

# The **MONTTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette

home not alone

March 27, 2020



**CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION CAUTION**

## Tesla owners or potential owners

By *Ralph Johnson*

I am a resident of Montebello and a snowbird living in Florida. I recently bought a Tesla enjoy the new technology very much. I am sure there are other Tesla owners at Montebello and more will be added quickly.

I believe it would be desirable for present Tesla owners and future owners to be aware of each other to share knowledge regarding our cars, answer questions of potential owners, and to promote policies at Montebello that are desirable for electric vehicle (EV) owners.

I will be happy to collect names, email addresses of owners or potential owners, then share those emails with all. If you wish to participate send the above information plus any other comments you wish to make to [tisrj@mc.com](mailto:tisrj@mc.com).

## Richmond Highway area eateries that are still open

Our neighbors at Covering the Corridor have compiled the following list of nearby eateries that are open for takeout or delivery: [https://coveringthecorridor.com/2020/03/richmond-highway-area-eateries-that-are-still-open/?fbclid=IwAR1KamonstLyyGgDeiQ\\_FXmLiE7YrudD-jBGAhbtPBG30t2ly-VRYQFzZo4](https://coveringthecorridor.com/2020/03/richmond-highway-area-eateries-that-are-still-open/?fbclid=IwAR1KamonstLyyGgDeiQ_FXmLiE7YrudD-jBGAhbtPBG30t2ly-VRYQFzZo4)

## Montebello Pet Club offers support

In light of the pandemic, our Pet Club members can assist pet parents who cannot leave their units. Send an email to [montebellopetclub@gmail.com](mailto:montebellopetclub@gmail.com).



## April 1 is Census Day

By *Matthew Marlay*

Quarantine got you bored? If you have watched all the Netflix you can take and want to kill 10 minutes or so, why not pass the time by doing your civic duty? Fill out your 2020 Census form!

By now, you should have received an invitation in the mail, along with a 12-digit code that you can use to enter your information online. Simply navigate your web browser to [my2020census.gov](http://my2020census.gov) and follow the onscreen prompts.

I completed mine the other day and it was a snap – the website is very intuitive to use, and walks you through exactly what you need to do at every step.

Completing the form online is quick and easy, and saves taxpayer dollars. If you haven't completed the form by April 1, the Census Bureau will mail you a reminder, as well as a paper form should you prefer to submit your information that way. Eventually, they will send someone to do an in-person follow-up (although with the current conditions, this may take a while). An in-person visit is, needless to say, much more expensive than completing the form online or by mail.

Getting a complete and accurate count of the U.S. population is vitally important. It determines the apportionment of Congressional seats, as well as the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funds for schools and roads, among other services. Help Virginia (and Fairfax County) collect an accurate count so they do not miss out!

## Montebello on Facebook

Nearly 150 neighbors (at this writing) have joined the private Montebello group on Facebook. It is a “non-political, non-confrontational exchange regarding the dwellers and dwellings of the Montebello Condominium community.” If you already have an account, search for Montebello and the administrator will add you to the list.



On the cover: *Cherry blossoms 2018* by *Nanette Frank*

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## Healthier shelter: keeping in touch without touching

By Lester A. Myers

*The writer is attorney, CPA, and ethicist living in Building 2. His views are his own and do not necessarily represent the views of the Montebello Condominium Unit Owners Association.*

This reflection is a response to an invitation from the editor to discuss whether Montebello residents should report their own infection with COVID-19 to Montebello management.

This question implicates health, legal, financial, social, and ethical dimensions. Although there are legal regimes governing public and private management and reporting of health information, including the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), this discussion deals only with the ethical issues regarding such reporting by Montebello residents.

This question involves formal and material aspects. The formal aspects have to do with the ethical obligations that residents owe to themselves, their cohabitants, their neighbors, Montebello employees, first responders, and others.

Whether the ethical framework one invokes emphasizes duty, utility, virtue, or sustaining bonds of care, the thrust of the guidance would be similar, viz., a rebuttable presumption on behalf of reporting infection. For example, respect for the moral autonomy of others, abiding by utility-maximizing rules for transparency and safety, prudential judgment in support of commutative justice and fortitude, and fostering long-term bonds of care and concern all provide principled support for focused and measured reporting.

