

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

brood x

April 24, 2021



Feeling good



By Caryl Curry

Some of us have wondered why during the pandemic, in our solitude, our lives have been less than satisfying. This week I had a simple experience that gave me pleasure and a better feeling about myself than I have had for a long time. After attending the April 14 informative webinar produced by the Montebello Grounds Committee [photo above] about our woodlands and the annual Arbor Day appeal for donations to support the purchase and planting of 105 trees, I thought about how fortunate we are to enjoy the beauty of our woods and landscaping and what a wonderful opportunity we have to contribute to their enhancement and survival.

Prior to the webinar, we all received a notice about the trees that had been selected for this year's fall plantings and I picked out the ones I would choose. The talks convinced me that my favorite was the right choice and as soon as I turned off the computer I wrote a check

and put it in the MCUOA mail box in the lobby. I dedicated my tree to our late resident and my dear friend Carole Appel, who loved everything about Montebello and maintained a garden at a nearby property. And suddenly I felt very good about having done something useful and aesthetic and above all, about this generous community in which we live.

Thanks to our dedicated Grounds Committee, it is possible to do something meaningful and plant a tree that will remain a touch of ourselves on Earth after we are gone. The tree I chose I expect may live for hundreds of years, giving joy to those clever enough to look for it in the woods. So, in a way, it was a selfish gesture, but I think feeling good during this depressing period of covid-19, is much to be desired.

I recommend that you see a charming 58-minute movie on YouTube entitled "Judi Dench My Passion For Trees Full BBC One 2017." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rjnv_AevX4s Judi had delighted in trees all her life,

and in the course of the film learns the amazing facts about how trees communicate with each other and listens, through hearing equipment, to the sounds of water moving up inside the tree and other marvels.

I would like to see her enthusiasm rub off on you and inspire you to contribute in any amount to the Montebello Arbor Day Tree Fund. Planting one tree costs \$250, but partial donations are very welcome. The deadline is June 14 for fall planting. In many ways, planting trees is good for you and the environment and what could be better than making the world more healthy and beautiful? Every tree contributes to that. 🌳

Cover photo by Miriam Rosenthal

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in memoriam

George Gabriel Noory

September 25, 1933 – April 21, 2021

George G. Noory was born and raised in Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and his parents were immigrants from historic Mesopotamia (modern-day Mardin, Turkey). George graduated from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University in 1955, and he also attended the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

George retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserve at the rank of Colonel in 1985, and most recently lectured on the history, religion, and politics of the Middle East. His military service, which began in 1955, included a tour of duty with the Joint Chiefs of Staff in the early 1980s where he was Deputy Chief of the Middle East Division on the J-5. During his military career, George graduated from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces and is an alumnus of the National War College at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. Col. Noory's civilian career included 30 years of service with the Federal Reserve Board, from which he also retired in 1985.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in George's memory be made out to Holy Transfiguration - Melkite Greek Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean, VA 22102; <https://holytransfiguration.org/>

Col. Noory will be laid to rest at Columbia Gardens Cemetery in Arlington, Va. A link to the livestream of Col. Noory's services will be provided here when available.

Source: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/falls-church-va/george-noory-10163531>

Remembering George Noory

By Joe and Hedi de Angelis

We were so very sorry to hear of our good friend George Noory's passing. George was a kind, gentle, and generous soul and he will be sorely missed by all.

Hedi and I have known George for 25 plus years, and we will miss him dearly. On her way back from the fitness center Hedi would often find George in the lobby of our building reading his mail and she would always stop and talk with him. After I retired, I had more time to sit in the lobby with George and we would discuss religion, history, and current events. Invariably his son John and family would come up in our conversations and George's whole demeanor would change: he would beam with pride as he talked about his son or his grandchildren.

