



PUBLISHED SINCE 1948 FOR THE TOWN OF GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND ~ CHARTERED IN 1904 ~ SEPTEMBER 2019

TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

The July 8 meeting was attended by the Mayor, all four Council Members, Town Clerk Ms. Boa, and four residents. The Town's lawyer Ron Bolt was there for the first few agenda items as well.

Legal Business

According to Mr. Bolt, the Town needed to pass a resolution to adopt the County's hazard mitigation plan. It passed quickly, and Mr. Bolt instructed Ms. Boa to follow up with the County to see if there were any details she'd need to handle.

The Wild Bird Centers' building has been on the market for several months now. The Mayor had noticed that the owner's property description includes all of the asphalt parking at the top of Bryn Mawr Avenue. In fact, four of those spaces are in the right-of-way and are, therefore, Town property. Mr. Bolt reported that several attempts had been made to get the owners to

provide documentation of their ownership, but none has been forthcoming, perhaps because it doesn't exist. According to documents and historical knowledge of the Town and Council, those four spots are actually designated "open space" by the Department of Natural Resources. Because of that,

it wouldn't be appropriate to charge rent for those spaces. Instead the Council was leaning towards creating a right-of-way use agreement similar to the one signed with residents at the top of Wellesley Circle a few years ago. The agreement could make clear issues surrounding liability and use—e.g. Can residents park there? While the details of that proposal still need to be hammered out by the Mayor and Mr. Bolt, the Council agreed unanimously that those four spots could not be part of the sale of the property.

Town Hall Issues

After years of sporadic service, the Town Hall's elevator is up and running, the County inspection passed. Also, the interior painting of the building has been completed. This Council meeting came on the night of record-breaking rainfall. Many Members said they noticed that the new drainage pipe under the Town Hall's lawn had worked quite well.

The archival project is moving along, with another 5k budgeted. Post-inventory, storage is the next big question. The Council asked that the archivist make some recommendations. Ms. Boa also said that she was moving forward with the Mayor to create a data security policy for the Town. There was a short discussion about whether audio recordings of Council meetings should be put on the Town's website or YouTube. There was little enthusiasm for this idea, but



Parking spots in the Town's right-of-way

THE ECHO

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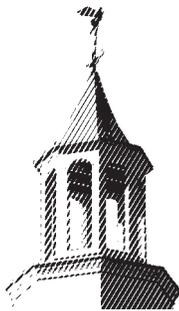
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Letters to the editor are welcome. They must be signed. Articles for publication are also solicited. Please send comments about *The Echo* to the editor, the Mayor, or any Council Member. Volunteer reporters are always needed.



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Next Town Council Meeting: Sept. 9, 2019, 8 PM

the Council said that if any Town residents felt strongly about it, they should email townhall@glenecho.org and make it known.

The English country dancers, who have a standing Town Hall rental Wednesday nights, are looking to expand their events to include occasional concerts. The organizer wrote to Town Council requesting a discount for these additional rentals, but the Council Members declined to grant it.

Vassar Circle

The new, larger signs for the truck route through Town have made some impact. Members reported seeing more of the traffic using Oxford Avenue as instructed. There continue to be effectiveness issues with the silt fence, so the County made some recommendations. They will be made by Welty Brothers, who first had to deal with the fallout of the day's earlier epic rainfall.

Resident and developer Aaron Hirsch has asked about putting up No Parking signs on the circle when necessary. The affected residents are not enthusiastic about the idea.

Doggie Business

Signs encouraging responsible pet clean up were put up this summer. Please write to Council at townhall@glenecho.org to give your feedback on their effectiveness. The Council



is getting a price for a single bag and trash receptacle, but hopes that the signs will have some impact.

After assessing the cost of landscaping along Columbia Road, Ms. Boa and the Mayor sent letters to all the residents along that road to gauge interest in next steps. So far, the feedback has been: Do nothing!

Town Flag

Resident Pete Epanchin raised the issue of the long-ago proposed Town flag. Despite a poll gauging interest and a Town-wide design competition over the course of 2016-2017, the winning flag never got its vote. The Council agreed to put it to a vote at the September meeting. For more on the history of the potential Town flag, see the next page.