Even John Stuart Mill's famous liberty principle would support such a position. Although he presumed an individual's unlimited liberty of action and the right to be left alone, even unto self-harm, he recognized that limits on this liberty attach when one's behavior affects others.

The material aspects of this ethical question include the following substantive and procedural elements:

- (1) the ability to diagnose infection,
- (2) to whom one reports,
- (3) the use of the information by Montebello management for decision making, and
- (4) the scale and scope of disclosure of the information with safeguards for personal privacy.

***With regard to disclosure of information, management should disseminate information for the safety and guidance of other residents, but in ways that protect personally identifiable information of the infected resident. Relevant information could include nonspecific information similar to what we have seen in the media, e.g., the person's building number, approximate age, and likely means of exposure through travel or community transmission. Moreover, Montebello might have obligations to report infections to public health departments, now or in the future.***

With regard to diagnosing infection, the unwillingness of the federal government to distribute effective test kits to scale beginning in January has caused persistent impediments to testing months later. If a resident is symptomatic, there can be layers of burden for him or her even to get to a facility for testing. Likewise, we are well aware that many infected people can have few or no symptoms and yet pose significant risks of contagion to others.

The highly communicable nature of COVID-19, and the scope of possible ill effects, impose a high duty of

responsibility for vigilance, particularly given the population density of Montebello and everyone's reliance on common facilities, e.g., the doorknob to a hallway trash chute and the elevator controls, particularly for those on upper floors. While we know from news reports that the virus does not spare people by age or other demographic, we have seen that the elderly and those with compromised immune systems or other underlying health conditions are especially vulnerable.

During a period of mass legal or voluntary home confinement, the prudent approach is to behave as though one is contagious with regard to contacts with others. However, if one has severe respiratory symptoms, particularly of the

sort that the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have associated with COVID-19, the question of testing would be moot in the short term as regards how one should act. Given the current public health crisis, it would be prudent to presume infection. Even if a person simply had a bad case of influenza, such reporting would be appropriate, particularly

if he or she lived alone and his or her condition could become debilitating or life-threatening and require assistance from Montebello management or outside first responders. Whether a resident were to suffer a severe case of respiratory illness, or even to pass away, this would affect the Montebello community, and there would be legitimate bases for knowing about such risks to inform continuing monitoring, reporting, and measured interventions.

With regard to whom one reports, there should be a single point of contact at Montebello to receive such reports,

## do the right thing

both to vet and manage the information in a principled and consistent way, and to safeguard the personal privacy of the resident. This point of contact ordinarily would be the general manager, or a management-level designee.

With regard to the use of information for decision making, the management point of contact should convey information to other Montebello staff on a need-to-know basis so that departments can discharge their duties effectively. For example, if there is a plumbing or other emergency and Montebello staff have to enter a unit quickly, they should know of the risk and prepare through protective equipment to shield themselves and deal courteously and sensitively with the resident while protecting all concerned. Whether HIPAA applies or not, they should act as if it does.

With regard to disclosure of information, management should disseminate information for the safety and guidance of other residents, but in ways that protect personally identifiable information of the infected resident. Relevant information could include non-specific information similar to what we have seen in the media, e.g., the person's building number, approximate age, and likely means of exposure through travel or community transmission. Moreover, Montebello might have obligations to report infections to public health departments, now or in the future.

For a resident's duty to report infection to be practicable, others would need to observe correlative duties, e.g., Montebello management in designating a point of contact for such reports and Montebello staff and others in respecting personal privacy. There also should be monitoring to safeguard the units, cars, and property of those with infections. Such correlative duties need not be only strict duties of prohibition, though, and could include affirmative duties such as management's current prudent practices of frequent sanitizing

of common areas, closure of amenities, and restrictions on guests and contractors.

