

# The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

spring forward

March 14, 2019





## good-bye, friend

# God gave Ed Hill a pretty day to return home



By Sue Allen

March 6 broke cold but with a glorious blue sky as friends and family of Montebello Officer Ed Hill gathered in Clinton, Md., to pay their final respects to him. “God gave Ed a pretty day to go home,” said Aja White, who works weekends at Montebello’s front desk. She and some 30 Montebello staff and residents attended the service, led by Ed’s co-workers, Officer Raleigh Barkley and Sergeant Ben Thompson.

Raleigh, who worked with Ed for 24 years, is a deacon at Word of Life Family Worship Center at Ft. Belvoir. He led an opening prayer and then recounted stories about how much Ed loved to pull pranks. “One time he got under the desk next to the computer in the Gatehouse. Gigi (an employee with the Montebello office staff at the time) had to come down there every night to insert a floppy disk in the computer to update all the resident information. When she reached down to insert the disk, Ed grabbed her hand, and she went ‘Aaaaaaaah!’ I had to grab her to stop her from falling down.”


Other pranks included stuffing one officer’s coat full of newspapers, and hiding cell phones and keys. Ed’s co-workers gave him a few nicknames, such as the Silver Fox, Eddie Baby, and Big Ed.

Raleigh also spoke about Ed’s many acts of kindness. “He had a heart of gold. Once Ed came in on his day off to paint an elderly resident’s unit for free, and sometimes shopped for residents who were too frail to take the shuttle.”

Raleigh read a tribute to Ed from Montebello residents (see sidebar).

Sergeant Ben Thompson also led prayers, a song, and delivered a sermon. He is a pastor at Christian Evangelical in Triangle, Va. “Ed was a cross-cultural kind of guy,” said Thompson. “He didn’t care where you came from, what your race or culture was. Ed didn’t pay any attention to that. He just loved everyone.”

Kevin Hill, one of Ed’s six children, delivered a eulogy in which he noted, “Montebello was Dad’s second family.”

It was a sad but fine hour, true testimony of the bonds between the Montebello community of workers and residents. 

*Officer Ed Hill at the guard house in 2017*

*Photo by Kim Santos*

**The** **MONTEBELLO** **Voice**  
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*Cover photo by Azita Mashayekhi*



### ***Farewell, Officer Hill*** **A statement on behalf of Montebello residents**

The residents of Montebello will always remember Ed Hill, Officer Hill, as he was best known, with deep affection. For 28 years he patrolled the premises of our condo community from 4 p.m. to midnight, keeping everyone safe. He did his job with a friendly and kind demeanor. When it came time to close the Community Center and kick out the die-hards at the bar, he was never authoritative or gruff, just a gentle, “You need to be out of here soon, but I’ll let you stay a few minutes more while I lock up the rest of the building.”

He knew the names of most of the residents, their kids and their grandkids. Known to carry dog biscuits on his patrols, Officer Hill also knew the names of most Montebello dogs and even adopted one – Roxy – when the owner said she was taking it to the pound.

As one resident said, “He had a loving and vibrant personality. We loved him.” She was just one voice of the more than two thousand residents who foster similar feelings.

Officer Hill loved his job and the many with whom he developed relationships over all these years. His passing has left an oversized hole in the heart of our community, but we’re grateful for the time we had with him. They’ll always be a little bit of Officer Hill at Montebello, in the memories and hearts of all he touched there.

They don’t make them like Officer Hill anymore. – Sue Allen 🍷

See Ed Hill’s official obituary from the funeral home:

<https://www.leefuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Edward-Hill-11/#!/Obituary>

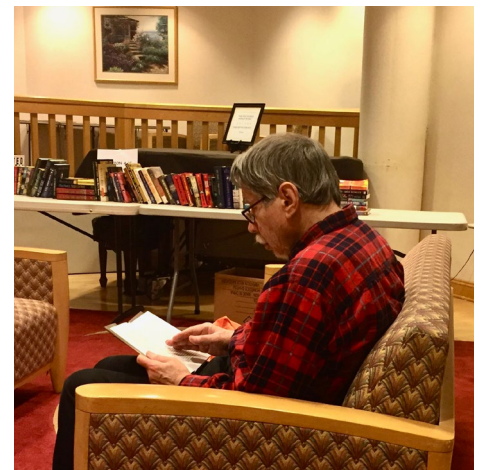


*One incumbent and two new members were elected to the Board of Directors last week. Jon Kandel, Heather Click, and Monica Sangbong will serve three-year terms.*

