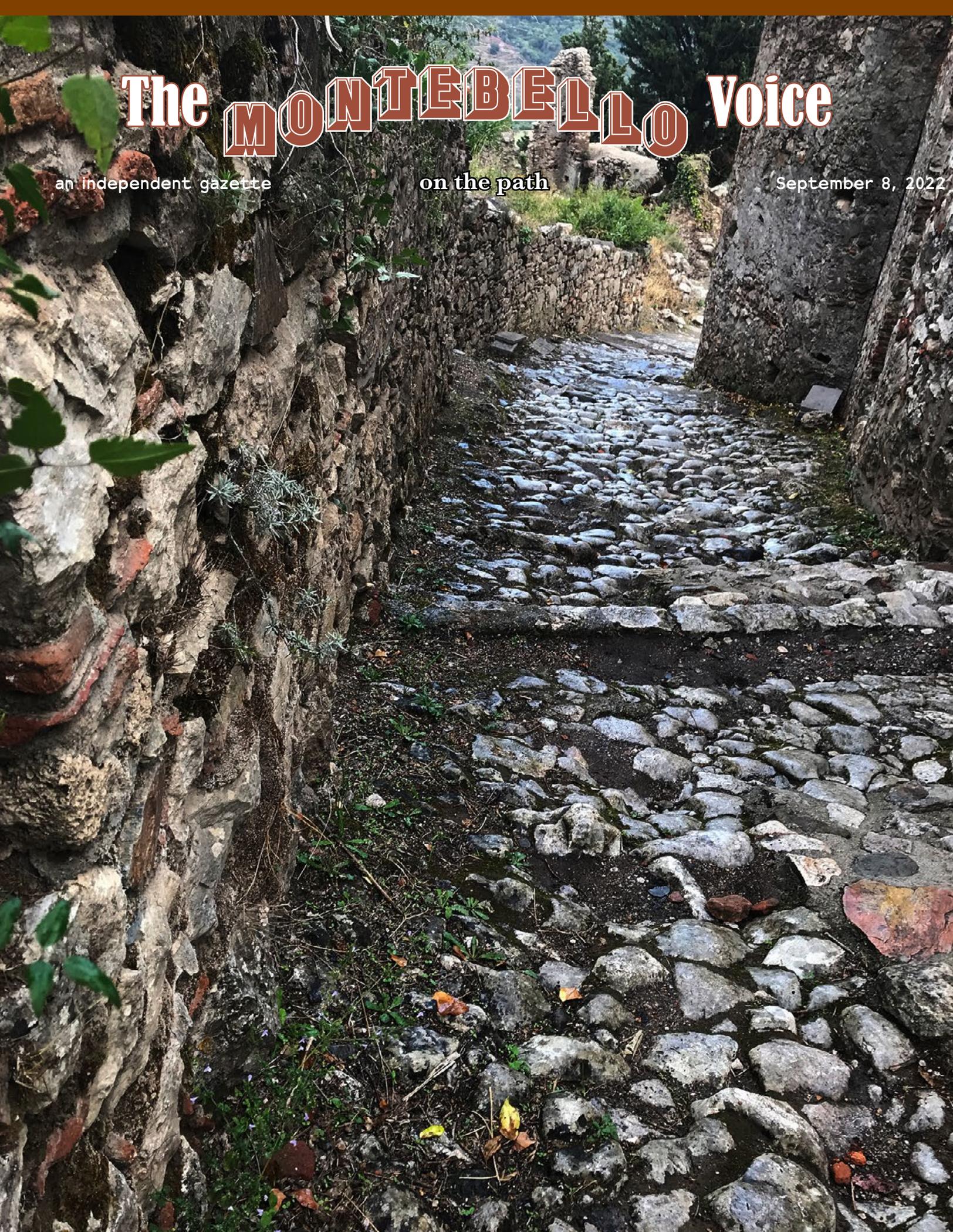


The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

on the path

September 8, 2022



Save the planet, one plastic fork at a time

Back in the days when Montebelloites picnicked and partied more frequently, the Environment Club encouraged the use of stainless tableware rather than disposable plastic knives, forks, and spoons at community events. These were used at Cup of Joe, Picnic Hill gatherings, and potlucks. Residents also borrowed the stainless ware for personal parties in the party rooms. All they had to do was ask to borrow tableware, pick it up, wash it after the party, and bring it back.

