



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

## TOWN COUNCIL NOTES

Despite the snowy conditions, the office at Town Hall was full for the Council meeting January 14. Mayor Polak, all four Council Members, Town Manager Nicole Ventura, consultant-to-the-Mayor Jean Sperling, and Town lawyer Ron Bolt were present, while a dozen residents filled the seats.

### Town Business

Ms. Ventura got bids for filling cracks in the asphalt around Town, but the Town's new on-call engineer Joe Toomey says that only needs to be done every two or three years, so the Town will wait on the repair. Ms. Ventura is also getting bids for landscaping around Town Hall and mowing of the right-of-way along MacArthur Boulevard. Bids are in to fix the cupola and mount the new weather-vane on the Town Hall. The Council asked for a more detailed estimate from the lowest bidder (\$4,600). The Town is also seeking a new auditor for next year.

The Council reviewed the

recent permit requests: 7315 University Avenue has been issued a permit to convert its unauthorized addition back into a covered rear porch, and the kitchen will be moved back to where it was; 6006 Cornell Avenue was issued a permit to build a new home; and 6001 Bryn Mawr Avenue was given permission to remove an unhealthy box elder that was crowding a sycamore. The pre-construction meeting for the development of Vassar Circle was set for January 24 at Town Hall. See more on that meeting on page 10.

### Building Permit Fees

What came next was an hour and a half discussion of

the proposal by Mayor Polak and Ms. Ventura to increase the Town's various building permit fees. There has been some debate around this issue, and on January 10, there was a working session to discuss the hiring of Joe Toomey as an engineer for the Town and Wayne Fowler as a manager of building projects in Town. More details on the meeting can be found on page 10.

At the January 14 meeting, the Mayor proposed only passing the increased fee for new home construction and giving more time to hammer out the details of the fees for smaller projects. The Council declined to do that, choosing instead to take the time at this meeting to agree on the various fees and pass the whole resolution.

Council Member Spelman was the lone dissent-

## NEW GLEN ECHO PERMIT FEES

PERMIT	FEE
New home construction ( <i>includes any project involving replacement or alteration of 3 or more exterior walls</i> )	\$2,500
Addition or accessory structure ( <i>more than 400 sf</i> )	\$1,000
Addition or accessory structure ( <i>201 to 400 sf</i> )	\$500
Addition or accessory structure ( <i>up to 200 sf</i> )	\$100
Porch or deck	\$100
Stoop or steps	\$75
Fence or wall	\$50
Demolition permit	\$0
Street and sidewalk	\$100
BOND	AMOUNT
Right-of-way restoration	\$3,000



# THE ECHO

Distributed free to Glen Echo residents. Subscriptions for non-residents: \$12 per year (to subscribe call Susan Grigsby, 301-229-7735). Copies of *The Echo* are on file at Little Falls Library. Also provided online at [www.glenecho.org](http://www.glenecho.org). Total circulation: 190.

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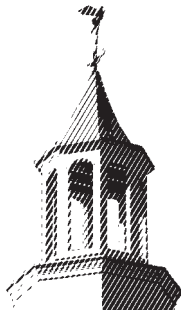
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Next Deadline: February 20, 2019

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.



## TOWN OF GLEN ECHO

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### MAYOR

Willem Polak (301-229-6042)

### COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dia Costello (301-538-7784)

Nancy Long (301-332-3823)

Dan Spealman (202-560-2237)

Matt Stiglitz (301-229-0926)

### TOWN MANAGER

Nicole Ventura ([townhall@glenecho.org](mailto:townhall@glenecho.org))

Next Town Council Meeting: Feb. 11, 2019, 8 PM

ing vote in the end, arguing that while having our own engineer and site manager sounds great, he's not convinced that it is necessary. Council Member Stiglitz said that it was, because the County just isn't as responsive as it once was and the Town needs to protect itself, especially as development in the area is on the rise. Council Member Costello said that we need to be clear about what services we really need. An engineer sounds like a good investment, especially when it comes to interfacing with utilities that are cutting into Town streets for new home builds. Those utilities contract street work out to the lowest bid and don't care much if the jobs are done well. In contrast, a building site manager, who would monitor neighbor complaints might not make sense when we have a nearly full-time Town Manager, who would be taking those calls anyway. Council Member Long said money for an engineer would be money well spent. Mr. Bolt said that this had originally been his recommendation because he's fielding a lot of calls from the Mayor, and with his time costing \$300 an hour, a \$100 per hour engineer would represent a cost savings.

