

# The **MONTTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

don't stop believin'

April 4, 2019





## voices on the 37

*This is a picture of the erosion control work at the back of Bldg 1, taken from our 5th floor window. It shows the new wood chips that have been applied to the picnic area, the steps, and the dog walk.*

*– Karen Barnes*



*Montebello artist Anna Schalk at the opening of her solo show in the café.*

*Photo by Dian McDonald*

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an independent gazette  
Alexandria, Virginia

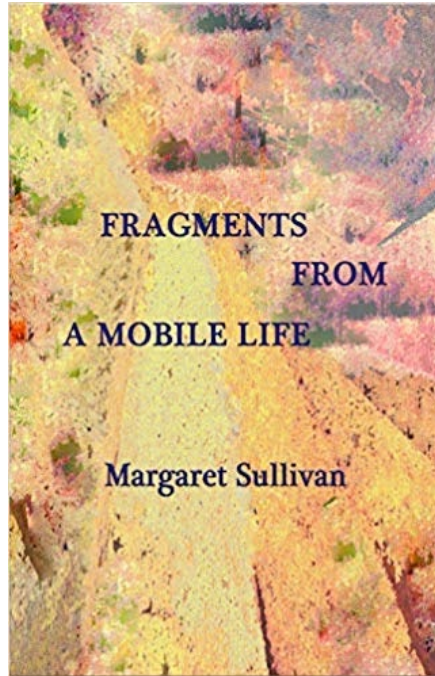
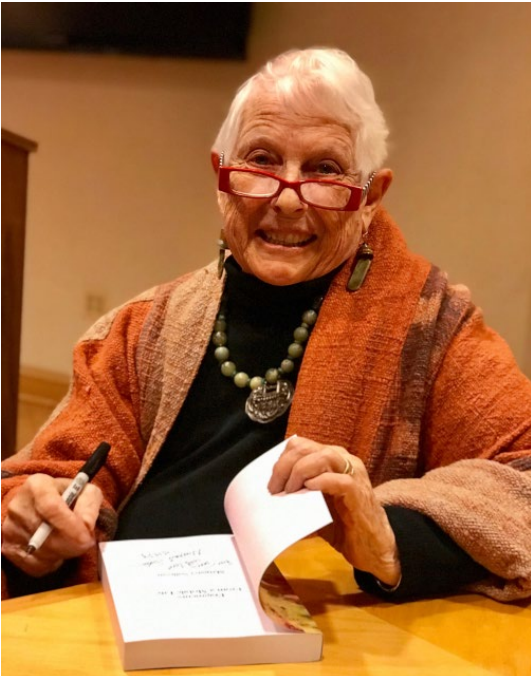
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*Cover photo by Azita Mashayekhi*





Former long-time Montebello resident Margaret Sullivan shared her new memoir, *Fragments from a Mobile Life*, with her friends on March 14 in the Community Center.

Starting in China, ending in Virginia, and girdling the equator, Margaret's mobile life, has been lived in evolving fragments of time and place. Rooted in family, her life spans changes in the post-colonial world and women's lives, told in short, lively stories, some first published as columns in the *Huffington Post*.

Published by Red Mountain Press, the book is available from major online booksellers.

Photo by Dian McDonald

## Becoming American film series at the Lyceum

Carefully curated, *Becoming American* is a selection of documentaries designed to engage and enlighten audiences, representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the sessions is moderated by a scholar who will also facilitate discussion after the viewing. This event is free; however pre-registration is required at [shop.alexandriava.gov](http://shop.alexandriava.gov).

This series is a project of City Lore in collaboration with the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m.; event from 10 a.m. to noon. The Lyceum is in Old Town Alexandria at 201 S. Washington Street.

### **April 13: *Between Two Worlds: Identity and Acculturation***

Looks at how immigrants react and adjust to living in a new country and culture, and how they bridge the divide between the traditions and values of their native countries. [Film: *The New Americans*, Episode 1, *The Nigerians*.]