Now that Montebello folks are starting to gather again, the stainless tableware is also ready to party – stored in the Activities Committee storage room near the Underground. Any Montebello group – from sponsors of community-wide picnics to those who want to have a smaller gathering in a party room – can ask to borrow the stainless ware when they arrange for the event through the Front Desk. At the time of the event, they can get as much stainless ware from storage as is needed, use it, wash it, and bring it back for the next person.

Let's take this small step for the environment. – *Karen Barnes* 🍴



Do you believe in miracles?

Looking over the Village Green this morning, I thought I was dreaming – charcoal gray Adirondack chairs were getting assembled for the lawn. Earlier this summer I wrote about how trashy our Village Green was looking with strewn-about pool chairs and loungers. I implored our management to purchase some proper lawn furniture for this beautiful garden space where people like to gather. And miracle of miracles happened at Montebello: six resin Adirondack (including two rockers) chairs for our sitting pleasure.

I assume GM Eric Finke is the secret Santa who gifted us the chairs. Now our ergonomically cradled backsides can enjoy *al fresco* dinners or nestle with a book beneath the canopy of trees. I raise a virtual toast to GM Finke for improving our quality of life with something as mundane as a half-dozen chairs. Could matching side tables be far behind? –*MK* 🍴

*The Montebello
Voice
uncut, uncensored,
unofficial*

Cover: *Street in Mystras*

Photo by *Jeanne Tiff*

The **MONTEBELLO** Voice

an independent gazette
Alexandria, Virginia

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The scum and scumbags

By Chester Taylor

Every day we read about them and see them on the news. They wave flags with swastikas or KKK banners. They show off their tattoos, beer guts, and adorn their military-like attire with patches that display Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, or QA (QAnon). They shout a lot, swear a lot, and act tough, spreading hate and discontent wherever they go. They are dangerous to democracy and to people.

They were at the Unite the Right white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia on August 12, 2017. They were out in full force, some dressed in white hooded KKK outfits, others carrying Confederate flags, and the neo-Nazis waving their white power Nazi swastika flags. Then one of them, James Alex Fields, Jr., deliberately drove his car into a crowd of peaceful counter-protesters. He killed one young woman and injured 35 other people. Then, on January 6, 2021, we see these same groups of people attack the Capitol. Over 10,000 insurrectionists participated. How many were members of supremacy groups cannot be determined. About 2,000 entered the Capitol that day and 903 have been charged. They injured 138 police officers and another nine died directly or indirectly as a result.

Who are these people, what groups do they belong to? Let's begin with the hate group that has been around since the Civil War, the **Ku Klux Klan** (KKK) or **the Klan**. These white supremacist are still around and they



The Montebello Voice

hate African Americans, Jews, Latinos, Asian Americans, Catholics, and native Americans. They hate gays, leftists, immigrants, Muslims, and atheists. They are associated with a long list of African American churches burned and bombed. They have used physical assault and murder against Black leaders in the past and no doubt will use it against any one they consider a threat to their ideology, the "purification" of American society.

Then there is the **National Socialist White People's Party**, formerly the **American Nazi Party**, who are headquartered right here in Arlington. The party is based largely upon the ideals and policies of Adolf Hitler's Nazi Party in Germany, and



embrace its uniforms and iconography. They changed their name in 1959 to make it clearer what their aim is – to promote the superiority of white people. They and their affiliate members are hate-groups and really not much different than the KKK. Neo-Nazis were at Charlottesville, as mentioned above, and they were at the attack on the Capitol.

