

# The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

see the world

November 16, 2017



Regular Breakfast		Regular Breakfast	
LATTERS			
PORTABELLO SANDWICH	\$2.50	CAFFINOCCHI LATTE	\$2.50
WALFISH SANDWICH	\$2.50	FLAT WHITE	\$2.50
EGG LATTE	\$2.50	MOCHA	\$2.50
EGG MUFFIN	\$2.50	AMERICANO	\$2.50
SPINACH MUSHROOM	\$2.50	TEA	\$2.50
PASTRY	\$2.00	SHRIMP	\$2.50
COKE WATER JUICE	\$1.00	HOT CHOCOLATE	\$2.50
WATER	\$1.00	CHOCOLATE	\$2.50

Kape Barako  
ICE LATTE 2<sup>50</sup>  
SANDWICH 3<sup>50</sup>  
FLAT WHITE 2<sup>50</sup>  
LATTE 2<sup>50</sup>  
HOT CHOC 2<sup>30</sup>  
PASTRY 2<sup>00</sup>



## Sign up for December electronics recycling

By *Sophie and Sarah Myers*

As promised, our next recycling date is December 2. We are available to pick up items from your units on Friday, 12/1 between 4 and 5 p.m., or Saturday, 12/2, between 10 and 11 a.m.

If you are not available at those times, you may leave the items in front of your door and we will pick them up, or you are welcome to drop them off at our unit 2-615. Please make sure they are clearly marked with your name and unit number.

We accept all electronic and hazardous household items that Fairfax County recycles (and that fit in our van): electronics such as computers, TVs, phones, printers, cords, etc., and fluorescent light bulbs, rechargeable batteries (not alkaline, which must be disposed of in the trash), paint, solvents, articles that contain mercury, fire extinguishers, and aerosol cans. For hazardous items, please make sure items are sealed and contents are marked.

To sign up, contact us at [montebello\\_cycles@icloud.com](mailto:montebello_cycles@icloud.com).

## Chess Club game nights holiday season schedule update

By *Lisa Stedje*

November's event will not be held on the usual fourth Thursday of the month in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday. Instead, the November event will be held on Thursday, November 30th (CC card room, 7-9:30 p.m. latest).

December's event is cancelled in honor of the December holidays.

The Chess Club will resume its regular schedule in January 2018, ringing in a new year of chess starting on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

Happy Holidays from the Chess Club!

## voices on the 37

### Women's Club Lunch and Speaker

*The Department of State  
Civil Service/Foreign Service  
Missions & Memories*  
**Monica Sangbong**

Friday, November 17 at noon  
Community Center Lounge  
Lunch: \$10 (includes tax + gratuity)  
The Café is preparing a buffet lunch.

RSVP to Guin Jones [Gjones5@aol.com](mailto:Gjones5@aol.com).

## Have you ever slept on the street?

By *Karen Barnes*

Probably not. But more than 1,000 children, women and men in Fairfax County face such a situation today.\* And the temperatures are dropping.

This winter, the Hypothermia Prevention Program of Fairfax County, operated by four non-profits – utilizing more than 2,000 volunteers – will serve these people. They will provide food and shelter December 1 – March 31. The nearest hypothermia shelter to Montebello is a 25-bed emergency winter shelter program located at Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church at 8220 Russell Rd. in Alexandria. The program is coordinated by New Hope Housing and staffed largely through volunteers.

If you are interested in finding out more about helping, send an email to [HelenLounsbury@yahoo.com](mailto:HelenLounsbury@yahoo.com) or call 703-3466-4401.

\*[<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>]

## Another news source

By *Mikhailina Karina*

I recently discovered the Covering the Corridor website, which reports news that happen outside our gate. According to the site's About page, it is created by Phil Creed, whose goal is “to provide accurate and timely local news that specifically applies to residents of Richmond Highway. The southeast Fairfax area is rich in history and full of diverse communities that deserve to be covered more closely, and this site aims to be your go-to source for the latest news and information.”

Check it out at [coveringthecorridor.com](http://coveringthecorridor.com).

