



Coming January 25,
the Year of the Rat. See p. 9.

MONTGOMERY MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Residents of
Montgomery Place Retirement Community
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<https://montgomeryplace.org/independent-living/>

“DON’T GIVE ME A LABEL”

When I am in the grocery store, I see people reading the contents listed on the label of the product. Learning how much salt or sugar, or what artificial ingredients are in the product is certainly prudent for our health or the health of our family. With time, we learn from experience which foods are healthy. Checking every time we shop is no longer necessary. We have the product pegged.

What is true for commercial products is not necessarily true for personal relationships. There are times when we use labels to describe someone when we first meet them. We may label by age, profession, educational background, or political or religious affiliation. It is from this practice that real problems can develop.

A friend of mine had as his motto, “don’t give me a label—give me a behavior.” Using labels to describe people is very convenient; there is no need to know what makes a person tick. When this happens, it is possible to misjudge or mistreat a person. The fact that someone reads the *New York Times* does not mean they are a liberal, nor does reading the *Wall Street Journal* make one a conservative.

At Montgomery Place we have a unique opportunity to peel back labels. There is a myriad of “labeled” people here: retired

professors, lawyers, teachers, clergy, social workers, scientists, business executives, wives, husbands—the list is almost endless and does not even include hobbies and avocations. The questions to be asked are not, “Who are you?” but, “What did you do?” and, most important, “What are you doing now?”

We would not buy something without knowing its contents, so we should not label people, but rather know their experiences. Let’s begin our list of New Year’s resolutions by considering how rich our community is—people who have all the ingredients that make them a treasure.

George Karney

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. SERVICE

We will remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Friday, January 17 at 3:30 p.m., in the East Room. Pianist and keyboard artist Edwin Simunye will provide music for the occasion. The Rev. D. Maria Neighbors will preach. Everyone is invited.

REPORT ON THE 2019 HOLIDAY FUND

Thank you to all who contributed to the Montgomery Place Residents' Association Holiday Fund. On December 19, at the staff holiday party, approximately \$98,000 was distributed among more than 120 appreciative staff members.

The fund provides the only opportunity we have to materially express our gratitude for all the services we enjoy year-round, thanks to our excellent staff. Good work!

*Bernice Auslander, Treasurer,
Residents' Association*

grateful

THANKSGIVING DRIVE RESULTS

Montgomery Place residents donated \$2,261 and 11 bags of groceries to the 2019 Midwest Workers Association Thanksgiving Food Drive. The MWA delivered turkeys or hams, and groceries for side dishes, to 120 working poor families on the South Side.

During December, MWA provided Christmas dinners, plus toys for children, to more than 100 families on the South Side.

Barbara Marriott, Chair, Thanksgiving Drive

CHRONICLES OF CAMUS AND DAOUD

Albert Camus's *The Outsider* (*The Stranger*) and Kemal Daoud's *The Meursault Investigation* will be the subject of a six-week discussion group, meeting first on Thursday, January 16 at 2:30 p.m. in the East Room.

Camus's *Algerian Chronicles* of 1958 contain his investigations of famine-inspired misery in mountainous Berber communes in Kabylia and his letters to French President René Coty defending arrested Arab militants. Also included is his 1956 proposal for an integrated state (a federated state like Switzerland), including both France and Algeria where French, Arabs, Jews, and Berbers could live peacefully and equally. Sartre and other intellectual friends condemned the idea and favored Algerian independence. Yale's Alice Kaplan's *Algerian Chronicles* is a new update.

Kemal Daoud, Camus's admirer and also a journalist, has recently published his own *Chroniques* featuring his critique of authoritarian Islam and its attitude toward women, bringing him a fatwa. Daoud describes his own conversion from Islam to the Mediterranean pagan celebration of sun, sea, and body that floods Camus's work. Daoud restores this celebration in his novel while giving the Arab victim of Meursault (the stranger) life as well as body.

Recent demonstrations in Algeria, which Daoud reports on as a journalist and supports, challenged the December 12 elections in which opposition parties were banned and in which invalidated president Bouteflika finally yielded to one of his own, the former prime minister Abdelmadjid Tebboune. Daoud is hoping for a younger generation of rebels to initiate a new Arab Spring but warns against an Islamist succession. Come join us. The Camus-Daoud sequence is a work in progress.

Stan Moore

OUT AND ABOUT

Happy New Year! Here is the list of outings scheduled for January. Don't forget to sign up in the Trip Book for any event you wish to attend, and arrive promptly for the bus. Times listed are when the bus leaves. "Tickets required" means that you are responsible for getting your own ticket. Ask the concierge if you need help.

◆ Thursday, January 2, 2 p.m. Experimental Station, Jamie Kalven exhibit. A frequent Friday Night Speaker at Montgomery Place, Jamie Kalven, is a writer and human rights activist. In recent years, he has reported extensively on patterns of police abuse and impunity in Chicago. Free.

◆ Tuesday, January 7, 11:50 a.m. Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago organ concert. The Manz Organ was built by the M. L.

Bigelow Company of American Fork, Utah. It was installed in 2004, and dedicated in honor of Christ Seminary-Seminex Professor of Church Music and Artist-in-Residence, Dr. Paul Manz, and his wife Ruth. Organist to be announced. Free.

◆ Friday, January 10, 7 p.m. Mandel Hall. UChicago Presents Chamber Music: two pianos in a concert of Mozart, Schubert, Wagner, Debussy, and Strauss. Israeli pianist Yaara Tal and her German partner Andreas Groethuysen bring piano and orchestral masterpieces for a rare two-piano and piano four-hands performance. Tickets required.

◆ Saturday, January 11, 11 a.m. Met Live in HD, *Wozzeck*. Franz Wozzeck is a poor soldier who agrees to be the guinea pig in a series of harsh medical experiments for which he earns a few pennies. This leads to his physical and mental deterioration, and morbid pathological visions that destroy him and his family. *Wozzeck*, first performed in 1925, is the first opera by Austrian composer Alban Berg. It is based on the drama *Woyzeck*, which was left incomplete by the German playwright Georg Büchner at his death. Tickets required.

