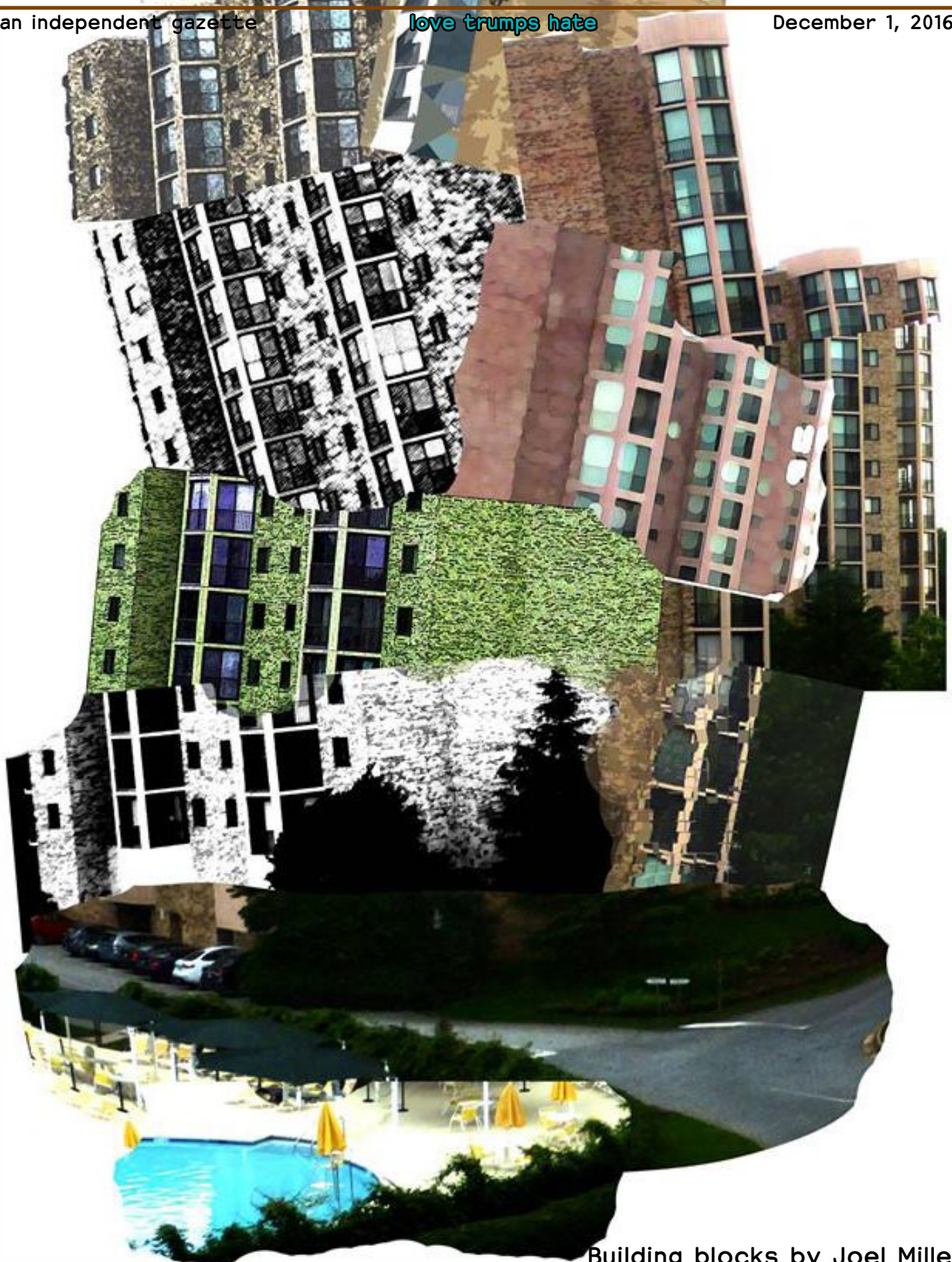


The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

love trumps hate

December 1, 2016



Building blocks by Joel Miller

Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz 1926-2016

By Richard Titus

The experts have already told us what to think about Fidel, so here are just a few incidents from my personal experience. As a young naval officer I saw Cuba before Fidel took over. At that time Cubans were known as “the Jews of the Caribbean” because of their reputation for being industrious and entrepreneurial. Compared to other Caribbean and Central American nations, Cuba had the appearance of being prosperous and well-managed by dictator Fulgencio Batista. And everywhere in the streets was the infectious Cuban dance music, which has no equal. Overall, a fun place to visit.