### On the cover:

*I came upon Kape Barako, a coffee kiosk, in Hampstead, London. It's a repurposed iconic red telephone "box" which are now defunct throughout Britain. – Leslee Levy*  
*Enjoy more food-related art at the upcoming AiM group show in the café*

**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, contact [montebellovoice@cox.net](mailto:montebellovoice@cox.net) or visit on the web at [www.montebellovoice.com](http://www.montebellovoice.com).*

*Editor & Designer.....Mikhailina Karina*  
*Contributors.....Karen Barnes,  
Guin Jones, Leslee Levy, Azita Mashayekhi,  
Andrew Masiuk, Sophie and Sarah Myers,  
Lisa Stedje*

# The salutatorian

By Guin Jones

*This is a copy of the piece I wrote about my sister. It was written to my daughter, Jenny. I recently traveled to Melba's home in New Jersey and read it to her on her birthday.*

Dearest Jenny,

When I was in second grade in 1953, my sister, Melba, graduated from E. E. Smith High School at the age of 15 in Henderson, North Carolina, where my father had been Academic Dean at Kittrell College. Melba had entered first grade when she was five years old and completed the second and third grades (probably in a combination class) at six. After my family moved to Fayetteville, where I was born in 1944, she entered fourth grade at seven years old. My parents, who were both teachers, thought that if she could do the work, why not allow her to advance and take a more challenging course of study. At that time, limited options existed for students who



*In celebration of my sister's 80th birthday  
August 14, 1937*

had mastered grade-level content and school systems did not provide for students who were considered gifted and talented.

lege, in Petersburg, Virginia. Melba decided to attend that college, as well. My mother had also attended Virginia State in 1927-28 and had received the Virginia State teacher's certificate or license.

As your aunt prepared for high school graduation, she learned that she had earned the grade-point average which qualified her to be honored as salutatorian of her class, the graduate with the second highest academic record. This was amazing in and of itself, but truly extraordinary for

*Her graduation was pivotal not only in her life, but also in your Uncle Ken's and in mine. Her stellar achievement was treated with awe by my parents and their contemporaries in this college-centered town. This event defined the moment when I identified the value of being smart with having its own aura.*

Your Aunt Melba was an exceptional English student and a voracious reader. Throughout her teen years, she worked in the college library at Fayetteville State College during summers. One of her closest friends graduated one year before her and entered Virginia State Col-

someone who was only 15 years of age. She was also honored with the English Award, which recognized her as the student who had earned the highest average in English over all four years in high school.

Graduation day was amazing. I remember that Melba wrote, practiced, and even memorized her welcome address (traditionally assigned to salutatorians). I was nervous for her, but of course, she delivered it beautifully. I was so proud of her. I think, I can remember where we were seated in the audience. Her graduation was pivotal not only in her life, but also in your

*Melba, Guin,  
and Ken*





Uncle Ken's and in mine. Her stellar achievement was treated with awe by my parents and their contemporaries in this college-centered town. This event defined the moment when I identified the value of being smart with having its own aura. At school, my teachers knew about and spoke of her outstanding accomplishments. Everyone thought I was special too – because of her.

As I entered ninth grade many years later, I secretly planned to try for the English Award. Well, after one year, I clearly knew that receiving that honor was not probable. Even though I was a good student and did graduate with honors, I was far from being a straight A student in English or in anything else.

In a boarding school in Augusta, Georgia, my mother and father had both been valedictorians of their respective high school classes (1924 and 1925), studious throughout their lives, and expected that we would do well on

our own volition, absent of any vigorous motivation on their part – they thought we should simply DO IT.

I met these expectations in general, but never had my sister's level of persistence and determination. I never self-imposed pressure nor was pressure imposed upon me to be as smart – as anyone. I did what had to be done to earn a respectable level of achievement.

During my high school years, teachers still remembered her and often called me Melba, but I never minded this mistake. First of all, I knew that they were calling on me. Second, I was pleased that they remembered my sister, and third, I was happy to be identi-



*Guin with Jenny in front the Guin's Heritage Wall with family diplomas*

fied with her.

I believe that one of the most significant events that marked my early development was your Aunt Melba's graduation.

Love,

Mom 📧

## Reflecting on the revolution

*By Andrew Masiuk*

November 7 of this year marks the hundredth anniversary of the Russian revolution. Forty years ago, I was one of two faculty to take a group of 22 Colgate University students to the USSR for a two-month study program. In terms of studying the Russian language, the program was excellent. In terms of exposing American students to Soviet culture, the second stated objective of the program, there were some unintended lessons. Let me share two.

