

# The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

apples & honey

September 26, 2019



Photos by Dian McDonald

## voices on the 37

### American Icons – a showcase of American music

The National Concert Band of America will perform a **free** concert on Sunday, October 13 at 3 p.m. at Carl Sandburg Middle School on 8428 Fort Hunt Road.

On the program:

An American in Paris by George Gershwin

Adagio e Tarantella by Ernesto Cavallini (Montebello's Susan Dexter will have a clarinet solo)

Washington Post by John Philip Sousa

O Magnum Mysterium by Morten Lauridsen

Appalachian Spring by Aaron Copland

Give Us This Day by David Maslanka

– submitted by Susan Dexter

### Time to plant the bulbs

By Chuck Amorosino

On Saturday, October 12, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., the three circles planters will be planted with mixed, colorful daffodil bulbs in time for spring 2020 bloom. The Grounds Committee once again invites Montebello residents to join in with the volunteer community gardening fun.

Please sign up with an email to project coordinator Chuck Amorosino, [camorjr@cox.net](mailto:camorjr@cox.net). Provide your name, building and unit number, and your email address. Toil in the soil and watch the daffodils pop up in the spring! 🌱

*The Montebello  
Voice wants to  
hear from you*

### Bible study continues

By Donald and Karen Barnes

For nearly two years, a small group has been gathering weekly for an hour of interdenominational Bible study and short prayer time in our apartment in 1-506 at 6:30 on Tuesday evenings. We are finishing a study of the Gospel of Luke and are preparing for our next study.

If you are interested in reading and discussing what the Bible has to say, come visit us and see what makes us go and grow. For additional information, call us at 703-960-4936. 📞

### Calling for holiday bazaar vendors

Montebello Music Club will hold its annual Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, November 16 from 10 – 2 in the Community Center. Tables will rent for \$20 on a first come, first served basis. Montebello residents only; no sales of clothing.

For more information or to reserve a table, email Carol Coyle-Shea at [carolcoyle@cox.net](mailto:carolcoyle@cox.net). Include your contact information and a brief description of what you will be selling, and any special requirements. Please bring the payment to building 3, unit 118.

– submitted by Carol Coyle-Shea

### Useful recycling links

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/home-and-garden/alexandria-clarifies-glass-recycling-program-for-residents/>

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/home-and-garden/are-you-recycling-correctly-find-out/>

<https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/news/wishcycling-recycling-what-can-you-recycle-alexandria-fairfax-county/> 📞

– submitted by Diane Bastin

S - T - R - E - T - C - H

is for everyone!

*Mondays, Wednesdays,  
and Fridays*

*9-10 a.m.*

*Community Center  
down the spiral stairs*



The **MONTEBELLO** 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](mailto:montebellovoice@cox.net) or visit on the web at [www.montebellovoice.com](http://www.montebellovoice.com).*

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## voices on the 37

### Official 2019 White House Christmas ornaments for sale

Montebello Music Club is selling the new collectible White House Historical Association ornaments honoring President Dwight D. Eisenhower for \$22. The ornament symbolizes President Eisenhower's commitment to innovation.



In July 1957, Eisenhower was the first president to fly in a helicopter while in office; thereafter the helicopter became a feature of White House life.

Contacts for purchasing:

Building 1 – *David Ransom*

[davidransom2@comcast.net](mailto:davidransom2@comcast.net)

703-960-0650

Building 2 – *Yo Frommer*

[yonlarry@gmail.com](mailto:yonlarry@gmail.com) 703-317-1140

Building 3 – *Mark Beerthuis*

[mbeerthuis@gmail.com](mailto:mbeerthuis@gmail.com) 703-360-7191

Building 4 – *Carol Comlish*

[ccomlish@msn.com](mailto:ccomlish@msn.com) 301-613-2008

Pay by cash or check made payable to: Montebello Music Club. Proceeds go to the Grand Piano Concert Series

Questions? Mark Beerthuis at [mbeerthuis@gmail.com](mailto:mbeerthuis@gmail.com). 📧