*Photo by Dian McDonald*



*Please join us in celebrating the well-lived life of Andrée Fouant, who passed away on March 11. A Celebration of Life will be held in Party Room 3, Saturday April 27, 4 -7 p.m. with her family and friends.*



*A happy reader at the March 9 book swap in the Community Center*

*The Montebello  
Voice  
uncut, uncensored,  
unofficial*

## our town



### Montebello Bowling League Monday Night First Half Champs

*The first half of the Montebello Monday Night Bowling League recently completed with Team Cooke, Dawn, Osterberg and Goodman in first place. After 15 weeks of competition the first half champs ended up 5 ½ games clear of the next closest team. The first half champs look forward to the second half of the season.*

*Left to right, Bob Osterberg, Stacy Dawn, Mark Goodman, and Catherine Cooke*



### Montebello Bowling League Wednesday Night First Half Champs

*The Wednesday night league came down to the last night in order to crown a champ for the first half. Congrats to Team Melick, Goldberg, Osterberg and Woods. After a tightly contested first half (3 teams had a chance going into the last week) a champion was determined. The 1<sup>st</sup> half Champs for Wednesday night are also looking forward to the second half of the season as well.*

*Left to right, Brian Goldberg, Michele Melik, Bob Osterberg and Mark Woods.*

Sub spots are still available on Monday and Wednesday nights and a female bowler is needed to complete a team on Wednesday night. Stop by the lanes and ask for Mark Woods or call 703-498-0143 for more information.



Art in Montebello is looking for jewelers, potters, quilters, needlepointers, knitters, fabric artists, clay creators, shoe designers, clothing designers and makers, ceramicists, sculptors, floral arrangers, wood carvers, metal crafters, paper artists, printers, and upcyclers to showcase their work in the art show on April 28 in the Community Center. AiM plans to feature the work of resident artists whose work cannot be displayed on the walls of the café.

Applications to participate will be posted online as well as available in the lobby mail slots and at the office.

For more information, please contact Harriet Duval at [haziduv@gmail.com](mailto:haziduv@gmail.com) or at 703-329-1342 or Pratibha Srinivasan at [Psrinivasan@icloud.com](mailto:Psrinivasan@icloud.com). 📧



## Former Montebello resident Cathy Ledec named Citizen of the Year

By Don Hinman  
*Environmental Club*

Former Montebello resident (2004 – 2006) and close neighbor Cathy Ledec was recently named Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations. She will be recognized at the Federation’s annual Citizen of the Year banquet, on Sunday evening, April 7, at the Doubletree Tysons Corner. Information on tickets and other details can be found at <http://www.fairfaxfederation.org/coyl.htm>.

Many Montebellians know Cathy as the leader of several bird walks in Montebello, and many invasive plant removal projects in Mount Eagle Park involving Montebello volunteers.

Those are but a few of the many projects she has led as a dynamic volunteer in the county. In her nomination form, the writer stated, “Cathy is a force of nature – by being a force for nature, with an intensity and focus that is truly remarkable. She has behind her a lifetime of volunteerism that began in her teens. Once she retired in 2015, the whirlwind that had been Cathy’s volunteer work became a tornado of volunteerism that benefits all of us in Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. The hallmark of her accomplishments has been not just volunteering, but taking on steadily increasing roles in organizing and motivating others. What is typical of Cathy is that she volunteers with a group, then gets more involved, and soon she is organizing,

coordinating, leading, and empowering others to get involved.”

She volunteers with several Fairfax County Park Authority programs and you might find her deep in the weeds pulling English ivy from trees and working to restore our forests and woodlands. She is actively engaged in numerous citizen science activities with the Fairfax County Park Authority and the National Audubon Society. She is

her HOA. In each case, she spearheaded the application process, researched, wrote and was awarded multiple grants to fund this work, and organized volunteers to install the plantings, resulting in the restoration of key natural landscaping elements.

She also led two significant and complex conservation efforts at nearby Huntley Meadows Park, resulting in the protection of rare natural and historic resources. The first was through the State Corporation Commission’s regulatory process that successfully challenged a 2.6-mile transmission line rebuild project. As a result, the utility agreed to change the project design to avoid damaging a historic viewshed and to reduce the transmission line collision risk for birds. She led a second effort that removed two conceptual paved bike trails from the Fairfax County plans for Huntley Meadows, thereby protecting the county’s largest conservation area from the adverse impacts of these cut-through transportation corridors.

Cathy was elected in January 2019 as chair of the Fairfax County Tree Commission.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, founded in 1940, is an education and

advocacy organization whose members are neighborhood civic organizations, HOAs and condominium associations, including Montebello. 🌳



also an active leader in her own HOA, Pavilions at Huntington Metro Community Association, leading landscaping efforts and converting to all-native plants and trees.