However, there was more to the picture. The Cuba portrayed in *The Godfather* – in which American gangsters ran night clubs, gambling, and upscale whore houses for American tourists – resembled what I saw. One night a Havana policeman took some of us on a tour of whore houses, one of which offered an *exhibicion*. Afterward, the cop invited the male star of the show – a man whose member was definitely Guinness-worthy – over to our table for a drink; from the ensuing interaction it appeared that he and the cop were good friends.

In Manzanillo, a port city in the east of the island, a wealthy man invited us to his home for lunch. Right next to his mansion, in the mud, lived a poor family in a thatched hut; he smiled and waved to them, they smiled and waved back. One day the city gave us a reception attended by judges, generals, top politicians, and the wealthy; that evening somebody took us to the most elite whore house in town and the same people were there.... a scene straight out of de Maupassant! (In case anyone is wondering, the role of “john” is not my style and in these visits I was an observer.)

After the Bay of Pigs fiasco, Fidel had a monster rally in Havana to gloat

Voices on the 37

and express his outrage. The radio in Boston carried it. With my limited Spanish I was able to follow much of it, but what I really remember is the power of Fidel’s oratory. I have never heard anything to equal it.

I took a job in Miami a few years after the arrival of the Marielitos. These were the professionals, businessmen, and wealthy who fled to Florida after Fidel took over in Cuba. I knew many of them as co-workers and friends. Some were old but some were young and had lived almost all of their lives in America. Wonderful people. But, if the subject got on to Fidel, it was mandatory to appear to be in agreement with them that Fidel was evil, the devil himself, and it was necessary to remove him so that they could go back to Cuba.

Concerning the early part of Fidel’s story, as the saying goes: “You can’t make this stuff up.” He went into the Oriente hills with 16 people! This kind of heroism is like something out of Don Quixote, except that it was real. As for Fidel’s later life as a politician, there’s another saying: “Be careful what you wish for, you might get it.” For Fidel, overthrowing Batista turned out to be the easy part. 🍷

Holiday Bazaar Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 10 - 11

Three Montebello residents are hosting a special holiday craft event in the Building 3 party room from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

All Montebello residents and friends are welcome to purchase handmade items that are sure to delight and surprise loved ones and friends. Featured items include beautiful professionally crafted jewelry from Lynn Chadwick Designs, custom made gift baskets from Lisa Beheton, and unique door wreaths by Desiree Linson.

Lynn Chadwick specializes in jewelry made of semi-precious stones, copper, silver and handmade glass beads from Europe. Lisa’s custom made bas-

kets are designed to reflect the taste of the receiver. Desiree’s wreaths are made from nature’s perfectly imperfect creations such as pinecones, gumballs from trees, nuts and acorns. – *Desiree Linson*

Activities Committee accepts offers to help

Committee members have been told that individuals outside the Activities Committee (AC) have offered to help with AC events. Unfortunately, the AC does not know how to reach these potential helpers. If you are one of those who would like to help with AC events, please leave your name, phone number, and an email address with Mr. T in the association office. A committee member will contact you. – *Barbara Bieger*

Seeking home stays for Women’s March

On January 21 a Women’s March is planned for Washington, D.C. Thousands of women will be coming from all over the country and world. I am coordinating a Montebello effort. If anyone could offer a free night’s stay to a participant, please let me know at donnysue@gmail.com. – *Sue Allen*

The **MONTEBELLO** **Voice**
MONTEBELLO

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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A thousand words



Mirror image by Azita Mashayekhi

Board re-appoints resident consultants and committee members, QI surveys garner more responses

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Even though a call for more committee participation had gone out, the roster for most of the standing committees and resident consultants will be much the same in the upcoming year.

About two dozen residents attended the Nov. 29 work session. No votes were taken.

The new ad hoc Committee for Cost Savings will have board members Bruce Shaw, Guido Zanni, and John Powers as facilitators. The committee is expected to complete its work in March 2017.

Doug Bernard, Bob Gantt, and board member Bruce Shaw will serve as engineering consultants.

Once again, John Brown will be the graphics and print/electronic media resident consultant.

Information management resident consultant will be Charles (Rod) Cowan.

The former grand piano resident consultant declined to serve and the position is currently open.

The Covenants Committee will be chaired by Chris Low with members Greg Engleking and Joe Riccobono.

Don Hinman will chair the Communications Committee.

