

# The **MONTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

we'll always have Paris

February 16, 2017



*Snow and mirror*

*Photo by Azita Mashayekhi*

## Give the ad hoc committee a chance

Ever since Montebello created the Ad Hoc Committee for Cost Savings, there has been a lot of feedback and pushback, in meetings and online. Some meetings have been turned into shouting matches. The arguments and complaints that have been presented essentially boil down to the following:

1. This is the way we've been doing it and we shouldn't be talking about changing things.
2. Actually, the per-owner cost of this activity isn't really very much, so let's not worry about it.
3. We wasted money on the fitness center, so we shouldn't be talking about trying to save money on other things.
4. All this talk about counting how many people actually use something is wrong. It should be available even if almost nobody uses it.
5. You need to find something else to save money on; keep your hands off this thang that I'm interested in.

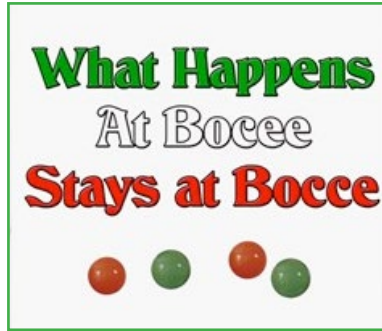
A lot of this resembles how government operates. A group of people, exercising influence disproportionate to their numbers, is able to divert taxpayer dollars toward their special interests. Condominium associations are not immune to similar pressure groups and lobbies, with consequences for condo fees.

Can we please allow our Ad Hoc Committee for Cost Savings to do its work? Let it identify problematic areas, assemble data on utilization and costs, and present its findings and recommendations to the board. The alternative is to forget about cost saving and just watch our condo fees keep going up. – Richard Titus

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

## La Bocce vita

Bocce is the national pastime of France, Italy and South Philly, where I grew up. Just thought you would like to know that a bocce court for Montebello has been thought of before. Ten or more years ago, I proposed that



Montebello install a bocce court. I was supported in this effort by Joe Canevari and Richard Curry, both of whom no longer reside at Montebello. We even had three locations marked out for the bocce court. Obviously we were unsuccessful as Montebello does not have a bocce court. Perhaps it was the cost, which we estimated would be \$60,000 for a 90-foot court using crushed sea shells as the base. Crushed seashell courts are used in official bocce tournaments. A smaller court, 76- or 60- to 70- feet with something other than seashells would be less expensive. However, even a 90-foot court with crushed seashells would be less expensive than our new fitness center.

I fully support the construction of a bocce court at Montebello. Of course there are less expensive ways to construct a bocce court. The link <http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/a16485/how-to-build-a-backyard-bocce-ball-court/> for *Popular Mechanics* suggest that a back yard court can be built for about \$1,500. I believe that this type of court would be more than adequate for Montebello. Since the cost is relatively low, it may be possible to solicit donations to build it just as was done for the café deck. – Joseph de Angelis

## Looking ahead to 2020

About a month ago, *The Washington Post* printed its Best Cartoons Of 2016. One of the cartoons depicted two adjacent storefronts, of the type that political parties open up during election campaigns. The window of one was filled with a sign that said: “Trump, He’s Not Her!” Next door the sign said: “Hillary, She’s Not Him!” Clearly, in the view of this cartoonist, a sort of political Hobson’s Choice was being offered to the voter.

Since the election I, as a lifelong Democrat, have been embarrassed by our party’s whining about the outcome, trying to find someone to blame other than ourselves. The fact is that Mr. Trump is in the White House because of us, not because of the FBI, the Russians, misogyny, etc. The pollsters had



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## voices on the 37

put us on notice that Mrs. Clinton was looking like a very problematic candidate – perhaps the only Democrat who could actually lose to Mr. Trump. (Her negatives have been discussed exhaustively since the election and I won't repeat them here). But, we nominated her anyhow; we thus wound up losing the Presidency, the Senate, the Supreme Court, and State Houses around the country.

