

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

who are you?


November 3, 2016




Montebello residents get in the spirit

Voices on the 37

Finally, a political choice we can all agree on – seen on a bumper sticker in Building 3.



**UNITED
COMMUNITY
MINISTRIES**
UCM At the Heart of Community



**It's time for our
annual community
service project,
in support of UCM's
ANNUAL COAT DRIVE**


This year, for the first time, we are receiving calls directly from parents seeking warm coats for their children. We are not exaggerating when we write that these calls tug at our hearts, especially when we hear that this winter is expected to be colder than last year.

As a result, we are asking our friends and neighbors for help. Please give a gently-worn or new **coat** to this worthy cause, for a child (or an adult, since they are also in need). Or if it is easier, a tax-deductible **donation** (instead of a holiday gift perhaps?) could be used by UCM for more coats.

We would be happy to pick up **coats** or **checks** (made out to UCM) directly from your condo.



Our collection runs until November 20

CINDY Baggett®
cynthiabaggett@gmail.com (703) 593-1418
1/1110



LESLIE Rodriguez®
(703) 400-3010 lrodriguez4@gmail.com
1/1012

Old Town Weichert Office: 121 N Pitt St. Alexandria VA



Music Club President Carla Jones-Batka and Thomas Pandolfi
Photo by Dian McDonald

The program said “Mozart, Spanish Romance & the Movies.” But the artist, Thomas Pandolfi, was in the mood for something else. He felt like playing 19th century’s undisputed rock star, Franz Liszt, whose birthday was celebrated last week. Keeping with the theme of classical music based on folk tunes, he moved East to play Sergei Rachmaninoff, Alexander Scriabin, Anton Rubenstein, and Pyotr Tchaikovsky before moving back West with Frédéric Chopin and ending with an unforgettable *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin. It was an evening of sublime music, masterfully performed by a renowned soloist.

A capacity audience attended the October 30 concert and the reception that followed in the Community Center. The event was co-sponsored by the Music Club and Activities Committee.

On the cover: Ghostbusters photo by Ed McClelland; Super Girl by Gyami Shrestha; Count Dracula with Zombie by Mikhailina Karina

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette
Alexandria, Virginia

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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Veterans Day

A volunteer remembers the dedication of the World War II Memorial

By Elizabeth Card

Saturday, May 29, 2004, was an absolutely fabulous day – it was the official dedication for the World War II Memorial and I was fortunate to play a small part in that historic day...

From my station at Entrance 3, I worked with several hundred people whose assigned responsibilities included assisting 15-20 thousand guests to navigate their way through security screening, take care of their transportation needs, and provide medical assistance.

What actually transpired was a true labor of love, honor and respect.

There wasn't single person, from the red-capped volunteers, to the military corpsmen, the orange-vested transportation crews, the uniformed sheriffs, Arlington police, K-9 units and others at what appeared at first glance to be an unending series of bag-check tables, who did not give their all to ensure that each and every attendee at the World War II Memorial Dedication enjoy their day to the fullest extent possible.

The camaraderie, teamwork and unity exhibited that day was evocative of large events I have worked previously, such as Presidential inaugurations and state and national political conventions. However, at those events, everyone is united in a common purpose; all share the same political views; many have met and worked together before, and will do so again. Not so on May 29, 2004.

None of us had met before, and it is unlikely that we ever will meet again. We all came from different walks of life, different ages, political, religious, ethnic, socio-economic and racial back-

grounds. We had virtually nothing in common but our shared nationality. We were Americans gathering to honor our own. We worked together as a team, our assigned task to move thousands of people through security and down the path to their seating areas. Over the course of seven hours, we checked tickets, pushed wheelchairs, distributed water, answered questions, solved problems, redirected the lost, estimated our wait times, and reported our guest



counts. We looked out for each other, relieved each other, made sure our fellow workers had food breaks. It was abundantly clear that everyone working at Entrance 3 was proud to be there, united in our respect for our veterans, respectful of their sacrifice; honored to be in their presence.

There are countless images from that day which will stay with me for years. Among them:

▲ The starched uniforms and erect frames of the men and women of the various police forces.