Once everyone agreed that having an engineer on call would be a benefit, the question was who should

bear the cost: all residents or primarily (or at least partially) by the individuals doing the building? It didn't take long to answer that one. For the fee details, see the box on page 1.

The one caveat was that the Council would assess the services rendered by the engineer and site manager once their fees hit \$10,000. At that time, there will be a discussion about whether the extra oversight is worth it and whether the new building permit fees are set to the correct amounts.

## Small Cell Tower Ordinance

The last 20 minutes of the 3-hour Council meeting were why Mr. Bolt was in attendance. 5G technology is coming and the FCC is pushing to have as little local government interference as possible. Mr. Bolt recommends that all *(continued on page 4)*



Small cellular base station equipment clutters a utility pole on MacArthur Blvd. in Potomac.



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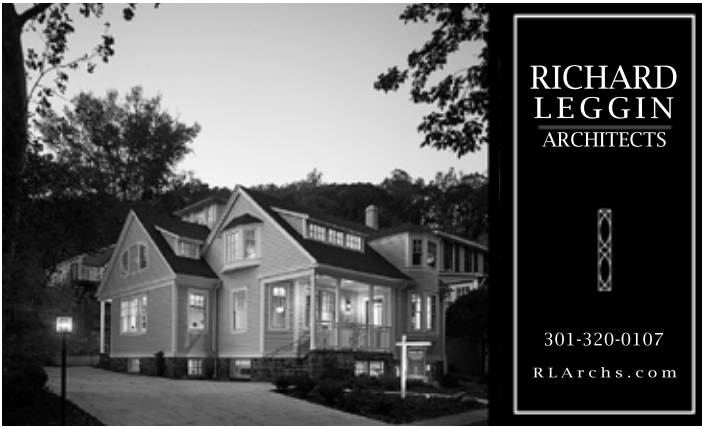
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(continued from page 2)  
his clients (municipalities) pass an ordinance requiring that service providers get a permit from the Town before installing small cell towers. The small cell towers will be attached to existing telephone poles, but it will likely get crowded. (See photo!) The Council passed Ordinance 19-01, and you can view it on the Town's website.

**Town Expenses**  
In December, the Town paid \$14,775 to Hughes Landscaping (total for leaf pick-up), \$3,100 to Goode Companies (trash services), \$1,300 to Chapel Valley, \$1,221 to Mr. Omelette Caterers, \$1,204 to SunTrust Bankcard (office supplies), \$1,132 to Bolt Legal, and \$1,021 to Next Day Blinds.  
—EMILY PARSONS

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## ELECTION NOTICE

The election for the seats of two Town Council Members, currently held by Nancy Long and Dia Costello, will be Monday, May 6, 2019, from 5 PM to 9 PM at the Town Hall. All seats will be for a four-year term. Candidates must be registered Glen Echo voters who have resided in the Town at least one year prior to the election and be at least 25 years of age. They are not required to be U.S. citizens.

Anyone who would like to run for these offices must file a written declaration of candidacy no later than 20 days prior to the election, which is April 16, 2019. Candidacy letters should be delivered to Jan M. Shaut, Supervisor, Board of

Elections, 6004 Harvard Avenue, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Absentee ballots will be provided to those requesting them, in writing, prior to the election, likewise through the Supervisor of the Board of Elections.

*The Echo* would like to offer space in the May issue for statements from any candidates running. The deadline for those statements to be

delivered to TheEcho-Editor@gmail.com (or in writing to 6001 Bryn Mawr Aveune) is April 20. Candidates can write 200-300 words and should in-

clude a headshot. If you are planning on running, please let *The Echo* know as soon as possible!



