

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

happy everything

December 14, 2017



Photo illustration by Joel Miller



Ann Hagemann passes away

Montebello resident (Building 2) Ann Hagemann died peacefully on November 17. She had been diagnosed with an advanced stomach cancer more than three years ago. Through optimism, treatment, and the determination to enjoy time with those whom she loved and who loved her, particularly her granddaughter Clara Hagemann, she led a full and symptom-free life until very recently. Ann was a frequent Fitness Room user and loved walking the trails at Montebello and Huntley Meadows. She had a long career in government relations, followed by a second career as an ESL teacher for Fairfax County Public Schools.

A memorial service was held at the Athenaeum in Alexandria on December 9. – Sue Allen

Betsy Tierney, our beloved friend and neighbor, passed away December 8 following a long struggle with respiratory illness. Betsy had been an owner resident at Montebello for 22 years. A federal government retiree, Betsy’s last position was in office management at the Pentagon. Betsy enjoyed solving crossword puzzles, and she was an expert competitor in various kinds of word games, including Scrabble. One of her favorite pastimes was playing cards with her neighbors, and she also enjoyed movies and dining out with friends and family members. Betsy is survived by her daughter, Sherri Rosenberg; a son, Tom Norman; her twin sister, Patsy Norton; sister Dana Grimm; sister Jan Kindig; three grandsons, three granddaughters, and one great-granddaughter. – Dian McDonald

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.

Editor & Designer.....Mikhailina Karina
 Contributors.....Sue Allen, Carole Appel, Rebecca Hayden, Angel Jensen, Dian McDonald, Joel Miller

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

on a catwalk



Last Saturday, Jiles, our sweetest Maine Coon, experienced his first walk in the snow (on a harness) with his human boy attendants. Besides a great temperament, this cat breed has a thick undercoat and tufted paws adapted for cold weather and snow, hence their Maine origin. Jiles was actually born in Moscow (long story). No, he did not exactly walk around Montebello, but was mostly carried by his boys – much to the delight and surprise of some residents who saw an enormous cat calmly enjoying his surroundings. – Mikhailina Karina



Life is funny, but you don't always laugh

Christmas is for everyone

Serious humor and sometimes irony by Rebecca Long Hayden

I invited my friend Eileen and her children to a “kids’ cookies and cider celebration” by our luminous Christmas tree. I wasn’t sure if it was the right thing, but I trusted my good intentions. Eileen happens to be Jewish, among other things, including a writer, a mother, a business woman, and a wise soul.

Still, I was a little apologetic. “I think you would enjoy it – it’s just my two kids and the neighbors. But I know you don’t celebrate Christmas.”

“Oh, my goodness. We’d love it! Christmas is for everyone,” she said.

They came, had cookies, enjoyed the tree, and brought me a small glass Menorah in remembrance. I could give several examples like this, most involving Jewish friends. One neighbor told me how much she enjoyed our Christmas tree, which became three trees, reflected in the multiple panes of her bay window.

At one of my favorite holiday gatherings I had two Muslims, a Jew, a vegetarian, and an old lady with ulcers. I thought the menu might be tricky, but it wasn’t. I served a variety of food in ample quantity. People ate what they liked and avoided what they didn’t without complaint. It was a Merry Christmas for everyone.

Eileen doesn’t celebrate Christmas in her own home – no tree, no Santas,

but she and her children, grown now, always went mall-walking to enjoy the decorations and the carols. They accepted their Hanukkah gifts as part of a larger celebration of good will. They wished their Protestant friends Merry Christmas, and their Jewish ones, too, from time to time. This participation in the season by everyone feels right to me.

In the name of “political correctness” some people seem bent on deconstructing everything. *Christmas started as a pagan rite. Halloween began as a satanic ritual. Thanksgiving was part of the destruction of Native American culture.*

Even so, can’t we appreciate what a holiday represents today? A baby be-

thought for Satan. There’s plenty to answer for in the treatment of Native Americans, but can’t Thanksgiving still be a time to gather and be grateful?

I respect all religions, but I don’t want to censor myself before extending good wishes with an open heart. I say *Happy Holidays*. I say *Merry Christmas* sometimes. I like the sound of it. It takes me back to family celebrations, before anyone thought this would ever be called offensive.