Management and individual Montebello residents also can continue to foster a sense of community by check-

***During a period of mass legal or voluntary home confinement, the prudent approach is to behave as though one is contagious with regard to contacts with others.***

ing in with neighbors through audio and video calls to express care and concern, particularly those who might be experiencing physical or psychological health challenges during home confine-

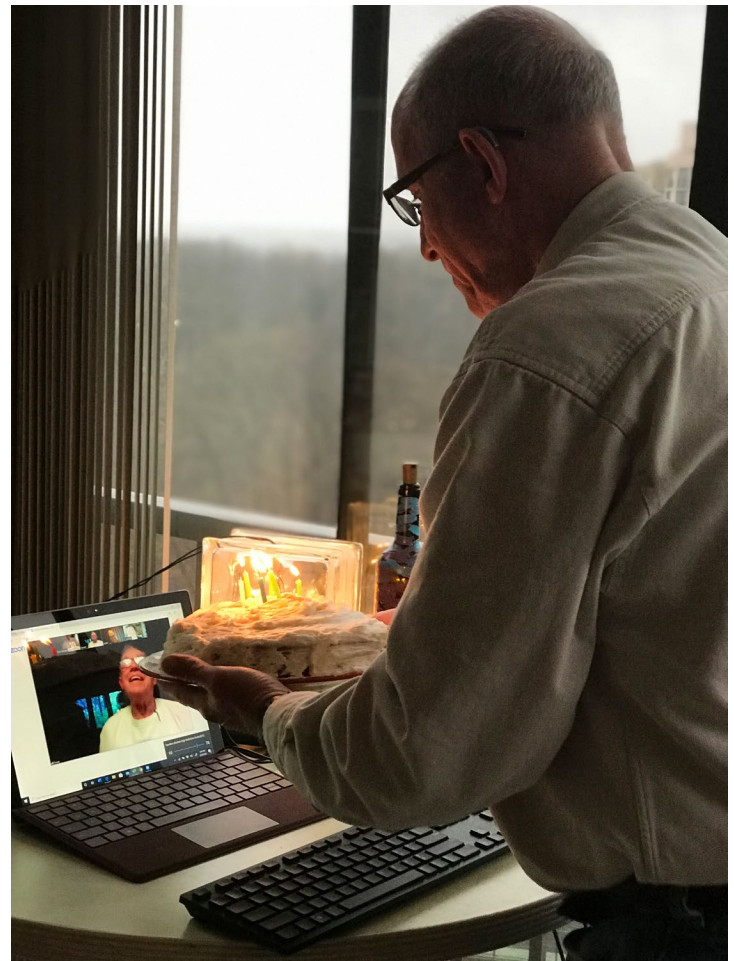
ment. As many have observed, physical distancing need not lead to social isolation.

Observing a combination of minimal protective ethical duties and caring prudential duties would reflect the robust, responsive, and resilient community we are proud to call home. Above all, the animating principle of care will help us sustain one another with hope through this challenging transition and remind

us of the sense of belonging and community that attracted us to Montebello in the first place. 🍷

***My husband, Don Hinman, baked a cake for his brother Keith in Seattle and served it over Zoom. He hadn't baked in years and years and though he used a mix for the batter, he made the frosting from scratch. When he served it to his brother online, Keith***

***"blew" out the candles (with a little help from Don). Two other siblings were in on the call from Seattle to Georgia to Alexandria, and they sang a raucous round of Happy Birthday for which they practiced many times during hand washing. – Sue Allen***





