



MONTGOMERY MESSENGER

The Publication of the Residents of Montgomery Place Retirement Community
5550 South Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, 60637

November 2025, Vol. 34, No. 11

Never at a loss for words

<https://www.montgomeryplace.org/newsletter>

VETERAN'S DAY NOVEMBER 11: SOME MONTGOMERY PLACE VETERANS RECALL THEIR SERVICE

Allen Lang was a volunteer. He tried to enlist before he finished high school, but the recruiter wouldn't have it. In 1946, as soon as he turned 18 and finished high school, he volunteered. He wanted to leave home. He was sent to Fort Beloit near DC for basic training and then became a cadre trainer. He learned the voice of command—a shout—without damaging his vocal cords. (He demonstrated for me; it's quite powerful.) He volunteered to go to Germany; they sent him to Korea. He spoke German but learned to say only “howdy” in Korean, *annyeonghaseyo*. The US Army took over a Japanese camp, Camp Wiggins. Allen says, “The Japanese left enormous metal bowls. We thought they were for bathing, but they were giant woks.” The Japanese were wonderful engineers and built the railroad. When they left by train, Koreans threw stones.

The country was beautiful, with plentiful game. Whenever Allen drove the roads, pheasants would fly out of the bushes. He saw lots of birds and deer. The Japanese didn't hunt and the Koreans didn't have rifles. Allen recalls his company running to the ocean every morning for a swim. He had been a Boy Scout, so this life was idyllic,



with the war over and being stationed in a foreign country. He was there for two years.

But, he says, we weren't wanted. Korea had its own king but they were subject to Japan. Before the Sino-Japanese war, they were a “tribute nation” of China. Allen said that the Koreans were beautiful people trying things out for their first independent government.

After Korea, Allen tried civilian life, then joined the Air Force as a medic. From the age of 12, he had worked in a hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, his home town. He trained in San Antonio for six months and then was sent to the Los Angeles Air Force hospital as a lab technician and he loved it. Later as a medic, he was sent to England in a town near London. There was no doctor, and he knew he was unqualified to treat serious illness or injury, but he didn't kill anyone, and the Air Force had an ambulance for serious needs. Once he took a pregnant woman to the hospital and prayed to make it in time; he was not trained in midwifery (he loves the *Call the Midwife* television program). He was in England for about four years.

Allen later finished college in public administration and worked as a safety manager for the EPA chemistry division concerned with industrial poisons in the air.

continued on p. 2

Veterans p. 1

Left-handed **Ernie Ratowitz** ended up teaching others how to fire safely, or relatively safely. All rifles, bayonets, and machine guns issued by the Army were for right-handed men. This was a problem for lefties like Ernie. The brass would fall right after firing or across his face. Ernie managed to shoot and not get hurt, so he was the teacher for all the other lefties. This made basic training interesting.

When Ernie graduated from high school in 1959, the draft was still in place. He was already enrolled in UCLA School of Engineering when he received his draft notice. Rather than wait to be drafted, he joined the Army Reserves. He was sent to Fort Ord, which no longer exists. Too bad for new recruits, for the location was stunning—close to the Pacific Ocean near Monterey and Santa Cruz. Basic training was six weeks and then he was responsible for two weeks of summer camp training for six years. After graduating with an engineering degree, he worked for General Mills and was sent to many different states. Each year, he would locate the local reserve unit and report for camp. He was never activated and was never sent overseas.



shutterstock.com · 2528183715



John Bowen was drafted into the US Army in 1965 after leaving college for a number of reasons, partly an interest in playing folk music over studying. Naturally, this changed his draft status immediately from 2S to 1A, making him prime cannon fodder for the Vietnam years.

After basic training, during which he won marksmanship awards, his unit was vaccinated for Southeast Asia. By some miracle, their orders were changed overnight and John spent his Vietnam War years in towns and cities in Germany. He wound up in the MPs, wielding a typewriter and a guitar instead of a rifle. Some of his duties included registering GIs' automobiles and other form filling tasks. One day he was busily typing a registration when he asked for the soldier's name. The last name was Bowen. Without looking up he said, "Bowen, huh? Maybe we're related." As John looked up at the tall Black man in front of him, the answer came back, "Well, maybe, but I don't hardly think so..."

Army food wasn't gourmet. John recalls being urged to eat faster and not waste time in the mess tent. A voice would call out, "Eat it and get out! You can chew it outside!" So he and his GI buddies often went to local pubs in search of more palatable fare. Weight gain was definitely in the picture. It's safe to say that the most dangerous chemicals that John was exposed to during his two years of service were beer and bratwurst.

Harry Reed was in the Army from 1964 to 1980. At Southern Illinois University he joined the air force ROTC because he wanted to fly a jet. Instead, he ended in the Army infantry in a specialized unit that was small and nimble. Harry loved getting to see the world. He went to Panama where he guarded the Panama Canal while the United States still owned the facility. He was fascinated by how those locks worked with the gauges that raised and lowered the water.

He was stationed in Seoul, South Korea, in the 1970s and loved every minute. The people were hospitable, the food was wonderful, and his feet were never in such good shape. He could go to the shops and have them scrubbed and his nails clipped better than any chiropodist's clipping he's had in this country.

CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

Editor: Natalie Goldberg

Contributors: Barbara Asner, Lois Baron, Roberta Bernstein, Sherry Bowen, Marifran Carlson, Laurieann Chutis, Pete Dowd, Barbara Dwyer, Gretchen Falk, David Fleer, Paula Givan, Natalie Goldberg, Becky Kruse, David Lebowitz, Eleanor Littman, Joyce Mannis, Peter Martinez, Susan Meschel, Richard Muller, Liz Rickert, Sheri Steinberg, Shirley Wilson-Sigler, Bernie Strauss, Fran Vandervoort, Gina Volpe

Staff Contributor: Mark Mullahy

Calendars: Eleanor Littman

Layout: Carolyn Allen

Production: Robert Vann

Editor Next Month:

Lois Baron



Harry went to the Philippines where we had a large naval base for the 7th Fleet. After the Japanese were pushed out by our military, the Philippine people were very happy with American troops. Most of the time he was on active duty he was assigned to protect United States nuclear assets, so his unit would go wherever we had nuclear assets. He would have leave and then go on tour and move with his small units of maybe ten to fifteen in the field. Harry was the senior enlisted man. He moved sometimes in uniform and sometimes in civilian clothes. The colonel would write reports for the Pentagon and he was in charge of the troops.

Harry was on every continent except Antarctica. He recalls fondly his time in Germany and Italy. He never had to face enemy rifles, bayonets, or machine guns. The only injury he had in the military was descending from a helicopter. It was in a field of very tall grass, and it wasn't clear how far down the ground was when he jumped out of the helicopter. Unfortunately, it was a six-foot drop, and he injured his knees rather badly, requiring several surgeries. But Harry feels fortunate. He is here at Montgomery Place and walks with his walker and enjoys his life.

On November 11, let's celebrate our many veterans here at Montgomery Place, of whom we have shared the stories of only a few.

Natalie Goldberg and Sherry Bowen for husband John



OUT AND ABOUT

As always, sign up in the trip book for all the events you wish to attend. The times listed are the departure time. “Tickets required” means you are responsible for obtaining your own tickets.

♦ Sunday, November 2, 2 p.m. The Chicago Symphony piano series presents Beatrice Rana with Debussy’s *Etudes*, Book II; Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* Suite; and Prokofiev’s *Romeo and Juliet*. Tickets required.

♦ Wednesday, November 5, noon. Lunch outing to Chicago Diner in Lakeview. *Vegetarian Times* Dining Out Awards called Chicago Diner the best in the Midwest and singled out the “radical Reuben.”

♦ Friday, November 7, 12:30 p.m. The Chicago Symphony with guitarist Pablo Sáinz-Villegas performs *Concierto de Aranjues*. Riccardo Muti will conduct Stravinsky’s Suite from *The Fairy’s Kiss* and Brahms’s Symphony no. 4. Tickets required.

♦ Saturday, November 8, 5 p.m. Met Live in HD presents *La Bohème*. Franco Zeffirelli brings 19th-century Paris to the Met stage as Puccini’s young friends and lovers navigate the joy and struggle of bohemian life. Soprano Juliana Grigoryan is the feeble seamstress Mimì, opposite tenor Freddie De Tommaso as the ardent poet Rodolfo. Keri-Lynn Wilson conducts. Tickets required.