Cathy led the re-landscaping of the Mt. Vernon Government Center and the installation of two native pollinator meadows, at Mt. Eagle Park and within



## What's going on in the woods behind Building 2?

*Text and photos by Paul Zeisset*

Through the winter, heavy equipment has been working behind Building 2 to reduce the erosion in that drainage area. That has resulted in an attractive cascade and series of pools that will allow rainwater to slowly percolate into the ground.

This week, the next stage proceeded toward the installation of a new bridge across that intermittent stream. For that, concrete footers were poured Monday. A temporary wooden road

was laid down to keep equipment from getting stuck and to avoid further damage to the ground below. The cement truck backed in as far as it safely could and dumped concrete into the large bucket.

The backhoe then positioned the concrete over the frames where the bridge footings were to be poured on either side of the stream. All the time, pumps were running to divert ground water ready to seep into the holes.

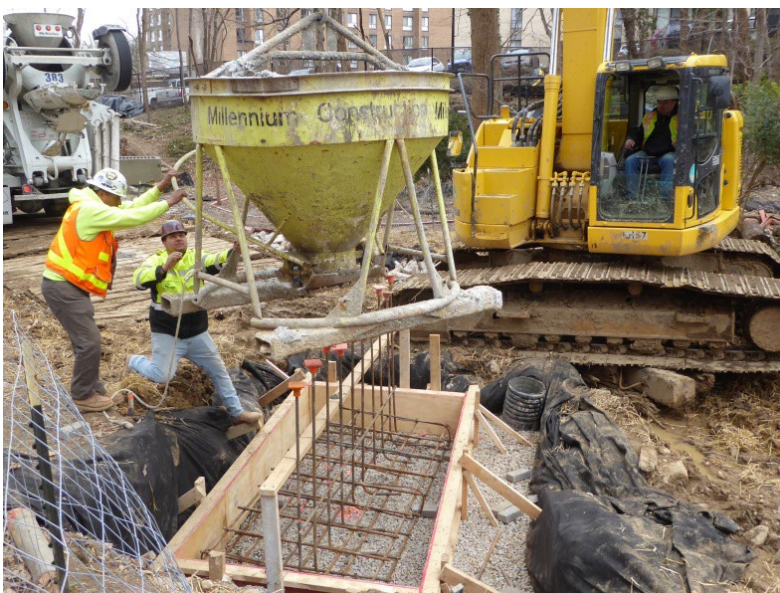
Once the concrete has hardened, this prefabricated bridge will be lifted into

place, suspending the bridge from the yellow straps visible in this photo.

Work to finish the drainage will proceed quickly thereafter. The trail is expected to be reopened to Montebello residents in mid-April.

Work to revegetate the bare ground left by the construction will take place through this spring and fall.

The concrete was tested onsite to confirm it contained the right percentage of air for freeze-thaw protection. 🏠





# To Chelsea, with love

*Note: Our 19-year-old kitty died on February 22. In our grief we wrote her a letter*

**By Sue Allen and Don Hinman**

Dear Chelsea,

Now that you're gone, things that were once distasteful have become sacred. We never imagined we would feel sentimental about kitty litter, but now we resist dumping it. Those annoying cat hairs of yours sticking to the sofa? They are sources of joy. The stains in the rug that refuse to come out where you barfed one of many times? Now we are not so keen on scrubbing it. We even cherish the fur clogging the dust-buster filter.

You always had a bit of attitude, right up to the end. And you lived a heck of a long time for a kitty, 19 years plus. How you hung on despite getting so thin that you looked like a bag of bones topped by a mat of black and white fur is testimony to your will to live. Nine lives? You had double that number, saucy girl. Although you dropped to four pounds that last month, you ate voraciously. As your staff, we were quick to accommodate your every gastronomical predilection. Roasted chicken, broiled salmon, pork chops, and "people" tuna from the can? Yes, your highness. We happily cooked and served you anything you could stomach, though that varied from day to day. We were desperate to get weight on you. There were days you'd sniff at fresh chicken and turn your back, returning 15 minutes later meowing at the fridge. Some days you'd follow us as we opened yet one more can of beef shreds, salmon pieces, liver pate, then run to your food dish, take one sniff and reject it. (Note: we would never put up with this from a child or grandchild.)

