

The **MONTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

the truth is out there

February 28, 2019



There is no place like home

The Franks return to Montebello

By *Bill & Nanette Frank*

When we left Montebello in the spring of 2016, it was for Nanette to take on a new job in Paradise (a.k.a., Honolulu).

That adventure was unfortunately shortened to a mere eight months when Nanette was called on by her family to come to Illinois to help her ailing father sell his business. The task took two years to successfully achieve and was completed on December 1 of 2018. With the mission being accomplished, we looked at what to do during the next chapter of our lives and it took no time at all for us to realize that coming home to Montebello was simply the only choice for us. As Nanette said, “during the course of our married life, we have had the joy of living in many places both in the U.S. and abroad, but our fondest memories are of the four years we lived at Montebello. There is such a wealth of activities and amenities that Montebello has to offer, between the Fitness Center, the Café, the beauty of the woodlands and more important, the strong spirit of community that exists here. So that left no doubt in our minds that coming back to Montebello was the absolute best move for us.”

After a whirlwind three years away, Nanette plans to take some time off to relax. Bill plans to return to work as soon as possible. Along with our



13-month-old Malti-Poo dog, Lexi, we have taken up residence in Building 4 and are absolutely thrilled to be back and reuniting with our many old friends. 🐾

Shorts and briefs

The Huntington Farmers Market will not be returning for this summer of 2019 due to upcoming construction at the Huntington Metro station.

<https://coveringthecorridor.com/2019/02/huntington-farmers-market-not-returning-this-summer/>

Discover the cosmos! Each day a different image or photograph of our fascinating universe is featured, along with a brief explanation written by an astronomer.

<https://apod.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>

– Submitted by *Richard Titus*

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers a variety of activities such as classes, camps and tours. See *Parktakes*, the free quarterly guide available to county citizens.

https://fairfax.usdirect.com/FairfaxFCPAWeb/ACTIVITIES/Search.aspx?category_name=TRIPS%20AND%20TOURS

– Submitted by *Guin Jones*

Cover photo by *Dian McDonald*

Make music, make friends, have fun

By *Linda Davidson*

Did you used to play a band instrument in high school or college? Did you ever think you might enjoy taking that up again or enjoy that experience again? The Mount Vernon Community Band might be just what you’re looking for to bring that to reality.

No auditions are required. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:30 in the Mount Vernon High School Band room, located at 8515

Old Mt. Vernon Road. (Be mindful that rehearsals follow Fairfax County Public Schools closings when there is inclement weather.)

Check our website at www.mvbands.com as we are sometimes performing concerts elsewhere on Tuesday nights. For more information, contact Linda K. Davidson, director, at davidsonlindak@gmail.com or just show up on rehearsal night.

Our motto is: “Make Music, Make Friends, Have Fun”

The MONTEBELLO Voice
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Dr. Manners in the house

Tips for thank-you notes for a newly engaged young man

By Erwin Jacobs

Dear Mike,

Best wishes on your upcoming marriage. Since you are having various parties, such as bachelors, engagements, etc., and will be receiving gifts, remember that you should send thank-you notes. Go to the 7-11 and where they sell lottery tickets, get a small pencil and find a card to carry. Write down all the gifts and givers so that you can send thank-you notes. I suggest some formats you can use.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Felix,

Thanks for the three dollars coming in six months. I am putting these into our diaper fund for our new one coming in six months.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Harry,

I am sorry the music for the affair did not work out. We wanted an old-time theme and the wind-up Victrola broke and we could not find a spare part.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Bill,

Thanks for the gifts from Office Depot. Over the years, we will surely use the No. 2 pencils, box of paper clips, and 1,000 rubber bands.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Hortense,

I am glad you liked the flowers at the reception and dinner. It reminded me send to send a thank you note to the Everlasting Funeral Home, who sent them after their service that morning.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Uncle Otto,

I am so glad things are going well on your farm. Thanks for the book, "Fifty Ways to Prepare Rocky Mountain Oysters."