Check out the latest Community Center schematic design, which is currently under review by the CC renovation ad hoc committee.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1J3gNXieIUef9x-uu43szLvqopt0Cu0v4f/view>

### Come learn about Mount Vernon at Home

By *Virginia Hodgkinson, president*

Mount Vernon at Home is a membership village organization helping seniors age in place in their homes for as long as possible. The organization provides services and programs to support members. It is member-led and member-driven and built on the model of neighbor helping neighbor. We have several members at Montebello. If you are interested in finding out more about our organization which serves the Mount Vernon community, two of our Montebello members are hosting information sessions on October 10 and October 16. Please see the attached invitation. Our new executive will share our programs with you. Please RSVP directly to the hosts if you want to attend. I look forward to meeting you at one of them. 📧



**MOUNT VERNON AT HOME  
MONTEBELLO MEMBERS  
ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND**

**WINE & CHEESE  
NEW MEMBER INFORMATIONAL RECEPTIONS**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10  
5:00-6:30 PM**

**HOSTED BY JANET DAMRON  
BUILDING 4 — #1514**

**RSVP JANET DAMRON ([JMDAMRON2002@YAHOO.COM](mailto:JMDAMRON2002@YAHOO.COM))**

**OR**

**WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16  
5:00-6:30 PM**

**HOSTED BY HUGH & MARIA SCHWARTZ  
BUILDING 2 — #1004**

**RSVP HUGH SCHWARTZ ([hughschwar@aol.com](mailto:hughschwar@aol.com))**

**PLEASE RSVP FOR THE SESSION YOU PLAN TO ATTEND  
AND SHARE THIS INVITATION**

**WITH YOUR OTHER MONTEBELLO FRIENDS INTERESTED IN  
AMOUNT VERNON AT HOME AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN YOU**

# Rebuttal to Board President Kandel’s assertion that \$375,000 of Capital Improvements was overwhelmingly approved

By Sherrill Hendricks, long-time owner/resident

Reference: An excerpt from the summary highlights of the Regular Meeting on Tuesday, September 10, 2019. “President Jon Kandel spoke at length about budget matters, stating a particular concern about inaccurate information being circulated in the community. The only other additional expense – \$375,000 of capital improvements, mostly for improved accessibility – was overwhelmingly approved by a recent unit owners’ vote”

It is highly questionable the vote in February 2019 for Capital Improvements was overwhelmingly approved. The fact that all six items were lumped into one package made it impossible to know if each item was overwhelmingly approved, especially for the elevator and Picnic Hill.

I attended the focus groups on the matter. There was a distinctly mixed reaction to the Picnic Hill proposal with no strong support for it. By lumping all items together it ensured both the elevator and Picnic Hill would be approved.

In light of the current stress to Montebello reserve funds, I and many others strongly believe the current funds for Picnic Hill should be cut. It would save expenditure of approximately \$165,000.

Also cuts to the current CC Renovation plan must be made. We cannot assume that what looks financially feasible now will be the case in the next 2 to 3 years.

The following situations will impact our personal finances, which in turn will likely affect the ability of some owners to pay condo fees.

Our country more likely than not will face a financial upheaval in the near future, regardless of who will be voted president in next November’s election. In the U.S. our current debt is unsustainable; there is continuing military engagement in armed conflict/hot spots around the world; costly natural disasters will continue; there is long overdue needed repair of and new infrastructure vital to sustaining our economy; personal debt remains high; and there are countless other issues. All of these will definitely require new taxes and most of us will have to “tighten our belts.”

