

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

over the rainbow

July 25, 2019



The chair that gave me butterflies

By Raymond Houck

Everyone remembers their first apartment. Mine was after I was hired for my first teaching job in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. I was a recent college grad starting graduate school in the fall, and in addition to teaching, I was working part-time at a department store. Needless to say, I did not have much money to burn.

My new digs were furnished in family hand-me-downs, used wares, and Goodwill finds. I did buy one new thing. Something I had always wanted. An aqua canvas Butterfly Chair from a Conran Store. I thought it was very stylish and modern.

For those who may be unfamiliar the Butterfly Chair, allow me to tell you about it.

Some furniture designs become ubiquitous and their creators relegated to a footnote in history. Such is the case with the Butterfly Chair, designed by a trio of Le Corbusier alums – Antonio

Boner, Juan Kurchan, and Jorge Ferrarri Harroy. They designed this chair in Buenos Aires in 1938.

Most people do not know it's Argentinian, but if you went to any furniture department from Target to Urban Out-




fitters to IKEA to Macy's and looked at a lineup of chairs, this chair would immediately be the most recognizable.

In 1940 after seeing the chair at a design show in Buenos Aires, department store heir and industrial curator Edgar Kaufman, Jr., returned with two

chairs. One of them was for his parents' new country house, Fallingwater, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The other chair went to the MOMA to be exhibited as an outstanding example of 20th century modern furniture design.

The low leather-and-iron chair won praise for being easy to move, easy to clean, and comfortable (until you try to stand up). It was a wild success. Copies of the Butterfly Chair continue in production today and can be found in apartments and homes around the world.

Alas, my aqua Butterfly Chair may just be a memory, but I remember it fondly even today. 

Cover photos by Ralph Johnson

The  **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.

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Montebello artist Rebecca McNeely (above with husband Joe), is featured at the Verre Wine Bar in Arlington. The show, *A Sense of Place: Paintings from Memories of Extraordinary Places*, will be on view until September 8. In addition, she is profiled in the July issue of the regional arts magazine, *Elan*.

What's in a sign?

By Bonnie Jacob

Member of the team that helped assemble Montebello's winning Community/Communicator of the Year application

In today's hyped-up world, we are surrounded by signage – on roadsides; in stores; on apparel; in planes, boats, and trains; even in church. Everybody has something to say to everybody else.

Most signs use words – but not too many; in signs, brevity is a plus. Some get their ideas across with no words at all: walk/don't walk; no smoking; look out; be proud of who you are; rest here.

Some signs use humor – but that's tricky: not everyone laughs at the same thing. Likewise, some signs impress, and some, intentionally or not, offend some people. Sometimes the same sign does both.

That seems to be the case with a small banner placed a few weeks ago just to the right of Montebello's Front Gate. Engulfed by giant broadsides on neighboring buildings – a shrimp among sharks – it makes a simple statement: that Montebello was named Community of the Year, 2018, (very large category) by the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the Community Associations Institute (WMCCAI).

WMCCAI gave the banner to Montebello in case we, like other winners, would be pleased to display it. After a bit of discussion and the passage of a few months, we posted it on our Route 1 lawn.

Dark blue, maybe two and a half feet tall, and stretched between two wooden posts, the sign really is a pretty modest way to communicate such a significant honor: you can barely even see it as you drive in. Sports champions throw their fists in the air and swing enormous team flags from the rafters. Montebello's banner, in contrast, barely waves.

Even this bit of self-promotion, though, strikes some of us as unseemly. Fair enough; we all have our opinions

on what's an acceptable announcement versus what's tacky. But, let's also be aware that the accomplishment that earned this banner is very much worth celebrating. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors thought so this spring when they passed a Resolution praising Montebello for winning not only the Community of the Year but also the Communicator of the Year award for 2018.

In their Resolution, the Supervisors observed that these awards cited our best practices in areas vital to the continued success of our condo Association, including financial health, environmental management, staffing, safety and access, and quality of community life, including communications.

We who live here understand that excellence in these areas does not just happen. It is the result of continuous hard work and commitment by our vol-

unteer board, committees, and clubs; our first-rate management; and our staff – some of whom have been with us for decades.