♦ Sunday, November 9, 1 p.m. TimeLine Theatre presents *Hundreds and Hundreds of Stars* by Sandra Delgado, directed by Kimberly Senior. Clara is doing her best to hold everything together—working hard, raising her tween daughter Stella, caring for an aging father, and supporting her underemployed ex-husband. But when she applies for US citizenship, her application is unexpectedly flagged, exposing minor infractions in her past and threatening the

only home she’s ever known. At Lookingglass Theatre. Tickets required.

♦ Sunday, November 9, 2:30 p.m. Brentano String Quartet has been a leading voice in chamber music since 1992. Their program features string quartets by Haydn, Bartok, and Dvorak. Tickets required.

♦ Monday, November 10, 10:30 a.m. Lutheran School of Theology Chapel, the annual Kristallnacht Service of Remembrance and Commitment, commemorating the day when Nazi authorities coordinated a massive attack on Jewish businesses, homes, synagogues, and cemeteries across Germany and the Reich’s annexed territory in Austria and Czechoslovakia, and Germany stepped up imprisonment of Jewish people in concentration camps. The service is in hope that something like this should never happen again.

♦ Sunday, November 16, 2 p.m. CSO piano series: Hayato Sumino. A semi-finalist at the 18th International Chopin Piano Competition, Sumino performs works by Chopin, Bach, and Ravel, alongside his own pieces, including *New Birth* and *Recollection*. Tickets required.

♦ Wednesday, November 19, 1 p.m. Field Museum of Natural History special exhibits: Connecting Threads: Africa Fashion in Chicago and After the Age of Dinosaurs. Free day.

♦ Thursday, November 20, 7 p.m. Court Theatre presents *Taming of the Shrew*, turning Shakespeare’s classic inside out, with a fresh interpretation focused on feminine desire. This is not your standard *Shrew*. Tickets required.

♦ Sunday, November 30, 2 p.m. Steppenwolf Theatre presents *Amadeus*. This play is the ultimate ode to ambition and musical genius, a brilliant requiem for a villain in history—but a hero in his own story. Tickets required.

Barbara Dwyer, Chair, Activities Committee

LIGHTING THE WAY: OUR HOLIDAY FUND CANDLE

You might notice something a little different this year: Our Holiday Fund candle has a new look! While the appearance has changed, its purpose is exactly the same—it's how we measure our progress as contributions to the fund come in.



Our goal this year is to match or even exceed the contributions from last year, which totaled more than \$110,000. We know that if you divide the total by the number of residents, you can find an average contribution. However, we also understand that this average might be more than some budgets can comfortably handle, and others can afford to give a little more.

The most important thing to remember is that Montgomery Place does not allow tipping. Your generous contribution is the way you cover a whole year of service by our dedicated hourly workers.

Here's how it works:

- ◆ The proceeds are distributed to all hourly workers (not managers).
- ◆ The amount each worker receives is based on the number of hours they worked.
- ◆ Everyone receives the same amount per hour, regardless of their regular pay rate.

We're asking you to give generously. Please do your part to light the candle, and if you can, even more. Make your check payable to Montgomery Place Residents' Association and drop it in the box across from the Front Desk.

David Lebowitz, Treasurer, Residents' Association

HEWSON SWIFT CONCERTS

Hewson Swift concerts are presented on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the Lounge and on Channel 4.1. Join us for an hour or more of wonderful music on CD or DVD.

◆ November 1, Barbara Asner presents Wagner's *Das Rheingold* with James Morris, Christa Ludwig, Siegfried Jerusalem, and Heinz Zednik. Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, James Levine, conductor. DVD. 2 hours 40 minutes.

◆ November 8, Barbara Asner presents Elgar's Concerto for Violin and Orchestra and Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending*. Hilary Hahn, violin. London Symphony Orchestra, Sir Colin Davis, conductor. CD. 1 hour 5 minutes.

◆ November 15, Barbara Asner presents Haydn's "London" symphonies in C minor, E flat major, and D major. London Philharmonic Orchestra, Eugen Jochum, conductor. CD. 1 hour 17 minutes.

◆ November 22, Barbara Asner presents Mozart's horn concerti. Peter Damm, horn. Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Sir Neville Marriner, conductor. CD. 1 hour.

◆ November 29, Barbara Asner presents Franck's Symphony in D minor and Symphonic Variations. Louis Lortie, piano. BBC Philharmonic, Yan Pascal Tortelier, conductor. CD. 1 hour.

If you would like to share your recorded music on a Wednesday evening, please contact Barbara Asner at 4618 or Fran Vandervoort at 4396.

*Barbara Asner and Fran Vandervoort, Co-Chairs,
Hewson Swift Concerts*

NEW ARRIVALS

Carolyn Johnson moved into apartment 608 on June 9, 2025. She grew up in Lake Zurich, IL, a village about 40 miles northwest of Chicago. After attending Carleton College and spending four years in Portland, she returned to Chicago. She was hired as secretary, and later became administrator, of the University of Chicago Committee on Evolutionary Biology, a graduate student training program dedicated to the study of evolutionary biology. She managed the activities of the committee until her retirement in 2019. While working, she earned her PhD in anthropology at the University of Chicago.

She has a daughter, Jennifer, who lives in Boston, works as a consultant, and has a PhD from Brandeis. Jennifer has two children, Lennox and Jovienne.

Carolyn spent two summers in Indonesia taking part in gamelan, a traditional Indonesian ensemble that plays instrumental music on 30-40 bronze percussion instruments. She explained that gamelan has no solo tradition, and she played all the instruments! For the last two years, she's been a volunteer at a food pantry at First Presbyterian Church in Woodlawn.

Carolyn likes being anyplace outdoors. She swims "all the time" at a fitness club in Hyde Park. She likes living independently at Montgomery Place, especially because she can get around the neighborhood easily. Welcome, Carolyn; we're glad you're here!

Paula Givan

WELCOME TO THE WELCOME COMMITTEE

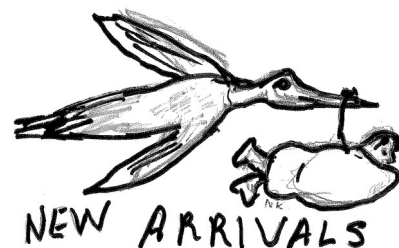
Any move is stressful, and a move to Montgomery Place often involves finding one's way around a new city, leaving behind cherished friends and heirlooms, and adjusting to recent physical and mental challenges.

All current residents were new arrivals at one time, and 14 of us have made it our mission to greet newcomers, orient them to the building and its services, and make sure they are invited to a meal to help them meet their neighbors and settle in.

The committee co-chairs, who are appointed by the Residents' Council, currently are Sheri Steinberg and Liz Rickert. They ask a volunteer to contact a new resident to answer questions or help them deal with problems. In addition, all committee members generally invite new residents to a meal during their first few months in our community.

If you're interested in contributing to this outreach, please contact Sheri at 4398, apartment 612, or Liz at 4664, apartment 815. All are welcome!

*Sheri Steinberg and Liz Rickert, Co-chairs,
Welcome Committee*



Terri Kilbane moved into apartment 1002 (phone 4159) on June 25, 2025. Terri was born in Dayton, Ohio and raised in Cleveland. Her parents and all her grandparents were also raised in Cleveland. She has a brother and two sisters. Terri's father worked at the Ford Motor Company and was very involved in the United Auto Workers Union. Her mother didn't return to work until her youngest child was in high school.

Terri majored in psychology at Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. After college, she worked as a caseworker for the public welfare department in Cleveland. Here she met and married Ralph Johnson. Her next step took her to Chicago when she was accepted at the University of Chicago's School of Social Work. She was interested in research and policy, not in clinical work.

After receiving her master's degree, she worked on a research grant at the university for a year. While at the U of C, she had a son and then a daughter. Her husband was an actor who performed at the Victory Gardens Theater and at Goodman Theatre and had small parts on television and in movies. Terri said they had a very interesting life.

Next Terri moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago to do research, mostly on child abuse and neglect and foster care, as well as on grants. She also started working on her PhD in social work at the U of I. It took eight years to get her degree as she was also raising her children and working fulltime. After she received her degree, she worked for seven years at a Methodist agency handling disturbed adolescent males age 16 to 21.

Terri next taught and was a consultant at the Illinois School of Professional Psychology in Chicago. From 1997 until she retired in 2020, she was a professor of social work and

was director of the doctoral program at Loyola University.

Terri's daughter Micael lives in Chicago with her daughter Carys who is 10 years old. Micael is the Director of Corporate Communications for the Chicago Bears. Terri's son Jamarr lives in California and is the Director of Audits and Special Projects at the Long Beach campus of the California State University system. Terri and her husband divorced after their children finished college.