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear guests,

The photos of our wedding came. We all looked terrible. I asked the photographer if he could Photoshop them and he said no. So we threw them all away.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Fred,

We got your gift. We could not figure out what it is or what it is for. We gave it to Goodwill after the police checked it for explosives.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Molly,

So sorry all the drinks did not agree with you. Fortunately, the Wedding Palace had two mops and buckets handy and only Sadie slipped in it and is recovering from her broken hip.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Joe,

It was good to hear from an old NuNu frat buddy. Thanks for the Rhode Island Red. Luckily we have a small fenced yard that our German Shepherd will use to play with her.

voices on the 37



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear guest,
Thanks for coming to our pre-wedding affair. I am happy to say we decided not to get married and will continue to live in Sin, which is three miles north of Willow Bend. Thanks for your gifts anyway. We will use them and think of you, if we can remember who sent what. Since we are closely related, the judge refused to marry us anyway.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear Al,
I am sorry you were ill after the reception. Do not feel bad. Most of the people there were also sick. The food from the Last Chance Catering was probably at fault and the Health Department closed them down.



Erwin Jacobs, MD

Dear guests,
For those of you who are staying at our local Super Budget Motel: if you wake up with three red itchy spots, you were probably bitten by bedbugs. Be sure to leave your clothes outside the house and wash them in hot water when you get home.

DMV Connect will be at Hollin Hall Sr. Center twice a month *Schedule*

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (closed noon to 1)

March 25-26
April 29-30
May 28
June 24-25
July 29-30
Aug. 26-27
Sept. 23-24
Oct. 28-29
Nov. 25-26
Dec. 30

Transactions:

Drivers' licenses
ID cards (adult, child, veteran)
Disabled parking placards
Vehicle titles
Address changes
Vehicle registrations
E-ZPass transponders
Compliance summaries
Transcripts
Hunting and fishing licenses

For information: www.dmvNOW.com

Apple and iPad information

While the weekly computer discussion group at the Senior Center deals mostly with non-Apple products, the center also offers a tech information series especially for people using iPads and iPhones. This is a drop-in class, scheduled for the third Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. Reservation are required.

— Submitted by Karen Barnes

Real estate assessment changes

By Caryl Curry

We have just received our 2019 Assessed Value of Property statements and the range of the increases do not appear to make sense. They range from a reported low of 7% to a reported high of 25% and the range may even be wider than that.

It gets worse: the increases in land value ranged from 0% (i.e., same land value in 2018 and 2019) to 24.4%. Something is seriously wrong in the assessment office. While one might argue that some units are more valuable than others, the land value percentages should remain a constant.

I have no idea what the average increase is across Montebello, but if your increase is greater than say 16%, then you might want to join with others to discuss some kind of joint appeal. If meeting with others is of interest to you please send me your name, condo number, e-mail, and phone number. If there are enough people, we can have a meeting in one of the party rooms to think together about an appeal strategy. Meanwhile, if you think you qualify for tax relief as set forth on the yellow sheet that came with your tax assessment, you may obtain a form for doing that by going to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes and click on "forms." 📄



Bonnie Jacob (right) at the opening of her Art in Montebello show on February 16, with Jeanne Tift, who assisted with production and printing of photographs for Shooting Into the Sun.

Photo by Dian McDonald

current events

District of Columbia Judge Rohulamin Quander (Ret.) and Carmen Torruella Quander shared history of the Quander family at the Women's Club Luncheon on February 15. Quander history includes enslaved ancestors who were in service to George Washington at Mount Vernon Plantation.

Photos by Dian McDonald



Historian, writer, and actress Mary Ann Jung portrayed Red Cross founder Clara Barton at the February 25 event sponsored by the Speaker Series.

Residents Tom Harrelson (bottom left), Don Hinman, Jacqueline Woodle, and Michael Fogarty donned costumes and participated in the retelling of the story.