Town Expenses

In July, the Town paid \$8,546 to Hughes Landscaping, \$3,052 to Goode Companies, \$1,800 to Benjamin Rapisardi (Town Hall interior painting), \$1,796 to Local Government Trust, and \$1,539 to California Tortilla. —EMILY PARSONS

For those who are new to Town or have foggy memories of the saga of the Town Flag, here's a complete timeline.

.....

1983 Then-resident Edd Barrows proposes a Town tree, bird, flower, and insect for Glen Echo.

1984 The Town Council adopts the American sycamore as the official Town Tree (also pileated woodpecker, wild aster, and spicebush swallowtail, respectively) after debate and a town-wide vote.

Early 2016

Resident Aaron Hirsch has the idea (inspired by a TED talk on flag design by Roman Mars) that Glen Echo needs a Town Flag. He commissions designs from resident and *Echo* designer Mary Parsons. They pick a design incorporating the sycamore leaf, which Mr. Hirsch has made into an actual flag.

April 2016 Mr. Hirsch mischievously hangs the



flag at Town Hall for a week and residents find oval flag bumper stickers in their mailboxes.

November 2016 After much discussion by the Town Council, a survey gauging interest in a flag is sent to residents.

December 2016 The survey finds 72 percent of respondents support a Town Flag, and those in favor are evenly split between the proposed design and holding a Town-wide design

FLAG HISTORY



The bumper sticker; a flag prototype was displayed at the 2016 picnic.

competition. Town Council asks Mr. Hirsch to create a flag committee to solicit flag designs from residents and manage a Town vote.

February 2017 The flag

The proposed Glen Echo flag, a sycamore leaf in quarters, echoes one of Lord Baltimore's family crests that make up the Maryland flag (above). (From "Vexillology," The Echo, November 2016)

committee composed of Mr. Hirsch, Renny Springuel, and Pete Epanchin, distributes guidelines for submitting flag designs and voting on entries to residents.

March 2017 Residents vote on five different flag designs—all created by residents—and the winner is the original sycamore leaf design.

April 2017 Without a quorum at the Council meeting, the Council decides to take up the flag issue after the Town's May election.

May 2017 A new Mayor and a new Council Member are sworn in at Town Hall.

Mayor Polak says that most people are unaware of the flag discussion and asks to see results from the resident survey and flag vote. The flag matter is shelved.

July 2019 Another Town election passed, Mr. Epanchin asks the Council to consider finally having a vote to adopt the proposed, surveyed, voted-on Town flag. The Council says it will come up for a vote at the next Council meeting on September 9. —EMILY PARSONS



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Garden pathways should be designed to be more than a utilitarian element in your garden. Pathways provide walking surfaces through your garden which force your eyes to be drawn to carefully placed focal points. Your visual and physical experience while walking around your property is defined by its pathways. Paths connect the entire garden. Regardless of the size of your garden, a series of lovely paths will encourage you to take regular walks to observe what is happening throughout the seasons and what needs attention.

Primary pathways are those leading to the front door, connecting to the back door and other primary spaces. They should be approximately 48 inches wide so that two people can walk comfortably and easily. The walk from the sidewalk to the front door is usually straight for practical reasons. Plant-

HOLLY IN THE IVY



ing along the edges of the walk softens the formality of straight pathways. Primary pathways should be securely set and done in a non-slip surface.

Secondary pathways branch off from the primary path and extend further into the garden areas or possibly to gates. They tend to be less formal and can be created

with mulch, stepping stones, pavers, or gravel. These paths will make your garden more inviting as they will guide you under an archway or around a corner. A pathway that curves and slowly reveals what lies ahead will add an element of mystery to the garden. In Japan, the concept of “hide and reveal” is used in many garden designs. By intentionally obscuring some parts of the garden from view, the entire garden is never seen from only one point, which inevitably creates pleasant surprises as you walk.

Secondary pathways provide great opportunities for creative designs. A mulch path can be hardwood bark, pine needles, or saw dust. These materials give a naturalistic feel but they will need to be refreshed every one to two years to look great. Broad stepping stones or pavers with low-growing plants (“stepables” work well) can





create a charming path. Gravel pathways should be made with unsifted gravel as it contains various sized aggregates that will compact firmly and provide solid footing. Gravel can be difficult to keep clean from leaves, soil, and sticks. Using an edging material will help to keep the gravel within the walkway space. Or, using mixed materials such as brick, stone, ceramics, or tile will create unique designs.