Terri said she was very interested in athletics. She did triathlons for 19 years, starting in her late 40s. She stopped when she had a knee replacement in her 60s. She also enjoys doing crafts and of course spending time with her granddaughter.

Terri moved to Montgomery Place from her home in Hyde Park because of health issues. She enjoys living here and enjoys many of the activities. Welcome to Montgomery Place, Terri!

Gretchen Falk

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11/3	Shirley Wilson-Sigler
11/8	George Tiao
11/12	Bob Naftzger
11/19	Carolyn Johnson
11/19	Laura Veliko
11/26	Steven Meyer
11/27	Sheri Steinberg
11/27	James Fernandez
11/30	Laurieann Chutis



MWA THANKSGIVING DRIVE

Midwest Workers Association (MWA) is a free and voluntary, private unincorporated membership association of the Chicago area's lowest-paid workers. MWA is 100% volunteer-run and completely independent of government funding. Your support this holiday season makes their self-help benefit program possible, including Thanksgiving turkey basket distribution, family holiday party and toy distribution, holiday food basket distribution, and much more!

Montgomery Place has contributed to this fund for more than a decade. Our goal this year is to raise \$2600 for the fund by Monday, November 17. Make your check to the Midwest Workers Association and place it in the box opposite the Front Desk.



Peter Martinez

DINING COMMITTEE

Mary O'Connor, Director of Dining Services, has been on sick leave for the past several months. We were happy to welcome her back on October 16!

Items mentioned during the "What's going well?" segment of the October meeting include meal delivery times and rave reviews for the pork roast with stewed apples and potato pancakes entrée, with requests for its reappearance on the daily special menu. On the dinner service, waiters are better at making eye contact and show improvement on their accuracy in taking orders. Overall interaction with residents has improved.

WHAT? ALREADY?



Unidine, our dining services provider, reported that they were fully staffed with waitstaff, runners, and supervisors. Kat August has joined the staff as Executive Chef. Her training and experience should mean exciting and delicious changes in our meals. It was explained that the "Specials Menu" is a four-week rotation, which is in place for three months. We were asked to continue providing constructive input at the kiosk and with comment cards.

Join us for our next meeting, Wednesday, November 12 at 2:15 p.m. Your input helps to improve your dining experience at Montgomery Place.

Shirley Wilson-Sigler, Co-Chair Dining Committee

**GET THEE TO *UNTO THEE*
ESPECIALLY IF THE ARTISTIC
POTENTIAL OF DISCARDED
OBJECTS GRABS YOU.**

U*nto Thee* is an exhibition of works by Theaster Gates, at the Smart Museum through February 22, 2026. I approached the exhibition as I approach anything at the Smart, at the top of the ramp that allows for walker and wheelchair access. Usually I wrestle the door open and enter a rabbit warren of small exhibition spaces. Not this time! The door opened onto a huge space with several enormous works on display.

Gates, a West Side native, has worked at the University of Chicago for 20 years. He started there as an arts administrator and is now a full professor in the Department of Visual Arts. Originally a ceramicist, he became a painter, sculptor, transformer of derelict buildings, and “trafficker in unwanted things.” He’s also a musician with his band, The Black Monks. Many of his works celebrate and record Black Chicago. He’s a rock star of the art world. He’s made installations and exhibited at major museums and galleries all around the world and won a long list of awards, including a Guggenheim



Fellowship this year. But this is his first solo museum show in his hometown of Chicago!

Unto Thee features mostly discarded materials. There’s a collection of books Gates salvaged from a bookstore that went out of business. He rebound them in jet black and wrote words in gold on the spines. Reading from start to finish, the spines offer a poem Gates wrote about his mother’s death. There’s a huge wall made of discarded roofing tiles from Rockefeller Chapel. There’s a small room where a film he made plays, filled with old pews from Bond Chapel. There’s a lobby installation of his collection of 350 African masks. A few of his ceramic vessels; a piece that looked to me like the world’s largest card catalog. Of the title, *Unto Thee*, Gates said “it’s kind of like returning these materials back to their source.”

I was personally affected by these works because they reminded me of my late husband, Nate Kalichman’s, art. He painted, drew, and sculpted but most of all loved making art out of things that would otherwise have been thrown away. Egg cartons, eggshells, soda cans, walker parts, bleach bottles. Nothing on the scale of Gates, of course, but I felt a connection; I felt Nate’s energy.

Paula Givan

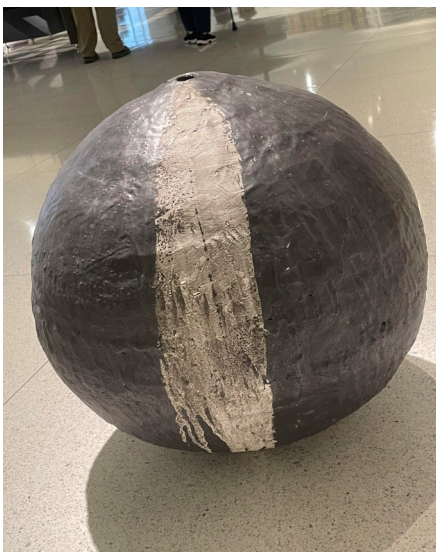


Photo: Paula Givan



FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS

The Friday Night Speakers program has been a tradition at Montgomery Place for years, and we cordially invite you to attend Friday at 7:15 p.m. in the East Room. Two speakers are scheduled for November.

November 7, Chihway Chang, introduced by Fran Vandervoort, received a PhD in physics from Stanford University in 2013 and is an associate professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago. She works as an observational cosmologist using large optical survey data to study the evolution of the recent universe through a technique called weak gravitational lensing. She is particularly interested in extracting information from small scales and high-order statistics. Her talk is titled “Get Ready for the Ten-Year Movie of Our Sky.”

November 21, David Fleeer, introduced by Fran Vandervoort, has traveled extensively, in Europe, Brazil, Malaysia, Alaska, and China, both for work and pleasure. A career information technologist, he has been active in church choirs and choral groups his whole life and has taken a particular interest in tracing his family history from its origins in 17th century Germany. David will speak on “The Joy of Finding Your Roots.”

The next committee meeting will be on Thursday, November 13 at 11 a.m. in the Game Room. Please join us and share your ideas about possible speakers. Committee members are Barbara Baker, Laurieann Chutis, David Lebowitz, Peter Martinez, Stan Moore, Michel Rivlin, Sheri Steinberg, and Fran Vandervoort.

Sheri Steinberg for the Speakers Committee

WE LIVE IN STRANGE AND DANGEROUS TIMES

The United States is a democracy whose limits are being tested. Trumpism is not a passing phase. Currently President Trump is weakening our system by theatrics, power grabbing projects, and the ruthless tactics of Latin American dictators and strongman populist leaders. Here are a few examples.

Former President Jair Bolsonaro of Brazil and the current President of Argentina, Javier Milei, after being elected, surrounded themselves with a coterie of family members and business associates who are not only totally loyal, but who were willing to carry out arrests and prosecutions of political rivals and enemies. Trump follows suit and declares his opponents to be criminals. Like Venezuela’s Nicolás Maduro and Nicaragua’s Daniel Ortega, Trump declared himself victorious in an election he clearly lost.

Argentina’s Juan Perón used to send out his goon squads to attack demonstrators regardless of their goals because fear is necessary to suppress political opposition. Trump is being taught by his friend, Nayib Bukele, President of El Salvador, on the fine points of this strategy. Bukele calls himself “the coolest dictator in the world.” It looks like our President is thinking along the lines of Central America’s youngest elected authoritarian ruler.

Latin American leaders like Milie, Ortega, Bolsonaro, and Maduro make pledges to end the violent criminality that plagues their nations, at the same time they create the chaotic conditions they promise to end. Latin American right-wing politicians have always been experts in the creation of false enemies: “left wing savages,” “communist devils,” and “subversive

immigrants.” The nations’ population is assured that the military will assist the police in protecting vulnerable citizens. Maybe a war is necessary to save the nation from “narco-terrorism”? And on and on....

According to journalist-historian Anne Appelbaum, “Given the right conditions, any society can turn against democracy.” For those interested in figuring out what is going on with democratic governments today, I recommend reading Appelbaum’s *Twilight of Democracy*, and *Autocracy, Inc.* Her knowledge of international politics is vast and her books are short.

Marifran Carlson

LIBRARY NEWS

♦ **Purchased:** Nicholas Boggs. *Baldwin: A Love Story*.

