

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

We gotta start makin' changes

February 22, 2018



*In the middle of winter back at home, I got to have fun at the pool of a friend in L.A., taking photos of water magically enveloping and reflecting all shapes without changing them. It's a theme that also runs in the beautiful movie, *The Shape of Water*, that I highly recommend you see while it's still in movie theaters. – Azita Mashayekhi*

Are you a Friend of Dyke Marsh?

By Karen Barnes

If so, you already know that Dyke Marsh, located on the Potomac River just south of Alexandria, is a treasure of flora and fauna and one of the few fresh water tidal marshes in the country. The marsh is now managed by the U.S. National Park Service as part of the George Washington Memorial Parkway, but from 1940 to 1972, the marsh was drastically diminished by commercial dredging of sand and gravel. Further erosion and pollution continue to threaten the marsh. The park service hopes to begin major restoration efforts shortly.

Dyke Marsh welcomes many types of volunteer assistance, including tree planting, water testing, invasives removal, and trash clean up. FODM members host a guided bird walk every Sunday morning at 8. In addition, one day in the spring is set aside for raptor viewing; and throughout the year environmental experts give talks around the area on various subjects. (see www.fodm.org)

FODM and Montebello's Environmental Club are arranging to bring a Dyke March speaker to our condominium this spring. Watch for fliers.

Finally, if you are already an FODM, please contact the Environmental Club at chinakaren@yahoo.com, and let's see how we can work together to spread the word to more of our neighbors.

Re: immigration, a clarification

By Ralph Johnson

It is never my intent to make an incorrect statement [Good news, Voice January 25]. My statement was correct. "Some immigrants to the United States are chosen by lottery with no consideration to our needs, cost, safety and security." Ms. Appel referenced an article in Time Magazine which applies to "process" regarding persons winning the lottery and chain immigration. There is no mention of benefits to our country in this article. Quite the contrary.

My statement apparently needed more details. What is the cost to taxpayers to process the 50,000 yearly winners plus the other relatives they bring? Please note it takes 18 to 24 months to process each application and those they bring, with many government agencies involved. What are the additional costs to our institutions: schools, health facilities, law enforcement, as well as loss of American lives by those who do not share our values? And the national debt continues to explode.

Please consider merit-based immigration, which is open to those who have skills our employers need, most likely to support themselves, and contribute to a more prosperous country. Origin of country or color of skin are not factors.

Apparently the decision is lottery and chain immigration versus merit-based immigration. I want the best for this great country, which gives so much to its citizens. I choose merit-based immigration!

It's electric

By Sammy Simon

The recent power outage revealed that few residents know/remember that one elevator in each building runs on generator power during an emergency. This information is essential for those of us who have dogs who must be walked.

In addition, few know/remember that while they cannot reenter their building using the remote box, their common area key will open the door when inserted in the keyhole in the doorknob. This manual operation requires strength as the door is heavy.

Take the world in a love embrace
Fire all of your guns at once
And explode into space

The Montebello Voice
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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

By Sue Allen

There's frost on the windows, but Rachael Bright looks like a slice of spring in her flowered top and crystal earrings, perched on a stool in her Old Town art boutique, Local Colour.

Rachael, a Montebello resident (Building 1) opened her shop in 2014.

She sells work by local artists as well as her own creations. "We're not a traditional art gallery, being so small, plus we're a studio space. My artisans and I are always here making something," she said.

Stroll through the 205-foot space tucked into Crilley's Warehouse on N. Lee Street, and you'll find a smorgasbord of unique creations, from tree-of-life



necklaces to figurines, from found driftwood. There's even a vegan taxidermy. "No animals were hurt

in the making of this product," kids Rachael.

A lifelong artist – "I remember pairing colors as a toddler" – Rachael specializes in pet portraits. She studied painting at the Torpedo Factory where she discovered a natural aptitude for painting, and attended the Corcoran School of Art.

