

The **MONTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

let it shine

November 30, 2017



Photo by Dian McDonald

An invitation to join The Wolfe Pack

By Arnie Haiman

I belong to The Wolfe Pack, an organization dedicated to the Nero Wolfe murder mysteries, authored by the late Rex Stout. Like the Baker Street Irregulars and the Sherlockians in their dedication to Sherlock Holmes, the Wolfe Pack features book discussions, literary contests, as well as gatherings focused on food featured in the corpus of Wolfe stories.

There have been two recent television series featuring Nero Wolfe and his sidekick, Archie Goodwin, as well as old radio shows and movies. The books were popular for four decades spanning the middle of the 20th century.

All you need to know is that Wolfe is a genius, prefers to stay at home supervising his private chef and tending to his orchids, but Archie can be relied on to bring him cases to solve. Critics credit Stout with creating not one, but two strong characters, unlike the Holmes/Watson or Poirot/Hastings combination.

The local chapter meets for lunch and discussion every other month. Feel free to contact me at haimanarnold@yahoo.com for further information. You can also go to my website, www.Arnold-Haiman.com to read my Nero Wolfe stories. Comments are welcome.



Cityscape over balcony flower

Photo by Joel Miller

Chess Club game nights holiday season schedule update

By Lisa Stedje

December's event is cancelled in observance 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!

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 or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.

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The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you: musings, travels, announcements, photos, book reviews, commentary, memoirs, essays, analysis, poems, suggestions, club news, recipes, and free ads

A twice-monthly publication for the residents, by the residents

Emergency preparedness for Montebello residents

By John Powers

Many thanks to Erwin Jacobs for his timely piece in *The Voice* (Emergency and disaster planning for residents, November 2.) The right response would be to go to <https://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit> and build an emergency kit.

The essentials indicated there include: one gallon of water per person per day for at least three days, (for drinking and sanitation); a three-day supply of non-perishable food; a NOAA Weather Radio; flashlight; first aid kit; extra batteries; N-95 mask; moist towelettes for personal sanitation, and other items.

I would double the amount of water, but the above will cover most conventional contingencies. There are emergency LED lamps that are infinitely superior to flashlights. In addition, please consider:

✓ An emergency generator, a can of oil, an empty gas can, a siphon to get gas from your gas tank and a 100-foot electric extension cord. This will sustain

your food in your refrigerator plus other functions. A generator would have to be run on the balcony with the door closed.

✓ A hot plate if you have an emergency generator or a camp stove and a propane tank if not.

✓ Multiple comforters or sleeping bags for use during extremely cold weather.

✓ A fuel level in your car that is half full or more (one of the major causes of the 1973 gasoline shortages was that the average automobile had only 3/8th of a tank of gas when the embargo was announced. Everyone then rushed to fill up, totally depleting gasoline supplies).

The above should handle most conventional contingencies, including an earthquake that does not seriously damage the buildings, wind storm or a snowmageddon that downs power lines and possibly contaminates our water supplies (which occurred extensively in hurricane Andrew). A local terrorist event including a chemical, non-contagious biological and radiological incident will cause huge concerns, but should not overwhelm our supporting structures.

Our major concern should be a nuclear incident. This is the only contingency that will disrupt the Western economies. We should not worry about a North Korean missile attack, as a nuclear missile has a return address, but we should be concerned about a full up weapon diverted from a weapons compound or giv-

en to a terrorist. I spent six of the last nine years working with Department of Defense and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence on reducing the threat of a nuclear incident, plus two additional years working with the leadership in New York City and contiguous counties and in Washington, D.C., on responding to a nuclear incident (I had some considerable success in the former and almost no success in the latter).

There are four credible targets for someone with a nuclear weapon and these are New York City, D.C., Los Angeles, and Chicago. We are far enough away from D.C. that we should be immune from the blast and thermal effects. We could have some window breakage that would not be good if the winds are from the north-northwest to the east-northeast. Avoiding radiation exposure in this case may require remaining in the center of the building for an extended period. If you are interested in my 2011 keynote in Toronto see: http://present.knowledgevision.com/account/divbusiness/link/John_Powers_WCDM2011.