If that is not enough to cause alarm, we Americans are facing a constitutional crisis and there are worldwide tensions with allies and within our alliances. 🇺🇸

**The Montebello Grounds Committee Presents:**

## 2019 Nature Photo Contest









**CONTEST RULES**

- Eligible subject matter: Natural flora and fauna, observed on the Montebello property during 2019
- Two age categories: Photographers 15 and under; and 16 and over
- Photographers may submit up to 5 photos
- Photographer agrees that submitted photos may be used by the Association or the Grounds Committee for promotional purposes

**HOW TO ENTER**

Email .jpg files to [ourmontebellogrounds@gmail.com](mailto:ourmontebellogrounds@gmail.com)

Give your name, building/unit, age (if under 16), and where each photo was taken

Entry deadline: November 1, 2019

# HEY KIDS!

## 2019 Nature Photo Contest

Special Category for kids under 16

Take cool pictures of nature at Montebello  
By Nov. 1, 2019--send up to 5 .jpg files to [ourmontebellogrounds@gmail.com](mailto:ourmontebellogrounds@gmail.com)  
Give name, building/unit, age, and where photo was taken

Photos may be used for promotional purposes by the Montebello Grounds Committee

*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*



traditions

# Oktoberfest!



**By Raymond Houck**

Oktoberfest is the world's largest Volksfest (beer festival and funfair) held annually in Munich, Bavaria, Germany. A 16 to 18-day folk festival running from mid or late September to the first Sunday in October, more than six million people from around the world attend the event every year.

Locally, it is often called the Wiesn, after the colloquial name for the fairgrounds, Therese's meadows. The Oktoberfest is an important part of Bavarian culture, having been held since the year 1810.

The main reason as to why it is called Oktoberfest, although it technically starts in September, is because, in a way, it celebrates the coming of the new harvest season in October. Apart from Munich, in most other cities of Germany itself, Oktoberfest is actually celebrated on the first Sunday of October only and is modeled after the original Munich event.

October 17, 1810 was the day on which the marriage of Therese von Sachsen-Hildburghausen and Ludwig I, the future King, took place. To mark the occasion, horse races, a cattle fair, and a folk festival were held in the

meadows outside the city. The folk celebrations were repeated the following years, and the custom would grow and eventually become the Oktoberfest. It is the largest folk festival in the world.

The festival grounds are named Theresinwiese after the bride.

Link to Munich's Oktoberfest site: <https://www.muenchen.de/int/en/events/oktoberfest.html> 📄



*Montebello's resident groundhog came up for some air in the woodlands behind building 2.*

*Photo by Catherine Cooke*



# transition areas plans

## Transition Area Building One

Intended for many purposes:

- Walking and gathering place for residents
- Pet relief area and dog walk
- Access points and vistas into the woodlands



Current conditions make it difficult to serve these purposes

## Challenges of Current Conditions

### Poor Circulation

- Narrow constraints between parked cars and steep slopes
- Unstable footing
- Pedestrian walkway shared with pet area and dog walk
- Drainage spillways bisect the area



## Transition Area Building One: Design Objectives

Create two additional spaces

- Terrace slopes with low retaining walls to create new accessible areas
  - Include benches/seating
  - Accentuate vistas to woodlands
  - Terraced 'steps' down to trail access



## Transition Area 2 Challenges of Current Conditions

### Safety and Walkability

- Walkers thread between parked cars and sloping land
- Stormwater swale interrupts path
- Uneven stairsteps
- No connection between hilltop lawn and steps to woodland trail
- Muddy areas



## Transition Area 2: Challenges of Current Conditions

### Health of Vegetation

- Low / filtered sunlight, woodland edge
- Bare soil and steep slopes
- Invasive trees
- Invasive plants along woodland edge
- Nothing interesting
- Dog urine affects soil pH and plant health



## Cost Summary

	Area 1	Area 2	Total
Landscape construction & plants	48,832	63,048	111,880
Concrete walk, curb/gutter	25,083	29,598	54,681
Irrigation system	7,000	9,000	16,000
Deer fencing	3,500	10,900	14,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$84,415</b>	<b>\$112,546</b>	<b>\$196,961</b>