# Pandemic and faith

By Donald and Karen Barnes

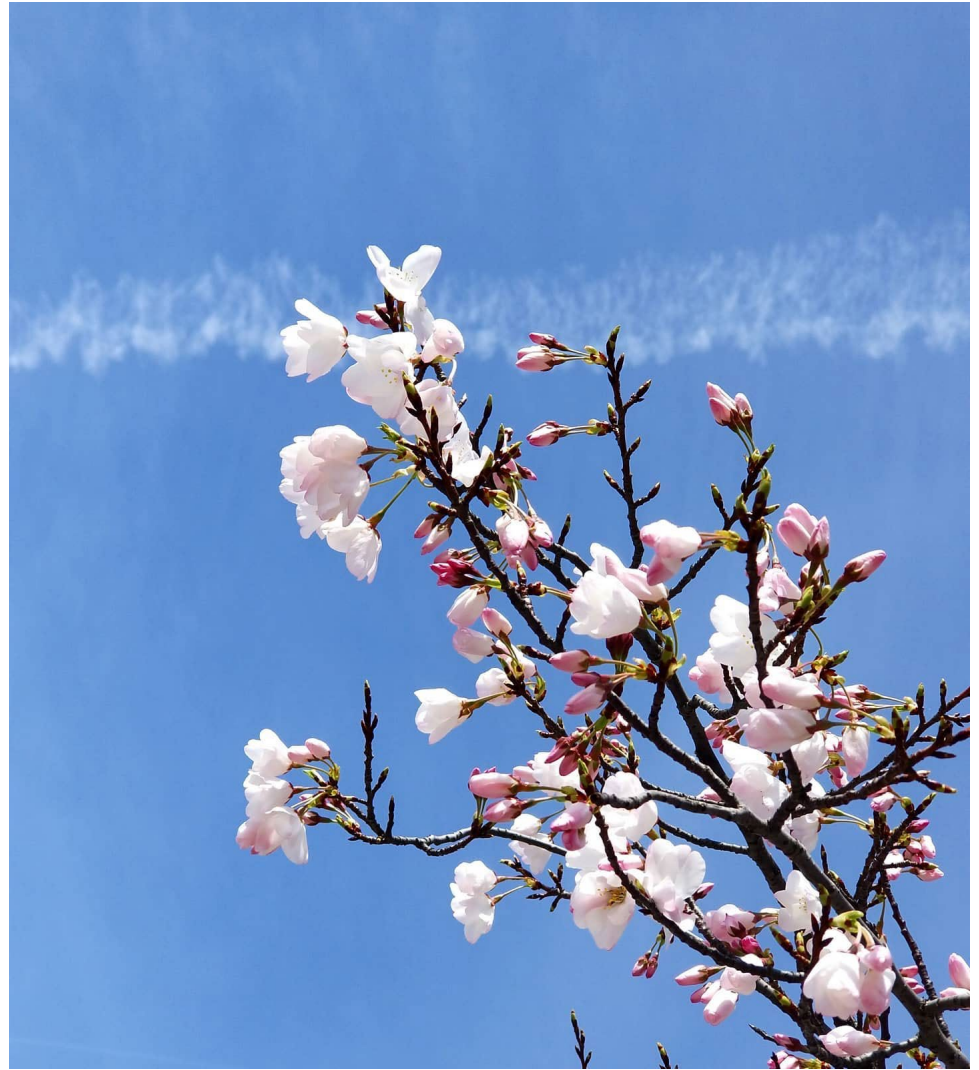
Few events in our lives have struck with the suddenness, lethality, and wide-ranging consequences of the current COVID-19 pandemic. The assassination of JFK was one such event; the planes of 9/11 flying into the Twin Towers was another. While those earlier events shocked our hearts to the core, they also enflamed our bodies to seek revenge on the culprits who caused us such pain.

In contrast, today there is no easily identifiable culprit against whom we can launch judicial retribution or military (or even medical) might to destroy a largely invisible enemy.

Instead, we are left relatively defenseless, increasingly aware of our limitations and our exposed vulnerabilities. Some of us effectively cower in the face of the unknown. Others quiver in fear as we see people who are no less worthy than we succumb to an illness for which there is no vaccine and precious little in the way of medicinal therapies. For those old enough to remember, images poliomyelitis and iron lungs come unbidden from dark recesses of our memories.

It is at times like these that our hard-won confidence is revealed as petty arrogance, as our dreams have become too true to be good. Perhaps for the first time in long time, we realize that we are not so much the masters of our fate as we had imagined.

We were reminded last week by Pastor Chris Davis at Groveton Baptist Church that it is at times like these that people draw strength by looking up, looking back, and looking forward. Borrowing that theme, consider the following:



## Looking up

An Old Testament poet wrote the following line at a time of distress in his day: “I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.” (*Ps 121:1 KJV*) God is the source of strength to address the expected – and unexpected – trials that we encounter.

## Looking back

A New Testament writer recorded this advice for difficult times: “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses [Old Testament heroes of the faith], let us . . . run with perseverance the race marked out for us,” (*Heb 12:1 NIV*) History is replete with examples of times when God has sustained us in the past.

## Looking forward

The Old Testament warns us that “Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, but a good word makes it glad.” (*Prov 12:25 NIV*) while the New Testament records Jesus as saying “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” (*John 14:27 NIV*)

As we individually and collectively face uncertain times, we have an opportunity for thinking – perhaps for the first time in a long time – about life by looking up, looking back, and looking forward. 📖

Photo by Azita Mashaykhi

# Wunnerful, wunnerful! and ah-one, ah-two!

By Raymond Houck



Dance was not allowed to watch much television as a boy growing up in Pittsburgh. My parents kept a portable TV on wheels that they would roll out when they deemed that something was worthy of viewing. They were very strict about when and what I could watch. “It’s nice outside, go get some fresh air,” they would inform me. “But it’s raining,” I would reply. Their response: “Oh, it’s not raining that hard” or “Go play in the basement.” Television was just not an option.