▲ The smiles and heartfelt thanks given to the veterans.

▲ The gentle manner by which explanations were offered.

▲ The uniformed police officer of-

fering his arm to help steady an elderly attendee.

▲ The serviceman in fatigues and black beret driving a golf cart through the crowd, handing out bottles of water.

▲ The young Marine holding an empty bus long enough for an over-tired veteran and his family to catch a ride back to a Metro station.

▲ The delegation of veterans from the Republic of China in their orange blazers.

▲ The WW II veteran clad in his Marine dress uniform.

▲ The Missing Man formation flyby against a crystal clear blue sky.

▲ The planes taking off safely from National Airport over a sea of red, white and blue as we gave thanks to those of the Greatest Generation who worked and fought to ensure our freedoms.

All the attention to detail, planning and hard work preparing the volunteers paid off; we were well-briefed and well-prepared; everything worked (even the things that didn't), everyone pulled together and made the most of the day for our veterans and their families.

It was truly an honor and a privilege to have been a small part of the World War II Memorial Dedication, one that I shall never forget.

This Veterans Day, when you see a veteran or a member of the U.S. Armed Services, be sure to shake their hand and thank them for their service to our country.

To turn a phrase: See someone? Say something! 🇺🇸



**ALEXANDRIA NATIONAL CEMETERY
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2016
NOON**



Mount Vernon Chapter



Wreaths across America

Join Mount Vernon Chapter in supporting *Wreaths across America* at Alexandria National Cemetery to *Remember, Honor and Teach* by donating wreaths to be placed on the graves of America's Veterans. Go to www.wreathscrossamerica.org for information and to place an order. Please use the ***Sponsor a Wreath with a Local Fundraising Group*** page and enter code **VA0020P** to insure Mount Vernon Chapter gets credit for your donation a part of which will be used by MVC to support Fort Belvoir's service members and their families.

Everyone is welcome to attend the *Wreaths across America* event at Alexandria National Cemetery on Saturday, December 17th at Noon for a meaningful moment to remember our veterans during the holidays. Please share this information with family and friends.

Any questions contact COL Bob Patrick, MVC WAA Representative at patbobval@verizon.net or Tel: (703) 964-6022 -



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

WREATH SPONSORSHIP FORM

*Sponsored wreaths are placed on the grave markers at state, national veterans cemeteries as well as local cemeteries each December. Wreaths may be purchased online at www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

If you wish to make your sponsorship with a credit card please visit our website for a secure online transaction.

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
WREATHS *across* AMERICA™
 PO Box 249
 Columbia Falls, ME 04623
 Questions? Please call 877-385-9504
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND JOINING US
 IN OUR MISSION TO REMEMBER, HONOR AND TEACH!

Do we have permission to publicize your name as a sponsor?
 Yes OR No, I wish to remain Anonymous

Sponsorship	Price	Quantity	Total
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$15.00		
Mailed "In Honor" card = If you wish to send a mailed honor card telling someone of your sponsorship-see "In Honor" section below. *Card will not be mailed if the \$2 fee is not included.	\$2.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$60.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$150		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,500.00		
		Grand Total	

****SORRY, WE CANNOT TAKE GRAVE SPECIFIC REQUESTS****

IN HONOR OF:

Please provide email of "In Honor Of" recipient, or mailing address so a card can be sent notifying them of your sponsorship in their honor. (If you have a specific message please write it on the back of this sheet and we will include it.)

Email: _____
 Mailing: _____

IN MEMORY OF:

This name will be listed on our online memory wall, please provide name, rank, branch of service and state resided.

Branch of Service: _____
 Rank: _____
 State: _____

Please note that ALL sponsorships are sent directly to the location and NO wreaths are sent to the individuals purchasing sponsorships.

Location ID: **VAANCA** Fundraising Group ID: **VA0020P**

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Cash \$: _____ Total \$: _____ Date: _____
 Total # of Checks: _____ Reconciled: _____
 MO \$: _____
 Entered _____ GEN: _____

Private home vs. condo living:

Lots of room for improvement

Story and photos by Ralph Johnson

We purchased five wooded acres and built our first family home in 1972. We were the architect, general contractor, and “mud” persons. This gave us total control regarding the physical, financial



Family home from 1972 to 1995. Note the beauty of trees that made this property so nice.

and management. As a family of four, we enjoyed the property immensely.