Whenever I give a presentation like this, I always emphasize a concern about the indirect effects that will seriously disrupt our supply chains, especially for those sectors dependent on just-in-time-delivery. As a consequence, I strongly recommend anyone requiring life-sustaining medications to get a full month's supply in addition to the normal replenishment to be used as a rolling supply. If you have additional thoughts or concerns, please let me know. 📧



Pianist Christopher Schmitt performed pieces by Bach, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff, Liszt, and Chopin. The November 26 concert in the community center was sponsored by The Montebello Music Club and Mount Vernon at Home.

Photo by Dian McDonald

By Carole S. Appel

Why Four Colors suffice

some memories about
a famous mathematical proof

A few months ago, the mathematics department of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign invited me to speak during a three-day celebration of the publication of the proof of a 150-year-old mathematical conjecture. The problem had been solved in 1976 by Kenneth Appel, my husband, and his colleague Wolfgang Haken. The proof was noted by mathematicians worldwide, and made Ken and Wolfgang famous. Newspapers across the globe mentioned their accomplishment.

A few words about what the proof was all about: it had been apparent for at least 150 years that to color a flat map so that no adjoining territories had the same color, only four colors were necessary. Experimental drawings of many maps had shown this to be true for those maps – but no one had proved that only four colors were necessary for any map. Many mathematicians had tried. It was not until 1976 that the two Illinois mathematicians proved that four colors would suffice. Ken and Wolfgang wrote a note on the office blackboard: *Modulo careful checking, it appears that four colors suffice.* The department used the final three words as the motto on its postage meter stamps for years after that.

Ken and I arrived in Illinois in 1961. We'd been living in Princeton, N.J., and he'd been invited to join the mathematics faculty at Illinois and I had been offered a job teaching English as a second language, mainly to foreign students in the sciences and agriculture. We had one son, Andrew, who was 15 months old, and I

was happy to be working as a part-time instructor. I later joined the University of Illinois Press, where I was an editor for 20 years before we moved to New Hampshire in 1993. Andrew is now the Eugene Higgins Professor of Computer Science at Princeton. Our son Peter and his family live in McLean, Virginia, and Peter (whose specialty became transportation planning and logistics), suggested I move to Virginia after Ken died in 2013 and our daughter, Laurel, succumbed to cancer that year as well.

Andrew was one of the speakers at

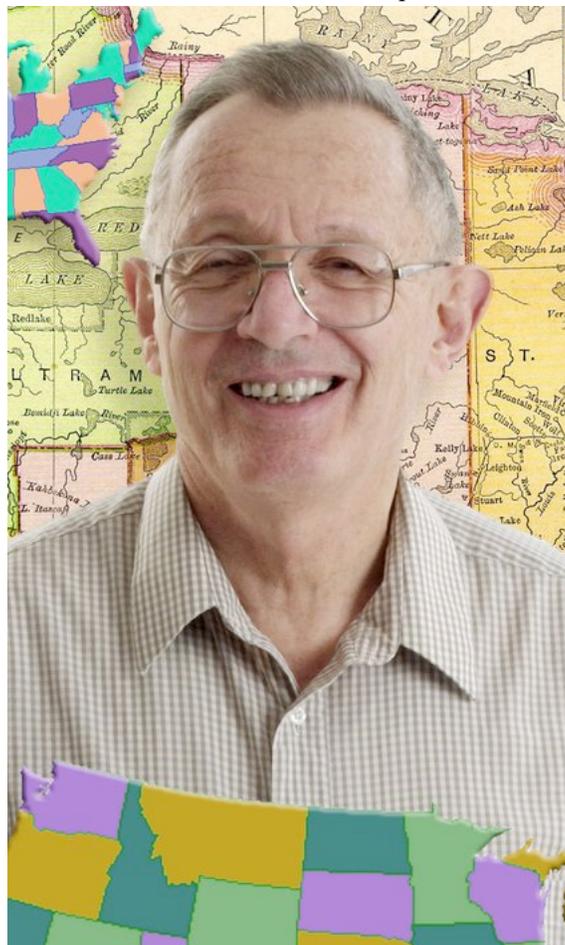
the Illinois celebration, as was Robin Wilson, a British mathematician who has written a book about the history of the Four Color Conjecture: *Four Colors Suffice: How the Map Problem Was Solved* (London: Penguin Books, 2002; U.S. edition, Princeton University Press).