◆ Tuesday, January 14, 11:30 a.m. Museum of Contemporary Art. *Direct Message: Art, Language, and Power* looks at the ways artists since the 1960s have remixed conventional modes of communication, challenging our perceptions of language and, by extension, power. Another timely exhibit, *Water After All*, addresses climate change. Free admission Tuesday.



CONTRIBUTORS THIS ISSUE

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continued on p. 4

Out & About from p. 3

◆ Friday, January 17, noon, Lunch outing to India House. The son of a renowned chef in India, Jagmohan Jayara brings his own cooking to Illinois. The downtown Chicago restaurant specializes in authentic cuisine, ranging from street fare to delicate curries. Their tandoori meats, naan, and other specialty breads are baked in an authentic tandoor. They feature over 250 menu items for vegetarians and nonvegetarians, and offer a lunch buffet to provide a sampling of a wide variety of flavors.



◆ Monday, January 20, 6:30 p.m. Symphony Center, Chicago Sinfonietta, Martin Luther King Jr. tribute. Take part in a musical conversation between CS Assistant Conductor and Project Inclusion alumnus Jonathan Rush and his sister Kymberli Joye, who was a semifinalist on NBC's *The Voice*. The two will combine forces on Patty Griffin's *Up to the Mountain*, arranged by Michelle Isaac and Jherrard Hardeman. The program concludes with Mahler's *Symphony No. 2 (Resurrection Symphony)*, featuring the Chicago Sinfonietta alongside two choirs. Tickets required

◆ Wednesday, January 22, 1 p.m. Steppenwolf Theatre, *Dance Nation*. A preteen dance troupe navigates ambition, friendship, and desire as they claw their way to Nationals in Tampa Bay. Featuring a multigenerational cast of women playing our preteen heroines, this Chicago premiere is fiercely funny, theatrically inventive, and full of heart. Tickets required.



◆ Thursday, January 23, 7 p.m. Court Theatre, *The Mousetrap*. The Ralstons' house becomes lethal when four guests are snowed in amidst reports of a woman's murder. Agatha Christie's skillful twists and shocking turns are on full display in this famed mystery, which reinforces the genre as a pillar of classic drama. Tickets required.



◆ Friday, January 24, 7 p.m. Logan Center, UChicago Presents Early Music. Violinist Rachel Podger performs Bach's first and third cello suites, alongside the D minor partita for solo violin. She closes the program with Heinrich Biber's *Guardian Angel* passacaglia, the finale to his deeply expressive Mystery Sonatas. Tickets required.

◆ Friday, January 31, 12:30 p.m. Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Series A. English pianist Paul Lewis returns to perform two Beethoven piano concertos—the good-humored First and the intricate Fourth. Sir Andrew Davis, music director of Lyric Opera of Chicago, leads two works by the 20th-century English composer Michael Tippett. Tickets required.

◆ Friday, January 31, 7 p.m. Mandel Hall, UChicago Presents Chamber Music. In 2020, the year of Beethoven's 250th anniversary, the Danish String Quartet celebrates Beethoven's life with three of the quartets from the composer's early, middle, and late periods: Op. 18, No. 2, one of the Beethoven's first forays into the genre; Op. 59, No. 3, the composer's musical coming to terms with his deafness; and Op. 135, Beethoven's last major piece, in which he asks. "*Muss es sein?*" (Must it be?) then declares "*Es muss sein!*" (It must be!) Tickets required.

Bernice Auslander

NEW ARRIVALS

Lois Baron moved into apartment 1408 (phone 4586) on August 27, 2019. She was born and grew up in LaGrange, Illinois, where she remembers taking art lessons from Sister Mary Gertrude on Saturdays.

She studied art for two years at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and then married at the age of 21. With her first husband, a philosopher, Lois lived in Detroit, Cincinnati, and Hyde Park, where she was admitted to the College and studied for four quarters while working full time. The couple went to Lawrence, Kansas, where Lois studied art at Kansas University for two years.

Following a divorce, Lois moved to New York City, where she was to remain for 44 years. She studied at the New York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture in Greenwich Village for three years. The school offered studio space and hosted visits from all kinds of artists and art scholars, who worked and taught there. Lois studied primarily with Alex Katz, who is best known for his very large figurative paintings. He is painting prolifically at the age of 91. Lois remembers him as a very respectful mentor in a mostly misogynistic environment.

Beginning in 1974, Lois showed her work in museums and galleries in and around New York, including the downtown branch of the Whitney Museum and the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art. Her work was reviewed in *Art News*, *The Nation*, *Woman Art*, *SOHO Weekly News*, and the *Village Voice*.

With her second husband, Lois went to Bangkok for 3½ years. She found it easy to arrange exhibits there; she had a one-person

show at the Bhirasri Institute of Contemporary Art and curated shows at the Rotunda Gallery of the Neilson Hays Library. Her work was reviewed in the *Bangkok Post*, *The Nation* (Thailand), and the Thai language newspapers.

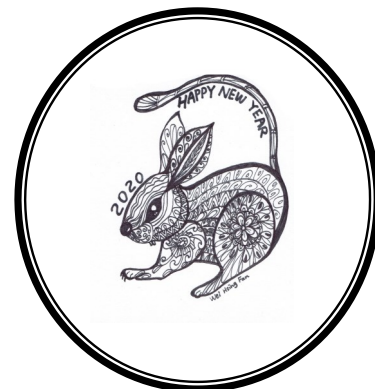
Back in New York, Lois earned a master's degree in nonprofit management from the New School for Social Research. She worked as a fundraiser for the Community Family Planning Council, served as director of development and membership at Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health, and led a capital campaign for the Harlem YMCA for the YMCA of Greater New York.

Lois returned to Chicago in 2010 and lived in Lincoln Park. She returned to painting in 2015. She's trying out painting in her Montgomery Place apartment.

Lois likes the cultural intellectual environment at Montgomery Place very much. She has been an enthusiastic member of a memoir-writing group and is an accomplished Argentine tango dancer.

To see a selection of her past and current art, check out her website, loisbaron.net.