Library Rules: If you take out a book with a card in the back (hardcovers or books written by residents), *please* fill it out. If you do not do this, we do not know who has the book or whether it has disappeared. If there is a book you believe would be of interest to residents, please provide the title and the name of the author on the sheet on the table in the front of the Library. Books on the red cart near the east wall of the Library are free to interested residents and staff. We also have a large number of CDs and DVDs in the Game Room.

We encourage any resident interested in the Library to come to the next meeting, Wednesday, November 12, at 10 a.m. in the Library.

Richard Muller, Chair, Library Committee

OCTOBER DAY OF GARDENING

Our Day of Gardening was a success! Several Montgomery Place gardeners and my friend Abe Z weeded the east Garden and four plots, collecting five large bags and two cans of weeds and trash. Thanks to those who came out to help. We will be active again in the spring with a field trip to Gethsemane Gardens and planting more pots, boxes, and plots.

David Flee, Garden Coordinator



Photo: David Flee

Day of Gardening Detritus



Photo: Natalie Goldberg

The East Garden refreshed

THE NEW “WOKE”

The word “woke” is bad language. Your common “bad” or “curse” words such as damn, hell, and four-letter sexual verbs may not be. “Omnipresent cursing” is decried by Mark Edmondson in a September 14 guest essay in the *New York Times*, “Why Does Everybody Swear All the Time Now?” He argues that “a stream of bad words” makes it “harder to see what is true and good and beautiful. We become blind to instances of courage and compassion. Our world shrinks. And we shrink along with it.”

Some members of the Race Relations Group who considered his essay agreed with him. We all remember a culture where, as children, we were scolded for using any level of “bad language” in the presence of parents, grandparents, teachers...almost anyone. (“*Language!*” was a mother’s reprimand.) We know it is now very different. Traditional bad language can be spoken for emphasis or in jest, surprise, or anger. I don’t think such bad language does any significant harm in the 21st century unless it is spoken with the intent to hurt a vulnerable person.

In contrast, President Trump and his minions wield labels like woke, terrorist, gang member, alien, illegal, antifa, communist, liberal, socialist, and DEI to hurt tens of thousands of people. And they urge their followers to consider as “enemies of the state” anyone to whom they want to apply these labels.

I think “woke” illustrates an important shift in the evolution of bad language. “Woke” is a word now *intended* to do harm. Donald Trump and his enablers adopted this ambiguous word to cover bad

“liberal” stuff. The ambiguity invited any aggrieved conspiracy addict or confused independent to fill racist or other negative content into “woke.” Trump used his Republican presidential campaign, magnified by the megaphones of right-wing TV and internet propaganda networks, to rally indignation, anger, contempt, and support for “anti-awokeness.”

As president, Trump used “woke” to unleash attacks on previously approved policies and programs to fight climate change and to provide food, health care, information, and economic aid to millions of starving, injured, or oppressed people around the world. He used “anti-awokeness” to excuse the peremptory firing of thousands of valuable federal employees, and to try to erase the record of the country’s history that he and his enablers deem uncomfortable. He appointed unqualified but anti-woke cheerleaders to cabinet posts, dismissed competent top career officials not deemed sufficiently anti-woke and loyal to the boss. He ordered his Secretary of Defense to use anti-awokeness to purge the military of women in combat, trans people, and any (Black) soldiers unable to be clean-shaven.

Such words, magnified by the enablers and propaganda networks, have infected our language with a virulent, pandemic level of bad language. We won’t be able to remedy this toxic bad language unless millions of us call them out constantly for their bad language and vote them out for deliberately making it “harder to see what is true and beautiful” in America and the world.

Pete Dowd

KNOWING GRATITUDE

Every morning, I begin my day with prayers through the Daily Office of Morning Prayer. In the beginning the words are: O Lord, open our lips. And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

On December 16, I will celebrate the 30th anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. As a way of giving thanks for these 30 years, I will preside at the service in our chapel on Sunday December 14 at 11 a.m. In fact, the service that will be celebrated that day and every Sunday is officially called “The Holy Eucharist.” Eucharist comes from the Greek word *eucharistia* (εὐχαριστία) which means thanksgiving.

Most of my ministry was spent in hospice. With a specialty in pediatrics, my patients ranged from 15 days old to 115 years old. The diversity of patients was tremendous from English, Spanish, and Italian speaking, different religions, urban, suburban, and rural (have you ever been chased by a wild “guard” turkey?), home, nursing home, assisted living, CCRCs, convents, etc., I had patients from all walks of life.

Then on Sunday mornings I was a “supply priest.” In other words, I presided at the Holy Eucharist in English or Spanish at any church that needed a priest. This was also remarkably diverse as I have supplied at over 50 parishes in the Diocese of Chicago of Northern Illinois.

In reflecting on these 30 years, I realized that the one thing that connected all of them is

that I learned about gratitude. My patients who were living their final days taught me about gratitude. They gave me the gift of being part of their journey. They permitted me to sit at their feet and learn about how they lived their lives in their time among us, both good times and not so good times. They allowed me to be with them in one of the most intimate times of life—when they made the transition from this life to what I believe is the next life. And my role was to sit and be with them, perhaps administer “last rites,” and to give thanks for this person who walked among us and the gift of their life. They taught me, no matter who they were, to live with gratitude.

Gratitude and thanksgiving—both ways to open our lips and to proclaim praise each day of our lives.

The Rev. Gina Volpe



The Right Reverend Frank Griswold, the priests of the Diocese of Chicago, and visiting priests laying hands on me at my ordination to the priesthood on December 16, 1995, at the Cathedral of St. James in Chicago.



Photo: Eleanor Littman

Joyce Mannis, Lois Baron, Carolyn Johnson, Sheri Steinberg and Bea Lumpkin on the Montgomery Place bus heading to the rally

representatives from immigrant support agencies, the American Civil Liberties Union, the LGBTQ community, and labor unions and the AFL-CIO. Community and neighborhood supporters spoke urgently about the indignities and the illegal, unnecessarily rough attacks their immigrant neighbors have endured at the hands of armed and masked ICE (Immigration and Custom Enforcement) agents. Governor JB Pritzker brought the rally to a great close with a passionate address meant to spur us to action.

NO KINGS RALLY

On October 18, more than seven million Americans turned out *en masse* to attend a nationwide rally against the growing authoritarianism in our country. *No Kings Day* was the largest single-day protest in defense of our democracy, our rights, and our immigrant neighbors in US history. The rally took place in 2600 big cities and small towns, in red states and blue states, from coast to coast. Here in Chicago an estimated 250,000 people attended the city's rally in Grant Park, under blue skies and gorgeous fall weather. Fourteen Montgomery Place residents were among that throng!

We piled into our MP bus at 10 a.m. and were driven to the location by our new weekend driver, Shawn Jordan, who knew just where to drop us off. An ADA seating section very near the speakers' stage had been arranged for us in recognition of our various limitations so that we wouldn't have to stand in place for a good hour or so.

The first speaker was Chicago mayor Brandon Johnson. He was followed by



Christopher Barnard

Most of the attendees spilled out into the street at that point for the *No Kings* march from Grant Park to Trump Tower and back again. We Montgomery Place-ers had decided beforehand not to join the march, but to head for home after the rally. With the support of the MP Front Desk, Shawn was able to locate us in the crowd and lead us safely through the throng.

The Chicago *No Kings* event was a joyful and safe way for Montgomery Place residents to express our love for the Constitution and our nation, as well as our frustration with the actions of the current administration.

Joyce Mannis



Photo: Gretchen Falk

Eleanor Littman



Photo: Gretchen Falk

Bea Lumpkin at the ADA Seating Section



Photo: Gretchen Falk

Lois Baron and Eleanor Littman



Photo: Gretchen Falk

Carolyn Fasel and Sheri Steinberg

MARK'S MONTGOMERY MOMENTS

November is such a great month—a time to pause, reflect, and be grateful. The change from summer to fall brings a certain beauty all its own. The trees turning from green to shades of yellow, orange, and red remind us that change, while sometimes quiet, always brings the promise of newness in the spring. It's a wonderful reminder that growth often happens in seasons, and each one has something special to offer.

And speaking of *newness*, I want to take a moment to share some exciting updates and introduce new faces to the Montgomery Place team.