The next four years will not be to our liking. However, 2020 will be here before we know it and we'll get another time at bat. Will we once again hand the Presidency to the Republicans? There are attractive progressive Democrats available; will any of them decide to enter the fray? And if they do, will the Democratic establishment give them the support they will need to make it through the primaries?

Recent history doesn't offer a lot of encouragement on either of these questions. But hey, fellow Dems, as we'll see over the next four years, it's kind of important for us to get it right next time!  
– Richard M. Titus

### *Hello, baby!*



### **Zia Maria Olander-Calderón**

*born to Laura Calderón and  
Cody Olander*

*January 28th at 9:05 p.m.*

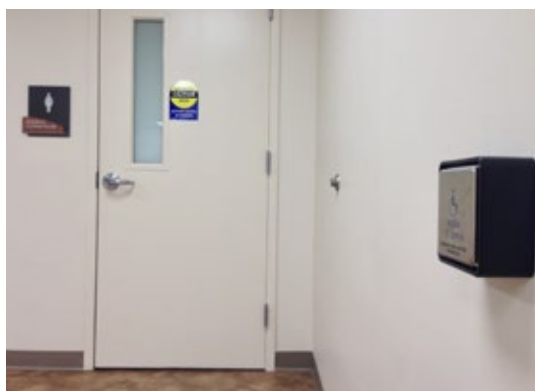
*6 lb. 12 oz. and 20 in long*

*Best wishes to Montebello's  
newest resident and her ecstatic  
sleep-deprived parents!*

### **No news on bulletin boards**

Is this going to become another "swept under the rug" issue? Last September 155 owners submitted a petition to the Board of Directors asking to reinstate bulletin boards in garage-level elevator lobbies. The Quality Improvement Committee followed up on the request with a 30-second survey in December. The survey garnered 332 responses, with 80 people willing to volunteer to maintain the boards. The board briefly discussed survey results at the January 3 work session and agreed to put the issue on a future agenda. It is now the middle of February and bulletin boards are yet to appear on the board's agenda.

Of all the contentious, expensive projects at Montebello, installing a few glass cases to improve the residents' ability to communicate with each other should be a no-brainer. Please, let's not over-think something so simple that would make many people happy. –  
*Mikhailina Karina*



### **New in the community center**

- *A year after remodeling, automatic door openers were placed on the locker room and fitness center doors.*
- *Two automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were installed in the indoor pool and near the café.*
- *The ab and back machine was added to the fitness center.*