What look do you want? For inspiration study the materials used in your own house and fences, as well as the surrounding architecture. Avoid introducing too many new materials or styles that don't reflect what already exists. Invest in quality materials and great design so that your hardscape is part of your year-round garden pleasure.

Choose surfaces that work within the context of your space. Natural stone is my favorite material for pathways. It is usually more expensive but offers a variety of colors and textures. Stone

can be set in sand, stone dust, or in concrete with mortar joints. If using mortar, many people choose to hire a professional to avoid the mortar from cracking. If choosing brick, be sure that you use paving bricks rather than wall bricks. Think about some of the lovely patterns that are possible with brick such as herringbone where the bricks are laid at 45- or 90-degree angles. This process requires more precision and patience so perhaps a simpler design might be easier. Consider a whimsical design that allows for irregularities and surprises.

Using pavers is an option and there are many to choose from with a wide range of shapes, sizes, and colors. Be aware that some pavers have an artificial look so keep that in mind when making selections. Stamped concrete can also be used and is stamped with different patterns to achieve a certain look.

Whatever material is used, the pathway needs

to be set at a 1 to 2 percent slope and the finished surface is one quarter to a half inch above the adjacent grade. A well-designed series of garden pathways

should blend practicality and aesthetics to create a harmonious, high impact, and a functional feature of your garden. —**HOLLY SHIMIZU**

IN YOUR BACKYARD

Canada geese

Several bird species—particularly waterfowl, such as geese, swans, ducks and pelicans—fly in a vee formation. In a vee formation, these birds fly either next to or slightly above the bird ahead of them. This technique allows them to take advantage of the up-welling of air created by the bird in front.

Research has shown that birds in a vee can travel more than 70% further than a solo bird on the same amount of energy. By the way, vee-formation birds are equal-opportunity fliers: The point-bird position usually rotates among most birds without regard to gender. —**THE WILD BIRD CENTERS**

GEESE PHOTO: SHANNA DENNIS

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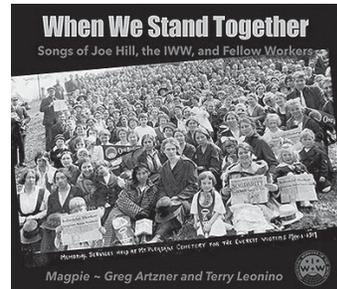
Martha and I moved to Glen Echo from Dickerson in 2013. I felt like I was coming home; Glen Echo Park was part of my life from pre-teens. I was living in D.C. during the Second World War. After the victory, and things settled down, my cousins and I frequently took the trolley there, when we were given enough coins to pay for the rides—the Bumper cars! We loved and exploited the Funhouse for hours. My dad was a crooner and guitarist in a big band that played more than once in the Spanish Ballroom. As a teen I danced there often. Music was big in our family. My aunt Grace wrote “I Wanna go back to West Virginia!,” a big hit for the Spike Jones Band.

In the fifties and sixties, I became a folk music addict—I even made a couple of dulcimers! So five years ago, when Martha and I heard that there was a folk festival in Glen Echo Park, there we went. Most of the performers we enjoyed greatly, even though we didn’t know any of them. Then came a duo called Magpie. We were struck at once by the soaring voice of Terry Leonino and the many different instruments she played so skillfully. Greg Artzner’s mellow baritone and his guitar with smooth melodic and strong rhythm elevates the range of the two to an amazing virtuoso level. It was not only

MINDFUL MUSIC

the music; just as gripping was their message: Save our threatened world from pollution, exploitation, extinction, and human ruin! After their performance we purchased a couple of CDs. One was *Songs of the Earth* a tribute to Rachel Carson, with many of the Earth-loving singers urging us to do our best to pursue and save her noble mission. The Magpie duo organized it. At times some of the moving and beautiful songs bring me to tears!