A few months ago, we welcomed Larry Echols, our new Maintenance Manager. Larry comes to Montgomery Place with a wealth of knowledge and experience. He's well-versed in regulatory components such as life safety codes, building codes, and fire safety. Larry has been very hands-on with the team and has already completed several tasks in-house that we previously outsourced. He's also introduced us to new vendors, enabling us to get competitive bids on larger projects, always with an eye toward quality and cost savings. Just as important, Larry brings a positive attitude and genuine care for the residents and staff he serves. We are truly grateful to have him as part of our team.

Another wonderful addition is Nakiya Weeden, who recently joined us as our new Concierge. Nakiya has a strong background in customer service and technology, and she loves digital art and making meaningful connections. Nakiya began her journey in culinary arts and as activities aid, and she's eager to learn all aspects of her role. Most importantly, she is eager to get to know each of you. Her friendly personality and professionalism have already made her a great fit for Montgomery Place.

And there's one more exciting development on the horizon—the upcoming launch of Montgomery Place's first original podcast, *The Art of Aging*. We are thrilled to share this project with you! You might be wondering, why a podcast? Podcasts are a wonderful way to share stories and to connect with others beyond our walls. They allow us to highlight the voices and experiences of our residents, staff, and friends in a format that people can listen to anywhere, anytime.

The goal of *The Art of Aging* is to shine a light on seniors who continue to inspire, make a difference, and thrive no matter their age. We will celebrate past accomplishments and the exciting things happening right now within our community. And just as importantly, we hope this project will attract others who share our spirit, people who want to be part of something special here at Montgomery Place.

As we move through this season of gratitude, I want to thank each of you—residents, staff, families, and friends—for being part of what makes Montgomery Place such a remarkable community.

Wishing you all a wonderful November filled with warmth, gratitude, and maybe even a slice of pumpkin pie.

Mark Mullahy, CEO





FREEDOM OF SPEECH

“Hate speech does not exist legally in America. There’s ugly speech. There’s gross speech. There’s evil speech. And all of it is protected by the First Amendment.”—Charlie Kirk.

I did not know anything about Charlie Kirk until after his tragic assassination. From what I have heard, I would probably not agree with a lot he stood for, but I can certainly agree to the statement quoted above.

Many Americans do not realize what it is like to live in a country that does not have freedom of speech and thus is not a democratic country. The founding fathers knew its necessity as they had lived without it. Benjamin Franklin suggested that to dismantle a nation’s liberty, one must first suppress free speech. That is why we are experiencing attempts to fire people for their speech. In other words, their thoughts, which they share. John Adams encouraged people to “dare to read, think, speak and write.” And this is the America we all grew up in.

I lived in Bangkok, Thailand from January 1981 to July 1985. It is a kingdom with a constitution, but was a polygamous, absolute monarchy until 1932. The king is thought to be the incarnation of Rama, thus a deity in human form. When I was there, a scholar was in jail for having written in a book that the

king was only a man. At the time it was King Bhumibol Adulyadej, now deceased. A good king and much loved by his subjects, though the lèse majesté laws have been described as the strictest criminal-defamation law anywhere. Believe me, it makes a difference.

If you are talking in any public place and you mention anyone in the royal family, you drop your voice and cover your mouth. I never really understood the politics, because politics could not be discussed publicly or written about in the newspapers. Public discussions did not exist, because public criticism, which is part of thinking and the beginning of action, are not possible.

I also associate the fact that in Thailand, money and social standing are what count. Not laws, as far as I could tell. I knew of a case in a village outside of Bangkok where everyone knew that a woman had killed someone, but overlooked it because she was the richest, most powerful person in the village. Yes, men have the most clout, but in some cases women may outrank men.

I was there as the accompanying spouse of my then husband, who had a prestigious job. He was also paid an American salary with perks such as a house and a car and some of the people who worked for us running the house. This was a protection but only applied to my husband. When I was getting ready to leave (my husband and I were breaking up, not amicably), I began to feel frightened by some of the things my husband was doing, because my legal status depended upon him as did my social status and wealth. We were both resident aliens, but he could have been there by himself.

I had come to love Thailand and I had close Thai friends who got me through the difficult time when I was leaving. But in that social structure I had no independent agency, which starts with freedom of speech.

Lois Baron



REFLECTIONS ON THANKSGIVING

Whenver I hear the word Thanksgiving, I recall my mother's favorite expression: "I'm thankful and grateful." Though this remark was a teasing reference to the coiner of the phrase—Mayor Richard J. Daley—my mother used it to express her personal abundant happiness whenever anyone said or did anything that she deemed especially kind, thoughtful, or helpful. She especially loved saying it to her grandchildren; it became one of their code words about Grandma.

On Thanksgiving Day she went all out to make a feast for which three generations of family and many friends could be thankful and grateful. Her cooking was extraordinary, and she prepared all the expected treats: a large turkey roasted to perfection with all the traditional trimmings, plus fabulous desserts of homemade pies and cakes. After her passing in 1988, I was anointed Thanksgiving chef and host. It was a daunting task, especially learning how to carve the turkey and make the stuffing and pumpkin pie, but I accepted the challenge. About five years ago, my sister invited us to dine at her house and I happily passed the torch.

I love Thanksgiving for its significance in American history and culture. As a child in grammar school, I heard the story of the first Thanksgiving in 1621 when—we were told—one of the indigenous tribes on the East Coast invited some Pilgrims to share a harvest feast. The facts? The United States celebrates the

federal holiday of Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November since 1941, but the modern national celebration dates to 1863. Although now associated with Colonial America, the holiday did not originate from the mythologized 1621 Pilgrim harvest celebration. In 17th century Calvinist New England, various communities had regional holidays of thanks, which eventually merged into a single holiday.

As the name implies, the holiday generally revolves around giving thanks, and the centerpiece is a Thanksgiving dinner often consisting of food associated with New England harvests: turkey, potatoes (usually mashed and sweet), squash, corn (maize), green beans, cranberries, and pumpkin pie. It has expanded over the years to include specialties from other regions of the United States, such as macaroni and cheese and pecan pie in the South and wild rice stuffing in the Great Lakes region, as well as international and ethnic dishes.

Other Thanksgiving customs include charities offering Thanksgiving dinners to the poor, and people attending religious services, or watching parades or football on TV. It is also the beginning of the holiday shopping season, with Black Friday often the busiest retail shopping day of the year. Cyber Monday, the online equivalent, is the Monday following Thanksgiving. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt

moved the Thanksgiving holiday to the second-to-last Thursday of November, hoping to boost the economy with the extra seven days of Christmas shopping.

Regardless of the date, our Thanksgiving Day is a holiday to be thankful for the gift of being in America. Let us gather with family and friends in thanks for living here, a country still free enough to allow us to work together in harmony and brotherhood toward solving the problems that beset our country. A happy and blessed Thanksgiving to all.

Roberta Bernstein

CHRISTMAS BEGINS IN NOVEMBER

At least it did in my parents' house when I was a child. It usually started in early to mid-November, depending upon when Thanksgiving fell. As far as food preparation went, some of these activities were meant to serve Thanksgiving, Christmas, and the New Year. It was a two-month process.

Most important was the *fruitcake*. Especially because it needed to age in brandy-soaked clothes to be fully ready for consumption by Thanksgiving and beyond. I know a lot of people despise fruitcake, but this is really delicious—truly!

Second most important were the *spritz cookies*. Now that recipe was my Swedish grandmother's. Sometimes I got to help with the "spritzing." Spritz cookies are Swedish butter cookies that truly melt in your mouth and you can eat an unlimited number. After you make the buttery, almond scented dough, you put it in a cookie press and "spritz" the cookies out onto baking sheets in the shape of "S's" or wreaths. Heavenly to people of all ages. They were stored in tightly closed metal boxes, kept dry and crisp. Each time visitors arrived, out came the spritz cookies

and/or fruitcake along with good strong coffee—often Swedish egg coffee.

Then there was *the rice pudding*, also Grandma Johnson's recipe. I have only recently stopped making it myself. I believe it is the very best rice pudding I have ever eaten—also with an almond tinge. You can eat it any time. At Christmas and the New Year, one puts an almond in it before baking and the person who gets the almond also gets a wish that will come true. It is creamy and custardy and the rice settles to the bottom. Usually eaten with lingonberries and spritz cookies at meals or smorgasbords, but wonderful in the mornings for breakfast.

My father's heritage was Bohemian, and his mother and sisters were master bakers and roasters of geese and ducks and makers of dumplings and sauerkraut. Most of our celebrations were with that side of my family because they were here in Chicago. A constant stream of masterpieces poured from their kitchens from November until we sang "Auld Lang Syne." It was the best time of the year, except for my birthday.