### **April 27: *Help Wanted? Immigration and Work***

Looks at the economic side of immigration, chronicling the essential part immigrant labor has played in building America, as well as the conflicted relationship American workers have had with immigrants. [Film: *Destination America*, Episode 1, *The Golden Door*.]

### **May 11: *Family and Community***

Explores how family ties and community institutions have played an essential role in successful migration and adaptation to American life. [Film: *My American Girls*.]

### **May 18: *Immigration and Popular Culture***

Looks at the ways the media and popular culture have historically taught newcomers how to "be American," and how the rich contributions of different immigrant groups

have transformed American culture and art. [Film: *The Search for General Tso*.]

— submitted by Guin Jones



— submitted by Joe de Angelis

# Will Jarred directs *The Savannah Disputation*

By Jackie Fleming

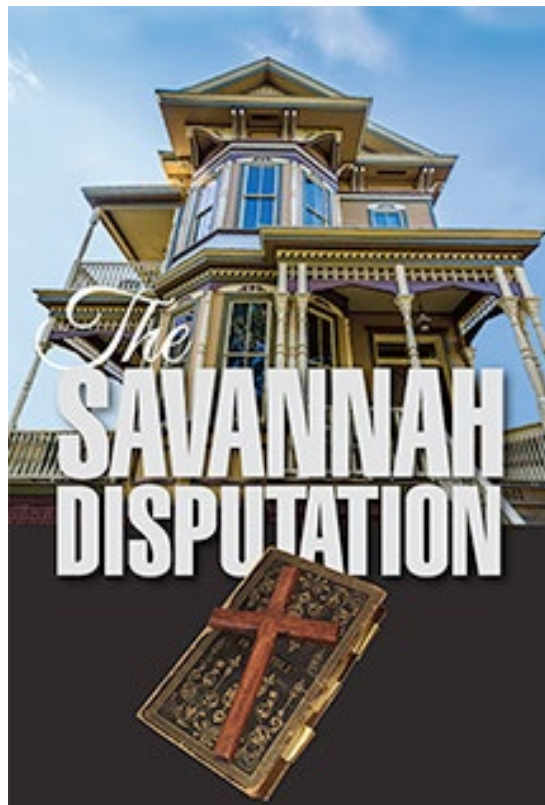
Montebello's very own Will Jarred will be directing his first play at The Little Theatre of Alexandria. The play, *The Savannah Disputation*, runs from April 27 to May 18. It is about two older sisters, devout Catholics, who are approached by a Christian fundamentalist hoping to convert and save them from hell and damnation. While the subject matter and themes of lost love and being single and elderly and the loneliness that can ensue, sound serious, the play is actually heartwarming and humorous. There is an authenticity to the women that helps the audience connect with their characters. The religious undertones and how people interpret the Bible to promote their own agendas also plays prominently.

Will was a theater major in college. He married young and had two children, so he had to put his dream of acting on the back burner while he worked for a book publisher. He continued to do community theater when he could on the side. In 2001, he was in his last show as an actor. Fast forward 13 years when Will moved to Montebello. Like many of us, he was downsizing and was looking for a no-hassle lifestyle. He used an online real estate tool where his search for "tennis courts" brought him to Montebello. "Montebello felt affordable and it felt like a community," he said. Besides tennis, Will is passionate about film and film history, travel and architecture. He helps lead discussions for the AiM film group that meets once a month in a party room, and has recently started Hatha Yoga offered at Montebello with Virginia Nickich on Wednesday evenings.

When Will moved to Montebello, he resurrected his love of theater and started looking for opportunities on actor boards. He saw a notice on Facebook



Will Jarred



**The Little Theatre of Alexandria**  
**600 Wolfe Street in Old Town**  
**[www.thelittletheatre.com](http://www.thelittletheatre.com)**  
**April 27 to May 18**  
**Tickets \$21 to \$24**

that The Little Theatre of Alexandria was looking for directors for the 2018 season. He applied and went through a professional and rigorous interview process before being offered a director

position. The *Savannah Disputation* is his directorial debut for LTA.