George also immensely enjoyed help-

ing me on my project, a PowerPoint presentation on the history of the papacy. He would edit my work like a Catholic school English high school teacher. Using a red pen, he corrected spelling, names, dates, and particulars of historical events. On many occasions he add-

ed information and facts that I was not aware of. In short, George provided me with a wealth of historical and religious information for my project for which I will be forever grateful. I told George

that I gave him credit as my editor on the project and he, in his humility, said that that was not necessary, but I sensed a glimpse of pride in his eyes. George also loved attending the Cup of Joe on Saturday morning each month. He and his friends had basically commandeered the upper level of the CC lounge adjacent to the café where he would hold court. George very much enjoyed talking to his friends as well as sampling the abundant verity of food. Hedi and I will miss George, but we know that he is at peace and eternal rest in heaven where he longed to be. 🙏



George Noory (center) with friends at his customary Cup of Joe table.

Photo by Dian McDonald

Soup dumplings

By Caryl Curry

When or if ever you think about soup dumplings, I imagine you assume, as I did, that when you order such a dish in a restaurant, the waiter will put before you a bowl of soup with floating dumplings. Well, you may have to think again, if you find yourself seated in a restaurant, new to me, but established one year ago, called Kung Fu Kitchen in the Duke Street shopping center, where the Giant is located, on the upper level.

As an aficionado of Asian food, when in a nearby store, I was curious about the place and, using the excuse that it was, after all, lunch time, and having had my shots, I could think of no reason not to go in. The menu at Kung Fu Kitchen has entries that I had never seen before, such as: green onion tofu salad; pan-fried Peking duck buns; braised pork belly in clay pot; vinegar-pepper shredded potato. It offers some Dim Sum selections, a variety of normal Chinese dishes, as well as some

hot and spicy ones, as the restaurant is basically Szechuan and the restaurant menu is more elaborate than the carry-out menu.

I thought I would be safe ordering soup dumplings. Six dumplings would be sufficient for me for lunch. The dumplings arrived set on a steamer. So, where was the soup? The waiter informed me that the soup was inside the dumplings. What? They were formed differently from the familiar dumplings found in the Chinese restaurants I knew. These were round, like pot bellies, coming to a point on top. They were served with a plastic spoon and chopsticks. They were slippery, a challenge to pick up, and I could not imagine drinking the soup out of the dumplings without spilling it all down through the steamer slats to beyond the limitations of retrieval, or all over myself. I requested a small bowl so that when I messed up the dumpling, the soup would not be lost. A small plastic container was provided – the restaurant uses throw-away implements and dishes, presumably due to the pandemic. It is a more presentable restaurant than the average carry-out, but not fancy. Perhaps china is used at night. I don't know. The photos on the website make everything look appealing.

So there I was, struggling with the dumplings, feeling ridiculous, when the charming waiter told me to wait



while he demonstrated how the people of Szechuan eat them. He obtained a demo dumpling from the kitchen and effortlessly lifted it to his mouth, bit off a small corner and, without straining his neck, easily slurped out the soup and, still holding on to the dumpling with chopsticks, then ate it in bites. It was a gastronomically novel and interesting experience.

Now that you know how to do it, I expect you will want to take on the challenge with no difficulty 🍲.

Kung Fu Kitchen

3221 Duke St.

(703) 566-0007

Daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m.