And it is worth noting that this is the second time that Montebello has been named WMCCAI's Community of the Year. The first time was in 1997, more than 20 years ago. For our community to sustain this level of quality over such a long term is an achievement in itself – something that deserves our respect, and, yes, a bit of pride. Soon, our little sign will be removed, if it hasn't been taken down already – leaving our front door to its lawns and gardens and traffic signs and security gates. But if you get a chance, I urge you to stop by the reception desk in the Community Center. There on the hallway wall, just to the right of the door, is a display of certificates won over the years, including our new Community and Communicator of the Year awards and the Fairfax County Resolution.

Take a couple of minutes to read what WMCCAI and the Supervisors had to say. I'm guessing it will make you proud – however you'd care to express it – to call Montebello home. 🏡



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The Montebello Voice wants to hear from you

Words to live by

By Vee Harrison

While straightening out my desk the other day, I came across a saying from a while ago. It made me think of how much I have enjoyed reading them and sometimes save or write them down. With just a few words or sentences, whole thoughts, images, and food for thought can be captured. I looked up the words “saying and quotes,” which was defined as “short pithy expressions that generally contain advice or wisdom.” We have heard some of them without knowing who wrote them. For example, “**Actions speaks louder than words,**” which has become a common expression.

Others such as “**Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none,**” were penned by William Shakespeare for his play *All’s Well That Ends Well*.

I would like to share some of my favorite quotes with you all and perhaps

in the next issue you can share some of yours with all of us as well.

These are some of my favorites:

The world is like a book and those who do not travel read only one page. – St. Augustine

The best way to predict your future is to create it. – Abraham Lincoln

I don’t know who penned these, but they made me think.

Don’t look back, you are not going that way.

If you get tired, learn to rest, not quit.

There is no WiFi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection.

Some of my favorite quotes come from the Winnie the Pooh children’s series penned by A.A. Milne. Some have made me laugh and others have warmed my heart:

“People say nothing is possible, but I do nothing every day.”

“Any day spent with you is my favorite day.”

“Some people care too much. I think it’s called love.”

“A bear however hard he tries, grows tubby without exercise.”

“What day is it?” asked Winnie the Pooh. “It’s today,” squeaked Piglet. “My favorite day,” said Pooh.

“You’re braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.”

A few quotes from Dr. Seuss were also written for children, but his words are enjoyed by all ages :

“You’ll miss the best things if you keep your eyes shut.”

“Sometimes you will never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory.”

The last quote to share with you:

The real test of class is how you treat people who cannot possibly do you any good. – Unknown 📖



The National Society of Arts and Letters-DC Classical Voice Award Winners performed classical selections and a few show tunes on July 21.

On the photo are Sherry Watkins, NSAL’s chair of classical voice programs, with the singers: Bethany Yeh, Madison Holmes, Erica Marie Ferguson, Jillian Tate, and Maya McGuire. Maestro Joseph Walsh is artistic advisor and accompanist.

The event was presented by the NSAL Washington, D.C. Chapter and the Montebello Music Club.

Dian McDonald

around town



*Guido R. Zanni at the opening of his first-ever art exhibit, **Going with the Flow**, at the café. The show will be on view through August 23.*

Dian McDonald



Leslie Rodriguez shared her enthusiasm and expertise for cooking with InstantPot at a packed Taste of Montebello presentation.

Kim Santos



Jon Kandel and Amy Shapiro shared a slide show of their photographs from a trip to the Galapagos at a Travel Club event.

Dian McDonald

Beautiful Switzerland



The ibex, the animal icon of the Alps, photographed at Gornergrat at the base of the Matterhorn

Text & photos by Ralph Johnson

For those who love to travel in a small scenic country with exceptional public transportation, tourist-friendly Switzerland is highly recommended. We purchased 15-day Swiss Rail Passes that included rail transportation, ferries, most museums, public buses, plus half-fares on scenic gondolas, funiculars, and cog railroads. This package is only available for tourists. We enjoyed Switzerland so much, we are considering returning and adding the many things we missed on this trip.