But... on Saturday and Sundays my designated babysitters were my maternal grandparents. Not only was their TV on from early morning until station sign-off late at night, but they had one of the very first color models. I had unlimited control of what we watched as I lay sprawled on their living room floor until 8 p.m. on Saturday evening. The only program Grandma and Grandpap would never miss was *The Lawrence Welk Show*.

*The Lawrence Welk Show* was an hour-long musical variety show hosted by bandleader and accordion-playing Lawrence Welk. This show resonated with my grandparents because we are a musical family. My Grandpap led a Hungarian/German orchestra, he taught all my uncles to play the violin, and my Grandmother and Mother played the cimbalom and piano. The cimbalom is a hammered dulcimer from Central-Eastern Europe, particularly popular in Hungary. About 125 steel and copper strings are stretched

across a trapezoidal box and struck by two beaters, producing treble or bass tones. My cousin was accomplished on the accordion, and I played the piano. We were quite the musical family!

Mr. Welk was born in 1903 to a large German Catholic immigrant family in Strasburg, North Dakota, a German-speaking enclave where his father sold a cow so his young son could get an accordion and have music lessons. Lawrence soon left the farm and headed off for fame and fortune. It was the 1920s and jazz was the music of the

singers, “Isn’t she nice?” followed up by “And now in honor of Stephen Foster Week, here is I Dream of Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair,” and then he would tee up the next number.

He called his music genre Champagne Music because early in his career a critic called it light and bubbly. If the number was more of a dance tune, Welk would often dance with ladies from the audience for which he became somewhat well-known. For certain songs (mainly the instrumentals performed by the orchestra), the cou-



day. Welk always enjoyed Dixieland, but he leaned to the more conservative style of “sweet” jazz that had a melody with minimal improvisation and a strong sense of orchestration. Soon he was leading a ten-piece band called the Hotsy-Totsy Boys and steadily gained fame throughout the Midwest. When TV arrived, Welk moved to Los Angeles, landed his own show, and by 1955 he was offered a national audience on Saturday night on ABC.

Lawrence Welk and his orchestra served up a soothing stream of waltzes, polka, and ballads. Welk had a pretty strong German accent like my Grandparents, and he approached his job with a kind of Germanic discipline. Once one song ended, it was right on to the next. His patter in-between was brief. He would say about one of his

ples in attendance were also allowed to dance at the Ballroom. The show was sponsored by Geritol vitamin supplements, which gives you some insight into his demographics. This was old people music, and as a kid I could not wait for it to end. Indeed, the show had almost a sedative effect – not just the sound but also the look. Every show had a color-coded theme. Singers and dancers glided in and out of numbers in polyester and chiffon fantasies of peaches, powder blues, and creamy pastel colors, while the musicians were attired in matching suits and ties. Welk was always elegantly turned out, floating bubbles filled the stage, and chandeliers hung over head. It was hard to tell where the show took place – in a reception hall or another planet.



## polka love

Welk employed many musicians and singers, which were known in the press as his Musical Family. Most members of the Musical Family had specific, well-defined roles within the context of the show, generally specializing in one type of performance (for instance, the show had two pianists, but one would specialize in ragtime piano while the other would handle easy listening pieces; the show's numerous singers and dancers were similarly typecast). One of the most prominent positions in the Musical Family was the Champagne Lady, Norma Zimmer, who always sang a down-tempo solo number toward the

end of each show.