<https://website--184058498161514728715-restaurant.business.site/?m=true>

Arbor Day Donation Program seeks contributions

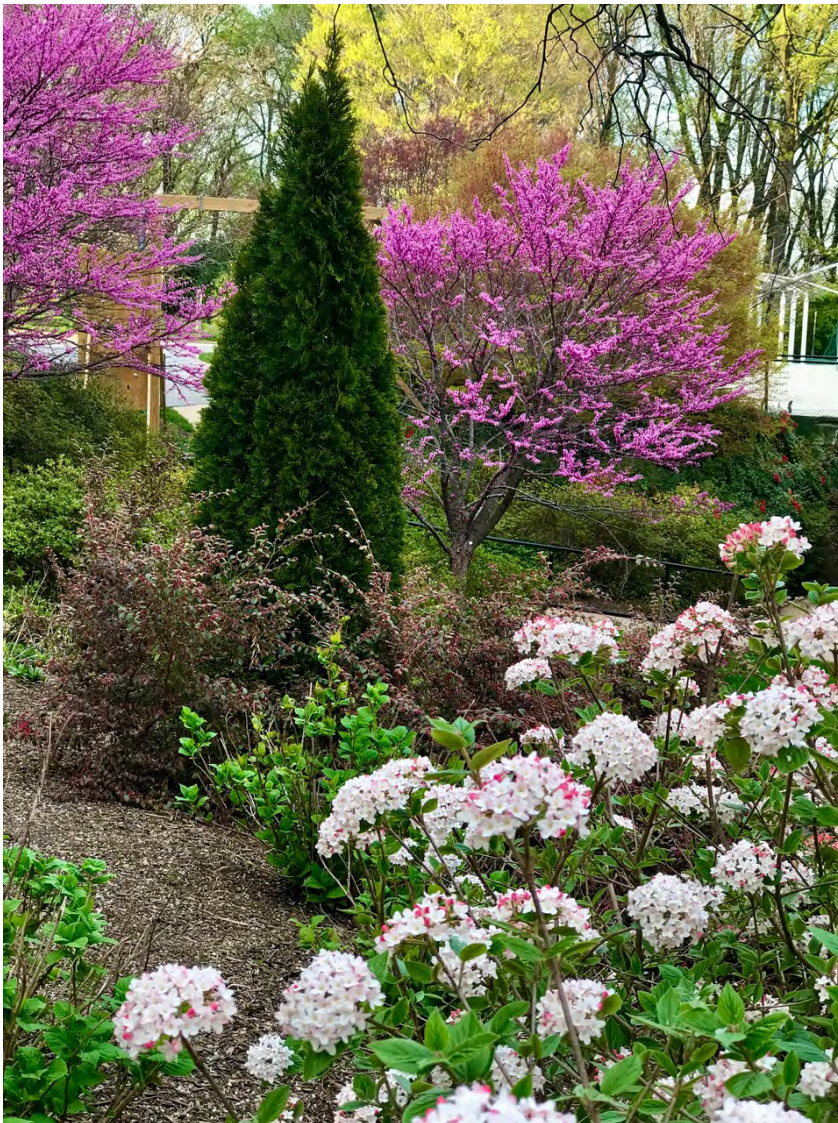
By Kathy Dismukes
Grounds Committee

Montebello's Arbor Day Tree Donation Program launched earlier this month, and the Grounds Committee is again collecting funds to purchase trees that replenish and enhance our beautiful woodlands. The program is a way for our entire community to actively care for the trees, which face a number of challenges, including damage from insects like the ash borer and the vagaries of DC's weather.

We hosted a Zoom launch event for the 2021 Arbor Day donation pro-

gram on April 14. We welcomed donors from the 2018 and 2020 Arbor Day program, reviewed a bit about the history, diversity, and beauty of our 20-acre woodlands, learned about the challenges our trees are facing, heard about the resources available to help you select your tree(s), and answered audience questions. A recording of the event is on the MontebelloGrounds.com website.

A donation of \$250 covers the cost of one tree, delivery and installation, and fencing for protection from deer. The Grounds Committee happily accepts partial donations as well, which we will pool. Please see the article from Caryl Curry in this issue to get an idea of



what it's like to enable Montebello to buy one more of the 18 species to choose from this year. These include beauties like Eastern Cottonwood, Black Willow, Red Maple, and River Birch.

Details on how to submit your donation are on the Arbor Day Tree Donation Form on the next page. You also can pick up a paper copy at the front desk or the brochure racks in the mailroom of each tower. Electronic copies of the form, pictures of all of the trees, and much more information are on MontebelloGrounds.com.

We invite you to join in the fun of selecting and donating trees through June 14. Your gift today could last a lifetime. Questions? Contact Kathy Dismukes at kmdismukes@me.com. 📧

Photo by Dian McDonald

Montebello Tree Donation - Commemorating Arbor Day 2021

Donor name(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Show my donation as Anonymous	Bldg/unit:
Phone number:	Email:	
Dedication(s) (optional) : Donation in honor of:		
<i>(Donations and dedications will be recorded in a book maintained in the office and at MontebelloGrounds.com)</i>		

Would you like to pick particular species?