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The Whiffenpoofs, February 9th, 7pm

Chuyoung & Eric Suter, March 2nd, 5pm

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### Wednesday Services

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Given that most of us have small gardens, I have selected several native trees for you to consider planting that won't outgrow your space. These trees are unusual natives and are, therefore, a nice change from the more common dogwood, redbud, or shad bush. My recommendations are tried and true plants for our region and they combine incredible beauty with an attraction for wildlife. If you are considering any of these trees, go check them out at one of our excellent public gardens in the area such as the U.S. Botanic Garden, U.S. National Arboretum, or Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, Maryland.

White fringe tree



The white fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*) will delight you with its fragrant, feathery, showy white cloud of flowers in spring. Birds love perching along the horizontal branches so be sure to place your fringe tree where you can enjoy viewing it from inside. These plants grow to roughly 12 to 20 feet tall and 10 feet wide and grow as both single or multi-stemmed trunk. It

## HOLLY IN THE IVY



Chalkbark or whitebark maple

can tolerate a bit of shade as well as a wide range of conditions. In autumn, the blue-purple olive-like fruit are loved by songbirds.

A beloved native tree which shows well in every season is the American hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*). In spring, the flowers have lovely pendulous catkins that develop into distinctive winged fruit. Another name for this tree is muscle wood because of the muscle-like fluting of the attractive blue-gray bark. In autumn, brilliant colors appear with

rich shades of yellow, orange, and red. Plants will reach a height of roughly 20 to 30 feet tall and about the same width, and they grow best in full sun. Songbirds will hungrily eat the seeds and buds of American hornbeam. Also, it is the host plant for both the eastern tiger swallowtail and red-spotted purple butterflies.

Sugar maples are famous in New England for their fabulous fall color and as a primary source of maple syrup. But the sugar maple tends to be too large for most of our gardens, so the

chalkbark or whitebark maple (*Acer leucoderme*) is a fine alternative. Considered a southern version of sugar maple, it grows to a height of approximately 25 feet and about the same width. Brilliant colors of gold, orange, and red are a highlight of this plant in autumn. For winter interest, the chalky whitish bark is a beautiful feature.

A smallish native tree, the wafer ash (*Ptelea trifoliata*) is not well known nor is it a true ash (*Fraxinus ssp.*). Surprisingly, it is a member of the citrus family and most plants in this family grow further south. It is often referred to as common hop tree since the seeds were once used by German immigrants in the 19th century as a substitute for hops to make beer. In nature, these plants grow on the rocky slopes of river valleys in sun to light shade. The wafer

American hornbeam



catkins



bark

FRINGE: BOB GUTOWSKI; HORNBEAM TOP: PHILIP BOUCHARD; HORNBEAM BOTTOM: ROB DUVAL / CREATIVE COMMONS



## IN YOUR BACKYARD

In the wild, birds never become totally dependent on a single food source. It's too likely that one day the food there would be gone, and our birds would be out of luck. So, birds forage, often making a regular circuit, taking a bit of food here, a bit there. Even though birds would survive winters without feeders, their lives would be less pleasant if they were not able to snack in our backyards.

And so would ours! To attract an interesting variety of birds, use a tube-style feeder filled with black oil sunflower seed. Be prepared to do daily maintenance. Besides running out of food, the single reason why birds taper off using a feeder is that the feeding slots may become filled with debris: hulls, stems, and the like.

Because different birds have different eating habits, you can tailor your feeding stations to particular species by feeder design as well as the foods offered. Although there are variations on the seed tube theme, these feeders all operate the same way. Seed is placed into a vertical tube, usually made of



hard plastic. There are several perches and feeder holes (emulating branches attached to a tree trunk?) that permit birds to extract the seeds. As the seed level drops, the

birds must move to a lower feeding position. Tube feeders come in several sizes, but there are two types. Basic tubes have seed ports large enough to accommodate sunflower seeds, popular with most seed-eating birds. Second is the tube feeder designed with portals small enough to dispense only the tiny black Nyjer seed, a favorite of finches.