Paula Givan



BOOKLOVERS GROUP

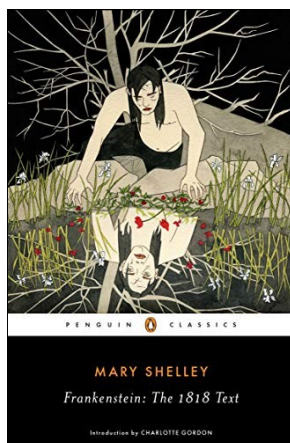
In the new year, we are studying the seminal novel by Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein: The 1818 Text*. The year 2018 marked this work's bicentennial; many of us attended theater productions of *Frankenstein* honoring this event. Now, let us go back to the original source and read and discuss it for ourselves.

The idea for *Frankenstein* came to Mary Godwin in 1816 during a summer in Lake Geneva, Switzerland, when she and Percy Shelley, her future husband, met Lord Byron and John Polidori, who were staying nearby. She was inspired to begin her tale when Lord Byron suggested a ghost story competition. She completed her novel back in England the following year. It was published on January 1, 1818, and has never since then been out of print.

The Chicago Public Library has loaned us ten copies of this book on Anne Zeidman's library card, and she picked them up for us from the Blackstone Library. We passed the books out at our last meeting. If you are interested in reading *Frankenstein*, call me at 4638, and as I get copies back, I'll lend them to other residents.

Our next meeting, to discuss this book and to get the next book, will be on Monday, January 13, at 3:30 p.m. in the LLLC. Patricia Northcott, a new member of our group, will be the discussion leader. All are welcome.

Laurieann Chutis, Chair, Booklovers Group



FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS

The Friday Night Speakers programs start at 7:15 p.m. in the East Room, and usually run for one hour. Everyone is invited to attend the programs. Audience questions and discussion follow each presentation. The schedule for January includes speakers from the University of Chicago, the Field Museum, the Oriental Institute, and the Walgreen Company.

- ◆ January 3, holiday, no speaker.
- ◆ January 10, Angie Heo, anthropology, history, U of C. "Christianity and Anti-Communism in the Koreas." Introduced by Stan Moore.
- ◆ January 17, Emily Teeter, Oriental Institute. "Ancient Egypt at the Chicago World's Colombian Exposition 1893." Introduced by Bernard Strauss.
- ◆ January 24, David Willard, Field Museum, "Forty Years as a Field Museum Naturalist." Introduced by Renée Lubell.
- ◆ January 31, Randy Lewis, Walgreen Company, "Why I Hired the Workforce Nobody Else Wanted." Introduced by Bernard Strauss.

*Phil Hefner for the
Friday Night Speakers Committee*

INSPIRED BY TREES

In summer
your garb
of green

calms my spirit
I take you for granted

Your brightly colored
autumn hats
quicken me to attention

But in winter
bare naked
I see you truly

You are reaching
toward heaven
your stark branches
a prayer



Phil Hefner

IN MEMORIAM

Emery Percell
Robert Schloerb
Marilyn Wilson

HEWSON SWIFT CONCERTS

Come to the Lounge
on Wednesdays
at 7:15 p.m.

You will hear an
hour of glorious
recorded music on
CD or DVD.



♦ January 8, Barbara Asner presents a CD of Verismo Arias sung by Jonas Kaufman, Accademia Nazionale De Santa Cecilia conducted by Antonio Pappano.

♦ January 15, Barbara Asner presents a DVD of Act 1 of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*, a comic opera starring Roberto Alagna, Angela Gheorghiu, Roberto Scaltriti, and Simone Alaimo. The Orchestre de l'Opera Nationale de Lyon is conducted by Evelino Pido.

♦ January 22, Barbara Asner presents Act 2 of Donizetti's *The Elixir of Love*.

♦ January 29, Ed Krentz presents a 1991 recording of organ music of J.S. Bach, Anton Heiller, and Peter Møeller, played by Sven Ingvar Mikkelsen on the Frobenius organ in Simon Peters Kirke in Kolding, Denmark. Heiller and Møeller are both 20th century composers.

If you would like to contribute or share your recorded music on a Wednesday evening, please contact Barbara at 4618 or Renée at 4591.

*Renée Lubell and Barbara Asner,
Co-chairs, Hewson Swift Concerts*



the hart beat

JOY AND HAPPINESS IN THE NEW YEAR

Each morning I sit and watch as dawn transforms the city. My western exposure grants me a view far into the suburbs. Gradually, the blackness of the sky subtly turns gray as light begins. The stars, what few are visible in the city, fade in the coming day. They are replaced with the 5 a.m. flights leaving O'Hare Airport, a trail of moving lights headed east.

Just as the sky shifts from darkness, the city begins to wake. Lights appear in houses and apartments as life begins again for another day. The rhythm of the city begins. The Orange and Green Lines of the El rumble through the city. The Rock Island Metra service brings suburbanites into LaSalle Station. Amtrak trains and Union Pacific Metra Lines are alive and getting the city into a rhythm. The volume of trucks and cars increases as the work day begins.

From the single dog-walker, to the family getting kids to school or daycare, to the waitstaff and cooks opening the local breakfast shop for early customers, the city is alive with the purpose of another day. We each have an integral part in the fabric of life, each with different responsibilities, but all for the same purpose of providing joy and happiness to others.

May each of us remember this purpose, and spread joy and happiness to others in this new year!

Deborah Hart, President/CEO

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/2	Bill Barron
1/2	Diane W. Smith
1/3	Hedy Turnbull
1/6	Bernie Bergmann
1/6	Doris Smith
1/7	Paula Givan
1/11	Bill Gnatz
1/23	George Karney
1/23	Becky Kruse
1/25	Robert Jackson



RUMMAGE SALE

Residents have discovered that they have new treasures that they would like to donate to the next rummage sale, and they are asking me for the dates and a place to store their items.

We will schedule a rummage sale in the spring. The administration will set aside an apartment for 30 days before the sale to collect and sort items. I ask your cooperation to find a place in your apartment or storage locker to keep your treasures until that time. I will keep you informed.