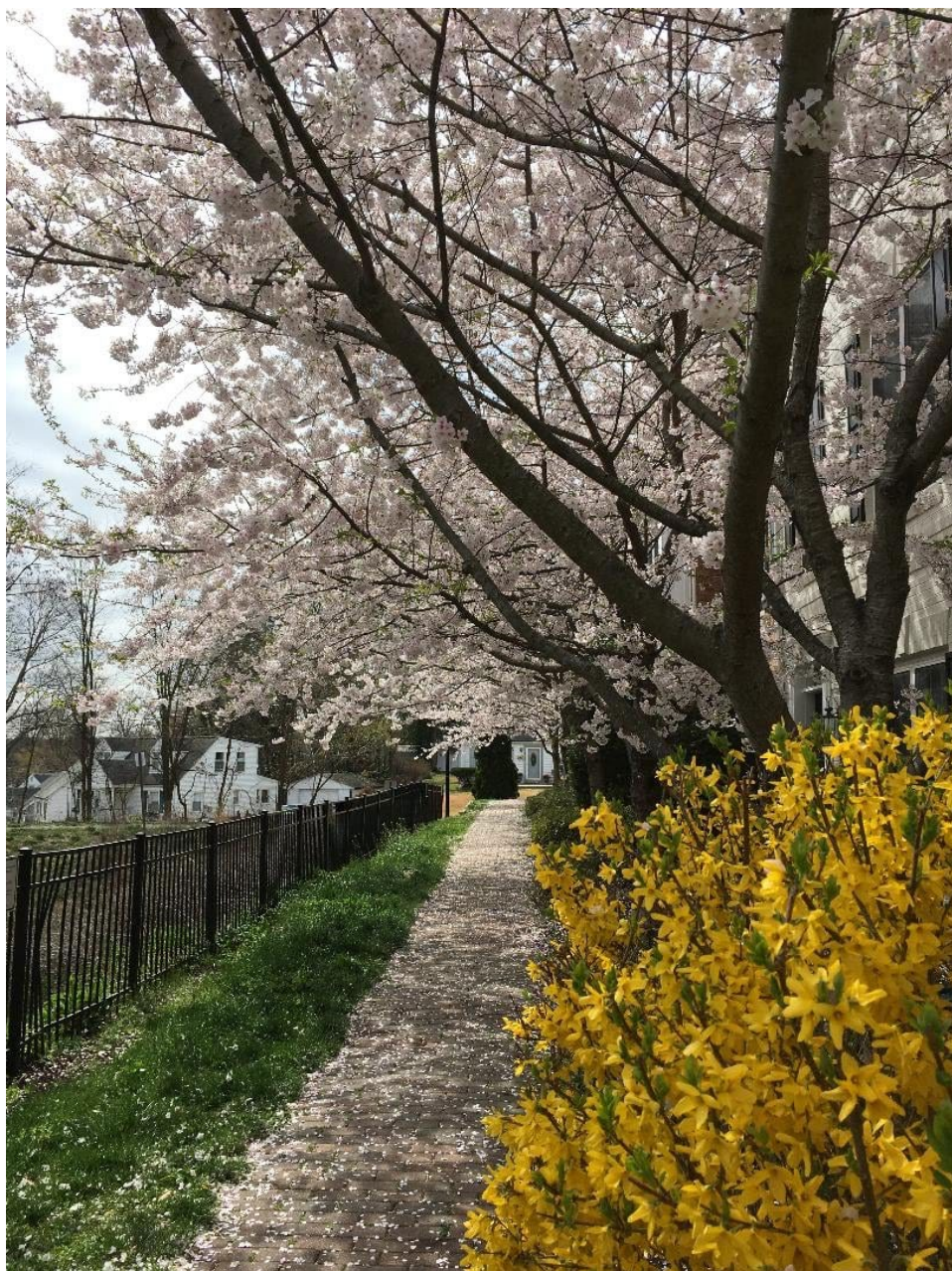
Among the performers that were wildly popular with audiences during the years it was on ABC were The Lennon Sisters, Joe Feeney, Steve Smith, Larry Hooper, Jo Ann Castle and electric guitarist Buddy Merrill, just to name a few. Lynn Anderson, Clay Hart, and Ava Barber used the show as a springboard to launch their own successful careers as country music solo artists. At the height of the show's popularity, members of the Musical Family were featured in several celebrity tabloid magazines alongside other mainstream television and movie stars.

Welk often demonstrated multiple times on-camera how the champagne bottle sound was created, by placing a finger in his mouth, releasing it to make the popping sound, and making a soft hissing sound to simulate the bubbles escaping the bottle. One such instance is part of the opening sequence of the public television re-runs seen today. The closing theme during the syndicated years, often performed by the Musical Family, was "Adios, au revoir, auf wiedersehen."