The Elections Committee will be chaired by Elaine Miller with Joel Miller as vice-chair; members will be Margaret Chaison, Carol Coyle-Shea, Yo Frommer, JaneAnne Gleason, Carol Hora, Chris Low, William McLaughlin, Terry Nunan, and Shirley Trilling. Board secretary Bonnie Daniel will serve as a liaison.

Maria Moore was appointed chair and Stephen Clark as vice chair of the Finance and Budget Committee.

The Neighborhood Improvement Committee will be chaired again by John Tolleris.

Nancy Vogt will serve as managing editor of *The Times of Montebello* with Donald Barnes, Barbara Boykin, Cerie Kimball, Noel Sipple, Don Trilling, and Jacqueline Woodle on the editorial board.

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association will include Lynn Pascoe on Planning and Zoning Committee with Chris Low as alternate; John Tolleris on Environment and Recreation; and Douglas Bernard on Transportation Committee.

The Quality Improvement Committee again will be chaired by board member Guido Zanni with board colleagues Doug Kleine, Bruce Shaw, and John Powers.

Zanni shared a PowerPoint presentation on the committee's latest accomplishments, which includes four completed 30-second surveys: feedback on board meeting summaries (231 responses), recommending Montebello to others (295 responses), walking trails in woodlands (232 responses), and bulletin boards in garage levels (334 responses). All results with comments are available on the QI section of the association website.

He said future surveys will address customer service, driving on Montebello roads, and evening and nighttime lighting – all hot topic issues for the residents.

Zanni said he was pleased with steady response rate. Because there is no limit on comments, some of them have proved to be insightful for analyzing trends and possibly having focus groups.

The next board meeting will be on Dec. 13. 📅

What would you like for Christmas?

No matter what winter holiday you celebrate (or not), residents are invited to compile their dream wish list for Montebello. Let your neighbors, the board, and management know what changes or improvements you'd like to see in 2017. Send your ideas to The Voice. And as you know, sometimes wishes do come true.

The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you: musings, travels, announcements, photos, book/restaurant/movie reviews, commentary, memoirs, essays, analysis, poems, suggestions, club news, recipes, celebrations, pets, drawings, and free ads
A twice-monthly independent gazette for the residents, by the residents
Catch up on the old editions at
www.montebellovoice.com



Note: On Sept. 14, a panel of international experts, all Montebello residents, discussed how six foreign nations viewed the upcoming presidential election in the United States. Below are post-election analyses from three of the panelists. MK

Ukraine: maintaining territorial integrity

By Andrew Masiuk

The following is an update based on what I read in Ukrainian press and from conversations with my students who are from Ukraine.

The coverage of the U.S. presidential election and its immediate aftermath in the Ukrainian press is not that different from what I read in the U.S. press. The discussions as to who won and who lost, however, are frequently referenced not to party or an individual but to some broader movement that is seemingly gathering steam in Europe, the U.S., and beyond. To many in Ukraine, Russia is a strong promoter of that movement because it represents its values: internal order based on a vertical of power, diversity only if there are designated slots for everyone, a world divided into spheres of power and control, and a strong ME vs. WE.

Since its revolution in 2014, Ukraine has struggled to develop European/Western institutions. Some progress has been made, but there is much more to do. Ukraine feels vulnerable. The question in the Ukrainian press and in the minds of those with whom I speak in Ukraine is: will the U.S. continue to support Ukraine in its quest to maintain its territorial integrity and to fend off Russian aggression. 🇺🇸

Denmark: isolationist movements and international trade

By Jorn Justesen

The reaction from friends and family in Denmark has mostly been one of surprise. Nobody really saw this coming. Aside from that, there are isolationist movements in many countries as a response to the pressures of globalization. The political situation in Great Britain and France is of most immediate concern. International trade may be facing more obstacles, and the EU structure as such may be in danger. 🇺🇸

China: interesting times

By Donald Barnes

The reaction in China to the US presidential election has been more subdued than that in Alexandria, Va. No marches; no celebrations; no threatened mass migrations to North Korea or Russia. Officially, the reaction has been been...well...official, as in “The people have spoken, and congratulations to Mr. Trump.” Unofficially, on one level, the reaction has been similar to ours in America: “Is it really over? Thank goodness!” On another level, there is a mixture of contained glee (“Mrs. Clinton lost!”) and cautioned gloom (“Good Mao, what’s this man likely to do next?”)