An extremely dangerous group, **The Oath Keepers**, are heavily armed extremists with a conspiratorial and anti-government mindset looking for potential showdowns with the government. Two-thirds of the Oath Keepers are former military or law enforcement, and one-tenth are active duty military or law enforce-



ment. Court documents show that the Oath Keepers had extensively planned for the January 6 insurrection. Over 30 members were present and well organized. They were clad in camouflage attire, combat helmets, bulletproof vests, and gloves with reinforced knuckles. They declared victory once they penetrated the rotunda.

The **Proud Boys** are another neo-fascist and exclusively male organization that promotes and engages in political violence in the United States. They are a group of racists, anti-Semites, and bigots of all kind. They have a history of violence attacking counter-protesters, police, and destroying property. The Proud Boys has been designated as a terrorist group in Canada and

New Zealand. During the Capitol attack, they used encrypted communications to coordinate their efforts. Photographed Proud Boy is Robert Keith Packer of Virginia, wearing a sweatshirt with Camp Auschwitz and "work brings freedom" written on it, referring to the German phrase, "*arbeit macht frei*," that was posted above the entry gate to Auschwitz concentration camp where 1.1 million people were murdered during World War II. Another Proud Boy, Joshua Pruitt, from Silver Spring, Maryland, was sentenced this August to four years in prison storming the Capitol. He said that the Proud Boys wanted to stop Congress from certifying the Electoral College vote on January 6.

QAnon is another wacko political

upward with the arts

conspiracy theory and political movement. It originated in the American far-right political sphere in 2017. QAnon centers on false claims made by an anonymous individual or individuals known as Q. Their claims are bizarre and twisted statements like, “An evil cult is ruling the planet.” It is not known how many are QAnon members, but Facebook kicked 200,000 members off

its social media accounts. Many of the QAnon followers were influenced by the claims from Q to attack the Capitol on January 6.

Who are these people? They are racists and bigots. They belong to far-right extremist organizations who use disruption and violence when they can't win at the ballot box. They are the scum. And the politicians that cater to them and form their political base around them are worse, they are scumbags. 🍷



About Duo Beaux Arts

International competition-winning ensemble Duo Beaux Arts was formed in 2008 by renowned husband and wife concert pianists Dr. Catherine Lan and Steinway Artist Tao Lin. The duo performs as concerto soloists, chamber musicians, and soloists globally to both critical and audience acclaim. Catherine and Tao have collectively performed at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Victoria Hall in Singapore, Izumi Hall in Osaka, Japan, Orpheum Theatre in Vancouver, Edvard Grieg Museum in Bergen, Norway, Kadriorg Palace in Tallinn, Estonia, Tempeliuukio in Helsinki, Finland, Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, UK, and UNESCO Eufrazijeva Bazilika in Poreč, Croatia.

As pedagogues, they have taught masterclasses and appeared as guest artists across Asia, North America, and Europe, including at summer festivals such as Bowdoin International Music Festival, Mainly Mozart Festival, Music Festival of the Hamptons, Swan City Piano Festival, Romanza Festival in St. Augustine, Beethoven Festival in Miami, Music Mountain Chamber Music Festival, Rovinj Summer Festival, and Karlovac Piano Festival.