In 1971, Lawrence Welk's popular program was cancelled. It had been hailed as the longest-running prime-time musical program in television history (eventually surpassed by Soul Train!). Lawrence Welk did it by working hard, trusting his instincts, and sticking to his guns, critics be damned.

As I grew up, I learned to admire Mr. Welk, not because he became rich or shared the same values and background as my musical family, but I admired him because he knew what he liked, and he knew what his audience liked. Nothing else mattered. As to the music itself, I've come around because now that I'm over 60, I understand why my grandparents liked it. It was pleasant – and pleasant is nice 🍷.

*Attention Montebello voters. I walked to Fair Haven Community Center, our polling place, to see how long it would take. It was less than 10 minutes. Come November, with a big turn-out and a small parking lot, walking is an option, in addition to the Montebello bus. Out the back gate, left around the park, left in front of these townhouses with the gorgeous cherry trees, then left up the street and one more left to the polling place. Exercise your body and your right to vote at the same time! – Rebecca Long Hayden*





**Sonnet for Autumn, 2013**

Like as a sudden storm begins with rain  
So softly falling on ripening fruit,  
And slowly deep in the loamy earth retained  
At last it penetrates to bathe the root.

Sudden thunder, blowing wind – a storm  
Whipping branches, swirling leaves, the tree  
Clutches the fruit lest it drop and lose its form –  
“Be gentle storm – take care with me.”

Alas my heart’s unused to storms of like or love;  
My self was crushed by oft repeated scorn;  
If this confession leaves you kindly moved,  
My heart and self, revived, are full reborn.

The life of each moment when slowed is sublime;  
Those living moments are the defeat of time.

– *Jeanne Tift*

**The Good Times**

It was so easy  
to go where we  
wanted to go  
and do what  
we wanted to do

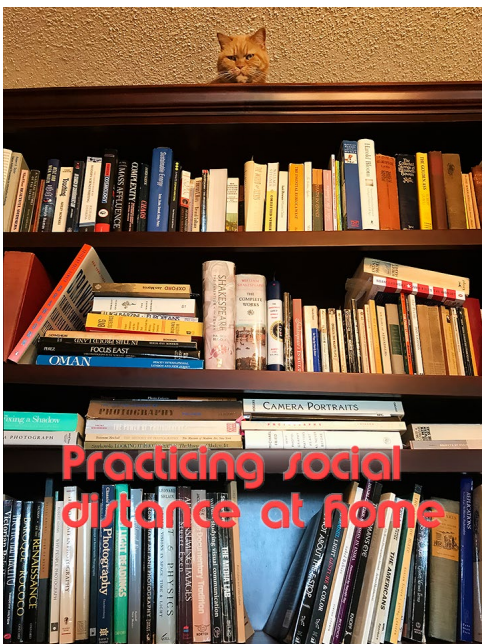
We bought whatever  
we needed at the store,  
confident it would be open  
and our item would be  
waiting on the shelf

We could open our doors  
by gripping the doorknobs  
and greet our friends  
by gripping their hands  
we could kiss our family and our lovers  
without fear of hurting them  
or ourselves

We had paying work or  
long-held savings to  
depend on  
we could see a movie  
or purchase a meal  
or celebrate together

Bur now we wait,  
wondering if those good times  
that seemed so ordinary  
will ever come again

– *Sarah Newcomb*



*Jeanne Tift's literary feline, Esmeralda*



## Egypt's ancient wonders along the Nile



Story and photos by Christine Winter:

**L**

ast month when I read that tourists in Egypt had become infected with the Coronavirus while on a cruise on the Nile, I felt very lucky to have had that adventure with my husband, David Shapiro (left), in 2019. There are hundreds of these cruises, and, like in Europe, they had more than one route. For our cruise we flew to Cairo for an overnight, and then flew south (toward the Upper Nile) to Aswan, where we boarded the Omar El Khayam to sail south on Lake Nasser to Abu Simbel. Lake Nasser exists only because of the construction of the Aswan Dam by Nasser in the 1960s, when many ancient temples south of the dam were moved to higher ground in expectation of the rising water.



### Nile River Map

Below is a map showing the cities you might see on a Nile river cruise. Nile river cruises may not stop at all ports pictured on these maps.





