satire is traditionally the weapon of the powerless against the powerful. I only aim at the powerful. When satire is aimed at the powerless, it is not only cruel – it's vulgar," Mizz Ivins explained.

The matriarchs encouraged me to chronicle life's little ridiculousnesses with more stories such as the Big Ass Fan exposé and to give voice to the disenfranchised and ignored.

If writing is in your soul, then it's what you must do, no matter what anyone says, admonished Ms. Ephron. "Writing is what I do. It's like breathing to me at a certain point, but if I couldn't write, I do like cooking." And eating good food.

Now, more than ever, we need journalism, they agreed. "I believe that ignorance is the root of all evil. And that no one knows the truth," said Mizz Ivins.

"You didn't tell a lie, you just left a big hole in the truth," agreed Ms. Thomas.

But sometimes you have to go for Plan B and find your own path toward the truth, whatever that may be. "Now I know that there's no such thing as the truth. That people are constantly misquoted. That news organizations are full of conspiracy (and that, in any

case, ineptness is a kind of conspiracy). That emotional detachment and cynicism get you only so far. But for many years I was in love with journalism.” So she began making excellent movies and writing intelligent articles and books.

Okay, so my matriarchs basically told me to listen to my friends without muting my own voice. While it’s fine to be a polite lady, it is soul-killing to be silenced, insulted, and dismissed. The matriarchs fought long and hard for me and other ladies to have the right to get an education and practice the profession of our choice – and occasionally raise some hell for a good cause.

“Whatever you choose, however many roads you travel, I hope that you

choose not to be a lady. I hope you will find some way to break the rules and make a little trouble out there. And I also hope that you will choose to make some of that trouble on behalf of women,” Nora (she insisted I call her that) said. “Sit up, join up, get on line, get in touch, find out who’s raising hell and join them. No use waiting on a bunch of wussy politicians,” Good Golly Miss Molly loudly concurred.

“So keep fightin’ for freedom and justice, beloveds, but don’t you forget to have fun doin’ it. Lord, let your laughter ring forth. Be outrageous, ridicule the fraidy-cats, rejoice in all the oddities that freedom can produce,” Mizz Ivins told me. “Listen to the people who are talking about how to fix what’s wrong,

not the ones who just work people into a snit over the problems. Listen to the people who have ideas about how to fix things, not the ones who just blame others.”

Any parting thoughts? “The thing is this: You got to have fun while you’re fightin’ for freedom, ‘cause you don’t always win,” Mizz Ivins summarized her own writing career.

“Take notes. Everything is copy,” reminded Nora. Then she quickly added what everyone must have been thinking, “I don’t think any day is worth living without thinking about what you’re going to eat next at all times.”

Thank you, my wise matriarchs. 🙏

* All actual quotes.

Residents to weigh in on the proposed Metro shuttle routes

Sometime before Labor Day, the shuttered Transit Police Station by the Huntington Metro will be razed to make way for a new residential and commercial development in Montebello’s back yard.

The development will change the current footprint of the area in question and may affect Montebello’s shuttle bus route and access by emergency vehicles, said Board of Directors President Greg Bender at the July 26 work session.

Project developer Stout & Teague has given Montebello a set of slides that show the parameters and possibilities of new construction (on this page).

In addition, a set of slides on the following page provide possible shuttle bus routes with pros and cons for each route.

All these slides are available on the association website for resident input, said Bender. A public discussion about “which of the three paths makes sense” will take place at the August board meeting. — *Mikhailina Karina*

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Possibilities for Updated Development Plan

- Market for mid-rise, luxury rental apartments has been strong throughout Washington
- In Huntington, recent projects include the Parker, the Shelby, and South Alex

STOUT & TEAGUE

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Possibilities for Updated Development Plan

- WMATA garage access drive is a dividing line between commercial and residential zones on the site
- Urban "plaza" is separated from residents and lost in midst of access drives

STOUT & TEAGUE

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Possibilities for Updated Development Plan

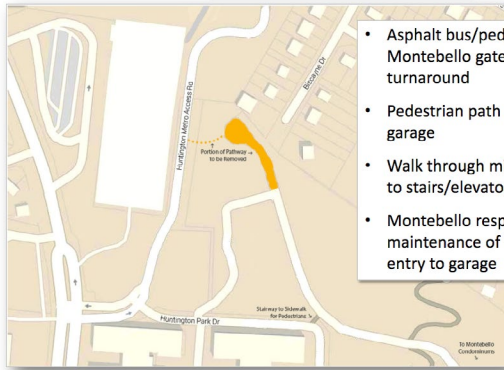
Mid-rise format option

- No increase in density
- WMATA retains approved office density if future demand supports

STOUT & TEAGUE

Access Path to Metro

Access Path Prior to Development



- Asphalt bus/pedestrian path from Montebello gate to circular turnaround
- Pedestrian path from turnaround to garage
- Walk through middle level of garage to stairs/elevator to Metro mezzanine
- Montebello responsible for maintenance of path up to point of entry to garage

Access Path to Metro

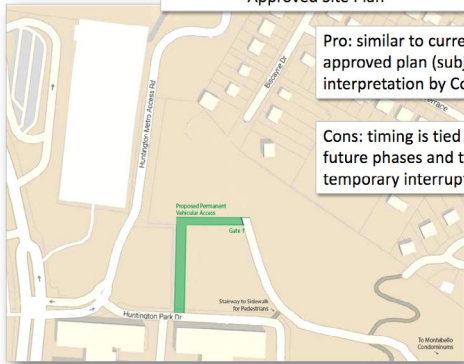
Partial Development (Current) Access Path



- Asphalt bus/pedestrian path from Montebello gate to rear of former Transit Police house
- Bus through former Police parking area to Huntington Park Drive and on to dedicated bus shelter in front of station elevator/escalator
- Pedestrians can take shorter route via steps to Huntington Park Drive
- Montebello responsible for maintenance of path up to point of intersection with Huntington Park Drive

Access Path to Metro

Full Development Access Path Options Approved Site Plan



Pro: similar to current access path already approved plan (subject to proffer interpretation by County)

Cons: timing is tied to start of work on future phases and there is potential for temporary interruption during construction

Access Path to Metro

Potential Alternative Curve Option



- Pros
 - shorter pathway for bus
 - could be put in place at start of construction so no interruption in service

- Cons:
 - timing is tied to start of work on future phases
 - turning radius and grade change might be problematic

Access Path to Metro

Potential Alternative Straight Option



- Pros:
 - Shorter, flatter, and more direct path for bus
 - No stairs for pedestrians
 - Timing not tied to development of future phases

- Cons:
 - Requires cooperation and approval of Fairfax County Park Authority

A good bye to all my friends and neighbors in beautiful Montebello!

It is almost surreal and will slowly sink in, but I am finally leaving after 32 years.....

It is time to go back to Germany and join my family, who is waiting for this since many years.

Hopefully I can come and visit.

Also new beginnings are exciting, saying good bye is not easy.

Stay well and have fun at Montebello.

Elke



Vive la France by Rachael Bright



Olympics Pool Party
Saturday August 20th, 4-7 PM



Compete for the Gold!

Swimming, "Diving", Deck Games,
Synchronized Swimming & Other Events

**Food, Music & Medal Ceremony
Fun For All Ages!!**

Questions? MontebelloKidsClub@gmail.com

Ballroom Dancing at Montebello



Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 PM LLCC

No Partner Necessary!

Interested?

DanceMontebello@gmail.com