The play is in formation. Casting calls and auditions happened at the beginning of March. The first read-through was March 8 and official rehearsals began March 12. For the director, the job becomes demanding once casting is complete. Will says, "We're working five nights a week, from 7 to 10 p.m. for four weeks, and add weekend tech rehearsals and run-throughs for the remaining two weeks."

All of this is in addition to Will's full-time day job as national director of marketing and communications for NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, where he manages a staff of 10. "This is my life right now, there is no time for anything else."

As director, Will has the full support of producers, set designers and stage managers, which gives him the luxury of focusing on the actors and acting. He is responsible for conceiving a vision of the play and approves all aspects of the production. When asked why LTA is unique, Will responded, "Because it is a volunteer-run organization with the highest level of professional quality. It also has a strong educational component so it's also about giving back to the community." He went on to say, "Talent is mostly local, so you may see someone you know on stage. The quality of the show versus the price of a ticket is phenomenal."

Will he ever act again? "I definitely miss being on stage, but it has to be the right role. I am very picky about that now. There needs to be a strong production team as well."

Right now, Will is very happy to be involved in the local community in Alexandria with both theater and Montebello. He is also proud to be a part of a show that offers parts to older women, roles that are hard to come by. 🙏



# Weed Wranglers battle invaders from Mount Eagle Park

By Paul Zeisset

For the last two years, dozens of participants in Weed Wrangle® Montebello have been working to improve the health of our woodlands by removing invasive plants that don't belong here. One of the chief targets has been English ivy, planted as an ornamental here long ago, before its dangers to native plant life were recognized.

Now that professionals have treated most of the English ivy in the Montebello woods, the Weed Wrangle® Montebello project has set its sights on the most threatening source of English ivy seeds that could reinfest our grounds – the parkland just on the outside of our fence.

While Mount Eagle Park was, up until the late 1960s, part of the same historic Mount Eagle property as Montebello, the park is now under the jurisdiction of Fairfax County. Of course, much of the park is open and grassy, but large areas along the edges have trees that have become overgrown

with English ivy. And it is primarily up in the trees where English ivy produces flowers and fruits. Birds eat the ivy fruits and spread the seeds in their droppings.

On Saturday, April 13, at 9 a.m., Weed Wranglers from Montebello will partner with other volunteers from the Fairfax County Invasive Management Area program to battle the ivy. Our focus will primarily be on the trees just outside Montebello's fence, on either side of the back gate that leads toward the Metro. Top priority is to sever the roots of English ivy growing up the trees.

Our leader will be Catherine Ledec,



near neighbor and former resident of Montebello, who happens also to be the County Tree Steward for our part of Fairfax County and president of the Friends of Huntley Meadows. Cathy and her husband, George, have led several bird walks for Montebello residents. Cathy was recently named the Citizen of the Year by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

Montebello residents of all ages are invited to participate. We will provide you the training you need. Plan to wear long sleeves and long pants to protect your skin, even if it is warm. Sunscreen and hats will probably be called for. Bring work gloves and clippers if you have them, but we will have some gloves and tools for those who don't.

We still have a few Weed Wrangle® Montebello T-shirts for new volunteers. Earn one on April 13. 📍

## Weed Wrangle® Montebello April 13, 9am to 11am

- ☐ Meet at back gate (toward Metro)
- ☐ Wear long sleeves/long pants
- ☐ Bring your Montebello ID to reenter through the back gate



*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*



# Fios work to begin on Monday, board member resigns, additional parking decal debated

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Following last week's resignation of Lynn Tjeerdsma from the Board of Directors, a call for a replacement will go out in the coming days. A new director will be chosen in May.

A smaller board conducted business on Tuesday night. Heather Click was absent and Raymond Goodrich participated via telephone.

New board president Jon Kandel announced that long-awaited Verizon Fios service will begin the installation process next Monday. Starting in Building 3, residents will have three technical visits: electrical (replacing the twist lock receptacle in HVAC closets with a standard 3-prong receptacle), drilling the concrete slab in HVAC closets, and installing fiber cable. He said the work is expected to be completed in the next two to two-and-a-half months.