Tubular feeders have three important advantages: They are easy to fill; they permit the birds and us to easily see the seeds, and there is minimal spillage. Ideally you would attach a tray underneath to catch any scattered seed. A dome-like squirrel baffle above or a stovepipe baffle below may foil furry, four-footed visitors. —THE WILD BIRD CENTERS

Yellowwood



Wafer ash



ash tree has a crooked trunk with an irregular rounded crown reaching a height of up to 20 feet. Wafer ash is a host plant to the giant swallowtail caterpillar which will lay its eggs on the plant. It produces greenish-white fragrant flowers which are attractive to bees, and the lovely wafer-like fruit are a highlight of the fall garden.

For a slightly larger, more medium size tree, I recommend the stunning yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*). In spring, the breathtaking, fragrant, drooping clusters of white flowers put on a great show. Their flowers are reminiscent of wisteria blooms with pendulant clusters ranging from 8 to 14 inches long. It will reach a height of 30 to 50 feet. The

framework of the gray trunk and branches makes this vase-shaped tree quite statuesque. Some years, the rich yellow color of the leaves will turn a beautiful gold. There is a cultivar "Rosea" that has pink flowers, but it is hard to locate at nurseries. The heartwood of yellowwood is a bright yellow, hence the name. The yellow root was the source of yellow dye in early American times in Southern Appalachia.

These small- and medium-size native trees may not be easy to find. Some of our most interesting garden plants are not always available at our local nurseries. My suggestion is to ask the nursery to order them for you. It is worth the effort!

—HOLLY SHIMIZU



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# OUT AND ABOUT

Ring in the new year, again. This time, celebrate the **Chinese Lunar New Year** with the year of the pig on February 5. Head to Millennium Stage at the Kennedy Center for a free performance of the **Guangdong National Orchestra Ensemble** on February 7 and the **Guangdong Arts Troupe** February 8.

On February 23, check out the **Lantern Festival** at the F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre in Rockville. This marks the 15th day of the new lunar calendar. The event is free and full of family-friendly fun such as lantern building and cultural performances.



Cupid's Undie Run

Missed out on DC's Restaurant Week? Don't sweat. **Howard County Restaurant Week** runs through February 4 offering up discounts at dozens of restaurants in the heart of Maryland.

After over indulging, shed the excess pounds and stick to your new year weight loss goals by joining **Cupid's Undie Run** February 9 in DC. Not your traditional charity walk, this one starts with a party warm-up

before the approximately one-mile run. All body types and ages welcome, benefiting research for neurofibromatosis.

Take full advantage of the winter weather with the 5th annual **Ice Yards winter festival** February 2 at The Yards. Come watch the polar plunge and stay to enjoy live music and all kinds of ice-related activities, all benefiting the DC Special Olympics. If you're looking to have your kids join in the fun, head to the **Winterfest Children's Carnival** on February 9 at The Learning Center for Young Children in Kensington. —MONA KISHORE

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**O**n January 10, **Mayor Polak** and Town Manager **Ms. Ventura** made their case to the Town Council for retaining the services of an engineer, **Joe Toomey**, and a site manager, **Wayne Fowler**, to help the Town navigate future construction projects. At the time of this meeting, Mr. Toomey had already been used to review the plans for the new home being built at 6006 Cornell Avenue. Mr. Fowler couldn't attend, but Mr. Toomey was there to field questions after arguments by Jana Cole, town manager of Chevy Chase

## HAVE YOU HEARD?

View, and Jean Sperling, advisor to the Mayor. Ms. Cole and Ms. Sperling listed numerous ways that the retention of these advisors had saved their jurisdictions money in the long run—catching violations, orchestrating orderly construction sites, fielding resident concerns, and, most importantly, liaising with utilities when bringing right-of-ways back to working order. Concerns about the necessity of such “white glove” service were raised

by some residents present. Mr. Toomey stressed that he could be used as much or as little as the Mayor and Manager decide is needed. At the next Town Council meeting, it was apparent that the presentation had been effective: the Council accepted the new building process and voted in new permitting fees.

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**T**he pre-construction meeting for the **development of Vassar Circle** happened on January 24.