I tend to be Scandinavian in my politics, supporting higher taxes to bring more benefits for everyone and our Mother Earth. Magpie passionately wants to save our Dear Planet! They sing, “too few human beings truly regard other life on this planet as being as valuable as human life. Greed runs



rampant ... taking from the Earth without giving back, we will destroy ourselves.” This statement is from their wonderful CD made in 1989, *Living Planet*, a marvelous work that benefits our Earth and our lives.

This year Magpie performed once again at the Washington Folk Festival. I ran toward the Cuddle Up, and there they were sitting out front. They had never met me, but we hugged and laughed and talked about getting together.

Magpie performing at the 2015 Washington Folk Festival



Their concert was marvelous; I bought 80 bucks worth of new CDs. I hope that they come back to perform at the Park soon. One of the new CDs is *John Brown*—all the tunes about his heroic effort to end slavery; very moving. Listen to their 2017 album *When We Stand Together*, which is about the union movement, rescuing the poor, and trying to come out of the Great Depression and defeat the rich Elites in the 1930s!

Inspiring music gives me hope. The Magpie are a treasure, so go listen! Or buy one of the CDs. They have been singing in our area for over 35 years, and they are going to perform a 45th anniversary concert at the Barns at Wolf Trap on October 20. Martha and I will definitely go. —JOE SHANNON

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OUT AND ABOUT

Dust off your lawn chairs and head to Salisbury for the **National Folk Festival** September 6-8. No pets allowed, but coolers and flying objects (aka kites) welcome.

Peppered throughout eight neighborhoods across DC, **Art All Night** on September 14 will commence at 7 PM and run until 3 AM the next morning. All genres and mediums will be on display and various businesses will stay open late. Head to Tenleytown, our nearest participating neighborhood, for a series of art showcases along Wisconsin Avenue.

On September 21, join

what's often cited as the best festival of the year along H Street for 11 blocks and 14 stages of performances. While the **H Street Festival** started as a way to stimulate economic growth, retail vacancy is no longer an issue. But this festival still keeps bringing some of the District's best local artists.

Keep the party going on September 22 with **Fiesta DC**. For its 50th year, Fiesta DC brings together Latin (American) lovers from across the DMV and beyond. Enjoy a parade along Pennsylvania Avenue and various events all held Sunday from 11 AM to 7 PM. This year,

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Pasta Parmesan Shrimps Bruscheta Calamari Fresh Fish
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there will be an estimated 200K in attendance!

Also on September 22, The *Washingtonian* hosts the 26th **Taste of Georgetown**. While local food vendors are the main event, the real focus is on raising funds for Georgetown Ministry Center's Homeless Assistance Programs.

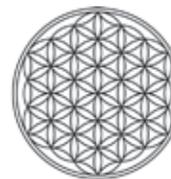
On September 28, take a stroll throughout DC to peruse some of the city's most impressive street art. This **DC Murals Walking Tour** starts in Columbia Heights along 14th and Irving Streets NW and continues to explore the murals of Shaw and U Street neighborhoods. —MONA KISHORE

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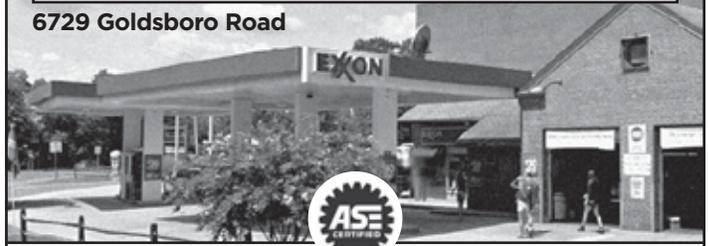
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The **Dentzel Carousel** season ended early this summer to accommodate the much-needed renovations to the building that houses the Carousel. The decorative elements were fully restored more than 10 years ago, ending in the early 2000s, and the building was repainted soon thereafter as part of the major renovations in the Park. However, an entire roof replacement was not needed at that time, and funding was not available for a new fire suppression system or band organ room rebuild. Now, through a combination of funding from the National Park

Service (NPS), Montgomery County, and the State of Maryland, the Park is able to address all of these items. NPS is contracting the project and overseeing the work in coordination with their partners, Montgomery County and the Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture.