We became aware of Montebello to be located on a hill overlooking Northern Virginia, Washington areas, and next to the Metro. We believed it had great potential as an investment and future home. Our first visit was after the top floor was poured on Building 1. We put on hard hats, used a construction elevator to ride to the top floor, and walked around with no apartment walls or protection from falling from the edges.

We saw the long stretch of the Potomac River, Old Town, and Washington, D.C., including monuments.

Night view of Alexandria from our balcony

The Montebello Voice

This was our “WOW” factor. The night view turned out to be more beautiful. We had the first choice for a unit, garage and storage. We selected unit 1610. We met one October evening, early 1980s with about 12 other purchasers as the first group spending the evening signing our individual papers and taking possession.

Montebello was our rental property for about 12 years. Around 1995, our children matured and moved on. Although much enjoyed, we did not need the large property to maintain. We sold the family home and moved to Montebello.

There is much to enjoy regarding Montebello and condo living. The first is the location on a beautiful historic hill with a terrific view, day and night. No yard

work and limited maintenance. The condo is easy to secure while traveling or spending about eight months in Florida during the winter season. It is near our children and five grandchildren.

However, there are frustrations, especially when one was used to a single-family dwelling and could make all decisions. Compared, condo living is allowing another person to manage much of one’s home investment. This was known and accepted when purchasing. However, I did not anticipate poor decisions over many years by the administration and supported by the board of directors. The following are several of the latest examples.

Destruction of trees

One of the great assets of Montebello are the mature trees, hundreds of years old, which make Montebello so unique, much like our former home. It was so sad for me, and I am sure many others, to see many trees slaughtered. Was there no other way to get to the fitness center building site? Could an adequate crane have been used to move materials to the site? If there was only the bank, did it need to be so wide? All





(Left) Erosion resulting from removal of trees.

(Below) Sad that all of these large old trees had to be destroyed.

materials had to come through the narrow Montebello gate. Could many of the destroyed trees have been saved?

Photos on this page show the destruction of trees as well as the results of not containing erosion after the removal of the trees. (The “tree protection area” sign was not Photoshop-ed. The words sound great, but reality is completely different. The same reality that our emails will be answers in several days, but are not.)

Tennis court problems

The number of residents of Montebello playing tennis dwindled over the years. The plastic tennis surface, I am sure, was a major influence. Tennis friends did not want to come to Montebello to play. We opted to use courts in local parks. Some joined the Mt. Vernon Racquet Club. The concerns of many residents regarding plastic courts surfaces were ignored for 30+ years. Finally a decision was made to repair and resurface the tennis courts.

Under contract, extremely poor construction took place; allowed and accepted by the administration. Patching was attempted to repair cracked, separating, and bubbling surfaces. However, it become apparent to the BoD that a repair of the repair and a resurfacing of the resurfacing was desirable. Being an owner and professional tennis instructor, I asked questions of the administration and president of the BoD. I received no responses, therefore no answers.

When I purchase an object or service, especially under contract, I know what I will receive. The same should hold true for owners in a condo complex who pay the bills. This is my frustration with being part of the Montebello

condo complex, so different than single-home ownership. Why is information not available, why are basic questions not answered, not only for me but many residents/owners? Is it embarrass-

The good at Montebello outweighs the frustrating. Perhaps the frustrating can change when new BoD members are elected who truly wish to represent residents/owners, having high expectations for and hold individual professional employees accountable. I believe there has been a start in this direction. More needs to be done.

ment and/or protection of certain professional staff members? If it is embarrassment, then there are problems that need to corrected.

To the Committee on Cost Saving: I suggest that you start with the above



paragraph to let all owners know why we had to pay twice for repair and resurfacing of the tennis courts. Montebello has a professional facility manager, a tennis consultant was hired, yet it took two repairs and resurfacings to get it right. How much was paid to the consultant; I have asked, but as usual, no response. Please let us know. Was anyone held accountable? If not, will anything ever change or do owners just pay?