"After college I went into the retail world. Then, as I was getting older, I always had this little dream of having an art boutique. I thought how fantastic it would be if it was stocked with all locally made things and beautiful artworks and jewelry. I just woke up one day and said 'I'm going to do this.' If I didn't, I'd always wonder what would have happened...so I did."

Taking the leap wasn't easy: Rachael left a secure job with health





insurance and retirement. “It was the most frightening thing I ever did,” she said.

Rachael calls her artisans “local, loving people,” and cherishes having a place where they can sell their work.

The boutique is pet-friendly, and Rachael often gets to meet the animals she paints. She works from

photographs because it would be impossible for a dog or cat to stay still.

The store is open from 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday - Saturday and will extend hours in the spring.

“We’re always happy to make appointments, so if someone needs to come in on a Sunday, we can make that happen,” noted Rachael.

Local Colour is located at 218 N. Lee Street next to Myron Mixon’s Barbeque.

If you would like Rachael to paint your pet, you may mail photos to localcolouoldtown@gmail.com. 📧

**Arthur Paul Gershman
January 11, 1947 - February 7, 2018**



Photo by Kim Santos

Get a (second) job

By Arnold Haiman

I find myself thinking a lot about my father lately. Not surprising, as I approach my Biblically allotted three score and ten. Another reason is that we are now full swing into the political season, and my earliest childhood memory is of sitting in front of the TV set on Sunday mornings way back when, watching Meet The Press with my old man. Anyone out there remember Lawrence E. Spivak, the dyspeptic host of the show, who would mercilessly grill his guests? No softball questions, and no thinly disguised partisanship from old Larry.

My father was keenly interested in politics. I remember the good-natured, and sometimes not so good-natured, arguments at the Family Circle meetings. Anyone out there old enough to remember Family Circles? Not so many around anymore, as relatives no longer live close by, and the nuclear family of old has morphed into something quite different.

But this isn't just a trip down memory lane for me. My father was interested in politics, so it was natural for me to share that with him. You see, we didn't really have a lot of other time together. He had two jobs.

I know my father never attended high school, but I'm not sure just when he dropped out and went to work to help support his mother, his brothers, and his sisters. I do know that his lack of formal education would surprise people who knew him. He was well-spoken, grammatically correct (it would drive him nuts to hear someone say "irregardless") read a lot, and knew a great deal about American history.

I didn't see him on the other morn-

ings of the week, because he got up at 4:30 and took a long subway ride to his job as a letter carrier. I'd see him at night around the time for me to go to bed, but he was pretty tired by then. After his regular shift he had another job. He and a co-worker bought a truck and hauled heavy stuff around midtown Manhattan. While this was going on, my mother took care of my brother and me, until we were old enough, and then she went to work part-time as a bookkeeper. She was justifiably proud that she was a "full-charge" bookkeep-

basic training for which he arrived ill-prepared; refused to quit, and served 30 distinguished years as a Marine officer, going to war three times for his country. But he only had one job. Ha ha, some slacker.

I, on the other hand, always had a "moonlighting" job teaching college courses throughout my career. Maybe I didn't need the money, but in retrospect I realize that I needed the work.

My father liked it when he got called for jury duty. But he got bounced once, in a criminal case, by the defense attorney.

During *voir dire*, when the lawyers get to ask potential jurors questions, he was asked about his family and proudly recounted that both his sons were lawyers who were serving in the military. When the lawyer asked how he could have afforded to send them to law school on a letter carrier's salary, he responded that he always had a second job. He was gone in a heartbeat. The lawyer did the right thing, not knowing my father's consistent sympathy for the under-

dog. But playing the odds told the lawyer that someone like that would not be sympathetic to a healthy young defendant accused of robbery.

My father would be sympathetic to people today who are out of work. So am I. As a society, we have failed miserably to provide adequate employment opportunities and training to those who are willing to work. But I think he would find it incomprehensible that some people are, to put it bluntly, not really looking, and not really willing to do some



The author's parents, Hattie and Philip Haiman

er, having taken a commercial course in high school.