The board spent nearly 15 minutes discussing a request for an exception to the parking decal rule, which allows two decals per unit. The issue involves a resident who bought a third car not realizing the bylaws limitation. (See letter, redacted by resident's request)

After raising the possibilities of parking the extra car in a remote location by the back gate or approving the decal on an annual basis, the board agreed to move the discussion to next week's meeting. Some people were concerned about setting a precedent to requests for additional vehicles.

The board's annual retreat will take place on April 27 in party room 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. No agenda items were announced.

Quality Improvement Committee chairman Guido Zanni asked the board to expand QI membership from three directors to additional resident consultants to assist with upcoming projects. 📧

To: Montebello Board of Directors  
Marco Mendoza

From: [REDACTED]

Date: March 8, 2019  
Subject: Parking

I hereby ask the Montebello Board of Directors to grant an exception to the rules, allowing a third parking sticker.

I am sorry, I have made a mistake. I didn't understand that there is a limit in the rules on the number of cars that we can have parking stickers for, and I bought a third car.

The third car is a VW Eos convertible. I have long wanted a convertible. It is not a rational or sensible car. I am uncertain if the joy of driving it will outweigh the burden of owning it, so I was reluctant to trade in my sensible and reliable Mazda that I have owned since new. This exception for an extra parking sticker will be for a limited period of time. I wanted to try the convertible for a season or two, then decide if I want to keep the convertible or the more sensible Mazda hatchback. I will likely part with one or the other within a couple of years. I barely drive enough to justify owning one car. Our ultimate plan, when I retire in 5 to 6 years, is to cut back to one car. I would not replace one of the three cars, with another "third" car.

At 60 years old, having survived a spinal tumor and having watched my parents die without indulging in the simple joys of life, I decided it was now or never to indulge my desire to drive a convertible.

If I had realized there was a limit of two parking stickers per unit, I would have done this differently. I was genuinely surprised to hear of this limitation. I have bought the car and paid for it. Selling it now would result in a substantial loss. Storing it offsite would make it difficult to use. Please give me a couple of years to enjoy it, while I decide if I want to keep it, or the sensible car.

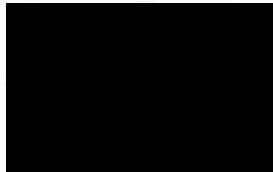


Photo by *Dian McDonald*



## St. Patrick's Day



*Montebello Music Club performed Irish favorites, such as When Irish Eyes Are Smiling, My Wild Irish Rose, and Cockles and Mussels.*

*Dancers from the Boyle's Irish Dance Studio performed traditional dances.*

*Everyone else donned their green and felt Irish for a day.*

*Photos by Dian McDonald*





# St. Patrick's Day





# St. Patrick's Day



*Photos by Dian McDonald*



THE SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS: Verónica Davila-Steele

## Do You Think You Have Hearing Loss?



What do you think you know about hearing loss?

### Did you know that...

- Approximately 48 million Americans have a significant hearing loss.
- People with hearing loss wait an average of 7 years before seeking help.
- Of Americans in the workplace, 22 million—or about 22 percent—are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work.
- 12.5 percent of kids between the ages of 6 and 19 have hearing loss as a result of listening to loud music, particularly through earbuds at unsafe volumes.
- 2.7 million veterans receive either disability compensation for service-connected hearing disabilities or are in treatment for related hearing issues.



Come to a Hearing Loss Presentation

Montebello Community Center

April 10, 2019

7:30 p.m.

How can I tell if I have a hearing loss?

### Do you....

- often ask people to repeat themselves?
- have trouble hearing in groups or loud environments, such as at parties or restaurants?
- often think others are mumbling?
- fail to hear someone talking from behind you?
- turn up the volume on the TV or car radio?
- have difficulty hearing on the phone?
- have trouble hearing your alarm clock?
- have difficulty hearing at the movies?