Laurieann Chutis, Rummage Sale Coordinator

2020: YEAR OF THE RAT



January 25, 2020 ushers in the Year of the Rat, which will last until February 11, 2021. This day is the first new moon day of the first month in the Chinese lunar calendar.

The Chinese zodiac has a 12-year cycle: rat, ox, tiger, hare, dragon, snake, horse, goat, monkey, rooster, dog, and pig.

According to one myth, the Jade Emperor decreed positions would be decided by the order in which the animals arrived to his party. The rat tricked the ox into giving him a ride. Then, just as they arrived at the finish line, Rat jumped down and landed ahead of Ox, thus coming in first.



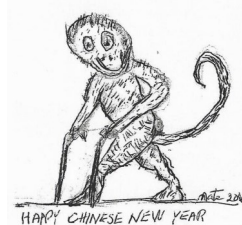
Previous Years of the Rat have been 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996, and 2008.

It is said that people born in the Year of the Rat are very industrious and thrifty, diligent and positive. They have keen intuition and



are clever, quick-witted and practical. Rats' weaknesses are that they are timid, greedy, stubborn, wordy, and devious, and love to gossip. If

you are a Rat and feel dissatisfied with any of these attributes, take a look online; you are sure to find websites that offer more agreeable options.

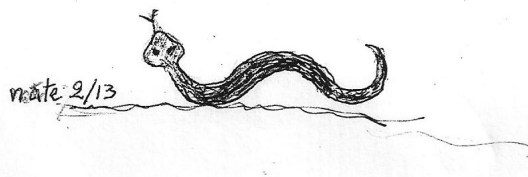


Nate Kalichman drew seven zodiac animals for the *Messenger*, starting in 2012, the Year of the Dragon, and ending in 2018, the Year of the Dog.



In 2019, Mae Wygant drew the Year of the Pig. For the 2020 zodiac, Bernice Auslander gives us the Rat, wearing a cozy sweater.

Carolyn Allen, Messenger Layout



GROWING UP IN AN INTERNMENT CAMP

Reminisces about the Great Depression and World War II in the United States in the December *Messenger* have prompted my memories of the Second World War years in my internment camp. My father was an American citizen, my mother stateless, and I was considered also American. We were at the time living in north China, which had been occupied by the Japanese since 1937.

At the outbreak of the war, my father was in prison and interrogated for being an American spy, which he was not. In 1942, all Allied persons were rounded up and interned in Shantung province in Weihsien Camp—called Civilian Assembly Center. The population consisted of about 1500 civilians representing all the Allies (French, British, American, etc.) and about 50 Japanese guards. It was placed at a former Presbyterian mission compound that had a brick wall, that was topped with electrified barbed wire.



Weihsien Internment Camp, 1945

I was almost seven years old. My family was provided an 8x12-foot room, with a door and window. My parents built a shelf above the bed, which is where I slept and kept all my possessions (clothing, etc.). There was room for a table and chairs, and the steamer trunk, where my parents' clothes were kept. We had roll call twice a day, limited food supplies, and public toilets where we daily emptied our chamber pots.

Children enjoyed a great sense of liberation as the area was limited and safe, and for the first six months in the camp we just played in groups, with no restrictions. After that, school was organized, and we had classes in what had previously been a hospital compound. Our activities included the library, where we could obtain books, and, of course, the school.

In the summertime, children climbed over coal piles outside the several communal kitchens. From these piles we collected “coke”—a nugget of burnt coal that was still intact. We mixed this with coal dust and water and made coal balls, which were buried underground in containers to use in winter. People built brick stoves in their rooms, vented to the outside with chimneys fashioned from used coffee tins, to heat our rooms in winter. This was north China, and cold.

As far as I knew, there was no brutality in the camp. The Japanese guards had as little to eat as we did. Mostly, I remember mutton stew and sweet potatoes. The internees organized governing bodies and work units. Everybody had a job to do—stoking fires in the kitchen, cleaning communal toilets, cooking, and the like. Because I was with my parents and other people who were familiar to me from my community, I did not experience anxiety, but I am sure my parents did.

We did not know that the war had ended until September 15, 1945, when an American plane flew over our camp and dropped many beautiful colorful parachutes. The guards opened the camp gate and we all rushed out into the countryside to see what had been dropped. There were seven Marines and many packages filled with chocolate, chewing gum, and more substantial foodstuffs. The seven Marines were carried into the camp on the shoulders of internees, while the guards stood by.

The Chinese Civil War was raging between the Kuomintang and the Communists, and railroads had been blown up. We were evacuated from the camp in B-29 bombers to our city of Tientsin (Tianjin), where we tried again to settle into civilian life.

Monica Schwartz

MEMORIES FROM A SMALL TOWN: THE HOME FRONT

The United States's participation in World War II commenced December 7, 1941 and ended September 2, 1945. On the western front we fought the Japanese; on the eastern, Germany and Italy. On the home front, we continued the work we had begun in 1938 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced that the United States was "the arsenal of democracy."

War was declared on a Sunday. The following Monday, the Senior High assembly was unusually quiet when the superintendent of the school walked on stage. He gave a talk that was not to be forgotten, for it ended with these words, which I paraphrase: "It will be up to you young folk whether we win or lose the war. Some of you will have to fight. All of you will have to work tirelessly and willingly sacrifice." This was followed by applause, and we returned to our classes.

The boys were obsessed with trying to decide which service to enlist in before they would be drafted. Selective Service was now law, and the age of those drafted lowered. In our graduating class of 140 seniors, many of the boys were already 18 years old, and most of the others would be soon.

Most important to us on the home front was news of our armed forces. We were woefully ill-prepared for war! The news for the first several months from both eastern and western fronts was of battles lost. The president kept in contact with the whole country by radio with "fireside chats."

Next in importance was the arrival of the mailman. Letters flew across the seas both ways, from the fighting fronts to us, and from us to them. They were forbidden to tell us where they

were or what they were actually doing, and the mail was heavily censored, with some letters almost entirely blacked out. In our letters to them, we were careful not to include a complaint or a discouraging word.