Here are a few of the things I said on November 3 at a great university, founded among the cornfields of Illinois as a land grant college 150 years ago.

It is always wonderful to be back at this magnificent university where Ken Appel and I had the pleasure of living and working for 32 years, and where our children had the opportunity to go to fine public schools and to the university's academic high school, where Andrew, Laurel, and Peter had free run of the facilities of this campus.

In 1854, Louis Pasteur stated that "chance favors the prepared mind." I want to talk a little about how chance did, and did not, bring together Kenneth Appel and Wolfgang Haken. It was not by chance that the logician Bill Boone in 1961 asked department head Mahlon Day to invite Ken to join the mathematics faculty here.

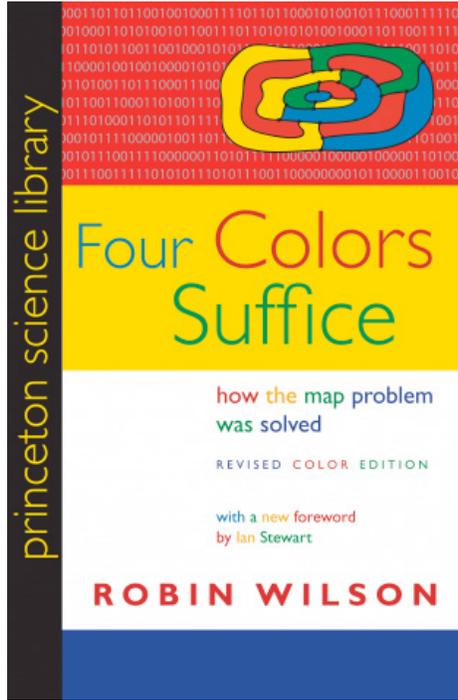
It was not by chance in 1962 that Boone asked the department to hire Wolfgang Haken. Ken's thesis advisor at the University of Michigan in 1959 had been the logician Roger Lyndon, when Ken completed his thesis, called "Two investigations on the borderline of logic and algebra." Boone knew Lyndon's work well



Ken Appel

and had collaborated with him on one paper. But it *was* by chance that Ken enrolled at Michigan in mathematics rather than actuarial science, and to start the career that led him to Illinois and to the room that day in 1972, when Wolfgang talked about attempts that had been made to solve the four color conjecture.

Ken was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1932. He grew up in Queens, he'd graduated as a mathematics major from Queens College in 1953, and he'd gone to work as an actuary for Met Life insurance. For all we know, he might have stayed there for years, but for the existence of the Korean War and the U.S. Army draft. Ken had a low draft number, and a few months after starting work at Met Life, he decided to enlist for the draft rather than wait it out. He was sent to Georgia for basic training, and then to Baum-



holder, Germany.

As his two years of service were drawing to a close, he applied to the University of Michigan's actuarial department.

And this is where chance comes in. Arriving at the Michigan airport that fall, he was met by an old friend from his New York days. As they drove toward the university, his friend – hearing that Ken was about to enroll in a master's program in actuarial science – his friend said, “You don't want to do

that. The actuarial program is okay, but the mathematics department is better.” So Ken became a mathematics graduate student. He stayed past the master's degree he'd originally expected to earn, he took some courses in computer programming, became Roger Lyndon's Ph.D. student, went to the Institute for Defense Analyses in Princeton when Lyndon headed there in 1961 for a year on leave, and there Ken came to the attention of Bill Boone, who knew Lyndon's work, and Ken was invited to join a distinguished university that supported faculty members even when some people thought their research would be futile, and it's at Illinois that Ken came to Wolfgang's talk in 1972, said he didn't accept “not possible” for an answer – and the rest is history. Wonderful history.