www.duobeauxarts.com

Montebello Music Club presents

The German Romantics with Duo Beaux Arts

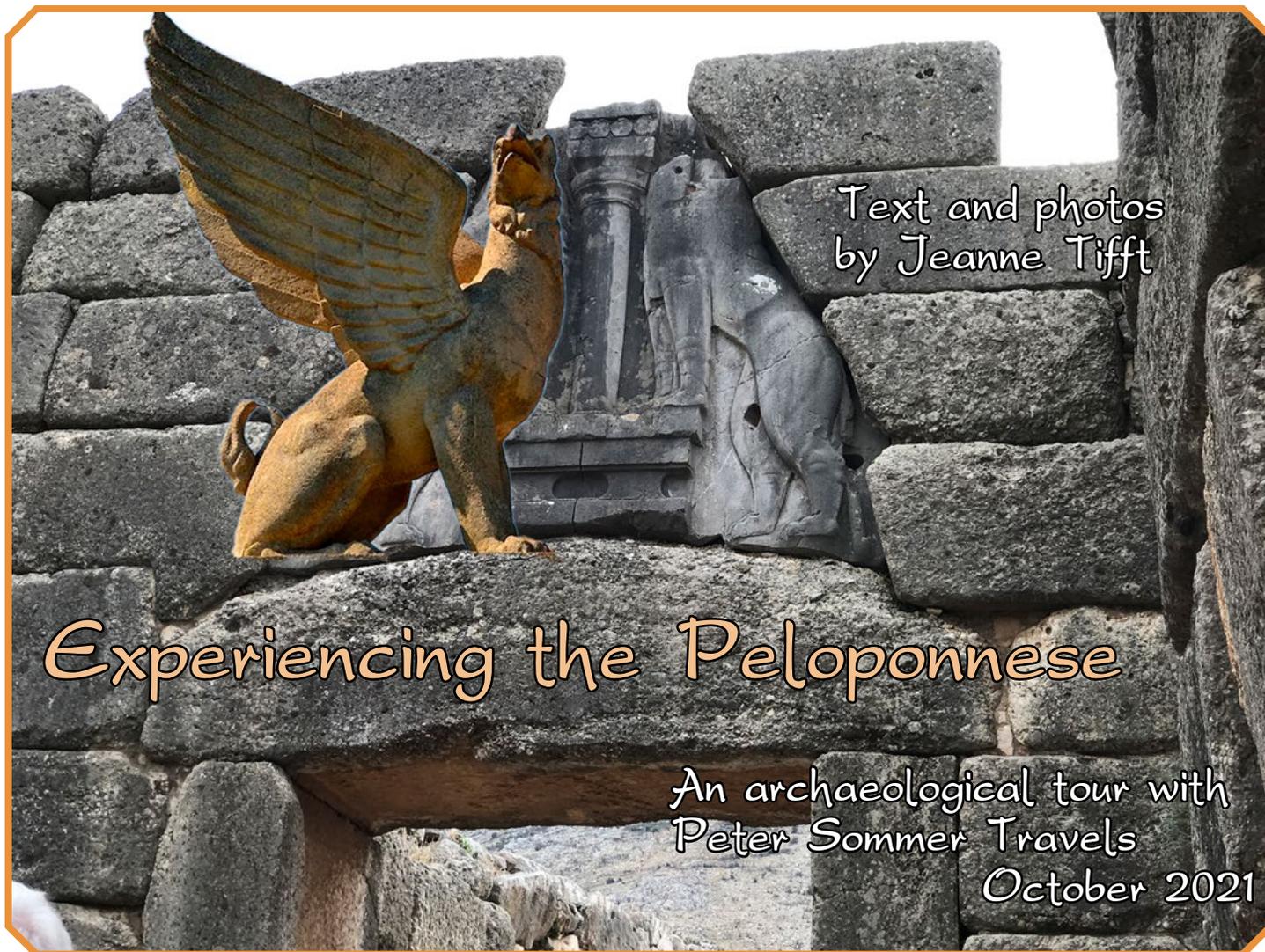
September 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center

<i>Eight Variations on a Theme by Waldstein, WoO 67</i>	Beethoven <i>Duo Beaux Arts</i>
<i>Rondo a Capriccio, Rage Over a Lost Penny, Op 129</i>	Beethoven <i>Tao Lin</i>
<i>Widmung</i>	Schumann – Liszt <i>Tao Lin</i>
<i>Hungarian Dance No 5</i>	Brahms <i>Duo Beaux Arts</i>
<i>Fantasy in F sharp minor, Op 28</i> <i>Con moto agitato</i> <i>Allegro con moto</i> <i>Presto</i>	Mendelssohn <i>Catherine Lan</i>
<i>Marche caractéristique, D 968b No 1</i>	Schubert <i>Duo Beaux Arts</i>
<i>Andante and Allegro Brillante, Op 92</i>	Mendelssohn <i>Duo Beaux Arts</i>

September 11 Observance

3 p.m. in the Community Center

Join the Montebello Music Club singers in a patriotic sing-along to remember how the horrible events of 9/11 brought our nation together.