All of us took seriously the need for work. My father, "Pop," commandeered trucks to collect large items of metal and transport them to where they could be used. Mom volunteered to become a nurse's aide in our hospital, to take the place of a registered nurse who had gone to war. The nurses' aides were greatly appreciated by the doctors who called them "the bedpan brigade."

The USO worked with the YMCA to provide dinners and dances for servicemen who could not get home for the holidays. My friends and I were conscripted to be their partners for these occasions. It doesn't sound like work, but dancing until midnight was hard, after working all day, especially since we were strictly chaperoned and the short acquaintance would end there!

Music cheered us on the home front, and the fighting front as well: "White Christmas" by Irving Berlin, and the wonderful band music of the time. Who will ever forget "String of Pearls" by Glen Miller, who was lost in the war? Bob Hope and Jack Benny, with Rochester, made us laugh. Church services were full to overflowing.

During WWII we were united as never before or since. Public and private organizations worked together, their only purpose to win the war, with no attention paid to who should receive credit. When the war ended, we put our hopes on the organization of the United Nations.

Betty Hodges



WALT WHITMAN'S IDEA OF DEMOCRACY

I have thought and read quite a lot about empathy, but I was startled when I read recently about empathy as the essence of democracy:

“Democracy is a way of being: in particular, it is a way of being with others. It has much more to do with how you approach your fellow men and women. Do you respect them? Do you acknowledge their dignity? Can you identify your interest with theirs? In short, do you love them?”

These are the words of Walt Whitman, the quintessential American poet, whose 200th anniversary we celebrated last year.

Customarily, we discuss democracy with terms like, “equality,” “power rests with the people,” “one person, one vote,” or “grassroots initiative.” We think in terms of politics or sociology; we don’t use the rhetoric of empathy to describe our democracy.

Whitman speaks of radical empathy towards all others: respecting them, acknowledging their dignity, identifying with their interest, loving them. *And he defines democracy with those attitudes.*

This is so radical that it is difficult even to imagine.

I read Whitman’s words for the first time when I was recovering from illness, first in the hospital followed by seven weeks in Montgomery Place’s rehabilitation unit on the second floor. I thought of my fellow residents and also the caregivers, nurses, doctors, wait staff, maintenance workers, and the many others I had met in the hospital and rehab environment. I had been in touch with a true cross section of American society—working class men and women, highly skilled professionals, retired academics—people who cover the spectrum of urban America.

I tried to picture these people *as* individuals in light of Whitman’s words: Do I respect each of the persons I mentioned? Do I acknowledge their dignity? Can I identify their interest with mine? If, as Whitman suggests, these are the elements of love, do I love the individuals that I meet in hospital or rehab, and my fellow retirees?

There are factors in our society that make it difficult to respect each other and to acknowledge everyone’s dignity: The social class system in academia (where I and many of my fellow residents have lived for many years) and in the United States generally; the political alienation that marks our life in this country; and also the prejudices and discriminations that have been so prominent in the worlds where we live and work. To be honest, these same factors make it impossible at times for me to identify my interest with the interest of the cross-section of people I live with.

Whitman’s proposal tells me that it is difficult to practice genuine democracy with my fellow travelers. It is not a question of whether I am good or bad, moral or immoral. Whitman is moving us to a different level: *Can we practice democracy in America? Can we truly make America what America claims to be?*

I hazard the guess that most of us have recited the pledge of allegiance from the days we were in elementary school: “I pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands, one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” Walt Whitman digs into the specifics of what this pledge means.

This is an ideal—I ran across Whitman’s words in an issue of *Poetry* magazine. Ideals and poetry both are meant to prod us, deepen our understanding.

Not a bad agenda for a new year.

Phil Hefner

GREENHOUSE GROWINGS-ON

The Greenhouse continues to evolve through the efforts of residents and staff and the change of season. The geraniums will be getting haircuts to remove the old woody stems, so they can begin to grow new shoots and flowers. The orchids continue to produce a variety of blossoms in shades of pink, purple, rust, and orange.



We are encouraging (old term: "forcing") amaryllis and paperwhite narcissus to blossom in such media as wax, water, and soil.

For the holidays, a plant donated by Sheila and Alex Elwyn surprised us and produced lovely orange blossoms, living up to its name, Christmas cactus. This is the large plant on the floor stand as you come into the Greenhouse. It has bloomed on and off for over five years, but never before at its namesake date.



You may keep a plant in the Greenhouse. It is your responsibility to care for it: water it, feed it, and prune it. Remember to put your name on your plant. Leave it on the sink and I will find a suitable place for it. After two weeks, if there is no name, it may go to another location in the building or get adopted elsewhere.

As a result of a donation of the Residents' Council, we have potting soils for use in setting up your plants in the Greenhouse and using the workstation to care for your apartment plants. Maybe they need fresh dirt, or a larger pot, or a haircut! Come down to the Greenhouse and use the tools located in the drawers to tend to your plants. The new potting soil is in the labeled white plastic container by the sink, and the tools include small shovels, gloves, and sticks. The Greenhouse is alive. Come and enjoy the space!

Laurieann Chutis, Greenhouse Coordinator



MUSIC IN THE EAST ROOM

♦ Tuesday, January 7, 7:15 p.m., come to the Montgomery Singers singalong. Everyone is welcome; absolutely no previous experience or skill required.

♦ Sunday, January 12, the Walter Farber Trio appears at 2 p.m.

♦ Sunday, January 19, the Music Teachers of Hyde Park will present student recitals from 2 to 5 p.m.

The Music Committee



PLAYREADERS

Come to the East Room on Tuesday, January 14, at 7:15 p.m. for Part II of *Charlotte's Web*. See the same people as in Part I take double roles as humans and animals.

Anne Zeidman, Chair, Playreaders

THE MEIJI RESTORATION — PART 1

By the mid-19th century, Western powers had colonized India and much of Southeast Asia, and were beginning to carve up parts of China. They tried to force Japan to open its doors as well. In 1854 Commodore Perry of the United States Navy succeeded in forcing Japan to sign a treaty giving the US access to two ports. Other European nations soon pressured Japan to enter into similar treaties. The Japanese government, known as the Tokugawa bakufu, was unable to deal with Western pressures. This led to Japan's remarkable revolution, the Meiji Restoration, which occurred in 1868. The Japanese transformed their country into a modern westernized state in 40 years, saving it from Western colonization. There is no other example of such a feat in the world.