Bulletin boards were removed and replaced by monitors, which are poorly

programmed and do not work. Trees were destroyed, then replaced by other plants. At what cost? Much justification was given for a 3.9% increase in condo fees. Nothing was mentioned of the above costs, and others, as a factor for the increase.

Elevator issues

Unit 1610 is beside the top pulleys in the elevators. This spring/summer, because of our location, we were constantly bombarded with noise 24/7 for almost three months because of a defective pulley. Calls and reports were made by many with similar experiences. My inquiries as to what happened received contradictory information from the administration, then an email for the chairman of the BoD stated that the “case is closed.” How convenient to avoid answering questions. The above paragraphs illustrate loss of quality of life as well as thousands of dollars to all owners.



(Left) Poorly maintained first resurfacing. Was it known that this had to be replaced because of the poor construction?

(Below) Results of the second repair and resurfacing.



The good at Montebello outweighs the frustrating. Perhaps the frustrating can change when new BoD members are elected who truly wish to represent residents/owners, having high expectations for and hold individual professional employees accountable. I believe there has been a start in this direction. More needs to be done.

We now have a very nice surface and would hope that tennis can make a comeback to enhance our lives and

the value of our units. I encourage all living at Montebello to consider being part of the Montebello tennis community. This year was a start in building tennis again at Montebello with young and the more mature participating in programs. I am sure there will be programs offered by the Tennis Club during the 2017 season to make tennis an enjoyable part of Montebello living.

We look forward to many more summers at Montebello and will likely pass our unit to our children who live in the surrounding area. 🏠

Montebello's crows: haven't we met?

By Sarah Newcomb

Just about every resident has seen Montebello's crows. The large birds, black from beak to toe, are common on our property. Their raspy "caw-caw" sound can be heard daily in the woodlands.

Crows use their more than 20 calls, coos, rattles and clicks to mark territory, telling others that the area is taken and no one should enter. Their voices communicate with family members, and the birds are able to distinguish calls of known individuals. Crows typically hide their nests near the top quarter of Montebello's tall evergreens. Crows eat a wide variety of foods – preferring Montebello's earthworms, insects and small animals, seeds, and fruit. It is also true that crows will eat garbage, carrion, and unfortunately, chicks they rob from other nests. In general, crows mate for life. Young crows do not breed until they are about four. Less than

half of crow chicks survive their first year. Families stay together in groups that consist of the breeding pair and offspring from the past two years that help raise additional young. If a bird is killed, the flock can change its entire migratory pattern from our property for up to two years.

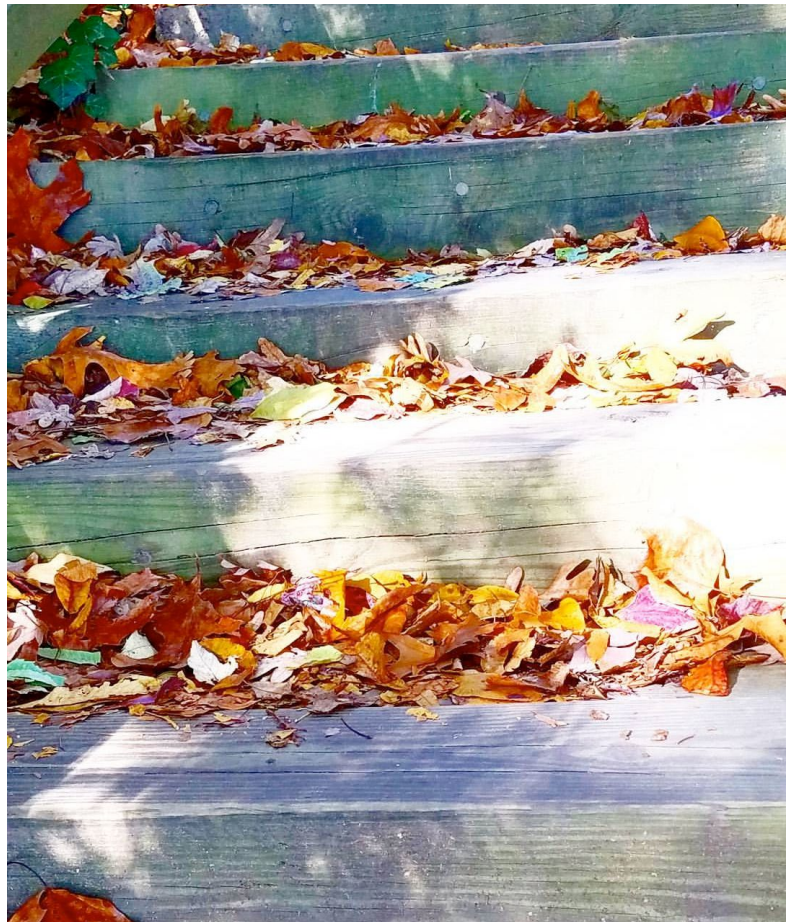
Montebello's crows are astounding-smart. While you are taking a walk in our woodlands, our crows are getting to know your face and associate it with your behavior. The U.S. Department of Defense is funding a study at the University of Washington investigating this ability to pick individual faces out of a crowd and recognize the bad guys, even months later. Frightening behavior in the study was being caught by a scientist wearing a scary mask, and released to "tell the story." After the captured crow was released, neighboring crows all sent up warnings whenever individuals wearing the same mask came along, although these birds