Perhaps it’s only my experience, but I’ve never seen offense on anyone’s face, friend or stranger, at being extended good wishes. Likewise, I’m happy to accept all positive thoughts, from *Happy Kwanzaa* to the ubiquitous “have a nice day.” I don’t mind the waitress who pronounced my order “awesome,” even though it was just a tuna sandwich. I’ll even smile if you wish me *Happy Festivus for the rest of us* (from *Seinfeld* episode 166).

It’s a world where profanity has become common in public places, in the presence of small children, impressionable teens, and people who still love elegant

language. We’ve all heard every swear word there ever was, and multiple times, yet profanity often gets a laugh, as though it’s somehow original and amusing. So I wonder, are people really offended by *Merry Christmas*?

Well, I don’t know. I know life is funny, but you don’t always laugh. 🍷



comes a child becomes an adult. No one would deny a young person a driver’s license because they used to be a child. As people grow and change, so do cultural traditions.

Yes, be aware of history, but is it necessary to sneer at the positives of the holidays? My mother had a saying for everything, and in this case, she would have said, “Why take the J out of Joy?”

Christmas is no longer Druids gathering by moonlight. I doubt if any child delighting in Halloween ever spared a

Charlotte's Fruit Cake

By Carole Appel

My mother, Charlotte Stein, got this recipe from a woman in Camden, N.J., while doing a margarine survey during the 1950s. She gave margarine to homemakers and asked them to try it in their favorite recipes. The woman who tried margarine in this fruit cake gave the recipe to mom and this cake soon became a Stein family tradition. Mom made dozens of them over the years to give away every December. I've been doing the same with this cake since the 1970s.

1 cup sugar
1/2 cup butter or margarine
2 eggs
1 1/2 cup applesauce
2 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla
2 cups flour
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. ground allspice
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 1/4 cup glazed fruit
1 cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
1 cup cut-up dates
1 cup raisins

Cream sugar and butter, add eggs. Remove 3/4 cup of the applesauce and stir the baking soda into it. Add all of the applesauce to the creamed mixture. Add the vanilla. Combine flour, salt, and spices; add them to applesauce mixture. Stir in the remaining ingredients. (This cake should *not* be extremely packed with fruits and nuts.) Pour into two small greased and floured loaf pans. Bake at 250 degrees for about 1 3/4 hours.

From The Family Cooks: Favorite Recipes of the Blumenthals, Steins, Ettingers, and Appels edited by Carole Appel

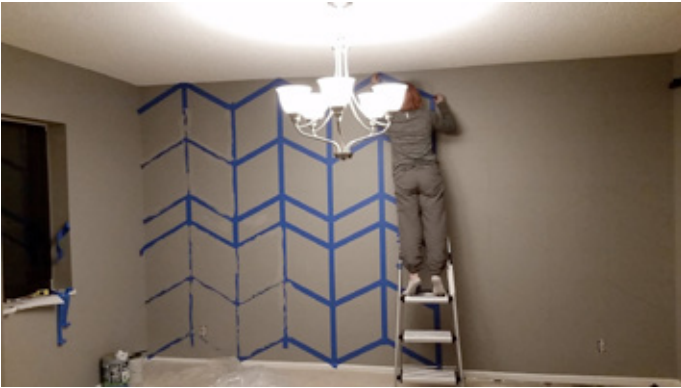


Caroling in Building 2

Photo by Dian McDonald

New Montebello owners add artistic touches to their home

Photos and captions by Angel Jensen



While Andrea taped and leveled the angles for precision, I “sealed” the painter’s tape with the background wall color. By running a little of the background wall color against the tape, you prevent most of the drips and bleed-throughs.



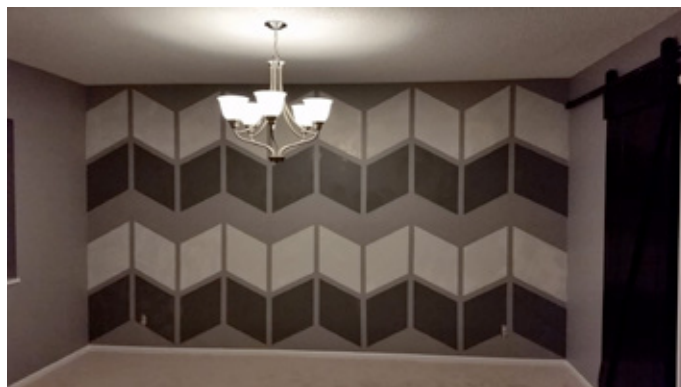
It’s a hot mess when you get started, and this is when serious doubt sets in. Did I make a huge mistake?