Photos by Dian McDonald

Get your hands dirty – join the Weed Wrangle®

By Paul Zeisset

Seventeen volunteers pulled invasive plants, mostly English ivy, in areas near the Community Center on February 23, organized by Montebello's Grounds

their attention to English ivy in more developed places. The February 23 project tackled invasive plants growing on Picnic Hill and areas just south of the Community Center. While volunteers pulled 18 bags full of invasives,

there is more work to do,

gle® of the season. There will also be a Weed Wrangle April 13. Each Weed Wrangle® Montebello event is supervised by an expert in invasive weed management. Volunteers learn about invasives, practice their removal, and begin a habit of looking for them and encouraging their replacement with



Committee. You have a chance to be part of a repeat performance on Saturday, March 16.

Invasive plants have long been the scourge of Montebello's woodlands. While most of our woods are plants native to this region, there are also many non-native plants that have escaped from ornamental landscapes nearby. We use the term invasive for those non-natives that spread widely and out-compete native plants.

Montebello has embarked on a major push to control invasives in the woods, with the help of a contractor, Invasive Plant Control, Inc. IPC visits Montebello at scheduled intervals to perform both manual and chemical control measures, and has been covering different parts of our woods in phases. The contractor's efforts were supplemented last year by volunteers organized by the Grounds Committee, who participated in the first Weed Wrangle® Montebello last April.

This year, the Wranglers are turning

weed wrangle® Montebello

- ✓ Saturday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to noon
- ✓ Meet at the Community Center east entrance, by the stairway to Picnic Hill.
- ✓ Wear sturdy shoes, long pants, and long sleeves. Dress for the weather.
- ✓ Bring work gloves, kneepads, and hand clippers, if you have them. Tools and gloves will be provided for others.

such as in this area just outside the pool enclosure where English ivy has spread under ornamental trees and bushes.

On Saturday, March 16, the Grounds Committee encourages residents to participate in the second Weed Wrangle®



native plants in removal areas. Participants can also earn a bright green Weed Wrangle® Montebello T-shirt. 🍷

Photos of participants are by Kayla Lynch (IPC). English ivy photo is by Paul Zeisset.

Jack Kull to speak on POWs/MIA's

By *Cerie Kimball*

The Mt. Vernon Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) will provide a presentation for members and interested community attendees on the mission of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Accounting Agency (DPAA). This agency provides the fullest possible accounting of U.S. personnel from past conflicts to their families and the nation. There are more than 82,000 DoD personnel and other individuals who remain unaccounted for from the World War II era through the Gulf Wars. In Fiscal Year 2018, the DPAA accounted for 203 formerly missing persons from past conflicts.

Jack Kull's involvement in the POW/MIA issue spans more than 35 years. He currently serves as a Strategic International Coordinator (Southeast Asia) at DPAA. Before the establishment of DPAA in January 2015, he was the senior Vietnam War policy advisor at its predecessor agency, the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO).

The headquarters for DPAA is in Arlington, Va., with major facilities in Hawaii, Offutt, Neb., and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. It's comprised of more than 600 highly skilled and talented civilians and military from each of our services (Army, Navy, Marines, and Air Force), and includes

historians, research analysts, material evidence experts, archaeologists, anthropologists, odontologists, linguists and various support personnel. These professionals, along with foreign specialists, research, investigate, recover, and identify remains of Americans unaccounted for from WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and Iraq and Persian Gulf Wars. Teams deploy across the world for recovery missions that can last up to 60 days, often to remote and dangerous locations.

Before joining DPMO in 2002, Jack spent 17 years on Capitol Hill, with the last three years as the Director of Government Affairs for then-Representative John M. McHugh (N.Y.). He advised Rep. McHugh on POW/MIA issues and supported the senior foreign policy and defense assistant in the fields of military affairs and POW/MIA matters. Kull also served as the assistant to the executive director of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia and as an intelligence analyst with the Defense Intelligence Agency. He is a 2018 recipient of the Special Operations Association President's Award for Excellence.