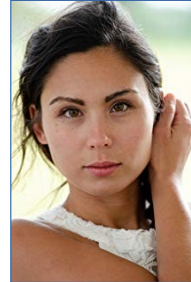
If you answered "yes" to any of these questions it could indicate a hearing loss.

This event will be captioned by Michelle Houston, CMT Provider; Clear Caption display of caption telephones

Sponsored by the Activities Committee

The Speaker Series Presents

## Montebello neighbor & actor KATHERINE CARUSO



Interviewed by Sue Allen, Katherine will share her acting career experiences. She has been featured in *Copycat Killers*, television commercials, independent movies, *How to Get Girls* that aired on HULU, and *Daily Bread* of DirectTV.

A skilled martial artist, she does her own stunts.

Thursday, April 25th at 7:30 pm  
Community Center Lounge

*Sponsored by the Activities Committee*

## Encore Rocks Creativity for Older Adults

Free Concert

Alexandria, Fairfax and DC  
Encore ROCKS perform  
favorite rock & roll hits  
from across the decades

Featuring:  
Jersey Boys, Still Rock & Roll to Me, Shut  
Up and Dance, Rock & Roll All Night, More

Hear Rock & Roll Music  
Performed by the Generation  
Who Invented It!

May 17, 2019 7:30 pm  
Washington Masonic National Memorial  
101 Callahan Dr. Alexandria, VA

No Tickets Required. Free & Open to the Public  
For More Information:  
Encorecreativity.org

The Montebello Grounds Committee Invites you to:

## Toil in the Soil and Watch the Flowers Grow!

- The Grounds Committee is looking for 'gardeners' to continue planting and maintaining flowers in the three circle planters.
- Join your neighbors to prep the beds and plant the summer flowers!
- All plant materials and tools will be provided. Use your own favorite gardening trowel if you wish.
- Contact Chuck Amorosino, project coordinator, at [camorir@cox.net](mailto:camorir@cox.net) with your name, building and unit number, and a preferred email address. He will respond with more information and updates.



Saturday, May 18, 10:00 am

3 Circle Planters



Anna Schalk Solo Show

Woman's Many Facets



Every woman is a blessed enigma: mysterious and sometimes obscure. A woman is a seeker of the Light; a woman is simultaneously strong and fragile; a woman is willing to face the Unknown within as she seeks mindfulness; and a woman holds within her body the possibility for future society.

Montebello Café  
March 30 to May 3  
Opening: Saturday, March 30  
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.



## Montebello Classic Movie Night

Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 7pm  
on the Big Screen in the Community Center

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us ..."

**Decency and courage shine through as the mobs seize France!**

Leslie Howard is dashing;  
Raymond Massey is wicked;  
and Merle Oberon is,  
well, ... beautiful (and good).  
It's all Classic 1934 Korda.

\* There was a 1928 silent version of Baroness Orczy's book, *The Triumph of the Scarlet Pimpernel*.



**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 [ProcGruber@aol.com](mailto:ProcGruber@aol.com).



and



Invite you to our film & discussion



**A TOUCH OF EVIL**

THURSDAY APRIL 25 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



This Orson Welles-directed film (1958) gives us smuggling at the Mexican border, a drug gang, and police corruption. That was 60 years ago – we're so lucky that none of that exists today. Some say that Welles gave one of his most Shakespearean performances in this movie. Come join us and let us know if you agree.

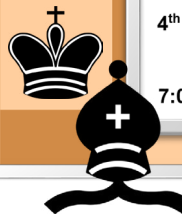
Oh! I almost forgot to mention that Charlton Heston is type-cast as a Mexican policeman...of course!

Joel Miller 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)

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

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.)