GRANDMA JOHNSON'S RICE PUDDING

½ cup uncooked rice
4 eggs ½ cup sugar
1/4 tsp salt ½ tsp nutmeg
4 cups milk (use 1 can evaporated milk as part)
1 tsp vanilla

Cook rice until done. Scald milk. Beat eggs slightly. Add sugar, salt, vanilla, and nutmeg to eggs. Add rice to milk and add egg mixture. Pour into a buttered casserole. Set in a pan of hot water and bake at 300 degrees about 1½ to 2 hours until a knife inserted in middle comes out clean. Let cool. Serve at room temperature or refrigerate. Good with lingonberries, by itself, or any way you like it.

Lois Baron

NOT THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16 RESIDENTS' COUNCIL MEETING

Note: This is a personal summary of the main issues raised in the meeting and is not to be confused with any official statement or document.

All members of the Council except Ida Watanabe and Ollie Solomon were present. Morag Fullilove of the Board was also present. Maintenance Issues: 1) All of the mold in various parts of the building has been removed. 2) A person from the corporation that had constructed the pool had begun to reinstall all of the railings in the pool, not just the one that had failed; we do not know how long this will take. 3) Our phone system will be upgraded in November, which would allow Montgomery Place to install a safety pendant system. This system would work in the entire campus, including the Garden and the area surrounding the building. The pendants for residents would cost between \$20 and \$25 a month, are waterproof and could be used in the shower. The large washer/dryer in the 5th floor recycling room, which is used to wash larger items, has been repaired.

The East Hyde Park Coalition is a group of residents from nine buildings in the surrounding area. On summer evenings a group known as Truth on the Beach had caused problems with loud music, traffic congestion, and littering. As a result of the complaints of the Coalition, the Truth group had an agreement with the Park District not to play music after 10 p.m. But traffic, excessive noise, and pervasive littering continues. The Coalition had asked the Park District not to renew the agreement. The Coalition had also worked with a University of Chicago group to request that speed bumps be installed on 56th Street, and that the street be made a one-way going west, along with a bicycle path.

Richard Muller

GREENHOUSE "GROWINGS-ON"

Many residents have brought annual plants into their apartments for the winter where there are greater options of different sun exposures. The Greenhouse does not provide the good six hours of southern exposure required by so many blooming plants but does provides good east, west, and indirect sun exposure. That is the reason we keep the overhead lighting on until late in the evening. To improve the situation, Environmental Services is looking into replacing the broken grow lights in the center section that houses the succulents.

Residents have been asking if they might donate their overgrown apartment plants. The Greenhouse does not have space to take in any large plants or even to offer them for adoption to others. Please consider downsizing your plant. Give it a fresh beginning with a small size and shape and fresh dirt, and let it develop new twigs and leaves for the spring. I would be happy to consult with you to see if that is possible for your plant.

Greenhouse Guidelines:

- ♦ Put your name and phone number on every plant placed in planter box/shelf. Anything not marked will be given up for adoption or tossed after two weeks.
- ♦ Put your name on pots stored under the planters. Anything not marked can be used by anyone else.
- ♦ *Never water a plant that's not yours.* If you are worried about a plant, tell me and I will check on it.
- ♦ Never move another person's plant. They have chosen the spot for desired conditions. If you want to find space, talk to me at 4638.

Laurieann Chutis, Greenhouse Coordinator

WATERCOLOR AND ACRYLIC OPEN STUDIO BEGINS

Are you interested in a weekly informal gathering in the art studio to paint with watercolors or acrylics? On Thursday afternoons, you have an opportunity to share studio space with other interested residents, perhaps share ideas and learn to use the materials more effectively by observing or talking with others. This is a model used by both professional and amateur painters in Chicago. It works because a scheduled time is set aside for art making, seeing what others create, and getting feedback.



The art studio has donated materials: watercolor paper and drawing paper; watercolor, acrylic, and gouache paint; and watercolor pencils and pens. No investment in materials is required for participation. Acrylics and watercolors are nontoxic and clean up quickly.

The open studio is scheduled for Thursdays, 2:15 to 4:15 p.m., and will be included on the schedule of activities through the end of November to see if there is enough interest to continue as a regularly scheduled activity.

We already have a Friday morning drawing class led by an instructor who has taught at the Art Institute; that class focuses on colored pencils, pastels, and charcoal. Watercolor and acrylic painting are not part of the Friday morning class at this time.

Feeling creative or just curious? Drop by on Thursdays, 2:15 to 4:15 p.m., to check us out. For more information, contact me at 4638 or Pete Dowd at 4346.

Laurieann Chutis

MUSIC IN THE EAST ROOM



◆ Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon, pianist Laura Fenster invites you to observe her rehearsal. She requests that you do not ask questions as she rehearses. Questions will be accepted before and after her rehearsal.

◆ Sunday, November 2 at 2 p.m. Jan Nedvetsky, cellist, accompanied by pianist Liang Yu Wang, will perform in the East Room. Jan is a 2025 Young Arts Winner with Distinction in Cello Performance and a 2025 US Presidential Scholar in the Arts nominee. Jan is a freshman majoring in cello performance at the Northwestern University Bienen School of Music. He has been a featured performer on WFMT. He plays on an 1860 Jules Grandjon cello made in Mirecourt, France.

◆ Saturday, November 8 at 2 p.m. University of Chicago piano students return to perform for us in the East Room.

Barbara Dwyer



One thousand postcards to Virginia voters to encourage voting in the November 4 election with an additional 250 postcards on October 24. In an earlier round of writing to voters, we mailed 3000 postcards. Montgomery Place Acts.

Eleanor Littman for Montgomery Place Acts

BOOKLOVERS

Our selection for November is *Butter: A Novel of Food and Murder* by Asako Yuzuki. Call Laurieann Chutus at 4638 for a copy and join our book discussion Monday, November 24 at 3 p.m. in the East Room.

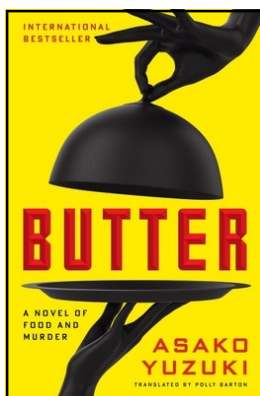
Chicago Review of Books praised *Butter* as “compelling and intensely readable,” especially for how it unites a murder mystery with a “love letter to fine dining.”

The story, inspired by a real-life serial murder case in Japan, follows a Tokyo journalist who starts interviewing a woman accused of tricking and possibly killing men by seducing them with her cooking. On a friend’s suggestion, the young reporter writes to the accused woman asking for the recipe of her famous beef stew, the last meal the final victim ate. She decides to cook some of the recipes in the hope of getting permission to write a news article and ends up discovering more about herself and her society. As one reviewer writes, “Asako Yuzuki’s *Butter* is a vivid, unsettling exploration of misogyny, obsession, romance, and the transgressive pleasures of food in Japan.”

Asako Yuzuki was born in Tokyo in 1981. Growing up she read novels like *Anne of Green Gables* and books by Judy Blume. She has won many awards for her stories and novels. In Japan, her work has been adapted for television, radio, and film. *Butter* is her first novel translated into English.

Come to our meeting and pick up a copy of next month’s selection.

Natalie Goldberg



ROSH HASHANA INCIDENT

We were preparing for Rosh Hashanah. I was six years old. The children were excited because our custom was to have new clothes for the holiday. I received my new dress, which was pretty but not comfortable. I attended the morning service and as soon as it was over, I ran and changed into an old comfortable dress.

After the service, we walked with the Friedman family, distant relatives. Their son Ivan and I were the same age. Ivan attended a yeshiva and I attended the first grade of the Jewish day school. Ivan whispered into my ear that he had a great secret to tell me. I was very curious. Ivan whispered, “I know where babies come from.” So far it sounded very interesting. I asked him to explain. He then explained the great secret. The parents go to the shore of the Danube River after the Tashlich service and fish out the babies from the river!

The Tashlich ceremony is an ancient one, observed on Rosh haShanah afternoon; after prayers, the adults throw their sins into the water. My family usually threw pieces of bread to represent their sins.

I stood motionless, then got very angry and began hitting Ivan. “Ivan, your birthday is in May, my birthday is in April, and Rosh haShanah is in September [or October! -ed.] So your secret cannot work!” We got into a fistfight until our parents separated us. We yelled for a while until Mrs. Friedman calmed us down with some honey cake. We recalled our fight sixty years later in Israel.