Text and photos
by Jeanne Tiff

Experiencing the Peloponnese

An archaeological tour with
Peter Sommer Travels
October 2021

The Peloponnese is the land mass shaped like a three-fingered hand and thumb thrust into the Mediterranean Sea from the Greek mainland.

When you think of ancient Greece, what usually comes to mind? Agamemnon? The Parthenon? Socrates? Byzantine despotates? Ottoman conquests? Crusader castles? The mythical entrance to Hades guarded by Poseidon?

The British travel company that

runs this tour showed us all, guided by highly experienced tri-lingual archaeologists. I went hoping to see, finally, monuments I had studied in college history of art class 60 years ago.

I have been climbing over ancient rocky ruins with my camera since living in Turkey in the 1960s and Egypt in the 1970s, so I had no illusions about comfort. Now, though, at 85 years old, walking stick in hand and sun hat on head, cameras in vest pockets, I moved a bit

more slowly, and the tour group of 14 was patient and kind. And there were revelations of important places I had never heard of (Methoni Castle) and events I never knew of (Thebes building Messene after finally defeating Sparta).

I invite you to come to my slide show of this trip at the next Travel Information Club presentation on Thursday, September 15, in The Underground. Here are a few examples of what you'll see and hear about. 📷



Previous page: A pair of griffins, not lions, at Mycenae

A portrait of the author

Bronze helmets in Olympia Museum

Head by Scopas (Hellenistic sculptor) from Temple of Athena Aglaia at Tegea

Beatles visitation souvenir at a village taverna



*A wine tasting
Rocky stairs everywhere
Inside the Treasury of
Atreus*



Inside the barbed wire, part I

By Bob Shea

Note: This article is an adapted, condensed, and updated version of a research paper written as a young captain while attending one of several military courses during my career.

Andersonville, the camp on the River Kwai, Guantanamo Bay, Abu Ghraib, The Hanoi Hilton, Stalag 17, and Fort Hunt are all names of prisoner of war facilities. Many have been made famous in films, books, and headlines for their deprivations, horror, and sometimes heroics. However, little has been written about an American Ko-

sands of North Korean and Chinese POWs first arrived in early 1951. The Eighth U.S. Army was in full retreat to the south. The POWs held in the Pusan area were in the way, and more importantly, their numbers posed a potential security threat to the United Nations Command. They had to be moved to a more secure location where they could not complicate the war from behind the Allied lines.

A POW camp was opened on Kojedo with the mission delegated to the 60th General Depot, the prime supplier at that time for the UN forces. The officers and enlisted men of the depot knew little about the care and security

and house the captives. Fortunately, the conscript POWs initially gave their captors no trouble. They seemed to accept their less than perfect surroundings.

Rice and fish were transported from Japan, a significant logistical task when combined with all manner of support needed by the increasingly growing contingent of UN troops committed to the war. Additionally, with the buildup of UN forces, little thought was given to providing clear guidance to the camp commander, a junior Quartermaster major. He did not receive specific orders or any necessary supplies to construct a camp until two months after the first arrival of POWs.



rean War POW camp on Kojedo Island, Kojedo in Korean.

The story of Kojedo remains buried in that war's history, bad decisions, ruined military careers, and the mud of the island in the Korean Strait a few miles southwest of Pusan.

It was an island of green hills and terraced rice paddies when the thou-

sands of prisoners of war. They were skilled logisticians, not jailers.

Countless ships crossed the strait from Pusan, disembarking thousands of sulen POWs on Kojedo's beaches. Soon there were over 40,000 prisoners, mostly Korean, huddled together in the fields. There were fewer than 200 Americans to secure the facility as well as to feed

The compounds were born of necessity, and like many measures adopted in warfare, the temporary became permanent. The enclosures were primitive at best as construction material and even barbed wire were in short supply. Soon the camp population doubled with little expansion of facilities. The POWs continued to accept their captivity as the

price paid for being unfortunate enough to be captured or as a better alternative than fighting on cold Korean hilltops.