A hobby that is of particular interest to Jack, and also a tribute to the families who've lost a Special Operations Soldier in the Vietnam War, is the creation of 12-inch action figures in the fallen



soldier's likeness. The photo shown here is his recreation of SGT Alan Boyer, a Military Assistance & Command Vietnam Studies and Observation Group (MACVSOG) recon patrol member who was lost near Xepon, Laos in 1968. Jack presented this figure to SGT Boyer's surviving relative, his sister Judi, at the interment of his remains at Arlington National Cemetery in 2016. Boyer and SGTs Ron Brown and Greg Huston were lost when heavy enemy ground fire drove off their extraction helicopter. SGT Huston remains unaccounted for from that action.

Jack Kull's recreation of the recon team before they launched on their ill-fated mission.

Following graduation in 1979 from the University at Albany, N.Y., Jack attended the American University in D.C., where he received a Master's degree in international affairs. He has contributed to three books chronicling the exploits of America's special operations forces during the Vietnam War:



SGT Greg Huston



SGT Ron Brown



SGT Alan Boyer



Spike Team Asp (Boyer, Brown, Huston)

military history

SOG: The Secret Wars of America's Commandos in Vietnam by John Plaster; *The Blood Road: The Ho Chi Minh Trail and the Vietnam War* by John Prados; and *BAIT: The Battle of the Kham Duc Special Forces Camp* by James McLeroy and Gregory Sanders

Jack is a native of northern New York state, now living in Fairfax with his wife, Bonnie, and daughter, Victoria.

Join us by making your reservations for the dinner meeting

Wed., March 20, 6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Social (no-host bar) 6-7, dinner 7-8,
speaker 8-9

The Fairfax Community Center Auditorium

9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway
1-mile South of Fort Belvoir on Richmond Highway

Speaker: Jack Kull on our nation's POWs/MIAs

Make pre-paid reservations by mailing a check to arrive by March 15 to:

MVC/MOAA,
P.O. Box 97

Mt. Vernon, VA 22121-0097

Cost: \$28 per person (\$30 @ door)
Include with your check a RSVP listing name and number of reservations.

If you have questions, please call or write Cerie Kimball at 703-310-4605 or ckimball70@gmail.com 📧

The Speaker Series Presents

Book Launch & Reading with our 'own' Margaret Sullivan



"I know in my gut that the world is multiple, not singular; different, not better or worse. In such a world, I have been molded irrevocably into what felt then, and feels now, like a perpetual outsider—visible in some places, invisible in others, with heart and mind always in at least two places at once.

"Clearly, I am an American in my own way. Figuring out what that has meant has been a confusing process. As I have aged, internalizing our basic values, representing them to others and speaking out to defend them, I have become increasingly relaxed in my American skin. Yet I remain irreversibly a global person. Or as I would say now, culturally dexterous. I am a curious participant-observer, comfortable simply to see people as people rather than as stereotypes. At home in the world—in many worlds—I am stronger, more joyful, more 'myself' because of it."

Writer, artist and public educator Margaret Sullivan was born in China and has lived and worked in Asia and Africa as well as the United States. Her column, *A Grandmother on...*, appears in the Huffington Post. Her publications include the award-winning book, *"Can Survive, La" Cottage Industries in High-rise Singapore* (1985; 1992) and a children's book, *The Philippines: Crossroads of the Pacific* (1998). She edited *Change and the Muslim World* (1981). She was active in addressing issues of change for roles for wives of US Foreign Service officers and was Associate Director of the Asia Society's Washington Center. Her paintings and photographs have been exhibited in Indonesia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone and Washington DC.