Susan Meschel

A RELUCTANT HEROINE

The history is important. The war with Japan ended in 1945. The Korean War lasted from 1950 to 1953. By 1956 the Japanese were able to announce an international symposium on genetics. Why genetics? Before the war the Japanese had made much progress in the field and especially in what became known as biochemical genetics, and eventually morphing into molecular biology. A leading practitioner was Hideo Kikkawa at Osaka University. But for the length of the war these scientists were completely ignorant of what was happening in the West. There was no contact whatsoever and great progress was being made. Hence a meeting to bring these scientists up to date.

There was no reciprocity. Someone in Washington had the bright idea of having MATS (Military Air Transport Service) fly a delegation. They picked some well-known scientists who picked younger ones. The Japanese arranged a meeting with sessions in Tokyo, Fuji, and Kyoto. I was doing something in our front yard when the letter appeared. I had just given a seminar at the University of Rochester, New York, and the department head there was one of the recruiters. He liked the talk and I got the invitation. It was 1958. Of course I wanted to go. After the symposium ended I returned as a visiting professor at Osaka University and brought my family with me.

But there was this family problem of three children, Leslie, age 7, and the two younger children. (Maybe there are two heroines, Leslie and my wife Carol.) I traveled to LA with my family and we proceeded to Seattle to board the *Hikkawa Maru*, the only Japanese liner to survive the war.

The least said about the trip the better. The ship rolled and Carol was seasick. But we arrived, settled at International House, and

prepared for orientation. Our kids were not happy until we found peanut butter. The house they found for us was in Nishinomiya at the Kura Kuen station. We shared it with a candle manufacturer. It was Japanese style with tatami on the floor for sleeping, a hardwood floor elsewhere, and a gorgeous bath with sliding doors to the sea. The house had been recommended by a neighbor who happened to be the father of an assistant professor in our department, so every Monday he heard how our family had spent the weekend.

In an excess of enthusiasm, I had sent our daughter to Japanese school. Neither the Americans nor the Japanese liked this idea. For the Japanese, with 40 students in a class, there was no time to spend focused on one American. Leslie was not happy and would come home and be by herself with her English language books, but she learned schoolyard Japanese by the end of the year and the trip home.

Our trunks had been shipped, and we had a few days' vacation, part of which we spent on a river cruise. The boat had an open deck and we were seated in front near a group of Japanese businessmen who were slightly inebriated. They were making remarks that even without translation were not complimentary. At one point Leslie got up and this young girl proceeded to say something like "Don't talk like that about my father" in Japanese slang. The men were startled, then amused, and then adopted our family and stayed with us to our train.

So I guess there was some cultural exchange! Our children dropped all mention of Japanese within days at school back home. But the memory of that little girl standing up for me remains.

Bernie Strauss

NOVEMBER FILMS

Do you like movies? Always thinking of the movies you would like to see (or see again)? The Film Committee meets monthly to choose movies to watch on Mondays, most Thursdays, and weekends. Come to our lively, informal meeting on Thursday, November 6, at 2 p.m. in the Game Room. All residents are welcome, and all kinds of films are considered. Or direct recommendations to any member of the committee: Natalie Goldberg, Becky Kruse, Joyce Mannis, Gina Volpe, and Helen Wolkow.

Monday Films:

◆ November 3, *Witness for the Prosecution*, 1957. A legal mystery directed by Billy Wilder, starring Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, and Charles Laughton. In the Old Bailey in London a man accused of killing a wealthy widow who named him as the beneficiary in her will undergoes a trial during which his wife testifies against him. 2 hours.

◆ November 10, November 10, *M. Butterfly*, 1993. René Gallimard is a French diplomat assigned to Beijing, China in the 1960s. He becomes infatuated with a Peking opera performer, Song Liling, who spies on him for the government of the People's Republic of China. Their affair lasts for 20 years, and they subsequently marry, with Gallimard all the while apparently unaware, or willfully ignorant, of the fact that in Peking opera Dan roles were traditionally performed by men. 1 hour 41 minutes.

◆ November 17, *The Thursday Murder Club*, 2025. Elderly amateur sleuths attempt to solve a murder. One was a spy, one a nurse, one a trade union official, and one a psychiatrist. Starring Helen Mirren, Pierce Brosnan, Ben Kingsley, and Celia Imrie. 2 hours.

◆ November 24, *Ruthless People*, 1986. A dark comedy about a greedy businessman,



Sam Stone (Danny DeVito), who plans to murder his wife Barbara (Bette Midler) for her fortune—only to have her kidnapped by an inept couple, Ken (Judge Reinhold) and Sandy (Helen Slater) Kessler, seeking revenge for being cheated by Sam. Chaos ensues when Sam refuses to pay the ransom, and Barbara ends up bonding with her kidnapers. 1 hour 30 minutes.

Thursday Documentaries:

◆ November 6, *Chicago Stories: When the West Side Burned*, 2024. In the wake of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968, chaos erupted on Chicago's West Side. Grief turned into anger as protests, riots, looting, and fires consumed some neighborhoods. 55 minutes.

◆ November 27, *Air Force Elite: Thunderbirds*, 2025. A behind-the-scenes look at the US Air Force's elite flight demonstration squadron. The film follows the 2023 team through their intense training season, highlighting the skill, precision, and personal sacrifices of the pilots as they prepare for their performances. 1 hour 30 minutes.

Thursday Foreign Language Films:

◆ November 13, 8½, 1963. Italian with English subtitles. Filmmaker Guido Anselmi (Marcello Mastroianni) struggles as he attempts to get a new movie off the ground. Overwhelmed by his work and personal life, the director retreats into his thoughts, which often focus on his loves, both past and present, and frequently wander into fantasy. As he tries to sort out his many entanglements, Anselmi finds his production becoming increasingly autobiographical. Directed by Federico Fellini. 2 hours 18 minutes.

◆ November 20, *Pan's Labyrinth*, 2006. Spanish with English subtitles. It's 1944 and the Allies have invaded Nazi-held Europe. In

Spain, soldiers are sent to a remote forest to flush out the rebels. They are led by Captain Vidal, a murdering sadist. With him are his new wife Carmen and 11-year-old Ofelia, who witnesses her stepfather's sadistic brutality and is drawn into Pan's Labyrinth, a magical world of mythical beings. 2 hours.

Weekend Themed Films (Star Trek):

♦ November 1-2, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, 1982. Khan Noonien Singh (Ricardo Montalban), whom Kirk thwarted in his attempt to seize control of the Enterprise 15 years earlier, seeks his revenge on the admiral and lays a cunning and sinister trap. 2 hours.

♦ November 8-9, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, 1984. As the plot picks up, McCoy begins acting irrationally and Kirk learns that Spock, in his final moments, transferred his *katra*, his living spirit, to the doctor. To save McCoy from emotional ruin, Kirk and crew steal the Enterprise to retrieve Spock, his body regenerated by the rapidly dying planet itself, in the hope that body and soul can be rejoined. However, a renegade Klingon and his crew interfere, with deadly consequences. 1 hour 45 minutes.

♦ November 15-16, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*, 1986. Returning to stand court-martial for their actions in rescuing Spock, Kirk and crew learn the Earth is under siege by a giant probe that is transmitting a destructive signal, attempting to communicate with the now-extinct species of humpback whales. To save the planet, the crew must time-travel back to the late 20th century to obtain a mating pair of these whales. 2 hours.

♦ November 22-23, *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*, 1989. Spock's half-brother believes he is summoned by God and hijacks the brand-new Enterprise A to take it through the Great Barrier at the center of

the Milky Way, beyond which he believes his maker waits for him. Meanwhile, a Klingon captain seeking an opportunity to avenge his people for the deaths of the crewmen on Genesis, sets his sights on Kirk. 1 hour 45 minutes.

♦ November 29-30, *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*, 1991. When Qo'noS's moon Praxis is devastated by an explosion caused by over-mining, the Klingons make peace overtures to the Federation. The Klingon chancellor is assassinated by Enterprise crewmen, and Kirk and McCoy are held accountable and sentenced to life on a prison planet. Spock attempts to prove Kirk's innocence, but in doing so uncovers a massive conspiracy against the peace process. 1 hour 50 minutes.

Becky Kruse, Chair, Film Committee



DID YOU KNOW?

In addition to Thanksgiving Day, there are many foods to celebrate in

November. Here are some of them:
 November 3, National Sandwich Day;
 November 4, National Candy Day; November 5, National Doughnut Day; November 6, National Nachos Day; November 9, National Fried Chicken Sandwich Day; November 12, National Pizza with Everything Day; November 14, National Pickle Day; November 15, National Fast Food Day; November 17, National Baklava Day; November 20, National Peanut Butter Fudge Day; November 26, National Cake Day; November 28, National French Toast Day; November 29, National Chocolates Day; November 30, National Mousse Day.
 Happy eating!