Tokugawa bakufu was not a centralized government. Japan had a feudal system with 200-some semiautonomous domains spread around the country: the Tokugawas were the most powerful among them. Having toppled the bakufu in the name of "restoration" of the imperial rule, the oligarchs set up the Council of State to build a strong centralized state along western lines. In 1873, they promulgated a uniform conscription law to establish a standing army, which they believed to be essential to building a strong nation. Although some of the oligarchs worried about providing arms to ignorant and possibly rebellious conscripts, the new army proved its worth, first by putting down a rebellion led by disaffected samurai in 1877, and then by easily winning a war with China in 1894-95.

Over time, the Council of State was transformed into a series of ministries, and then in 1885 into a western-style Cabinet, headed by a prime minister. The goal was to establish a bureaucracy consisting of nonpartisan officials, drawn from among the best students of the educational system described below.

The final step in establishing the government was the promulgation of a constitution which created a

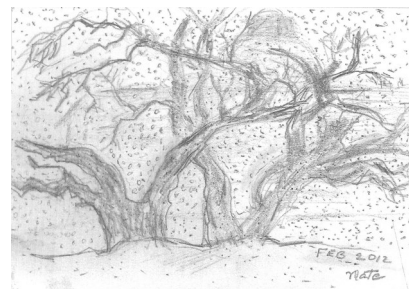
monarchy along the lines of the Prussian constitution, and constructed a civil legal code—both done with the help of German and French legal experts.

Along with the reformation of the government, the Meiji oligarchs established a Western-style educational system. By the middle of the 19th century, schools teaching Confucian morality and knowledge and skills necessary for people in different occupations were widespread. Nearly all of the samurai were literate, and males in other classes were 40 percent literate as well. But to westernize and modernize the country, the Meiji oligarchs decided that the government had to provide all children with Western-style schooling to educate them in Western knowledge and practices.

After some overambitious plans, the government eventually established a unified, standardized school system for the entire nation, consisting of a pyramid-shaped structure of elementary schools, high schools, and universities. In 1874, there were more than 16,000 elementary schools around the country, though more than half of them had only one teacher. As for texts, in the beginning, they depended almost entirely on translated Western materials.

From this rather unpromising start, the school system developed to the point that by the end of the 19th century, attending school was a well-established and well-accepted social obligation. Attendance in the elementary schools was nearly 100 percent, and as a consequence the adult population was nearly 100 percent literate by the early years of the 20th century.

Kyoko Inoue



WHAT HAPPENED TO THE GRAND OLD PARTY?

Eighty years ago I was born in a solidly Democratic south. From Florida to Virginia, from Georgia to Arkansas, the states of the confederacy pledged allegiance to a Democratic party wedded to the doctrine of white supremacy. There was a one-party system throughout the south. Perhaps there may have been a few Republicans, but they were as scarce as hens' teeth.

I recall that there were several southern senators considered stalwarts of the US Senate who wielded enormous power in decision-making and who supported their constituents, always voting overwhelmingly to maintain the system of Jim Crow discrimination and segregation that settled in following the brief period of Reconstruction after the Civil War.

Reconstruction lasted from 1867 to 1877. This was a period of intense activism by northern Republicans geared toward inclusion of African Americans in civic life, extending to them the right to vote and hold office. Sixteen African American men were elected to the US Congress, and more than 600 others held office in southern states. However, bands of white vigilante groups, including the Ku Klux Klan, began a reign of terror, resulting in more than 300 murders of blacks attempting to exercise their newly-granted rights. Efforts at Reconstruction were abandoned.

Republicans were nowhere to be seen, nor did they participate in making the laws that affected the lives of black people. The party of Lincoln—the Emancipator—the party that had championed the rights of black people, had no more influence below the Mason-Dixon Line. Of course blacks identified with “the party of Lincoln,” though it did them no good, because they were prohibited from voting.

Jim Crow often meant simply a less blatant form of slavery, with the government restricting or withholding all the rights of citizenship to black

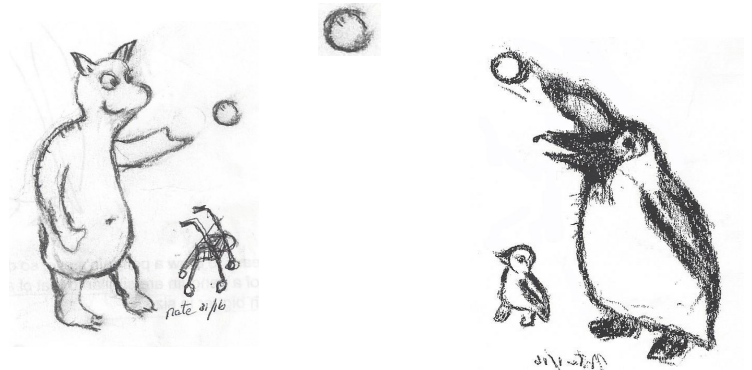
citizens. These practices continued through the 1940s and '50s, and into the '60s. Beginning with the 1954 Supreme Court decision on school desegregation, through the 1964 and 1965 Civil Rights Acts, southern blacks fought a long and bloody battle against racist Jim Crow laws, and ultimately achieved the rights long denied them. These changes were not well received by the white Democrats of the Old Confederacy.

These disgruntled Democrat voters began to seek out the Republican Party, and it in turn actively recruited them. Presidential candidates Goldwater, Nixon, Reagan, and G. H. W. Bush mounted campaigns with particular outreach to southern whites. They often spoke in support of states' rights, a concept championed by southern states.

Ronald Reagan spoke of his support as he launched his presidential campaign in Philadelphia, Mississippi, where three civil rights workers were murdered. Republican candidates made coded racial appeals to white voters by railing against “welfare queens driving Cadillacs” or murderous black criminals being paroled.

Slowly, over my lifetime, a transformation has occurred. The “Grand Old Party,” the party of Lincoln, is no more. And what is the common denominator between the Democratic Party of my youth and the Republican Party of my old age? Neither has been able to root out the deadly disease of racism.