*The Montebello Grounds Committee has created an informative website with links to past and future projects. Ongoing extensive work behind buildings 1 and 2 has raised a lot of questions about the new sidewalks, plantings, and stairs. Above and on subsequent pages are just some of the slides about this \$200,000 undertaking. For more details, go to [https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPTSKCSkCG2FvUJMbS9Bx5dhANIQAodycUFTVoBEO\\_JxmEk3JZmY8I27G6n-wK9eSQ?key=VFZuOG5FV1IHSC1iN2ItUDUzUm04SjlzLUp2bVlB](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipPTSKCSkCG2FvUJMbS9Bx5dhANIQAodycUFTVoBEO_JxmEk3JZmY8I27G6n-wK9eSQ?key=VFZuOG5FV1IHSC1iN2ItUDUzUm04SjlzLUp2bVlB). The committee's website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/montebellogrounds/>*

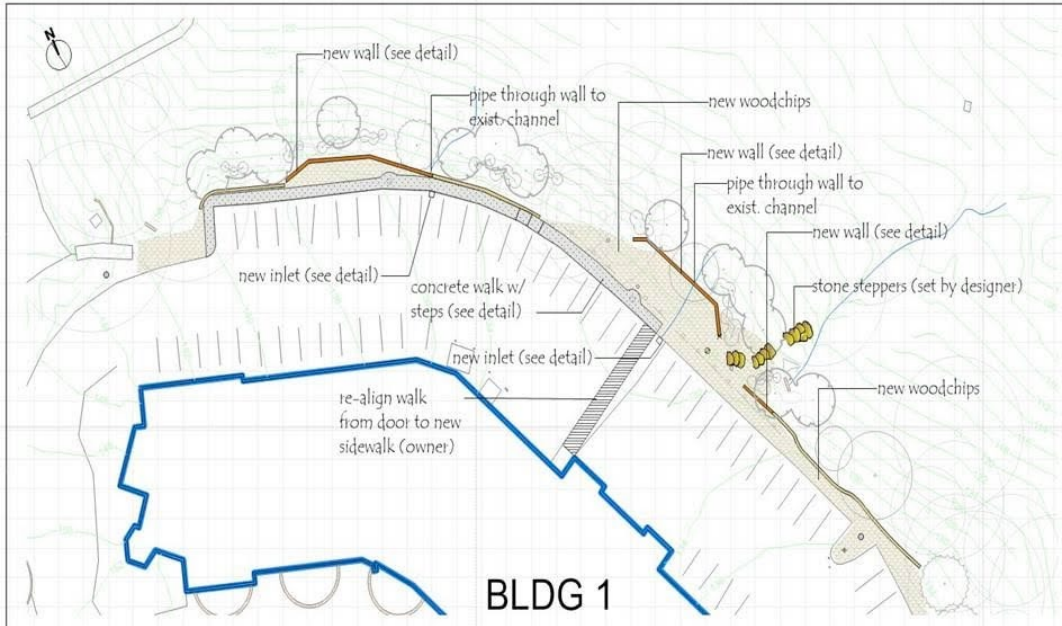


## transition areas plans

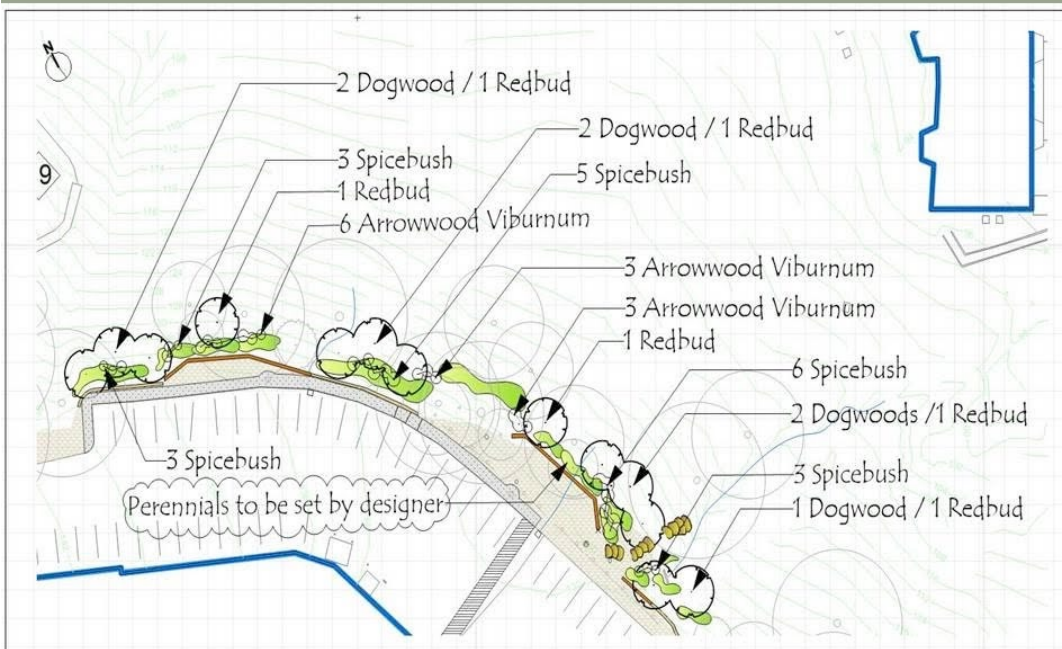
# Redesigned transition areas are adding beauty and utility to our grounds

By Christine Blair and Paul Zeisset, Grounds Committee

### Proposed Hardscape



### Planting Plan

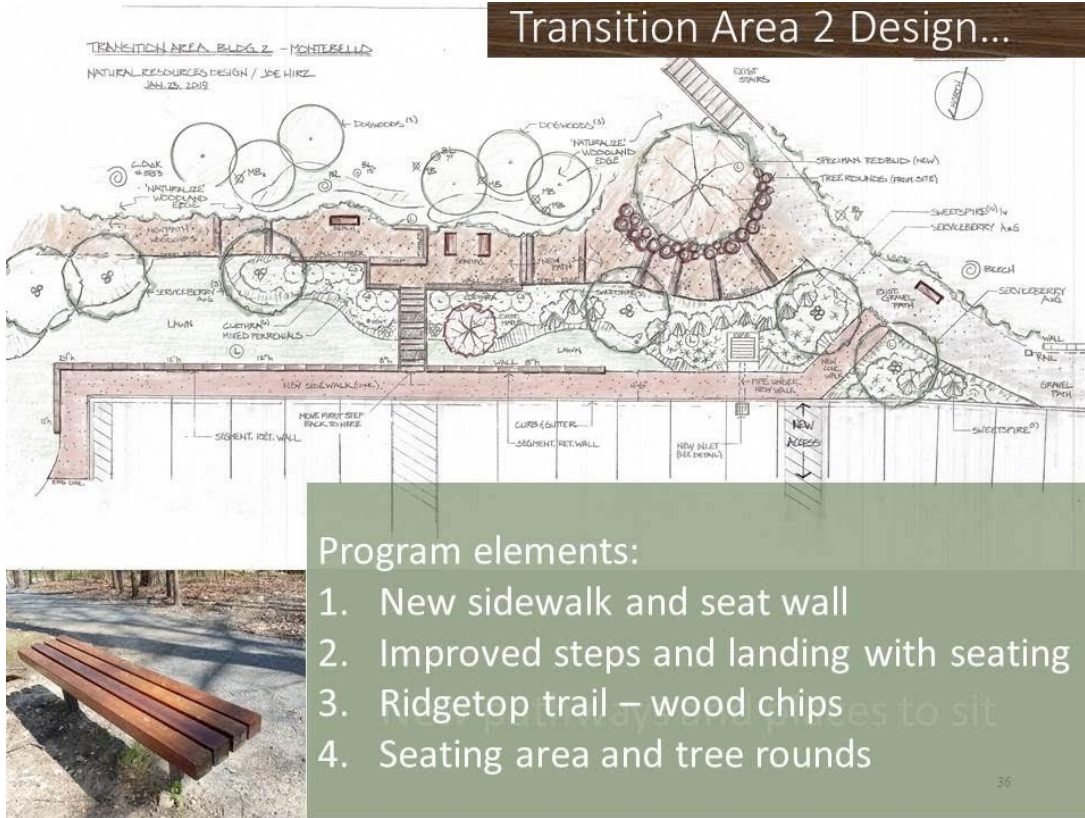


*The transition areas behind Buildings 1 and 2 are coming to life. The infrastructure work is complete.*