If anyone is interested in Switzerland, we are willing to answer your questions or make suggestions. 🇨🇭



Lauterbrunnen and Lauterbrunnen Valley with approximately 68 waterfalls

journeys

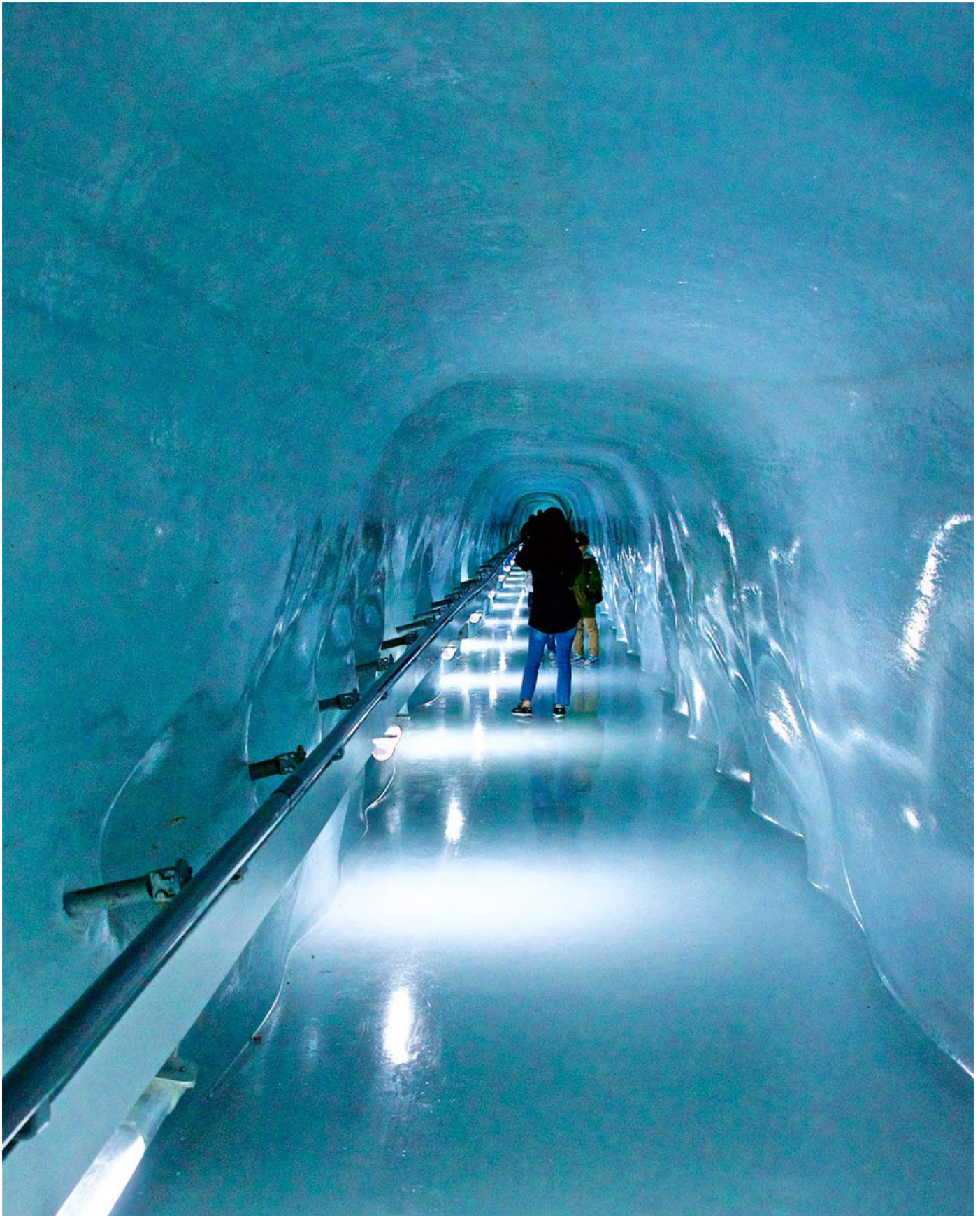


Top of Europe, the Jungfrauoch area. Between the peaks is a glacier 18 miles long.