Ida Watanabe



JANUARY MOVIES

Come to the Lounge at 7:15 p.m. every Monday and selected Thursdays for films on the big screen, introduced by members of the Film Discussion Committee. This month includes two extraordinary foreign films, from Germany and Vietnam, as well as four American films that have become near-classics. Most of the films are also shown on TV, Channel 4. Popcorn and lemonade are served in the Lounge on Monday nights.



Monday Films:

♦ January 6, *Proof*. 2005. The plot alternates between events immediately following the death of Robert (Anthony Hopkins), a brilliant mathematician whose genius was undone by crippling mental illness, and flashbacks revealing the life he shared with his daughter Catherine (Gwyneth Paltrow), who also is a mathematician. 1 hour 40 minutes.

♦ January 13, *State of the Union*. 1948. Aircraft tycoon Grant Matthews (Spencer Tracy) is goaded into running for president by his politically ambitious longtime girlfriend, newspaper publisher Kay Thorndyke (Angela Lansbury). Van Johnson and Katharine Hepburn costar. 2 hours 4 minutes.

♦ January 20, *Paths of Glory*. 1957. During World War I, commanding officer General Broulard (Adolphe Menjou) orders his subordinate, General Mireau (George Macready), to attack a German trench position, offering a promotion as an incentive, though the mission is foolhardy to the point of suicide. Kirk Douglas costars. 1 hour 28 minutes.

♦ January 27, *The Milagro Beanfield War*. 1988. In the tiny town of Milagro, New Mexico, where the local water is a premium resource, a

small-scale water-rights war breaks out between the farmers and the unscrupulous developers who envision a glitzy resort in the area. 2 hours.

Thursday Documentary:

♦ January 2, *Bill Cunningham New York*. 2010. Bill Cunningham, who died in 2016, was one of the mainstays of the *New York Times*, an incurable and eccentric chronicler of fashion, tirelessly snapping photos of and writing about interestingly attired celebrities and ordinary New Yorkers. 1 hour 24 minutes.

Thursday Foreign Language Films:

♦ January 23, *Run, Lola, Run*. Germany. 1998. A visually and conceptually impressive film. Two-bit Berlin criminal Manni delivers some smuggled loot for his boss, but accidentally leaves a 100,000 mark payment in a subway car. Given 20 minutes to come up with the money, he calls his girlfriend, Lola (Franka Potente), who sprints through the streets of the city to try to beg the money out of her bank manager father and get to Manni before he does something desperate. 1 hour 22 minutes.

♦ January 30, *Scent of Green Papaya*. Vietnam. 1993. The story of the romance between a peasant girl and a renowned concert pianist. 1 hour 44 minutes.



Movie Fan for the Film Discussion Committee



SPECIAL EVENTS IN JANUARY



2	2:00 PM	BUS TRIP	EXPERIMENTAL STATION, JAMIE KALVEN EXHIBIT (P. 3)
5	NOON-3:00 PM	DINING ROOM	FIRST SUNDAY BRUNCH
7	11:50 AM	BUS TRIP	ORGAN RECITAL AT LSTC (P. 3)
10	7:00 PM	BUS TRIP	UCHICAGO PRESENTS, MANDEL HALL, TWO PIANOS FOUR HANDS (P. 3)
	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER ~ ANGIE HEO (P. 6)
11	11:00 AM	BUS TRIP	MET LIVE IN HD, <i>WOZZECK</i> (P. 3)
12	2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	WALTER FARBER TRIO (P. 13)
14	11:30 AM	BUS TRIP	MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART, FREE DAY (P. 3)
16	2:30-3:30 PM	EAST ROOM	STAN MOORE'S CLASS ON <i>THE OUTSIDER</i> AND <i>THE MEURSAULT INVESTIGATION</i> BEGINS AND CONTINUES WEEKLY (P. 2)
17	NOON	BUS TRIP	INDIA HOUSE RESTAURANT LUNCH OUTING (P. 4)
	3:30 PM	EAST ROOM	REMEMBRANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., REV. D. MARIA NEIGHBORS PREACHING
	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER ~ EMILY TEETER (P. 6)
19	2:00-5:00 PM	EAST ROOM	MUSIC TEACHERS OF HYDE PARK (P. 13)
20	6:30 PM	BUS TRIP	CHICAGO SINFONIETTA, MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TRIBUTE (P. 4)
22	1:00 PM	BUS TRIP	STEPPENWOLF THEATRE, <i>DANCE NATION</i> (P. 4)
23	7:00PM	BUS TRIP	COURT THEATRE, <i>THE MOUSETRAP</i> (P. 4)
24	7:00 PM	BUS TRIP	UCHICAGO PRESENTS, EARLY MUSIC SERIES, LOGAN CENTER, (P. 4)
	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER ~ DAVID WILLARD (P. 6)
31	12:30 PM	BUS TRIP	CSO SERIES A BEETHOVEN (P. 4)
	7:00 PM	BUS TRIP	UCHICAGO PRESENTS, MANDEL HALL, DANISH STRING QUARTET (P. 4)
	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKER ~ RANDY LEWIS (P. 6)

REGULAR EVENTS IN

MONDAY

	8:00-9:00 AM	BUS TRIP	FITNESS WALK, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY
	9:00-11:00 AM	BUS TRIP	SOUNDS GOOD! CHOIR REHEARSAL AT KAM-II
	9:30 AM	BUS TRIP	HYDE PARK ERRANDS
	9:30-10:30 AM	THERAPY ROOM	WELLNESS CLINIC WITH WELLNESS STAFF
	10:00-11:00 AM	LLLC	POETRY GROUP
	11:00-11:30 AM	EAST ROOM	NEW WAY TO MOVE
	11:30 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	PHYSICAL FITNESS
	1:30 PM	BUS TRIP	MARIANO'S GROCERY STORE
	1:30-3:00 PM	STUDIO	ELECTRONIC GADGETS Q&A
6, 20	3:00-4:00 PM	EAST ROOM	TOWN MEETING
13	3:30-4:30 PM	LLLC	BOOKLOVERS GROUP (P. 4)
6	5:20 PM	PRIVATE DR	FRENCH SPEAKERS' DINNER TABLE
13	5:20 PM	PRIVATE DR	GERMAN SPEAKERS' DINNER TABLE
20	5:20 PM	PRIVATE DR	RUSSIAN SPEAKERS' DINNER TABLE
27	5:20 PM	PRIVATE DR	SPANISH SPEAKERS' DINNER TABLE
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	FILM DISCUSSION GROUP MOVIE (P.16)