*Behind Building 1, newly-installed retaining walls and fill have replaced the steep hillsides that limited resident and pet access. Attractive stone steps now lead down an existing trailhead into the woods, but for now they are just eye-candy. (Residents are urged to use caution on the steps, which currently terminate in the woodlands – there is no installed trail beyond the steps, which won't be completed until 2020 or 2021.)*

*New understory trees and shrubs are now being installed, as illustrated in the figure on the left.*

# transition areas plans



*The Building 2 transition area face lift includes a new walkway connecting the gazebo area to the trail head into the woodlands. New retaining walls provide space for a walkway. The illustration shows an impressively designed landscape of tree, shrub, and perennial plantings, now being installed.*

*Each transition area features sidewalks with an exposed aggregate finish, as well as new concrete curbing and gutters. Enlarged pet areas feature a dog-friendly surface of smaller chips called wood carpet.*

*New bench seating is being added, allowing residents to more comfortably enjoy the transformed transition areas. Very soon you will be able to get out and enjoy these new amenities.*



## faces of Morocco



*Photos by Dian McDonald*



## faces of Morocco





# faces of Morocco





**luau**

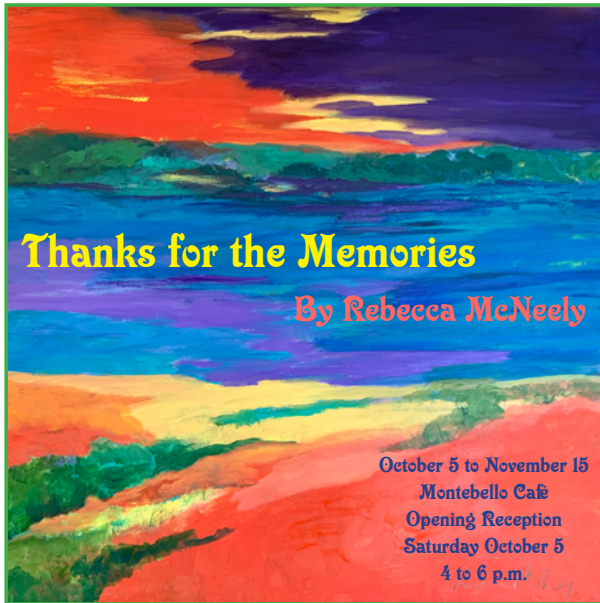




**Iuau**







## Thanks for the Memories

By Rebecca McNeely

October 5 to November 15  
Montebello Café  
Opening Reception  
Saturday October 5  
4 to 6 p.m.

**A**s we look forward to a beautiful new café next year, let's look back over the 13 years of art exhibits here. I have had the privilege of exhibiting a solo show here for each of those years.

I am known as an artist who continues to explore and learn new things about this amazing, compelling, maddening and rewarding world of painting. For this, my 14th exhibit, I am showing a painting from each of those exhibits.

I first began painting plein air landscapes in oil and loved it. But I soon moved to abstraction, which allows a greater freedom of expression. My inspiration is nature and its moments of heart-stopping beauty and its sense of space and freedom. My personal antidote in a troubled world is to focus on abstracted landscapes dripping with brilliant, harmonious color and abstracted florals. For the past several years, these have been my passion and joy.

I am extremely grateful to Montebello, José and Ugur for the opportunity to exhibit my paintings here for my friends and neighbors.