## journeys

*While the Great Pyramid Cheops was built around 2600 BCE, Philae Temple, on the Upper Nile, was built in 280 BCE during Egypt's Greco-Roman Period. The temple walls show scenes of Egyptian mythology: Isis bringing Osiris back to life and giving birth to Horus.*



*This scene of the Queen giving birth has been touched by thousands for good luck, so we were told.*



## Journeys

*On this elaborate carved wall, we could see the faded but beautiful painted hieroglyphics. The goddess Isis is holding an ankh, the symbol of life, and a lotus staff. She wears a solar disk and horns. In the middle is Horus, the son of Isis and Osiris, frequently depicted with a falcon face and wearing the double crown of the south/Upper Egypt (“white milk jug”) and the north/Lower Egypt (“red outer crown with cobra”). Horus is also holding an ankh, perhaps receiving tribute.*





## journeys



*At Luxor we take a morning bus to the Valley of the Kings. Here the tombs are underground, where their precious painted colors were preserved from the elements. In many cases, their entrances had been filled with sand to hide them from marauders.*

*In the afternoon, at Luxor Temple, we continue to see the many statues erected by Ramesses II.*



*On board ship at night, we have an entertainment of whirling dancers with beautiful capes.*





## journeys

*Still in Luxor, we visited the Karnak Temple. And later went to a Papyrus Museum to watch how the papyrus was made into paper. And to buy papyrus with lovely paintings on it.*





## journeys



*Our scheduled tour of the large Khan el-Khali-li souk in Cairo was cancelled due to a recent bombing. Instead, staying in Luxor, we went on a carriage ride through a smaller souk, and then disembarked to walk through it on our own. This was a perfect time to capture the many warm and welcoming faces of the Egyptians.*



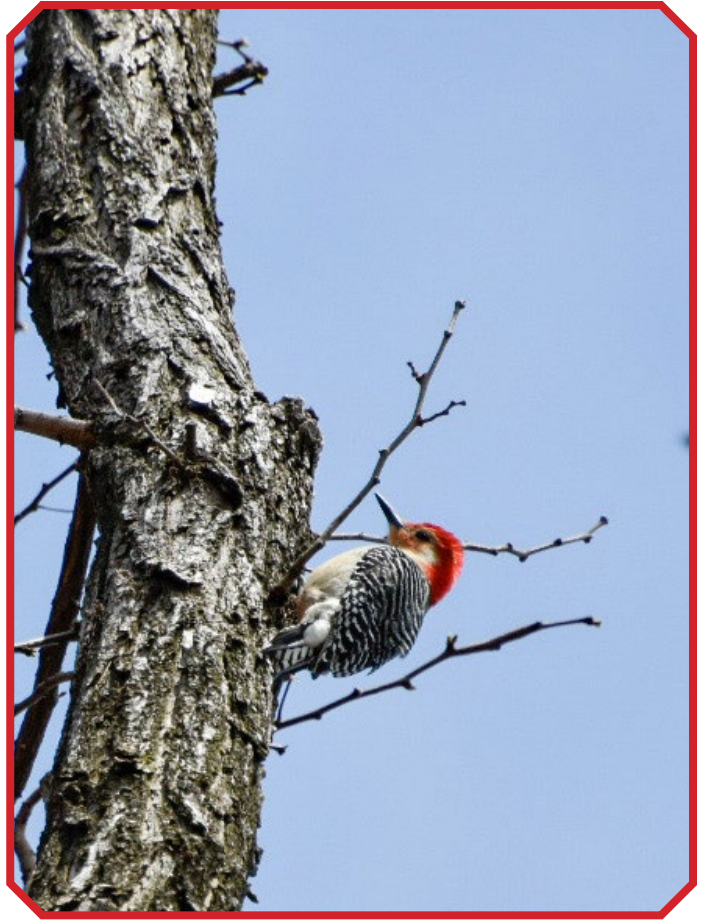
## art class



*Participants in Guido R. Zanni's (above) acrylic fluid painting workshop in the hobby room.*

*Photos by Jackie Fleming*







## final glance



*On March 20, a wild turkey promenaded along the transition area behind building 2. This unusual event was witnessed by several people. The image is 100 percent real and unmodified.*

*Photo by Holden Coy*