One student was a Yankees fan. His dad promised to write on all the days that the Yankees were playing and to include the box score clipped from the newspaper. The letters started coming, one almost every day, but not clippings even though dad said: "I am enclosing the box score." The

student brought that to my attention and I referred him to our program administrator. "Whatever your father has put in the envelope is what you have,"



was the explanation. The next day the students attended a lecture on Soviet economics. "In the USSR, unlike in the U.S., there is no unemployment" was one of the comments made by the presenter. At this point, the Yankee fan

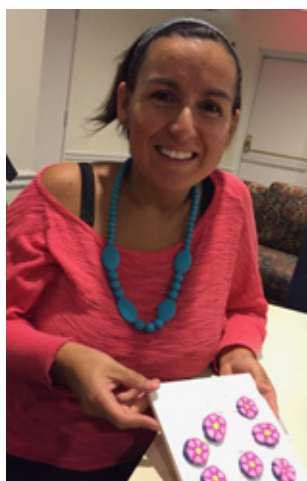
raised his hand and commented, "If we in the U.S. hired people to open all mail and take out newspaper clippings, we would also have no unemployment."

The other unintended cultural lesson occurred in the Museum of the Revolution. One of the students was an admirer of Leon Trotsky. After some time in the museum, he approached me, "Trotsky was a major figure in the revolution, was he not?" "Yes," I replied. "Well, he is not here," the student said. "Why don't you ask one of the museum guides?" I suggested. As the student approached the official, I moved to be within the earshot. "All persons who had a role in the revolution are here. If who you are looking for is not here, he had no relationship to the revolution," said the guide and walked away.

Forty years later I am seeing some of this culture in the United States. 📧



*Polymer clay workshop  
November 8*







Photos by Mikhailina Karina  
The Montebello Voice

# Board passes budget, seeks new landscaping contractor, approves fee schedule, and finalizes data comm contract

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Without much discussion or comments from the two dozen people in attendance, the board sped through a packed agenda with unanimous votes on a number of financial and policy decisions. Two directors, Bonnie Daniel and Lauren Pierce, were absent; director Guido Zanni was on the phone.

The 2018 budget for \$8,737,035, as unanimously recommended by the Budget and Finance Committee, was approved by the board. It includes a \$2,470,000 Reserve contribution that results in a 3.918 percent increase in condo fees. “The real driver here is reserves,” said board treasurer Doug Kleine. “We need to meet our capital needs.” Last year, condo fees went up by 3.9 percent as well.

Board president Greg Bender said he was in the process of “dotting i’s and crossing t’s” for the Data Communication Network Replacement Project, which costs approximately \$1.1 million and will be funded by the Replacement Reserve account. This project has been under discussion for nearly two years. The contractor will be announced after the contract is signed.

In other contract news, Bender said management would be “re-bidding the landscape ground maintenance contract” that has left many people dissatisfied with the current provider’s services.

The board also approved the 2018 fee schedule (see graphic) for association services.

In an effort to improve Montebello’s security, Bender said management is working with county emergency services to develop procedures for dealing with active shooters or earthquakes. Building 4 had its first fire drill last week, he said, and more fire drills on the weekends and at nighttime will be conducted in other buildings.

Director Lynn Tjeerdsma reported that the front gate pansies recently “decimated” by the flower-munching deer have been replaced. Currently, six deer make their home on the property, Bender said. “We are looking at a variety of humane options to control them.”

At their last meeting, the Activities Committee unanimously agreed to nominate Tillie Cassidy for the chairmanship, current committee chair, Barbara Bieger said. “Tag, you’re it,” Bender responded. Cassidy is expected to be officially nominated in January.

A new ad hoc committee will spearhead the effort to promote Montebello to potential buyers. The aptly named Promoting Montebello committee will be chaired by director Raymond Goodrich with director Zanni, as well as residents Peter Aliferis, Bonnie Jacobs, and Joe Riccobono. General manager George Gardner will be the committee’s non-voting member.

With an initial budget of \$15,000, the committee’s mandate is to “promote Montebello’s image to the outside world in general and specifically to the pool of potential buyers for the purpose of enhancing unit owners’ equity.” This will be achieved through a variety of marketing campaigns and social media