Your original staff, my sister Holly, brought you up in a funky Victorian

neighborhood in Atlanta, where you developed Southern tastes and loved roasting yourself in sunny spots. When Holly passed on in 2010, we became your staff and took you away from all you knew: the patchwork of back alleys and secret gardens, the sizzling summers, your pretty house. You never adjusted to being inside, particularly not to high-rise condo life. Fortunately, you spent extended summers in Michigan where you had 24-hour access to the great outdoors. Getting there was a feat, as you weren't a happy travel-



er – you always threw up in the first quarter-mile of a trip, be it a half-mile down Route 1 to the vet, or 800 miles to Lake Huron in northern Michigan. At Montebello, you escaped on a few occasions; once a neighbor found you sitting quietly in front of our door. We figured it must have been several hours. You liked midnight walks to the end of the hall, and lusted after birds perching on the rail of our glassed-in balcony.

Chelsea, you lived up to the warning

sign on your chart at the vets that read: CAUTION \*\*\*Patient Easily Excited\*\*\*, after a particularly loud hissing and snarling nail-clipping session. Do you remember that time when they drew your blood and you wiggled and writhed your way loose of the two technicians holding you, shaking the needle out and spraying blood on the walls?

Now lest we sound critical, you had a sweet side, always greeting us at the door with a meow followed by a sprint to your food dish. You loved to walk across our computer keyboards, sit on our iPhones, and curl up on the book or newspaper that we were reading. Even as you snuggled on our laps we remained cautious, knowing your purrs could turn into hisses, your licks into nips. You left your signature in several scars on our arms and hands, but a bigger one on our hearts.

On winter nights you were a warm lump at our feet, and when we were sick you curled against our backs. Some mornings we would awake to find you lying on our chests. When you felt safe you would head-butt our hands and ankles, walk around our legs, sprawl on your side with legs extended and fall into a deep, paranoia-free sleep.

We loved your white whiskers, your amber eyes, your mix of hiss and vinegar. You were a big cat inhabiting a tiny body.

Eventually, we'll dump the litter, scrub the rugs, and purge every surface of hairs. The vacuum will no longer be lined with fur. As your staff we are now officially unemployed and left to ponder the big question: is there life after cats?

With love and hisses,

Chelsea's Staff  
a/k/a/Sue & Don 🐾



# cup of joe





# cup of joe



*Photos by Dian McDonald*



# cup of joe

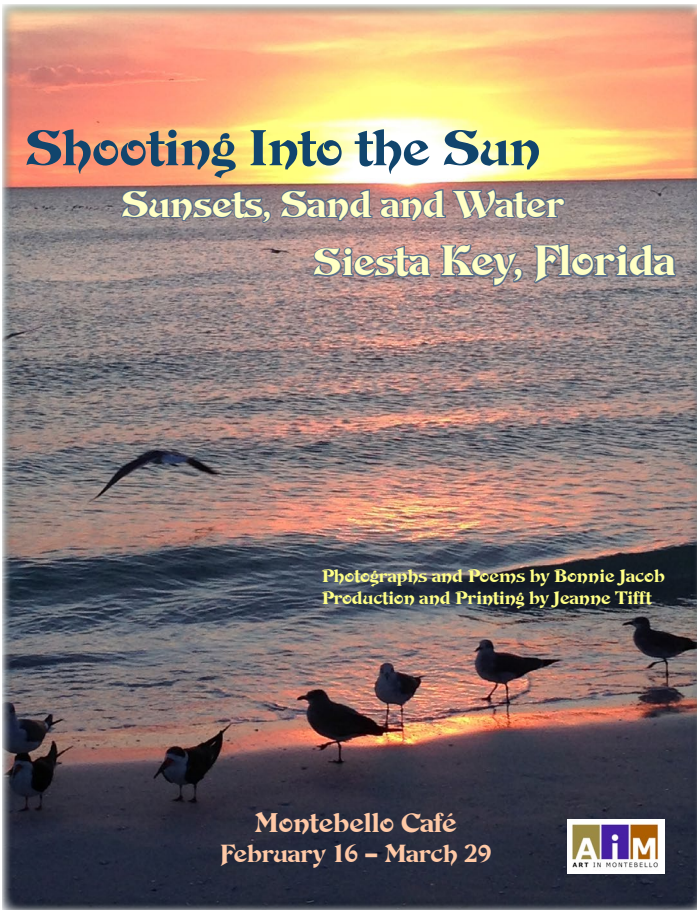


*Photos by Dian McDonald*




## 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



## 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](mailto:PVonGruber@aol.com).



and


## Invite you to our film & discussion




### THE INSULT

THURSDAY MARCH 21 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2




**A personal dispute between two men in Beirut, one Christian Lebanese and the other Palestinian, escalates into a highly charged and very public trial that unearths unresolved social and political issues throughout Lebanon that have been simmering since the civil war ended in 1990. The Insult made the short list for the 2018 Academy Awards' Best Foreign Film. The story is unforgettable; it's biting, socially relevant, and earnest in its depiction of many forms of suffering. Join us for this important and thought-provoking film.**