Typical Swiss scenery

journeys



A tunnel inside of the glacier with an ice floor for walking/sliding with side rooms containing interesting ice carvings

journeys



View of the Matterhorn from the all-electrical vehicle town of Zermatt



From the Swiss city Monteux looking across Lake Geneva to France with the common mid-paddle wheel passenger ferry

Town halls unveil updated Community Center designs

By *Mikhailina Karina*

Eighty-eight percent of Community Center design concepts were community-driven and reflect majority preferences, Guido Zanni told a packed audience during the first of the two town halls on the Community Center reconstruction. Zanni, one of three Board of Directors on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Community Center Design, said the ideas came from focus groups, online surveys, and ad hoc committees. The design was created by Kerns Group Architects (<http://www.kernsgroup.com/>), who also designed buildings' lobbies.

The current ad hoc committee is the largest to date with 17 members. Its latest recommendations are: amending the canopy over the east entrance, widening hallways and entrances to the main lounge, installing an acoustic ceiling over the performance area, curving the café bar counter, creating a design that makes the center feel homey, and moving the kitchen exhaust fan away from the tennis court.

Proposal for the picnic hill with a staircase and a ramp. It will include a pergola (area closest to the pool) and a fire pit along with picnic tables. Details of furnishings, landscaping, and colors are for illustration purposes only. The hill's landscaping will be managed by the Grounds Committee.

Image courtesy of Jon Kandel

Zanni, who also chairs the Quality Improvement Committee, anticipates at least three future surveys to gauge community views on the center's interior, exterior, and decor.

He emphasized that the center's space allocation is pretty much a done deal, with any delays adding to the \$7 million price tag. Each year of delays would add \$700,000, he said. One potential cost increase could come from the tariff war with China, which produces 98 percent of the world's supply of dry wall.

Board president and committee member Jon Kandel presented a slide show with designs for the center and

picnic hill. He said all the artist renditions of furniture, fixtures, and artwork were for illustrative purposes only. Kerns will share its proposals for the color scheme with actual furniture samples and color swatches.

Kandel said the goal is to make the center comfortable, friendly, and contemporary with warm colors – reds, yellow, oranges, with complementary browns and greens and contrasting blues. 🏡



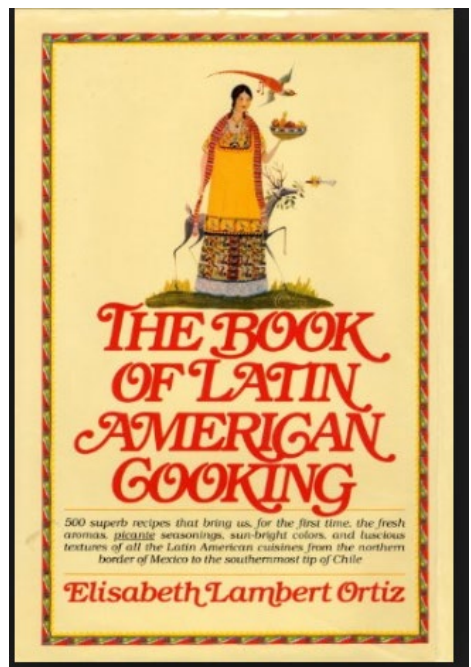
Read + chop + taste = understand the world

By Marsha Weiner

While I was growing up in Baltimore in the mid-1950s my family would go out to dinner a few times a year. For my brother's birthday we went to Jimmy Woo's New China Inn on Charles Street (think of the abstract painter, Max Weber), and for my birthday we went to Chiapparellis in Little Italy. On rare occasions we would go to a steak house where they "sold the sizzle but not the steak." Otherwise, we ate at home. Saturday nights my brother and I would often make Chef Boyardee pizza out of the box, timed to coincide with some programs on television (Twilight Zone!), and Sunday nights were hot dogs. The rest of the time, my mother cooked.

I don't remember cookbooks in the kitchen other than *The Joy of Cooking*. If my mother consulted any recipes, for her hearty, wholesome cooking, they were on index cards kept in a gray tin box, mostly recipes from neighbors and her aunts.

Discovering cookbooks was transformative for me.



The first cookbook I purchased was *The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews, Traditional Recipes and Menus and a Memoir of a Vanished Way of Life*, by Edda Servi Machlin. I was hooked by the first sentence of the introduction: "Vesti da Turco e mangia da Ebreo is a well-known, ancient Italian adage which advises one to dress like a Turk and eat like a Jew" and had a sense of reverence when I opened it.