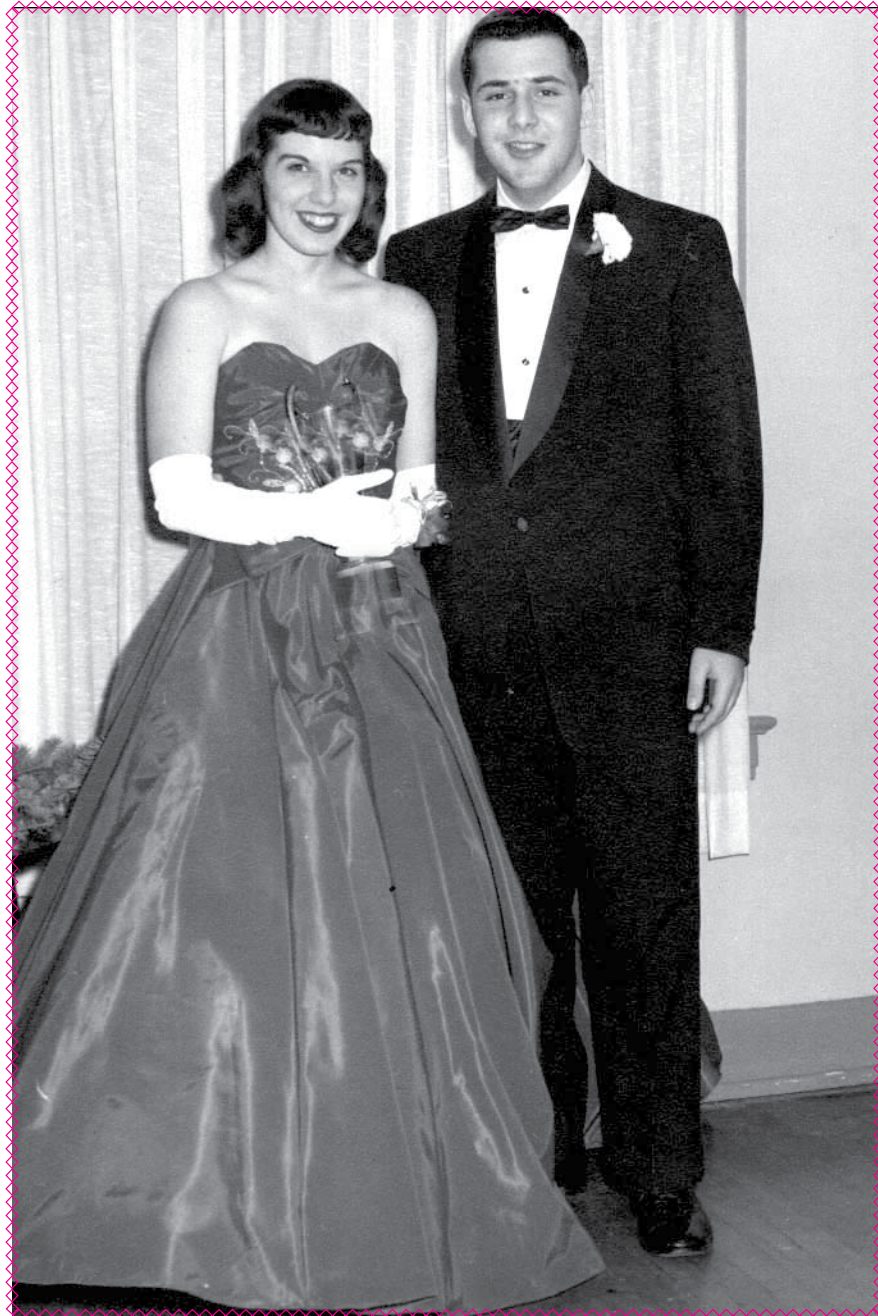


Some Enchanted Evening ... Only it wasn't in the evening, it was just before lunch at the Rockefeller Foundation's Conference Center at Bellagio, Lake Como. But it felt like an enchanted moment when Les appeared in the room where the scholars for the month and their spouses were having drinks before lunch and I felt as if I'd been struck by one of Cupid's arrows. He looked like a combination of Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole in their primes. When we met, I asked the most stupid question imaginable, something like "What do geographers do?" and he gave me his you-are-obviously-a moron look.

O.K., so that was that .....but it wasn't. One day we shared a long walk up from the village and I learned that he was English, raised in Newcastle-on-Tyne, graduated from Durham University, had a Master's degree from Johns Hopkins, as a Fulbright scholar, and a Ph.D. from New Zealand, where he lived and taught for seven years before eventually becoming a professor at the University of Toronto. He was a widower with three children, whom he would meet to ski in Switzerland at the end of his one-month residency at the Center. Before I left that heavenly place, all the residents exchanged addresses, etc. and within a short time, after I had separated from my husband, a situation that had been in the works for months, had a call at the office from Les, who was in town to do some research and could we meet him for dinner. I said "we" could not, but I could, and that began years of commuting from Canada to D.C. and the reverse, as schedules permitted. Eight years later, he took early retirement and I left my job so we could marry and live



near Annapolis on the Chesapeake Bay in a house that welcomed our combined five children, who gave us seven grandchildren while we lived there and visited often, putting our nursery to good use. We loved gardening and entertaining in that wonderful setting and were happy there, as well when we were traveling around the world for long periods, as geographers are wont to do. We had a 40-foot sunroom on the Bay where we danced to our favorite song, "Some enchanted evening." I lost Les to cancer in January 2009 and three years later moved to Montebello, which I think he would have enjoyed, had I been able to tear him away from the Bay, where he thrived on the sunrises and sunsets, the mathematical configurations of the waves, even the excitement of the hurricanes, and planting zinnia seeds in March in our greenhouse. He continued writing his scholarly articles until the end. – *Caryl Pines Curry*



