

The MONTEBELLO Voice

an independent gazette

what's happening

June 28, 2023



Symphony orchestra conductors take their own importance for granted. Each develops certain gesticulations that are portrayed as having enormous importance to the instrumentalists and their performance. Perhaps the best known example was Lenny Bernstein raising the right eyebrow but not the left.

One small problem. When the Arts Channel does a symphony, the camera spends a lot of time on the orchestra, not on the conductor. And the players are looking at the score, not at the conductor. But of course! They can't be expected to have memorized all those notes. Plus, somebody way back with the second violins can't see the conductor too well anyhow.

Would I lie to you? It's a scam. Check it out.

It is difficult to feel great sympathy for the adults aboard Titan, the submersible that imploded on a visit to the wreck of the Titanic. These folk clearly had more money than brains: they risked their lives to see what was already fully available on TV and online. U.S. taxpayers will now spend millions on the search and recovery.

But the poor teenager! He was terrified and clearly went just to please Daddy. At his age, the reasoning and judgment parts of the brain are not fully developed, but he had a better grasp of the situation than did any of the adults. And now he's gone. It's so sad!

Metro is in the news again. Desperate for more money, some/much of which may not materialize, their future is problematic. There may be long-term implications for Montebello.

I worked in rail mass transit planning in Boston, during a period that the MBTA was doubling in size. Metro's situation is quite different. It is showing its age and must do extensive repair work, at the same time that it also engages in new construction. The system is centrally oriented, while in its service area employment, housing, shopping, and entertainment continue to decentralize. Trips are long, but the trackage will allow only very limited express operation. And it remains to be seen to what extent employment will continue to require workers to assemble at a fixed location multiple times each week; national opinion polling of employees has not revealed great enthusiasm for a return to the eight-hour, five-day work week. The more this holds true, the less eager politicians and voters will be to pony up the kind of money that Metro will be requesting.

Proximity to Huntington station is considered to be part of Montebello's desirability. We operate an expensive shuttle bus to capitalize on that proximity. To back up their request for more funding, Metro is discussing the threat of longer headways and wait times, along with shortened hours of operation. Not good for Montebello. 🏠



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A publication for the residents, by the residents

Cover photos by Dian McDonald and Joan Ledebur

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 or visit on the web at www.montebellovoice.com.

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Montebello celebrates Juneteenth

By *Guinevere Jones*

Decades of political controversy over slavery had been brought to a head by the victory in the 1860 presidential election of Abraham Lincoln, who opposed slavery’s expansion into the Western territories. An initial seven Southern slave states responded to Lincoln’s victory by seceding from the United States and, in February 1861, forming the Confederacy.

On April 12, 1861, forces from the Confederate States attacked the United States military garrison at Fort Sumter, South Carolina. The battle started the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict in American history.

On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation that declared that “all

persons held as slaves within the rebellious states are, and henceforward shall be free.”

This, however, did not include states that were not in rebellion against the United States: Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, Missouri, and after 1863, the new state of West Virginia – in other words, those border states continued the enslavement and trafficking of human beings until the end of the Civil War.

The McLean House in Appomattox Court House, Virginia was where the Confederate Army under Robert E. Lee surrendered to the United States Army commander Ulysses S. Grant on April 9, 1865, marking the end of the American Civil War.

Although the Civil War ended on April 9, 1865, enslaved African American men, women, and children in Texas

were not informed that they were free until June 19, 1865. Thus, Juneteenth commemorates the end of enslavement as being June 19, 1865, the date that Major General Gordon Granger of the United States Army arrived in Galveston, Texas and delivered the Orders.

Additionally, passed by Congress on January 31, 1865, and ratified on December 6, 1865, the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution abolished slavery in the United States.

With the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment, the United States found a final constitutional solution to the issue of slavery. The Thirteenth Amendment was followed by the Fourteenth Amendment that granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States. The Fifteenth Amendment granted the right of citizens of the United States to vote. 📖



Organized by Montebello’s weekend front desk goddess, Aja White, the first-ever event drew an SRO crowd to the community center. A local gospel group, Renaissance, uplifted the attendees’ spirits. Monica Sangbong wowed the audience with a solo and history teacher Guinevere Jones shared the history behind the holiday.