Perhaps more revealing to us has been the reaction of visiting Chinese students and first-and second-generation Chinese-Americans. For some, the election has given rise to astonishment and consternation. One acquaintance, lamenting the results, asks how he is going to explain to his young children the election of someone singularly unqualified and disgraceful (in his view) to the highest position in the land. Another is asking for advice about a civil society

organization he can join in order to a) help those who might not do so well in the next administration, b) educate the benighted electorate, and c) do penance for not doing more to prevent this calamity.

On the other hand, the majority of our Chinese-American friends are not surprised. In fact, they tell us that they voted for Trump out of self-interest. Specifically, they see that the policy of affirmative action espoused by the Democrats operates so as to disfavor Asians, compared with some other ethnic groups, blacks and Hispanics, in particular. They believe that a Republican administration will be more characterized as a meritocracy, with considerably less emphasis on “diversity” and “looking like America” and with more emphasis on being a society in which their penchant for hard work and diligence will be rewarded.

Perhaps most disturbing – and surprising – to us has been the gullibility of some ostensibly well-educated Chinese-American friends who fell for “fake news”, a.k.a., premeditated lies. In addition to the excessively plowed ground of emails and groundless Benghazi stories, are some real corkers; e.g;

⚡ Mrs. Clinton being associated with the untimely death of an FBI agent who was about to spill the beans about her connection with ISIS.

⚡ Allegedly well-developed plans by Mrs. Clinton that would unleash massive discrimination against Chinese-Americans.

⚡ Breitbart News is a more reliable, unbiased source of news than *The New York Times*.

In short, we may be subject to the oft-quoted, but mis-attributed Chinese curse: “May you live in interesting times.” 🇺🇸

My mother's Christmas cookies

By Raymond Houck

Every year my mother, Luisa, would continue the family tradition of making Christmas cookies. She would bake wonderful traditional Magyar, German and Austrian cookies and Hungarian Kolachi (nut roll) for her family and friends: her parents and siblings from Hungary, my father's family, and a few of her friends she retained from school days.

Mother started around the middle of October when the days and nights turned cool. She prepared her small kitchen scale and all the ingredients she needed: flour, sugar, butter, eggs, a little honey, walnuts, raisins, apricots and a few seasonings. "Now we begin!" she would announce to my older sisters and me. Our tasks were stirring and kneading the dough, whipping the eggs, rolling and flattening the dough, grinding the walnuts and cutting out the cookie forms. As a 4-year-old I was permitted

to help with these tasks, but for safety's sake, I could not get my little hands in the actual baking process as pots, pans and ovens are hot.

Mother's first cookies each year were gingerbread because they kept the longest. She stored all the cookies in a root cellar in my Grossmutter's (grandmother's) basement among all the jars of apple butter, zucchini, and tomatoes canned earlier in the autumn. During the fall and especially in the winter, the root cellar served as an extra "refrigerator" – back then, something hardly anyone had was a second refrigerator. The cupboard was locked, but the key was left in the lock. It was something a 4-year-old could figure out to his advantage. So, I filched (milder word for stealing) several times, while my mother and Grossmutter had their Kaffeeklatch. I was careful not to take too much, so my misdeeds went on undiscovered (or so I thought). The varieties of cookies grew over the weeks and reached a pinnacle around the beginning of Decem-

ber. For our nearby family and other recipients, mother chose wax paper-lined, decorative bags, and distributed them whenever the occasion lent itself. Despite my sporadic thefts, there was still enough for us! I have never forgotten those cut-out stars, little Christmas trees, triangles filled with nuts and apricots, and figures of angels and Santa Clauses.

My mother's specialty was Eastern European sweet rolls, filled with rich, sweet and creamy fillings. Kolachi is our Old World term for them. Nut rolls are a popular Americanized generic term for these homemade European delicacies. Mom and grandma used to make them for special occasions and the holidays. If you've never heard of nut rolls, please add them to your food bucket list. No matter what you call them, we hope they bring some sweet memories! After all, my mother's baking not only provided a distraction for us during difficult times, but also sweetened our lives as nothing else can. 🍪

Hungarian Kolachi

Yield – four rolls

Dough ingredients

1/4 cup warm water
2 (1/4 ounce) packages dry yeast (not rapid rise)
1 teaspoon sugar
6 1/2 cups flour
3 tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon salt
1 cup butter, melted and cooled
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 cup sour cream

Filling ingredients

1 lb. walnuts, ground fine
1 1/4 cups sugar
1 (12 ounce) can evaporated milk
1 cup breadcrumbs
1/4 cup warm water
1 teaspoon vanilla

Directions

Dissolve yeast and sugar in warm water. Wait until it is activated before adding to dry ingredients.
Mix together the flour, sugar, and salt.
Stir in eggs, melted butter, sour cream and dissolved yeast. Mix well.
Let dough rest for 10 minutes, covered with a mixing bowl with some flour underneath to prevent dough from sticking.
Divide into four equal parts.
Roll out separately onto a floured board into a 14 x 12 rectangle.
Spread with 1/4 of nut mixture and cov-

er dough to within one inch from the edge.