*Elaine and Joel Miller*

*In 1956 he was a Boy Scout and played the clarinet in Winthrop High School Marching Band. She was crazy about men in uniform. (There was a second date).*

# A Groundhog's Day surprise

By Sarah Newcomb

**I**t was a cold, gray Groundhog's Day. Wandering Montebello residents, walking with two small pets, thought they were the only occupants of Mount Eagle Park behind our back gate. Huddled on a bench near the children's play area, they were not alone. It was not Montebello's rolly-polly ground hogs, bearing a weather forecast, that joined them.

Across the quiet field something was slowly moving. As it came closer, residents could see a whitetail doe, leading two females, likely her offspring. The deer picked their way delicately forward: leggy ballerinas *en pointe*, long necks curved, alert heads up, fuzzy elliptical ears cocked for the slightest sound, and gentle brown eyes wide.

Experts tell us whitetails are social animals found in herds. Whitetails do not mate for life. Males and females live largely divided except during breeding season in fall and winter. About seven months later, a doe will give birth to

one to three fawns. A mature buck almost never stays with a "doe unit" such as our small group. Bucks travel alone or band together. The spring fawns will survive eight weeks on their mother's milk. Then the mother will bring them along while she hunts for food. The doe will hide each fawn in a different location to avoid all of her babies being taken by a predator. The fawns then will start to graze with their mother for the next year.

Deer are attracted to Montebello because they eat our plants, fruits, very popular acorns, and nuts. As seasons change, deer switch to eating grass and plants. They survive the winter by eating whatever is available, such as fallen leaves, twigs, bushes, and woody plants. Whitetails bed down in the sunshine of winter days to keep warm, moving at night and dawn.

Whitetails communicate with both vocalizations and scents. Scientists are studying deer communication such as foot stomping, tail flagging, head bobbing, ear twitching, and hoof pawing.

Researchers have found a deer's sense of smell can be anywhere from 500 to 1,000 times more acute than a human's. Scientists say that whitetails have thousands of receptors in their nostrils to sort out up to six smells at one time.

On Groundhog's Day, Montebello residents were close enough to hear social-contact grunts among the does as deer drew closer. Both species gazed curiously into the eyes of the other from a distance of about 24 feet.

For native tribes who lived in our woodlands, the deer was a messenger, an animal of power, and a totem representing sensitivity, intuition and gentleness. One resident was lucky enough to get a photo of the Groundhog's Day group. He remarked on what a great property Montebello is, allowing residents to step outside and enjoy sights like this one. Driving to and from work, please be alert for our whitetails, who may accidentally cross long or short Mt. Eagle Drive while foraging at dusk or dawn. 📷

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## Board announces retreat, will receive reports on committee participation and cost savings

By Mikhailina Karina

**T**he board's focus on improving customer service will be addressed at the annual Board of Directors' retreat on March 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in party room 3. All residents are welcome to listen to the discussion and will have a chance to speak at the end.

The February 13 board meeting, attended by 20 residents, did not include any debates and all votes on administrative decisions were unanimous.

In his report for the Quality Improvement Committee, board member Guido Zanni said the recent nighttime lights 30-second survey had netted 324 responses. He also plans to assemble a focus group to discuss the results of last

month's driver safety survey.

In keeping with the customer service theme, Zanni said a future 30-second survey will address residents' satisfaction with Montebello's service providers: café, store, salon, landscaping, and lifeguards.

Also, before the retreat, he plans to complete the root cause analysis report on the residents' low rate of participation on committees.

Echoing his words, Board member and liaison to the Activities Committee Lauren Pierce asked Zanni to prepare a 30-second survey focusing on what types of activities the residents would like to see at Montebello. While the various events have "wonderful attendance," she said, not too many people want to serve

on the Activities Committee.

After three well-attended and reportedly lively meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee for Cost Savings will present its draft report to the board at the February 28 meeting, said board member John Powers. Committee's next meeting will take place on February 22 in party room 3 at 7 p.m.