In time, relief came when a military police detachment arrived from Fort Gordon, Georgia. Its commander, a colonel, began a vigorous campaign to improve the lot of the prisoners. They were to be treated with “dignity and indoctrinated in the merits of U.S.-style democracy.” The implementation of his plan consisted in giving the POWs anything they requested and distributing printed matter to the former peasants, many of whom could not read. Concurrently, improved huts, clinics, craft shops, and exercise yards were constructed.

Despite the colonel’s best efforts, un-

rest began fermenting within the camp. Hard-core Communist factions were jostling for power and control. A screening process was established to separate the confused conscripts from the hard-core leaders who were segregated in Compound 76. That only tended to concentrate the Communist leadership talent.

North Korean Peoples’ Army Colonel Lee Hak Lu, the senior POW in Compound 76 at that time, had created for a ready-made staff. When the Americans sponsored an election within the POWs, Colonel Lee’s representatives were easily elected. The lessons of democracy may have worked, but the Lee forces were definitely better organized at the pre-

cinct level.

The new POW organization made more demands, and the American colonel continued to meet them. Paper, ink, mimeograph machines, hand tools, and craft supplies were provided in the interest of therapy and keeping the POWs occupied. Soon leaflets were circulating, propaganda banners were flying, and a prison industry was born.

With the prisoners thus constructively engaged, the American colonel turned his attention to his own personnel. An officers’ club and an NCO club were constructed. Bar maids were imported from Pusan. The officers were required to wear their dress “pinks and greens,” and all personnel had to wear ties. For a while, the island became a showplace with visits by international delegations and the press corps.

Under this peaceful-appearing facade, the POWs continued to organize, to plan, and to prepare themselves to challenge the Americans.

The root cause of the pending chaos was an ideological battle waged far north of Kojé Do in a village called Panmunjom. In past wars, POWs were repatriated en masse after the hostilities ceased. It was usually routine and without complications. However, UN negotiators told their counterparts in March 1952 that many of the POWs held in the south did not want to be repatriated.

The Communist reaction was to claim coercion and torture of the recalcitrant POWs. This made international headlines. The UN officials were equally unhappy with these issues as they became a stumbling block to the peace talks. Repatriation demands would extend the discussions and the war. While the UN was searching for a workable compromise, President Harry Truman stated that forced repatriation was repugnant to the Free World and that America would not force human beings to “return to Communist slavery.”