Though totally enthralled, I did not make any of the recipes. In retrospect, I probably felt that I needed permission. I wanted a guide, someone who was more familiar with trespassing into cultures through taste and culinary traditions.

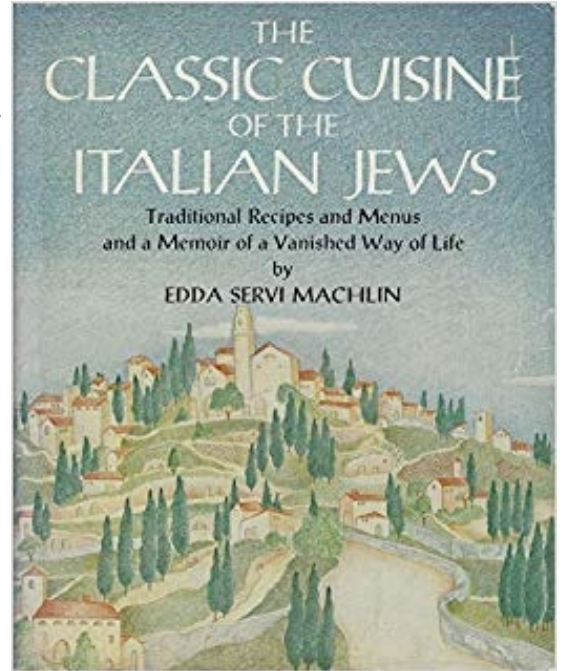
That phase of inhibition did not last long.

Living in New York City I continued to find fantastic cookbooks in various bookstores in different neighborhoods. Even though I never lived in an apartment larger than a studio with a galley kitchen, with affordable ethnic markets throughout the city, there was no reason to not get cooking!

The first recipe I followed was from *The Book of Latin American Cooking*, by Elizabeth Lambert Ortiz.

That first recipe (Brazilian), Berenjena Rellena com Camardo, eggplant stuffed with shrimp. Here it is as it appears in the book, written in just two paragraphs:

Cut the eggplant in half lengthwise and score with a small sharp knife in both directions at 1/2-inch intervals. Sprinkle with salt and leave for 30 minutes. Squeeze the eggplant gently to remove the bitter juice, rinse quickly in cold water, squeeze again, and pat dry. With a grapefruit knife cut round the eggplant, leaving a 1/2-inch shell. Pull out the flesh and cut away any bits left in the shells. Chop the eggplant coarsely and set aside.



Sauté 1 medium onion, finely chopped, 1 clove garlic, chopped, 1 small fresh red or green pepper, seeded and finely chopped, and the eggplant in 3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil until the onion is soft. Stir in 1/2 pound raw, coarsely chopped shrimp and sauté for 1 minute longer. Add 1 cup freshly made breadcrumbs, 1/2 cup chopped parsley or fresh coriander, 1 cup tomatoes, peeled, seeded, and chopped, 1 tablespoon tomato puree, and salt and pepper. Mix thoroughly, then pile into the eggplant shells. Sprinkle with 2 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese, dot with butter, and bake in a preheated moderate (350F) oven for 30 minutes.

Since then, I have, reluctantly, given away a lot of cookbooks. The loss is sentimental, since the Internet makes it extremely easy to discover recipes by cuisine, diet restrictions or a specific ingredient. Still, I cherish the stains and marginalia of the books I still have – and think I'm due to prepare Berenjena Rellena com Camardo, to enjoy poolside at Montebello.

The Internet is littered with culinary sites, newsletters, blogs, and podcasts.

Here are a few I go to. What are yours?
Care to share?

Food52

Be prepared, it's written for Millennials, but it's got recipes. They have gone the distance and have produced a few basic kitchen products (cutting board, apron, rolling pin) based on "crowd sourcing" ideas – nice stuff.

<https://food52.com>

Mark Bittman

Well-known from his years at *New York Times* and his mammoth book *How to Cook Everything*, which is so huge it should have come on wheels. He recycles stuff from his books and previous articles, which is new for folks like me.