**Leslee Levy will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion.**




### Chess Game Night with Chess Club

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




**4<sup>th</sup> 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.)

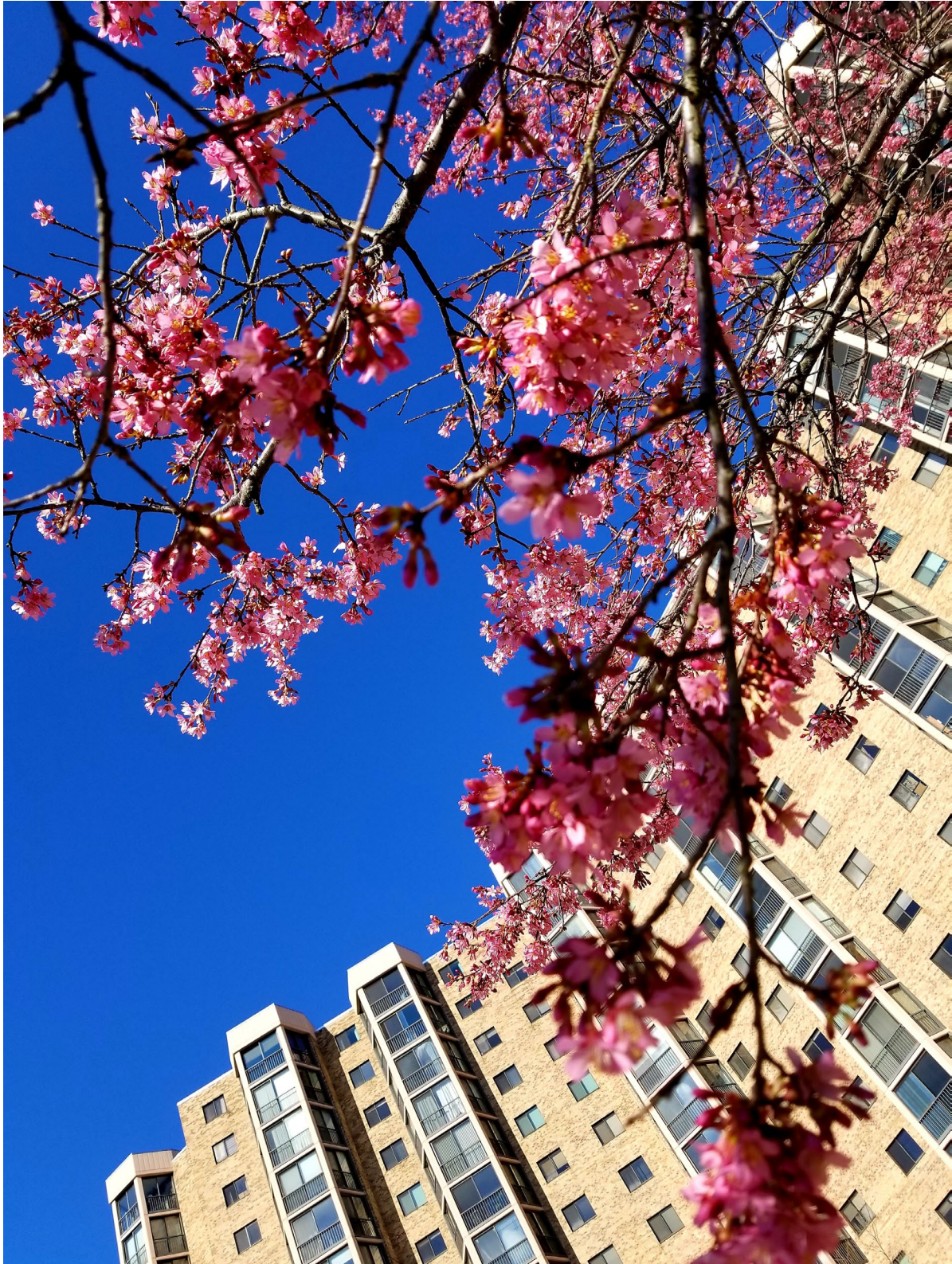
Contact Lisa J. Stedje at [lisa@stedje.com](mailto:lisa@stedje.com) and/or Nick Nickerson at [fxnixson@gmail.com](mailto:fxnixson@gmail.com) for more information.  
\* (e.g., most holidays and holiday periods are excluded.)

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





final glance



*Azita Mashayekhi*