Putin's altar boy

By Chester Taylor

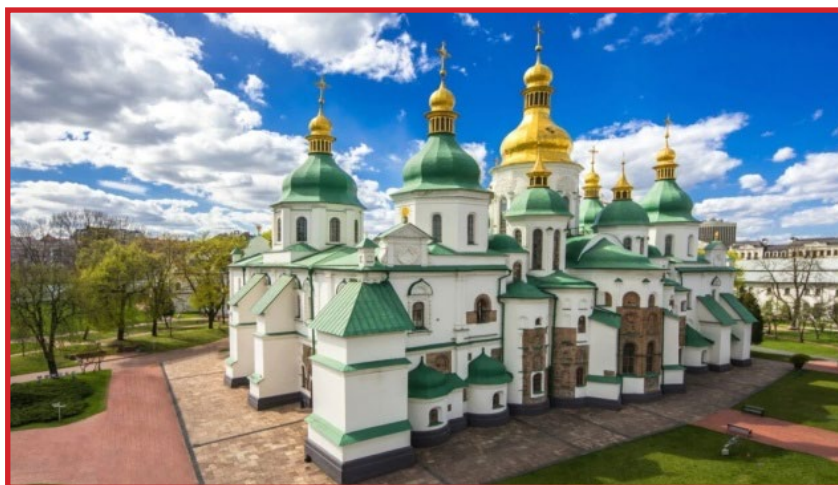
Patriarch Kirill, head of the Russian Orthodox Church supports President Vladimir Putin's invasion against its neighbor, Ukraine. Kirill has "blessed" the war effort that has left hundreds of thousand Ukrainians and Russians dead and wounded. The U.N. reports that in Ukraine there have been more than 6,800 civilian casualties with 3,300 of those killed. Some 7.8 million people from Ukraine are now displaced inside Ukraine and another 5.7 million having sought refuge in neighboring countries. Nearly two-thirds of all Ukrainian children are now displaced. This does

mid-13th century, Russia, Belarus, and Ukraine were part of Kievan Rus' and ruled from Kiev [Kyiv] by Vladimir the Great (980–1015), who with his own baptism (shown in painting), began the spread of Christianity in Kievan Rus'.



ing the Russian invasion. In October 2022, representatives of the World Council of Churches, consisting of 352 churches in 120 countries, met with Kirill to express their condemnation of his support of the war. Despite Pope Francis' warnings in 1962 and again in 2022 not to use the language of politics but that of Jesus, Kirill has been and continues to be "Putin's altar boy."

Will Kirill stand equally with Putin, who is now wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the forced deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia plus another 135 war crimes? Will Kirill take responsibility for the 50,000+ war crimes committed by the



not include those children who remain in Ukraine whose homes have been bombed to destruction.

This is not about religion, but power. Kirill has blessed the war and proclaimed that Russians are doing a heroic deed by killing Ukrainians. He even told them that carrying out your military duty washes away all sins. Forgiveness of sins is something taken very seriously by Russian Orthodox Christian soldiers. Kirill provided Putin with a spiritual justification for the conflict. Like Putin, Kirill sees Ukraine and Belarus as part of the Russian world and therefore he can claim dominion over their churches.

Putin and Kirill have a selective memory of history. From the late 8th to the



Christianity reached its full extent during the reign of his son Yaroslav the Wise (1019–1054). The beautiful Saint Sophia Cathedral was built during this time and stands in Kyiv today.

Kirill no longer serves God anymore, but Putin. Over 360 Ukrainian clergymen signed a letter saying Kirill is guilty of committing moral crimes by endors-

Russian military who intentionally killed civilians, tortured prisoners, unnecessarily destroyed civilian property, and committed mass killings in Ukraine? He won't, but his backing Putin's purifying "operation" and his inspiring, inciting, justifying, aiding, and abetting the war crimes against humanity committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine makes him in violation of Articles 7 and 8 of the Roman Code of the ICC. For these war crimes there are two punishments: death or long-term imprisonment. Human Rights Without Frontiers, a Brussels-based non-governmental organization, has appealed to the ICC to prosecute Patriarch Kirill. 📧

What is black and white and green inside?

By Bob Shea

Scandinavian governments, businesses, and private citizens have a long history about thinking “outside the box” characterized by innovation, activism, and bold, and sometimes revised, thinking.