<https://mailchi.mp/813d7bff-4cd8/what-to-cook-this-week-370871?e=40ed8bbc7d>

Taste: Crown Publishing

Quirky and interesting topics.

<https://tinyurl.com/y52t4p62>

David Lebovitz

Nice recipes; great on ice cream!!

<https://www.davidlebovitz.com> 🍪

Have something you want to contribute to Culinary Corner – let us know! Have you appreciated something a neighbor has made and you want the recipe? Turn them in! We will ask for the recipe. Please send thoughts, comments and suggestions to *The Voice*, or to Marsha@FoodMuseMedia. Marsha was Regional Governor of Slow Food USA, Chair of the Biodiversity Committee, The Ark of Taste, and was directly responsible for uplifting the recognition of our indigenous custard apple, Pawpaw, which now enjoys the status of being referred to as the Hipster Banana. She remains Creative Consultant to Around the Farm Table, now in Season 7 on Wisconsin Public Television. You can see it here: <https://wptschedule.org/series/1794/Around-the-Farm-Table/>

The Purple Bin Has Arrived!

The Purple Can Club comes to Mount Vernon! You can now drop off your glass recycling quickly and conveniently in the Purple Bin in the parking lot in front of the Mount Vernon District Governmental Center. All colors of emptied glass bottles and jars are acceptable materials for glass drop-off. Food residue should be rinsed out before placing glass in the bins. Items that are not accepted include food, plastic bags, lamps or light bulbs, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, windows, and glass sheets.

You can also still continue to bring glass to purple drop-off centers at the I-66 transfer station and I-95 landfill complex. [Read more...](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

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STAY CONNECTED

Submitted by Karen Barnes

I had an encounter with a baby fox a few nights ago. He was sniffing around the B3 entrance of building 2 around 10 p.m. As I approached in my car, he just froze and stood there! I had to slowly creep my car to get it to move. I hope dog walkers will beware of him. It was so cute, I wish I could've jumped out and petted it! We hear the foxes' awful screaming a lot in the wee hours of the morning in front of our building. I wonder if this little kit has been looking for its mama?! – Laura Fisher



Guido R. Zanni

Going with the flow



This exhibit demonstrates the technique of "pouring acrylics," a technique originating in the 1930s. Acrylic paints are mixed with a thinning medium and poured onto a canvas. The flowing paint is then manipulated into the desired design. Brushes are rarely used; paint is manipulated with forced air, heat guns, chains, strings, and other non-traditional methods.

Montebello Café

July 20 to August 23

Opening reception: Saturday, July 20
4 to 6 p.m.



Invite you to our film & discussion



THE GARDEN OF THE FINZI-CONTINIS
THURSDAY JULY 25 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



In the late 1930s, in Ferrara, a group of young friends get together for afternoons of tennis and happy times. Some of them are Italian Jews and a rising tide of Fascism has imposed increasingly anti-Semitic restrictions in their lives. Barred from regular tennis clubs, they go to play at the grand, walled estate owned by the Finzi-Continis, a wealthy, intellectual and sophisticated Jewish family. Oblivious to the threats around them, life still seems to be sunny at the large Finzi-Continis estate, keeping the rest of the world at bay.

Joel Miller will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion.

Activities Committee Presents

Tom Saputo and Friends

Musician & Vocalist

LIVE MUSIC!

Singing & Dancing!

Open Mic Singing
Bring your own lyrics



Saturday, July 27th
6:30 - 9:30 pm
Community Center

Montebello Classic Movie Night

Wednesday, August 28, 2019, at 7pm
on the Big Screen in the Community Center



**Based on Oscar Wilde's
Profoundly Moving Play,
"Lady Windemere's Fan"**

Producer/Director Otto Preminger brings Oscar Wilde's scintillating and sophisticated 1892 play — his fourth — to magnificent, heart-wrenching life. The fact that it was originally entitled *Lady Windemere's Fan: a Play About a Good Woman* tells you everything. It had already inspired four film interpretations before Preminger's 1949 version, including an Argentinian version, *Story of a Bad Woman*. But it is difficult to imagine anything more inspired than the great casting and delivery of Preminger's version. Wilde himself would weep at this adaptation of his inspiring tale of pathos and dignity.

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.

final glance



By Mary Alice Herman