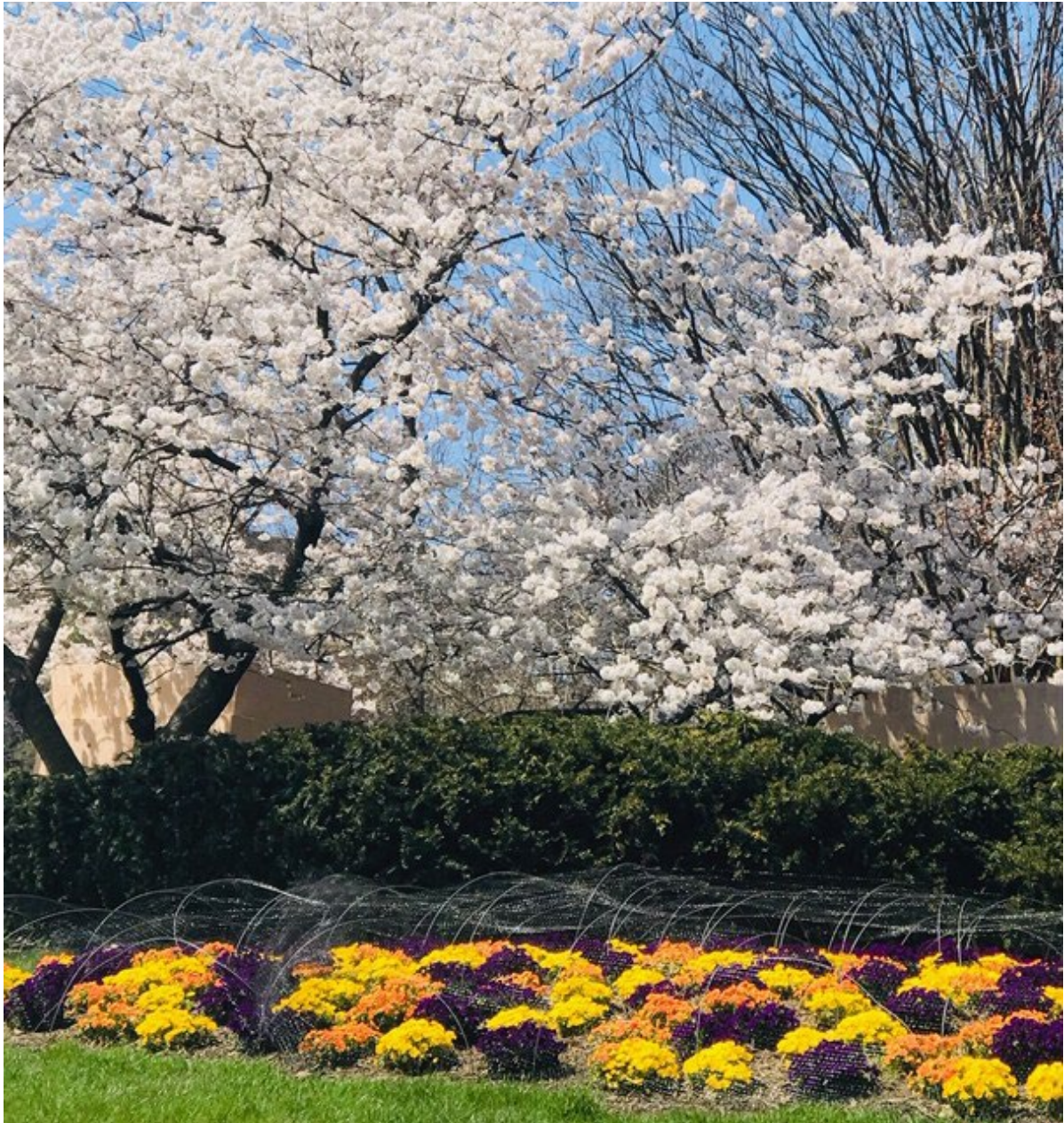
Contact Lisa J. Stedje at [lisa@stedge.com](mailto:lisa@stedge.com) and/or Nick Nickerson at [fnixson@gmail.com](mailto:fnixson@gmail.com) for more information.

\* (e.g., most holidays and holiday periods are excluded.)





## final glance



*Dian McDonald*