After many years of walking an international tightrope, both Finland and Sweden have applied for NATO membership. Multi-colored LEGOs have inspired decades of young and old builders, and IKEA has furnished homes worldwide. The world’s second oldest amusement park, Tivoli Gardens, opened in 1843, inspired Walt Disney’s Disney World, and is still open. Teenage Greta Thunberg, an environmental activist, rallied legions of followers and attracted the attention of the Nobel Committee. In Denmark, one is rarely more than 15 minutes away from wind farms converting plentiful sea breezes into electricity (without causing cancer or killing birds as some US politicians claim). A bronze statue of Hans Christian Anderson’s Little Mermaid watches over the busy harbor.

One of the boldest ideas is located in a suburb of Copenhagen, officially called the Amager Bakke. Bakke is the Danish word for hill in a country with no mountains and few hills. It is a gigantic black and white building, overlooking the harbor that converts municipal waste into electricity and heat. Opened in 2017, it is called the



“cleanest incinerator in the world” with a tall chimney that emits only purified steam. It cost 670 million euros to build and had many local detractors. The local municipalities forged ahead with their promise that the Danish capital city could be carbon neutral by the year 2027.

The plant burns waste at almost 1900 degrees Fahrenheit using turbines to generate electricity as well as enough heat to heat over 72,000 homes in the area. It is the final destination for the waste of almost 600,00 inhabitants and 46,000 companies with a capacity of nearly 560,000 tons per year. One early problem was that the industrial plant had more capacity than the five local municipalities produced due to the improved recycling of many items formally burned. This was solved by importing waste from other countries instead of filling landfills. It was producing electricity, heating homes, and generating revenue. But, wait there is more!

While all these accomplishments are noteworthy, what sets Copenhill apart is that it also has a 450-meter long ski slope with four degrees of difficulty, a slalom course, and a free-style course for snowboarders. A Teflon-like surface substitutes

for snow during the warmer months. It attracts over 50,000 recreational skiers each year who use the available ski lift for multiple runs. It also has an 85-meter climbing wall, one of the highest in Europe, a hiking trail, and a summit restaurant with breath-taking views of Copenhagen and its harbor.

It is so unique that the incinerator/ski slope/climbing wall/ restaurant has become a tourist attraction. The parking lot is filled with multiple tourist buses of visitors who have placed the facility on their “must see list.” A glass-sided elevator takes them up through the internal parts of the industrial portion of the facility to the roof-top restaurant where notwithstanding the uniqueness of Copenhill, the view of the city and countryside is worth the price of admission. On a recent Saturday, the ski slope was busy, climbers were inching up the wall, and scores of international tourists were taking photos and eating lunch. That is a win-win situation for all – especially the environment.

Despite early detractors, local government leaders thought outside the box, took a sizable risk, and produced a winning combination of wise environmental policy, recreational opportunities, a source of revenue, and a tourist attraction. Maybe that is what political leaders should strive to accomplish.

Amager Bakke is black and white on the outside but very green inside. 🏔️



Tastes like chikin*



Hello, my pretty little chickie! How delectably fresh and soft you look after the rain. Let me pluck your petals and bring you home.



Thank goodness for the poop bags behind building 3. Must be close to 4 pounds of fungal joy in there.



A quick rinse – amazingly no dirt and just one surprised insect.



Ready for the saucepan with onion, garlic, white wine, and pink Alfredo.



And voilà! Earthy, firm, delicious woodlands-to-table dinner of a giant mushroom found under a tree.

* <https://unrulygardening.com/chicken-of-the-woods-mushroom/>
The Montebello Voice

sports & leisure



The Montebello Bowling Leagues concluded league play for both the Monday league as well as the Wednesday league recently. For the Monday league, Team 3 consisting of Carolyn Strano, Suzanne Beerthuis, Tony Wagner and Mark Woods came from behind to claim the league championship in a roll-off. It was a spirited final that came down to the last game.



The Wednesday league champions came down to the last week of the regular season and then a roll-off against the first half champions. Team 4, consisting of Mironda Shepard, Peg Wesbecher, Bob Osterberg and Mark Woods won the Wednesday Championship.



Photos by Dian McDonald



Photos by Dian McDonald and Joan Ledebur



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