<b>Montebello</b> Condominium Unit Owners Association	
<b>Administrative Resolution #51 Fee Schedule - Fees for Calendar Year 2018</b>	
<b>1 Administrative Fees</b>	
1-1 Move In (administrative fee)	\$100.00
1-2 Move Out (administrative fee)	\$100.00
1-3 Internal Move (administrative fee)	\$100.00
1-4 Lease Fee (only for new renters moving in)	\$50.00
1-5 Lease Amendment (only for additions to or changes of the occupants of a unit)	\$50.00
1-6 Additional Resident (administrative fee)	\$50.00
1-7 Garage Space Transfer Fee	\$50.00
1-8 Relocate Unit Boundaries Fee (no document combining units)	\$50.00
<b>2 Refundable/Nonrefundable</b>	
2-1 Service Elevator, Primary Use, Non Refundable (per hour/day)	\$25.00/\$100.00
2-2 Service Elevator, Refundable Cash Deposit (providing no damage or rules violation)	\$200.00
2-3 Community Center, Reservation Fee, Non-Refundable	\$100.00
2-4 Community Center, Deposit, Refundable (providing no damage or rules violations)	\$250.00
2-5 Party Room Fee, Non-Refundable	\$50.00
2-6 Party Room Deposit, Refundable (providing no damage or rules violations)	\$150.00
2-7 Estate Sale Open to Public, Non-Refundable, Administrative Fee	\$100.00
2-8 Estate Sale Open to Public, Refundable Deposit (providing no damage or rules violations)	\$200.00
<b>3 Documentation</b>	
3-1 Resale Documents (normal 14 day delivery - Includes Inspection)	\$200.00
3-2 Resale Documents (expedited 5 business days added to above)	\$50.00
3-3 Mortgage/Refinance Questionnaire	\$50.00
3-4 Bylaws or Rules and Regulations, Replacement or Additional Copy (available free on line)	\$25.00
3-5 Copy Items at the Office (per page - non-association business)	\$0.25
3-6 Color copies (per page - non-association business)	\$0.50
<b>4 Replacement Fees</b>	
4-1 Mailbox Lock (replacement)	\$35.00
4-2 Proximity (Access) Card (replacement)	\$35.00
4-3 I.D. Card Replacement/Guest Pass/Pool Pass	\$25.00
4-4 Common Area & Storage Room Keys (replacement or addition)	\$35.00
4-5 Genie Fee (new/replacement), Non-Refundable	\$80.00
<b>5 Service</b>	
5-1 After Hours Lockout Fee (when front desk is not open and/or no convenience key is available during business hours)	\$50.00
5-2 Emergency Service (before 8:30 a.m., after 4:00 p.m., weekends, holidays, per man hour)	\$50.00
5-3 In-Unit Service Program (duty hours M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. per ea 1/2 hour per man)	\$25.00
5-4 Staff Fee for Unusual Incidents (up to a per hour rate of; charge depending upon level of Staff required [GM, AGM, FPM, etc.])	\$75.00/\$50.00
<b>6 Other</b>	
6-1 Pet Registration Fee	\$25.00
6-2 Pet Tag Replacement	\$15.00
6-3 Personal Use Lockers (per year)	\$30.00
* Garage transfer fee is currently under review, and it will be updated once the review process is completed	
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efforts “to compete with condos sprouting out there,” Bender said.

The next board work session will take place on November 28; the next board meeting will be on December 12. 📅

*Have you seen the bulletin boards on the B-3 levels? Many residents have been posting ads for sale, promoting services, or seeking help. Only Montebello residents are allowed to post notices, which go down at the end of each month.*