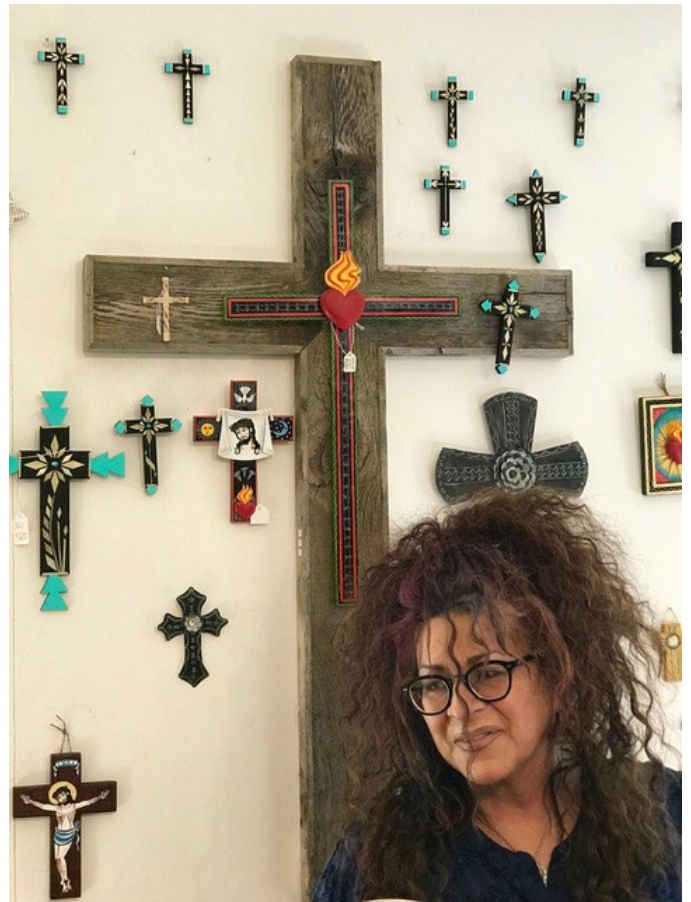
**Thursday, March 14th at 7:30 pm
Community Center Lounge**

Sponsored by the Activities Committee

Santa Fe



Santa Fe



Santa Fe



Santa Fe



Shooting Into the Sun
 Sunsets, Sand and Water
 Siesta Key, Florida

Photographs and Poems by Bonnie Jacob
 Production and Printing by Jeanne Tiffit

Montebello Café
 February 16 – March 29

Invite you to our film & discussion

BREAD AND CHOCOLATE
 THURSDAY FEBRUARY 28 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2

"A WONDERFUL FILM"
 inspired, profoundly original, deeply touching and filled with humor. —*Rolling Stone*

"Delicious, absolutely delicious."
 —*WGBH-TV*

Francis Bruniotti's
BREAD and CHOCOLATE
 You'll Laugh Till Your Heart Breaks.
 Starring Nino Manfredi and Anna Karina. A WILD NORTAL FILM.

Italian comedy-drama about clashing cultures when a hardworking Sicilian goes to Switzerland to find a job. The contrast between the cool elegance of the Swiss and the unpolished style of the Italian immigrant conflict to create laughs and tears. This touching film is a "hidden gem" with some unforgettable images that reveal the gap between the wealthy and the working poor. The film won the New York Film Critics Circle Award for best foreign film in 1978.

Caryl Curry will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion.

Montebello Classic Movie Night
 Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at 7pm
on the Big Screen in the Community Center

It's hard to beat the Original!

This 1937 original production of *A Star is Born* gives you the ground to understand the 2018 fourth variation on the theme. It has pathos and depth ... and Technicolor: Fredric March's first Technicolor film, and Janet Gaynor's only venture into the world of color. And a superb supporting cast, including Adolphe Menjou.

FREE popcorn, candies, and soft drinks for a great classic movie night!

Your host, Pamela Copley, will give you a pre-show briefing on the stars and the production, and then give you all the post-screening "back story" highlights. Pamela can be contacted at PvonGruber@aol.com.

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. Stedje at lisa@stedge.com and/or Nick Nickerson at fxnixson@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!



Signs of life (and death)

By Joel Miller