Thinking about it now, I'm a little embarrassed that my brother and I took all this for granted. We lived in a very modest two-bedroom apartment, but had a (used) car, got to go to summer camp, attended college (tuition-free thanks to the City of New York) and law school. But some of that work ethic must have rubbed off. Of course my brother was a slacker, he only had one job: he persevered through punishing

of the jobs that are out there. Believe me, I've led a soft enough life not to get preachy, but I've also had enough exposure to know a crummy job when I see it. Part-time driving a bus? Not bad. Driving a pickup garbage truck? Bad. Being the guy lifting the cans and dumping the smelly, disgusting refuse into the truck? Real bad.

But work, any and all work, has rewards that outweigh any reason/excuse

to turn it down. First, jobs pay. Even minimum wage jobs. And when you work, if you give it your best shot, there is a good chance that you learn things that will help you get a better job. Better pay, better benefits, better working conditions. For young people who need it, the structure of a job, any job, gives them the discipline necessary to succeed as human beings, including the socializing skills so often lacking which

are not being taught in the home, and can never be taught by our beleaguered teachers.

A second job? Yes! But it doesn't have to be a paid job. If you don't need the dough, find an avocation. Coach a team, read to the infirm, deliver meals ... or spend time with your kids, even if it's "only" watching Meet the Press. 📺

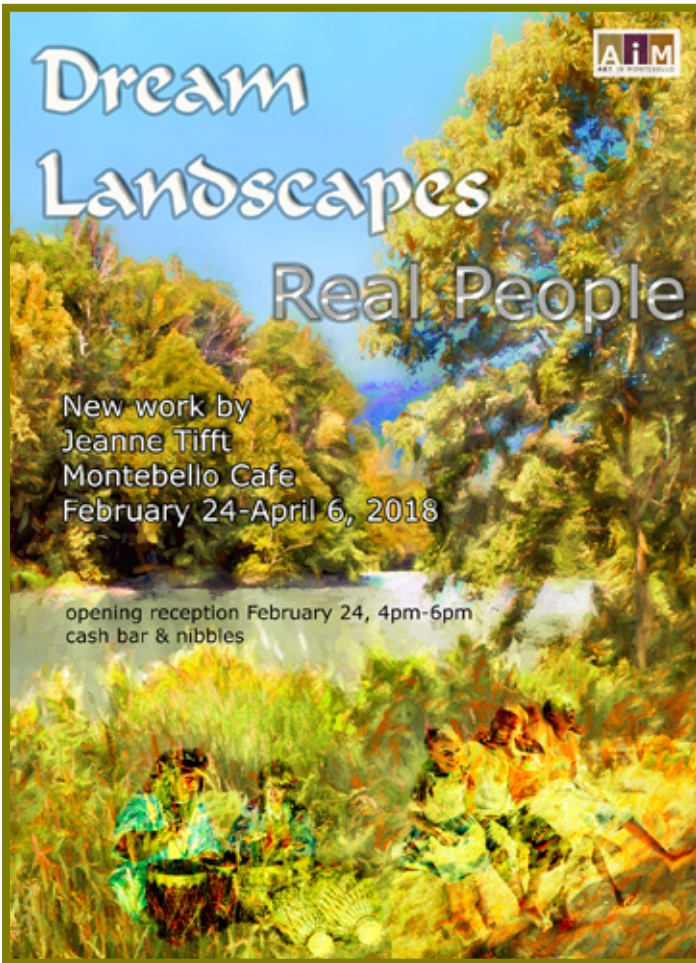


All the things you are

Bill and Carla Batka (center) celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary on February 18 by hosting a concert of love songs and Champagne reception in the Community Center. Soprano Katherine Riddle (right) was accompanied by pianist Barbara Wilkinson.