The board began discussing the replacement of the rotten wooden stairs in the woodlands behind Building 1, but decided to postpone it until gathering more information about replacements for a better handrail. The board agreed that an absence of the Planning & Design Committee complicates matters dealing with function and aesthetics. 📷

# Capturing the extraordinary

By Azita Mashayekhi

**O**n my 20th anniversary at Montebello, I am exhilarated to share my photos with fellow neighbors in this wonderful community. The exhibit opened last Saturday, on February 11, and will come down on March 17. We had



## Azita raffles off one of her photographs

overflowing attendance and quite a lot of fun, including a raffle of some photos not on display.

The reasons for the name of the show, “Extraordinary Ordinary, A Photography Medley,” is that I take photos of things I come across in my daily life, yet they seem extraordinary when shot in a certain way. Medley refers to the mix of styles (abstract and realist), close-up or not, and the variety of media on which I print. Ordinary is also the fact that I take my photos with the Samsung Galaxy S series phone and edit them for color and contrast with the phone’s built-in editor.

I have been exhibiting in the Washington area since late 2014 at two galleries and at various events, including at two AiM group shows.

What prompted my foray into art a few years ago was the passing of my oldest brother due to illness. I needed beauty and peace, and art was the an-

swer. I started to take photos with my phone around the Capitol Hill near my office, and took abstract painting classes at the Art League in Alexandria. That, in turn, influenced my photography.

Once I printed my photos, I discovered the full attraction of the images previously confined to a phone or computer screen.

Also, I’ve been exploring new

materials for printing the photos. I have printed on metal (aluminum), canvas, paper (framed, standout), wood, and on glass. I choose a medium based on the look and feel I want to convey with the image. But art is indeed in the eye of the beholder, and that is one reason I love it.

The exhibit includes one photo, printed on wood, of the woods seen from Mount Eagle Drive. I also raffled off a photo I took last fall (*right, above*). We have beautiful grounds and I have



many more photos of Montebello. I hope we can do a group show of Montebello photos next year.

I’d love to hear from you if you would like to talk or see more or purchase a photo. I can print it on your choice of material.

You can reach me at [azitaphotography@gmail.com](mailto:azitaphotography@gmail.com). My website is [www.azitaphotography.com](http://www.azitaphotography.com), and Azita Photography on Facebook, and Azita Mashayekhi on Instagram. 📷

## Photos by Joel Miller



I am a child of the '80s. My family came to the United States in the summer of 1979, when I was 11 years old. Subsequently, my formative high school and college years were, for better or for worse, shaped by that decade's peculiar popular culture. And for whatever reason, the '80s is still the go-to decade for theme parties replete with colorful costumes, electronic music, and classic films.

As I contemplated what could possibly unite Montebello's many generations and cultural tastes, I decided that taking a trip down memory lane would be an awesomely tubular idea. So I came up with Decades, a long-term project to attract and involve every segment of Montebello's population by hosting themed events that celebrate our multigenerational community.



Instead of isolated dance parties, each Decades event will be a multi-day celebration of a particular decade with films, games, displays, and activities.

The idea is to share our personal experiences as we relive those memories and introduce them to younger generations. These community-building events will provide a wide variety of activities: physical, intellectual, and social to involve people who may not attend many events.

The '80s is a good time and place to start because it was so loud, colorful, in-your-face, and FUN. The same concept can be repeated with other decades, moving backward as far as the '40s.