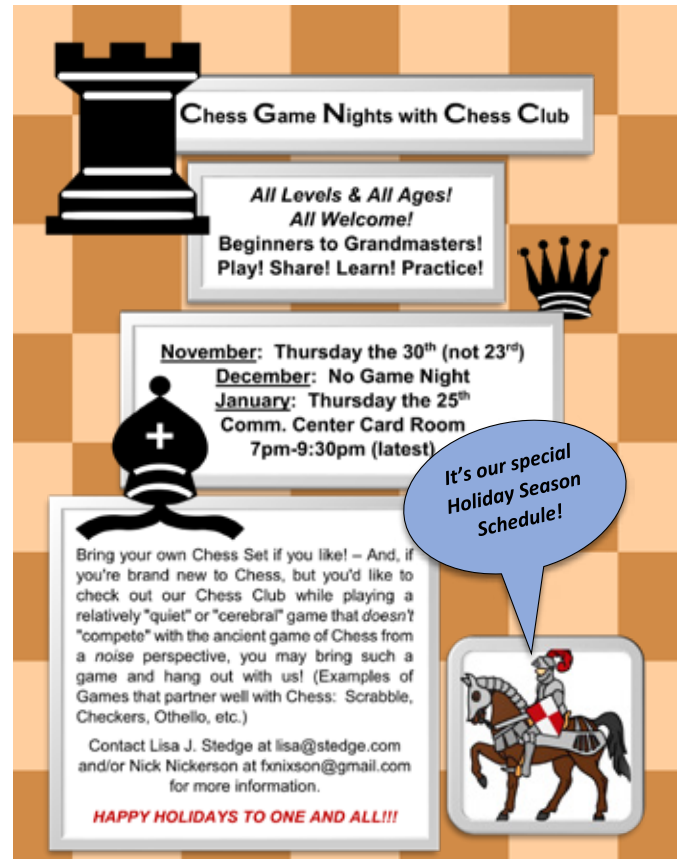
## coming attractions

Ten Montebello artists present their work

# food



**Opening Reception**  
**Montebello Cafe**  
**Saturday, November 18,**  
**4 - 6 p.m.**  
**Complimentary snacks**  
**and cash bar**

**Chess Game Nights with Chess Club**

*All Levels & All Ages!*  
*All Welcome!*  
**Beginners to Grandmasters!**  
**Play! Share! Learn! Practice!**


**November: Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> (not 23<sup>rd</sup>)**  
**December: No Game Night**  
**January: Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup>**  
**Comm. Center Card Room**  
**7pm-9:30pm (latest)**

Bring your own Chess Set if you like! – And, if you're brand new to Chess, but you'd like to check out our Chess Club while playing a relatively "quiet" or "cerebral" game that doesn't "compete" with the ancient game of Chess from a noise perspective, you may bring such a game and hang out with us! (Examples of Games that partner well with Chess: Scrabble, Checkers, Othello, etc.)


Contact Lisa J. Stedge at [lisa@stedge.com](mailto:lisa@stedge.com) and/or Nick Nickerson at [fnixson@gmail.com](mailto:fnixson@gmail.com) for more information.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL!!!**

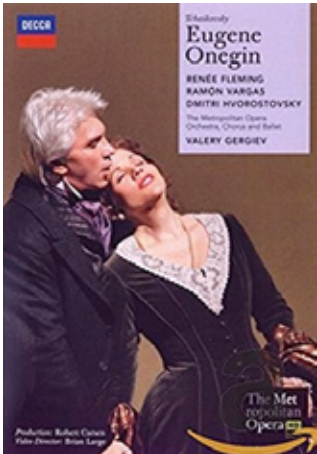
*It's our special Holiday Season Schedule!*



**Invite you to our screening**



**EUGENE ONEGIN**  
**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16 7 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2**



The Montebello Music Club and the AiM Montebello Film society are happy to announce a screening of the Metropolitan Opera's 2007 production of Tchaikovsky's opera "Eugene Onegin," starring Renée Fleming, Dmitri Hvorostovsky and Ramon Vargas, conducted by Valery Gergiev. The opera is based on the famous epic poem by Alexander Pushkin. According to a critic in Mostly Opera, "This is without doubt the most exciting performance I have seen from the Metropolitan Opera, in addition to being one of the best operatic DVDs ever to have been issued. They have superb chemistry on stage and the final scene is simply unforgettable."

Caryl Curry will introduce the film, which runs 2 1/2 hours, plus 10-minute intermission.

**Please note earlier starting time**



**Invite you to our film & discussion**



**BEING THERE**  
**THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2**



Peter Sellers plays a simple-minded gardener named Chance who has spent all his life in the Washington, D.C. house of an old man. When the man dies, Chance is put out on the street with no knowledge of the world except what he has learned from television. After a run-in with a limousine, he ends up a guest of a woman, Eve, and her husband, Ben, an influential but sickly businessman. Now called Chauncey Gardner, Chance becomes friend and confidante to Ben, and an unlikely political insider.

Joel Miller will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion

# montebello marketplace



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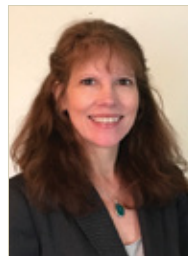
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My services include dog-walks, cat-care, pet feeding and playtime, kitty litter clean-up, giving meds and other special requests.

I send brief reports to pet-owners via text or email after each visit.

My rates are competitive. Checks are accepted as well as cash.

References from Montebello clients can be provided on request.

I've been a Montebello owner/resident in Bldg. #2 since 2005.

From 2012 to 2016, I served as Montebello Pet Club Coordinator.

**CONTACT: Deborah Rowell.**

Cell Phone/Text: **703-283-2666**

Email: [CompassionatePetServices@gmail.com](mailto:CompassionatePetServices@gmail.com)

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## final glance



*Capitol colors*

*By Azita Mashayekhi*