Present were the Mayor and Council, save Mr. Stiglitz, Mr. Toomey and Mr. Fowler, resident and developer **Aaron Hirsch** with the builders Dave and Steve Welty, and a dozen or so residents. The project has two parts: the road widening and the building of the houses. The roadwork will begin first, but can't start until mid-March when the weather begins to warm. The new portion of road will be graded, curbs will be placed and cured for three weeks, and a new base layer of asphalt will be poured in about two days after that. Once the

## OUR TOWN PARK

**G**len Echo Park and our Town are set in an important part of the Potomac River watershed. The preservation of our natural environment is a critical goal for us all. As a member of our Town's Environmental Committee, I have learned that the issue of water management has long been a concern to all the communities that border the river. Knowledgeable citizens can and do make a difference in preserving our wonderful river and all the natural beauty of the area. Thankfully, the Glen Echo Park Partnership has included preserving our natural environment as a key element in its mission statement. The Park is proud to include not only a multitude of arts

programs but also those that provide educational experiences in support of environmental preservation in the community and beyond.

The Glen Echo Park Aquarium (GEPA) is nestled in the woods just over the wooden bridge and is a Chesapeake Bay discovery center. GEPA includes live animal exhibits as well as other displays that help visitors appreciate and learn about our nation's largest estuary. Its goal is to encourage environmental stewardship and conservation. Exhibitions follow water's journey from rain clouds through the watershed to the Chesapeake Bay. Various organisms and aquatic animals are featured, including in the popular touch tank where visitors can interact with creatures such as a horse-

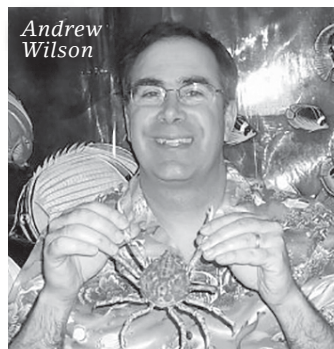
shoe crab, an oyster toadfish, or a yellow-bellied slider.

As an important part of their educational mission GEPA offers Parent-Child Classes and Mini School's Out Day Camps. Kids learn about the great outdoors, focusing on aquatic life and examining the Park's picturesque stream, Minnehaha Creek, as well as learning about sea creatures. GEPA also offers a weekly storytime at 11:30 every Friday—part of their \$5 Fridays program. They also offer birthday par-

ties and other special events.

GEPA is managed by an enthusiastic staff led by Andrew Wilson, a former naval officer and science museum educator. He brings years of knowledge and experience to our Park and, with his staff, provides both a fun and educational experience.

Wilson explains how meaningful it is to watch kids learn. “We love to teach about our local environment: how the rain that falls onto the land and buildings at Glen Echo Park drains into the Minnehaha Creek, then into our Chesapeake Bay. Glen Echo Park Aquarium camps and programs explore all aspects of the Park, helping children learn by seeing and experiencing nature.” —**MARTHA SHANNON**





Joe Toomey & Wayne Fowler

entire project is complete (all four homes built), a final finishing top coat of asphalt will be laid. 4 Vassar Circle, which faces upper Cornell Avenue, will be the first house built. Construction should take about six months. Resident concerns can be directed to the Town Manager at townhall@glenecho.org.

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**I**f you are not receiving official emails from the Town, please drop a note to townhall@glenecho.org. The Town Manager regularly sends out important information about trash pick-up, Council meeting agendas, and Town events and announcements. The Town listserv is separate and offers a format for a lively exchange of information among residents. You can join the listserv by sending a request to danielpmacy@gmail.com.

**G**randdaughter of longtime Wellesley Circle resident **Debbie Lange** has moved to Glen Echo and is offering her **dog-walking** skills. **Alexandra** is a student at Pyle who loves animals. She is available between 3:30 and 5 PM. Contact her at (202) 494-3139 (her mom's phone) or alexandrasphia610@gmail.com.

### Real Estate Report

The Vassar Circle properties are still listed at \$1,399,000, and 30 Wellesley Circle has had another price drop, now to \$999,000. The Wild Bird Center at 7370 MacArthur Boulevard is available for sale. The property contains 8,625 square feet of commercial space and sits on a 9,069 square foot lot. The property is zoned CRT for commercial or mixed use, ideal for an owner-occupant or an investor. The sales price is available upon request (but we hear it's over \$3M). Please contact the listing broker Andrew O'Neill of O'Neill Realty Advisors, LLC for more information or to request a tour of the property, andrew@orallc.com or 301-801-1166.