I will end with a tiny detail about my own really important contribution to the mechanics of the proof. You can see it on page 145 of the Princeton paperback of Robin Wilson's book. There is a reproduction of one of the pages of neatly aligned drawings from the published proof, those same diagrams that 13-year-old Laurel Appel examined to find duplicates. At the top left of each diagram is a typewritten number. Reader, I typed those numbers on the original page that I had them print in black and blue as the matrix for all the diagrams. Black for the numbers, pale blue that wouldn't show as the squares in which to draw the diagrams. I was not an accomplished mathematician, but I'd worked for newspapers, and I was an editor at the University of Illinois Press. I knew about the printing business. Just so you know. (I got the laugh I expected for this final remark.) 📖



Night light by Dian McDonald

A tale of two ivies

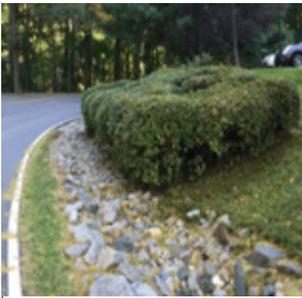
WHY RESTORE MONTEBELLO GROUNDS?



Front Entrance -- aging trees & landscape



Invasive English ivy



Aging shrubs, poorly pruned



Unkempt -- dead trees and brush

THIS IS WHY . . .

It's time to recover and renew Montebello's Woodlands and Grounds

Join your neighbors at the Community Meeting to learn more!

December 6th 7:30 p.m. Community Center

By Heather Click, Montebello Grounds Committee

Harvard and Yale are two well-known “Ivies.” At Montebello we have two of our own: English ivy and poison ivy! They are perhaps not as prestigious but are significant nonetheless for their presence in our natural areas.

Poison ivy is a native plant best known for causing an itchy rash in people who come in contact with its sap. It is commonly found on the edges of wooded areas where filtered sunlight is available. A less well known attribute of poison ivy is that its berries have considerable value to migrating songbirds in the fall and winter when food is scarce. Other birds feed on the insects that reside in its vines where American toads also find shelter and small mammals may browse. Poison ivy co-exists with our native canopy trees without harming them and is a natural component of a healthy forest. However, for

the safety and enjoyment of Montebello residents, controlling the growth of poison ivy along our walking trails and within the landscaped areas is a desirable endeavor which can be accomplished without compromising the beneficial growth within the interior of our woodlands.

So what about English ivy? English ivy is a vigorously growing non-native plant which invades the forest, displacing native ground covers, weakening trees and eventually killing them. Even more significantly, it prevents the growth of saplings and other understory trees and plants essential to the regeneration of the forest. In addition, English ivy has been found by scientists to create a “toxic” environment that promotes the growth of a bacteria that infects elms, oaks, maples and other native trees. Past efforts to control erosion using English ivy have been shown to be misguided as it has a shallow root system and is not as effective

as native ground covers in holding the soil and promoting a healthy forest environment conducive to sustainability.

Large areas of the woodlands of Montebello have a significant problem with invasive English ivy infestation. Past efforts (2006 to the present) at eradication did have some impact but were inadequate in eliminating the threat to our cherished and rare fragment of forest. Current proposals supported by the Grounds Committee, Board and Management for the restoration and recovery of our native woodland will incorporate more effective means of removal of English ivy and other invasive species, replacing them with native plants with the goal of preserving Montebello’s most valuable resource into the future. 🌲

Join the Christmas Bird Count at Montebello on December 16

By Paul Zeisset

Each year, birders around the world participate in a systematic effort to count all the birds they see on a particular early-winter day. Both experienced birders and novices participate. On December 16, knowledgeable birders (and former Montebello residents) Cathy and George Ledec will lead any of us who want to participate in a count of birds right here on the Montebello property. It will be an opportunity to learn more about birds and connect with the natural world that is right outside our front door. The count could also serve as the basis for observing trends in wildlife populations at Montebello across future years.