Yes, I have favorites. I have selected my preferred tree(s) in the table on page 2. I am aware that the Committee may limit the number of a particular species to maintain the planting goal shown in the table, and will inform me of any changes.

No, I want the Grounds Committee to choose - The Committee may select any tree from the list on page 2 that makes the greatest contribution to overall woodland health and tree species diversity. The Committee will inform me of that selection.

Please select project(s) to which you want to contribute:	No. trees donated
1. Transition Areas 3 and 4 (TA): Supplementary plantings between Long Mount Eagle Drive and Buildings 3 and 4 to enhance the tree canopy.	
2. Woodland Regenerative Planting Plan (WRPP): To enhance woodlands health & diversity in various areas outside of Transition Areas 3 and 4.	

Cost per tree: \$250 <i>Partial donation (less than \$250) will be pooled with other donations.</i>	Total number of trees you will donate:	
	Donation amount (no. of trees x \$250):	\$
	Partial donation amount:	\$

Montebello Arbor Day tree donation conditions:

1. To donate, submit a paper copy of this form, accompanied by a check made out to MCUOA. Deliver to front desk (in trailer) or send by US mail to MCUOA Trees, 5904 Mount Eagle Drive, Apt. 115, Alexandria, VA 22303. (You may also use the association correspondence slots near mailbox area in each residential tower.)
2. **A donation of \$250** covers the cost of one tree, its delivery and installation, and fencing for protection from deer. Installation is planned for late September-early October 2021.
3. All trees will be approximately 4-6 feet high, depending on species and availability. No guarantee that any particular tree will survive, and no additional irrigation equipment is being installed.
4. Donations will not be linked to an individual tree, but donors will be given access to maps showing where each species has been planted.
5. **Donation deadline: June 14, 2021**

If you have questions, please contact Kathy Dismukes, kmdismukes@me.com.

veiled trees



Photos by Joel Miller and Dian McDonald

Pat wants a dog

By Sarah Newcomb

You have already met my late mother's friend, 94-year-old Pat, who still lives in a senior facility in the Adirondacks. Then, of course, you know her grandson, Bernie, who has cared for Pat for 13 1/2 years – bringing to her “independent living” apartment home-made meals that meet her medical requirements, giving her medicines and eye drops, shopping, cleaning and spending many evenings with Pat while she watches her TV.

A great deal of the time, Pat seems all right. But she is sinking into dementia, and has begun to hallucinate. In the beginning, these hallucinations seemed harmless, but as time has worn on, they have begun to be unpleasant and even downright scary.

There is one recurring very benign fantasy. Pat awakens to her name being softly called. Pat answers the door to find two women in long gowns, whom she does not know. They have brought a dog to visit her. The dog has a head similar to a Beagle's, with large, gentle brown eyes. Pat has never had a dog, but in the fantasy, she extends her hand toward him. The sweet dog responds by resting his head in her hand in a very comforting way.

Pat and I talked about the fantasy quite a bit. She wanted to know what breed of dog he was. About Christmas time, I asked Pat if she would like a dog book as her special gift. She thought it was a great idea. She could not wait to open it.

So, off to Amazon I went, looking for a suitable book. Pat told me that someone already had given her a dog book, but it was “no good” because it was de-

signed for children. Searching through Amazon's selections, I found a couple of dog breed books that were designed not just for kids, but for adults with dementia. Lots of large pictures. Few words. One of these books contained what seemed to be a great likeness of Pat's visitor with the large brown eyes.

Not long after, Pat called me to express her joy in getting the book. She stared at the picture many, many times a day. When she heart-brokenly misplaced it, Bernie secretly ordered it again, smuggled it into Pat's apartment, and “found it” for Pat.



As her attachment grew, Pat wanted a dog. She believed other residents had pets (pets are prohibited there). She wanted to get a dog with those large comforting brown eyes. Bernie and I were unable to give her a dog, of course.