had not experienced the bad behavior directly. Scientists also showed that this knowledge was successfully transmitted to the next generation. Crow offspring sent up warning calls upon seeing a human wearing the same mask when the parents were not around. See or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOkj7Ujpeoc>

Types of crows are one of 3 among 6 million species on Earth that make and use tools. Examples include a captive crow using a cup to carry water over to a bowl of dry mash; shaping a piece of wood and then sticking it into a hole in a fence post in search of food; and breaking off pieces of pine cone to drop on tree climbers near a nest. See https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/American_Crow/lifehistory.

Montebello residents may notice warning calls when they walk our woodland trails with their pets. Not to be taken personally, our crows just may be telling us, "Montebello is my home, and it's where I want to stay!" 🏠

A thousand words



*(Top) On the road near Rochester, New York
(Bottom) Occoquan Reservoir at Fountainhead Regional Park
Photos by Azita Mashayekhi*

A well-kept secret?

Text and photos by Joel Miller

Whether you visit the National Building Museum with a grandchild (as we did), or with a child...or by yourself, it will be time well-spent. The child can immerse her/himself in hours of self-directed building projects with a myriad of small and large materials; the child in you can view exhibits of the building toys of your youth (Erector Sets, Lincoln Logs, American Bricks and more); and the adult in you can enjoy strolling through an unbelievable masterpiece of interior architecture. The outside of this interesting building is a simple gift-wrapping covering a fantastic surprise package which I advise you to unwrap. On a Sunday morning (opened at 11 a.m.) it was not at all busy and allowed us easy access to all activities and exhibits.