The Christmas Bird Count for the Montebello property on December 16 will be compiled together with data for birds seen elsewhere in the D.C. area, which in turn will be reported to the National Audubon Society.

The Christmas Bird Count is a long-standing program of the Audubon Society, with over 100 years of citizen science involvement. The data collect-

ed by observers over the past century have allowed researchers, conservation biologists, wildlife agencies and other interested individuals to study the long-term health and status of bird populations across North America. The long-term perspective is vital for



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Digital Library

conservationists. It informs strategies to protect birds and their habitat, and helps identify environmental issues with implications for people as well.

Birders of all experience levels are

welcome to join the bird count on December 16. This event is held rain or shine, snow or sleet...we go out no matter the weather. Of course, everyone is encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Bring binoculars if you have them. Dull-colored clothing is better than bright clothing that might distract the birds.

Montebello residents are invited to gather on Saturday, December 16, at 7 a.m., on the Village Green between the parking lots for Buildings 1 and 2. (Yes, we know, 7 a.m. is before sunrise – officially at 7:20 a.m. that day!) Our leaders will join us for an hour or two at Montebello before they continue on to Mount Eagle Park and other sites in the area (optional for us).

If you plan to attend, please RSVP at paul@zeisset.com or call 703-329-6267, so we know how large a group to anticipate. For questions about birding, how the bird count will operate, or to participate at another location, contact

Cathy or George Ledec at ledecinvirginia@yahoo.com. 📧

Grounds Committee presents five-year plan, management reveals party room renovations wish list, new office software

By Mikhailina Karina

A mere five months after coming together, the Grounds Committee presented its five-year grounds restoration plan to the Board of Directors at the November 28 work session.

In addition to continuing to spruce up landscaping and plantings, the plan's short-term critical goals include deer exclusion (to protect the plantings from becoming an all-you-can eat buffet), erosion control, and invasive plant

control. Contractors have been successfully addressing the latter two concerns.

The plan also recommends improving walkway stability and safety around the property.

Lauren Wheeler, founder and principal designer with the Natural Resources Design (www.naturalresourcesdesign.com), presented the plan's highlights. The complete 100-page document is on the association website at http://www.montebello.org/document_view.asp?id=3183

General Manager George Gardner recommended the association office purchase the Buildinglink Program. According to his memo, this web-based system will manage all day-to-day communications, record-keeping, and task-tracking among residents, management staff, and property manager. "The program runs on a secure web server so that we can access our property's data and authorized functions from anywhere in the world – using only a web browser, your login name,

and password,” the memo states. The annual contract for this software will be \$21,888.

The long-awaited and much needed renovations of the four party rooms will become a reality in 2018.

“To the limit allowed by the budget, bring a strong, contemporary, and holistic design sensibility to the project – unifying the spaces as premium-quality entertainment and gathering places,” states the project statement. One of a trio of suggested color palettes, “Montebello Woods,” “Urban Chic,” and “Old Town South” would be reflected in the rooms’ furnishings. The complete document is on the association website at http://www.montebello.org/document_view.asp?id=3186&lr=1 on pages 19 through 26.

Kerns Associates, the design firm that reimagined Montebello’s lobbies, will submit a proposal for a total structural and aesthetic overhaul of the dated party rooms. This overhaul will include the capricious HVAC system. After soliciting input from the residents, the association submitted a list of improvements that include integrating the balcony with the party room, updating the kitchen and the loos, redesigning the entry, improving storage, audio-visual set-up, lighting, and giving the space attractive architectural ambiance.

The projected cost for each party room will be nearly \$100,000. Based on Kerns’ proposal and a subsequent town hall to discuss the details, work will be completed in 2018.

A slew of mostly incumbent resident consultants and committee chairs (side-bar) were also nominated. Their appointments for 2018 will be approved at the December 12 meeting. 