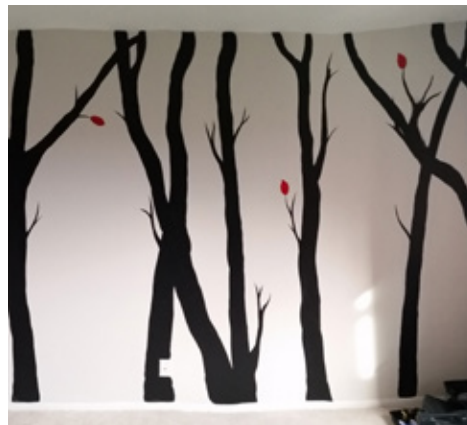
How will this look pretty? Just trust the process and keep going!



Andrea still wasn’t sure she’d like this wall... not until more tape was peeled and she stood back for the reveal.



The finished chevron wall!



An accent wall in the bedroom has hand-painted trees with a pop of red leaves. The trees lead the gaze to the woodlands outside the window.

coming attractions

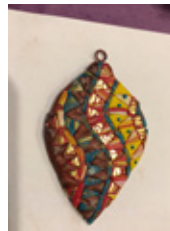
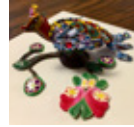
Ten Montebello artists present their work



Montebello Café
November 18 – January 12



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!

Come and relax after the hustle and bustle of the holidays. We will be exploring small cute figures and jewelry using textures, decorative finishes and techniques.

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 January 2018; in the meanwhile HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR!

Tuesday Jan 2 (first Tuesday every month)

Party Room 4 6:00pm - 9pm

Pratibha Srinivasan 4/1412

psrinivasan@icloud.com

AiM Polymer Clay Group

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 backstory on this 1951 movie by Pamela Copley, in our fifth Classic Movie.

This is Christmas's Greatest Feel-Good Movie!

Contact PaulGruber@aol.com for more details.

Bird Count at Montebello Dec 16

- Learn more about our local birds
- Connect with nature just outside the door
- Help us collect data for future study



This is part of the annual Christmas Bird Count of the National Audubon Society.

All experience levels welcome

Event held rain or shine

Dress for the weather

Bring binoculars if you have them.

Saturday, December 16, 7am to 9am

Meet on the Village Green

(between the parking lots for Buildings 1 and 2)

Please RSVP to Paul Zeisset (paul@zeisset.com, 703-329-6267), so we can plan for the group.

Leaders: former Montebello residents Cathy and George Ledec (ledecinvirginia@yahoo.com).

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



montebello marketplace



HOUND & HOME

of Alexandria

Pet Care & Home Concierge Services

703-910-1312

houndandhome1@gmail.com

Dog, Cat and Bird Care

Feeding, Walking, Playing, Cleaning of Pet Area

Concierge Services

Mail, Newspaper Pick Up, Plant Care, Home Monitoring,
Personal Care, Personal Assisting, Notary Services

All Services Customizable

Eve Shelton, Owner – Trustworthy. Experienced.
Background Screened

Skin Care Therapist

Anna Hall

Master Esthetician



- Customized facials
- Microdermabrasion
- LED treatment
- Chemical peels
- Microcurrent facelift

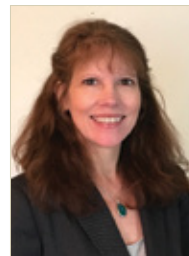
(571) 471-3043

annah17@gmail.com

MOBILE SERVICES AVAILABLE

www.faces4look.com

PROTECT WHAT MATTERS MOST



PROTECTION. SECURITY. FINANCIAL PEACE OF MIND.