I am grateful to the Activities Committee for their support and assistance in putting on this four-day extravaganza of games, music, dancing, and family-friendly movies. I hope this event is a resounding success with more Decades celebrations in the years to come. —  
*Mikhailina Karina*

**March 9**  
**Game night**

**'80s board games**

**Bring your favorite board games**

**7 to 10**

**Community Center Lounge**



**9 a.m.**

**10:30 a.m.**

**1 p.m.**

**3:05 p.m.**

**5 p.m.**

**6:45 p.m.**

**8:35 p.m.**

**March 12**

**'80s movie marathon**

**9 to 9**

**Party Room tbd**

**Airplane!**

**Indiana Jones & the Raiders of the Lost Ark**

**E. T. the Extra-Terrestrial**

**The Princess Bride**

**Bill and Ted's Excellent Adventure**

**When Harry Met Sally**

**The Breakfast Club**



**March 10**

**Karaoke!**

**7 to 10**

**Community Center Lounge**



**March 11**

**Dance Party in '80s outfits**

**8 to 11**

**Community Center Lounge**





# Women power


By Virginia Nickich

Empowering women through service and advocacy is the mission of the Zonta clubs around the world. Most folks have never heard of Zonta International or our local club, Zonta Club of Arlington with members from Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, and as far as Ashburn. Zonta is an Indian word meaning “honest and trustworthy.”

We are 30,000 women in 66 countries with a common goal of working together to improve the lives of women and girls, expand their access to education, health care, economic opportunities, and safe living conditions. This is a non-political organization. Chapters work with local organizations that assist families who have been in abusive situations, work to stop human trafficking, and offer education to promote girls and women in a safe environment.

The Zonta Club of Arlington supports Doorways, the Arlington Food Assistance Program, Girls On The Run (an organization for young teen girls) and offers a scholarship to a graduate nursing student. We meet once a month in a restaurant, combining a social atmosphere while holding our business meetings. Members do what they can when they can, but participation is always fun and satisfying.

On Saturday, March 18, we will have our annual fundraising event, “A Morning For Me” from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Marymount University in Arlington. Come out for a fun morning with your girlfriends, daughters, mothers and like-minded women to hear helpful ideas to manage your finances, simple ways to live healthier, and the latest in today’s anti-aging for your skin and body.

For more information on the Zonta Club of Arlington, check us out on Facebook or contact me at virginiaroseyoga@aol.com or call 516-459-8504. 



WE’VE COME A LONG WAY - CONTINUE THE JOURNEY  
WITH THE ZONTA CLUB OF ARLINGTON’S WOMEN’S SEMINAR  
A MORNING FOR ME!

TICKETS ON SALE—RESERVE YOUR PLACE



## A MORNING FOR ME!

SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2017

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Continental  
Breakfast

Marymount University  
Gerard Hall  
2807 North Glebe Road  
Arlington VA 22207  
(Free Parking - Blue Garage)

Basket Raffles

Admission: \$35 Tickets  
(\$25 of admission is tax deductible)

Purchase tickets: Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/zonta-club-of-arlington-area-12805760201>

Or email: [Zontaevent17@gmail.com](mailto:Zontaevent17@gmail.com)  
or call Virginia Nickich (cell: 516-459-8504)

### DISCOVER NEW TOOLS:

- To Make The Most Of Your Finances
- To Optimize Your Health Awareness
- To Nurture Your Skin And Body

Hear helpful ideas to manage your finances, simple ways to live healthier, and the latest in today’s anti-aging for your skin and body.

*The Zonta Club of Arlington Area is a not-for-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Fed.ID#54-6044411).*

Zonta Club of Arlington Area  
P.O. Box 6825  
Arlington VA 22206

Our Club: [www.zontaarlingtonarea.org](http://www.zontaarlingtonarea.org)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/ZontaClubArlingtonArea](https://www.facebook.com/ZontaClubArlingtonArea)  
Zonta International: [www.zonta.org](http://www.zonta.org)



On February 8, about 30 residents gathered in party room 4 to write postcards expressing their concerns to elected officials. The loosely organized group, made up of Democrats and progressives, plans more grass-roots activities in the future.

Carole Appel (left) writes postcards to Virginia’s congressional delegation.

## cup of joe



*On February 4, Montebello's Women's Club (top group photo) hosted the monthly Cup of Joe. Nearly 100 neighbors gathered to nosh on treats and chat.*

*George Gardner (left), Montebello's new general manager, spoke about his goals for the community.*

*Photos by Dian McDonald*

# cup of joe



## final glance



*Paper, scissors, rock*

*Photo by Joel Miller*