Resident consultants

Ford Chinworth, *architect*
Bob Gantt and Bruce Shaw (board director), *engineering*
John Brown, *graphics and print/electronic media*
Lois T. Bender, *human resources*
Charles R. (Rod) Cowan, *information management*
Channing Huhn, *interior design*
Peter Aliferis, *construction, development and oversight*
Regina Ryder, *web design*

Committees

Tillie Cassidy, *chair, Activities Committee*
Harriet Duval, *chair*, and Jeanne Tiftt, *vice-chair, Art in Montebello*
Don Hinman, *chair, Communications Committee*
Greg Engelking, *chair*, with Trish Gowland and Joe Riccobono, *members of the Covenants Committee*, and Maureen Dowdle, *back-up*
Elaine Miller, *chair*, Joel Miller, *vice-chair*, Margaret Chaison, Carol Coyle-Shea, Yo Frommer, JaneAnne Gleason, Carol Hora, William McLaughlin, Terry Nunan, Shirley Trilling, *members of the Election Committee*
Stephen Clark, *chair, Finance and Budget Committee*
Virginia Hodgkinson, *chair, Montebello Grounds Committee*
John Tolleris, *chair, Neighborhood Improvement Committee*
Guido Zanni, *chair*, Doug Kleine and Bruce Shaw, *members*, George Gardner, *ex officio, Quality Improvement Committee*
Nancy Vogt, *managing editor*, Donald Barnes, Barbara Boykin, Cerie Kimball, Noel Sipple, Don Trilling, Jacqueline Woodle, *editorial Board for The Times of Montebello*
Lynn Pascoe, *planning and zoning*; John Tolleris, *environment and recreation*; Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations



The birds

Photo by Azita Mashayekhi

holiday bazaar



holiday bazaar



coming attractions

Wednesday, November 29, 2017
Montebello CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT
On the Big Screen in the Community Center at 7pm

MR. BLANDINGS BUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE
 CARY GRANT MYRNA LOY MELVYN DOUGLAS
 Produced and written for the screen by NORMAN KRASNA and ROSE FRANK
 Directed by NORMAN KRASNA

All the High Drama of Buying a Fixer-Upper will come back to you in vivid, frightening, laughable detail!

The Montebello Big Screen has seen nothing to match this for sheer, gripping fun since, well, our last movie night.

FREE old-time Movie Night refreshments, popcorn, and confectionery!

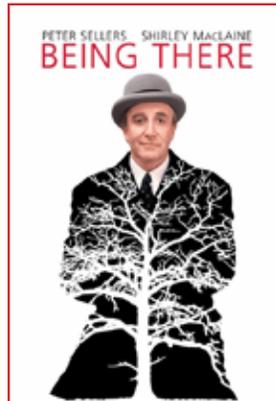
With a brief introduction and back-story on this 1948 movie by Pamela Copley, in this, the fourth of our regular Classic Movies
 Contact PamCopley.net for more details.



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 MUSIC CLUB
 AND
MONTEBELLO ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
 PROUDLY PRESENT

HOLIDAY MUSIC AND FUN!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 AT 3:00 P.M.
COMMUNITY CENTER

THERE WILL BE SONGS BY THE MONTEBELLO
 MUSIC CLUB SINGERS;

YOU'LL SING ALONG ON FAVORITE CAROLS;

AND THERE WILL BE A VISIT BY A
 SPECIAL SURPRISE GUEST!

REFRESHMENTS WILL FOLLOW

Join us for caroling in the building lobbies:
 Bldg. 1, Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7 pm
 Bldg. 2, Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 8 pm
 Bldg. 3, Thursday, Dec. 7 at 7 pm
 Bldg. 4, Thursday, Dec. 7 at 8 pm

Wednesday, December 20, 2017
Montebello CLASSIC MOVIE NIGHT
The Holiday Big Screen: Community Center at 7pm



The Montebello Big Screen brings you all the joy of Christmas.