One day, I was looking at Amazon, and I happened to key in “stuffed toy dogs.” Flipping through, I stopped dead at Jesonn Giant Realistic Stuffed Animals Beagle Dog Plush Toys, 21.6” or 55CM, 1PC at <https://www.amazon.com/JESONN-Realistic-Stuffed-Ani->

[mals-Centimeter/dp/B01BQ94RVQ](https://www.amazon.com/JESONN-Realistic-Stuffed-Animals-Centimeter/dp/B01BQ94RVQ)

Here was unquestionably Pat's dog – not just an ordinary toy. The company had perfectly captured Pat's vision, with large and comforting brown eyes. He was totally realistic and life-sized. Without a careful look, anyone would think this dog was real.

I phoned Bernie to ask whether he thought Pat would be insulted or was now ready for something like this. Bernie thought this dog was a great idea.

I bought the dog and Amazon sent it to Bernie to check over and present to Pat. It was love at first sight. Pat called me totally delighted.

Since getting her dog, Pat is much calmer. She named him Amazon. Pat spends hours holding 22-inch Amazon on her lap, positioning him so that he can watch the nature shows she provides. The dog sleeps with Pat in her bed, mitigating her night terrors and guarding his owner from nightly intruders. Pat wraps Amazon in a small blanket so that he does not get cold, and she feeds kibble him from the set of toy pet dishes I sent him.

It was only after we saw the positive benefits Amazon-the-dog brought Pat, that I watched a training session for medical personnel dealing with dementia patients. Using dog and cat toys was recommended to reduce anxiety in these patients. The benefit also extends to Bernie, who has less to worry about and is overjoyed that his grandmother is so much happier.

I can't take any credit for this. I don't believe that I found the book or Amazon-the-dog. There was a power behind those events that led me to help Pat be happier. I'm just so glad she is. 🐾

an ode to Kenji

My Friend

By Sarah Newcomb

You gaze out
At the world
Through huge brown eyes

Tracing a private place
Of thought
I cannot enter

A focused internal
Dialogue
Of whatever dogs
Can think about

Without schedules or
Obligations, fears
Or politics

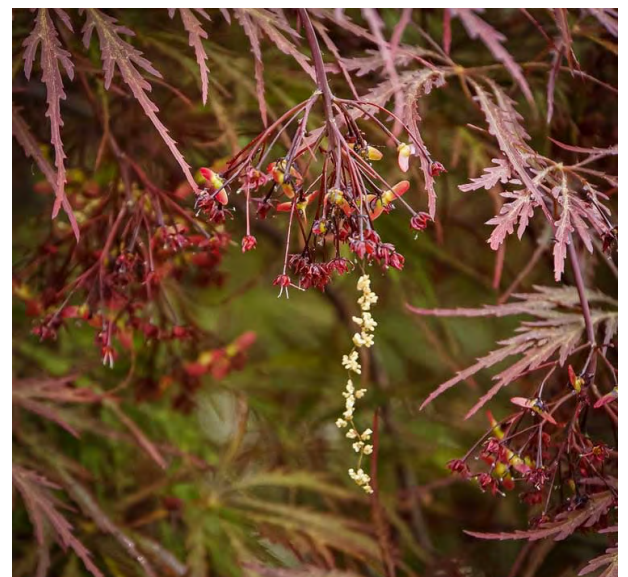
Far away,
Your mind
Remains so innocent
I am jealous

Of what pure thoughts
Consume the time
You are engrossed
In something else

walks 'n wags



woodlands blooms



flora



Photos by Miriam Rosenthal and Dian McDonald

Arbor Day Tree Donation Program

Become a donor or renew your donation:

1. Select your tree(s) and choose your location(s). Be sure to check *MontebelloGrounds.com* for updated information on the species that are still available. Trees are going fast!
2. Fill out your donor form.
3. Drop your donor form and check by the office or association mailbox, or send by US Mail.

**Black Gum • Red Oak • Pawpaw • Sweet Bay Magnolia
American Hornbeam • Hickory • 12 more!**



A donation of \$250 covers the cost of one tree, delivery, and installation, as well as fencing for protection from deer. Partial donations are also accepted.

Donation Deadline: June 14

More information: **MontebelloGrounds.com**

Questions? **OurMontebelloGrounds@gmail.com**

Brought to you by the Grounds Committee

final glance



Photos by Shawn Leister-Frazier