[www.rebeccamcneely.com](http://www.rebeccamcneely.com)

Dedicated to the memory of  
General George Washington



Mount Vernon Chapter  
Military Officers

## The Despatch

Mount Vernon, Virginia Chapter - MOAA  
[www.mvmoaa.com](http://www.mvmoaa.com)

5 Star Level of Excellence



Awards (2008-2019)



### Gregory Copley to Speak on Strategic Uncertainties Wednesday, September 18, at the Fairfax Community Center

Gregory Copley, an Australian, is President of the International Strategic Studies Association and founder/Editor-in-Chief of *Defense & Foreign Affairs*, based in D.C. He is Director of Intelligence at the Global Information System, a global intelligence service for governments advising government leaders and intelligence services.

He worked in the Balkans following the end of the Cold War, writing about the wars in the former Yugoslavia. Moreover, Gregory worked extensively in Africa, the Middle East, and in Asia; just recently, he returned from another visit to the Balkans.

*Hiding Genocide*, one of Gregory's monographs published in 1992, detailed Croatian genocide against the Serbs. Thirty-five books on strategic and security issues, history, geopolitics, energy, aviation, and national planning were authored/co-authored by Greg. A 2006 book, *The Art of Victory: Strategies for Personal Success and Global Survival in a Changing World* was translated into several languages, including Chinese. Copley wrote the acclaimed 2012,

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*UnCivilization: Urban Geopolitics in a Time of Chaos* that discusses complex strategic uncertainties. His latest book (2018) *Sovereignty in the 21st Century and the Crisis for Identity, Cultures, Nation-States, and Civilizations* describes a world already at war with itself.

Decorated by governments and institutions, Copley was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2007 and a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society in 2011. He's also had an extensive career as an industrialist owning several shipyards, a naval architectural firm in the United Kingdom, and a chemical company in France. He was vice-chairman of Scotland's national airline, Highland Express.

Gregory resides at the Montebello in Alexandria with his wife, Pamela. After the presentation, various books/monographs will be available for sale.

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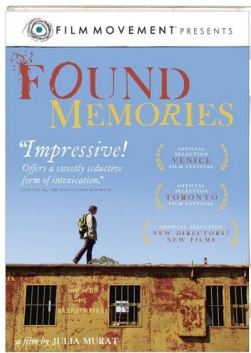


## Invite you to our film & discussion



### FOUND MEMORIES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 24 7:30 P.M. PARTY ROOM 2



*Found Memories* is the first feature film by Brazilian filmmaker Julia Murat. The film takes place in the rural, fictitious town of Jotuomba. It would be misleading to say the town is in decline. It would also be inaccurate to say the film is slow. Rather, the best description I've read about the pace of this poignant film is that it has a natural speed, like a "ruminative amble" – it's a town that's stilled in time.

There are no young people in Jotuomba. The few we hear about have since died. But a young woman, Rita, a photographer, arrives, and she gets captured, almost hypnotized by the pace of the place, the people and the customs and habits that bind them together.

Regardless of the apparent poverty of Jotuomba, the film is visually compelling. There's nothing shiny. Some of the faded walls begin to resemble Mark Rothko paintings. And many of the photographs Rita frames with her pinhole cameras invoke a Wabi Sabi aesthetic. With what feels like a visual and emotional undertow, the chipped and cracked walls, crockery and tools pull you into a state of vulnerable, personal reflection.

The film demands your involvement, so don't come hungry, or you'll be distracted by your growling stomach. And don't come full, or you'll fall asleep. But I invite you to come to the screening with all your senses alert, as they are when you visit a new place, because that's what you'll be doing, visiting Jotuomba.

Running time: 98 minutes. The film is in Portuguese with English subtitles.

Marsha Weiner will introduce the film and lead the post-movie discussion.

# 2019 FALL FEST

You are invited to join us in **Building 2, Party Room 2** for an October celebration!

Please **bring your own hors d'oeuvres and beverages** and plan to mix and mingle with your neighbors!

**Enjoy door prizes!** Gift certificates, gourmet treats, art works, and more surprises!

**FRIDAY,  
OCTOBER  
18TH**

**6 TO 8 PM**



**final glance**



*Photo by Azita Mashayekhi*