In early July, contractors began work on replacing the roof. Prior to that, the band organ was removed to a climate-controlled storage facility for the duration of the renovation, and the carousel has been protected through encasement in plastic and cushioning. The roof work is well underway with re-

OUR TOWN PARK

moval of the outer skin and replacement of structural elements. A layer of waterproofing is then being added before the new decorative



skin is installed. Other work involves replacing rotted wooden beams and repainting the rest of the carousel building. Once the roof is completed, work will begin to replace the fire suppression system and to rehab the room which houses the band organ. The project is proceeding on schedule, and the Carousel should be fully restored in time for the 2020 Spring season.

As a result of the new agreement between the NPS and Montgomery County, the Glen Echo Park Partnership is now responsible for grounds maintenance. This includes trash collection as well as mowing and weed-

ing. A new long-term contract will be in place soon to cover landscaping. Recently, the County cleared weeds from off the banks below

Park while the carousel is temporarily closed. Come to the Park to enjoy our regular children's programming—like theater shows and the aquarium—and then participate in special free activities* on September

21–22 and September 28–29. Bounce in an inflatable carousel, scale a climbing wall, take your photo with a carousel cut out and backdrop, or watch a chalk artist create an amazing rendering of our carousel horses. Free activities run from 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. (Some activities require proof of purchase from Adventure Theatre MTC, the Puppet Co., or

MacArthur Boulevard, providing a neater appearance.

The **49th annual Labor Day Art Show** will be held from August 31 to September 2 this year, with an opening reception on August 30. More than 200 artists from around the region are featured. The Labor Day weekend also includes an open house for classes on Saturday, free waltz and family dances on Sunday, and an Irish Music & Dance Showcase on Monday, September 2.

Over two weekends in September, the Partnership will offer activities to give parents and kids some new and fun things to do at the

Glen Echo Park Aquarium.) All the details can be found at: www.glenechopark.org/wemissthecarousel.

—MARTHA SHANNON



*When you come to the **Labor Day Art Show** in the Spanish Ballroom, look out for works by Glen Echo residents **Carol Barton** and **Martha Shannon**. Early peeks for Park members Friday, August 30, from 6 to 7:30 PM.*

The great pie debate at the summer picnic.



HAVE YOU HEARD?



ing complaints with the provider). There is also a **brochure** with basic Town info that will be given to new residents in future.

There will be an interesting event at the **Clara Barton House** on October 12. The **Hancock Civil War String Band**



will give a concert from 2-3 PM, and from 3-5 PM there will be an open house where people can explore the historic home.

Real Estate Report

The Wilson home at 6106 Bryn Mawr Avenue went on the market this summer with an asking price of \$999,000. It is now under contract. Still active are 6006 Cornell Avenue, \$1,650,000, and the Wild Bird Centers commercial property at 7370 MacArthur Boulevard, \$3,250,000.

This year's summer picnic featured Glen Echo's **First Annual Pie Baking Contest**, and it was a resounding success! There were 11 entries, and Town Council Members chose the winners. In the kids category, **Colby Epanchin** won for Best Looking pie, while **Gabriel Hooper** snagged the Best Tasting award. The adult category had four winners: **Carol Barton** (Best Looking), **Tom Kenney** (Best Crust), **Madeleine Carter** (Best Fruit), and the **Koonce family** (Best Overall).

You'll find some extras with your *Echo* this month. There's a helpful refrigerator **magnet** to remind you of the trash pick-up schedule (with a phone number for register-



Our July 4th parade featured a "float" this year (left); Aaron Hirsch declaims the Declaration of Independence.



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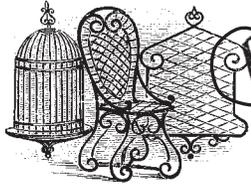
"Glen Echo Resident"
Patty Sieber
240-743-7194 cell
301-654-3200 office

Call me for all your Real Estate needs!



RICHARD LEGGIN
ARCHITECTS

301-320-0107
RLArchs.com



GLEN ECHO YARD SALE!