Begin to roll up jelly roll fashion from the 12-inch side.

Seal edge. Tuck ends under. Put seam side down on cookie sheet covered with parchment paper. Cover with a clean cloth.

Continue to roll and fill dough covering each with cloth.

Let rise for one hour or until double in bulk. You can place two rolls on one cookie sheet.

Bake at 325 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until lightly browned.

Transfer to a wire rack and cool.
Can be frozen.

*Do you have a beloved family recipe you'd like to share with your neighbors? Send it to **The Voice**.*





A view from the balcony by Joel Miller

Out & about



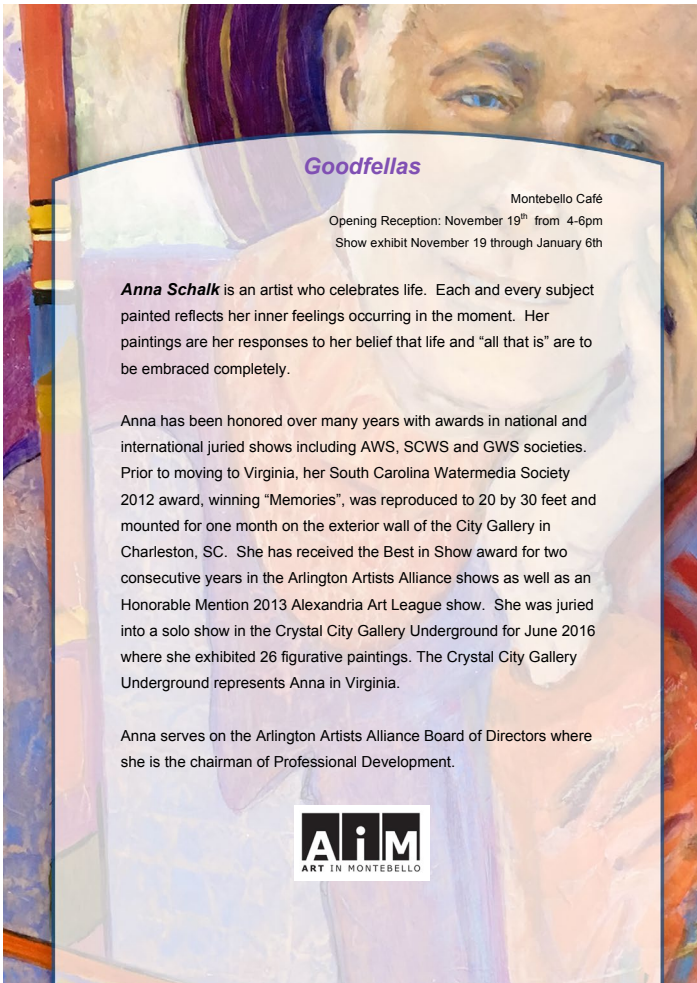
The Montebello Music Club sponsored violinist Peter Haase and pianist Dr. Anna Belakerskaia (above with club president Carla Jones-Batka) on Nov. 20 for a program of Beethoven, Kreisler, Wieniawski, Bartok, and Kroll. The club's next event will be the annual holiday musical program in the Community Center on Dec. 4 at 3 p.m.

Photo by Dian McDonald.

Montebello artist Anna Schalk (below) discusses her new exhibit at the Nov. 26 opening in the Montebello Café. The show, Goodfellas, features portraits of several Montebello men. The Art in Montebello-sponsored show is on view at the café through January 6.



Photo by Joel Miller





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.

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



Mark V. Deal
Music Director

Sunday, December 4th, 3:00 PM

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



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 \$5 Senior Citizen and Military
 Students FREE with paid Adult admission

For Tickets and More Information:
 Email: NationalConcertBand@gmail.com
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nationalconcertband.org



Final glance



Family (bow) ties: Joel Miller with grandson Fielding

Photo by Betsy Miller