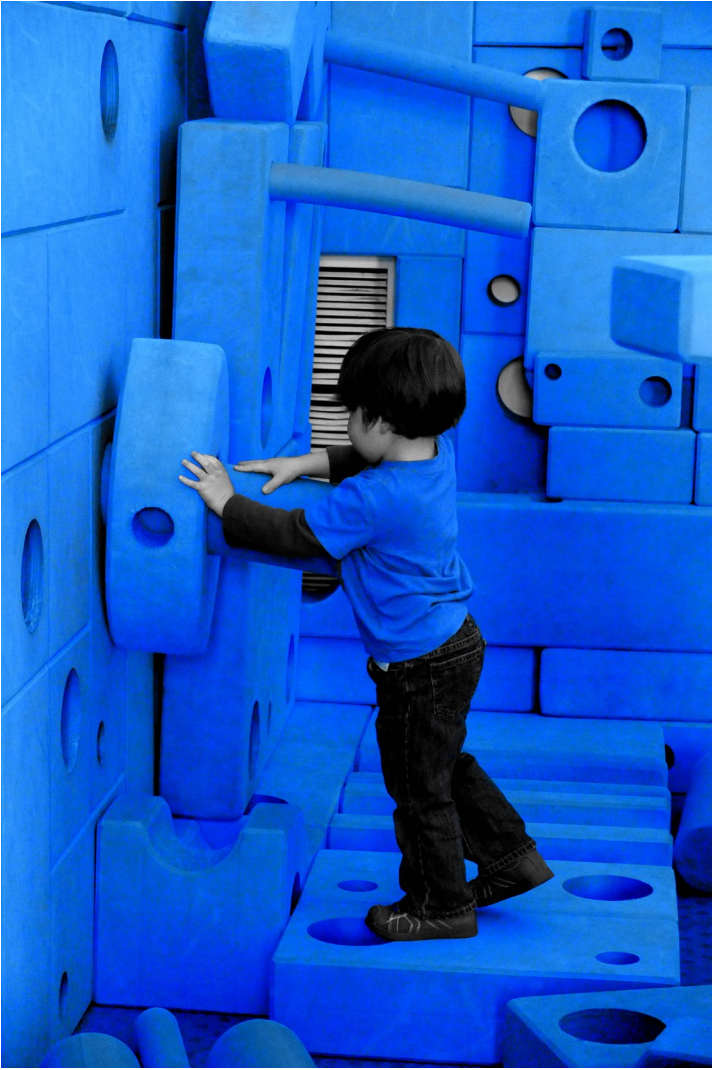
401 F Street NW

Washington, D.C. 20001

www.nbm.org



Junius Fielding Scarborough, IV, grandson of Joel and Elaine Miller, gets a lot of hands-on time during his recent visit to the National Building Museum



From top left: Noah Caliendo as a Lego Ninjago; Vikings Rachel and Richard Swanson with Jackson; Lisa Stedge (Dr. Doolittle) with Super Clark; Viking Mike and Maleficent Angel Jensen; and Rebecca Hayden as Ruth Bader Ginsburg.





Goodfellas

Montebello Café

Opening Reception: November 19th from 4-6pm

Show exhibit November 19 through January 6th

Anna Schalk is an artist who celebrates life. Each and every subject painted reflects her inner feelings occurring in the moment. Her paintings are her responses to her belief that life and “all that is” are to be embraced completely.

Anna has been honored over many years with awards in national and international juried shows including AWS, SCWS and GWS societies. Prior to moving to Virginia, her South Carolina Watermedia Society 2012 award, winning “Memories”, was reproduced to 20 by 30 feet and mounted for one month on the exterior wall of the City Gallery in Charleston, SC. She has received the Best in Show award for two consecutive years in the Arlington Artists Alliance shows as well as an Honorable Mention 2013 Alexandria Art League show. She was juried into a solo show in the Crystal City Gallery Underground for June 2016 where she exhibited 26 figurative paintings. The Crystal City Gallery Underground represents Anna in Virginia.

Anna serves on the Arlington Artists Alliance Board of Directors where she is the chairman of Professional Development.



Montebello Cafe Exhibition


October 15 - November 18, 2016

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCES


fine art digital photography by
Jeanne Tifft

opening reception 4 - 6 pm Saturday, October 15

cash bar and nibbles



you are invited!



Chess Club

Beginners, masters, and in-between
No commitment, no cost, just fun
Play! Share! Learn! Practice!
Montebello chess enthusiasts meet on
the fourth Thursday of most months at
7 p.m. in the Community Center
Card Room
You don't need to attend every game
night or even be on-time
Contact Pamela Copley at
pvongruber@aol.com for information



The Montebello Bowling league needs you!

We are still down a few bowlers on Monday and
1-2 bowlers on Wednesday. Subs are needed on
both nights. No experience necessary!
We are looking for people who just want to
have fun and smile. It's a handicap league. so it
really doesn't matter how good you are.
Contact the league President, Mark Woods at
703 498 0143 or at mjddwoods@earthlink.net.
Or just stop by any Monday or Wednesday.