Glen Echo's **Town-wide Yard sale** will be on **October 5** this year. Here's what you need to know:

- 1.** The Town will advertise. You simply need to put out any items you'd like to sell in the sale. Past experience shows that bringing your items to University Avenue will get you the most eyes.
- 2.** Take the next few weekends to clear some space in your home. We recommend you mark items with prices.
- 3.** Borrow a table from Town Hall if needed. Come for it between 7 and 8 PM on October 4 (tables should be returned on October 5 between 1 and 2 PM).
- 4.** There is no rain date. If it is raining, you can bring items to Town Hall for an indoor sale.



- 5.** The official start is 9 AM, but people can be cruising town by 8 AM looking to buy.
- 6.** Very important: Do not put sale items out on Friday! Large item trash pick up cannot always discern your treasures from trash!
- 7.** I will put together a Town-wide map of known participants that I hear from by October 3. Extra signs pointing specifically to your house are encouraged. Any questions, email me at dhudson_taylor@yahoo.com
—DIANA HUDSON-TAYLOR



They Say it's Your BIRTHDAY!

- Aug. 25, **Sandra Gillberg**, 3
 Sept. 1, **Mads Anderson**, 6
 Sept. 12, **Corrina Spealman**, 11
 Sept. 18, **Alya Kishore**, 2
 Sept. 18, **Hayes Polak**, 6
 Sept. 23, **Alexander Vincent**, 13
 Sept. 21, **Liam Dobson**, 9
 Sept. 26, **Stella Gillberg**, 5
 Sept. 28, **PG Parsons Amdur**, 6
 Sept. 28, **Declan Spealman**, 9

GOINGS ON

Glen Echo Town Hall Events

Sept. 4, 11, 18, 25 8–10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

Local Events

Sept. 12 1 PM, Talk: Living with hearing loss, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Sept. 25 1 PM, James Resnick discusses home safety, Little Falls Library, for seniors

Glen Echo Park Events

Aug. 31–Sept. 2 Noon–6 PM, Labor Day Art Show and free activities throughout the Park

Sept. 1 3–5 PM, Family Dance in the Ballroom Back Room, free

Sept. 6 7 PM, Glen Echo Fire Department's annual family bingo night at the Spanish Ballroom

Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2–5, standard entry fees apply

Sept. 21–22 and **28–29** 11:30 AM–3:30 PM, free kids activities

Sept. 28 10 AM–1 PM, Family-friendly swing dance, \$8 but kids under 13 free, Ballroom Back Room

Sept. 29 3–5 PM, Family Dance in the Ballroom Back Room, \$5



Adventure Theater MTC

www.adventuretheater-mtc.org; 301-634-2270

Elephant & Piggie's "We Are In A Play!"

Sept. 20–Oct. 27

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, AT 8:00 PM
LADIES NIGHT
 7309 UNIVERSITY • JULIA WILSON HOSTING • 240-899-1763



Shamanic Self-Awareness with Christel Libiot
 Join us for an exploration of self, using shamanic tools, finding your guides and exploring journeying as a tool for guidance
 Sept 6 & Oct 11 9:30 - 5:30 PM



Restorative Workshop Series: Yoga Nidra
 with Ashira Lavine & Margarita Reyes
 Sunday: Sept 8, Oct 27 1:00-5:00 PM

Consider renting the Journey Space rooms for your next healing event.

All events require pre-registration.

6110 Oberlin Avenue Glen Echo, MD Behind The Irish Inn
 TheJourneySpace.com | Facebook.com/TheJourneySpace | Instagram.com/TheJourneySpace | Twitter.com/JourneySpace
 theJournneyspace@gmail.com | 301-613-6830 | meetup.com/The-Journey-Space-Healing-Arts



LOW COST BIODYNAMIC CRAINOSACRAL THERAPY SESSIONS

Anyone can benefit from this treatment; it is extremely gentle and supportive for clients of all ages and conditions. Clients who may benefit most from this treatment are people who have suffered recent physical traumas specifically to the head, neck, and spine and are looking to promote their own healing.

This hands-on healing is done fully clothed to support the central nervous systems to reregulate, reduce stress, improve immunity and improve overall welling being.

Cost \$50 per a 50 minute session (half-off)

Fri, Oct 18, 2019 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM
 Sun, Oct 20, 2019 3:15 PM - 4:45 PM
 5:15 PM - 6:45 PM