Natalie Goldberg

SPECIAL EVENTS IN



SUNDAY	2	2:00 AM	EVERYWHERE	DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS (P. 8)
		2:00 PM	BUS	CSO PIANO SERIES: BEATRICE RANA (P. 4)
		2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	JAN NEDVETSKY, CELLIST (P. 21)
TUESDAY	4	5:30-8 PM	BUS	ALDERMAN YANCY'S TOWN HALL MEETING AT MSI
		8:15 PM	LOUNGE	ELECTION WATCH PARTY
WEDNESDAY	5	NOON	BUS	LUNCH OUTING: CHICAGO DINER IN LAKEVIEW (P. 4)
FRIDAY	7	12:30 PM	BUS	CSO PABLO SÁINZ-VILLEGAS GUITARIST; MUTI CONDUCTS STRAVINSKY, BRAHMS (P. 4)
		7:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER CHIHWAY CHANG (P. 10)
SATURDAY	8	2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	UCHICAGO PIANO STUDENTS (P. 21)
		5:00 PM	BUS	MET LIVE IN HD: <i>LA BOHÈME</i> (P. 4)
SUNDAY	9	1:00 PM	BUS	TIME LINE THEATRE, <i>HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF STARS</i> (P. 4)
		2:30 PM	BUS	UCHICAGO PRESENTS BRENTANO STRING QUARTET (P. 4)
MONDAY	10	10:30 AM	BUS	KRISTALLNACHT SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE AND COMMITMENT (P. 4)
SUNDAY	16	2:00 PM	BUS	CSO PIANO SERIES: HAYATO SUMMON (P. 4)
WEDNESDAY	19	1:00 PM	BUS	FIELD MUSEUM SPECIAL EXHIBITS: CONNECTING THE THREADS AND AFTER THE AGE OF DINOSAURS (P. 4)
THURSDAY	20	7:00 PM	BUS	COURT THEATRE: <i>TAMING OF THE SHREW</i> (P. 4)
FRIDAY	21	7:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER DAVID FLEER (P. 10)
THURSDAY	27	11 AM; 12:30 PM	DINING ROOM	THANKSGIVING DAY BRUNCH, TWO SEATINGS
SUNDAY	30	2:00 PM	BUS	STEPPENWOLF THEATRE: <i>AMADEUS</i> (P. 4)

PLEASE NOTE: Any event listed on pages 27 and 28 without a specific date or dates occurs on that day of the week every week. Events listed with specific dates occur on those dates only.

REGULAR EVENTS IN NOVEMBER

M/W/F	9:30-10:30 AM	THIRD FLOOR	WELLNESS CLINIC
T/Th	1:30-2:20 PM	THIRD FLOOR	WELLNESS CLINIC
M/W/F	11:00 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	TONE IT UP!
T/Th	11:00-11:25 AM	LLLC	FLEX AND FLOW
M/W/F	12:30 PM	VARIES	WALKING GROUP
M/F	1:00-1:45 PM	SHAWN'S PLACE	STRETCH AND MOBILITY
T/Th	1:00-1:45 PM	POOL	WATER AEROBICS
MONDAY			
	9:30 AM-12:30 PM	BUS	HYDE PARK ERRANDS AND SHOPPING
	10:15-10:45 AM	EAST ROOM	WAKE UP AND STRETCH
10, 17, 24	12:30 PM-1:30 PM	GAME ROOM	PLAYREADERS
3	1:00 PM	EAST ROOM	YOGA
10, 17, 24	1:30 PM	EAST ROOM	YOGA
3	2:00 PM-3:00 PM	EAST ROOM	TOWN MEETING
17	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	EAST ROOM	TOWN MEETING
24	3:00 PM-4:00 PM	EAST ROOM	BOOKLOVERS GROUP (P. 22)
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	FILM COMMITTEE MOVIE (P. 24)
3	7:15 PM-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	SINGALONG CHANGE OF DAY THIS MONTH ONLY
TUESDAY			
	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	BUS	SHUTTLE SERVICE TO U OF C SOUTH SHORE CLINIC
25	9:30 AM-NOON	THIRD FLOOR	AUDIOLOGIST
4	10:00 PM	GAME ROOM	ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
	10:30 AM-11:00 AM	LLLC	BALANCE AND MOBILITY
11, 18, 25	11:00 AM	EAST ROOM	TAI CHI
	11:00 AM	ZOOM	MEDITATION (LAURIEANN CHUTIS)
	11:30 AM-NOON	LLLC	FLUIDITY IN MOVEMENT
	1:00-3:00 PM	CAFÉ	IT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
	2:00-3:00 PM	EAST ROOM	CURRENT EVENTS
	3:30-4:30 PM	LOUNGE	WINE AND CHEESE
25	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	SHORT STORY GROUP
WEDNESDAY			
	9:00 AM-12:30 PM	BUS	HYDE PARK ERRANDS AND SHOPPING
	10:15 AM	EAST ROOM	MEDITATION WITH SHAWN
12	10:00 AM	LIBRARY	LIBRARY COMMITTEE (P. 11)
	11:00	CHAPEL	BIBLE STUDY
	1:00-2:00 PM	SHAWN'S PLACE	BALANCE AND MOBILITY
5, 19	1:00-2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	RACE RELATIONS
12	1:00-2:30 PM	LOUNGE	MONTGOMERY PLACE ACTS (P. 21)

	2:00 PM	CHAPEL	ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNION
19	1:00-2:00 PM	LOUNGE	WELLNESS LECTURE
12	2:15-3:15 PM	EAST ROOM	DINING COMMITTEE (P. 8)
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/ CH 4	HEWSON SWIFT CONCERTS (P. 5)
THURSDAY			
6, 13, 20	10:00 AM	BUS	MARIANO'S SHOPPING
6, 13, 20	10:00 AM-NOON	VARIES	IT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; CALL FRONT DESK
6, 13, 20	10:00-10:45 AM	LLLC	ADVANCED BALANCE TRAINING
6	11:00 AM	GAME ROOM	MESSENGER PLANNING MEETING
6, 13, 20	11:00 AM	EAST ROOM	YOGA
13	11:00 AM	GAME ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS COMMITTEE (P. 10)
20	NOON	DINING ROOM	RESIDENTS' BIRTHDAY LUNCH
6, 13, 30	12:30 PM	EAST ROOM	TAI CHI
6	1:30 PM	LOUNGE	MAH-JONGG
13, 20, 27	1:30 PM	GAME ROOM	MAH-JONGG
6	2:00 PM	GAME ROOM	FILM COMMITTEE (P. 24)
6, 20	2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	CULINARY CORNER
6, 13, 20	2:15 PM-4:15 PM	STUDIO	WATERCOLOR & ACRYLIC STUDIO (P. 21)
20	2:30 PM	EAST ROOM	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
6, 13, 20	3:30-4:30	LOUNGE/EAST ROOM	HAPPY HOUR
13	7:15 PM	EAST ROOM	RESIDENTS' COUNCIL
6, 27	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4.1	DOCUMENTARY FILMS (P. 24)
13, 20	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4.1	FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILMS (P. 24)
FRIDAY			
	9:15-11:30 AM	STUDIO	DRAWING AND PAINTING CLASS
7	9:30 AM	BUS	COSTCO SHOPPING
14, 21, 28	9:30 AM-12:30 PM	BUS	HYDE PARK ERRANDS AND SHOPPING
	1:00-2:00 PM	CHAPEL	ADAPTING TO AGING CONVERSATION
	4:15 PM	EAST ROOM	SHABBAT SERVICE
7, 21	7:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS (P. 10)
SATURDAY			
	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	BUS	RELIGIOUS TRANSPORTATION
1, 8, 15, 22	10:00 AM	BUS	61ST ST. FARMERS MARKET (INSIDE)
	11:00 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	LAURA FENSTER'S OPEN REHEARSAL (P. 21)
	1:30 PM	GAME ROOM	MAH-JONGG
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4.1	WEEKEND THEMED FILMS (P. 25)
SUNDAY			
	8:00 AM-4:00 PM	BUS	RELIGIOUS TRANSPORTATION
	11:00 AM-NOON	CHAPEL	CHAPEL SERVICE
	1:30 PM	GAME ROOM	CHESS
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4.1	WEEKEND THEMED FILMS (P. 25)