## They Say it's Your BIRTHDAY!

Feb. 4, **Siena Belinkie**, 5  
 Feb. 15, **Rafe Parsons Amdur**, 7  
 Feb. 24, **Audrey Bohi**, 14

# GOINGS ON

## Glen Echo Town Hall Events

**Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27** 8-10:30 PM, FSGW English Country Dance, Wednesdays, free to Town residents

**Feb. 4** 7:30 PM, Environmental Committee talk on composting, all are welcome

## Local Events

**Feb. 9** 10 AM-12:30 PM, I Love the Library Day with activities for kids at Little Falls Library

**Feb. 14** 1:30-2:30 PM, Iris Krasnow discusses finding purpose and passion at every age, Little Falls Library, for seniors

**Feb. 27** 1:30-2:30 PM, Mark Mattson on Alzheimer's risk reduction, Little Falls Library, for seniors

## Glen Echo Park Events

**Feb. 10** 3-5 PM, Family Dance in the Ballroom Back Room, \$5



**Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22** 11:30 AM, Animal story time at the aquarium, for ages 2-5, standard entry fees apply

**Feb. 23** 10 AM-1 PM, Family-friendly swing dance in the Ballroom Back Room, \$8, kids under 13 free

**The Puppet Co.** www.thepuppetco.org; 301-634-5380

**The Velveteen Rabbit**, through February 10

**Tiny Tots** select Weds, Sats, and Sundays at 10AM

## Adventure Theater MTC

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

**Huckleberry Finn's Big River**, Feb. 8-March 10





# FEBRUARY OPEN HOUSE

on Saturday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12pm - 6pm

## Theme Self-Care

- 12:00-12:45 Journey Space Welcome
- 1:00-1:45 Healing the Body : Understanding Biodynamic Basics for Self-Healing With Mimi Ikle-Khalsa
- 2:00-3:00 Healing the Self : Drum Meditation and Drum Circle with Yolanda
- 3:30- 4:15 Healing the Soul : TaKaTiNa Rhythm Dance with Marcus Sims
- 4:30-5:15 Healing the System : Mandala of Holistic Balance with Kate Lanxner
- 5:30- 6:00 Healing the Heart : Compassion Meditation With Lourdes Billingsley

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

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Cacao & Imbolc Ceremony  
Sat, Feb 02, 2019 7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

2 Day Introductory Workshop to Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy Feb 05 - Feb 06, 2019 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM (full)

Native American Goddess Meditation & Drumming w/ Yolanda Sat, Feb 9 2019 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Healing through your Akashic Records with Bill Sanda Sat, Feb 09 2019 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Illuminate Your Heart with Ashira Lavine Sat, Feb 10 2019 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Shamanic Self - Awareness with Christel Libiot Sun, Feb 15 2019 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

2 Day Introductory Workshop to BCST with Mimi Sat, Sun Feb 16, - Feb 17 2019 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM (full)

2 Day Introductory Workshop to BCST with Mimi Sat, Sun, Feb 19 - Feb 20 2019 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy (BCST) Community Day Fri, Feb 22 2019 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Shamanic Self-Awareness Level II with Mimi Fri, Feb 22 2019 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM

February Open House drop in to find out more Sat, Feb 23 2019 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Creative Mandala Workshop: The Mandala of Holistic Balance with Kate Sun, Feb 24 2019 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Circle of Compassion with Lourdes Sun, Feb 24 2019 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM

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6110 Oberlin Avenue Glen Echo, MD Behind The Irish Inn  
[TheJourneySpace.com](http://TheJourneySpace.com) | [Facebook.com/TheJourneySpace](https://Facebook.com/TheJourneySpace)  
[Instagram.com/TheJourneySpace](https://Instagram.com/TheJourneySpace) | [Twitter.com/JourneySpace](https://Twitter.com/JourneySpace)  
[thejourneyspace@gmail.com](mailto:thejourneyspace@gmail.com) | 301-613-6830 |  
[meetup.com/The-Journey-Space-Healing-Arts](https://meetup.com/The-Journey-Space-Healing-Arts)