We're Clarke & Sampson, your hometown, independent agency proudly serving the insurance needs of individuals and businesses for over 70 years. Please visit our Old Town office or call us for a complimentary analysis of your current insurance policies. *Home. Life. Auto. Health. Business.*

(703) 683-6601 or (800) 822-9596

www.clarkeandsampson.com

Dawn Meadows
dmeadows@clarkeandsampson.com
228 South Washington Street
Suite 200
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-5404

CLARKE & SAMPSON
INSURANCE SINCE 1946

Business Insurance • Personal Insurance • Life & Health • International Coverage • Specialty Insurance

COMPASSIONATE PET CARE SERVICES



I'm a mature, responsible Montebello resident who is willing to care for your dogs, cats and other pets when you can't.

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

promote your services with free ads for all residents

Bringing Franken's Sins and Moore...

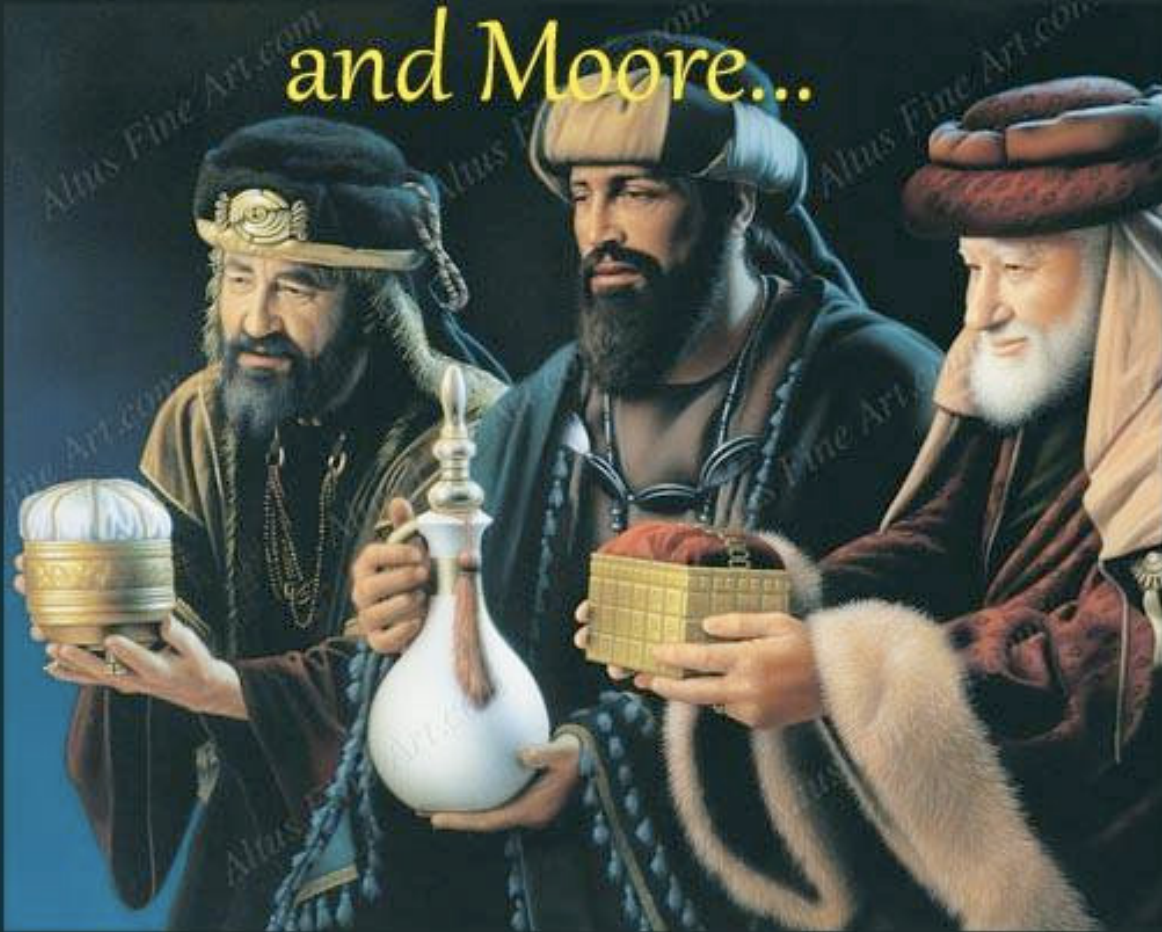


Photo illustration by Joel Miller