Thus, the United Nations position was solidified. 📖

Arts in Montebello presents

Places and Faces – Montebello & More

Opening Reception

September 10 at 4 p.m. at the Montebello Grille



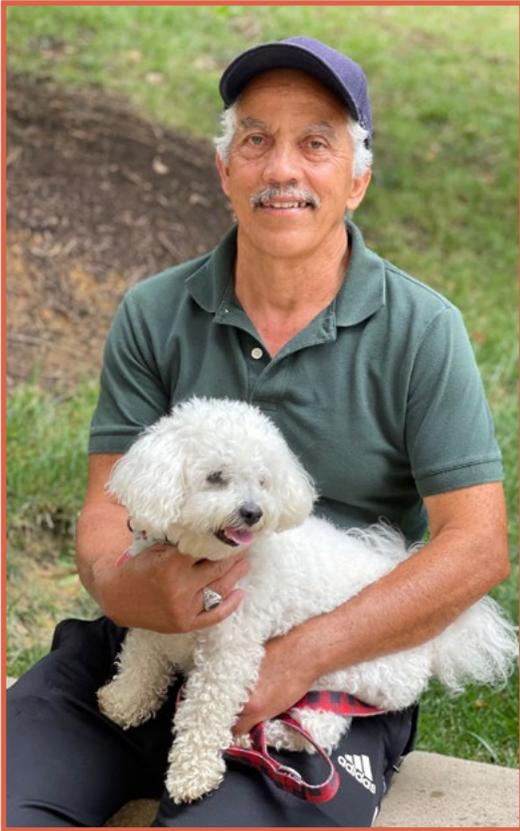
Restored photo by Joel Miller

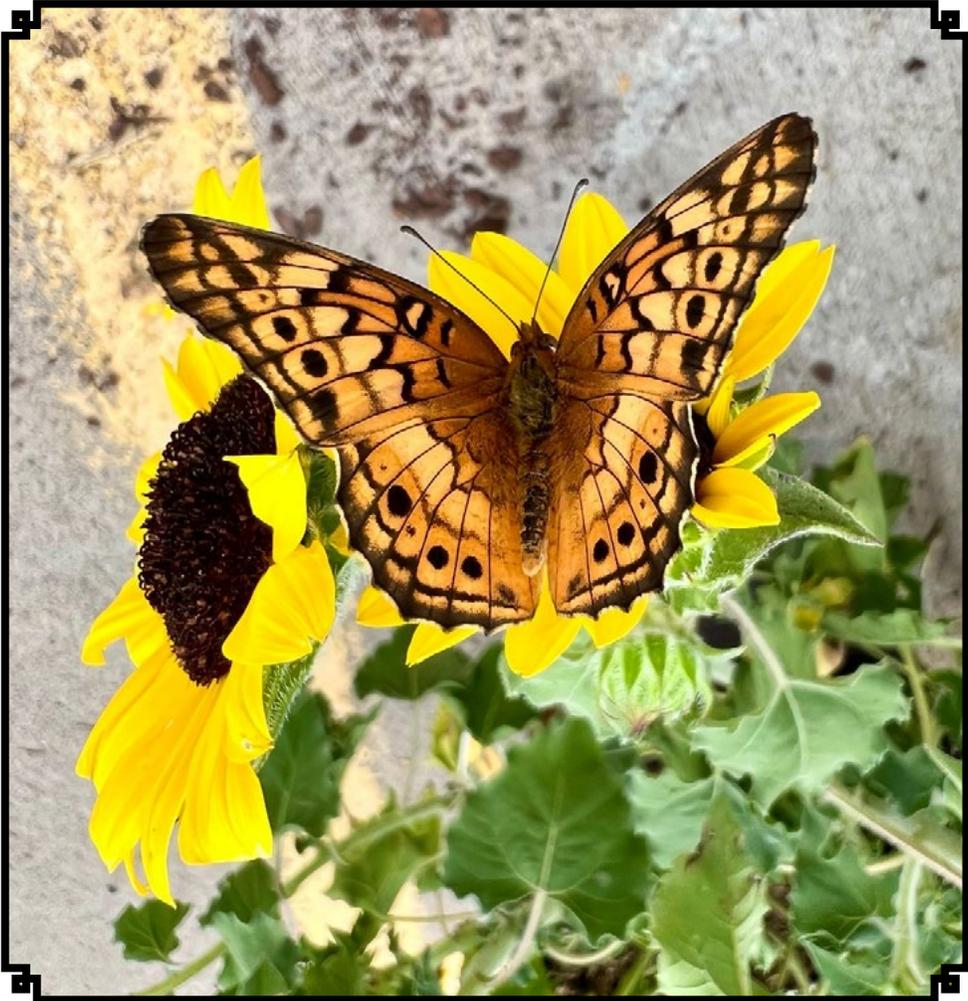


Photo by Dian McDonald

Two of AiM’s photographers, Dian McDonald and Joel Miller, will be using the Community Center’s vast display walls to exhibit everything from today’s portraits to restored vintage photography from a century ago







A variegated fritillary butterfly (Euptoieta claudia) loving the heck out of common sunflower (Helianthus annuus). Nature's beauty can be found anywhere, even in a pot of sunflowers at Home Depot.

Patricia Jacobec