Photo by Dian McDonald

coming attractions

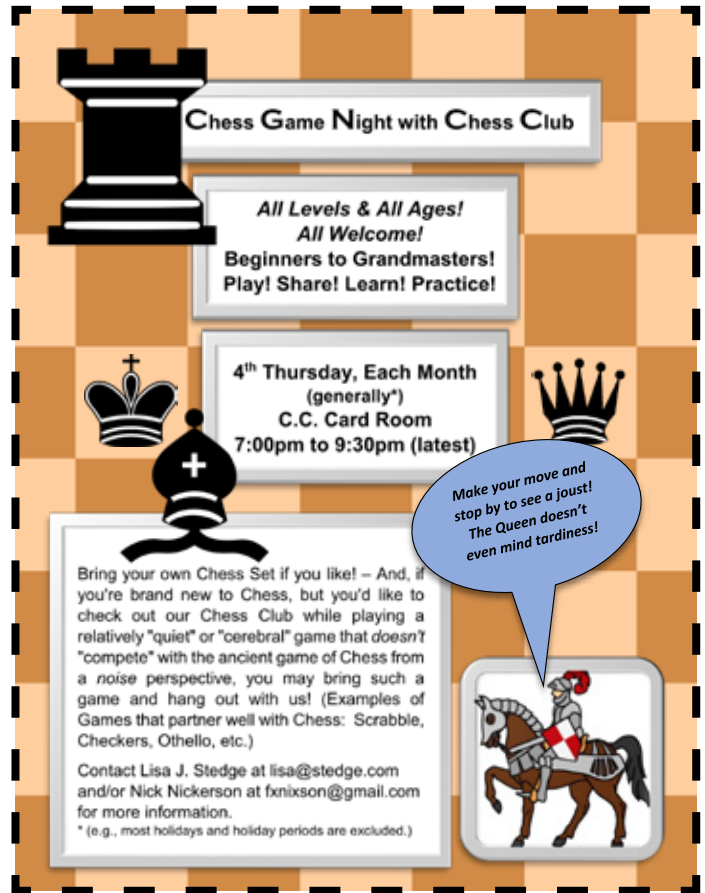


Dream Landscapes
Real People

New work by
Jeanne Tift
Montebello Cafe
February 24-April 6, 2018

opening reception February 24, 4pm-6pm
cash bar & nibbles

AIM



Chess Game Night with Chess Club

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

4th Thursday, Each Month
(generally*)
C.C. Card Room
7:00pm to 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.)


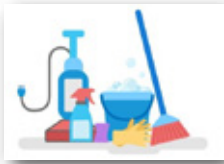


Contact Lisa J. Stedge at lisa@stedge.com
and/or Nick Nickerson at fnixson@gmail.com
for more information.
* (e.g., most holidays and holiday periods are excluded.)

Make your move and stop by to see a joust!
The Queen doesn't even mind tardiness!

The SPEAKER SERIES Presents:

A program featuring
representatives from Montebello's Workforce:

**Security, Housekeeping,
Maintenance & the Office**


Retired local journalist **Frances Killpatrick** will conduct the interviews.

**Thursday, March 15th at 7:30
Community Center Lounge**

Sponsored by the Activities Committee

YOGA CAN BE FUN

HATHA YOGA FOR ALL LEVELS
TUESDAY EVENINGS @ 7 PM - PARTY ROOM 1



❖ SMILE
❖ STRETCH
❖ BREATHE
❖ RELAX

Feel your flexibility with SUN SALUTATION, Feel the strength of Warrior I & II,
Enjoy the stretch of forward and backward bends.

Special Attention Given for Your Needs
by a Practicing - Certified Instructor: Virginia Nickich

Questions? just call Cell: 516-459-8504 or email: virgyoga@verizon.net

First class is always free
(\$8/pp per class)

final glance



Blossoms

Photo by David Davies