FREE old-time Movie Night refreshments, popcorn, and candies!

With a brief introduction and back-story on this 1951 movie by Pamela Copley, in our fifth Classic Movie.

This is Christmas's Greatest Feel-Good Movie!



still happening

Ten Montebello artists present their work



Montebello Café
November 18 – January 12



What would you like for Festivus?

No matter which 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 2018. Send your ideas to The Voice. And as you know, sometimes wishes do come true.

Chess Game Nights with Chess Club

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

~~November: Monday the 30th (not 23rd)~~
December: No Game Night
January: Thursday the 25th
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. Sledge at lisa@stedge.com and/or Nick Nickerson at fnixson@gmail.com for more information.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ONE AND ALL!!!

It's our special Holiday Season Schedule!

Polymer Clay Play Make And Take Or Just Have Fun!



Polymer Clay is a synthetic clay that can be cured in a home toaster oven. You can make home decor, jewelry, gifts for the holidays — anything you can imagine with ease!!! Anyone can do it!

Its the holiday season!!! We will use a variety of techniques like mokume gane, appliqué etc. to make bells, snowflake ornaments and if you would like, make a little handmade gift!

Join us — even if you have never used clay before!

If you'd like to bring your own supplies, email me for a supply list. If this is your first time and you want to just check things out, just bring yourself!!!

If you have any questions, please email me at psrinivasan@icloud.com.

Hope to see you in December; in the meanwhile HAPPY CREATING!

Tuesday Dec 5

Party Room 4 6:00pm - 9pm

Pratibha Srinivasan 4/1412

psrinivasan@icloud.com



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I've always owned dogs. Now I have both a dog and a cat.

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.

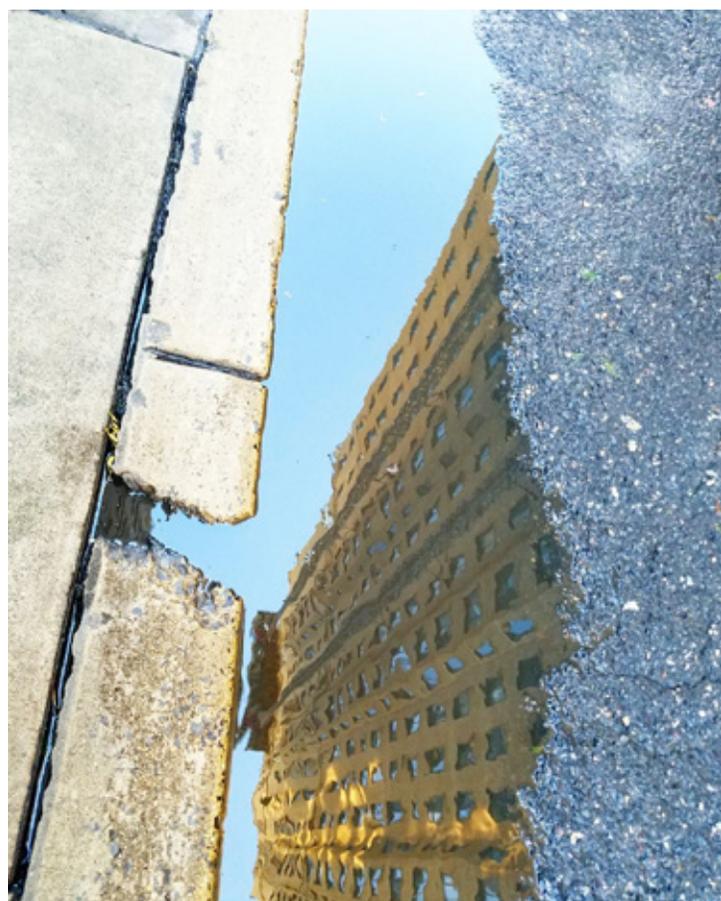
CONTACT: Deborah Rowell.

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

Email: CompassionatePetServices@gmail.com

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final glance



By Azita Mashayekhi