TUESDAY

14, 21, 28	10:00-11:00 AM	BUS TRIP	JEWEL GROCERY STORE
7	10:00-11:00 AM	STUDIO	ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE
28	10:00AM-1:00PM	THERAPY ROOM	AUDIOLOGIST DR. LATA JAIN
	10:15 AM-NOON	GAME ROOM	HYDE PARK BANK
	10:45 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	MEDITATION
	11:00 AM-NOON	LOUNGE	SIT AND BE FIT
7	1:00 PM	BUS TRIP	FIRST TUESDAY WALGREENS 20% DISCOUNT
	1:30-2:00 PM	POOL	WATER AEROBICS WITH KELLY
	2:00-3:00 PM	EAST ROOM	CURRENT EVENTS
	3:30-5:00 PM	CAFÉ	WINE & CHEESE
7	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	MONTGOMERY SINGERS SINGALONG (P. 13)
14	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	PLAYREADERS (P. 13)
28	7:15-8:15	LLLC	SHORT STORY GROUP

PLEASE NOTE: Any event listed 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.

WEDNESDAY

8, 15, 22, 29	8:00-9:00 AM	BUS TRIP	FITNESS WALK, MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY
8, 15, 22, 29	9:30-10:30 AM	LOUNGE	TAI CHI
8	10:00-11:00 AM	LIBRARY	LIBRARY COMMITTEE
	10:45-11:30 AM	CHAPEL	MIDWEEK EUCHARIST
4, 11, 18	11:00-11:30 AM	EAST ROOM	NEW WAY TO MOVE
4, 11, 18	11:30 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	PHYSICAL FITNESS
15	1:00-2:00 PM	LOUNGE	HEALTH PRO BALANCE CLASS
22	1:00-2:00 PM	LOUNGE	HEALTH PRO LECTURE
15, 22	1:00-2:00 PM	EAST ROOM	RACE SEMINAR
TBA	1:30-2:30 PM	GAME ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS COMMITTEE
8, 15, 22, 29	1:30-2:30 PM	THERAPY ROOM	WELLNESS CLINIC WITH WELLNESS STAFF
8, 15, 22, 29	1:30-2:30 PM	STUDIO	NEEDLEWORK CIRCLE
8	2:15-3:15 PM	LLLC	DINING COMMITTEE
8, 15, 22, 29	3:00-4:00 PM	STUDIO	ELECTRONIC GADGETS Q&A
	7:15-8:15 PM	LOUNGE	HEWSON SWIFT MUSIC SERIES (P. 5)

THURSDAY

	9:30 AM	BUS TRIP	HYDE PARK ERRANDS/TRADER JOE'S
9	10:00-11:00 AM	STUDIO	ART COMMITTEE
2	11:00-NOON	STUDIO	MESSENGER PLANNING MEETING (JOIN US!)
	11:00-NOON	LOUNGE	SIT AND BE FIT
23	NOON-1:00 PM	DINING ROOM	JANUARY RESIDENTS' BIRTHDAY LUNCH
	1:30 PM	BUS TRIP	MARIANO'S GROCERY STORE
	1:30-2:00 PM	POOL	WATER AEROBICS WITH KELLY
16	1:30-2:30 PM	EAST ROOM	LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
16, 23, 30	2:30-3:30 PM	EAST ROOM	CHRONICLES OF CAMUS AND DAOUD (P. 2)
	2:00-3:00 PM	CHAPEL	ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNION
2	2:30-3:30 PM	STUDIO	FILM DISCUSSION COMMITTEE
9	2:30-3:30 PM	LLLC	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
9	3:30-5:00 PM	EAST ROOM	HAPPY HOUR
16	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	RESIDENTS' COUNCIL
2	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	DOCUMENTARY FILM (P. 16)
9, 16	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	MOVIE
23, 30	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM (P. 16)

FRIDAY

	8:00-9:00 AM	BUS TRIP	FITNESS WALK AT MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY
	9:15-9:45 AM	LOUNGE	TAI CHI
	9:30-11:00 AM	STUDIO	DRAWING AND PAINTING CLASS
	9:30-10:30 AM	THERAPY ROOM	WELLNESS CLINIC WITH WELLNESS STAFF
	10:00-11:00 AM	GAME ROOM	ADAPTING TO AGING GROUP
	10:00-11:00 AM	LOUNGE/CH 4	DVD SERIES – <i>EUROPEAN HISTORY & EUROPEAN LIVES</i>
17	11:00 AM-3:45 PM	THERAPY ROOM	PODIATRIST DR. JOANNE DAVIS
	11:00-11:30 AM	EAST ROOM	NEW WAY TO MOVE
	11:30 AM-NOON	EAST ROOM	PHYSICAL FITNESS
	1:00-4:00 PM	STUDIO	OPEN STUDIO
	4:45-5:30 PM	CHAPEL	SHABBAT SERVICE
	7:15-8:15 PM	EAST ROOM	FRIDAY NIGHT SPEAKERS (P. 6)

SATURDAY

	8:45 AM-NOON	BUS TRIP	SYNAGOGUE TRANSPORTATION
18	2:00-3:00 PM	LLLC	<i>NEW YORKER</i> READERS
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	WEEKEND MOVIE

SUNDAY

	9:00 AM-1:00 PM	BUS TRIP	CHURCH/SYNAGOGUE TRANSPORTATION
	11:00 AM-NOON	CHAPEL	COMMUNION SERVICE
	7:15 PM	LOUNGE/CH 4	WEEKEND MOVIE/ENCORE PRESENTATION