THE NATIONAL CONCERT BAND OF AMERICA

2016-2017 Concert Season

"A Season in the Life"

Mark V. Deal, Music Director

Sunday, October 30, 2016 3:00 PM
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria VA

"To Dance"

Pineapple Poll Sullivan
Three Dances from Henry the 8th German
Four Scottish Dances Arnold
El Camino Real Reed
Divertimento for Band Persichetti
Satiric Dances Dello Joio
Captain Blood's Quickstep Woolpert

Sunday, March 26, 2017 3:00 PM
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria VA

"To Cry"

Lincoln Portrait Copland
Holocaust Suite Gould
In Memoriam, an Elegy to the Fallen Reed
Choral Prelude: "O God Unseen" Persichetti
The Great Little Army Alford
U.S. Field Artillery Sousa
October Whitacre

Sunday, December 4, 2016 3:00 PM
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria VA

"To Sing"

Colonial Song Grainger
Folk Song Suite Vaughan Williams
Allerseer Strauss
Mikado March Sousa
Ave Maria Biebl
Psalm for Band Persichetti
Greensleeves Reed
Selections from "Into the Woods" Sondheim
The Voice of the Guns Alford

Sunday, May 7, 2017 3:00 PM
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria VA

"To Remember"

An American Elegy Ticheli
Fanfare for the Common Man Copeland
Rushmore Reed
Chorale Prelude: "So Pure the Star" Persichetti
Hymn for the Lost and Living Ewazen
Elegy for the USS Arizona MacTaggart
A Movement for Rosa Campthouse
Lincoln (Music from the Motion Picture) Williams
Mission: Apollo Grant
In Memoriam (Pres. Garfield's Funeral March) Sousa

Sunday, February 12, 2017 3:00 PM
Carl Sandburg Middle School, Alexandria VA

"To Laugh"

Symphony #4 Reed
La Boutique Fantastique Rossini/Respighi
Children's March Grainger
Masquerade for Band Persichetti
Ride Hazo
To Tame the Perilous Skies Holsinger
Joy Ticheli

All programs subject to change. For more
information or to purchase tickets please visit the
National Concert Band of America at:

nationalconcertband.org

or on Facebook at:

www.facebook.com/NationalConcertBand



The National Concert Band of America is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.



MONTEBELLO MUSIC CLUB PRESENTS

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Date: Saturday, Nov. 12
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Place: Montebello Community Center

Free to everyone to attend! Start your holiday shopping!

To sell: Rent a table and sell items! The cost is \$20 per 6 ft. table or \$10 per half a table. **Money collected by the Montebello Music Club for table rentals goes to bringing free, quality entertainment to Montebello residents.** Please advise if you will need an electrical outlet. You will need to provide your own easels.

Set up: No one will be at the Community Center to watch your table on Friday night, but if you have things you wish to set up then, you may do so after 6:00 p.m. You may set up Saturday morning beginning at 7:00 a.m.

Please make your reservation for a table right away by either calling 703-960-0865 or e-mailing me at carlahj@cox.net, then getting payment to me as soon as you can. I must have your reservation by Thursday, Nov. 9.

Also, I need to know the sort of items you will be displaying for sale, i.e., jewelry, art, flowers, etc. Please tell your friends and if they want to participate they just need to get in touch with me.

Carla Jones-Batka, President, Montebello Music Club
5904 Mount Eagle Dr., #418, Alexandria, VA 22303-2536
703-960-0865-home/703-407-2516-cell, carlahj@cox.net

The annual Book Swap on Oct. 29 in Party Room 2 included categories such as fiction, history, biography, home and garden, art, sports, cookbooks, poetry, philosophy, reference, children, self-help, and science.

Nearly 60 book-lovers stopped by and took a lot of books. The remaining books were taken to the Sherwood Hall Library for the Friends of the Library book sales. – Pam Howell

Photo by Azita Mashayekhi



Final glance



From secret complicated active mud
through dark repellent waters, silently
th' emerging lotus lifts a timid bud,
restrained, and cautious, rising modestly,
until the wavering stem has gathered strength
to rise above the friendly crowding leaves,
which cluster for support along its length --
ah! then the lotus opens to receive
the light of kindly day on every part --
a gift of loveliness to us who see
its flaming glory and its golden heart
preserved forever in our memory.
So we too, timid, rise through dark unknowns
toward enlightenment; there we open, grown.

JLD Tiff 2012